



Join us for the

117th NSFA Annual General Meeting & Trade Show

**BEST WESTERN GLENGARRY, TRURO, NS
NOVEMBER 29 & 30th, 2012**



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Alan Guebert, Syndicated Columnist
"Corn, soybeans & politics: Tough choices facing American Ag Policy"

Lyle VanClief - former Federal Minister of Agriculture, "Change is a process not an event - so get at the process!"

Presentation of 2012 Environmental Farm Steward Award

Winner of the NS Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

Elections, Policy Discussion & Open Mic

**All members are welcome!
- a registration form is enclosed**

www.nsfa-fane.ca



President's Report 2012



The NSFA Executive and Council of Leaders have worked diligently over the past year to address issues of concern in regard to agriculture.

I continue to hear that some members still question what we have done to justify/warrant paying membership fees to our organization, especially with the understanding that the farm registration committee is putting forth a recommendation for a new fee schedule endorsed by Council.

My answer would be the continued lobbying we do to government and being that single united voice for Nova Scotia farmers. We have constant conversations and contact with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, we have met with all three caucus offices, as well as individual departments like Transportation, Natural Resources, and Service NS Municipal Relations. We presented and attended at least three Annapolis County municipal council meetings in support of mink breeders for farmers' rights. These are just a few examples of our outreach over the past few months.

As we talk to government, we look for more investment into the agriculture budget and used the "ships start here" slogan in comparison to agriculture during our discussions.

| Ships Start Here | Farms Start Here |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 Years | Centuries |
| \$1 billion/year | \$2.3 billion/year economic spin-off |
| 8500 jobs | 5800 direct plus 10,575 indirect jobs |
| Halifax based | Rural (province wide) |

We have taken time to meet with a few federal MPs; particularly Minister of Human Resources & Skills Development Canada. Minister Finley was here for a visit in regard to Employment Insurance (EI) changes. We continue our efforts and strong voice to protect seasonal agriculture workers from the suggested changes that could certainly be devastating to agriculture in NS. We participated in the Industry Engagement Session with Federal Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz and shared industry concerns for agriculture specific to Nova Scotia. We promote agriculture through public awareness and education, working

with commodities and certainly through open farm day.

Recently, I have been made aware of issues affecting farmers that are so varied in scope; I thought it prudent to give you examples of what we deal with on a daily basis. Everything from wildlife affecting many different crops, farm family members being denied EI benefits, an organic farmer had a chemical [Vision] sprayed on his field that was meant for a wood lot, Farm Loan Board insurance changes and how it affects existing loans and the list continues... We take each one of these and any issue a farmer has very seriously.

I would be remiss if I left out farm safety. It continues to play on our minds and we are investing in services to aid all our farmers. The reduced cost of first aid, farm support and awareness alone is another benefit available for all our members.

Knowing the broad scope of issues dealt with and the daily work of our Federation, my biggest regret with stepping down from president is the inability to convey how hard we work for results.

I would like to take this time to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president for the past two years. It has not been without its challenges, but that has made the rewards that much greater. I have learned so much during my time with the Federation and I have such a deep respect for you as farmers. I have enriched my life through working with many people in this industry and it has truly been a privilege.

All the best and happy farming!
Beth

From the Editor

We hope you enjoy this special edition of News and Views. It is full of detailed reports and information about activities of the past year for NSFA. The annual reports in this newsletter will also provide background information on committee activities and projects leading into our 117th Annual General Meeting in November. Also included is a registration form to be used for any member planning to attend who is not an appointed delegate. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact the NSFA office.



Outlook 2021 Annual Report

BACKGROUND

The definition of the NSFA's Outlook 2021 began in earnest at the April, 2011 Council of Leaders meeting and was facilitated by Robert Fraser, Gardner Pinfold Consulting Economists. The following presentations were given at this session:

- 1) Agriculture – Then and Now – David Thibodeau, Agricultural Division, Statistics Canada
- 2) Challenges and the Way Forward for Rural Atlantic Communities – Greg Cameron, Professor of Political Science and Rural Community Studies, NSAC
- 3) NSDA's Home Grown 10 Year Strategy – A representative from NSDA was not available to attend. Bob Fraser provided a review of the contents.
- 4) Canada's Agri-Food Destination A New Strategic Approach – David McInnes, President and CEO, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute
- 5) Economic Outlook for Agri-Food Markets – Jean-Phillipe Gervais, Senior Economist, Farm Credit Canada.

After the above session stimulated discussion, the NSFA contacted commodity groups and county federations to provide their input and also encouraged individual farmers to submit their ideas of the direction that the agricultural industry needs to take in future if it is to return to a profitable state. Numerous responses were received and a full report is available from the NSFA office.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The Outlook 2021 committee has picked priorities and is

focusing attention on some objectives that are attainable. We have identified the concept of the type of rural communities and businesses that we want to maintain. We are focused on the importance of the maintenance of the family farm ownership concept. Agriculture needs to be shown to be relevant to all Nova Scotians. Farming needs to be both economically and socially sustainable. We need to build a plan that all in our communities will support.

We need targets that are directionally set by economic and social needs and progress along a path accordingly. We need to set some 10 year goals now so that we can be seen as an engine of economic growth for the province. This is a sector with a "can do" attitude. Agriculture should be on government's mind when investment opportunities arise. The social success of the industry is a bit more intangible and harder to measure. It will be harder to benchmark but equally important. We need to design a policy framework that is a preferred model for development, i.e. the family farm as a sustainable model for agriculture for the long term.

Staff of the Federation has put together a document which identifies some of the major goals along with a list of activities to help attain the goals. The Federation Executive is directing the execution of the various proposed policy objectives and will be reporting on the progress in the years ahead.

4-H Nova Scotia - 2012



This past year, 2012, has been very challenging for Provincial Council. As a result of the Dalhousie - Nova Scotia Agriculture College merger the Provincial Office was required to relocate from the office space provided by the N. S. Department of Agriculture on campus. Provincial Council is presently in the process of leasing office space in the Perennia Administration Building, located at 90 Research Drive in the Perennia Innovation Park. This is a huge step forward as 4-H N. S. will now be responsible to cover the costs of our Provincial office, as we strive to become a sustainable organization.

The 4-H program has completed another great year as we celebrated 90 years of 4-H in Nova Scotia and anxiously await 2013 when we will celebrate 100 years of 4-H in Canada with activities planned across the country.

On behalf of 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Council I would like to thank all the supporters of our great program.

Submitted by,
Don Conrod, NS 4-H Council



How are we communicating?

