

News & Views

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Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Submits Recommendations to New Traffic Safety Act

The Nova Scotia Government is currently working on a new Traffic Safety Act which – once brought into legislature this fall – will replace the existing Motor Vehicle Act. The new act will govern and regulate the registration and identification of motor vehicles and the use of provincial highways and roads.

“We are grateful to be able to submit recommendations for the new safety act” said Amanda Eisses, chair of Nova Scotia

Federation of Agriculture’s Transportation Committee. “This gave us a chance to highlight some issues we would like to see addressed, such as adding self-propelled implement of husbandry and expanding the definition of farm tractor in the new revised act.”

Though the deadline has passed to provide feedback on the act, we expect an opportunity to provide feedback in the regulation development. Further information and feedback opportunities will be communicated to members.

The Traffic Safety Act provides the framework for safe travel on Nova Scotia roads – not only for the motoring public but also for those traveling as part of their business.

During the summer months, roads throughout the province are notoriously busy and as always there is an increase in slow moving vehicles on public roads. We urge you to keep in mind that everyone has a right to be on the road. We must respect the legislation as well as those traveling on the road to ensure we all arrive home safely at the end of the day.

“Traffic safety is everyone’s concern, we all have to share the road.”

- Victor Oulton, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



Viewpoint

Quite a spring! The weather has wrecked havoc on some crops with record frosts logged in some areas of the province later than we had experienced since the early 1900's. Damage assessments are still taking place but it is safe to say it will be extensive across Wild Blueberry, High Bush Blueberry, Apples, Strawberries, Grapes, Christmas Trees as well as Multi-crop farms. Some farms were able to frost protect with irrigation but many crops did not have this type of infrastructure since it is not normal to have extreme frosts this time of year. We continue to hear feedback from members regarding crop damage/loss due to frost and below freezing temperatures. Programs like Crop Insurance and AgriStability will work for some but certainly not all. A low price on crop insurance and an effort to reduce costs for Wild Blueberry producers was, I'm sure, a deterrent to participating in that program. Reduced enrollment in AgriStability is also an issue, the discussion last year in the BRM review was to change AgriStability to an "Auto Enroll" a program that is triggered during disaster; that didn't happen but they did make some modifications. More information on this is can be found on the AAFC CAP site: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/key-departmental-initiatives/canadian-agricultural-partnership/canadian-agricultural-partnership-business-risk-management-programs-effective-april-2018/?id=1500475317828>.

Some highlights include:

- A late participation mechanism has been added that provincial and territorial governments can trigger to allow producers to enter the program late in situations where there is a significant income decline and a gap in participation.
- The mechanism will only be triggered in response to significant events and benefits will be reduced by 20% for

producers who enrol late, to encourage regular annual enrollment by producers.

- This measure is intended to allow governments to ensure all producers can access AgriStability support when a significant decrease in revenue threatens the viability of the farm, should provinces and territories choose to trigger it.

If approved, this late participation mechanism might be something that helps some farmers depending on reference margin, whole farm nature of AgriStability and 20% reduction benefits.

I expect it will take some time to determine the full extent of the damage and costs since there is a need to continue to put inputs into the crops for future years in the case of a number of the commodities effected. This creates an added burden for farmers that will have the stress of making decisions on spending money on a crop that will be small or non-existent. If you are interested in providing feedback on the damage NSFA has set up a survey which can be found on the NSFA website homepage.

Trade also continues to be an important topic for farmers. For whatever reason, President Trump seems to be very focused on Dairy and supply management, forcing Canada to defend a system that has worked well since the 1970's. Last year there was a glimmer of hope that with TPP and CETA completed we would have some peace and consistency in trade agreements. That seems to be far in the past with the current uncertainty of NAFTA negotiations and a US trade war with its own allies including Canada, the EU and Japan and now opening a second front with China. We are already seeing the effects of this uncertainty in the value of the Canadian Dollar. Indications are that the Trump agenda of trade restrictions and tax incentives will force Canada and others to react and will cause lots of



Henry Vissers

Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

price, interest rate and currency volatility for some time as well as disruption in well-established trade routes.

Finally programs, I expect that by the time this is published NSDA "cost shared programs" will be once again available. After the initial launch on April 16 NSFA had some concerns about some of the caps and income thresholds on funding. NSFA expressed concern on programs eligibility and other criteria after which NSDA suspended programs until they were reviewed with NSFA. Following our discussions with NSDA we didn't get everything we wanted, however, were able to agree on some improvements. The NSDA site states: "In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on markets and trade; science, research and innovation; environmental sustainability and climate change; risk management; value-added agriculture and agri-food processing; and public trust". This combined \$37 million (split 60/40 fed/prov), the same amount as the last five year agreement, is, as I've said before, just not enough money spread over an increasing number of priorities.

