



## NSFA Moves to Temporary Location

By now, you are probably aware that the offices of NSFA, EFP, ACMA, Agri-Futures and NSIA have been temporarily relocated due to work being done at the Annapolis Building.

We have now officially relocated to 173 INNOVATION DRIVE, which is the new Innovation Building in Perennia Park.

Please continue to call our regular number (902) 893-2293 to contact us as we have transferred that number to our new location. We are operating



with only one incoming line so if you get forwarded to voice mail, please leave us a message and we will return your call promptly. Our email addresses remain the same.

At this point, we do not have a concrete date of return to our offices - but it will most likely not be before mid June.

We'd like to thank our members for their patience during this necessary relocation.

## 2013 Environmental Farm Stewardship Award



*Now accepting nominations.*

The Environmental Farm Plan team is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Environmental Farm Stewardship Award. You can nominate your neighbour or submit an application for your own farm.

Has a farmer in your area implemented projects to protect water, soil quality or wildlife habitat? Maybe they use improved soil management practices, have installed energy efficient projects, or demonstrate water conservation. Farmers are doing a lot of environmentally sustainable activities and this award is an opportunity to give them recognition for their work. Other projects or areas that would support the application are innovative waste handling and storage, proper fuel storage, nutrient management activities, and biodiversity. Do you have a farm in mind, but need some help with the application? We ask that you talk with the farmer you would like to nominate and fill in the

form with their help or contact someone on the EFP team at 902-893-2293. You can submit pictures or other supporting documents with your application.

Applications are available online at [www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/2013-award](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/efp/2013-award)

**The deadline to receive nominations is July 2, 2013.**

### Program Notice

Although we can't confirm when programs are open, we can suggest that any farmers planning to make application to Home Grown Success for 2013 should dig out their EFP Plan and ensure your Appendix B supports your plans to apply for BMP projects. Call 902-893-2293 if have any questions.



## The Triple Bottom Line

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

What does it mean and how does it apply to agriculture? The phrase was first coined by John Elkington in 1994 he was the owner of the founder of a British consulting firm called SustainAbility. His contention was that companies should strive for three very separate and distinct bottom lines for their business, hence the 3 p's profit people, planet.

Let's go through the triple p process for farms and the federation, the profit "p" is easy, the profit and loss account of a business is of course the main way that we keep score. People, is the social responsibility of an organization both to the people that work or volunteer and for people outside of the immediate scope of the company, neighbors, friends and society in general. The last p is planet, it can equate to the input and output of the organization, the impact on the planet.

We can overlay the 3 p's to gauge how organizations like the Federation and your farms are doing, similar to how large corporations use this type of social responsibility gauge. The NSFA has a responsibility to use the funds farmers provide to achieve the goals of the organization in advocacy policy lobbying and program delivery.

As farmers you have a more difficult task of deciding what to grow and how to grow it profitably. We all have financial skills, forecasting and professional advice to help us make those decisions and to gauge the risk of the decisions we make. Because of the nature of the federations mandate we are rather risk adverse, you may be willing to take more risk based on your specialized knowledge, etc.

Possible measurements could be:

- Managing recycling, waste, etc
- Energy consumption and reduction strategies, alternate fuel use
- Farm energy generation i.e. wind, anaerobic digestion
- Water use and consumption

- Air Quality both inside and outside
- Land use, wetland preservation, erosion control etc.

There are lots of other items that could be included and of course, reduction of energy use and other items support more than one of the three p's including profit.

The people "p" is a lot broader than the money side. Within an organization we all want to treat partners' staff and others that we interact with fairly and with respect. Good communication is key to these efforts. NSFA and commodity staff had an opportunity to take a 40 hour communications course last year; we received pretty good basic training on different forms of communication understanding intergenerational communication as well as other topics. It's an important part of the people skills we need to learn, not only within organizations but so that we can have healthy relationships with our neighbors, others we do business with and the wider community. Other things that we need to do to run efficient, people based organizations are programs like farm health and safety and food safety.

