



## Tax Credit Supports Farmer Donations to Food Banks

Farmers who donate to food banks in Nova Scotia will qualify for a new tax credit to encourage fresh produce donations.

Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell outlined the tax credit May 19, at Feed Nova Scotia in Halifax.

“Government is working with farmers to help Nova Scotians who need it most,” said Mr. Colwell. “This will ensure food banks have fresh, local, nutritious produce.”

“We all know the value of fresh food - it’s physical nourishment for today, and it’s hope and health for the future,” said Nick Jennery, executive director of Feed Nova Scotia. “This new incentive for farmers to donate surplus food opens up huge doors of opportunity. We can’t wait to work with the farming community and our network of member agencies across the province to get more fresh food to the tables of people who need it.”

Donations of fresh, surplus produce can be made to a registered food bank by an individual or corporation carrying on business as a farm and will receive a tax credit equal to 25 per cent of the fair market value of the donation. They will also be eligible for the charitable donation tax credit.

“Farmers have for many years given graciously to Nova Scotia’s food banks,” said Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture President Chris van den Heuvel. “The food bank tax credit for farmers will provide some tax in-



*Above - Chris van den Heuvel, NSFA President speaking at the media event.*

centives and good agricultural products to Nova Scotians who need it.”

The tax credit will be retroactive to Jan. 1. Further details about the credit, which was part of Budget 2016-2017, will be spelled out in regulations to follow. It is estimated that the tax credit could cost \$300,000 this year.

“Agriculture is the backbone of our rural economy and this is another way for us to support the contributions our farmers make to strong and healthy communities,” said Mr. Colwell.

For information about donating to a food bank visit [feednovascotia.ca](http://feednovascotia.ca).



## Regulation. It's not going away.

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

Regulation is probably the last thing on your mind in the middle of the cropping season, but it seems to be on governments' radar! The provincial government along with the other Maritime Provinces have agreed to look at harmonizing regulation where it makes sense. They agreed to create the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness. The Office has "a mandate to make business growth and expansion easier by getting rid of unnecessary barriers and differences between our provinces through mirror legislation and the adoption of principles of regulatory excellence."

One of the first efforts was around regulations for apprenticeships and recognizing each other's apprenticeships and the hours they accumulate towards becoming a journeyman. In doing so, there will be 10 trades where apprentices will be able to work and train more easily across the borders of Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. Under the Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project, trade advisory committees are aligning the trades by adopting the same education requirements, training and standards, number of hours needed for completion and the sequencing of courses.

Recently government also introduced changes to the kinds of records employers need to keep to align with those in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The changes also provide more clarity and guidance for employers. Labour standards, which includes record-keeping, is an area the business community has highlighted as overly burdensome and complex, in part, due to regional differences.

You can find the Office of Regulatory Affairs here: <http://novascotia.ca/regulatoryopportunity/premiers-%20charter.asp> Intent and Guidelines for regulation are stated as follows:

### Intent

- The Government will regulate to achieve its policy objectives only; and
- There is a general presumption that regulation should not impose costs and obligations on business, social enterprises, individuals and community groups unless a robust and compelling case has been made to do so.

### Guidelines

- Regulation should be the only effective and necessary way to meet the policy need;
- Regulation should be a tempered response;
- Regulation should be accountable;
- Regulation should be accessible and easy to comply with;
- Regulation should consider economic impact; and
- Good regulatory governance.

As a part of the process, NSFA also solicited feedback from federation members and organizations on what they saw as regulatory barriers and burdens. This information was then sent to a committee struck by the Maritime Premiers to collect this information.

Looking at our policy on Regulatory Burden, scale appropriate regulation has been a recurring topic. Licensing, quality assurance, labelling, food safety and handling, environmental, and distribution are examples of regulations that are designed for larger businesses and don't work for small scale farms.

There are also lots of regulations for transportation of farm equipment, tractors, etc. under the motor Vehicle Act and Regulations. When the NSFA Transportation committee was formed over 10 years ago, one of the early successes was a guide to the Transportation regulations found here [http://nsfa-fane.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Transportation-Guidelines-NS-Farmers-REV\\_MAY6\\_2015.pdf](http://nsfa-fane.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Transportation-Guidelines-NS-Farmers-REV_MAY6_2015.pdf). The committee continues to *continued on page 3*

# Erosion Control in Corn and Soybean



Soil erosion control when growing silage corn and soybean is difficult due to the lateness of the crop harvest period, which makes it difficult to establish a cover crop for winter soil cover. Both crops leave a plant residue level of less than 5% on the soil surface after crop harvest so fields are left prone to soil erosion.

