



Have you considered Open Farm Day on your Farm?

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 9th annual Open Farm Day on Sunday, September 19th, 2010. This is an Atlantic event and a chance to showcase a day in the life on your farm.

This is a huge opportunity for you, our grass roots producers to get connected with consumers and educate the general public on the value of agriculture in Nova Scotia. For many people, this is their only chance to visit a farm. Please help provide families, tourists, and consumers, young and old, this chance for a first-hand appreciation for farming.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is inviting you to participate in Open Farm Day 2010. While we understand that the date may be during the busy harvest season on your farm, we will do our best to help your preparation by providing guidelines, training and promotional materials for handouts on your farm.

We are pleased to have Sobeys back once again as presenting sponsor for this worthwhile event as well as the support of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada.

We always welcome new farms to Open farm Day. If you are interested in having your farm participate this year, check out more information online at: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware/openfarmday.shtml or contact Judy Grant at 902-893-6598 or grantjd@gov.ns.ca



You can make September 19th a memorable day!

Shown here is Nathan Ouelette visiting Van de Riet's Sunni Knoll Farm in Shubenacadie as a part of Open Farm Day 2009.



Photo Contest
Concours de
photographie



Details on back page





The New Mix

Henry Vissers
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Michael McCain and the gang at Maple Leaf said a few years ago that we had to get used to the new normal, which at the time meant that Maple Leaf would be paying less money to farmers. His new normal was based on a simple concept of a higher value Canadian Dollar relative to the US dollar. Later the listeria crisis forced rationalization of Maple Leaf Pork put his theory off the rails.

Nova Scotia imports coal and oil for 90% of our energy needs, we can help reduce that dependency. The province has recently released a new renewable energy strategy which goes part of the way in delivering a model that will provide access to a fixed pricing mechanism for power generation. We need to go further and encourage the development of rural renewable energy infrastructures.

A recent Bloomberg Business week article speaks of economists of a more optimistic bent who have come up with a phrase of their own to describe the outlook: "the new mix." this model suggests an economy powered more by exports and business investment than by the traditional drivers of consumption and housing.

Human: Demographic modeling shows that in the next 25 years Nova Scotia will be facing a population decline, even if we work hard at reversing the decline by focusing on immigration, retaining our youth etc. we will see a decline to an older population of ~900,000 in Nova Scotia by 2015. The issue for farmers is greater than shown in the stats, succession; skilled labour and farm profitability are tied to the future of farming in Nova Scotia.

Either new normal or new mix, I've been hearing quite a bit about how it relates to ours and other economies. Regardless of the name, all of the theorists are saying, brace for change. Maybe can we relate this change to the five capitals discussed in our (Competitive Transition Analysis Group (CTAG) report and many other presentations made by government, the capitals being: Financial, Built, Natural, Human and Social.

Social: The targeting of education toward skills training, development of food systems that support local and improved incomes in rural Nova Scotia are all part of the definition of social capital.

Financial: Slower economic growth is predicted by many, excess capacity, competition for a shrinking market, the possibility of deflation in some areas and a slow recovery of commodities are sited as reasons for the projected moderate growth. For Canada it also means a strong dollar which challenges our exports but benefits our imports. With Canada's abundance of resources, particularly oil, we have become a "petrocurrency".

So while all these great theories float around and our province and country tries to fight the deficit the EU is having its own crisis that seems to be spilling over into our economy. Their debt crisis is stirring the "new mix", commodities such as oil, potash, etc . are down , as is our dollar and we really don't know if the 1 trillion Euro bailout will stop the fallout. The commodity markets refer to "the dead cat bounce" when a product drops dramatically in price and then rises only to fall further, maybe the world economic turmoil is not over and the last six months was just a "bounce".

Built: Investment in infrastructure that allows our businesses to be competitive will be important. If we have to compete against cheaper imports lowering the value of what we produce here we need to lower our COP by putting in place critical pieces that help us compete, such as research, access to the power grid at rates that would return a margin, and more development money for new products.

Comments? Henry can be reached at hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca

If there are great stories to tell – we have to tell them!

If people don't know where food comes from - let's tell them. If you would like to take part in a campaign to promote a positive image of Nova Scotia Agriculture to the general public, then we need to hear from you! Check out details of a new "Meet Your Farmer" campaign on our website at www.nsfa-fane.ca/communications or call Wanda at (902) 893-2293.

viewpoint



Did you know...

