

# News & Views

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@NSFAFANE

## And the winner is...

Having a great herd of Hereford cattle is one of the Larry and Pat Ward's main goals, and raising them in a healthy, natural way is important to them.

As self-proclaimed "city kids," the Wards bought the Higginville farm in 1973 and since then have made numerous farming decisions that have contributed greatly to the surrounding environment.

One major contribution is the farm's impact on wildlife habitat. Over 35 years ago, the Wards cooperated with Ducks Unlimited (DU) to create a very large wetland at the back of the farm property. This wetland provides habitat for numerous water fowl, shorebirds, raptors, fish, amphibians, turtles and small mammals.

Over the years, the Wards have also planted shrubs, trees and plants around the farm that encourage many different wildlife species. The farm recently completed an Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) plan through the Department of Natural Resources, which identifies wildlife habitat on the farm and provides recommendations on how to make enhancements. The Wards plan to continue their work with DU and upgrade the fencing around the wetland and do some more shrub planting. They also plan to work with the local 4H club to build and place owl nesting boxes along the edges of the hayfields.



Pat and Larry Ward from Willow Pond Farm received the Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award at the NSFA AGM Banquet on Nov. 30.

Willow Pond Farm, owned and operated by the Wards, is a scenic beef farm located in Higginville, Halifax County. The farm is comprised of 33 Hereford cows and their calves, 25 acres of pasture, 100 acres of hayfields, 100 acres of woodlot and three wetland areas.

The Wards believe in the importance of protecting soil and water resources. The farm has a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), which includes soil and manure testing every three years. The plan provides manure, fertilizer and lime application rates to improve soil fertility and crop production while not contributing to nutrient buildup or losses to the environment. Cattle are rotationally grazed, which improves pasture productivity and reduces over-grazing. The pastured cattle access water from a water tub which is gravity fed from a large dug pond. This low input method provides good quality water to the cattle when they are pastured away from the barn and has allowed the Wards to fence cattle from watercourses. The farm uses

(cont'd on page 3)

## Introducing Victor Oulton, NSFA President



On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the election process for the Executive Committee was completed which brought Victor Oulton in as President.

Victor Oulton is part of WG Oulton & Sons Ltd. located in Martock, Hants County. The Oulton family has been farming the land for four generations, and all of the current members of the family are involved in the business—Victor, his wife Novadawn and son Wyatt are farming with his Dad (Mike), Mom, (Dianne) and brother (Wayne, Nicole and their young

family). In addition to the Hereford beef cattle, you can find a variety of other animals—sheep, deer, elk, free range poultry, wild boar, kangaroos and a provincially inspected abattoir and poultry processing plant, orchard and woodlot.

Victor has served on various agricultural boards over the years and is no stranger to beef show and sales. At the national level, Victor was recently the CFA Director for NSFA. Victor's work on NSFA Committees includes: Agriculture Wildlife Issues Committee, Direct to Market Small Scale

Working Group and Deadstock. Victor is also involved in 4H and Past President of the Canadian Hereford Association, Maritime Hereford Association and the Windsor Agricultural Society.

Victor looks forward to serving as president going forward. "There has been a lot of great people who have held this position. It is an honour." Victor also noted that on the list of past presidents, he has a great grandfather and a great great grandfather in that list.

*Congratulations, Victor!*

## Federal Pilot Project Update Agriculture Risk Assessment Tool

On Friday during our AGM, MP Bill Casey, on behalf of Federal Minister of Agriculture Lawrence MacAulay, announced \$1 million to fund a risk proofing project for Nova Scotia's Agriculture Industry. While the announcement was left a bit vague, it is a project that NSFA has been working on for ten months now.

The pilot project is to develop a tool using Bayesian modeling which will identify the probability of particular events occurring. With the focus on the grape and wine industry, probability of events will be applied to various aspects of grape production, wine production, distribution channels, and purchasing and consumption trends. As examples, changes in grape production practices through disease for example could reverberate through to NSLC sales and distribution channels. Likewise, changes in consumer tastes or values could seriously impact winery and grower profitability.

