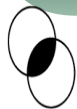




## Species at Risk



### Biodiversity Landowners Guide

*Do you want to know how to protect species at risk on your farm?*

As you may recall, a website was launched at NSFA's Annual Meeting last November. The development of the Biodiversity Landowners Guide (or BioLOG for short) was funded by the Department of Natural Resources and developed through the leadership of Dr. Kate Sherren and Kate Goodale at Dalhousie University's School of Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES). The website was well received by the farming community with its relevant information about wildlife issues and user friendly design.

Since the launch, Environment Canada's National Conservation Plan has funded the NSFA to advance extension work about Species at Risk (SAR) on farms. The project represents a strong partnership with Dalhousie, including coordination by Simon Greenland-Smith at SRES. So far, the funding has supported a partnership with the Mersey-Tobeatic Research Institute to develop new BioLOG content available in May. These resources include information on practices to protect species at risk to enrich existing content on the prevention of crop destruction by wildlife species. The content that was added to the website is not intended to compromise your farm operation or hinder farm practices; the addition is there to assist those with an interest in protecting species at risk living on their farm.

Other aspects of the project will be completed over the next year. These aspects include a survey, videos about farming practices beneficial for SAR, a self-assessment tool and a biodiversity friendly farming project for the 4H Canada program.

One of the mentioned aspects was a survey. If you receive this survey, please complete and return. All information will be kept confidential and only reported in the aggregate. The feedback from this survey will be used by survey sponsors (Department of Natural Resources, Environment Canada and Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture) to determine future programming options and information gaps. Dalhousie will also use survey results for scholarly research. Like all other information pieces distributed to NSFA members, your contact information will not be given to a third party.

NSFA is excited to be the only recipient of SAR project funding in Atlantic Canada and only one of four nationally. The funding is a budget item and is a part of the Economic Action Plan 2015. The plan proposes to provide \$75 million over three years, starting in 2015–16. The funding is to continue to support the implementation of the Species at Risk Act to protect Canada's diverse species and secure the necessary actions for their recovery.

The BioLOG website can be found at [nsfa-fane.ca/biolog](http://nsfa-fane.ca/biolog)

### Please select an option



**Benefits to my farm**  
*How can habitat help my farm?*



**Helping Habitat**  
*How can I help the species on my land?*



**Species at Risk in Nova Scotia**  
*Information on some species at risk found in and around agricultural lands*



**Dealing with Wildlife**  
*Methods of coping with species*



# In and Around the Industry

**Henry Vissers**  
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

As farmers finally hit the fields it's hard to believe it can be as dry as it is after all the snow that was on the ground this spring. Many people have told us that the spring work has been compressed into a much shorter period of time making it difficult to get all the work done.

Hopefully everyone that was interested in the Home Grown Success program was able to get their applications in on time. We are very pleased that wildlife fencing was added to the program this year and that the deadline was extended to allow for extra time to get the applications in.

The NSFA Labour Committee had a meeting with the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education this month. We were able to highlight some of the issues that are causing problems for farmers around Employment Insurance, Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, skills training, and draft changes to the Occupational Health and Safety regulations to name a few. A number of actions came out of the meeting that will be followed up in the next while.

NSFA recently hosted a meeting of commodity managers; this was an opportunity for us to get together and discuss what is going on in the different organizations and to support one another in promoting agriculture. From my perspective the round table session is one of the most valuable parts of the meeting where managers are able to share what is happening in their respective commodity. I think it's an eye opener for everyone how much work is being done on behalf of farmers.

The meeting also reviewed the Business Risk Management part of the Growing Forward program. As you probably know BRM is the Federal Provincial program that provides support to farmers in times of income

decline. We are reaching the mid-point of the current agreement and are now working with the Canadian Federation in reviewing both the BRM and non BRM program, and preparing our request for changes in the next Provincial/Federal initiative. It may seem early to be doing this but we will have a federal election later this year and will be lobbying for changes during the election. We also need to have our ducks in a row for the start of the program discussions around the next Federal Provincial agriculture initiative. I expect these discussions will start in 2016.