In 2015, Andrew McCurdy tried broadcasting Italian ryegrass into corn at the 6th leaf stage and winter rye into soybean when there was 20% leaf drop. Andrew was pleased with the soil cover that was achieved in both crops, but noted that narrow tractor tires should be used when applying seed in soybeans in order to avoid trampling beans. He also noted that although his typical spinner spreader was adequate, a better broadcasting method would help seed application and establishment in corn.

Perennia conducted field trials in Middleton, Noel and Shubenacadie in 2014 with annual Italian ryegrass broad-

## You Can Have Input

Farmers will now have an opportunity to provide input in the Next Agricultural Policy Framework.

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) is the current federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agricultural policy framework and will be in place until 2018. Now at the midway point of GF2, FPT governments are working in partnership to develop the next framework and are seeking feedback to better understand where GF2 is working well, and where challenges could be addressed.

AAFC wants to hear about your experience as they work with provincial and territorial governments to develop the next framework. Your feedback is important and will help shape the direction of future policy and programs for the agriculture and agri-food sector.

A link to the questionnaire can be found on the NSFA website, [nsfa-fane.ca](http://nsfa-fane.ca).

There will be more opportunities to share your ideas and priorities in the coming months.

cast into corn fields also at the 6th leaf stage. It was found that a pneumatic boom spreader had better ryegrass establishment than the spinner type spreader; however the ryegrass grew well at all three sites and did not reduce corn yields. More information is available at the link below: [http://perennia.ca/CropLinks%20Newsletter/2014/Crop-Links%20November%202014\\_web.pdf](http://perennia.ca/CropLinks%20Newsletter/2014/Crop-Links%20November%202014_web.pdf)

This practice of over seeding Italian annual rye grass into corn has gained popularity in other growing areas recently and Sonny Murray, of Scotian Gold Co-operative Ltd., has been encouraging local growers to try implementing the practice. He stated that herbicide management is an important factor that shouldn't be overlooked when experimenting with ryegrass in corn and also noted that soil health and nitrogen retention are additional benefits from establishing a cover crop.

## Regulation continued

meet and challenge the interpretation of these regulations.

Another is the rules around hunting which has been a part of the work of the Agriculture Wildlife committee. We have made progress; however, it is an arduous process. Our latest efforts around the creation of a Human Wildlife Conflict tag is an example of a change in regulation that has been supportive of agriculture.

I mention these examples to make the point that regulation isn't the only thing slowing down business; the interpretation of the regulation is equally challenging. We work hard to get the regulations changed and to get clearer interpretation of regulations. Often these changes don't get to the operational levels of government.

We have found on a number of occasions that the change in regulation or interpretation doesn't get down to the front line levels of government office such as DNR, Access NS, etc. I certainly understand that government has a large workforce – over 10,000 plus. I think it's important to make the effort to improve the communications so the changes are effective for farmers and others.

Let's add that task to the list as we look for ways to reduce and improve regulations that are meant to serve the citizens of NS.

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

# Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

*Submitted by: Maria McCurdy, Credit Manager*

Staff of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board hope the spring weather is being enjoyed by all farmers throughout the province. As I write this article, signs of spring are evident throughout my community with dairy farmers completing seeding of grains, corn and soy-beans crops.

I am providing you with more detail about my work as Credit Manager and would like to introduce you to our lending staff. In September of 2015, I returned to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board as Credit Manager. In this position, I am responsible for timely delivery of loan products to clients, completion of securities, and ongoing maintenance of files. Extension of quality credit of up to \$35,000,000 annually is the goal of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. I also have responsibilities as Credit Manager with the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board. There are considerable similarities between these organizations and we plan to build on synergies over time.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board is currently enjoying a period of rapid change. Over the past several months we have had many staff changes. In March of 2016, we welcomed Heather Montgomery as Loans Manager in our Kentville office. Heather brings more than twenty years of experience serving clients in the agricultural community. Andrew Kellock, Senior Loan Officer in Kentville is also an experienced agricultural lender, and has particular expertise in horticultural and

vineyard development projects. Wanda Lenihan is our Loans Administrator for the Western region. Wanda has been with the Board for ten years and has extensive experience in closing complex property transactions. Paul Arnfast and James (Jim) Neary provide lending services to clients in the Central/Eastern areas of the province and work out of our head office in Truro. Jody Graham, Paralegal, also works in our head office and is responsible for preparation of legal documents, security releases and many other loan administrative duties.

Recently, Jim Neary announced he will be retiring effective August 1, 2016. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to him for his dedicated service to Nova Scotia's agricultural industry over his thirty eight years with the Department of Agriculture.

We are currently preparing for a physical office move from the MacRae Library Building to the Edward F. Lorraine Building at Perennia Park. We hope to provide uninterrupted service to clients during this move which is scheduled for mid-June. Board staff is looking forward to being located closer to other provincial government and producer organizations like the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Staff members of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board are proud that the organization has been serving industry for generations. We hope you will not hesitate to contact us to discuss any of your lending needs.