By: Wanda Hamilton, Communications Officer

Very early on in 2012, the Federation launched a member benefits plan with discounts at Marks Work Warehouse, Kents Building Supplies, Choice Hotels, Enterprise Car Rentals and Air Miles bonuses for Bluewave Energy and \$4000 no cost accidental death and dismemberment benefit from AIL Canada for all NSFA members. Have you had an opportunity to take advantage of these benefits? Find out details on the NSFA website, <http://nsfa-fane.ca/member-services/benefit-partners/>

We are currently working on finding new partners to bring you more benefits; it is our hope to launch our health plan proposal at the 2012 Annual Meeting in November. We are also trying to put some finishing touches on an agreement with Bell Mobility. We have made contacts with companies like Chase Payment Tech and Global Payments for discounts on credit and debit machines, contacted Home Hardware and a few other companies to bring some more group benefits to our membership. Growing this member benefits program will be an objective for 2013 and I look for any suggestions and input for improvement to ensure programs in place are useful to farmers.

While our membership communication, 10 newsletter issues per year, weekly e-News in your inbox and our participation at County and Commodity events, is our priority – we also continue to build on public awareness. We want the general public to have a positive opinion of Agriculture and we want to tighten the connection for consumers and where their food comes from. The Meet Your Farmer campaign continues to raise awareness and put a face on farming. Our social media efforts have really taken off this year; we have over 1550 “likes” on Facebook and over 800 followers on Twitter. Open Farm Day was our major public campaign which had 60 participating farms and close to 20,000 farm visits on the sunny Sunday afternoon. We did a fair bit of promotion around Open Farm Day and for Agriculture in Nova Scotia in August/September.

How many people saw our campaign leading up to Open Farm Day?

| Advertising/ Promotion item | Exposure |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Select Nova Scotia Incredible Picnic (Aug 19th) | 2500 |
| Meet your Farmer at the Mall (Sept 7 & 8th) | 8000 |
| Billboards (5 metro locations) | 2.5 million |
| Rack Card Distribution | 5000 |
| eNewsletter | 2565 |
| Poster | 30 locations |
| 4-H Video Contest | 1953 |
| CTV Commercial for Open Farm Day | 1.7 million |
| CTV Morning Live | 28,000 |
| CTV News at 5 | 194,000 |
| MeetYourFarmer Website | 16,296 visits and 45,218 page loads |

The above mentioned exposure does not include the coverage and interviews on radio and in local newspapers or in our exhibition support efforts throughout the summer and leading up to Open Farm Day.

What else has gone on behind the scenes at Communications NSFA?

In March 2012, we organized and held a very successful “Bridging the Gap” event. We brought together farm families of different generations, along with a group of experts to help identify issues and challenges around succession and intergenerational transfer. As a followup to the 2 day event, organizers will be pulling together a session early next year to get into more detail about how to deal with the issues identified. The event gave us all a lot to think about and consider, one thing I remember is that the idea and plan for farm succession starts the day you take ownership of your farm. If you are interested in reading the summary report or having a look at the event details, go to <http://nsfa-fane.ca/> - find the News and Events tab and the Archives menu item.



Communications continued

Other Communications activities throughout 2012 included:

- Support and participation on the Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee
- o Agricultural Literacy Week
- o AgZone
- o Meet Your Farmer at the Mall
- o Farmer for a Day at Cole Harbour Heritage Farm
- Participation in NSAC Career Fair
- Promotion of Food Freedom Day
- Representation on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) Communications Working Group
- Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (NS proclamation event and media)
- Coordination and promotion of the Annual Environmental Farm Stewardship Award

What is up and coming for Communications 2013?

In addition to policy directives, regular advocacy and govern-

ment/member relations, other activities on the radar are:

- Research /Partnership project to Study the Economic Impact Agriculture has on Nova Scotia
- Bridging the Gap – Followup session (Winter 2013)
- 2012/13 – Provincial Election – Let's make agriculture's vote count!

Need to find us?

Websites: nsfa-fane.ca or meetyourfarmer.ca

Email: whamilton@nsfa-fane.ca or

Phone 1-902-893-2293



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Joint Wildlife Committee Report

The agricultural industry has been experiencing increased financial losses on farms due to wildlife damage and as a result a joint committee involving the NS Federation of Agriculture (NSFA), the NS Department of Agriculture (NSDA), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been activated.

DNR does track damage that is reported by farmers in a software program. The resulting data should give some indication of damage and will track the change in damage reported in specific areas over time.

This committee has agreed to take the following steps to try to address the issues identified by farmers:

1) NSFA will send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture requesting that stored crops be included as eligible under crop insurance/wildlife protection.

2) NSFA will include an article in the e-news and newsletter encouraging farmers to report damage to DNR.

3) DNR and the Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission will collate the

data they collect and bring it to the next meeting.

4) NSFA will create a link to the wildlife material available on the DNR website and include the information in articles in the E-news and newsletter.

5) DNR staff will brief Minister Parker on the committee's progress.

DNR is currently reviewing their policy and process around the issuing of nuisance wildlife cull permits to farmers. Once the policy review is complete DNR will meet with NSDA regional staff and provide some training and material dealing with wildlife damage to crops and livestock. DNR has a number of hunters that are registered with them to cull wildlife once a nuisance permit is issued. The Hunters and Anglers Association is the recognized umbrella group for hunters in NS. This group may be able to help farmers deal with their wildlife issues by giving them permission to hunt and trap on their land and also as licensed nuisance wildlife hunters. It was agreed to invite them to the next committee meeting and to consider inviting them to appoint a representative to the committee on an ongoing basis.



Farm Registration System Committee Report

Background

The NSFA's Farm Registration Review Committee was activated in 2012 to develop a proposal for adjustments to the Farm Registration System fees necessary to meet the objectives of the Federation in the next five year period.

Considerations

The Committee began its deliberations by looking at the current financial situation of the Federation in detail and made some suggestions where cost-cutting measures might be taken. The officers of the Federation will be pursuing these recommendations for change.

The Federation must include in its planning process some ongoing factors and some new ventures with the main ones outlined below:
1) A proposal is being made to include a part-time staff person to handle the workload of Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

2) Costs within a five year budget projection have been adjusted to account for a 3 % inflation figure for each year in the next 5 years.

Other Topics:

1) County Membership Fees - There was discussion about the method by which county membership fees are being paid out to the County Federations. Another suggestion being made by this Committee is to reduce the payment to \$10. per member (reduction from the current \$15. per member) with the NSFA taking over the payment of the county delegates' travel costs to the AGM. Another benefit of changing to this system would be to put all attending the annual meeting on an even footing as far as receiving reimbursement for their travel expenses goes. This change, if made, would have no impact on the bottom line; it simply fine tunes the method of handling the dollars involved. The amount estimated to be available for funding delegate travel to the AGM is \$12,980. A proposal for allocating these funds will be brought before the February, 2013 Council of Leaders meeting.

2) Timelines for Change – The NS Department of Agriculture has informed the Federation that, if we are to

have the approval and paperwork process completed to activate the new dues structure in 2014, the approval of the dues structure should come before the November, 2012 annual meeting of the Federation.

3) Delegates Appointed to NSFA Annual Meeting – It is recommended that member groups of the Federation give consideration to including a representative from Young Farmers as one of their annual meeting delegates in order to have new industry entrants involved in the decision making process of the NSFA.