Another aspect of the project is considering climate change impacts on dykelands. Again, the project will use the Bayesian model, in this case to identify the probability of overtopping or breach of dykes.

The intent of the pilot project is to further apply the tool/model to other commodities and regions of Nova Scotia. Next steps for the project will be to "train the trainer" and ensure that Agrologists are equipped and knowledgeable on how this risk assessment tool can be applied to other commodities or dykeland regions and the actual application of applying this tool to other commodities.

Update on project progress will be included in upcoming *News & Views* issues.



*Over 200 people turned out for the NSFA 122<sup>nd</sup> AGM*

## And the winner is...

a no-till seeder to renovate pastures. This improves the health and productivity of the fields and helps prevent soil erosion.

Additional efforts have been made on the farm to protect the local environment. The manure storage consists of a concrete floor and walls and was upgraded in 2010 to ensure adequate storage capacity. The diesel tank was upgraded to a double-walled tank and is located inside a fuel storage building.

The 2017 winner was officially announced at the NSFA Annual Meeting banquet on November 2nd. The Wards received a

painting of their farm by local artist Darlene Watters in Truro and a \$2,000 cash prize to put towards further stewardship efforts on their farm. The award is part of the Environmental Farm Plan Program created through a partnership of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. The Environmental Farm Plan Program is supported under Growing Forward 2, a five-year agricultural agreement between the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia.

## ANNUAL MEETING Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum

On December 1, the Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum held their Annual Meeting before attending Brenda Schoepp's Keynote presentation at the NSFA AGM.

The meeting had a great turnout, with over 20 young farmers in attendance.

Key items on the agenda were guest speakers and by-law changes. Faith Matchet from Farm Credit Canada addressed the meeting and spoke about the upcoming Ignite Event for those under 40 and involved in agriculture, agribusiness or agri-food. Ignite will bring together outstanding speakers who will inspire, inform and spark new ways of thinking. It is a free event and registration is open on the FCC website ([www.fcc-fac.ca](http://www.fcc-fac.ca)). The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board also presented and talked about the funding options available to new entrants.

Please see website for the up-to-date version of ByLaws – [nsyff.ca/about/bylaws](http://nsyff.ca/about/bylaws)

### 2018 NS YOUNG FARMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nicolas Roy – Chair
- Larry Weatherby Jr – Vice Chair
- Sarah Greeno – Secretary
- Rebecca O'Connell – Treasurer/  
Director at Large
- Amanda Vosman – Director at Large  
for Eastern Nova Scotia
- Jonathan Waugh – Director at Large  
for Central Nova Scotia
- Alana Bent – Director at Large for  
Western Nova Scotia



## Introducing, the 2018 Executive Committee!

NSFA members voted in the Executive Committee at the AGM.

The following are the farmers looking forward to serving you on the Executive Committee.

- Victor Oulton - President
- Tim Marsh - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Chris deWaal - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Chris van den Heuvel - CFA Director
- Kimberly Stokdijk - Director at Large
- Amanda Eisses - Director at Large
- Sylvestre Dion - Director at Large
- Lauren Park - Director at Large

# 2017 AGM Recap

On November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, NSFA held its 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. There were quite a few changes this year, and based on initial feedback, they were well received.

The format for the agenda has been described as a “mullet”—business in the front, party in the back! On Thursday, the Standing Policies were presented and the resolutions debated. More information on the NSFA Standing Policies and the Resolutions that were passed can be found starting on page 5 of this newsletter. Also, watch 2018 issues of the *News & Views* for progress updates on Standing Policies and Resolutions. On the note of resolutions, the meeting heard a balanced presentation from Bill Thomas, CCA, P.Ag. on GE Alfalfa. The tabled resolution on Genetically Engineered (GE) Alfalfa from the 2016 AGM was lifted as business arising from the minutes and well discussed before being defeated. The budget was passed and an update on the 2016 resolutions was given during this time as well.

