

News & Views

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Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Summer Wrap-up

After a few action-packed months, it's now time to give you a run down on what happened this summer! Cynthia, our marketing summer student worked hard coordinating with county federations in order to send materials to the various exhibitions across the province. This years materials included Meet Your Farmer branded pens and sunglasses, along with other goodies from Farm Safety Nova Scotia and Farm Credit Canada – as well as the usual banners.



Minister of Agriculture, Keith Colwell and President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Victor Oulton were on hand Friday, August 24th for the opening ceremonies, as well as storytime with a farmer!

In addition to exhibitions, Cynthia's main project was Meet Your Farmer at the Mall. This year, NSFA took over coordination of the event from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA). Funded by Select Nova Scotia and NSDA, the event took place at Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth on August 24th and 25th from 10am-6pm both days. Hatfield Farms was on site to offer a petting zoo to mall visitors, FX 101.9 was broadcasting live from the mall – as well as promoting the event and Open Farm Day through ads and during the morning radio show.

Chef Andrew Farrell from Kitchen Door Catering was on site doing live demos of dishes

with locally sourced ingredients – delicious!

On those two days the mall saw over 37,000 people walk through their doors, needless to say Meet Your Farmer at the Mall saw quite a few faces! Visitors to the event were given a bingo card and asked to visit each booth and receive a stamp, once the card was filled they were able to fill out a ballot for a chance to win an iPad! There were other prizes as well! Federation staff ran two contests; Guess the weight of the goat and Guess the type of jam. If their answers were correct they were put into a draw for a chance to win a back to school prize – a backpack donated by Farm Credit Canada, a lunch bag, and a \$100 gift card to Mic Mac Mall donated by the mall. In addition to those fun contests, there were

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Viewpoint

As we roll into fall the federation is ramping up activity around meetings and consultations. As you will read in this addition of the newsletter Council of Leaders met in September and have reviewed the policy document for the next year. This has now been reviewed by executive and council, it's your turn to provide your feedback through an executive member, contacting the office or at the AGM on November 29th and 30th.

Discussion about environmental issues and weather have been dominating the news again this summer. The early June frost that damaged crops is still coming to account with the harvest complete or underway. The Federation was pleased with the decision by NSDA and AAFC in allowing late enrollment in Agri-Stability. Although it may have helped a few farms it's difficult to calculate how much, since it is a 20% penalty, required premiums and is still based on whole farm income and averages from previous years. We would be interested in hearing how you made out with the process if your farm participated in the program and how crop insurance worked out if you are enrolled.

It was another summer of variable weather conditions in NS and North America. Parts of NS had extreme dry conditions with the South Western part of the province again under drought conditions. It seems obvious that we can expect weather extremes in the future as well. Planning for this is the difficult part. Government policy around the issue has been evolving for the past 10 years. The Nova Scotia government's first large foray into the topic was more around power costs than the environment, with the large study a few years at the beginning of the NDP government that was called the Wheeler report. The discussion at that

time was around peak oil and the need to get off fossil fuels as much for cost as environment. The paradigm shift of fracked oil and gas has changed that discussion to more of an environmental issue than a peak oil issue at least for now.

The government policy that came from that was known as COMFIT, Community Feed in Tariff. The other large policy decision at the end of that government and the beginning of the current government was the Muskrat Falls hydro project and the decision to participate by agreeing to purchase power from the project and the undersea cable to Nova Scotia. The result of that project is still to be determined with NFLD bearing the cost overruns, and costs of the project projected to be over \$10 billion. Keep in mind, the population of Newfoundland and Labrador is around half a million and the loan is federally guaranteed.

We are now into another period of policy discussion and decision around environment issues. Current discussions include putting a price on carbon with the ultimate goal of reducing emissions to zero. This is wrapped around the Paris Accord which Canada and most other nations signed. Nova Scotia has a bit of a short-term advantage in that we have been reducing our emissions with the COMFIT projects, large wind projects, a couple farm-based digesters and Muskrat Falls, once it's hooked up and running. While we have our deal with the feds, other provinces are pushing back and the federal plan seems to be evolving. Carbon pricing, whether it be in the form of a tax or cap and trade, will impact farms and the long term move to a lower/zero carbon economy will affect all of us.