Proposed NSFA Dues Schedule 2014 - 2019

| Gross Farm Income Level | Current Fee | Proposed Fee (\$) | Proposed Revenue |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| \$10,000 or less | \$75 | \$100 | \$107,400 |
| \$10,000 - \$24,999 | \$140 | \$165 | \$101,475 |
| \$25,000 - \$49,999 | \$275 | \$275 | \$57,200 |
| \$50,000 - \$99,999 | \$350 | \$375 | \$59,250 |
| \$100,000 - \$249,999 | \$430 | \$500 | \$102,000 |
| \$250,000 - \$499,999 | \$620 | \$620 | \$68,200 |
| \$500,000 - \$999,999 | \$675 | \$725 | \$89,900 |
| \$1m - \$1,999,999 | \$750 | \$825 | \$54,450 |
| over \$2,000,000 | \$975 | \$1,025 | \$37,925 |
| | | | \$677,800 |

NS Environmental Farm Plan 2012 Report

Participation Numbers and Workshop & Awareness Sessions

As of September 30, 2012, the NS EFP has had 1742 participants. 1644 plans and 492 follow ups have been completed over the lifetime of the program. Table 1 summarizes the number of plans completed as well as the awareness sessions/workshops and activities held during the 2012 program year.

EFP Workshops for Small, Developing and Part-time Farms

The EFP team has developed a workbook and workshop specifically for small, developing part-time farms. By participating in these workshops, farmers will be provided information on general best management practices and applicable environmental regulations. They go through a simplified checklist of questions to determine environmental risk as well as identify actions to remediate any risks on their property. The workshop consists of a workbook specifically designed for small, part-time and developing farms as well as a series of presentations and fact sheets on relevant topics.

The first workshop took place on January 21st, 2012 in Earlton. Since this was the first workshop, it was treated as a focus group and kept small so the EFP team had an opportunity to discuss the format of the workshop and see if there were any changes required to meet the needs of the farmers. Potential workshop participants were contacted through Av Singh of Agrapoint. Kevin Bekkers, Agricultural Resource Coordinator, was also invited and spoke to the participants at lunch time. There were 10 participants, representing 6 farms. The feedback was positive and after reviewing their comments, other workshops have been scheduled in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture's Regional Offices; EFP is collaborating with Gary Koziel of NSDA to arrange a workshop in Cape Breton for November.

Watershed Forum

The EFP team is collaborating with Halifax Water and the Nova Forest Alliance to conduct a two day event in November that will feature presentations

on riparian zone use in watershed water quality.

Regional Workshops

The EFP team partnered with Amy Sangster of Agrapoint to put on a series of presentations as part of the ThinkFarm Regional Workshops on February 14th, 15th, 17th, 24th, March 3rd and 24th. The presentation was entitled: "Digging deeper – evaluating your soil" and focused on identifying and using soil assessment tools to help gain a better understanding of your soil type, drainage, and nutrient status. Case studies were used to explore soil limitations and identify management practices to improve soil health. Development of Protocols and Standards for the Production of Agri-Biomass The EFP team initiated and organized the Agricultural Biomass Sustainable Practices Working Group, which is comprised of representatives from NS Department of Agriculture (Gerald Post and Julie Bailey), NS Agricultural College (Kenny Corscadden), NS Federation of Agriculture (Henry Vissers and Donna Langille), Agrapoint (Bill Thomas) and the EFP Program (Kathryn Bremner/Paul Brenton).

A Summary Report of Recommendations for Sustainable Production of Agricultural Biomass was developed by Julie Bailey and Kathryn Bremner and presented to the Working Group. From the recommendations, a draft framework for the sustainable production of agricultural biomass production was developed by the group. The working group has completed the framework. The EFP team is working with John McCabe of NSDA on a GIS model that will be available on-line so farmers can determine which soil conservation practices to implement to ensure sustainable soil erosion levels (less than 3 T/ha/year).

Water Use and Management

The EFP Program developed a presentation and participated in the Horticulture Congress held on January 30-31st, 2012. The presentation focused on water use, permitting requirements, conservation and metering.

The EFP Program also helped organize and prepare presentations for the Water Day Workshop in Berwick on October 18th. The Workshop targeted agricultural water users and included presentations on water permits, weather monitoring, water management BMPs, wa-



EFP Report continued



ter metering, nitrate levels in groundwater and other topics. The EFP team presentations were on the Water Metering project and our information database.

Database and Reporting

The database is now complete, with most historical data entered and current data from follow-ups frequently being added. In addition to the monthly, quarterly and yearly participation numbers the EFP program had already been reporting, the new database can generate several reports on commodity, livestock units, land use, water sources, waste disposal, nutrient management, manure handling and disposal, fertilizer use, pesticide handling, fuel storage, soil management and biodiversity activities and initiatives on NS farms. The database can be used to track trends in environmental risks as well as specific environmental improvements or declines over the years. As more follow-ups are completed and this data is collected, the database will be able to generate these reports.

Additional Extension Materials and Projects

Nutrient Management Planning

After attending a NMP workshop in Moncton in February, the EFP team has initiated the development of a NMP website that will serve as an information hub for farmers and planners on all things regarding NMP in Nova Scotia. The website is under development and is part of the NSFA website at www.nsfafane.ca/nmp.

Water Research Chair

The EFP team has written an application for a water research chair position at the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie on which the NSFA will be the industry lead. The position was a recommendation from the NSFA Agricultural Water Committee and the research needs were identified by the committee. The application has been approved.

Water Use Project

An agricultural water use project began last summer. Now in its second year, the project's goal is to get a better idea of agriculture water use throughout the province, to identify barriers to the current permitting process, work with NS Environment to establish practical permitting proce-

dures for producers and to provide educational materials on water use and conservation. As part of the project, water meters are installed on various types and sizes of operations. The farmers participating in the project receive help in obtaining the required permits if they use greater than 23,000 L/day from a water source. EFP staff held a producer meeting to hear farmer's concerns with the current permitting process. A document was generated summarizing the concerns that came from the meeting and an invitation to NS Environment to meet with a working group to come up with some solutions to these concerns.

Sprayer Calibration Service

The EFP is working with David Thompson of CropLife to establish a sprayer calibration service that will be free to farmers. The service is currently available to N.B. and P.E.I. farmers.

Committee Involvement

A representative of the EFP Program has participated on several committees in 2012. These include:

- EFP Advisory Committee
- NM Steering Committee (NSFA)
- Agricultural Water Committee (NSFA)
- Agricultural Biomass Sustainable Practices Working Group
- Agricultural Energy Committee (NSFA)
- Wetland Committee (NSFA)
- Joint meetings between NS Environment and EFP/NSFA field staff
- Mink Waste Management Working Group
- Dairy Farmers of Canada initiative to create environmental standards

Farm Stewardship Award

Three finalists for the EFP's Environmental Farm Stewardship Award were selected this summer and the judges visited the farms in August. The finalists this year were: Windcrest Farm, Kings Co., Upperbrook Farm, Colchester Co. and Rivers of Avondale, Hants Co. The award winner will be announced during the NSFA's AGM. The winner will receive a painting of their farm by a local artist and \$2000 (no cash value) for activities that further enhance the farm operation. This annual award has been designed to showcase the outstanding stewardship efforts of farms and elevate public awareness of sustainable farming practices across the province. The award finalists will be recognized on the NSFA website, in news articles and at the AGM. More information on the award is available at: <http://www.nsfafane.ca/EFP> or on page 17 of this book.