By Donna Langille, Transportation Committee

Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act to Be Modernized

The review currently being done to the Motor Vehicle Act is a complete rewrite and modernization of the Act. Essentially, the goal is to make it much more clear and understandable. The provisions regarding farmers are being identified and discussed, as are all provisions; the outcome of those discussions may not result in any changes, but it will serve to provide us areas that need to be discussed with the Federation.

The review is more of an updating of the current act to use clearer, modern language. Any provisions of the act that need to be reconsidered will be done on a case-by-case basis. In some cases this may mean stakeholder consultation, whereas for others it may take on the form of consultation with the Federation (e.g. the removal of the requirements for tail lights on tractors, and the removal of the requirement for over-width farm equipment to purchase permits.) The timeline for the rewrite completion is still a couple of years out.

Over Width Farm Vehicles & Permits

Farm tractors and farm equipment are not required to have special move permits. They are required to meet certain safety criteria above certain widths. (Within the Weights and Dimensions of Vehicles Regulations, they remove the width limitation on farm tractors, but require flags or flashing lights at the extremities of over-width vehicles/loads and a revolving amber or strobe warning light on the lead vehicle, and for vehicles/loads in excess of 4.27 m that would operate over the centerline, also require a pilot vehicle equipped with

a revolving amber or strobe warning light and a D-sign to proceed the over-width vehicle/load.) See the Transportation Guidelines for Nova Scotia Farmers booklet for more detail - also available on the NSFA web-site.

Travel on 100 Series Highways

Farm vehicles are permitted to travel on the 100 series highways, except for a few specified locations that are identified by signage as being closed to slow moving traffic.

Use of Slow Moving Vehicle Sign

Farmers are cautioned that when displaying a slow moving vehicle sign on any piece of agricultural equipment they should not travel over the speed of 40 km/hr. This limitation recognizes that fact that all farm implements displaying the SMV sign are exempt from motor vehicle inspection.

Source: Michael Balsom, Vehicle Standards Engineer, N.S. Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Have a question about farm transportation related issues?

Email your question to the Transportation Committee through our new website link at <http://www.nsfafane.ca/transportation-guidelines> We are currently building a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the answers which we will post on the NSFA website as a future reference. Your questions will help make this FAQ a resourceful tool!

Ask the Transportation
Committee



What does the Wetlands Policy mean to NS Farmers?

By John Brazner
Wetland/Water Specialist, NS Environment

Legislation passed in 2007 (the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act) mandated that the province establish a new policy to prevent the net loss wetlands. This was based on the recognition that a large proportion of the wetlands originally present in Nova Scotia had been converted to other uses despite a growing knowledge of the important services they provide (e.g., drinking water purification, flood control, replenishment of groundwater). As a result, government has been working on a new wetland conservation policy that provides for a more comprehensive approach to wetland conservation.

The proposed new policy has a number of exemptions that provide more flexibility in the way farmers can work around wetlands on their land. For example, wetlands less than about 1000 square feet (100 square metres), wetlands in designated "marshlands" (e.g.,

areas behind dykes managed by incorporated Marsh Bodies), and wetlands that develop in any agricultural drainage ditch will not require an approval to be altered. In addition, construction of farm roads less than about 200 feet long (60 metres) and 30 feet wide (10 metres) through shrub and treed swamps will not require an approval.

Under the current policy any wetland that is altered on farmland requires three times the area of wetland altered to be restored regardless of the type and significance of the alteration. Under the proposed new approach, compensation will be based on the size and significance of the alteration, and in many cases will only require that a wetland be restored that is equal in size to the one that is altered. In addition, under the proposed new approach farmers will often not have to pay for the wetland boundaries to be mapped by a consultant, as they do under the current approach.

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What does the Wetlands Policy mean to NS Farmers?

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So, the bottom line is that under the proposed policy, requirements for wetland alteration approvals will typically be reduced, costs will be less, and there will be a greater number of options compared to the current policy. It will also mean fewer areas will be regulated as wetlands. It will NOT mean any lands that are being cultivated will need to be taken out of production or that any drains will need to be modified.

Because wetlands are crucial to the health of our watersheds and the people that live in them, government is continually trying to improve the effectiveness of our approach to their conservation. We [NS Department of Environment] think the proposed policy is an important step forward in this regard and hope that it will receive final approval soon so that implementation can begin.

Message from the Minister of Agriculture

On May 12, government wrapped up its first spring session in the House of Assembly, and I'm happy to report that it was a productive sitting focussed on many of the difficult challenges facing the province. During this sitting, we passed 29 bills that will make life better for Nova Scotia families. We also passed a budget that begins the hard work of getting the province back to balance -- a budget that will also ensure better health care and create good jobs and grow the economy.