Henry Vissers

Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

At the same time the discussion is increasing around single use plastic, again a large issue with many moving parts! I'm sure you can think of a few effects for farms...

All this to say how important it is that we stay involved in these policy discussions and make sure we understand them, have a well-articulated position and are prepared to defend ourselves in the larger debate.

Comments?

hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca

Policy Drafts

Our draft policies have been passed by Council of Leaders for review by membership. You will find our draft paper in this News and Views as well as on the new and improved NSFA website!

Policy topics this year include:

- Agricultural Land
- Labour Gap
- Regulatory Burden
- Climate Change
- Transportation

Members will have an opportunity to provide feedback at our AGM, or feel free to send your comments to the NSFA office ahead of time. These policies will also be presented at the upcoming County and Regional Federation AGMs this fall.

Animal Welfare at the Legislature

The Legislature opened earlier than usual this year and did it ever get a move on!

To kick off the session, the revised Animal Protection Act was rushed through first and second reading on September 13th and 14th respectively before moving on to the Law Amendments Committee following the weekend. While media coverage focused primarily on SPCA and companion animals, NSFA presented to the committee on the issues as applicable to agriculture. One positive aspect of the new legislation was the use of Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals as a standard.

THE VAGUE DEFINITION OF COMPANION ANIMAL VS FARM ANIMAL

Bill 27 had a vague definitions and conflicting definitions for farm animal and companion animals. The line between companion animal and livestock animal is blurred and jurisdiction will cross between SPCA and Department of Environment Inspection Division. This undefined jurisdiction causes more red tape in an era where governments are working towards reducing red tape.

- Recommendation: All animals owned by registered farm or owner of registered farm be assumed under farm animal sections rather than companion animal. This does not exclude farm animals raised by non-registered farms or homesteaders from being included under the farm animal definition, it just merely streamlines another layer of inspection for registered farms.

NON-SPECIALIZED INSPECTORS AND INSPECTION PROCESS

Since 2016 when the change of inspection moved from Department of Agriculture to Department of Environment's Inspection Division, farmers have been faced with numerous inspection difficulties including but not limited to inspec-

tors not understanding industry norms for animal welfare practices.

Section 21 gives an inspector the authority to cross lands while carrying out duties under the act. While one can appreciate helping an animal in distress, in the instance of farms, biosecurity has the potential to be a concern when inspectors cross one property to access another or entering buildings, in particular mink ranches and poultry operations. Respect and consideration for biosecurity protocols required on farms to ensure the health of animals are necessary.

- Recommendation: To have specific inspectors dedicated to the livestock animal welfare file which will ensure an understanding of the livestock industry in Nova Scotia. This understanding extends to animal welfare practices as well as property access and proper biosecurity practices.
- Recommendation: An Agriculture Resource Coordinator under NSDA to accompany an Inspector designated under the Animal Protection Act when going on farm.

While the above recommendations are with direct respect to agriculture, there were other elements that were alarming across the board to all animal owners. In particular, the act gave unprecedented authority to any inspector under the act to inspect any premise, except for a "private dwelling" (or home), without a complaint being launched. These elements were highlighted by both farm animal owners as well as companion animal owners.

The Law Amendments Committee recognized that changes need to be made. As the Bill progresses through readings, NSFA will be sure to keep members updated through the enews.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions Openings

The fall in-take of applications for the Nova Scotia Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABC) open in October. If you are interested in participating in one of these organizations and would like assistance with your application, please don't hesitate to contact Wanda or Henry at the NSFA office at (902) 893-2293.

Below are the committees with upcoming vacancies in the Department of Agriculture.

