

# News & Views

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@NSFAFANE

## Open House Recap

It was a beautiful day to celebrate our new home! We truly appreciate everyone taking the time to visit with us – we hope you enjoyed yourself as much as we did! A great afternoon with delicious food and good company - it's always great to connect and catch up with our members, industry stakeholders and community supporters.

After decades of renting space, it's great to be able to put down roots and allow ourselves to flourish in a place that we can call home. We purchased 7 Atlantic Central Drive on November 29, 2019 – during our Annual General Meeting. Four months later we were packing our boxes, loading the trucks and saying goodbye to 60 Research Drive. To say this entire process has been a whirlwind would be an understatement.

At our new location – along with Farm Safety Nova Scotia and Environmental Farm Plan – you will also find Agri-Futures Nova Scotia and Agri-Commodity Management Association!



After welcoming visitors, NSFA President, Victor Oulton, cut the “ribbon” symbolically opening our new building.

But that’s not all! Not only were we celebrating our new building – we had a surprise up our sleeves – a new look for Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture!

Victor also introduced NSFA's new logo to the crowd! (To learn more about our new logo and branding, head over to page 3)



We would like to thank everyone who took the time out of their day to celebrate with us! Thank you to Sizzlers BBQ for catering our event and providing a delicious, locally sourced meal! Thank you to Millen Farms who donated the delicious strawberries!

We would also like to thank our staff for the hard work they put into planning and getting ready for the Open House.

See you all in November for our Annual Meeting!

# Viewpoint

It's a plastic world.

If you take a minute to think about our dependence on this product, you will realize plastic is in everything. From plumbing to electrical to our vehicles to technology – plastic and by extension oil and its derivative products, are everywhere.

They have long since overcome other natural products, such as wood, stone, horn and bone, leather, metal, glass, and ceramic. These were products that were more expensive and less available to the average consumer.

In our economy about a third of plastic is used in packaging and roughly the same amount in buildings and applications such as piping, plumbing or vinyl siding. Other uses include automobiles (up to 20% plastic) furniture, and toys.

Recently, the focus has been on single use plastics, most plastics are durable and degrade very slowly, as their chemical structure renders them resistant to many natural processes of degradation. There are differing estimates of how much plastic waste has been produced in the last century. A recent poll has shown that 90 percent of Canadians are deeply concerned about the effect of plastic on the environment. By one estimate, one billion tons of plastic waste have been discarded since the 1950s. Others estimate a cumulative human production of 8.3 billion tons of plastic of which 6.3 billion tons is waste, with a recycling rate of only 9%, much of this material may persist for centuries or longer.

Shopping bags and plastic straws along with fishing gear rope and netting have been the main focus

of the recent debate on plastic. Which saw PEI banning plastic shopping bags and Sobeys recent announcement that they will be eliminating plastic bags from their stores in 2020. Food industry groups are all looking for ways to reduce the use of single use plastics with the goal of a shift to zero plastic waste. With a focus on doing this with sustainable packaging that keeps waste out of the environment while maintaining food safety and affordability.

Most agree that national solutions are the way to address this issue because of the complexity of the issues. Think about the products that are involved, the tray pack of meat with the plastic wrap, the product that is sealed in plastic to preserve its quality. As an industry agriculture needs to get out in front of the issue, we need to ensure that any decisions made are based on sound science and allows the opportunity to identify system wide changes so the implementation can be controlled. Food and Consumer Products Canada have said that their targets are to make all packaging 100 percent reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025. Six years seems like a pretty short timeline.

Cleanfarms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization who have been working with the farm community for the past 30 years to recycle containers such as pesticide containers, tote bags, etc. NSFA has also partnered with them along with Divert NS to study the recycling of ag plastic such as silage wrap and row cover. The difficulty in recycling these products is proximity to a central recovery site and the quality of the recycled product. It was obvious from our work in this area that we need to do better in the recycling of the



**Henry Vissers**

*Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture*

products while recognizing that these products serve an important purpose in preserving produce, product and control in the production environment (row cover).

This topic isn't going away and it's another issue that we must address with a policy position and solutions that meet the needs of our farmers. Natural products like hemp will become more prevalent, we must get better at recycling and reusing. There is a role for the federal and provincial governments to play a supporting role in helping us to determine these standards as well as supporting efforts to move towards the goal of reduced single use plastics.

Comments?

[hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca)

# NSFA re-brand

The agriculture industry has grown over the years and as the general farm organization it is important that our brand aligns with those we represent.

