



Preparations Underway for Open Farm Day 2012

Set September 16th aside as a day to visit some of Nova Scotia's farms! Open Farm Day is a province wide event that creates the opportunity for Nova Scotia farmers to open their gates to members of the community. This year there are over 55 farms participating. This is a great opportunity to visit some other farms in your community and experience all the diversity our agricultural industry



Shown above are Minister MacDonell, John Eikelenboom and Laurence Nason at last year's Open Farm Day at Eiklyn Farm. Eiklyn Farm is joining Open Farm Day again for 2012.

has to offer. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has organized an extensive marketing plan to promote Nova Scotia Agriculture and this year's Open Farm Day. Watch for promotions on Metro billboards, public service announcements and media pitches on radio, ads in Nova Scotia exhibition programs, and check out social media venues for highlights on the farms involved. New this year - we are doing a CTV commercial campaign! We will also be enticing people to visit your farm by making public appearances at farm markets, Select Nova Scotia Incredible Picnic and a two day "Meet Your Farmer at the Mall" (more info on this special promotion on page 6). NSFA has also partnered with Nova Scotia 4-Hers to promote Open Farm Day 2012. Watch (and vote) for their video creations. More details at meetyourfarmer.ca. Other key sponsors in this event are the Nova Scotia Agricultural



Shown above is Mike Oulton of W.G. Oulton & Sons showing visitors to his farm on Open Farm Day 2011 how to bottle feed a calf. Oultons are once again participating this year.

Awareness Committee, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Sobeys. Need more details? Want to know who is participating? Check out all the details online at www.meetyourfarmer.ca and click on the Open Farm Day tab for a drop down menu. If you have any questions or want to know how



Charlotte Harper of Horse & Garden Farm, displays some of her garden vegetables while wearing one of our "Meet Your Farmer" t-shirts during last year's Open Farm Day. Horse & Garden Farm is a participant again this year.

you can get involved, contact Wanda Hamilton, NSFA office at (902) 893-2293 or email whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca



EI - EI - Ouch!

Henry Vissers

Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

There has been a lot of discussion since late May when Human Resources Minister Diane Finley, outlined the federal government's changes to EI. The omnibus budget bill has since been passed; the new rules will now be adjusted in regulations and will split EI recipients into three categories based on how often they've claimed EI in the past.

- Long-tenured workers who have paid into the EI program for seven of the past 10 years, and over the last five years have collected regular or fishing benefits for 35 weeks or less.
- Frequent claimants are those who have had three or more claims (regular or fishing) for a total of more than 60 weeks in the past five years.
- Occasional claimants are all other claimants, who have limited experience in being unemployed.

NSFA has identified this as an issue for employees that are laid off for 2 to 3 months in the off season and for farms that employ workers through the Seasonal Agriculture Workers Program (SAWP).

First let's discuss the employees laid off in the off season; many of these workers are long tenured workers on a farm that have developed valuable skills and in many cases, manage staff and resources during the farming season. The changes to the program mean that these workers will be considered frequent users of EI and will be forced to look for work in the off season since their benefits will be reduced to 70 percent after 6 weeks or face being cut off. This will create concerns around retention of these long term employees since they may not be available when the farms need them in the spring.

The other issue is with the SAWP. Farmers depend on these workers to plant and harvest their crops; the reality is that local workers do not want these jobs. Forcing farmers to hire local workers instead will lead to problems with productivity and retention of workers. If the change in regulations cause farmers to be cut off from these workers, it will be difficult if not impossible to plant and harvest these crops. Farmers are worried that this change could force them to hire people unsuited for farm labour who have to take a job to avoid losing their EI payments.

Time will tell if the new regulations will cause the displacement of long term employees and the SAWP. There have certainly been enough media reporting and letters to Ottawa that I hope they are re-considering the policy change or at least making an exception for agriculture.

This is just one added burden that farmers don't need. Skilled labour, succession planning and an aging demographic are enough to deal with, without having the legs cut out from under these businesses by restricting the availability of the labour farmers need to run their business.