NSFA also welcomed an array of guest speakers at the AGM. Politically, NSFA welcomed PC Agriculture Critic, John Lohr and NDP Agriculture Critic Lenore Zann, to the meeting Thursday afternoon. To close out the first day of the meeting,

Agriculture Minister, Honourable Keith Colwell spoke and took questions from the audience. In Minister Colwell’s remarks, he highlighted the need for food security and protection of dykeland, he also talked about the importance of exports and a potential market for wild blueberries which came about following a recent trip to China, though he couldn’t disclose any further details. Minister Colwell also indicated that there will be significant changes to Programs. During question time, the Minister fielded questions on increasing AgriInvest to 3%, the government’s support for buying local, implementation of the Maritime Beef Strategy, and concerns that the only agricultural products included in the Minister of Agriculture’s Mandate Letter were wine, craft beer and spirits and that the majority of primary products that go into these items cannot be sourced locally.

NSFA heard a presentation from the Marcel Groleau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Marcel’s presentation highlighted many of the issues that NSFA has on radar, however, with a national focus. Marcel touched CFA’s activities for Public Trust, climate change, tax planning using private corporations, food policy for Canadians and the varying trade negotiations.

On the second day of the meeting, an update on the Department of Agriculture presented by Deputy Minister Frank Dunn followed the completion of the resolution and Standing Policy discussion. The



*Minister of Agriculture Honourable Keith Colwell addressing the 122<sup>nd</sup> AGM*

presentation highlighted the state of the industry and trends over the last number of years; government priorities including Safe & Connected Communities, Healthy Population & System, Quality Education and Inclusive Economic Growth; TPP 11, CETA and NAFTA trade agreements; and the valuable relationship between NSDA and NSFA.

On Friday afternoon, NSFA welcomed Brenda Schoepp as keynote speaker. Brenda presented a motivational, uplifting presentation highlighting farmers who work together so they, as well as their neighbours, can find their place in the industry. Brenda eloquently told stories of farm successes she came across during her travels including organic farms along side conventional farms, a farmer who value-added, a new entrant who didn’t come from a farming background, as well as others. Brenda emphasized that working together and being neighbourly is what the industry needs to ensure success.

In the grand scheme of things, the meeting was a success. Delegate registration and attendance was significantly higher than recent years with early counts indicating well over 200 farmers and guests in attendance. The majority of feedback has been positive and we look forward to making appropriate changes for the 2018 Annual Meeting!



*NSFA Past President Chris Van den Heuvel with Harrison Czupalay (Eastern Kings 4-H), winner of the Nova Scotia Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition. Harrison presented his speech, “Working in Agriculture is More than Just Farming,” at the NSFA AGM Banquet.*

# Advocacy Priorities

## Adopted at 2017 AGM

NSFA's AGM is where the advocacy priorities for the upcoming year are determined. These priorities are identified through Standing Policies and resolutions.

On Friday morning of the meeting, the policy discussion took place. There was much discussion on each of the Standing Policies with some changes and additions to the draft that was released prior to the meeting. Detailed information explaining the background of the policy can be found on the NSFA website.



*The following are the Standing Policy statements that NSFA membership has adopted at the AGM.*

### **AGRICULTURAL LAND**

It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to address land issues through a joint committee and collaborative effort. The Federation will advocate for a comprehensive land use strategy that will include an agricultural land bank, 0% taxation on land owned by a registered farm or land actively maintained as farmland by a registered farmer, access to Crown Land for agriculture use, and support for those who bring land into agriculture production. The Federation will also use the appropriate avenues to request at minimum that 5,000 acres of agriculture land be placed under easement within the five-year review of EGSPA.

### **LABOUR AND SKILLS TRAINING**

It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to work with the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency to implement an agriculture apprenticeship program. NSFA will study the training needs of the agriculture industry and will continue to offer Workplace Education courses and any applicable Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive training. NSFA will also continue its relationship with Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council as a member and participant in projects. NSFA also commits to working with appropriate organizations and governments to ensure successful programs for accessing foreign labour.

