

Resolutions for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Resolution #1

Funding to County Federations

Whereas, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture used to give the county federations \$15 per registered farm; and

Whereas, a few years back, the NSFA cut the funding to county federations by \$5 to \$10 per registered farm; and

Whereas, many county federations are struggling to meet their needs with the current level of funding; and

Whereas, the NSFA has been registering financial surpluses for the last few years; and

Whereas, there is a significant amount in the delegate pooling account;

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA raise the level of funding to county federations by \$5 to \$15 per registered farm, while continuing to pay for county delegates to attend the provincial AGM.

- Adopted by the Hants County Federation at an Annual Meeting held on November 1, 2017

Resolution #2

Blueberry Pricing

Whereas, the provincial government, Department of Agriculture, and NSFA have said they are committed to improving the rural and farm economies of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas, blueberries represent a significant industry in the agricultural landscape in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas, blueberry prices given to blueberry farmers from the major processors/buyers are the same despite different companies, and are currently below the cost of production; and

Whereas, these processors represent the main marketing outlets for blueberry producers;

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA request an investigation into the pricing practices of the major blueberry processors/buyers.

- Adopted by the Cumberland County Federation at an Annual Meeting held on November 2, 2017

Resolution #3

Organic Certification Fees

Whereas, there are more farmers looking at converting their farms to organic to take advantage of the increasing demand for certified organic farm produce; and

Whereas, in NS beginning farmers are considered new entrants for the first five years of operation; and

Whereas, in NB certification fees for the first five years up to a maximum of \$500/year are included in their funding program, correlating to the five-year beginning farmer definition; and

Whereas, the organic inspection fees required during the transition from conventional farming practices to organic is subsidized by Nova Scotia under the Growing Forward Program; and

Whereas, the Growing Forward Program is ending on March 31 2018 and will be replaced by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership; and

Therefore be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture for continued support at 70% funding of organic inspection fees incurred during the first five years of operation.

- Adopted by the Yarmouth County Federation at an Annual Meeting held on November 2, 2017

Resolution #4

Provincial Support for Spanish Support and Translation Services for Agricultural Workers

Whereas, the horticulture industry in Nova Scotia is a major economic driver for the Nova Scotia economy; and

Whereas, Seasonal Agricultural Workers are essential to the sustainability of the horticulture industry, without which both harvest and farm businesses cannot continue; and

Whereas, many of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Temporary Foreign Workers in the Agricultural Stream are not native English/French speakers, but speak only Spanish; and

Whereas, medical services for Seasonal Agricultural Workers are required and available, but are very difficult to access for Spanish-speaking Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Temporary Foreign Workers with both the shortage of doctors in the province, and the opposition of medical staff to accessing the available translation services in the medical system; and

Whereas, provincial regulations require appropriate job and occupational health and safety training of workers in a manner that is clearly communicated, which would presuppose that the training should be at least partially carried out in the worker's primary language, which is not possible or practical on most farms; and

Whereas, based on the needs of the farm, some workers need to be able to study and take the provincial drivers testing to be able to obtain provincial driver's licenses;

Therefore be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, in partnership with Horticulture Nova Scotia and any other applicable commodity groups, lobby the Province of Nova Scotia to provide translation and adaptation support services for Spanish speaking Agricultural Workers that can be accessed by farmers to assist with health care, provincial services, and occupational health and safety support and training.

- Adopted by the Board of Horticulture Nova Scotia on November 14, 2017

Resolution #5

Review of Description of Farm Vehicle

Whereas, we need to support a diversified farming community; and

Whereas, all farmers in Nova Scotia do not require large vehicles but need to regularly transport agricultural products and supplies in efficient and climate controlled vehicles; and

Whereas, the current description of vehicles eligible for farm registration does not include all vehicle types;

Therefore be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia government to review the existing description of a farm vehicle.

- Adopted by the Pictou-North Colchester Federation of Agriculture at an Annual Meeting held on November 14, 2017

Resolution #6

Premises Identification

Whereas, premises identification is a provincial responsibility with regards to traceability; and

Whereas, traceability is an important part of emergency preparedness and assurance system in the event of a significant industry disaster; and

Whereas, farmers in Nova Scotia complete farm registration on an annual basis; and

Whereas, some of the information collected on these two applications are duplicated; and

Whereas, the combination of these two applications would reduce paperwork for famers and make it less cumbersome for farmers to participate;

Therefore be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture work with commodity groups and the Department to explore the possibility of incorporating the Premises Identification Application with the Farm Registration Application.

- Adopted by the Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia at a board meeting held on November 3, 2017
- Adopted by the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers at a board meeting held on November 15, 2017
- Adopted by Pork Nova Scotia at a board meeting held on November 16, 2017

Resolution #7

Field Crop Specialists

Whereas, historically there have been two (2) field crop specialists in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas, the Province has an extremely large geographical area; and

Whereas, the Provincial Government has made it a priority to increase agricultural exports; and

Whereas, Nova Scotia agriculture depends on quality crops for livestock and human consumption; and

Whereas, climate, varieties of crops, chemical pest and weed control and economic factors continue to challenge and affect growing conditions for farmers in Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the Department of Agriculture to maintain the positions of two Field Crop Specialists in the province.

- Adopted by the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture at an Annual Meeting held on November 1, 2017

Resolution #8

Support to Cash Flow Program Funding

Whereas, smaller producers may not have large amounts of disposable income for projects that fit under the Programs for Risk Management (Programs) such as the Home Grown Success Program; and

Whereas, the extensive paperwork and budgeting now required to apply for, and receive Programs funding, shows the validity of the project and the financial need for assistance; and

Whereas, it is sometimes difficult for smaller producers to secure additional funding before the project is started;

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA request that Programs either pay the supplier(s) directly for goods and/or services provided to complete the project or request that the Farm Loan Board approve a microloan to the amount of assistance, the Farm Loan Board pay the supplier and get reimbursed from Programs.

- Adopted by the Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture at an Annual Meeting held on November 1, 2017

Resolution #9

Information on Location of GE Crops

Whereas, the expansion and innovation of GE crops can create new challenges to farmers and can threaten crops and industries; and

Whereas, it has been shown that GE plants can cross-pollinate with non GE plants; and

Whereas, GE contamination can adversely affect access to markets; and

Whereas, farmers need to be able to assess the risk for their businesses;

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA work with the government and GE seed companies to make the location and the type of GE crops available to farmers requesting the information.

- Adopted by the Cumberland County Federation at a Board Meeting held on November 14, 2017