- Animal Cruelty Appeal Board (5 vacancies)
- Agricultural Marshland Conservation Commission (2 vacancies)
- Farm Practices Board (3 vacancies)
- Farm Registration Appeal Committee (1 vacancy)
- Crop and Livestock Insurance Arbitration Board, Nova Scotia (2 vacancies)
- Farm Loan Board (1 vacancy)
- Natural Products Marketing Council (1 vacancy)

Are you interested in sitting on an ABC outside of agriculture? More information on all ABCs, their vacancies and application processes can be found at www.novascotia.ca/exec_council/abc



What do you want your member organization to do for you?

A strategic planning exercise for the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is underway that will set priorities for future efforts of the organization.

Yvonne Thyssen-Post, P.Ag. of Thyagrissen Consulting Limited has facilitated sessions and interviews with NSFA Council of Leaders, Executive Committee, Commodity Association Managers, Associate and Corporate Members as well as other provincial federations.

It is time to hear from membership!

What are the issues/challenges facing the agricultural industry in NS? Are there political challenges? What about economic or social stresses? Or perhaps it is technology that is causing issues for our industry. By identifying these issues and bringing them to the forefront, together we can identify what the role of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is in assisting industry to deal with these challenges and in turn better serve its' members.

As an NSFA Member, this is your organization. It is hoped that you will support the strategic planning exercise and agree to participate and openly share your thoughts. What is learned through the consultation process will become the foundation of the strategic plan so please participate in one of the following focus group sessions:

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Central	October 17, 2018	10 am - 12 pm	NSFA Boardroom, 60 Research Drive, Bible Hill
Eastern/Cape Breton	October 18, 2018	10 am - 12 pm	Port Hawkesbury Civic Center, 606 Reeves St., Port Hawkesbury
South Shore	October 24, 2018	2 pm - 4 pm	Lunenburg Lifestyle Center, 125 N Port St., Bridgewater
Valley	October 25, 2018	10 am - 12 pm	Louis Millet Center, 9489 Commercial Street, New Minas

Please RSVP with your name and location of choice for participation by contacting Shelly MacKenzie, NSFA Office (902) 893-2293 or smackenzie@nsfa-fane.ca.

Independent Review of Forest Practices Released

FORESTRY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS EXPECTED TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON FARMS

An Independent Review of Forest Practices in Nova Scotia, also coined "Lahey Report", was released in August 2018. The report, commissioned by President

and Vice-Chancellor of University of King's College William Lahey, provides recommendations on forest practices with considerations for the unique land ownership makeup here in Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia's forests are managed at a ratio of 70% private landowners to 30%

Crown, while the reverse is the norm in most other provinces across Canada. Farmers own a substantial amount of the privately-owned forest in Nova Scotia. In some cases, the forest land is cultivated for Christmas Trees or tapped for maple syrup, while on other farms, forest land may be used as a source of fire wood,

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Summer Wrap-up

also demos that ran throughout the day, including butter making and a wetlands demonstration!

All of this lead up to Open Farm Day on September 16th, when 36 farms across the province opened their gates and welcomed thousands of Nova Scotians onto their operations to learn more about the agricultural industry in Nova Scotia. Funded by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Canada – the day was a success! This year's advertising efforts included print ads in 10 community newspapers across the province, digital ads on the Chronicle



Freggie dropped by to pay a visit to participants in Meet Your Farmer at the Mall!



Shown above are visitors to a few of the many NS Farms who participated in Open Farm Day 2018

Herald website, Facebook and Instagram ads, an Atlantic ad in Saltscapes magazine, as well as free promotion on social media from the Meet Your Farmer Facebook page. New this year were the #FarmerFriday profiles, which offered the public a chance to get to know the participating farms a bit better before they visited them on Open Farm Day.

We would like to thank each and every farm who participated in Open Farm Day this year, all of your hard work is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the 11 commodities and organizations who participated in Meet Your Farmer at the Mall:

- Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture/ Select Nova Scotia
- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Fruit Grower Association of Nova Scotia
- Horticulture Nova Scotia
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Farm Safety Nova Scotia
- 4-H Nova Scotia
- Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Christmas Tree Producers of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association

Thank you for all the goodies, fun, and excitement you brought along with you! We look forward to seeing you next year.