Farm Stewardship Award Finalists Announced

The Farm Environmental Stewardship Award is in its fourth year of recognizing the dedication and commitment that Nova Scotia farmers have for protecting our environment. This award was established to highlight producers who make land, water and habitat stewardship a significant part of their farm operations.

The Farm Environmental Stewardship Award is a part of the NS Environmental Farm Plan Program, an initiative under the Canada-Nova Scotia Growing Forward Agreement. It was created through a partnership of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the NS Environmental Farm Plan Team and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

The 2011 recipient, Wayne Oulton, W.G. Oulton and Sons Ltd says, "It's important for producers to get involved with an Environmental Farm Plan because it shows others that we care about the environment and look after it."

Since receiving their award last year, the Oulton's have invested in lighting. Working with Efficiency Nova Scotia they have replaced fixtures and energy efficient lighting in their barns and meat shop. Business at the Oultons is going good, Nicole commented in a recent conversation; "the painting of our farm is also a nice part of this award." It is proudly displayed in the kitchen to remind them of their commitment to environmental stewardship.

This year, three deserving farmers are named as finalists for the 2012 award designation of Environmental Farm Steward of the Year.

The first finalist is **Ruth and Greta Mathewson, Upperbrook Farm in Colchester County**. The Mathewson's have North Country Cheviot sheep for breeding stock and wool products, as well as a small amount of lamb, beef and 2 acres Christmas trees. Soil conservation, preserving habitat and energy conservation are top of mind for the Mathewsons. They are very conscious of their energy use and are always looking for ways to conserve energy. "It is all part of how this farm is run' says Ruth." My mother [Greta] has always been

conscious of how to make the most of something."

The second finalist is **Stewart Creaser and Lorraine Vassalo, Rivers of Avondale Vineyard, Hants County**. This 17 acre vineyard has an interesting story; having been converted from a dairy farm several years ago to growing several varieties of grapes with a restoration project that made the news. The main winery structure on the property was an old church that was floated down the Avon River to its new home in Newport Landing. Stewart and Lorraine have put a great deal of work into being environmental stewards. The long term vision of the farm includes the use of alternative energy sources such as wind and solar to reduce the overall environmental impact of the operation. "We are working toward what is best for the environment in the long-term, not what is most cost-effective in the short-term" explains Lorraine.

The third finalists are **James and Lindsay Kinsman who own and operate Windcrest Farm**, a 250 head dairy farm just outside of **Berwick, Kings County**. The farm spans several ecosystems from mature maritime forest escarpment through sloped mixed, crop land and pasture, between rural residential homes into the lower valley bottom of cropped land. The Kinsmans are serious about reduce, reuse and recycle; they have energy efficient lighting that runs on timers and is fueled by photo cells installed on the barn roof, they use heat from their milk to heat water and a plate cooler reduces the energy needed to cool the milk. These farm projects along with lessening their environmental impact when cropping and managing the dairy herd as well as their work in agriculture research have earned them a nomination for the stewardship award.

The winner will be officially announced at the NSFA Annual Meeting Banquet on November 29th at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro, NS.



Workplace Education for Agriculture - 2012

In 2012 the Federation has continued to deliver workplace education programs for farmers through a project started in 2011 with guidance provided by the Department of Agriculture and the NS Department of Labour & Advanced Education. The funding for instructors and course venues provided by the Department of Labour is crucial to the effective delivery of this service to farmers. The program was designed so that course material is not aimed in any specific direction but is developed in response to the needs expressed by the farmers themselves. The most popular course to date has been focused on financial management needs on farms. These sessions explain how better business decisions are made when you utilize your financial statements to identify your farm's capabilities. In addition, courses have been held to assist farmers to improve their marketing skills, advertise effectively, etc. The other popular request is for information on how to better utilize new tech-

nology in day to day operations on the farm. An Advanced Simply Accounting course has also been offered. This course was for people who were already familiar with Simply Accounting and wanted to become more proficient in its use.

Each of the courses is evaluated by the participants and this information is used in fine-tuning the programs to be delivered in future. The initial courses were delivered in the central area of the province only but the Federation is now branching out into the other regions of the province. All that is required to arrange a course is for 12 people to express an interest in a particular topic and the Federation takes over from there in arranging for an instructor, meeting space, and a beginning date. Individuals can register their interest in taking a course by calling the NSFA office (893-2293) and leaving their contact information and advise the type of training they would like to access.

The NSFA has scheduled 10 courses to date which involved 107 participants:

| Location | Type of Course | Participants |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| West River, Pictou County | Financial | 12 |
| Stewiacke, Colchester County | Financial | 12 |
| Agricultural Organizations Staff | Computer Skills | 12 |
| Agricultural Organizations Staff | Computer Skills | 12 |
| Agricultural Organizations Staff | Communications | 12 |
| Windsor, Hants County | Financial | 13 |
| Kentville, Kings County | Marketing | 12 |
| Truro, Colchester County | Financial | 9 |
| Antigonish | Marketing | 6 |
| Truro | Simply Accounting/Excel | 7 |

Energy Activity Report

Improving efficiencies, adopting Renewable Energy Technologies (RET's) and increasing value added agricultural products are three focus areas for the Energy Conservation Research Program (ECRP) based in the Engineering Department of Dalhousie University's new Agricultural Campus. The position of industry research chair at the agricultural campus provides a focus on agricultural based energy research and supports the NSFA at provincial and national energy initiatives. Research in these three main areas is supported

by a number of complimentary projects and extension activities conducted in collaboration with the NSFA, Perennia and NSDA, which include.

Energy Efficiency

1. Energy audits are continuing with a focus on energy use in the greenhouse and poultry sectors, the objective is to create benchmarks across these sectors and provide practical information regarding the implementation, costs and benefits as-

Energy Activity Report continued

sociated with energy efficient technology and practices.

2. Research continues in the area of sustainable buildings and green products from agricultural products. The TREE house (Technology for the Responsible use of Energy and the Environment), continues to be used as a teaching aid, office space for graduate students and test site for new products.