A significant piece of agriculture legislation made its way through this sitting of the House. The Act for the Development and Management of the Nova Scotia Fur Industry, developed in consultation with members of the fur industry, Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association, and interested community groups, puts in place measures to ensure the appropriate management and development of the industry for years to come.

This Act places more responsibility on ranchers to ensure operations take into account the effect on their neighbours and the environment. Specifically, fur ranchers will have to obtain a site approval permit before getting their operating licence. Ranchers will also be required to have management plans that will cover environmental impacts such as waste, water management and disease prevention. The Act also gives the Department of Agriculture inspection and enforcement authority.



Earlier this month, I was pleased to take part in Agricultural Literacy Week. I was one of the approximately 70 readers who went into school classrooms across the province to read the agricultural book, *Alfabet*, and to talk to students about the industry. I enjoyed reading to and speaking with students of Maple Ridge Elementary School in Lantz about Nova Scotia's agriculture sector and its significance to all of us. It is important that we make farming more real to our younger generation as they meet and speak with farmers and others who are connected to the agriculture industry.

Nova Scotia farmers will benefit from the department's enhanced Soil Amendments Program as presented in the 2010/11 Farm Investment Fund (FIF) Guidebook. The enhanced program supports environmental farm stewardship initiatives that promote awareness of best management practices in the area of nutrient management planning.

This program includes the addition of wood ash as a new soil amendment, which will be eligible for the transportation subsidy.

As well, the program reflects the increased transportation rates for limestone. This enhanced soil amendment program will provide farmers with more options when implementing their nutrient management plans. Over the next few months, I will continue to have staff evaluate the enhanced Soil Amendment Program to determine if farmers have the necessary soil amendment programs to maintain farm soils at nutrient rich levels.

I am pleased to note that this government will continue making sound and strategic decisions that will ensure Nova Scotia agriculture is prosperous and sustainable.

Sincerely, John MacDonell

Farmers, you have until June 30th to apply for the EFP Award!

It is time to reward yourselves for the great work you do as Environmental Stewards on our land!

In everyday farm practices, farmers are committed to protecting the water, soil and air quality that we, as Nova Scotians, can enjoy and benefit. Much of what you do through your environmental farm planning and best management practices also protect wildlife habitats and create vibrant communities around us and are often at little cash return on such investments.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, through the EFP team, developed an award recognizing the stewardship actions of Nova Scotia farmers. This is the second year for the prestigious Environmental Farm Stewardship Award. In 2009, the award was presented to Andrew and Teressa VanOostrum from Grafton, N.S. The award is worth up to \$2,000 for activities that further enhance the farm operation and include projects listed in the Farm Investment Fund Guidelines. A personalized farm painting is also presented to the winner at the NSFA Annual Meeting Banquet in November. (Photo below: painting of VanOostrum Farms)

To be eligible for the award the farm must have an environmental farm plan, be a registered farm in Nova Scotia and be a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Award application forms are available at www.nsfafane.ca/EFP or by calling 902-893-2293. The deadline to apply is June 30th, 2010.

The Environmental Farm Plan Program is delivered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and is part of Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



New EFP Emails

The NSFA Environmental Farm Plan program still going strong!

A recent report of the EFP program indicates that there have been over 1500 EFP plans completed including some follow-up plans. The program began in the late 90's and is still being offered to farmers in Nova Scotia with the funding support of both NS Department of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The program is delivered by NSFA through a team of highly experienced planners. This year the team of 6 has 168 farms marked to be completed and another 98 in the queue for a 5-year followup in 2010. If you would like more information on obtaining an EFP for your farm, contact the Federation office at (902) 893-2293 or check out details at www.nsfafane.ca/efp

If you wish to contact one of the EFP staff, please note they have NEW EMAIL Addresses:

Lynda Weatherby:	lweatherby@nsfa-fane.ca
Tom VanOirschot:	tvanoirschot@nsfa-fane.ca
Paul Brenton:	pbrenton@nsfa-fane.ca
Kathryn Bremner:	kbremner@nsfa-fane.ca
Brent Jackson:	bjackson@nsfa-fane.ca
Trevor Davison:	tdavison@nsfa-fane.ca



Farm Safety: Brief Overview of N.S. Department of Labour Administrative Penalties

On January 15, 2010, legislation took effect that gives Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development's Occupational Health and Safety division the ability to issue penalties when violations of health and safety laws are found in workplaces. All workplaces and workplace parties in Nova Scotia are subject to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH&S) so any violations of this Act and its Regulations could result in a penalty. Workplace parties include employers, contractors, constructors, employees and the self-employed, as well as owners,

suppliers, architects, engineers and Occupational Health and Safety consultants.