Realizing the EI system is not perfect, agriculture is willing to talk about the changes needed; but wholesale changes to a long standing program without consultation, cause unintended consequences for those that can least afford it.

Keep the dialogue going with your MP, urge them to protect agriculture and food production in our communities.

Comments?
email: hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca



Lease Your Land for Miscanthus



Pro Farm Energy Inc. in conjunction with Minas Basin Pulp and Power is developing a power plant

in Hantsport to deliver electricity to Nova Scotia Power Inc. Pro Farm is seeking to lease underutilized agriculture land (eg. hay ground) to grow a biomass fuel called Miscanthus Giganteus to fuel the power plant in Hantsport located near the paper mill. The power plant will be fueled with both wood and Miscanthus energy crops grown on underutilized farm land. Miscanthus is a perennial grass that grows 12 feet tall and is established once and is then harvested annually in the spring. The crop uses very little nutrient and does not require pesticide use. Pro Farm will apply the required nutrient and lime to the land and then return the lands, to land owners, in an equal or better state then received. Pro Farm is offering land owners 3 years advance lease payment this fall along with Nova Scotia Consumer Price Index premiums annually beginning in year 4. The power plant is scheduled to go into service in the fourth quarter of 2014. Miscanthus energy crops will be planted starting in the spring of 2013 and planting will continue in the spring of 2014.

PFE is seeking to lease underutilized agriculture lands within a 200km distance to Hantsport. Land currently being utilized for hay or row cropping and



CEO Pro Farm Energy Inc., Mike Appelton in a Miscanthus crop in the spring 2012.

heavier in nature is preferred. PFE is now offering lease pricing to land owners interested in applying. Interested land Owners are invited to one of 3 meetings for more information:

- * August 7th, 7-9pm. Windsor, NS at the Hants Exhibition Arena in the O'Brien Building. 239 Wentworth Road.
- * August 8th 7-9pm. Stewiacke, NS at the St. Andrew's United Church. 46 Main Street East.
- * August 9th 7-9m. Lawrencetown, NS at the Fire Department. 2931 Lawrencetown Road.

Contact: (888) 252-9679 or www.profarmenergy.com for more details.

Land Lease Pricing Offered by Pro Farm Energy

Base Rate/Acre	\$35/Acre
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Distance (via road) Premium Per Acre Offered by Pro Farm Energy

If land is 0-40 KM to Hantsport, NS	Add \$35/Acre
If land is 41-60 KM to Hantsport, NS	Add \$25/Acre
If land is 61-80 KM to Hantsport, NS	Add \$15/Acre
If land is 81-100 KM to Hantsport, NS	Add \$5/Acre
If land is greater than 100 KM to Hantsport, NS	Add \$0/Acre

State of Land Premium Per Acre Offered by Pro Farm Energy

If land does not require ploughing	Add \$2.25/Acre
If land does not require nutrient or lime	Add up to \$6.75/Acre *

Early Offer Bonus Offered by Pro Farm Energy

Onetime bonus for RFP Application prior to August 31st, 2012	\$20/Acre **
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* All or a portion of this amount will added by PFE to the lease rate per acre after PFE conducts soil samples
 ** Early Offer bonus will be paid upon lease execution for applying to the RFP Application of the RFP by August 31st, 2012



Supply Management: Canada's Success Story

CFA COMMENTARY

By Ron Bonnett, CFA President



There has been a flurry of negative press recently against supply management with many making claims the Canadian dairy and poultry industries overcharge consumers and interfere with international trade negotiations.

Representing 200,000 farmers across Canada, many of whom are a part of supply managed industries, the CFA feels it is important to offer up the farmers' position on the issue.

Myth: Canadians pay higher prices because of supply management

Fact: Farmers are the first step in a long series of transactions that are required to get a product from the farm gate, to processors, to further processors, to distributors and finally to a point and place where Canadian consumers can buy it. Countless studies have shown that the farmers' share represents a small fraction of the final price Canadians pay for their food. With supply management, farmers are able to get a return equivalent to their cost of production. Furthermore, Canadians pay about 10% of their disposable income on food, which is among the cheapest level worldwide.