3. The wool value chain development project (WVCDP) which initially provided an assessment of the amount and quality of wool in the province and identification of the processes required to convert this raw material into value added products, namely insulation has now moved to a pilot production phase with funding from NSDA. The pilot project is working in collaboration with Harmony woolen mill to convert wool from a range of different breeds into insulation material. This project will examine the process, including potential environmental impact, yield, costs, and process requirements and ultimately determine the commercial potential for the production of this material in Nova Scotia. For further information, contact Jaclyn Mosher, project coordinator at the Rural Research Centre (jnmosher@nsac.ca / 893 6227)

Renewable Projects

The ERCP has embarked on a number of renewable research projects which target the unique needs of the industry in Nova Scotia. The industry is widely dispersed, both geographically and in scale requiring a range of different research activities. The focus of research this year has been related to the assessment of alternative energy options through the installation of monitoring equipment, funded in part by NSDA, continued research toward the development of an agricultural biomass industry and the application of small wind on farms in Nova Scotia.

1. The monitoring project has received assistance from NSDA and includes evaluation of a geothermal heat pump (poultry application), evaluation of full bale burning biomass technology, poultry operation, assessment of wood based biomass heating for greenhouse sector (2 installations).

2. Wind assessment and assessment of potential sites using an ultrasonic ground based wind

sensor SODAR Triton system has been made possible with support from the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). This SODAR unit has been deployed on 13 farms across seven counties of Nova Scotia. The outcome is an evaluation of the resource at a range of heights and assessment of the economic potential of each site as potential sites for participation in the small wind category of COMFIT. The Information generated through this project has been used to recommend changes to the existing COMFIT restrictions that require farmers for form cooperatives to be eligible to participate. Interest in this project has been significant and this will ultimately result in continued assessments around the province.

3. Wind energy and participation in government initiatives such as COMFIT have the potential to generate additional income for farmers, a demographic that is inherently stewards of land and the environment. Community engagement and social acceptance are vital for successful wind development. Research in this area has identified that community consultation is necessary prior to undertaking any part of a renewable project and the results of a provincial survey verify that residents wish to be consulted early in the planning and investigation phase of projects

4. A number of components are required for the development of a provincial agricultural biomass industry which includes crop production, conversion, combustion technology and markets. This research has focused on addressing two of these key areas, necessary for the successful implementation of a bio-energy value chain, firstly the creation of a fuel suitable for safe combustion in existing residential wood pellet and wood stoves and secondly the identification of equipment and model that allows economic conversion and distribution of the fuel. This work is conducted in collaboration with a number of active groups around the province who are all trying to develop the industry, with support from the NSFA and NSDA.

Submitted by Kenny Corscadden PhD. P.Eng, Industry Research Chair Farm Energy Conservation



Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Report



Farm Safety Nova Scotia is registered as a non-profit, farm driven safety organization. The goal of Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) is to

develop a culture of health and safety within the agricultural community to prevent workplace illness and injury to our farmers, their families and employees. Representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Workers Compensation Board, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture and primary agricultural producers are involved in advancing safety initiatives.

This year, Farm Safety Nova Scotia activities have included continuing First Aid and WHMIS training in collaboration with St. John Ambulance. FSNS has been active organizing training for farm owners and employees. A training arrangement has also been developed with Liftow to provide forklift safety training for farm workers at a discounted rate. A one day course can be organized on-farm and provide a combination of instructional learning and practical evaluation. Other training opportunities are also available through partnerships with Safety Services Nova Scotia and Forestry Safety Society of Nova Scotia. Contact FSNS to organize an existing training opportunity or to develop new partnerships for additional training needs.

The Farm Health & Safety Manual has been developed and is available as a binder or sections can be printed from our website - www.farmsafetyns.ca (under publications). A series of workshops were conducted to promote the manual and to outline the requirements to develop your own Farm Health and Safety Plan to be compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Additional workshops can be organized and will be reoffered in conjunction with another workshop series currently being developed.

FSNS has received funding from the FCC Ag Safety Fund to conduct a series of workshops to improve transportation safety for Nova Scotia farmers. These workshops will be conducted in early 2013 in partnership with Safety Services Nova Scotia and will provide training for using

Temporary Workplace Traffic Control signage as well as a review of various transportation safety practices that are becoming an issue in various regions of the province.

The Homegrown Success Program has also provided funding to FSNS to develop resources for developing emergency plans on farms. This funding will help provide information and resources for emergency first responders when they are called to a farm.

CASA (Canadian Agricultural Safety Association) received funding from Agriculture Canada to hire an Advisor to work in Nova Scotia to promote the Canada FarmSafe Plan. This application was in partnership with NSFA and Carolyn Van Den Heuvel has been working since May providing one-on-one support to farms to design and implement health and safety programs tailored to their operations. FSNS is also planning to work with Carolyn to develop some generic Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that will be available on the FSNS website in the new year.

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) Annual Meeting and Conference was recently held in St. John's, Newfoundland. Representation was made by FSNS Chairperson - Peter Morine. Other representatives from Nova Scotia included Larry Stewart, Department of Labour (also FSNS board member), Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, NS FarmSafe Plan Advisor and Lauranne Sanderson, Faculty of Agriculture (CASA and FSNS board member). The meeting helps keep our organization current with farm safety issues and best safety practices, identify project funding sources and develops networks with farm safety practitioners from across Canada.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia appreciates the assistance received to implement projects from the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. For more information on Farm Safety Nova Scotia or its activities, please contact Trevor Davison at (902) 893-2293 or (902) 899-5097.

Report submitted by:
Trevor Davison,
Safety Coordinator, Farm Safety Nova Scotia



Dead Stock Collection Service Committee

The Dead Stock Collection Services Committee's mandate is to keep an active on-farm collection system in place for dead stock, as well as participate in the collection service for Specified Risk Management (SRM) material and the CFIA's BSE Head Sampling Program.

The good news in the Dead Stock area is the fact that we have been able to retain two very dedicated and competent dead stock collection operators – Ted Shearer in the Central Area and David Ells in the Valley Region.

You can obtain their services by telephone to the following numbers:

Ted Shearer (902) 662-4009
David Ells (902) 678-4689 cell 680-6069

The provision of this service to farms is supported by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture through an annual grant. These dollars are used to provide a reduced rate to farms for the pick-up service. A farmer now pays \$0.075 per pound for the collection of dead stock at the farm. The income provided by CFIA for the collection of BSE Head Samples has also provided needed income to keep the on-farm dead stock collection service functioning for the past few years, therefore, the Committee members are pleased that both operators are now included in this program. CFIA reports that the number of heads collected through the BSE Head Collection Program has remained stable with the budgeted annual figure being 300 heads per year to be collected through the Dead Stock Collection Service.