### **PROGRAMS**

It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to play a meaningful role in the implementation of programs in any policy framework for Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. NSFA will advocate for a long-term growth strategy, changes to successor programs and for policies and programs that address the specific needs of Nova Scotia's primary agricultural industry. The Federation recognizes the need for greater investment in the agricultural industry so that programs can play a meaningful role in farm development on a continual basis.

### **PUBLIC TRUST**

It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to advocate for a collaborative approach for Public Trust during the Canadian Agriculture Partnership negotiations and Public Trust Activities to be farmer driven. NSFA will also work with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture on regular benchmarking of public perceptions of agriculture.

### **REGULATORY BURDEN**

It shall be the policy of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to continue to monitor, participate and communicate changes to regulations at the provincial and federal levels that will impact agriculture. NSFA will also advocate for an increase in the lending limit for Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board, and for the NSCLIC Board to determine key reporting deadlines.

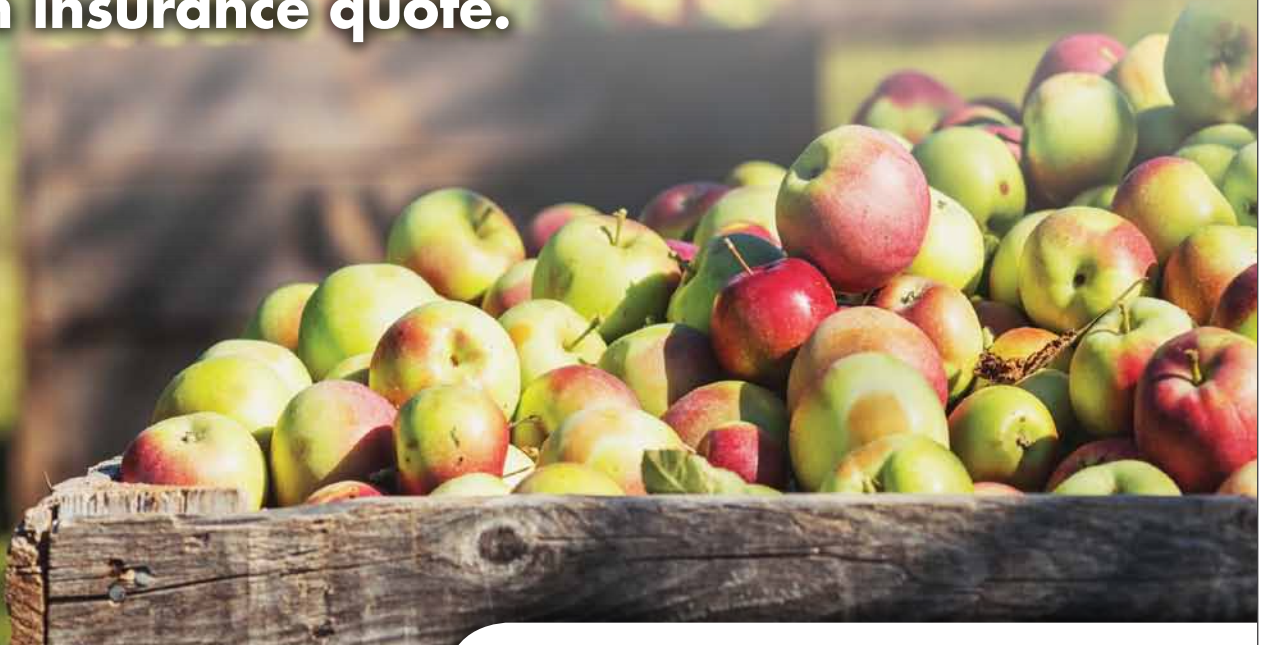
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**ENTER TO  
WIN!**

## **AN ALL-EXPENSES PAID TRIP FOR TWO to the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR 2018!\***

Get a free, no obligation farm insurance quote and you'll be entered to win an all-expenses paid trip for two to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2018, including flights, accommodation, fair tickets and spending money\*. This contest is exclusive to NSFA members only.

