

**NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF
AGRICULTURE**

**Advocacy Priorities
2016 - 2017**



Since 1895, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has represented the interests of Nova Scotia's agricultural community. Today its members account for over 90% of all agricultural production in Nova Scotia. With an organization structure that includes representation from 13 county and regional federations and 27 recognized agricultural commodity groups, the Federation brings together over 2400 individual farm businesses representing all aspects of primary agriculture in the province.

The advocacy areas that the Federation prioritizes are addressed through standing policy, resolutions and committee work. The Federation also has positions on issues. Progress updates on each of the advocacy areas are presented to Executive Committee, Council of Leaders, News and Views, and the NSFA AGM.

The advocacy areas are guided by the principal Vision and Mission of NSFA.

Vision:

"A competitive and sustainable future for the farming community in Nova Scotia."

Mission:

"To enable a sustainable future for the farming community by building farm businesses that are focused on the triple bottom line – that being financially viable, ecologically and socially responsible."

Members of the NSFA

NSFA Affiliated Commodity Groups

1. Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia
2. Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia
3. Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
4. Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
5. Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia
6. Goat Association of Nova Scotia
7. Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia
8. Greenhouse Nova Scotia
9. Horticulture Nova Scotia (Berry)
10. Horticulture Nova Scotia (Vegetable)
11. Nova Scotia Potato Marketing Board
12. Landscape Nova Scotia
13. Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia
14. Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association
15. Nova Scotia Cattle Producers
16. Nova Scotia Fox Breeders Association
17. Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association
18. Nova Scotia Greenhouse Vegetable Marketing Board
19. Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association
20. Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum
21. Organic Council of Nova Scotia
22. Pork Nova Scotia
23. Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia
24. Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia
25. Turkey Farmers of Nova Scotia
26. West Nova Agro Commodities Limited
27. Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

County/Regional Federations

1. Annapolis County
2. Antigonish/Guysborough Counties
3. Cape Breton / Richmond Counties
4. Colchester County
5. Cumberland County
6. Digby County
7. Halifax-East Hants
8. Hants County
9. Inverness/Victoria Counties
10. Kings County
11. Lunenburg/Queens Counties
12. Pictou-North Colchester
13. Yarmouth / Shelburne Counties

Corresponding Members

1. Women's Institute of Nova Scotia
2. Nova Scotia 4-H Council
3. Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia



Standing Policy

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Standing Policy identifies current and emerging issues facing the industry.

Agriculture Land

According to the “Is Nova Scotia Running Out of Agriculture Land” discussion paper by the Agriculture Land Review Committee, Nova Scotia has a little over 29% (1.57 million hectares) of its land classed as Agriculture. Though classed as Agriculture, some of this land is not being used for Agriculture and is growing in with weeds, brush and trees. Increasing the amount of agricultural land under production in the province will have a significant impact on the economy of Nova Scotia including job creation, farm gate sales and economic spinoff.

Developing Agricultural Land

It takes significant time, money and resources to bring former and new agriculture land into production, which are difficult to come by when starting a farm or expanding existing operations. Increased support for land development and preparation must be a priority of the government.

Land bank

One of the ways to address agriculture land shortages is to protect current agriculture land by implementing a land bank program. To be effective, an agricultural land bank program must compensate farmers for removing development rights from their farm land. As part of the broader picture, an agricultural land bank would help offset the current deficit of agricultural land. A land bank would provide access to agriculture land to new farmers and farmers expanding their farm operations without tying up capital.

The existing regulations in place under the Community Easements Act already allow for easements to be placed on land for agriculture use.

The Federation’s policy regarding the protection of agricultural land suggests government intervention must go well beyond simply placing restrictions on the use of agricultural land. Incentives to encourage private land owners to continue farming and voluntarily place an agricultural easement on their farm land would be the least invasive and most receptive means of increasing the amount of private farm land in the province.

Zero taxation on farm land

The zero taxation policy on farm land was developed so that farmers in rural and urban settings would have an equalized tax burden, land tax would be higher in more desirable urban or industrial settings. This has been a benefit to farmers but also to owners of farm land that do not farm. In some cases this has the unintended consequence of a landowner not allowing a farmer to use the land since there is no incentive; they receive the zero tax benefit anyway.

Crown land

The Province of Nova Scotia has 1.3 million hectares of Crown Land. Much of this crown land is located in rural areas, close to farmers. A land deficit plan should include the use of underutilized Crown Land for agricultural purposes.

