

## “Grand Finale” Attracts Over 200 to Nappan

Article is by Donna Langille

The Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture threw a grand “grand finale” on Saturday, June 5th to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the John Van Vulpen “Farmer of the Year” Award and their “Bounty of the County” banquet series. Over 200 people were in attendance at the Nappan Research Farm and the food and wine was terrific. Locally produced foods included: beef, pork, lamb, chicken, turkey, dairy products, blueberries, strawberries, maple syrup and wine.

Scott Armstrong, M.P. dropped in to deliver his best wishes, along with other local dignitaries and media representatives. Many of the 24 previous winners of the “Farmer of the Year” award were also in attendance. Hans C. and Karen Jost, Jost Vineyards Limited, Malagash were introduced as the 2010 winner of the John van Vulpen “Farmer of the Year” award. In his comments following acceptance of the award Hans C. outlined the process his father and mother (Hans and Erna) went through as they immigrated to Canada in 1970 and established a farm (first hogs and cattle, and then moving into grapes and wine). Hans C. and his wife, Karen have further built up the farm and have developed many prize winning wines.

Following is a list of the previous winners of the Award:

- John and Nellie Van De Wiel
- Donnie and Kay Logan
- Frank and Betty Duizer
- Eric and Elma Thompson
- Larry and Philip Pedersen
- Albert and Mildred Angus



“Farming is a family affair and this was evident during the presentation of the 2010 Farmer of the Year Award. Several generations of the Van Vulpen family attended the 25th and final presentation of the Award to Hans and Karen Jost, Jost Vineyards Limited, Malagash.”

- Malcolm and Marilyn Logan
- Ernest and Stephen Fage
- Joe and Marlene Van Vulpen
- Peter and Marsha Greeno
- Dara and Lois Wilson
- Roy and Doris, Charles and Cindy Smith
- John and Celia Waalderbos
- David and Karen Dickinson
- Mark and Brenda Ripley
- Rupelen Farms Ltd., The Boss Family
- Tulip Farm, Marinus and Jose Kouwenberg
- West Linden Farms, Ross and Sandra, Jeffrey, Jennifer & Christine Collins
- Twin Brooks Farm Ltd., Karen MacDougall Moore, Scot Moore and Family

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# Now and Then.....

Henry Vissers  
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Recently the Federation had a request for an article reflecting on agriculture in Nova Scotia from 25 years ago compared to now. What is different and what is the same? So we went to the archives and for 1985, Minister of Agriculture was Hon Roger Bacon, Deputy Dick Huggard and President of the NSFA was Earl Kidston.

Some of the topics president Kidston mentioned during his opening remarks at the 1985 Annual Meeting were Right to Farm legislation, the Feed Grains Commission and a proposal for feed equalization. Also top of mind a few decades ago was the proposed bilateral trade agreements with the US, its effect on agriculture and the negative effects of a 72 cent dollar coupled with the concern that investments made at a low dollar will be at risk once it again reaches par with the US dollar.

Other issues addressed subdivision Regulation, Research, and Ag Awareness. There were also resolutions about tax on farm buildings, fuel tax, imported meats, to name a few.

So a lot of what we talk about is the same but it is interesting to take it in historical context, the great debate about free trade is over and we are now living with the results. There was a great deal of concern about the negative effects this would have on our farmers and agriculture and much of it has come to pass. Free trade has opened our borders to low cost imports albeit maybe not always from the sources anticipated 25 years ago.

No one at that time was predicting that China would become the major player that they are in both food and manufactured goods not to mention the other Asian countries such as Japan and Korea. If you told someone in 1985 that Japan would own the dominant automobile manufacturer in North America and that Japan and other Asian markets were considered premium export markets for many goods

produced here in Nova Scotia including Mink and Blueberries they would ask what you were smoking! The risk of investments based on a low dollar were also identified in 1985, it took a long time but that prediction has come home to roost in the past couple of years as well.