We continue to watch and be very concerned about the trade file. The US is getting ever closer to an agreement on Fast Track Authority for the President. Fast Track Authority was recently passed by the US Senate and its now being hashed out in the House of Representatives. Once this is passed the US President has the authority to negotiate trade deals and the two houses of government can only vote yes or no - they will no longer be able to propose changes to the deal that is negotiated.

The scuttlebutt is that this will break the log jam at the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade talks and the concern is that agriculture will be sold out in favour of a deal. Implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is expected to happen around the same time. This deal is also of interest to the US and something similar may roll out quickly under Fast Track.

On the policy side we have made progress on a number of issues and will be reviewing our policy positions at the June meeting of the NSFA Executive Committee. The policies will then move through to the September council meeting and on to our AGM. (Mark your calendars the AGM is Nov 26th and 27th)

Please remember to work safely during this very busy time of year. There are many risks you cannot manage; working safely is one that you can.

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

# viewpoint



# NSFA's Newest Executive Member

*Amanda Eisses is NSFA's newest Executive Committee Member.*

Amanda is a cash crop and custom work farmer with her husband, Michael, in Glenholme outside of Truro. Along with looking after the farm accounting, Amanda also is responsible for the agronomy needs of the farm. She is responsible for scouting fields for weeds, insects and diseases and continually tries to improve on current crop growing practices.



*Aerial view of Amanda & Michael Eisses' Farm*

They started the farm in 2005 with a plot of land purchased from Michael's father, a now retired dairy farmer. Initially, the farm business focused on custom work for neighbouring farms and grew about 50 acres of barley and carrots for Oxford Frozen Foods. The farm has now grown to a combined 1300 acres of corn, soybeans, spring and winter wheat and barley on top of their custom work. They have developed a close relationship with Bragg Lumber Company and rotate their land base with them for carrots.

One of the keys to their success has been to develop

relationships with their customers and provide a reliable service. Another key is diversification and not focusing on one or two commodities, but to spread the risk over multiple commodities. They also farm a spread out land base, varying in soil types from very early, light soils to later, heavier soils. In 2013, they invested in a grain center on their farm equipped with a grain dryer and storage capacity to increase their flexibility with their crops.

Off farm, Amanda works contract work at the Truro Agromart Ltd. as an Agronomist during the summer months working predominately with blueberry, dairy and cash crop farmers. In the winter she does contract work for LP Consulting Ltd. working on Nutrient Management Plans for farmers.

Amanda and Michael have two young children, Ian (age 6) and Allison (age 3) who love the farm. As the children grow, their responsibility will grow and they will learn about farming from the ground up. They will have their share of responsibilities like picking rocks to instil an admirable work ethic similar to their parents. Amanda is very involved with her children's school and preschool by regularly volunteering and contributing to the community.

Agriculture related organizations that Amanda is involved with include Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Institute of Agrolgists and she just recently became a Certified Crop Advisor.

As a young farmer, Amanda wants to be a voice for the new generation of farmers in Nova Scotia. We are the future of this industry and she looks forward to this new opportunity serving on the NSFA Executive.

# Farm Safety Nova Scotia News

## Small Business Safety Toolkit

Small business owners in Nova Scotia now have a new resource to help them make their workplaces safer.

The Small Business Safety Toolkit provides easy-to-use, step-by-step guidelines and sample forms that business operators can use to identify hazards and develop a safety plan to keep everybody safe on the job.

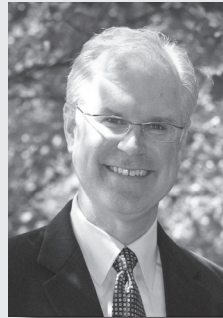
The Small Business Safety Toolkit is available both online at [www.workplace-safety-toolkit.ca](http://www.workplace-safety-toolkit.ca) and in a hard copy version. It was developed by the provincial government, the Workers' Compensation Board and industry associations.