Policy Statement: It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Nova Scotia government to implement a well-rounded program to protect agricultural land. A program would include a land bank system along with zero taxation on land owned by a registered farm or land actively maintained as farmland, access to Crown Land and support for those who are bringing former and new agriculture land into production. The Federation will also lobby to include an agriculture land protection goal in the next Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperities Act.

Energy

Energy consumption is inevitable when producing agricultural products. Access to affordable, environmentally responsible and sustainable energy sources along with energy conserving technologies and methods is critical to the success of a farm operation. Farms produce by-products that can be used to produce renewable energy without negatively impacting other industries. To ensure stability of the industry, renewable, affordable and environmentally responsible sources of energy are required.

Access

Access to three phase power is a concern for farms upgrading equipment on their operations. Much of the newer equipment requires efficient energy which single phase power cannot offer. This is prohibiting many farms from upgrading to modernized and more efficient equipment, and growing their operation. Nova Scotia Power has not consistently maintained needed upgrades to services across the province to match the growth and the energy needs. These limitations are severely restricting the economic growth of Nova Scotia. The economic loss of these limitations is significant, but the exact value is not known. To better understand the gaps, a needs assessment must be industry executed and supported by government.

Production

Many farms have the biomass capacity to produce enough energy for their operation and to supply their neighbours with energy. The Direct to Retail provision under the Electricity Reform Act has the potential to allow farms in the province an opportunity to produce energy with their farm by-products and sell using the Renewable to Retail model as was presented to UARB. However, the cost prohibitive barriers that were present under COMFIT still exist in this new program. Two significant cost barriers that limit a farm's ability to supply electricity are the communication connection costs and accessing three phase power. The cost of building the necessary public infrastructure (e.g. three phase power lines) to support energy production is a barrier for farmers interested in producing energy. Other provinces, such as New Brunswick, have significantly lower connection costs which creates an unfair competitive disadvantage for Nova Scotia businesses. There are many logistical restrictions that must be addressed for small scale energy production to be effective. Other restrictions include net metering restricted to within distribution zones and same account addresses.

Policy Statement: It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to lobby the Nova Scotia government for access to affordable energy sources and to allow fair and cost effective connection into the distribution grid without placing the burden on the farmers. The Federation will also advocate for the addition of a farm energy specialist. The Federation will also lobby government to create a capital fund to support investment in creation and use of renewable energy.

Labour

Skilled labour is critical to any farm operation. The Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council (CAHRC) conducted a study across Canadian farms and the agriculture industry to identify the gaps and associated costs.

The Labour Market Inventory report identified current trends in Agriculture Labour as well as projected trends based on population growth and distribution. In the breakdown, there is a current labour gap of 600 people. This would be greater if there weren't employment options through the Temporary Foreign Worker program. The study projected a labour gap of 3500 people by 2025. The gap is expected to increase because of the aging workforce and rural out-migration.

The challenges that Nova Scotia faces were also identified in the CAHRC report. Recruiting employees is often difficult because the jobs are in the rural areas and the skill availability is insufficient. Employee retention has challenges as well, including insufficient compensation.

Trained employees increase farm productivity and efficiency. Farm operations are becoming more mechanized and farm employees require specialized training that cannot be achieved through general programs. These specialized programs may be in the form of a farm apprenticeship program.

To immediately address the labour gap, farms must be able to draw from pools of employees. The Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program is available; however, the amount of paperwork to apply for and transfer employees causes burden on farmers. Programs and policies need to be adjusted to reduce the burden on farmers as well as hold ups during processing.

The cost of labour shortage is significant. According to the report, the estimated cost of unfilled vacancies in Nova Scotia is \$15 Million in sales. This cost is in part from lost value added opportunities that couldn't be filled because of labour shortages. To further hinder the opportunity to value add, programs like the Temporary Foreign Work Programs have stipulations around what constitutes as agricultural work.

Harvest Connection Program allows eligible Income Assistance recipients to keep up to \$3000 of income earned from working in the seasonal harvesting of field produce crops like berries, vegetables and apples and harvesting of Christmas trees. This program provides an incentive for local residents to work in commodities that require an increase in seasonal labourers at peak times. A similar program should be made available for those receiving other assistance such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Policy Statement: It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to lobby provincial and federal governments to establish programs and policies that provide relevant training and encourage employment on farms.

Local Awareness

Increasing the amount of Nova Scotia produced goods consumed in Nova Scotia is a key piece in to strengthening the local economy.