Recently a workplace in Windsor was charge with:

- failing to ensure adequate personal protection equipment was in place in the work area,
- failing to ensure that an adequate venting system was in place
- failing to ensure the victim was instructed in the safe use of the chemical the victim was using
- failing to instruct an employee in procedures for the safe handling of hazardous substances in the workplace
- failing to ensure that no person would disturb the scene of an accident after it occurred.

So you can see how easily the potential for violation of the OH&S Act exists in many farm operations. If you feel your situation is not technically defined as a workplace there are other sections of the Act that can be used by the inspectors to apply coverage.

Penalties imposed on individuals who have control over a workplace such as employers and supervisors will be larger than those imposed on employees. Penalties initially range from \$100 to \$500 and will increase if it is a repeated offence. Penalties are also higher if there is an injury involved or potential for injury. The penalties are not applied by the individual inspectors but will be applied by an administrator based on information, orders and reports from the inspectors. The administrator will also take into account if any efforts (due diligence by means of a developed, written and duly enforced safety plan and program) were taken to ensure that contravention of the laws would not occur and/or if any economic benefit was derived from the violation. The maximum penalty for an employee is \$500; a supervisor is \$1000; and an employer is \$2000. If a previous offence has occurred within three years, the fines will double. (The 3-year factor will relate to orders issued after Jan. 15, 2010).

**Are you Young?
Enthusiastic?
Have a passion for Farming?
Join other like-minded enthusiasts...**



Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum is hosting their
Annual General Meeting with Tour

June 12 & 13, 2010



AGENDA

June 12 - Registration and Social/Supper at Between the Bushes starts at 6pm.

June 13 - Business Meeting at Sheffield Mills Hall, 8:30am

June 13 - Tour schedule

- 10:15am at Keddy's Nursery
- 12:00pm Tour/Pork BBQ at Meadowbrook Meat Market
- 2:00pm at Valley Mushroom Company Ltd.

Registration and more information available online at www.nsfa-fane.ca/youngfarmers or check out our facebook page: Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum.

Please register before June 4th. Need more information, contact Krista (902) 893-2293 or email: youngfarmers@nsfa-fane.ca

Farm Safely...

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There is an appeal process. It is important to note that there are specific conditions and time frames for appealing the orders and these should be explained by the officer at the time of issuance. If they have not been explained fully ask the officer for written guidelines. Also be aware that once the orders and penalties have been issued and assessed, actions and efforts to correct the deficiencies will not remove the penalties.

This is not to suggest that the main reason for a safety plan and program should be to protect us from the Department of Labour. As always our reason to Farm Safely is based on concern for our own safety as well as that of our families, our employees and visitors to our farms. Further information can be obtained through Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture 893-2293 Ext. 226 or the Nova Scotia Department of Labour website <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/healthandsafety/>



Interest Rates

As of April 1, 2010		Three and five year interest rates are available to clients meeting risk, cashflow and collateral requirements	
Length (years)	Full term	5-year term	3-year term
1-5	3.81%	3.56%	2.72%
6-10	4.94%	4.21%	3.04%
11-15	5.56%	4.36%	3.70%
16-20	6.94%	4.43%	3.76%
21-25	7.20%	4.47%	3.80%
26-30	7.29%	4.51%	3.82%

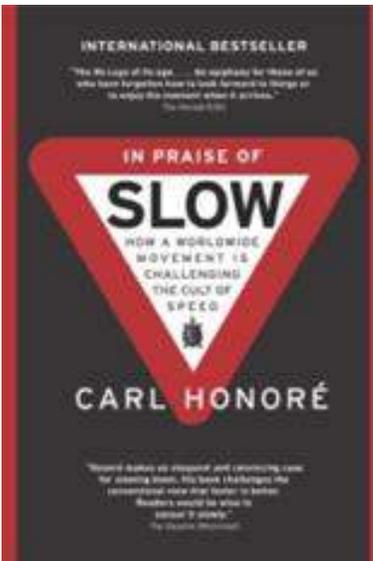
Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 893-6506
Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus, 137 College Road
Kentville 679-6009
Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street



www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb/

Speaking Engagement Notice



Carl Honoré, a leading enthusiast of the Slow Movement and author of "In Praise of Slowness: How a World Wide Movement is Challenging the Cult of Speed", will be speaking in Halifax on July 12, 1:00 pm at the Harbourfront Marriot.