The toolkit is a product of the province's Workplace Safety Strategy, a five-year initiative designed to make Nova Scotia the safest place to work in Canada.

The toolkit helps users to establish a health and safety system in their workplace, learn their basic duties and responsibilities under the law and understand the importance of health and safety to the operations of a business.

If you are interested in accessing a hard copy, please contact Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

## FSNS Welcomes a New Director



Farm Safety Nova Scotia welcomes David Powers to the Board as our newest Director. David was appointed to fill a three year term that became vacant earlier this year. David is the Director of Health, Safety and Environment with Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd. and brings a tremendous amount of practical experience in health and safety to the Board.

David is the driving force behind the Progressive Agricultural Safety Days hosted by Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd. This year, over 1000 grade 4 students will attend the Progressive Agricultural Safety Days in Oxford, Truro and Windsor. His enthusiasm for safety and the agriculture industry is apparent in all his work. Welcome David – we look forward to working with you!

## Spanish First Aid Training

There are Spanish Emergency First Aid Courses scheduled on the following dates:

**June 17 – Cobequid District Fire Hall,  
Truro (8:30am-4:30pm)**

**June 19 – Berwick Fire Hall (8:30am-4:30pm)**

Contact Farm Safety Nova Scotia to register for a course. For a list of all First Aid Courses and pricing visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca).



We are here to help our members make their farms safe and healthy places to live and work.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments on farm safety.

[info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca) • (902)893-2293

# Nova Scotia Farmers Environmental Stewards



To celebrate achievements and outstanding sustainable farming practices, the Environmental Farm Plan Program has launched its

2015 Environmental Stewardship Award for the seventh year.

Canadian Environment Week takes place the first week of June. The annual event provides the opportunity for everyone to celebrate their hard work in protecting the environment. To learn more on what NS farmers are doing to help preserve, protect and restore our

environment, visit the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Website at [www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/).

We encourage individuals and groups to nominate farms that are contributing positively to the environment. Farm owners can also nominate their own farm. The application deadline is June 30, 2015. Application forms are available on the EFP website or by calling (902) 893-2293.

The Environmental Farm Plan Coordinators would like to thank all farmers across NS who have incorporated environmental practices on their farm.

## License Requirements for US Travel

Commencing July 1, 2015, the US plans to begin enforcing medical certification requirements for Canadian class 5 drivers operating a commercial vehicle in the US. A commercial Motor Vehicle by US definition is, among other criteria, a gross vehicle combination weight of 4536 kg. The recommendation is that any Nova Scotia driver operating a commercial vehicle in the US (by US definition) be required to obtain a Nova Scotia Commercial license. A Nova Scotia Class 4 C license will satisfy the requirement. Any questions regarding a Class 4 Driver's License can be directed to your local Service Nova Scotia office.

## Barriers to Growth Survey

*Do you want to grow your farm? Are there barriers preventing you from achieving the size of farm you would like to have?*

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA), through its THINKFARM program, would like to hear about the barriers that you face in trying to grow your farm and are requesting that you complete an anonymous survey. The survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete and will help the department to understand the issues you are facing. It is the hope that with your input the NSDA can assess its current programs and services to address some of the barriers that you identify.

The survey is voluntary and all information you provide will be kept confidential. Whether or not you complete this survey will not affect the services you receive through THINKFARM or the NSDA. The survey can be found in the right panel at [novascotia.ca/thinkfarm](http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm). The deadline to complete the survey is June 12th, 2015.

For more information about the survey, please contact Jaclyn Biggs, THINKFARM Coordinator, at (902) 893-5649 or [Jaclyn.biggs@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jaclyn.biggs@novascotia.ca).

## Open Farm Day!

September 20, 2015

Registration forms are now available for Open Farm Day at [nsfa-fane.ca/openfarmday](http://nsfa-fane.ca/openfarmday)

Any questions can be directed to Maxine at (902) 893-2293

## Minister of Agriculture highlights concerns with trade negotiations

### *Supply Management Protects Rural Jobs, Economy*

Nova Scotia is calling on the federal government to protect Canada's supply-management system during international trade negotiations.

Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell wrote to his federal colleague Gerry Ritz on Wednesday, May 20, to underline the need to preserve the benefits of supply management for agricultural industries.

"Supply management is critical to jobs and the economy in rural communities and seeing it protected is a key priority for the provincial government," said Mr. Colwell. "We are reminding the federal government it needs to safeguard Canada's system as it pursues trade

negotiations like the Trans Pacific Partnership."

Supply-managed products such as eggs, dairy foods and poultry have an annual farm gate value of \$267 million in Nova Scotia and support more than 800 jobs. The system already permits market access for products from outside of Nova Scotia.

"We will continue to raise these issues with our federal counterparts to ensure they are working to preserve the success of Canada's commodity industries," said Mr. Colwell.

A copy of the minister's letter is available at [www.novascotia.ca/agri/](http://www.novascotia.ca/agri/)

## Snow Update

Though spring has sprung and much grass around the province is starting to turn green, the harsh effects of Winter 2015 still loom. The Federation office is still receiving a calls from a farmer reporting snow damage or checking in on the progress of the reporting to government.

Since the last News and Views update, there still hasn't been any confirmation of a program to assist with snow damage. The office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Responsible for EMO and Disaster Relief) requested specific information from the reports, which was provided.

The Department of Agriculture has also been working with commodity groups to educate their staff and members on the suite of Business Risk Management programs available to producers.

As was mentioned in the May News and Views, the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) and AgriRecovery weren't successful on their first two attempts. DFAA was rejected because the losses are considered to be insurable. A downside of the DFAA pro-

gram is that if it is triggered – the funds can only be accessed by businesses with yearly gross revenues (as reported for income tax purposes) of at least \$10,000 but not more than \$2 million. AgriRecovery has also been denied because multiple snow storms are not considered as a single event.

In a response letter to NSFA received from the Minister of Agriculture, farmers who have been affected by snow damage can continue to work with NSDA's Risk Management division to see if the AgriRecovery risk management initiative is possible.

### **Submit your photos!**

Do you have a photo of your livestock being turned out or seed being planted?  
NSFA will be happy to share your farming photos on social media and add them to our stock photo collection.

Contact [mmaclean@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:mmaclean@nsfa-fane.ca) with your photo and a caption or for more information.

# Out with the old, in with the new

By Emma Geldart

It's no secret that the availability of fossil fuels to produce the fuels, chemicals and commodities that we need is on the steady decline. One researcher at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture is looking at new ways to change how fuels are produced using environmentally sustainable and readily available methods.

Dr. Sophia He is a chemical engineer on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. For more than 20 years, Dr. He has been working on reaction and separation engineering. More recently, she's been focusing on biofuels and bio-product development.

"The mission of a chemical engineer is to convert raw materials into useful products in an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly way, to improve the quality of life," Dr. He explains. "My first ten years after graduating from college, had been devoted to optimizing petroleum refinery processes, increasing productivity and reducing pollution caused by sulfur in the crude oil."



Dr. Sophia He

Dr. He is now focusing on making fuels and bio-products from non-conventional crops and bio-waste such as agricultural and forestry residues, animal manure, agri-food processing waste, and solid municipal waste. One area of her research looks at the development of on-farm biodiesel production.

"Bio-diesel is renewable, biodegradable, and can be directly used in diesel engines without modification, representing a promising substitute for petro-diesel," Dr. He says. "Our research group targets developing efficient biodiesel production processes on a farm scale from a variety of feedstock such as used cooking oil, canola and camelina."

Dr. He is also looking at the extraction of inulin- a functional food ingredient that comes from a low cost crop, Jerusalem artichoke. Jerusalem artichoke is a plant native to North America, thus suitable to grow in Nova Scotia. It has high growth rate, good tolerance to frost, drought and poor soil, strong resistance to pests and plant diseases, and has little fertilizer requirements.