A concern for this committee is the continuing decrease in the number of pounds of dead stock being collected. Following are comparisons of the pounds that have been collected over the last few years:

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Dairy (lbs) | 853,560 | 773,240 | 714,285 | 806,310 | 321,195 | 774,400 | 748,250 | 745,985 | 710,950 |
| Beef | 118,380 | 97,180 | 97,630 | 53,340 | 34,660 | 86,200 | 84,540 | 37,9456 | 35,415 |
| Pork | 479,490 | 454,490 | 412,855 | 239,595 | 127,635 | 38,040 | 34,740 | 53,435 | 77,540 |
| Other | 105,000 | 125,210 | 167,365 | 154,955 | 132,396 | 128,910 | 195,769 | 163,906 | 162,972 |
| Total (lbs) | 1,556,430 | 1,453,120 | 1,392,135 | 1,254,700 | 1,115,886 | 1,027,550 | 1,063,299 | 1,001,271 | 986,877 |

Respectfully submitted by:

Dave Oulton, Co-Chairman

Gerrit Damsteet, Co-Chairman

Dave Oulton



Insight into....Agri-Futures Nova Scotia



*submitted by Kyla Pierik,
Executive Director*

Agri-Futures Nova Scotia is quickly working its way through the 4th year of the 5 year Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) that we deliver in Nova Scotia on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The directors of Agri-Futures are always impressed with the diversity of innovative and interesting project applications submitted by industry. In my role, I have the pleasure of interacting with that same diverse range of industry associations and organizations as they prepare their applications for funding. During those conversations, there are always questions that arise about Agri-Futures Nova Scotia itself. Most often, people recognize our name but do not fully understand the unique and effective 3rd party delivery model that Agri-Futures has employed for the past 16 years. I would like to take the opportunity to share some of the more common questions and my responses to give you greater insight into Agri-Futures Nova Scotia.

Q. What is Agri-Futures?

A. Agri-Futures Nova Scotia is not a government organization but a registered, not-for-profit association. The board of directors is made up of 10 directors representing different types of Agriculture and Agri-Food industries across Nova Scotia. These are real farmers and agri-business operators making real and informed decisions on innovative project applications that are important in Nova Scotia.

Q. What sectors do your board members represent? How long do board members serve?

A. The directors of Agri-Futures are eligible to serve a maximum of two three-year terms for a total of six years. There are directors that represent plant industry, animal industry, agri-business, general agriculture and even a youth director. We also have two non-voting liaison officers (one federal and one provincial) on our board who offer insight into applications being reviewed.

Q. How are you connected with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture?

A. Our offices are located within the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) group of offices. The Council was incorporated in 1996 and was originally set up as a committee of the Federation of Agriculture. When we have a vacancy on our board, it is the nominating committee of the NSFA that seeks new directors. We have a formal link to the Federation in that the Council of Leaders of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is the membership of Agri-Futures Nova Scotia Association. So, when we need to make changes to our by-laws, we go to the Council of Leaders for consideration of the changes.

Q. What types of projects does Agri-Futures fund?

A. We fund leading edge projects – often those that are investigating new solutions for industry. These are projects that haven't been done before and are often seizing opportunities for developing new ideas, responding to new issues where the project addresses topics that were not previously known and also projects that path find or pilot solutions where industry looks at alternatives to solving challenges. To date we have approved over 70 projects under the five-year CAAP program and over 550 projects since 1996. I know that all sounds very formal, but the projects that we fund are very diverse. They are with a broad cross section of aspects of agriculture in Nova Scotia – from climate and environment projects to poultry research, from seeking organic solutions in the blueberry sector to investigating consumer preferences in the apple and wine sectors. A full list of the projects funded through the CAAP program can be found on our website within the success stories category at <http://www.agri-futures.ns.ca/success-stories.php>

Q. When I look at the project list on your website, I see the term 'Collective Outcome' used a lot. What does that mean?

A. Agri-Futures Nova Scotia is one of 14



Agri-Futures Nova Scotia continued

industry councils across the country. The term 'Collective Outcome' refers to those projects where more than one industry council agrees to pay for a portion of the funding requested by applicants. The cost is shared among provincial councils. It's a great demonstration of non-government organizations working together to share resources and move the industry forward across the country. We are independent organizations linked together through our involvement in the delivery of federal government funding. Some 'sister' councils only deliver adaptation funding (like Agri-Futures) but others have evolved over time and have been asked to deliver programs by their respective provincial governments and provide other services as well.

Q. Where does the funding come from for the projects that Agri-Futures approves?

A. Funding for this association and its activities is provided through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). We have had the privilege of deliv-

ering adaptation funding programs for the federal government for the past 16 years. The current five-year CAAP program will end as of March 31, 2014. In April of 2012, councils were advised that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada would not be asking councils to deliver adaptation funding after March 31st, 2014, so there are a lot of unknowns regarding the future for Agri-Futures Nova Scotia but we look forward with a highly engaged board of directors representing various sectors of Agriculture from across the Province. We are hopeful that the innovative, industry led, 3rd party delivery model that is in place in Nova Scotia will be of use when the delivery of other federal or provincial programs are announced and finalized by government in the future. We look forward to encouraging innovation and improving competitiveness for agriculture in Nova Scotia well into the future.

If you have questions about this article or wish to discuss any aspects further, please feel free to contact kyla@agri-futures.ns.ca or call 902-895-4454

NSFA Livestock Fencing Working Group

The Federation has been made aware of issues in various counties with regard to problems involving farm livestock being at large and causing concern particularly to motorists. Often an animal control officer is called and help is sought to bring the animals under control. These types of activity are becoming costly to the local municipalities and staff in the Municipality requested information or guidelines to determine how to judge whether a fence is adequate to control a certain species of livestock under normal conditions.

As a result of hearing issues related to livestock fencing, a committee was formed consisting of an animal control officer, a municipal representative, a Department of Agriculture rep., and the NSFA. A draft set of Fencing Guidelines has been prepared. The Guidelines have been prepared so that they should be appropriate to use in any municipality in the province.

The NSFA has sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture suggesting that the two Acts which are now in place to deal with stray animals are in great need of updating. The concern is that each municipality will put its own bylaws in place if the Acts are not updated and then there will be varying rules and regulations between municipal units within the province. It is hoped that we can maintain a fair and open system which is the same throughout the province.



Canada FarmSafe Plan Pilot Project



The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) is a national non-profit organization based out of Winnipeg, Manitoba. CASA co-ordinates,

develops and leads national initiatives to help farmers, their families and workers recognize and manage safety risks. CASA is funded primarily through Growing Forward, a federal, provincial and territorial initiative, with support from agri-business. CASA's vision is a Canada where no one is hurt farming.

CASA received funding through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Career Focus Program in 2012 to hire a FarmSafe Advisor in Nova Scotia. The FarmSafe Advisor was hired to run the Canada FarmSafe Plan Pilot Project. The Canada FarmSafe Plan is a business risk management tool used to develop safety plans for individual farming operations. Nova Scotia was chosen for the pilot due to its relatively small geographic area and its well diversified agriculture industry.

The pilot project began in May 2012 and is scheduled to run through until March 31st, 2013. The goal was to recruit a minimum of ten producers to participate in the project. By participating in the project farmers receive 16 hours of one-on-one meeting time with the Advisor. In these sessions the Advisor works through the plan and assists the farmer in developing a safety plan for their operation by guiding them through the Canada FarmSafe Plan. Farmers participating in the pilot also have the opportunity to participate in two group information sessions on specific areas of interest to the participants. Participants are also welcome to have phone and email communication with the Advisor as they work through their plans. Participants receive a one year membership to CASA.