A big thank you to the farms opening their gates on Open Farm Day 2018

Kleiner Farms
Watershed Farm
LaHave River Berry Farm Inc.
Terra Beata Farms
Lunenburg County Winery
Maplewood Maple Syrup & Christmas Tree Farm
Meister Field & Forest Ltd.
Dempsey Corner Orchards
Eden Valley Poultry
Blueberry Acres & Country Magic Produce
Taproot Farms
Wood'n'Hive Honey
Elderkin's Farm Market
Grand Pre Wines
Baldwin's Nurseries
Meander River Farm
Four Seasons Farm
Cochrane Family Farm
Sugar Moon Farm
Vista Bella Farm
Wsymykal Farm
Nicnat Farm
Lismore Sheep Farm
Seafoam Lavender Farm
Marshdale Farms
West River Holsteins
Simply Ducky Farm
Mamie's Alpacas
Lake Mabou Farms Ltd.
Gunedn Place
Thyme for Ewe Farm
Stokdijk Greenhouses Ltd.
Sullivans Family Farm
Bayview Dairy Farm
Hampton Farms
Moorbern Farm

HELPING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Save Energy

Nova Scotia's agriculture industry is an important part of our provincial economy. It's also a sector that uses a significant amount of energy. Investing in energy efficiency to help lower operating costs makes good financial sense for farmers across Nova Scotia. However participation in energy efficiency programs are low compared to other industries of similar size. In addition to a lack of program awareness, many find it difficult to navigate, enroll, and participate in these programs. An industry specific, single point of contact is key to help, promote, and encourage farmers to think about energy efficiency, while providing technical advice and support to navigate and participate in incentive programs.

Efficiency Nova Scotia, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, appointed Kraig Porter as the On-site Energy Manager (OEM) for the agriculture industry to help encourage Nova Scotian farmers to save energy, lower operating costs, and enjoy the good things efficiency can bring to their farm and livelihood. As the On-site Energy Manager, Kraig can help:

- Identify energy efficiency opportunities
- Perform energy saving analysis on equipment throughout the farm
- Provide technical support related to energy efficiency systems and equipment
- Serve as the single point of contact to facilitate and support farmer decision making
- Navigate Efficiency Nova Scotia programs and services, and address farmer questions or concerns
- Complete measurement and verification of installed measures and ensure that energy savings are quantified.

ACTIVITIES

Kraig has been in contact with over 80 farmers (approximately 3.11% of the registered farms in the province), 68 industry contacts, has and has attended 10 industry events, general meetings and trade shows. Across the province, farmers are learning how they can save energy, lower operating costs and realize the non-energy benefits of energy efficiency.

As a result, 52 farms have completed on-site farm energy assessments, many have enrolled in Efficiency Nova Scotia programs, with 13 farms having already completed energy saving upgrades to their farm. These upgrades are saving them a combined total of 697,877 kWh or \$93,430 annually. With help from Efficiency Nova Scotia, their project cost was reduced by 36 per cent

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Kraig is also working on several additional activities to further assist the agriculture industry related to energy usage, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. These activities include:

1. **Farm Smart Solutions and Micro Grid Feasibility Study:** This study will look at the challenges and opportunities related to converting single phase facilities to 3-phase (via grid expansion or phase converters), energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and micro-grids for farms in Nova Scotia.
2. **Agricultural Produce Cold Storage Optimization Study:** This study will look at the energy efficiency and optimization opportunities related to produce cold storage in agricultural facilities and inform Efficiency Nova Scotia for the development of future programming.
3. **New Rebate Research:** This research will identify opportunities and gaps in Efficiency Nova Scotia rebates

and incentives. This research is based on opportunities identified by the OEM and rebates in other jurisdictions across Canada and the United States.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in booking a free on-site energy assessment or to chat about how you can save energy on your farm, you can contact Kraig Porter, On-site Energy Manager at (902) 470-3590, (902) 872-1191 or by email at kporter@efficiencyns.ca or agriculture@efficiencyns.ca



Farm Credit Canada
Advancing the business of agriculture

Save the date

Get ready for Ignite, an exciting new event from FCC designed exclusively for Canada's young farmers.