Myth: Free Trade will benefit these farmers and unleash their potential

Fact: Never mentioned by the critics, all these farm sectors operated under free markets before supply management and were much worse off. The supply management system matches production with Canadian demand, avoiding surplus and shortages, which are very inefficient for any industry. Stability allows efficient farms to remain in business. Considering the current global food supply challenge, this is an extremely important consideration. With supply management, farmers can earn a fair return for their product from the marketplace and are in a better position to adapt quickly to changes in the marketplace and invest in the latest technologies.

Myth: Supply management is an archaic, out-of-date system meant to keep production low

Fact: In a free market environment, producers respond to market signals. When prices are high, producers will tend to plant or produce more of a commodity to take advantage of price. Inevitably, prices start to decrease as production outstrips demand, causing what every farmer knows is the boom and bust cycle of commodity pricing. Supply management has evened out this cycle by making sure that production levels meet consumer demand and are not propelled by price. Production levels that meet demand promote stability, not only for farmers and Canadian consumers, but the entire market chain.

Myth: Canada is losing out in trade negotiations

Fact: Canada has successfully concluded a myriad of free trade agreements while maintaining supply management. All countries have their own offensive and defensive interests, and successful trade deals are those which recognize and respect all of these interests.

Over the years, Canada's supply management model has provided a stable environment within which the dairy and poultry industries have been able to meet the challenges of changing domestic markets and international trade rules, allowing the industry to be a consistent job provider and contributor to the economy. The dairy and poultry industries sustain 300,000 jobs, contribute \$24.5 billion to Canada's GDP and pay \$4.8 billion in taxes.

It is paradoxical that anyone would criticize a successful agricultural system that offers farmers a fair return for their product, processors a reliable supply of product, and Canadians with a consistent wide choice of high-quality and safe foods at reasonable prices, especially at a time when society is looking to agriculture to ensure food security - in Canada and abroad. Supply management is a smart business move for our country. It's a risk management measure that is most needed now in midst of high global market volatility.

Safe Pesticide Storage



Pesticide application is in full swing for many farmers which means empty pesticide containers and left over product will be kicking around your farm. Don't just put these containers in the dark corner of your machine shed... dispose of or store them properly on your farm. This is for the safety of you, your family, employees, neighbours, livestock and the environment!

If you have left over pesticide that you want to use for future applications it is important to store it in a proper location. Improper storage can lead to surface and groundwater contamination, feed or food contamination, and user hazards.

If you are storing a lot of pesticides, a properly ventilated storage building should be used. The storage building should be located 30 m from wells and watercourses, located away from other buildings, animal housing, play areas and homes, have access to a piped water supply and electrical service and in an area that is easy to access but not susceptible to vandalism. Be sure to check with your municipality on regulations in your county before you begin construction of a pesticide storage facility. Storage buildings should be designed by an engineer but a few points regarding construction are:

- Floor surface must be impermeable and sloped 12 mm to the center. There can be no drain in the floor. The floor should be sealed with an epoxy sealer. A curb around the floor to contain a possible spill is also recommended.
- Interior wall and ceiling should be non-absorbent, non-combustible and washable.
- Ventilation must be installed and ventilated to the outside.
- Lighting needs to be sufficient to provide safe working conditions.
- Temperature should be regulated based on the pesticides and chemicals stored.

When storing smaller amounts of pesticides (less than 25 l of liquid or 25 kg of solid) an old freezer with a lock, is a safe and inexpensive way to store pesticide on the farm. The freezer



should have a plastic liner capable of containing a spill.

All pesticides storages need to have a "Warning Chemical Storage- Authorized Personnel Only" and a "No Smoking" sign with an emergency contact person and telephone number posted. The Environmental Farm Plan Program has signs available for producers. It is also good practice to make your local fire brigade aware of the types and quantities of pesticides being stored on your property.



A spill kit is also important to have on your farm. Contact the EFP office at 896-2420 or the NSFA office at 893-2293 for more information on where to find a pesticide spill kit!