The planet side is, I think, best demonstrated by the old recycling quote "think local and act global". There are many things that the farm community does as much for the greater good as for the immediate needs of the farm. Examples would be Environmental Farms Plans, Nutrient Management Plans, and food safety - Global GAP for many vegetable and fruit growers. I'm sure many of you can think of many more.

We can always do more, however I would say we are in good shape when we look at the social responsibility behind the 3 p's. However it's in our nature to only pay attention to what we measure. The farm community can improve its social license and brand by paying attention to the triple bottom line. By adding up the social, people and environmental responsibility we can demonstrate our good stewardship of the land.

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



# Open Farm Day 2013

## OPEN FARM DAY

Supported by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and Meet

Your Farmer are pleased to be coordinating the 12th annual Open Farm Day. We are looking for farm families who will offer to open their farm to visitors this year on **Sunday, September 15th, 2013.**

Start planning early! Download registration information on the Federation website [www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca), under News & Events tab.

In 2012, 60 farms participating reported over 20,000 farm visits. What a great way to get connected with consumers and provide an educational experience to the general public on the value of agriculture in Nova Scotia.

### What do some of the farm participants have to say about Open Farm Day...?

"Most people like to see the farm animals, enjoyed seeing farm equipment and enjoyed the guided tours"

"Lots of kids, young families – It is a family day"

"This was beyond our greatest expectations. There were people everywhere and the most of them had several children with them. This is by far the greatest AgAwareness event that we have ever been a part of, it allows people to see first-hand where their food is coming from and everyone is so grateful for this opportunity."

"It is definitely an event to continue. Great as an educational tool and as a way for the non-farmers to see and appreciate what farmers really do!"

As a participating farm, your responsibility is to offer activities that will provide an opportunity to educate the public on how agriculture impacts their daily lives. Activities may include displays, demonstrations of equipment or farm operations, tours of farm, hands-on activities with animals, hay rides, etc. which engage visitors in fun, education and communication. Be creative but always keep safety in mind!

### What do you need to do to take part in Open Farm Day?

- 1) you must be a registered farm and a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
- 2) a visit to your farm must provide an educational experience and a positive image of agriculture to the public.
- 3) you not charge admission to visit the farm on Open Farm Day (specific activities offered on your farm, however, may have an admission charge - eg. entry to a Corn maze or other activities)
- 4) All farms must check with their insurance agency to insure you have adequate coverage. Participation requires that your farm operation has a minimum liability insurance coverage of \$1M for hosting this event.

Join the 90% of respondents that said they would participate again this year and register your farm to participate in Open Farm Day 2013. If you are interested in having your farm participate, check out more information online at [www.meetyourfarmer.ca/openfarmday](http://www.meetyourfarmer.ca/openfarmday) ~ [www.nsfa-fane.ca/news-events/current](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/news-events/current) or contact Wanda Hamilton, Open Farm Day co-ordinator at (902) 893-2293 or email [whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca)

We need to know by June 30th if you would like to participate so that we can prepare maps and material for distribution and promotion.



# Council of Leaders - April Highlights

*As prepared by Donna Langille*

## **President's Comments**

In his welcoming remarks to Council members at their April 10th meeting, Dennis Boudreau, President, reported that the Federation has responded to the consultation process on the "Statement of Provincial Interest in Agricultural Land". A copy of the response was provided to each Council member. It had been requested that Government allow more time for the consultation process to be completed prior to making a decision and the Federation was able to announce that government has recently made the decision to extend the response process to December 31, 2013.

## **Template for County/Regional Federation Bylaws**

A draft of a proposed template which could be used by county/regional Federations for revising their bylaws to come under the Federations of Agriculture Act had been provided to Council members. The template is to be a guideline and basically each county/regional Federation has the authority to decide its own rules as long as they do not conflict with the Federations Act. During discussion more work was requested in several areas. This will be carried out by staff and a revised draft brought back to the September Council meeting.

