

Resolutions adopted at the NSFA 2016 Annual Meeting

Resolution #1, Industrial Burn Permit

Whereas, Industrial Burn Permits are required for land clearing greater than two hectares; and
Whereas, the applicant is required to prevent the fire from spreading and must maintain certain firefighting equipment; and
Whereas, the applicant is ultimately responsible for the cost of extinguishing a fire; and
Whereas, farmers must monitor the fire index before starting a new burn and unless there is a Provincial burn ban, cannot start a burn prior to 2pm.
Therefore be it resolved that, farmers can maintain existing burn piles when it is prohibited from starting new piles.

Resolution #2, Agri-Stability

Whereas, the Agri-Stability Program has provided an important financial safety net to the wild blueberry industry and other sectors since its introduction under the Growing Forward I agricultural policy framework,
Whereas, the lowering of the trigger level to 70% of five year average gross margin under Growing Forward II has seriously reduced the effectiveness of this program, as a buffer against unavoidable financial losses,
Whereas, wild blueberry producers have experienced difficulties in communicating the unique management procedures and other differences in our farming methods to Agri-Stability Program Administrators outside the Atlantic Region,
Therefore be it Resolved that, NSFA petition the appropriate federal and provincial government authorities, to have the Agri-Stability Program trigger mechanism returned to the 85% level and re-instate the method of calculating margins to the method originally used under Growing Forward I,
And Further be it Resolved that, the NSFA request that the provincial Department of Agriculture take over administration of the Agri-Stability Program at the provincial level, or coordinate it's administration on a Maritime Regional level.

Resolution #3, Visibility on Roadways

Whereas, highway safety is important to all; and
Whereas, unobstructed visibility on roadways improve safety; and
Whereas, many of Nova Scotia's roadway corridors have become overgrown with vegetation restricting visibility;
Therefore, be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to have roadsides cleared of such vegetation on a timely annual basis.

Resolution #4, Increase Seasonal Extension Assistance in the Growing Forward Program

Whereas, the goal of EGSPA, Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act is to have Nova Scotian consumers buying 20% local products,
Whereas, producers requiring season extension are essentially seasonal businesses with less ability for capital projects,
Whereas, market gardeners have the potential to generate larger returns with season extenders,
Therefore, be it resolved that, NSFA lobby the NS government for an increase to the Seasonal Extension Assistance in the Growing Forward Program from 25% to 50% assistance.

Resolution #5, Return the Funding for Generators in Growing Forward Program

Whereas, climate change is causing more extreme weather events,
Whereas, NS Power's ageing infrastructure is more prone to failure,
Whereas, the duration of power outages has been increasing,
Whereas, Food Safety is a top priority for Producers and Consumers,
Whereas, food safety regulations require that food products be maintained at a constant temperature,
Whereas, unexpected power failures are possible on any farm at any time,
Whereas, lost revenue from spoiled produce can be significant,
Whereas, the cost of purchasing a generator to run many operations can be prohibitive for the producer,
Therefore, be it resolved that, the NSFA request the return of the funding at 50% cost shared for generators and installation in the Growing Forward Program.

Resolutions adopted at the NSFA 2016 Annual Meeting

Resolution #6, Increase in the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board's Lending Limit

Whereas, farm businesses have significantly increased in value,
Whereas, the loan request for over \$2 million are required to have "order in council " approval, Therefore, be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the NS government and or the NS Farm Loan Board to have its lending limit increased to \$5 million before needing approval from council.

Resolution #7, Access to Multiple Year Funding

Whereas, the Growing Forward 2 Federal/Provincial Agreement is ending soon; and
Whereas, planning and negotiations are already ongoing for a new Federal/Provincial cost shares agreement; and
Whereas, in the past as with the GF1 and GF2 Programs it will most likely be a 5 year agreement,
Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the Provincial Government and the Department of Agriculture to commit 5 year support and funding to the Home Grown Success Program, so farmers can access multiple year funding in one year for larger scale projects that will help lead to organized progressive development of their farms.