If you have obsolete pesticides on the farm that need to be disposed of, Clean Farms will be running a program in early November to take unused, obsolete pesticides. Contact your local pesticide supplier or point of purchase for more information on this program and when you can drop off your chemicals.

If you want more information on the Clean Farms program check out their website at: <http://www.cleanfarms.ca/>

If there are empty pesticide containers on your farm you can also use the Clean Farms website to look up a list of Empty Container Collections Sites for Nova Scotia. Retailers are listed for Berwick, Halifax, Kentville and Truro. You should also check with your regional solid waste office to check that they will take empty pesticide containers. And remember to triple rinse and puncture all plastic containers! There should be NO chemical left in the bottom of the container. When rinsing out containers ensure rinsate is placed into the sprayer and applied to the field being sprayed and not poured down a drain or dumped outside.

You can never be too careful when handling pesticides! As the old saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

-EFP Program Coordinators



We Need to Know!

The NSFA is pleased to announce that our "Back to School for Farmers" initiative is continuing for the next Fall & Winter season. We have been able to provide these educational sessions through a partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

Last year's courses were very well received as stated by past participants -

"This course was the perfect mix of learning through financial insights, hands-on examples and networking with other participants."
and

"It was a great course tailored to our wants and needs. Upon having taken this course, I now have a much greater awareness of the financial health of my farm, and can now use that knowledge to make better financial decisions."

If this sounds like something you could benefit from, we want to hear from you. To help us determine the best location, and timing for

these courses we're looking for your input.

Topics to include:

- Beginner Computer Skills (new this season)
- Financial Management
- Marketing Your Farm Business

Now available in most locations is a mobile computer lab so there is no need for bringing along a computer.

The Federation's courses are arranged with your needs in mind. All courses run for a total of 40 hours but the exact timing is scheduled according to the participants' directive. There will be 12 people in each course.



Please email your interest, location and timing preference and course preference to smackenzie@nsfa-fane.ca. We hope to have a couple of courses ready to start in September depending on your responses. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Meet Your Farmer at the Mall

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee and Meet Your Farmer are teaming up, **but we need you!**

On September 7 & 8th, we are headed to Mic Mac Mall. We will have interactive information booths, on-site cooking demonstrations, even farm animals and farm equipment on display in the courtyard outside one of the main entrances at this busy Dartmouth Mall. This is a great opportunity to promote Open Farm Day that is happening on September 16th and to promote the wonderful aspects of Agriculture in Nova Scotia. We are asking for you, the farmers, to come and help out. This is your chance to **Meet Your Consumer!**

There are lots of opportunity to volunteer for a day or even a couple hours either Friday or Saturday and we'll provide you with promotional items to pass out, give you the space to chat to interested shoppers or we can

even come up with some fun demonstration ideas for you if you are interested. The important thing is that we have farmers onsite so we can fulfil our promise that the general public can in fact; Meet Your Farmer at the Mall!

Sound interesting, still need more information? Contact Wanda at 893-2293 or whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca



Provincially Funded Program - Managing Forests



There are about 30,000 small woodlot owners in Nova Scotia. Research has shown that many are keenly interested in sustainably managing their woodlands, but do not know how to start.

The Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association (NSWOOA) is offering a program especially for them. With financial support from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, a forester from NSWOOA will visit 100 small woodlots over the next six months to talk with landowners about their land.

Visits will be offered to landowners who are interested in active woodlot management for the first time; want to explore alternatives to clear-cut timber harvesting; and want to learn how to access to silviculture funding.

Stephen Cole of Middleton, the NSWOOA forester, will spend a half-day in the woods with each owner. Participants will receive:

- A summary report about opportunities in the woodlot that are consistent with the owner's own values, objectives, and goals;
- The most current aerial photograph of the land, and a property sketch map;
- An introductory membership in NSWOOA; and

- A list of resources and service providers for woodlot owners.

Because the expense is underwritten by the province, the cost to the landowner is just \$25. If you want more information about the project, please contact Stephen Cole at 902-309-1062 or bradcole500@gmail.com.