Here's hoping for a safe and prosperous 2018 growing season.

Comments?

hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca

Accessing Antimicrobial Drugs

Farmers encouraged to establish veterinarian-client relationship now

Livestock farmers are going to be introduced to changes that will impact how medically important antimicrobial drugs are accessed. Changes have already been announced and will come into effect on December 1, 2018. The changes are being put in place to address the increasing antimicrobial resistance and to improve public trust in the livestock industry and antimicrobial use on farms.

The changes will come into effect on December 1st. To start with, all livestock producers will require a prescription from a licenced veterinarian before they can buy a medically important antibiotic. For example, feed with antibiotics will still be able to be purchased from feed mills so long as they are given a valid prescription. Antimicrobials will not be able to be purchased over the counter, nor will they be able to be purchased for on farm mix into feed.

How will farms be able to get a prescription for antimicrobials? Veterinarians are required to establish a vet-client-patient relationship (VCPR) before writing any prescription. The regulatory changes will add to the list of drugs for which veterinarians are able to write prescriptions. For farms with an already established VCPR (for example if your farm has regular veterinary visits), the change will be less significant than for those farms without a VCPR. While the VCPR definition is vague and being left up to the respective provincial veterinary associations to establish criteria, it is essentially that a veterinarian understands your operation, your management practices, your herd, and common health issues well enough to provide meaningful advice and oversight.

These changes will impact all farmers raising livestock. Not all antimicrobials are medically important – to find a list and more information on the antimicro-

bials, check out www.beefresearch.ca/amr. The site is beef focused; however, the general information can be applied across the livestock industry.

This article was written with information from the Beef Cattle Research Council.

Looking for a vet to start your vet-client-patient relationship?

Check out the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association at nsvma.ca/clinic-directory and search for large animal vets in your county.



Welcome to our newest
Corporate Member –
Morneau Shepell!

Morneau Shepell administers
our Health and Dental Pack-
age offered to NSFA Members
through our member benefits
package.

Tick Talk

Just a reminder as we continue into cropping season and more time is spent in the fields – check for ticks!

Found a tick? Here's how to remove it safely:

- Carefully grasp the tick with tweezers – the pointier, the better - as close to the skin as possible
- Gently and slowly pull the tick straight out of the skin. Do not jerk, twist or squeeze it
- Once the tick is removed, clean the area of the bite with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide to avoid other infections.
- Make a note of the date and where on the body the bite occurred. This will be important if you, or a loved one, begin to feel unwell.

Department of Health and Wellness has some great information to help you identify ticks and steps to take if you find one on you.

<https://novascotia.ca/ticksafety>

CFIA Releases Safe Food for Canadians Regulations

CFIA released the regulations for the Safe Food for Canadians Act in early June. This has been an important advocacy piece for the Federation since the Act received Royal Assent in 2012.

Upon early review of the regulations, NSFA is pleased to read that many farms with a gross farm income under \$100,000 will not be required to have a written preventive control plan (PCP). While the Federation does not dispute the need for traceability and assurance of safe food, the cost prohibitive written PCP would have potentially put farms, particularly those that sell direct to market across provincial borders, out of business if required to comply. During the consultative process, NSFA lobbied Health Canada, CFIA and AAFC

to raise the proposed \$30,000 threshold or create an exception for farms selling direct to market.

Farms not exempt from this exception include meat destined for export or interprovincial trade, prepared meat products, dairy products, fish, eggs, processed egg products, or processed fruits and vegetables, or if an export certificate is requested.

The regulations will be phased in and will come into effect on January 15, 2019. Further review of the regulations is underway and highlights will be communicated in the future.

The regulations and supporting resources can be found at inspection.gc.ca/safefood.



The Safe Food for Canadians Regulations have three parts:

Traceability

Preventive Control Plans

Licensing

Wondering if you need to comply with the SFCR? Check out the interactive tools at inspection.gc.ca

Young Farmers Event

We're firing up the grill!