## Pesticide Sprayer Calibration Program

The Nova Scotia sprayer calibration program will be run as workshops this year instead of individual farms in order to accommodate more farmers with the limited time available from the calibrators. Perennia staff are conducting the calibration workshops, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture staff are handling administration and Crop Life Canada is supplying resources.

A boom sprayer workshop will be held in the valley

this summer and workshops will be held in central and western Nova Scotia in September. There may be a couple of specialty spraying workshops held as well.

Dates of the workshops will be broadcast through the NSFA eNews and NSDA newsletter.

Pesticide points will be awarded at the workshops.

# agriHR toolkit

## AgriHR Toolkit

Have you ever asked yourself: “How do I attract the skilled workers I need?”, “How do I protect myself from lawsuits, grievances, and liability claims?” or “How do I know whether I have the right mix of people to help me achieve my business goals?” The **AgriHR Toolkit** may be able to help.

### AgriHR Toolkit gives you the guidance you need to manage your staff

Your business depends on the people who work for you, but managing and supporting your workforce can be a challenging and complex task. Whether your business is small or large, and whether you have a human resources professional on staff or you manage your staff directly, the **AgriHR Toolkit** is your foundation for success.

The AgriHR Toolkit is designed to address the unique needs of the agriculture industry. Based on years of research and field testing conducted in Canada and internationally, this toolkit offers everything you need to improve your people-management skills and develop key resources to help you find, retain, and support your employees.

Designed to meet the needs of agricultural business owners just like you, the **AgriHR Toolkit** includes everything you need to ensure a healthy, well-trained, productive workforce.

### Learn More About AgriHR Toolkit

To learn more about or purchase this important toolkit, go to [www.AgriHRToolkit.ca](http://www.AgriHRToolkit.ca) Detailed information is provided about each section contained within the toolkit to help you learn more about this reference material and the templates it contains.

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## OPEN FARM DAY

Supported by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Don't Forget to Register for Open  
Farm Day  
September 18th

Applications available online on the  
NSFA website  
[www.nsfa-fane.ca/openfarmday/](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/openfarmday/)  
Deadline to register June 30th

## New Member Benefit!



## Stitchin' Fever

Stitchin' Fever Custom Sewing  
would like to provide NSFA members a 10%  
discount on all orders.

Stitchin' Fever provides  
custom machinery covers, barn curtains,  
environmental products and more!

Contact Jackie Morash  
(902) 798-2336.

# Cultiv8ing an Impressive Year

## It's been a great year for Cultiv8.

In partnership with Acadia University, Cultiv8 agricultural sandbox is a playground for those who are still dedicated to their studies, but are looking to test the entrepreneurial waters. A place for budding entrepreneurs where they can collaborate with industry on tackling real problems and challenges. They work to provide solutions that support growth in agriculture and possibly create business opportunities.

"I've been blown away by the student excitement around Cultiv8 and entrepreneurship as a whole. This year has been full of highlights. We have participated in business competitions and have had students go on to regional and even national competitions. We have experimented with numerous business ideas in our agricultural sandbox, and the ideas keep coming" said Jolene MacEachern, Cultiv8 Coordinator.

## Highlights of the year

Students had the opportunity to engage in many internal and external opportunities this year. The first semester programming was focused on showcasing entrepreneurship and supporting the generation of new ideas. Cultiv8 Club was the hub of activity whereby students met every week to listen to guests talk about their entrepreneurial adventures and tricks of the trade.

The first external event was when Cultiv8 students joined the youth of Hope Blooms at the Halifax Seaport Farmers Market to learn about the challenges of running a social enterprise. In November, four students traveled to Acadia University, for the Start It Up! Weekend. There they worked with team members from Acadia for 29 hours straight to develop business ideas and solutions.

Also in November, Cultiv8 took their own spin on a Sprint competition - which is a get together of people involved in a project to further a focused development of the project. Cultiv8 created SPRINT AG where teams were formed to work on problems collected from the agricultural industry.

The second semester was more focused on the development of ideas and started off with a bang at Start up Weekend. This weekend was facilitated by Dr. Mary Kilfoil of the Norman Newman Centre and she followed up with offering Starting Lean- Agriculture, an opportunity to build your business model for academic credit.

Other opportunities that were not credit courses but offered the chance to include entrepreneurship development within a course, were the Foodcamp program and the Design course. Foodcamp is a partnership with Perennia and Acadia and was an opportunity for students and industry to learn more about the process of food product development.