Founded in 1969, NSWOOA is the oldest independent organization of small forest landowners in the province. A non-profit society, its mission is to support woodlot owners in sustainable forestry through education, demonstration, marketing, and cooperation.

Truly sustainable forestry requires that all the values of our woodlands – ecological, social, cultural, and economic – be preserved for future generations. NSWOOA believes that forest practices should mimic natural processes in the native Acadian Forest. Management that favors the growth of high-quality trees of our longest-lived, most valuable species offers the best opportunity to realize timber value while restoring forest conditions to a more natural (and desirable) state. The association believes that compromising ecological integrity for short-term considerations will inevitably have a negative impact on forest use by future generations.

To learn more about the association, visit www.nswooa.ca, call 902-817-4763 or write to NSWOOA@gmail.com.

FarmLINK is Available in Nova Scotia!

FarmLINK is now available in Nova Scotia!
(www.farmlink.net)

Developed by Ontario's FarmStart, the site aims to connect farm seekers and farmland owners through a Matchmaker tool. Farmland owners looking for a successor, intern, or employee, or simply wanting to make their land available for sale or rent can post a listing. Likewise, those seeking farm employment, mentorship, rental or ownership opportunities can also post a listing. The Matchmaker

tool can then help match people with opportunities. There is no fee to create a listing. FarmLINK does not vet listings or guarantee their accuracy.

FarmStart has received so many inquiries from other parts of the country to share or expand the reach of their database that they have now made it a Canada-wide site. There are currently only a few entries from Nova Scotia and the more people use it, the more useful it becomes for everyone, so help spread the word to get more entries!



Blueberry Jam

One way to enjoy that fresh blueberry taste all year long is by making jam. Try the following recipe and enjoy!



Ingredients

- 3 cups crushed wild blueberries
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp granulated sugar
- 1 box (49 g) light pectin crystals

Preparation

In large bowl, stir blueberries with lemon juice. Add sugar. Mix in pectin crystals; let stand for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour into clean airtight containers, leaving 1/4-inch (5 mm) headspace. Let stand, undisturbed, until set, 24 hours. Store in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks or freeze for up to 8 months.

Source : Canadian Living Magazine

Does Farming Have You Stressed?

Does bad weather, low market prices or other farm industry-related problems have you stressed? The Farm Family Support Centre addresses these issues by offering guidance and support to those families wishing to improve their ability to deal with difficult situations.

Services are provided by Keith Wallis/Mediator, Mirkwood Mediation Services. Call Toll free 1-877-418-7555.

This is a joint project between Farm Safety Nova Scotia and the

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



We're on the Move!

The offices of the NSFA, Agri-Commodity Management Association and Agri-Futures are moving. Effective September 7, 2012 we will be located at Perennia Innovation Park (formerly AgriTECH Park) in the Annapolis Building at 60 Research Drive.

4-H Open Farm Day Video Contest

OPEN FARM DAY VIDEO CONTEST

Create a 30-60 second ad to promote Open Farm Day and **WIN \$500***



Video submission deadline is August 22

For complete contest details please visit:
www.meetyourfarmer.ca/videocontest

MEET YOUR FARMER

*\$500 will be awarded to the winning club. The individual(s) from the winning team will receive an exciting prize pack! Contest limited to 4H members only.

News & Views

NSFA News & Views is the Newsletter of the NS 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 and concerns from our members, please direct them to Executive members or the Office Staff.

2012 Executive Members:

President:	Beth Densmore	Phone: 369-2876
1st Vice President:	Dennis Boudreau	Phone: 769-3501
2nd Vice President:	David Young	Phone: 543-8748
CFA Director:	Dennis Boudreau	Phone: 769-3501
At Large:	Edna Foster	Phone: 661-4366
At Large:	Chris vandenHeuvel	Phone: 631-1884
At Large:	Charles MacDonald	Phone: 564-2080
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Staff: Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Operations Manager: Donna Langille; Financial Services Officer: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Officer: Shelly MacKenzie; Communications Officer: Wanda Hamilton; Farm Safety Coordinator: Trevor Davison

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