The One Nova Scotia report identified goals to strengthen the agriculture industry. As stated in goal 16, the value of agricultural products produced for, and consumed within, the Nova Scotia domestic market will have doubled. The current value is approximately \$230 million. To stay ahead of this increasing trend, consumer awareness of Nova Scotia produced goods must be a priority.

As part of the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperities Act (EGSPA), two food goals are identified:

- 20% of our food spending from local farms by 2020 and increased local procurement by government
- A 5% increase of new farmers to the Nova Scotia Farm Registration System by 2020.

While ensuring government institutions increase local procurement, organizations must be willing to increase local spending, as well.

Increasing consumption of Nova Scotia produced goods needs to be addressed at both the consumer and policy development levels. Having a well identified brand to promote Nova Scotia's agricultural products helps consumers to identify which items in the grocery store are of Nova Scotia origin. Nova Scotia producer brand recognition is also essential to promote and could be as simple as a sign in the produce section of a grocery store that identifies which labels belong to Nova Scotia farmers. At the policy level, government and organizations must implement a "local first" policy when catering or ordering food service.

Policy Statement: It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to provide support to government in fulfilling the EGSPA goals. The Federation shall also lobby the government to provide resources for consumers so they can make an informed decision when considering local agricultural products at grocery retail stores. The Federation will also encourage government and organizations to implement a "local first" policy for food service and catering.

Regulatory Burden

The regulatory burden in Nova Scotia hinders our industry's competitiveness when compared to other provinces. In part, this burden is caused by unclear, conflicting regulations. Some regulations are time consuming and others require farmers to incur significant costs in order to comply.

Agriculture falls under provincial jurisdiction, but municipal by-laws are not consistent across the province. Inconsistencies in such things as building permits and building codes for agricultural buildings are just a few of the challenges. Regulations should not exist to hinder the development of agriculture and should be written in plain language to facilitate understanding.

While food safety programs have a place to protect Nova Scotians, scale appropriate regulations and programs that allow for long term farm business planning must be considered. Scale appropriate regulations will help increase the number of processing facilities thus decreasing the amount of time – in some cases up to three hours - livestock farmers have to travel for processing and be away from their farm. Also, navigating the various regulations and programs is often a barrier to accessing markets.

Many of the barriers mentioned are inhibiting the growth of Nova Scotia's Agriculture Industry. Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is releasing a report on "Barriers to Growth", resulting from industry survey and focus groups in 2015.

Through the Joint Office of Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness, the governments of the Atlantic Provinces are working together to address red tape and other inconsistencies across the region. Future priorities have been identified and include: internal trade, occupational health and safety, transportation and procurement.

Changes to regulations that affect farm operations always strike concerns. Any update to regulations should be phased in and facilitate clear communication with farmers around compliance.

Leading the industry toward increased capacity for innovation, responsiveness, and reduced business risk will help ensure the competitiveness of Nova Scotia agriculture. These costs must be recoverable in the market place or be recognized as a public good supported by Nova Scotia government, not downloaded to the agriculture community.

Policy Statement: It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to lobby Nova Scotia Government for reduction of red tape and regulatory burden so farmers can do business in Nova Scotia. It shall also be the policy of the Federation to work with counterparts at CFA to reduce red tape at the federal level. The Federation will also monitor the results of the Barriers to Growth report and the activities of the Joint Office of the Regulatory Affairs and Service Effectiveness.



Resolutions

Resolutions are brought forward by members to the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture AGM.

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.

Resolutions adopted at the NSFA 2016 Annual Meeting

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

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 #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 #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.

Consolidated Resolutions

Resolution A-14-01, Funding Program to Support the Development of Agricultural Land

Therefore, be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to deliver a funding program to support development of agricultural land whether land is leased, owned or rented.

Resolution A-15-01, Increased Cost Sharing for Tile Drainage, Ditching and Land Forming

Therefore, be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture request cost sharing for tile drainage, ditching and land forming be 50% farmer and 50% government.

Resolution A-15-03, Transportation Assistance for Trucking of CFIA approved Wood Ash

Therefore, be it resolved that transportation assistance should also be available for the trucking of wood ash that is CFIA approved on a limestone approved ECCE equivalent. [Effective Calcium Carbonate Equivalent]

Resolution A-15-04, Up to Date Description of new Entrant

Therefore, be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture consult with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in looking at definitions and create an up to date description of what a new entrant actually is.

Resolution A-15-05, Review Agriculture Building code

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture request the Minister of Agriculture to review the building code with experts to see if 70 percent requirement of snow load fits with today's environment.