**To enter, contact Dustin for a no obligation  
farm insurance quote.**



**902.835.2261**  
**dustin.hickey@mcti.ca**  
**mcti.ca**



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\*Conditions and restrictions may apply to all offers. For full contest rules, visit <https://www.mcti.ca/contestrules/RAWF2018>. Offers may change without notice. No purchase necessary. Prize valued at approximately \$3,500. Contest closes July 31, 2018. Draw date is July 31, 2018. <sup>TM</sup>MCT & the MCT Design is a trademark of Macdonald Chisholm Trask Insurance, a BrokerLink<sup>TM</sup> company. © 2017 Macdonald Chisholm Trask Insurance and Canada Brokerlink Inc. All rights reserved. The BrokerLink companies are subsidiaries of Intact Financial Corporation.

## Advocacy Priorities

The following resolutions were passed at the 2017 NSFA AGM. Watch for updates and progress on these resolutions as well as consolidated resolutions throughout 2018.

### Funding to County Federations

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.

### Wild Blueberry Pricing

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

### Support to Cash Flow Program Funding

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.

### Premises Identification

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.

### Provincial Support for Spanish Support and Translation Services for Agricultural Workers

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.

### Review of Description of Farm Vehicle

Therefore be it resolved that, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia government to allow for an application process for non traditional farm vehicles to be registered as farm vehicles.

### Field Crop Specialists

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

### Sale of Forest Products

Therefore be it resolved that, the NSFA lobby the NSDNR to ensure that private land-owners have a fair chance to sell forest products to all buyers.

### Organic Certification Fees

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.

## Nuffield Scholars!

(l to r): former NSFA president and Nuffield Scholar Richard Melvin, Nuffield Scholar Candidates Josh Oulton and Ellen Crane, and NSFA Guest Speaker and Nuffield Scholar, Brenda Schoepp (far right).



# Upcoming Events

**DEC 13** **BIBLE HILL**  
NSFA Executive Meeting

**JAN 20** **SPRINGHILL**  
Maple Producers Association  
of Nova Scotia AGM

**JAN 22** **GREENWICH**  
Horticulture NS Annual  
Meeting

**JAN 22 & 23** **GREENWICH**  
Scotia Horticultural Congress

**JAN 24** **GREENWICH**  
NS Fruit Growers Association  
Annual Meeting

**JAN 25** **TRURO**  
Dairy Farmers of NS Annual  
Meeting

**FEB 13** **VARIOUS**  
Canada's Agriculture Day

**MAR 3** **TRURO**  
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers  
Annual Meeting

**MAR 7** **GREENWICH**  
Chicken Producers Association  
of NS Annual Meeting

**MAR 22 & 23** **HALIFAX**  
Dairy Focus

**APR 12** **BERWICK**  
Pork Nova Scotia Annual  
Meeting

*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.

## 2018 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

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Chris deWaal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	902-582-7756
Chris van den Heuvel	CFA Director	902-631-1884
Kimberly Stokdijk	Director at Large	902-895-4817
Amanda Eisses	Director at Large	902-662-3811
Sylvestre Dion	Director at Large	902-664-6781
Lauren Park	Director at Large	902-292-5160
Past President:	Chris van den Heuvel	902-631-1884

**STAFF:** Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Associate Director: Wanda Hamilton; Financial Services Coordinator: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Services Coordinator: Shelly MacKenzie; Communication & Research Coordinator: Maxine MacLean; Farm Safety Manager, Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, EFP Staff, Kathryn Bremner, Paul Brenton, Trevor Davison and Cory Roberts



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Facebook [@nsfafane](https://www.facebook.com/nsfafane)



Wishing our members a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to serving you in 2018.

Happy Holidays

Are you looking for more Mark's Work Warehouse Cards? Contact the NSFA Office.