## **Cape Breton/Richmond Federation Bylaws**

A proposed draft of the Cape Breton/Richmond Federation bylaws had been provided to Council members. During discussion several questions were raised. The Cape Breton Federation did not have a representative present at the meeting to respond. The decision was made to table the adoption of the bylaws to the September meeting while an attempt is made to try to get answers to the questions raised.

## **Annapolis Federation Bylaws**

The Annapolis Federation bylaws were the next topic discussed. A motion was adopted to accept the bylaws from the Annapolis Federation as presented.

## **Canadian Federation of Agriculture Report**

Dennis Boudreau, NS Director to CFA, reported on activities at the national organization's annual general meeting. During discussion it was noted that the size of the CFA's Board has been reduced from 40 people down to about 20 persons.

## **Select Nova Scotia**

There is an increased budget available to the "Select Nova Scotia" program this year. Council members discussed the design

of the current promo programs and made some suggestions that will be taken to this group for possible implementation.

## **Joint Executives Meeting**

Dennis Boudreau reported on the following topics which were discussed with the Department of Agriculture department heads:

- A committee has been formed, with representation from the three red meat commodity groups, to figure out what is needed to assist the red meat industry and slaughter capacity in the province.
- The Home Grown Success programs are to be announced soon, we hope! The Federation is concerned by the lateness of the start for the program year. There is to be little change in program design this year.
- The BRM program has been reduced while there is supposed to be additional funding into the non-BRM programs (a 50 % increase).
- The group reviewed resolutions adopted at the Federation's annual meeting and commented on what the Department could do to help.

## **Atlantic Federations of Agriculture**

Dennis Boudreau reported on the meeting that the Atlantic Federation held while attending the CFA annual meeting in Ottawa. They dealt with two issues at that time:

- Morneau Shepell Group Health Plan for farmers – NB has opted out of the Atlantic plan. The remainder of the group will proceed to set up a plan to be offered to farmers.
- Cooperative Research – It is hoped that more joint research projects can be carried out in the Atlantic region.

## **Commodity Managers Meeting**

The managers of the commodity groups continue to see a benefit from meeting and sharing information on a regular basis several times a year. At the April meeting there was a focus on levy collection and stable funding. They also had a presentation on Ag Awareness efforts by Rick Hoeg, NSDA.

## **Meeting with Agriculture & AgriFood Canada**

The Executive met with Atlantic staff of AAFC and the report of these discussions was highlighted. Don Anderson, Regional Manager with FCC is being transferred back to the west coast. A decision has been made to locate the new regional manager in the Truro FCC office.

## **Commission on Building Our New Economy**

The Federation participated in the local dis-



# Council of Leaders continued

discussion opportunities with the Task Force group. In addition, the Federation plans to prepare a written response once the initial report from the Task Force is available. During discussion the following points were made:

- The bureaucratic environment in this province is not welcoming to business – government does not have a “can do” attitude. Farmers recognize the need for basic rules and regulations but you also need flexibility to work and change.
- Our provincial government looks at money spent on agriculture as an expense, yet looks at granting money to businesses such as “Blackberry” as an investment. Agriculture needs to convince government that this industry is the cornerstone of our economy.
- The resource industries provide employment in the rural areas of the province and it is vital for this work to continue to ensure our rural communities survive.
- Others felt that farmers are viewed as a captive audience so the bureaucrats don’t seem to feel they need to do anything to encourage this sector.
- The need for reinvestment in agriculture will be the Federation’s main request.

## Bridging The Gap

A report was given on the discussions at the March “Bridging The Gap” session by farmers who are interested in finding out more about turning their farms over from one generation to the next. The focus going forward will be to offer one on one sessions with trained consultants so that the farmers can obtain the hard core financial evaluations that they need. It is recognized that each farm should establish its own team to work on succession. The importance of making a will, and then keeping your will updated on a regular basis, was stressed. Another possibility for continuing to get information out to farmers will be to ask Elaine Froese to place a column in our newsletter on a regular basis.

