

News & Views

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Finalists Announced for the 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award

This year we are thrilled to announce the top three finalists for the Environmental Farm Plan's 2018 Stewardship Award! This award recognizes the dedication and commitment that Nova Scotia farmers have for protecting our environment, and was established to highlight producers who make soil, water and habitat stewardship a significant part of their farm operations.

We would like to thank our three wonderful judges who accompanied two of our staff on the judging tour – Peter Burgess, Brian McCulloch, and Julia Reekie.

Our top three award finalists this year are, Bidalosy Farms Limited, D & M Lightfoot Farms/ Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards, and Stacy & Andrea Keddy!

BIDALOSY FARMS LTD.

Bidalosy Farms Ltd. of Old Barns, is owned and operated by Andrew McCurdy, his wife Maria and their family, along with Andrew's parents Bill and Sybil. Currently milking 130 Holsteins, this dairy farm grows 85-90% of its feed requirements – only purchasing what can't be grown. With 640 acres of cropland and 130 acres of woodland, the McCurdy's crops include corn, barley, soybeans, plus improved and natural forages. The farm is currently in the process of building a new barn, and will also be switching from a liquid to a

solid manure system, with the dairy cattle on a bedding pack.

Andrew is a certified Nutrient Management Planner and because of his training he knows the best practices and as a result – he takes the lead on maintaining regular soil and manure testing. In 1992 the farm began no-tilling, from this they have learned many lessons about agronomy and soil stewardship along the way while continually improving their soil.



The family have always welcomed farm tours of any kind, as they provide an opportunity to continually educate an audience. More recently the family have become more active on social media, sharing stories and promoting good environmental stewardship practices!

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@NSFAFANE

2018 Environmental Stewardship Award

“We have been fortunate in being able to develop our business by adopting best practices and new technologies,” Andrew added. “We believe respect for the environment provides yields for our farm and for our entire community.”

STACY & ANDREA KEDDY



Stacy and his wife Andrea, own and operate their family farming operation in New Ross where they farm beef, lamb and hay. In the off season they also produce logs, stud wood, pulpwood, firewood, and a few Christmas trees, wreaths and brush. In the 1860’s, Stacy’s great-great grandfather purchased the land and began to clear it of trees and stones. Now, the farm sits on 68 acres with 20 acres being cleared farm land. In addition to this they also lease 40 acres from nearby farms.

The family conducts routine water quality testing, maintains riparian zones between agricultural land and watercourses. Since their first environmental farm plan, they have made major upgrades to their manure storage, what was once ground storage – is now concrete slabs. The forage and pasture production on the farm helps maintain good soil coverage, soil organic matter and soil health.

To say that Andrea and Stacy are involved in their local farming community would be an understatement, Andrea and Stacy have been 4-H leaders for 20 and 25 years respectively – hosting many meetings at the family farm as well as allowing 4-H members to use their sheep for projects. This past spring while their municipality was upgrading their rezoning laws, Stacy attended public meetings to educate them on good environmental stewardship.

“Our farm is always open to anyone to come and enjoy a tour. We love showing the public our farm, because we are proud of what we have accomplished.”

D & M LIGHTFOOT FARMS / LIGHTFOOT & WOLFFVILLE VINEYARDS

Michael and Jocelyn Lightfoot are the owners and stewards of 300 acres of land in the beautiful Annapolis Valley. With 37 acres of land utilized as vineyards, 14 acres in Wolfville and the remaining 23 in Avonport. 50 acres of land is used for pasture and hay, as well as designated wild/natural areas. The remaining 200 acres are woodland that go untouched and are promoted as a natural mixed Acadian forest. In addition to the vineyard, the Lightfoot’s also own and operate a supply managed poultry farm with 850,000 kg per annum broiler production and 10,500 breeder units per annum!