NSYFF Summer Tour & BBQ

Saturday, July 21st
10am-4pm

10am - Snowy River Farm
12:30pm - BBQ @ Vermuland Farm
2:30pm Bokma Farm Ltd.
4pm - Wrapup

Registration - \$10
RSVP with Krista at
902.893.2293
or
nsyoungfarmers@gmail.com

Member Benefits Update!

Keeping your workers safe with the right workwear.

Show your **Mark's COMMERCIAL** CLIENT SAVINGS CARD at any Mark's store to receive **15% Savings Everyday** on regular priced items listed on the card.

NSFA MEMBERS

Look for your new **Mark's COMMERCIAL** CLIENT SAVINGS CARD in this issue.

15% CLIENT SAVINGS CARD

Present this card at any Mark's location to receive the above discount on all purchased items.

Need more than 4 cards?

Contact the NSFA office for questions about your discount card.

Card expires January 31, 2019

10th Annual Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award Open for Applications

The Environmental Farm Plan Team is once again looking for nominations and applications for our annual Stewardship Award. This award has been designed to recognize the outstanding environmental stewardship efforts of NS farms and to elevate public awareness of sustainable farming practices throughout NS. Farmers are providing Nova Scotia with quality food, diverse rural landscapes, wildlife habitat and productive, healthy soils for the generations to come – and we want to show our appreciation!

stream crossings on your farm? Do you use cover crops, crop rotation or have started using no-till? These are just some examples of how your farm may have made positive contributions. If you still have areas that need improving, that's alright. Identifying future stewardship goals is part of the application process.

The application process is not complicated. As in past years, farms can apply themselves or be nominated by an individual or group. Need some help

What's the Prize? The winner receives a \$2000 cash award and a painting of your farm by a local artist.
The deadline for applications is August 6th, 2018.

**Win
\$2000**



2018 EFP Stewardship Award Winner: Willow Pond Farm owned by Larry & Pat Ward. Painted by Darlene Watters. The Wards have strived to make many environmental improvements on their farm. The farm upgraded fuel and manure storages and collaborated with Ducks Unlimited to establish a large wetland.

So, take a look at what you've done on your farm, how has it benefited the environment, your farm and your neighbours? Have you upgraded your fuel storage, pesticide storage, or the

with the application? EFP staff would love to help! Please visit our website: nsfa-fane.ca/efp for more information and to get an application form or talk to an EFP coordinator at (902) 893-2293.

Environmental Stewardship Award Recipients

2017

Larry & Pat Ward
Willow Pond Farm

2016

Mullen Family
Hillsdale Fur Farm

2015

Vischers and Harbers Families
Winding River Farms

2014

Kevin & Susan Veinotte &
Family
Out to Pasture Farm

2013

Gilberte & Siegmar Doelle
Wild Rose Farm

2012

Ruth & Greta Mathewson
Upperbrook Farm

2011

Oulton Family
W.G. Oulton & Sons

2010

Dean and Catherine Manning
Manning Family Farm

2009

Andrew VanOostrum
VanOostrum Family Farm

Labour Code Standards in Nova Scotia

Do you have employees? Here are some pointers

Employees are essential in the success of many farms across Nova Scotia. We know that recruiting and retaining employees can be difficult and is an expensive endeavour. Understanding labour regulations and what you can do to easily comply will make for a smoother transition into the farm workplace.

Labour Code

The Labour Code exists to protect both the employer and the employee. The code outlines the minimum employment rules in Nova Scotia regarding areas such as minimum wage, overtime pay, hours of labour, records to keep and foreign worker employment. For your reference, an easy to read guide on the Labour Code can be found on the Department of Labour and Advanced Education's Website.

While many farm employees are exempt from aspects of the labour code, every farm has unique situations. For example, farms that employ foreign labour through SAWP or TFW are bound to the terms agreed upon in the contract signed with the federal government.

The Nova Scotia Labour Code Guidelines

can be found
by searching for
"labour standards code
guide"
at novascotia.ca/lae



Minimum Wage

One of the most detailed elements of the labour code is with regards to minimum wage. Minimum wage is often referred to as the minimum rate in which an employer can pay an employee, however, the code also details standards around overtime, partial hours, called into work at times other than scheduled working hours, waiting for work, piecework and deductions. The Labour Code guidelines indicate that certain farm employees are exempt from the minimum wage order, but do not elaborate further.

HR Policies

Regardless whether you have 2 employees or 200 employees, having sound HR policies for your farm is great start. While your farm policies cannot contravene what is written in the labour code, they can be written in such a way that is most beneficial for the operation of your farm. Policies can cover everything from when an employee can take breaks to scheduled hours of work to delay due to inclement weather.