## Farm Safety Nova Scotia

FSNS is concentrating on building its resources to help farmers who want to develop a safety plan for their farm or assist farmers who incur problems and need advice. Trevor Davison has been doing this as part of his EFP work but it is now time for the NSFA to ramp up its own resources to handle this. There is also a need to do more work on making requests for deviations, with two examples being the OH&S rules for 1) blowers and silo gas, and 2) employees tied off on elevated platforms. Representatives from two commodity groups related their experiences with trying to accomplish a deviation but not succeeding – yet! There was also a request for more

info to be provided to farmers in regard to the disposal of filled sharps containers. FSNS hopes to have additional resources available in the near future to assist with this work.

## Nova Scotia Farm Programs

Gerald Post, NSDA was welcomed to the meeting to provide an overview of what farmers were able to accomplish with the first Growing Forward five year program and provide some limited information on what will be coming under GF 2.

Under Growing Forward 1 the top 5 BMPs were:

- 1) Manure storage and handling
- 2) Sustainable agricultural water practices
- 3) Farmyard run-off control
- 4) Product and water management
- 5) Sustainable water supply

The commodities which were the biggest users of the programs were: Dairy, Beef, and Blueberries. The most active counties were: Kings, Colchester, Hants, Cumberland, and Antigonish.

The release of NS programs this year will be delayed by the fact that we are entering a new agreement and the bilateral must be signed and have Caucus approval before any letter of agreement can be issued.

Issues surrounding farms without a lot of eligible expenses were discussed as they will not be able to get much out of AgriStability. The Quebec ASRA program gets around this by allowing a farm to put its own farm family labour into allowable expenses. A committee of NPAC has been established to look into these issues. Gerald also indicated that it is often difficult for their staff to try to help farmers as NSDA cannot access a farmer’s computer files in Winnipeg and cannot obtain industry average data. When asked about the possibility of local administration of the AgriSuite of programs the response was that a study has been carried out but he is not aware of any conclusive decisions being made yet. Farmers pointed out that they need better services and on a more timely basis than what Winnipeg supplies.

## Resolutions Committee Report

Kimberly Stokdijk, Chair of the NSFA’s Resolutions Committee, reported on the action plan developed by the Resolutions Committee for each resolution adopted at this year’s annual meeting. Two resolutions were forwarded to the CFA for action at the federal level. The proposed action plan for each resolution was presented and time allowed for discussion, if any. A similar process was carried out for the re-



# Council of Leaders concluded

remainder of the 2011 resolutions and the Consolidated Resolution from 2005 – 2010. A motion was passed to accept the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee as presented.

## Proposed NSFA Bylaw Changes

Proposed changes to the NSFA bylaws were presented to the Council for consideration. A better definition of “designated legal representative” is required. Staff was requested to review the discussions at preceding meetings and come back to the next Council meeting with a revised draft.

## County Federation and Commodity Group Reports

The following items were reported during the round table:

- The Pictou-North Colchester Federation is attempting to set up a farm machinery leasing service for its members, with organizational guidance from Inverness/Victoria Federation, which has had such a service running for many years.
- The Strawberry Growers Association reported that the strawberry virus issues in the central area of the province will result in taking 1/3 of our strawberry production out of pro-

duction this season. A serious issue for the growers involved.

- Christmas Tree Growers hope to be able to vote at NSFA annual meetings, in future, if a proxy voting system can be put in place. Another main issue for them is anything that limits their ability to hire workers during their growing and harvest season such as the EI changes and its impact on migrant workers.
- Annapolis Federation have brought back their cattle sales after a significant loss of money from a purchaser.
- Kings County Federation has been active in promoting agriculture to the public. They plan to host a farm tour event to showcase local farms and food. They are also actively involved in the land use issues and ensure that governments are aware of their Federation’s position.
- Lunenburg Federation is also active in promoting agriculture (Growing Green Festival) and in solving riparian issues.
- GM Alfalfa was discussed as a new issue which could possibly impact our province. It was noted that the decision has been made that Round Up Ready Alfalfa will not be sold in the province this year. A request was made for more information prior to any support for this product being given by the NSFA.