Moncton, NB
Saturday, March 9, 2019
10 am - 3:30 pm (reception to follow)

Where ideas fuel action

Ignite is the next-level event for anyone under 40 who is involved in agriculture, agribusiness or agri-food. You'll hear from outstanding speakers who will inspire, inform and spark new ways of thinking, plus meet and make connections with entrepreneurs like you who are ready to take on all challenges.

Event highlights

- Engaging keynote speakers
- Exceptional networking opportunities
- Insights from top industry advocates

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up for your free tickets at www.fcc-fac.ca



Annual Meeting 2018

**NOVEMBER 29 AND 30
BEST WESTERN GLENGARRY, TRURO**



Keynote Speaker – Andrew Campbell

The world is more connected than ever before. But with that connection, comes a barrage of information that is hard to sort through from fact & fiction. Join Andrew as he teaches us how to Stand Up For Your Industry!

Andrew Campbell is a farmer, with a passion for agriculture advocacy, social media and new technology. With the farm, known as Bellson Farms, he and his family milk cows and grow corn, soybeans, wheat and hay in Southern Ontario's Middlesex County. With all kinds of information available about modern farms, and not all of it being true, Andrew is keen to make sure people get the full story on what farmers do on a daily basis, why they do it and what they care about. He's been featured on CBC, CTV, and other media outlets across Canada for his work in opening up his farm and the entire industry on social media as the FreshAirFarmer.

Agenda Highlights

Attending the AGM will allow you to have your say on key industry issues and network with farmers and others in the industry.



Industry Issues

Members will have a chance to provide input on policy and industry issues



Banquet

Hear from 4H speaker and recognize EFP award winner



Trade Show

Connect with Corporate Members & Benefits Partners

MEETING INFO
WWW.NSFA-FANE.CA

Contact Us:

60 Research Drive, Bible Hill
Ph : 902.893.2293
Email: info@nsfa-fane.ca

Upcoming Events

OCT 15 & 16 NIAGARA FALLS

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

OCT 28 TRUMANVILLE

Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 5 - 16 ACROSS NS

Obsolete Pesticide Collection

NOVEMBER 5 ANTIGONISH

proAction Education Session and Fall Regional Meeting

NOVEMBER 6 TRURO

proAction Education Session and Fall Regional Meeting

NOVEMBER 7 SHUBENACADIE

proAction Education Session and Fall Regional Meeting

NOVEMBER 8 ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 9 WOLFVILLE

proAction Education Session and Fall Regional Meeting

NOV 16 & 17 TRURO

WBPANS Annual Meeting

NOV 29 & 30 TRURO

NSFA Annual Meeting

NOV 30 TRURO

FSNS 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, Paul Brenton, Trevor Davison, Jay Woodworth and Cory Roberts



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Review of Forest Practices

buffer zone or to support biodiversity on the farm. In a survey conducted of NSFA members in 2015, we learned that 84% of members have at least some woodland on their farm with 59% of those implementing both preservation and production practices.

The review document suggested that Nova Scotia's forests should be managed through "ecological forestry" practices. According to Lahey, the outcome should be an enhanced ecosystem (including water, soil and wildlife habitat) while incorporating a balance of environment, social and economic objectives. The report goes on to say that forestry practices should be decided based on the individual tree stand – this would likely mean legislated forestry management plan for Crown Land which will then lead to increase demand for wood from private land with a traceability element for large commercial operations.

While forestry isn't a policy area of NSFA, we recognize that many of our members are also private woodlot owners. Upon review of the report, there doesn't seem to be any recommendations that would significantly impact the ways in which farmers presently manage (or don't manage) their forested land. In saying that, the report identifies that forest management is advantageous, and if done with a purpose, can provide a combination of benefits including financial and biological.

NSFA will be monitoring any legislative outcomes that may arise from the report. More information on the report can be found on the Department of Lands and Forestry (formerly Department of Natural Resources) site at www.novascotia.ca/natr.