Helpful resources exist for farmers

preparing policies. The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council has an Agri HR Toolkit which supports elements of employment such as recruitment, selection & hiring, performance appraisals, HR policy development, employee handbook and health & safety. Farmers can subscribe to the HR Toolkit and learn more about what's included with the resource by checking out hrtoolkit.cahrc-ccrha.ca.

Looking for some more information

in creating policies for employee safety?
Check out
templates available
at farmsafetyns.ca

A suggestion when you are developing HR Policies – think retention. The labour code is a minimum standard. What perks can you build into your policies that will reduce turnover and ensure a content workforce? Think outside the box.

Wild Turkey Woes

Over the years organizations have been lobbying for the release of Wild Turkeys into Nova Scotia's wilderness. Most recently, the Canadian Federation of Wild Turkeys held a conference in Truro, which sparked alarm of the nuisance bird's release here in Nova Scotia.

Through NSFA's issues management process, a position against the release of Wild Turkeys, and any non-native species, has been developed. NSFA President Victor Oulton submitted the following editorial in light of the meeting at Dal AC.

"The introduction of any non-native species to a new environment has to be carefully considered and well thought out. Since the release of the recent article "Truro group looks forward to turkeys running wild in the province", farmers and farm groups alike have expressed alarm at the unfounded, perceived benefits of the release of wild turkeys. Upon the

recent resurgence of general interest in introducing Wild Turkey's to Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has assessed and presented consequences of a human made introduction of wild turkeys to Nova Scotia.

The non-natural introduction of wild turkeys to Nova Scotia poses threat of disease in poultry flocks. Poultry farms have been required to implement strict biosecurity measures in recent years. Introducing similar species, especially unmanaged, to Nova Scotia will add to biosecurity risks in poultry farming. In addition to biosecurity, crop damage is a concern. Farms in Nova Scotia already experience crop losses from bear, deer and other wildlife. The introduction of another species will add to the already regular and extensive damage that wildlife poses on valuable agriculture crops.

All aspects of Nova Scotia agriculture will foreseeably be negatively impacted in

the event of introduction of wild turkeys to Nova Scotia. Wild turkeys are known to have little fear of humans. They have often become a nuisance in the locals where they were released. The impacts of the introduction of a non-native species can be immense, often irreversible and often undesirable.

Our Federation is supportive of hunting when carried out in an organized and responsible fashion. Our members do not view the issue of the introduction of wild turkeys as a conservation practice, but instead see it as the introduction of a non-native species which can cause more problems than benefits."

If you become aware of any discussion or political movement to release Wild Turkeys here in Nova Scotia, please contact NSFA so we can streamline messaging and processes to ensure that Wild Turkeys and other nuisance wildlife remain outside of Nova Scotia.

You're invited to

COMMUNITY DAY

Thursday, July 19

Dalhousie Agricultural Campus
10am to 2pm

dal.ca/communityday

f /dalagriculture @dalagriculture @dalaggies

 DALHOUSIE 1818
UNIVERSITY 2018
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



Upcoming Events

JULY 4 - 6 BIBLE HILL

Wool Handling & Evaluation

JULY 5, 6 & 7 BIBLE HILL

Sheep Classic

JULY 12 PARRSBORO

Maritime Wild Blueberry Field Day

JULY 12 BIBLE HILL

Faecal Egg Count Workshop Prt 1

JULY 17 AYLESFORD

Faecal Egg Count Workshop Prt 1

AUGUST 2 BIBLE HILL

Faecal Egg Count Workshop Prt II

AUGUST 7 AYLESFORD

Faecal Egg Count Workshop Prt II

AUGUST 8 NAPPAN

2018 Forage Field Day

SEPTEMBER 9 - 12 HALIFAX

Canadian Biosolids & Residuals Conference

SEPTEMBER 11 TRURO

NSFA Council of Leaders Meeting

SEPTEMBER 16 ACROSS NS

Open Farm Day

OCT 15 & 16 NIAGARA FALLS

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

NOV 16 & 17 TRURO

WBPANS Annual Meeting

NOV 29 & 30 TRURO

NSFA 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.

2018 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

Victor Oulton	President	902-798-4440
Tim Marsh	1 st Vice President	902-798-7924
Chris deWaal	2 nd 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

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.

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



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YOUR NEW 15% CLIENT SAVINGS CARD FROM MARK'S FOR NSFA MEMBERS