# Communications Update

*By Wanda Hamilton*

AgAwareness Committee met in April at John Eikelenboom’s place in Rines Creek. John and Colleen hosted the group for a regular meeting, lovely lunch of local fare and an afternoon brainstorming on future projects for the committee.

Update on current activities follows:

- Canadian AgLiteracy Week in March had 85 readers in 100 classrooms. The timing was a bit off for Nova Scotia with the week designated right before March Break so there are still some readings happening throughout, but overall the evaluations were again very positive.
- Annual AgZone is scheduled for May 15, 16, & 17th. This event involves Grade 8 students on a class trip to Dal AC for an Amazing Race through the campus including various stations of learning. The committee is looking for group guides from Industry to ensure the students get to their next station in timely fashion. Great opportunity for students to meet and chat with a farmer.
- Meet Your Farmer at the Mall – August 23 & 24th at Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth. A similar format as last year, with the farm animals outside the mall and interactive displays located inside. I encourage commodity groups to get involved, the mall records 23,000 visitors a day. 17,000 was the recorded total for Maritime Fall Fair over the 5 days so attending the mall for 2 days certainly puts agriculture in front of a greater population.
- Farmer for a Day is taking place at Cole Harbour Heritage Farm for 3 days this year (September 24, 25, & 26). This

is a station setup targeted at grades 3-5 in small groups (capacity 300-400 students). This is a very structured, captive learning environment and although this event can’t handle the volume of students comparable to Fall Fair (700-800 on school days), we are able to have quality time. Students are engaged in the activity and not just walking through with a 15 second grab and go such as the case at a Fall Fair type event.

## NSFA Membership Benefits

We are pleased to announce our newest member benefit partner, Chrysler Canada. NSFA members can now obtain fleet discount pricing on Chrysler vehicles.

Members need to provide the dealer’s fleet manager with the following:

- o NSFA Fleet Number which is N3723
- o Proof of NSFA Membership - Farm Registration Card
- o Valid Business/HST Number

For example fleet discount pricing on a RAM Quad Crew (Model DS\*L4) would be \$12,020 off the list price of \$37,645 which would give you a no haggle fleet price of = \$25,625+tax. Fleet pricing is available on trucks, cars, jeeps, and vans as well.

Concession price sheet for 2013 is available on NSFA website.

# Federation Continues to Support the Work of Farm Safety

As reported previously in this newsletter, the Federation through Farm Safety Nova Scotia had partnered with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) to deliver the Canada FarmSafe Plan Pilot Project, which concluded the end of March 2013. As part of the evaluation, it was identified that a lot of the tools (i.e. templates and resources) needed to complete a safety plan are not available. Each pilot participant was required to develop their own resources, which required a significant amount of time.

As a result of the Canada FarmSafe Plan Pilot Project in Nova Scotia, the work of Farm Safety NS and Carolyn Van Den Heuvel's extensive work in this area, we are pleased to bring Carolyn back for a term project to develop the tools needed to assist farmers with implementing safety plans on their farm. The project entitled, "Development of Occupational Health and Safety Resources for Nova Scotia Farms" is made possible by the funding support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Nova Scotia this program is delivered through

Agri-Futures Nova Scotia. These resources will be complementary to the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety manual and will be widely distributed through Federation publications and the Farm Safety website. Having Carolyn a part of the team for this project will provide a level of consistency among plans for the industry and will provide a continuous link to work that has already been done for farm safety.