Carl Honoré is a best-selling Canadian author and international journalist based in London. He is best known for his advocacy of the Slow Movement. A loose and international effort by the harried and

haggard to decelerate the pace of their lives, the Slow Movement covers a board spectrum and Carl will be addressing two specific component

- Slow Money –a movement to encourage investors to create new sources of capital for farms and food enterprises and,

- Slow Food –a movement to connect people to their local food and its importance to culture, history and quality of life.

Honoré's international best-selling book plots the lineage of our speed-obsessed society. While it recognizes the difficulty of slowing down, it also highlights the successes of everyday people around the world who have found ways of doing it.

Attend this session and explore inspiring examples from the growing worldwide "slow" movement.

Date: Monday, July 12, 2010

Time: 1:00 pm

Topic: Slow Money Slow Food

Speaker: Carle Honoré, author of In Praise of Slowness: Challenging the Cult of Speed

Venue: Harbourfront Marriot, Halifax NS

Price: \$20/person

To register, please contact NSFA Office at (902) 893-2293 or email info@nsfa-fane.ca



This event is presented with financial support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) Highlights from a Nova Scotia Perspective

- The current 5 year agreement between the Atlantic Provinces for funding of the AVC ends in April, 2011. Consultations are now beginning for the next 5 year agreement.

- 72 % of the veterinarians now practicing in Nova Scotia graduated from the AVC. The figure for New Brunswick is 57 % and for Newfoundland is 59%. These figures provide proof that a good percentage of the veterinarians being trained at AVC actually remain in the area to practice.

- Nova Scotia currently has 16 seats per year at the AVC, for which approximately 59 students will apply, so you can see that it is a remarkable feat for a student to be accepted to train at AVC.

CFA Semi Annual

CFA Semi –Annual Meeting will be held in Nova Scotia!

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 28-29th. This year also marks the 75th Anniversary of CFA. To commemorate 75 years of uniting the farm community, CFA has launched a photo contest and the best producer awards.

The theme for the photo contest is the "Face of Farming". Photos which depict farming or portraits of farmers are welcome. This may include landscape photos, portraits of children, and much more. As long as the photo shows technical excellence, originality, and artistic creativity, while reflecting our theme, it may be selected as a winner in our contest. The contest is open to Canadian residents, age 15 or older as of the day of submission.

CFA is also currently accepting applications for best producer awards in 3 categories, agricultural awareness and education, environmental stewardship and youth leadership

Deadline for photo contest submission and award applications is September 10, 2010.

Go to the NSFA website for more details <http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/cfa-celebrating-75-years> or call the Federation office at (902) 893-2293.



- On May 17th AVC was announced as one of the winners of a prestigious Canada Excellence Research Chair in Aquatics Epidemiology valued at \$10 million which confirms its status as a world leader in animal population health.

- A 4th week has been added for the summer Vet Camps and all seats are already filled. The additional week provides a time for senior students to become more familiar with AVC. This is an extremely popular opportunity for students to have a Vet College experience.

- Talks are taking place in an effort to create a bridge between AVC and Dalhousie University, Halifax which will recognize the importance of collaborating on animal and human health issues.

- The Atlantic Veterinary College is a unique educational opportunity for students in the Atlantic Provinces and provides valuable testing and research facilities - a teaching and services institution without duplication in this area.

Farmer of the Year!

25th Anniversary and Grand Finale of Cumberland's Bounty of the County

Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture wishes to invite anyone involved or interested in the agriculture sector to the Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion for the Bounty of the County on Saturday, June 5th. There will be a meal of Cumberland County's finest food and an award presentation for the "farmer of the year". 2010 marks the 25th anniversary and the last year this event will be held. There is no cost for this celebration and the organizers hope that anyone involved past or present will come and be a part of this grand finale.

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:	Richard Melvin	- Phone: 582-7939
1st. Vice President:	Beth Densmore	- Phone: 369-2876
2nd. Vice President:	Mary McCarron	- Phone: 863-4026
CFA Director:	Dennis Boudreau	- Phone: 769-3501
At Large:	Edna Foster	- Phone: 661-4366
At Large:	David Young	- Phone: 543-8748
At Large:	Danny Davison	- Phone: 798-0283

STAFF: Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Operations Manager: Donna Langille; Financial Services Officer: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Officer: Shelly MacKenzie; Communications Officer: Wanda Hamilton; Farm Safety Consultant: Ralph Baxter

332 Willow St., Truro, N.S.
Ph: 893-2293 • Fax: 893-7063

Email: info@nsfa-fane.ca • Website: www.nsfa-fane.ca

