



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Media Release

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Conservation week is proclaimed, NSFA encourages NDP government to look at that soil amendment program!

National Soil Conservation Week, to be held this year April 19-25, has been set up to drive dialogue across Canada on soil and the importance of managing this often-forgotten resource in a way that can ensure its vitality for today and tomorrow.

"There's good news and bad news on the soil conservation front," says Glen Shaw in a recent release. As executive director of the Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC), he says there is much to celebrate about soil management today. "There's been a revolution in soil management and growing public interest in how food is grown."

Tim Marsh, Nova Scotia director for the Soil Conservation Council of Canada attended the proclamation yesterday, he says, "With the minister reading the resolution in the house it reasserts the importance of our soils." "Not just to farmers but to all Nova Scotians - if you want to eat healthy food you have to have healthy soils" he says. Mr. Marsh adds that, "The cost to all Nova Scotians of acidic soils is significant." "Perhaps the government will now enhance the soil amendment program to the betterment of all of us."

"Conservation practices and stewardship produce the best results when they are clearly understood by the industry and are supported by progressive public policy," says Richard Melvin, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA).

Sharing the Cost of Acidic Soil Conditions - An integrated approach to soil conservation and sustainable soil management is part of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and environmental management practices that often extend beyond the farm gate.

Mr. Melvin, says, "Soil acidity is a major issue in Nova Scotia affecting more than just agriculture; it is as much about maintaining and protecting the integrity of one of the province's most valuable and fragile natural resources – soil."

During pre-election debate, the NDP government promised to implement a soil amendment program that will assist farm businesses in maintaining provincial agricultural soils, reduce chemical use and make an environmental contribution that will benefit all Nova Scotians.

Mr. Melvin commented that, "An agricultural soil amendment program represents a cost effective approach to increase the productivity of Nova Scotia's most valuable resources, its agricultural soils; while providing additional environmental benefits to the general public." "We hope that the NDP government will take a serious look at the Federation's approach and implement a functional program."

To read more about the NSFA approach to soil conservation, look up "Sharing the Cost of Acidic Soil Conditions" at www.nsfa-fane.ca/soil

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The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 2500 farm families in Nova Scotia. Founded in 1895 to provide Nova Scotia's farm community with a single voice, the NSFA is the province's only general farm organization.