"The inulin extracted from Jerusalem can be processed into bioethanol for energy application," Dr. He explains.

One other specific area of research that Dr. He is working on is the production and bio-refinery of crude bio-oil derived from bio-waste. Dr. He explains that a hydrothermal liquefaction process that works like a pressure cooker can generate crude bio-oil from all kinds of organic waste.

"I call it from waste to wealth!" Dr. He says.

Through her research, Dr. He hopes to have a significant impact on the local community and agriculture industry. She wants to reduce the reliance on petroleum fuels, decrease energy costs on farms, and provide an alternative option for waste treatment.

"This research really brings a new opportunity to the agriculture industry," Dr. He says. "Agriculture is one of the most important industries in Nova Scotia. Each year tons of agriculture waste is generated from current crop plantations. This, combined with the abundance of marginal land suitable for non-conventional crops, creates a sustainable advantage. At the same time, farm operations require significant amounts of liquid biofuels, mainly gasoline and diesel."

With these opportunities in mind, Dr. He hopes to find new solutions to replace the old methods of producing fuels, chemicals and commodities and reduce the burden on landfills and improve environmental sustainability.

# Member Highlights

## Nova Scotia Export Achievement Awards Favourite Farmer

Nova Scotia Business Inc. along with its partners and sponsors are proud to present The Nova Scotia Export Achievement Awards, an annual celebration and recognition of excellence in exporting across Nova Scotia. Randsland Farms Inc and Van Dyk's, are two of nine companies that will be celebrated at this year's provincial awards ceremony on May 21, 2015 in Halifax.

David Newcombe won favourite farmer in Alltech's Favourite Farmer Contest. Nominated by Brianna Gramh and voted as the winner through "Likes" on Facebook, David won a trip to the Alltech REBELation conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

*Was your farm nominated for or a recipient of an award? We would be happy to include your accomplishments in the News and Views or in our weekly eNews.*

### Join us in the conversation



@nsfa



/NSFAMeetYourFarmer  
/NSFAFANE

[www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)

## Dates to Remember

- June 1, 2 & 4, Various Locations
- WBPANS Twilight Meetings**
- June 18 - 19, Halifax & Bedford
- 2015 OEA Employer Conference**
- June 30, Nova Scotia
- Deadline for Open Farm Day Applications**
- June 30, Nova Scotia
- Deadline for EFP Stewardship Award Nominations**
- July 12 - 17, Quebec City
- International Farm Management Congress**
- July 18, Debert
- WBPANS Field Day**
- September 15, Truro
- NSFA Council of Leaders Meeting**
- September 20
- Open Farm Day**
- November 20 & 21, Truro
- WBPANS Annual Meeting**
- November 26 & 27, Truro
- NSFA Annual Meeting**

## 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.

### 2015 Executive Members:

President:	<b>Chris van den Heuvel</b>	Phone: 631-1884
1st Vice President:	<b>Kimberly Stokdijk</b>	Phone: 895-4817
2nd Vice President:	<b>Lloyd Dyck</b>	Phone: 538-3083
CFA Director:	<b>Victor Oulton</b>	Phone: 798-4440
At Large:	<b>John Quinn</b>	Phone: 783-2834
At Large:	<b>Amanda Eisses</b>	Phone: 662-3811
At Large:	<b>Jim Baillie</b>	Phone: 657-2256
At Large:	<b>Victor Oulton</b>	Phone: 798-4440
Past President:	<b>Dennis Boudreau</b>	Phone: 769-3501

**Staff:** Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Associate Director: Wanda Hamilton; Financial Services Coordinator: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Services Coordinator: Shelly MacKenzie; Communication & Research Coordinator: Maxine MacLean; Farm Safety Coordinator, Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, EFP Staff, Kathryn Bremner, Paul Brenton, Trevor Davison, Jillian Saulnier and Cory Roberts

60 Research Drive, Perennia Innovation Park, Bible Hill, N.S.

Ph: 893-2293 Fax: 893-7063

Email: [info@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-fane.ca)

Website: [www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)