As a second piece to this project, Carolyn will review the upcoming changes to the regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. We want to ensure that existing resources and new tools developed remain compatible with the new changes being proposed, which will come into effect June 12th, 2013. The Occupational Health and Safety Act applies to all workplaces in Nova Scotia and we will continue to provide information to the farm community to help them understand how they need to comply.

Watch for farm safety updates from Carolyn in this newsletter and through the Farm Safety website at [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca)

## Being Prepared for Your Seasonal Workers

If you haven't already, you are probably starting to look for some seasonal/summer workers as the sun starts shining. Are you ready for their first day?

As an employer, you have the responsibility to ensure your employees are properly trained and prepared for their tasks, including any required certifications. Are you aware of the training requirements laid out in the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations? Do you have some time set aside for orientation on your workers' first day? It's also important to train not only new workers but workers returning for the season. Although they may be more familiar with your operation, refresher training is essential.

When you decide to hire an employee you should confirm any training they have. The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires first aid, WHMIS, forklift and confined space training to name a few. While first aid requires third party training, the OH&S Act allows some of the other required training to be done internally, assuming the trainer has the required knowledge. Be sure to record and document any training.

It's important to take the time to orientate everyone on your farm, regardless of experience, keeping in mind that every operation is different. This will be of benefit to both you and your employees. Provide employ-

ees with a general background of your operation, basic information about day to day activities and review your safety policy. Ensure they are aware of their rights as employees. Make sure they know that safety is a top priority on your farm.

There are many little things that will help the flow of your daily activities as new employees begin. Basic information such as where they should park their cars, what time they are expected to arrive and leave, where can they change and keep their lunch will provide a positive beginning to your work environment. There is nothing any worse than someone parking in the path of the milk truck or in front of the loading dock. It is also important to inform your new employees on where they can find a phone in case of emergency or if personal cell phones can be used. Make sure they know the civic address and where the emergency information is posted. Where are the first aid kits, fire extinguishers and personal protective equipment (ie. safety glasses, dust masks, gloves, etc)? Above all, make sure you encourage open communication so that all employees feel comfortable reporting hazards or asking questions when they are unsure of a task. The last thing anybody wants is to have someone hurt on their farm.

These may seem trivial, however when you're busy with spring work they are easy to overlook. The biggest thing to remem-

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## New Technology Graduates



“Graduates of the NSFA sponsored workplace education program on New Technology are pictured at their closing ceremonies: back row (l to r) Paul Brenton, Henry Vissers, Janette McDonald, Lynda Weatherby, Donna Langille, Shelly MacKenzie; front row (L to r) Lynn Marie Mattie , Krista Vroegh, Ruth Ward, Sonya Lorette, and instructor, Chris Lewis. (missing from the photo were Wanda Hamilton & Patti Wyllie) Graduates were pleased to have the opportunity to gain additional insight on some of the applications possible on the newer model computers and mobile phones.”

The Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia has released its new consumer site. Check it out at [ilovealrealtrees.com](http://ilovealrealtrees.com).



## Seasonal Workers continued

ber is to document, document, document! When you provide training and orientation – keep a record. From a due diligence perspective, having documentation of training and orientation could be what saves you from any legal or financial burden that may arise if an incident were to occur.

For more information on seasonal worker orientation or farm safety please visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca). Any questions or comments can be directed [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca) or (902)893-2293.

## 2013 OYF Atlantic Region

Dairy farmers James and Amanda Kinsman of Berwick, Nova Scotia are the 2013 Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) for the Atlantic region. Named recently at an event in Moncton, New Brunswick, the Kinsman’s will represent the region later this year at the national OYF event. The NS Federation of Agriculture would like to congratulate the Kinsmans and wish them luck at the National competition in the Fall.



From left to right: Darrin Didychuck - JD, Jim Gould-CIBC, Amanda and James Kinsmen, Tom Savory - CIBC, Bob Sharpe - JD

## 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.

### 2013 Executive Members:

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