The Design course is a requirement for second year engineering students. This year students were able to connect with industry to build a prototype that solved a problem, and connected with Cultiv8 to learn how to pitch that solution as a possible business venture.

## Pitch Ag 2016

It is thought that all students participating in the above mentioned programs would benefit from the opportunity to present their learning at the end of the semester. This would not only provide a showcase for Cultiv8 and the Faculty of Agriculture, but comes with its own training program to develop the pitching skill of those involved.

This led up to Pitch Ag, a competition during the year-



# Cultiv8ing An Impressive Year continued

end celebration of Cultiv8. Jolene MacEachern lead the celebration by highlighting the tremendous year Cultiv8 has had. This was followed up by student testimonials from Peter Thiesen, and Holly Fisher, who spoke about the opportunities entrepreneurship has brought them.

The Pitch Ag program & competition provides young entrepreneurs and students with the opportunity to develop a clear and concise pitch. Nine teams presented their pitches and they were judged on predetermined criteria such as customer validation, the business model, and execution. The judges for the competition were Jo Ann Fewer, CEO of Perennia, Dr. Jeff Norrie, Research Manager for Acadian Seaplants, and Laurie Jennings, Vice President of Mastown Market Ltd.

Up for grabs was \$7000 worth of prize money, which was divided up among the Top Five teams.

- 1st place, 3MEALS the team of Holly Fisher and Hartley Prosser. Holly and Hartley are proposing a protein supplement made out of meal worm flour that is dairy free and sustainably produced.
- 2nd place Elarvator, the team of Steven MacGillivray, Brette Holland, Muhammad Baig, Emily Merks, Al-

berto Serracin-Pitti, Yinggi Zaho. This engineering team designed a scalable mealworm growing environment for research or commercial purposes.

- 3rd place was Bundled Bee, the team of Rachel Hirtle, Soanlys Santiago Garcia, Jackie McClelland, Ben Lynds, Eric Welch. Their product was a heating pad for bee hives to keep bees warm in the fragile spring season.
- 4th place was Agriculteur, the team of Arin Douglas and Jonathan George who designed a platform to connect restaurants and local food producers.
- 5th place was NS Acadian Pollination, made up of lone team member Dhadi Surendar Reddy, who has a plan to provide long term pollination services to Nova Scotia farmers.

It is obvious that there is an interest in exploring new ideas in agriculture.

“With all of the momentum we have brought out this year, I am so excited for the 2017 year and I can’t wait to see what Cultiv8 will accomplish.”

## Award Nominations Open

Nominations are still open for this year’s **Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award**, to be announced at the NSFA Annual Banquet on December 1 in Truro.

The Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award has been designed to recognize the outstanding environmental stewardship efforts of NS farms and to elevate public awareness of sustainable farming practices throughout Nova Scotia.

Farms can apply themselves or be nominated by someone else. For more information or to get an application form visit the website [www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp) Deadline for nominations is July 8, 2016.

## Successful Workplace Ed Session



Shown above are the recent graduates of a “Business Skills for Growth & Profitability” Workplace Education course that took place recently in Coldbrook. Watch the enews for registration information for fall Workplace Ed sessions.

## Upcoming Events

**June 1, Bridgewater**

**Climate Provides New Agriculture Opportunities**

**June 2, Parrsboro**

**WBPANS Twilight Meeting**

**June 10-12, Canning**

**Rare Breeds Renaissance**

**June 21 - 22, Halifax**

**OEA Employer Conference and Education Sessions**

**June 22, Truro**

**Nova Scotia Cooperative Council Annual General Meeting and Banquet**

**June 23, Weston, NS**

**13th Annual Horticulture Nova Scotia Golf Tournament**

**June 30, Deadline**

**Last day to submit your Open Farm Day registration**

**July 8, Bible Hill**

**2016 Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award Nomination Deadline**

**July 16, Debert**

**WBPANS Field Day**

**July 25, Bible Hill**

**Small Farm Expo**

**August 4, Kentville**

**NSFGA Summer Orchard Tour**

**August 5, Deadline**

**Wild Blueberry Development Opportunities**

**September 18**

**Open Farm Day**

**October 3 & 4, Toronto**

**Advancing Women**

**November 18 & 19, Truro**

**WBPANS Annual Meeting**

**December 1 & 2, Truro**

**NSFA Annual General Meeting**

## Welcome Haley!



Federation staff welcomes Haley Waller to our team for the summer. Haley has been hired as our Marketing Student Assistant and will provide support to Maxine on key events and projects such as Open Farm Day, Meet Your Farmer at the Mall, agricultural exhibitions and brochure development.

Haley will be going back to Acadia University, Wolfville, in the Fall. We are glad to have her onboard for the summer months and wish her much success in her studies!

## 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.

### 2016 Executive Members:

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