Some things are notably absent from the 1985 information though that takes up a lot of our time and energy. No one was talking about energy. They went through the OPEC crisis that was simply a supply demand issues but peak oil (or water for that matter) is not mentioned. Global warming, green house gases are all hot button topics for us today both as agriculture stakeholders and citizens but did not seem to be on the agenda then.

The same hold for other environment issues, sure, there were the national and international issues around pesticides, etc but I'm not certain there even was a department of environment then, they certainly weren't interested in protection of wetlands at that time! In 2010 we are certainly engaged with them. EGSPA (Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act) has dates in the legislation that outlines policies that must be in place since its enactment, this year we have seen the development of a wetland policy, coastal water strategy and water management strategy to name a few, not to mention the new NSDA 10 year plan coming soon.

So what is the take away from this brief blast from the past? I think it is that we can learn from history, working together and engagement in the process is important and we can affect change, but we need to work hard to identify emerging issues so we can provide good guidance to our members. *History repeats itself because no one was listening the first time.* (Anonymous)

Comments? [hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca)

viewpoint



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Linden Leas Farm, The Foster Family  
Van Vulpen Farm, Nick and Elaine Van Vulpen  
Wendell and Gerry Smith  
ASL Ranch, Arnold and Sarah & Larry Le Blanc  
Graham & Ruth Reid

With the entry of the 25th name on the "Farmer of the Year" plaque, John VanVulpen's family has decided that this year is an appropriate time to retire the award process. The farming community in Cumberland County has certainly drawn attention to the high regard in which John was held by his friends and neighbours. John's premature death from cancer occurred in 1984, leaving behind a young family and a growing dairy farm. Although this is the last year for the Farmer of the Year Award, the plaque and book representing all the past winners will be on display at the Nappan Experimental Farm.

The "Bounty of the County" banquets were started by the Cumberland Federation in 2005 to draw attention to the need to retain the Nappan Research Farm when the federal government was threatening to close it. Another benefit was to showcase the wide variety of products produced

within the county. Politicians and towns- people were invited to attend so that they could experience how tasty locally grown food can be and to see and hear how important agriculture is to the local economy. The message has been delivered – farmers now await the response!



"Previous winners of the "Farmer of the Year" Award in Cumberland County and the VanVulpen family turned out to congratulate the 2010 and final winner, Hans and Karen Jost, (foreground right) from Jost Vineyards Limited, Malagash."

## Another successful year for Tractor Safety Training

Continuing Education has been offering a tractor safety course for young Nova Scotia tractor drivers since 2007. The course is designed to allow those with a NS Class 8 (tractor) License to learn tractor safety, safe use and hauling of trailed implements and highway regulations. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to have a Condition 15 endorsement added to their drivers license. The Condition 15 endorsement allows them to haul implements between 4500 and 14 000 kg on Nova Scotia's public roads.

31 students participated in the course this spring/summer (11 from NSAC). Thanks to instructors Scott Read, Alden Knight and Stewart Yuill for being committed to the course and doing a great job.

A special THANK YOU goes out to Blueline New Holland for donating one of the tractors used in teaching and testing on the NSAC Farm.



Tractor Safety Students must be able to back up a tractor with an implement attached as part of the driving test.

# Porter's Pork in Port Williams

According to hog and egg farmer Mike Porter, you can “taste the difference” in the local food sold in his market.

For almost twenty years, the first thing on Porter's mind in the morning is that he has animals to feed – both pork and chicken. There is always a lot of work to do on his farm nestled in Port Williams. Growing up, he lived on his family farm with cattle, pigs, chickens, and even an orchard – farming is in his blood. Mike Porter says, “Farming has given him an understanding of the decline [in the industry] and what farmers have gone through”.

Now, by opening his own farm market with all local products, he does what he can to help keep pork a part of his business. He grows about one hundred all natural pigs, and sells all of his products in his very own market, opened only two years ago. Over fifty percent of the products sold in his shop are his own, and the remainder of the goods, including beef, lamb, chicken and vegetables, come from farms within a few kilometers of his own farm. His wife also helps to fill the shelves by making her own fudge and preserves. “The success of the business depends on getting enough

consumers to continue to buy the high quality local food.”Porter says.