Michael is a seventh-generation farmer, who grew up learning about farming from his grandmother, whose methods nowadays would be considered

“natural” farming. Later in life Michael discovered Biodynamic farming, which reminded him of the ways his grandmother taught him and provided him with a framework to help transition the farm back to a form of more sustainable agriculture.

They utilize the manure waste from their heritage breed animals as the basis to their extensive compost program. With this, they create their own compost teas which are used as the vineyards source of soil fertility, enhancing microbial activity and thus increasing the capacity of the soil to absorb and retain water.

The Lightfoot’s work hard to demonstrate environmental stewardship with the farm community and the public – through mentorship, sharing of knowledge, and speaking on panels about the importance of sustainable agriculture.



“It would be an honour to be recognized for our family’s efforts to be environmentally conscious stewards of this land.”

The 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award will be presented at the NSFA AGM Banquet on November 29th! Full profiles for the finalists can be found on the EFP website.

Interested in serving your agriculture community?

NSFA to accept applications for committee vacancies

NSFA is unveiling a new process that will make way for the broader membership to participate in many NSFA committees. Issues like agricultural land protection, transportation and roadway maintenance, labour gap, skills training and more are all steered by committee work. Members with an interest in participating on a committee will now be able to submit a short application to indicate which committee(s) they would like to sit on. The application is not intended to be onerous and will provide fair grounds for NSFA to fill vacancies on committees. Members and eligible family members will be able to apply online and vacancies will be posted when the nominating committee issues a call for applications.

Up until present time, NSFA committees were populated (with exception of external appointments) through the

Executive Committee and Council of Leaders. The organization has heard from members that this should be changed to allow for broader membership participation. The change is also in line with our attempts to better engage Nova Scotia's farmers.

At the April 2018 Council of Leaders meeting, an action was passed regarding the committee membership policy. Developing an application process for committee membership was one of the asks highlighted by the Nominating Committee. In addition to this, it was requested that there be a one-time addition of one (1) member at large to all standing/special committees to provide opportunity to accommodate existing interest. Lastly, any current Council of Leaders committee designations, crop, livestock or other farmer positions are now identified as "Mem-

ber at Large" representation on the Terms of Reference.

As NSFA continues to be the one voice for Nova Scotia Farmers, we will strive for an engaged membership as we work together to move the industry forward.

Are you interested in becoming more involved with NSFA? Have you always wanted to join one of the committees? This is your chance! We are currently in the process of adding one additional member at large to each of our committees. Being a member at large gives you the opportunity to provide leadership as well as expertise on subject matter related to your responsibilities and experience! Details about each committee, as well as the online application form can be found on the NSFA website under the "Members" section of the menu.



Andrew Campbell - The Fresh Air Farmer

"Stand Up For Your Industry!"

Join Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture as they welcome keynote speaker, Andrew Campbell.

1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Best Western Glengarry

DR. ANDRIA JONES-BITTON

THE HUMAN SIDE OF FARMING: MENTAL HEALTH IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE

Join Farm Safety Nova Scotia for a special presentation in collaboration with Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

10:30am, Friday, November 30
Best Western Glengarry



Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 8 ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 8 WOLFVILLE

HNS Harvest End Breakfast

NOVEMBER 9 WOLFVILLE

proAction Education Session and Fall Regional Meeting

NOVEMBER 10 TRURO

SPANS Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 15 PORT WILLIAMS

Kings County Federation Annual Meeting

NOV 16 & 17 TRURO

WPANS Annual Meeting

NOV 26-28 CHARLOTTETOWN

ACORN Conference

NOV 29 & 30 TRURO

NSFA Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 29 TRURO

Agri-Futures 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.

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:

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

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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Mark your calendar!

NSFA AGM is coming up on November 29th and 30th at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro.

In this News and Views, you will find an agenda and registration form. Can't attend but want to send someone in your place? Contact the NSFA office for a farm designate registration form!

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. The agenda included in this newsletter will include the following:



Industry Issues

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



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:

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