There are currently twelve farms participating in the project. There is good representation across commodities and across the province for the pilot. From this pilot CASA is hoping to receive feedback on their

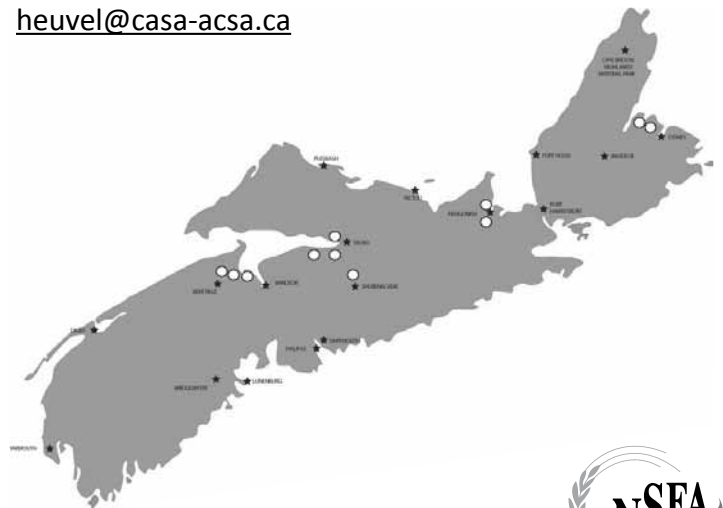
Canada FarmSafe Plan so they can continue to improve the resources available to farmers to work towards the vision of a Canada where no one is hurt farming.

The FarmSafe Advisor in Nova Scotia is working collaboratively with members of other organizations to improve the health and safety on Nova Scotian farms. The agriculture industry in Nova Scotia has proven to be very supportive of improving farm safety. Collaborating organizations include the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Farm Safety Nova Scotia, Department of Agriculture, Department of Labour and Advanced Education and Worker's Compensation Board. The FarmSafe Advisor is currently working with Farm Safety Nova Scotia to work towards developing some generic standard operating procedures to be made available to farmers.

CASA recently held their annual conference and annual general meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Nova Scotia had excellent representation at this event including the FarmSafe Advisor, the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Farm Safety Nova Scotia and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. The conference was a great success having presenters from Canada, the United States and Ireland sharing their ideas, successes and challenges with farm safety.

For information on CASA or the Canada FarmSafe Plan and its Nova Scotia Pilot please contact:

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel at (902)893-2293 or cvandenheuvel@casa-acsa.ca



NSFA's Crop Insurance Committee Report

The NSFA Crop Insurance Committee has been very busy. Bear and deer wildlife damage seems to be on the rise. Farmers are looking for new crops and stored crops to be added to the list for insurance coverage. A key player in addressing these issues is the Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Commission (NSCLIC). The Commission also manages the Wildlife Compensation Program.

These programs offer payment to farmers for production losses incurred for crops and livestock (if insured) and payment for wildlife damage to crop and livestock as per the program guidelines. Program booklet available on NSCLIC website www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.

Much of the NSFA committee's discussions are on programs offered by the commission and include concern for cross compliance between Crop Insurance and Agri-Stability. For farms with a negative margin there is an imputing calculation for those who have crop insurance. The next federal/provincial Growing Forward Agreement (GF2) may change this. Agri-Stability does not pay for the amount the farmer would have received from Crop Insurance if they could have been signed up for this coverage.

The Wildlife Compensation Program, funded 60:40 (prov/fed), covers insured crops and grapes and 5 types of livestock. You do not have to be signed up for Crop Insurance to claim under the Wildlife Fund. The payment is based on market value of the crop or animal lost minus 20%. The farmer absorbs this 20% loss so, even though the program states "no cost to farmers", in reality they do contribute to the program. Animals that are not protected may not be covered (e.g. coyotes). If payments are made for other livestock or crop damage the farmer may need to explain how and why he/she cannot protect the crops or animals from the wildlife. Nuisance permits can be obtained from DNR in some cases. There are also nuisance wildlife officers who can assist but the farmer would have to pay for their services.

Other areas of discussion for this committee were regulations by the commission to deem crops at high risk and thus increase premiums. The calculation of crop averages is also a concern. For

most crops a 15 year history is used for calculating crop averages. While these lengthy history calculations may protect the soundness of the program; for producers this has dummed down their ability to get a payment, particularly for sectors that have created a rising level of production (i.e. strawberries & raspberries). Looking 15 years back is too long; the early adopters of new technology are not getting full value from their management initiatives. The next time the Commission has its premium rates certified (2013-14), Industry will request a review of the averaging period for crops.

Concern for the Forage & Weather Derivatives Program is that there needs to be more weather sites to draw information from. At present there are about 5 sites used in the province. The farmer picks the weather site that he wants to use which may or may not be accurate for the farm's location.

Work continues with the NSFA Crop Insurance Committee through regular meetings, correspondence to government and communication with the NS Crop and Livestock Commission to voice concerns and support programs that work for you.

Thank you Corporate Gold and Business Members

- Farm Credit Canada
- Patterson Law
- Kings Mutual Insurance
- Truro Agromart Ltd.
- Bluewave Energy
- Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board
- Atlantic Cat
- Rothsay
- Thyagrissen Consulting Ltd.



Transportation Committee Annual Report

The NSFA's Transportation Committee remains to be a very necessary vehicle to help farmers understand and comply with the many regulations under various Acts which impact on their ability to move farm equipment on the provinces highways. It is expected that the Committee will have an opportunity to review and discuss the re-write of the Motor Vehicle Act prior to being put in place. We are told that the new Act will be known as the Traffic Safety Act.

Some of the issues which we hope that the new Act can address include the following:

- 1) 15 seat Passenger Vans used for Transporting Agricultural Workers – Questions continue to be raised in regard to the operation of these vans with a FM license plate.
- 2) Graduated Drivers Licenses – The ability for farm youth to be able to assist with farm work, which involves travel on highways, needs to be enabled and clarified.
- 3) Transport of farm equipment from dealer to farm - The farm machinery dealers should be able to transport farm equipment similar to a farmer.
- 4) Licensing of multi-purpose tractors - If the tractor is working off –farm it should have a GT plate,

- but, a farmer requires a FT plate to haul farm equipment. The MVA does not allow anyone to have two plates for one vehicle. This needs to be resolved.
- 5) Farmers working for each other and borrowing /sharing equipment – The regulations in the new Act need to reflect the ability for farmers to work in an economically sustainable manner (i.e. agricultural custom work)
- 6) Farm trailer plates – SNS are considering the requirement for a plate on all farm trailers to clarify ownership, etc. This would not apply to farm implements such as manure spreaders.
- 7) Tarping and Load security – It is hoped that common sense can prevail when the new regulations are put in place to define what load security involves and when tarping a load is necessary and when not.
- 8) SMV signs and public perception - There needs to be better education of the general public about what is expected of them when they come upon slow moving equipment. Many now pass on double lines or pull out on hills to get by the tractor.
- 9) Left Turning Equipment – There is need for a temporary workplace type sign for farmers to use when making repeated left hand turns with farm equipment without signal lights.
- 10) Goose Neck Trailers – Clarification of their load hauling capability need to be better defined in the new Act and regulations.