The establishment has helped Porter in many ways. He not only has a place to sell his own product, he has a place to interact with people in the community. The market has allowed him to feel more comfortable speaking in public and also helps him support his fellow farmers in the area. Porter says. “my goal is to help promote local food, as well as encourage people to be like our grandparents – cook from scratch and eat healthier”.



When Mike's not looking after the animals or in the market, he enjoys going for walks and spending time with his wife and three kids. Porter family (left to right) is Morgan, Mike, Elaine, Lucas, and Sydney.



Stop by Porter's Farm Market at 688 Belcher Street in Port Williams. More info on-line

[www.nslocal.ca/portersfarmmarket](http://www.nslocal.ca/portersfarmmarket)

## Update to Farm Investment Fund 2010-2011 Guidebook

The transportation subsidy rates for Wood Ash have been re-calculated. The table found below is to replace the one found on page 19 for soil amendment transportation subsidy rates in the 2010/11 Farm Investment Fund Guidebook. The new rates will be applied automatically to all claims submitted.

### Wood Ash Transportation Subsidy Rates

Area	\$/Tonne	Area	\$/Tonne	Area	\$/Tonne	Area	\$/Tonne
Annapolis	6.10	Digby	8.20	Kings	7.85	Richmond	5.00
Antigonish	4.75	Guysborough	7.70	Lunenburg	5.25	Shelburne	6.10
Cape Breton	7.35	Halifax	9.95	Pictou	7.35	Victoria	10.60
Colchester	10.60	Hants	9.35	Queens	4.15	Yarmouth	8.45
Cumberland	13.35	Inverness	12.45				



# Don't miss the 6th Annual Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival

Nova Scotia's Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival is full of good old fashioned family fun with a huge variety of events this summer...not to mention a huge variety of wild blueberry treats!

In just a few short years this festival has risen to signature event status in the province and has struck a chord with both residents and visitors alike. Nova Scotia is the leading processor of wild blueberries in the world and is the second leading producer! The wild blueberry is our provincial berry and is the #1 agricultural export in Nova Scotia. The wild blueberry is also renowned for its health benefits, having the highest levels of antioxidants of all fruits and vegetables. The central region of Nova Scotia, specifically, has long been known for its abundance of wild blueberries. Over the years several communities throughout the region have celebrated this fact by holding a variety of festivals and events that have now

joined forces to create the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival.

From Amherst to Truro, Parrsboro to Tatamagouche, Wentworth Valley to the Stewiacke Valley, communities throughout Central Nova Scotia will celebrate the wild blueberry harvest from August 20th, 2010 – September 4th 2010.

Come out and enjoy all that the festival has to offer. View Nova Scotia's Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival website for complete event details and listings at [www.wildblueberryfest.com](http://www.wildblueberryfest.com).



## NSFA welcomes Chantel to the office for the summer

Chantel is from a small farm in East Noel, which began as a family dairy operation but now consists of sheep and grapes. She recently graduated from Hants North Rural High School and plans to spend her summer enjoying work at the Federation office, increasing her knowledge of agriculture in Nova Scotia. In the fall, she will be attending Dalhousie to study toward her Bachelor of Health Science. The staff of the Federation are pleased to have Chantel on board for the summer. Some of her tasks will include agricultural awareness and promotion of the "Meet your farmer" campaign along with some county exhibition support. If you would like to contact Chantel, her number is (902) 893-2293 or email [cdensmore@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:cdensmore@nsfa-fane.ca)



Shown in the photo is Chantel (left), NSFA Summer Student and Ashley Caldwell (right), Performance House Marketing during an on-site filming day at Cornwallis Farms as a part of the Meet Your Farmer campaign.

 **MEET YOUR FARMER**



## Continuing Education is pleased to be able to offer the Modern Shepherd again, starting this fall!

The goal of this 4-module course is to increase the knowledge and skills of new and existing sheep producers throughout Atlantic Canada. With a practical, hands-on focus participants will be exposed to all aspects of sheep production right from choosing what breeds of sheep to raise, feeding, breeding, and marketing the results. The course will combine tours, in-class and on-farm training.