Committees

2017

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture committees provide a forum or guidance on specific topics as related to agriculture. Committees have representation from Federation membership and other applicable organizations, and operate through a Terms of Reference.

NSFA Committees

The follow is a list and brief description of NSFA committees.

NSFA Agricultural Water Committee

To provide guidance for water related issues which are of strategic value to the NS farm community in the areas of stewardship and management and to direct the use of the NSFA water fund in a way that reflects the following goals:

- To build understanding and acceptance among Nova Scotia farmers of the importance of water and its efficient use.
- To increase support for the agricultural industry from the general public by demonstrating the strategic actions taken by farm business to protect and manage Nova Scotia's water resources.
- To provide funding for community and other research projects that demonstrates best uses of water resources and to develop an understanding of and develop agriculture programs in keeping with the Nova Scotia provincial water strategy.
- To identify partners and create opportunities for partnership in areas relating to water stewardship and sustainable use
- To provide for maintenance of a sustainable quantity and quality of water for agricultural operations
- To negotiate on behalf of farmers on water permit and water withdrawal issues.

Committee Membership: NSFA Executive; NSFA Council of Leaders; NSFA Member at Large (x2); NSDA; EFP Staff; Dal AC Rep; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director

NSFA Wetlands Committee

To create a forum that will enable discussion of major agricultural wetlands issues in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia Wetlands Policy has been put in place in October 2011 by the Nova Scotia Government.

Committee Membership: NSFA Executive; Council of Leaders Rep (x2); NSFA Member at Large (x2); NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services)

Agricultural Transportation Committee

To create a forum that will enable timely communications and discussion of major agricultural transportation issues that will affect industry. This will be achieved through a committee which will be known as the Agricultural Transportation Committee.

Committee Membership: Crop Representative; Crop Representative; Livestock Representative; Livestock Representative; NSFA Executive; TIR (x3); RCMP; NSDA (x2); Equipment Dealer; Farm Safety NS; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services)

Labour and Skills Training Committee

To create a forum that will enable timely communications and discussion of major agriculture human resource issues that will affect industry. This will be achieved through the establishment of a committee, the Labour & Skills Training Committee.

Committee Membership: Crop Representative; Crop Representative; Livestock Representative (x2); NSFA CAHRC; NSFA Executive; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services); NSDLAE; NSDA; DAL AC

NSFA Crop Insurance Committee

To provide guidance for issues related to programs administered by the Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission and to make recommendations for changes to crop insurance programs which are of strategic value to the NS farm community.

Committee Membership: NSFA Executive; Dairy/Forages; NSFA COL/Hort; Grains/Field Crops; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services); NSCLIC; NSDA

Dead Stock Collection Services Committee

To create a forum that will enable timely communication, discussion, and decision making in regard to issues pertaining to the collection of dead stock from farms in Nova Scotia. This will be achieved through a committee which will be known as the Dead Stock Collection Services Committee. This committee provides an oversight role to the administration of the Dead Stock Collection Services Program.

Committee Membership: NSFA Executive rep; CFIA; CFIA; NSDA(x3); Dead Stock Collector (x2); Dairy Farmers of NS; NS Cattle Producers; Pork Nova Scotia; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services)

Agriculture Wildlife Issues Committee

To create a forum that will enable timely communications and discussion of major agricultural issues which interact with wildlife.

Committee Membership: Crop Representative; Livestock Representative; NSFA Executive; NSFA Executive Director; Associate Director (NSFA admin services); DNR (x4); NSDA; NSCLIC; Perennia; Hunters/Anglers

External Committees with NSFA Representation

Agriculture Awareness Committee

Agriculture Wildlife Issues Committee

EFP Industry Advisory Committee

Appointed NSFA Representation

Farm Registration Appeal Committee

PEI Vet College Advisory Committee

Farm Practices Board

Livestock Health Services Advisory Committee & Auditors

Farm Management Canada

Round Table on the Environment

Atlantic Agriculture Leadership Program

Farm Innovation Committee

Nova Scotia Water Advisory Committee

Weed Control Advisory Committee

Affiliated Boards

Agri-Futures

Farm Safety Nova Scotia



Position Papers

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture identifies emerging issues and topics related to agriculture.

List of Positions

Agriculture Policy Framework

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture Academic Focus

Investment Tax Credit

New Entrants into Agriculture

Non-Agricultural Waste Products

On Farm Health and Safety

Research

Veterinary Services

Introduction of Wild Turkeys