Trade Committee Annual Report

The NSFA maintains a Trade Committee which brings together representatives from both the supply managed commodities and the non-supply managed commodities to discuss issues relative to trade in agricultural products.

Discussions at the August, 2012 meeting included the following:

- 1) Canada – EU Trade Agreement (CETA) – The negotiations have been underway for 4 years and the Prime Minister is now saying there will be completion by December, 2012. The contentious issues will eventually be taken away from the lead negotiators and then a political decision is made. Commodity groups were advised to keep the NSDA aware of their needs relative to the negotiating process.
- 2) Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) – On June 19th Can-

ada was invited to join the TPP negotiations. Japan may also come on board. Anything is up for negotiation. There are a lot of players involved and nothing has been agreed yet. It is expected that the same types of issues will arise as in CETA. The provincial and federal Ministers of Agriculture have both sent letters in support of the maintenance of the supply management system throughout these negotiations.

- 3) World Trade Organization (WTO) – There is still no movement in the Doha round. While some old issues are still around some new ones have arisen as well. Beef access has increased but other than this there is little to report.

- 4) Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) – The Minister agreed to changes in Chapter 17 for dispute resolution. Previously issues were handled as a government to government dispute, but, now people can tackle the issue on their own behalf

Joint Wetlands Committee Report

A joint committee has been established to address the concerns of farmers relative to the Wetlands Policy currently being implemented by the NS Government. This committee has representation from the NSFA, the NS Department of Agriculture (NSDA), and the NS Environment (NSE).

A partnership is being created between NSFA, NSDA, NSE, and DNR to discuss the technical aspects and financial capability of providing imagery for existing wetland areas. NSE has agreed that abandoned farm land can be reclaimed for agriculture use without the no net loss provision being applied.

October, 2011 is the baseline for establishing the no net loss of wetlands. Representatives from NSFA stated the case for being able to go back further in time to address their balance of wetland area. Agriculture has been responsible for the greatest amount of wetlands developed during the last 50 years; this needs to be recognized and adjustments made. If we consider sustainability of the agricultural industry in Nova Scotia we need to reclaim some of the land which has gone out of production. Continued protection of marshlands is also needed. NSE responded that it can allow some adjustments. NSE can accept the principle of this request but there needs to be more discussion to determine how this could be accomplished. More work is needed to determine available mapping resources and how far back in time they go. A small working group has been formed to pursue these is-

issues and bring them to a proposal stage. This group will work on a system through which farmers can obtain a map of their farm outlining the wetland areas.

NSE has a fact sheet titled "Farms and Wetlands" which is designed to provide information on common questions to farmers. They also have a "Wetland Identification Checklist" which would help a farmer define wetland areas on their farm. There is also a 2004 document titled "Environmental Regulations for Agriculture" which is currently available on the NSDA website, which provides a lot of useful information.

Questions were raised in regard to the liability responsibility and the taxation status of wetlands which were referred to NSE by letter from NSFA. When Ducks Unlimited creates a pond they have a contract whereby they take on the responsibility. In PEI they have an ALUS program which compensates the farmer for his land rather than taxing him. In October the Deputy Minister of Environment responded that the liability question would be a civil matter between the farmer and their neighbour who incurs the damage. In regard to taxation the Deputy indicated that "while it is not without precedent for governments to provide tax relief to landowners for restrictions placed on lands by various laws and policies, government restricts the use of lands for a variety of reasons when it is deemed in the public good and does not provide compensation or tax reduction for those restrictions". These issues will require further negotiation by NSFA.

Trade Committee Annual Report cont.

which, government believes, gives the AIT more teeth. The AIT will impact our negotiations on other trade agreements – it is more valuable to others if product can move easily across provincial borders. CETA will be negotiated with the AIT as a reality. There is no doubt the increasing trade agreements are putting additional pressure on the provincial trade barriers. The disposition of the current federal government is towards a reduction in trade barriers.

Proud member of the CFA
Fier membre de la FCA



Case van Dyk – 2012 NS inductee to the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame

Credits to Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame <http://www.dal.ca/aahf>

Entrepreneur. Innovator. Family man. Community leader. As described by his colleagues and friends, this year's inductee from Nova Scotia deserves each and every one of these titles. Case van Dyk grew up working the family farm, learning the dairy and tree fruit trade. Upon immigrating to Canada in 1954 with his wife Riek, Case worked odd jobs for three years to raise a down payment for his own farm. In 1957, the van Dyk family purchased a small mixed farm in West Caledonia, where for ten years Case marketed his own milk and vegetables door-to-door. After a shift in production, and with great effort and determination, Case developed the farm into a 200 sow farrow to finish operation.

In the late 1960's, Case turned his agricultural sights towards the blueberry industry. He gradually accumulated fields until he had amassed over 600 acres of blueberry land and 400 acres of forest. Case began developing his fresh berry business in a rented garage, but within a few years a new, modern fresh pack facility would house the operation. This innovative facility became the heart of production that reached 45-50 tonnes of fresh wild blueberry sales, with remaining tonnage being sold for freezing.

Promoting the nutritional value of the blueberry has been a special passion for Case. From this grew the idea for a premium product that would eventually be found in kitchens around the world. Van Dyk's Health Juice Products was founded in the late 1990's, and now processes nearly 150 tonnes of wild blueberries for juice sales in Canada, Taiwan, Korea, China and the United States. Case's signature product, van Dyk's 100% Pure Wild Blueberry Juice is just as promised – the pure juice of Grade A wild blueberries without added sugar, water or preservatives.

Going hand in hand with the fresh berry market and an appetite for producing innovative, healthy products is Case's latest venture. He is presently conducting research on utilizing blueberry pomace, a by-product of the juice making process. Blueberry lovers the world over look forward to tasting his newest innovation.

Nominated by the Lunenburg/Queens Federation of Agriculture in recognition of his entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to agriculture, and his passion for innovation, Case van Dyk is indeed a deserving inductee into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to Case van Dyk and his family from the members and staff of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



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 |
| At Large: | Jim Baillie | Phone: 657-2256 |
| Past President: | Richard Melvin | Phone: 582-7939 |

Staff: Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Operations Manager: Donna Langille; Financial Services Officer: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Officer: Shelly MacKenzie; Communications Officer: Wanda Hamilton; Farm Safety/EFP Coordinator: Trevor Davison, EFP Staff, Paul Brenton, Brent Jackson, Lynda Weatherby, Janette McDonald

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