Resolution #8, Keep NSDA Programs Open for Twelve Month Period

Whereas, in the Ivany Report, agriculture was pointed out to be one of the important economic drivers of this province; and
Whereas, over the last several years the administration of the Farm Investment Program, Home Grown Success Program and Farm Innovation Program has been carried out on a much less then reasonable time line; and
Whereas, a lot of small and medium size farms depend on approval of these programs before starting a development project; and
Whereas, applicants are required to fill out and submit applications in a 30 day period and then wait up to 90 days before receiving approval or being turned down on their application; and
Whereas, this time lapse can cause missing a season or crop opportunity,
Therefore be it resolved that the NSFA lobby the Minister of Agriculture to review how these approvals are being handled and consider having programs open for the twelve month period so farmers can submit their yearly program application when time allows and all needs are assessed. Appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that the delivery of all programs under his department be done in a timely fashion.

Resolution #9, Cell Phone and High Speed Internet

Whereas, the Ivany Report noted the strong contribution potential for rural based businesses in Nova Scotia; and
Whereas, it is critical to the success of rural businesses in Nova Scotia to have access to reliable cell phone service and high speed internet; and
Whereas, both of these services are not provided in an accessible manner to all Nova Scotia businesses;
Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the Minister of Agriculture, the Premier of Nova Scotia and the appropriate provincial departments involved in business development and communications to request their involvement in resolving this lack of services that are essential to businesses in this province.

Resolution #10, Abattoir Development in Eastern NS and Cape Breton

Whereas, there is limited red meat slaughter capacity in Eastern NS and Cape Breton; and
Whereas, the number of provincially inspected facilities that do custom kill is declining; and
Whereas, Eastern NS and Cape Breton are traditionally livestock based,
Therefore, be it resolved that, the NSFA consult with NSDA and the Minister on the feasibility of abattoir development to service these areas.

Resolution #11, Effective Agricultural Regulations was defeated

Resolution #12. Removal of Accredited Food Safety Plans as a Requirement for Food Safety Equipment Funding

Whereas, food safety and best practices are important on all farms for the benefit and health of consumers; and
Whereas, current Home Grown Success food safety programs is only accessible for establishments with accredited food safety plans, and

Resolutions adopted at the NSFA 2016 Annual Meeting

Whereas, proposed changes in the Safe Food For Canadians Act could bring about more stringent regulations for food handling and processing facilities; and

Whereas, this presents a large financial burden for smaller producers to comply with,

Therefore, be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the NS Department of Agriculture to remove the requirement for farms to have accredited food safety plans to access funding for food safety equipment relevant to their operations and improving food safety for consumers.

Resolution #13, Consequences of Brain Worm Infestation

Whereas, domestic livestock is an important component of the overall Provincial agricultural industry; and

Whereas, the abundant white tailed deer population frequent livestock feeding areas; and

Whereas, the white tailed deer are known carriers of the Meningeal Worm (Brain Worm); and

Whereas, it has been recently discovered that the Meningeal worm can fatally infect domestic livestock; and

Whereas, it is unknown what prevention methods are required and at what cost to the producer now, Therefore, be it *resolved* that, the NSFA bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate bodies and departments to determine the consequences and costs that it will bring to the industry,

And further be it resolved that, the NSFA maintain a file on this matter to ensure these bodies and departments develop policy to mitigate the detrimental effects of this pest.

Resolution #14, Sharpening of Fence Posts was defeated

Whereas, the current availability of treated fence posts in Nova Scotia are sharpened on the narrow end of the post; and

Whereas, this decreases the lifespan of fence posts in comparison with posts sharpened on the wide end; and

Whereas, this leads to increased fencing repair work and unnecessary cost to Nova Scotia farms,

Therefore, be it resolved that, the NSFA work with the manufacturers of fence posts to change production practices to better serve the needs of Nova Scotia Farmers.

Resolution #15, Funding for Windbreak Solutions

Whereas, climate changes are becoming more extreme and damaging to agricultural lands which impacts on farm business prosperity,

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to reintroduce measures of funding for windbreak design, implementation, and purchase of appropriate natural windbreak and buffer zone solutions for agricultural lands.

Resolution #16, Genetically Engineered (GE) Alfalfa was tabled

Resolution #17 – UTV recognized as a farm vehicle

Whereas, some manufacturers of Utility Terrain Vehicles do have road packages available; and

Whereas, Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) are an important part of farming practices and would provide an affordable means to enhance farm practices; and

Whereas, the UTV would provide a light weight alternative means of access to fields and provide necessary cargo space;

Whereas, a well-equipped UTV could do a lot of the work of a sub-compact tractor with accessories and implements that can be purchased and added,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to recognize Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) as farm tractors and be plated as such.