Following are the module topics and dates:

Module 1: Husbandry, Handling, Pastures and Fences  
Saturday and Sunday September 18 and 19, 2010

Module 2: Nutrition and Breeding  
Saturday and Sunday November 13 and 14, 2010



Module 3: Health  
Tentative Date: January 29-30, 2011

Module 4: Lambing and Marketing  
Date April 16 and 17, 2011

For more information on this course please contact Continuing and Distance Education at NSAC: (902) 893-6666 or online at: [www.nsac.ca/cde](http://www.nsac.ca/cde)

## Do you operate a small-scale farm? Have your say!



CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL HUMAN RESOURCE COUNCIL  
CONSEIL CANADIEN POUR LES RESSOURCES HUMAINES EN AGRICULTURE

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council is researching the labour needs on farms with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Your responses will be used to better understand employment needs of smaller farms and will ensure that operations from Nova Scotia are represented in the research.

Go to [www.cahrc-ccrha.ca](http://www.cahrc-ccrha.ca)

Or call CAHRC at 1-866-430-7457 ext. 228 to complete the survey by phone.

All respondents can enter for a chance to win \$100

About CAHRC: The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) was created to address human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada. CAHRC works with industry leaders, governments, and education stakeholders to research, develop and communicate solutions to the challenges in agriculture employment and skills development.

# Planning Urban Agricultural Systems for the 21st Century

- *Precedents, Practices, Prospects* -

September 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Truro & Halifax, Nova Scotia



For more information:

Email: [tosborne@nsac.ca](mailto:tosborne@nsac.ca)

Phone: (902) 893-6710

Website: [nsac.ca/conferences/urbana](http://nsac.ca/conferences/urbana)



## Grade 8 students get hands on eggsperience at AgZone!

Shown in these photos, Grade 8 students from the Central area learn about egg shell quality and get a "hands-in!" session with the NSAC cannulated cow. AgZone is an annual event held on the Nova Scotia Agricultural College Campus, organized by the Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness office of NSDA.

This year, 375 students with their teachers and chaperones visited the campus for a day of learning and exposure to many aspects of the Industry including agricultural research



and education options. Tour guides for the day were graduate students and agricultural professionals. The 2 day event is not possible without the generous support of NSAC faculty and staff that give their time at the various stations. Many thanks to all those who helped make the 2010 AgZone a success.



## Coming Soon, A brand new Meet Your Farmer Website

During the CFA semi-Annual meetings in Halifax July 27-29<sup>th</sup>, the Federation will launch an exciting new website as a part of a communication strategy to promote a positive image of agriculture in Nova Scotia. Watch for more details!

## Canadian Farmers from abroad coming to Halifax this summer

Farm leaders from across Canada will congregate to the East Coast this summer to discuss issues and challenges, propose workable solutions, and build new partnerships that will strengthen the agriculture industry as a whole.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is pleased to be hosting the 2010 Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) semi-annual meeting in Halifax on July 27-29<sup>th</sup>; a year that also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national organization.

There is also still time to enter the CFA photo Contest, see <http://www.cfa-fca.ca>

Proud member of the CFA  
Fier membre de la FCA



**Save the Date... Senate Club will be having their annual summer tour On Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Contact NSFA office for details.**

## MEET YOUR FARMER.ca

### News & Views

**NSFA News & Views** is the Newsletter of the N.S. Federation of Agriculture, the United, Strong & Caring Farm Organization representing the best interest of Nova Scotia's Agricultural Industry.

**News & Views** is provided free of charge to its members. We value comments & concerns from our members, please direct them to Executive Members or the Office Staff.

#### 2010 Executive Members:

President:	<b>Richard Melvin</b>	- Phone: 582-7939
1st. Vice President:	<b>Beth Densmore</b>	- Phone: 369-2876
2nd. Vice President:	<b>Mary McCarron</b>	- Phone: 863-4026
CFA Director:	<b>Dennis Boudreau</b>	- Phone: 769-3501
At Large:	<b>Edna Foster</b>	- Phone: 661-4366
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