## So why brand?

Branding has an overall impact on our organization, the logo is the most important part of branding. A logo is how organizations get recognized and becomes known within the industry.

If you take a minute to think about your favourite drink, what are you picturing? Odds are, the logo for that drink has appeared in your thoughts. It's that kind of recognition that organizations strive for with their branding.

Not only does branding look nice, it also provides a consistent look across all platforms and all aspects of the organization. From NSFA to Farm Safety to Environmental Farm Plan – each will have their own look but a



NOVA SCOTIA  
**NSFA**  
FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

similar design to each other, working in harmony.

## What does our logo mean?

The graphic element of our logo is a circle, which represents the unity and synergy of the organization. The lines drawn within the circle represents the network of members and connections our organization makes.

The colours were carefully chose to represent our diversity; different shades of green are used to represent a variety of crops. Brown, blue and yellow representing soil, water and sun – all of which are essential to the success of our farms.

Our name is represented by two colours: blue and green. Blue highlights our Nova Scotia pride and gives recognition at the national level while the green represents our agricultural roots.

## What's next?

Over the next couple of months you will see us transition to our new brand – website, newsletters and communications will all receive the fresh look. We hope you are as excited as we are about this new look as we continue to enhance our organization to work in the best interest of our members.

# Executive Summer Meeting

The NSFA Executive Committee held their annual summer meeting in Truro on August 6 and 7. With our yearend of August 31, the Executive Committee commits two days in the summer months to review the materials presented to membership at the Annual Meeting and to get ready for the year ahead.

As you all know, the past couple of years have been busy and challenging – full of new opportunities. Our strategic plan was finalized in April 2019 so the exciting part about this meeting was that we finally had the

opportunity to put the strategy into motion. The Executive reviewed and discussed the work plans and budgets for the upcoming year to address our strategic priorities:

- Connect and engage with members
- Effectively influence government to affect change
- To improve operational and governance structure

The Executive was presented with a number of strategies and tactics for implementation: government relations, member relations, communications and media. The bylaw revisions

completed by the Bylaw Committee were also reviewed and will be presented at Septembers Council of Leaders meeting for further review. We are on track with our strategic direction!

In addition to the work related directly to the new strategic plan, the Executive also reviewed policy progress, draft standing policies for the upcoming year and work plans for each program delivered.

It was a very productive meeting and we are excited for the year ahead!

# Policy Corner

## LABOUR

### *Temporary Foreign Worker Notice – Occupation Specific Work Permit*

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada and Economic and Social Development Canada released a notice in the Canada Gazette Part 1 indicating that the departments are exploring Occupation Specific Work Permits for foreign workers in the TFW Program. NSFA provided a submission endorsing a submission made by CFA with recommendations from their TFW/SAWP Working Group. A major concern identified in the submission was potential higher turnover and associated training costs. The longer employer-employee contracts of the TFW Program allow farmers to indirectly recoup the transportation and training costs with less turnover.

### *Labour Standards*

Members of the Labour Committee and staff met with representatives from the Labour Standards Division of LAE. The meeting was to review findings in a recent tribunal as it pertained to partial hours and other elements of the Minimum Wage Order and the Labour Standards Code. The Code and the



Minimum Wage Order are two pieces of legislation that NSFA will be reviewing to determine position and lobby efforts going forward. The committee recommended that NSFA reach out to Minister of Labour and Advanced Education, Hon. Labi Kousoulis to demonstrate the complete impact of elements of the Minimum Wage Order and the Labour Standards Code to the Agriculture Industry and emphasize the importance of many of the exemptions for the industry.

## INDUSTRY ISSUES

### *Wild Turkey*



Members of the NSFA Executive and staff met with groups interested in bring wild turkeys into Nova Scotia. As has been expressed over the years, NSFA's position is firmly against the release of Wild Turkeys in Nova Scotia. Hunting Wild Turkeys is a sport in many provinces and regions with Wild Turkey populations. NSFA's counterparts in these jurisdictions have advocated strongly for increased hunting of wild turkey, interpretively in hopes of reducing the Wild Turkey population and thus reducing the consequences imposed on agriculture. Some of the consequences identified include damage to crops, particularly in Wild Blueberries, grains, apples and other fruit, and possible disease transfer to poultry livestock.

A report conducted by the DNR

indicated that there was minimal impact to the natural environment, however, the potential, or perceived threat to the agriculture industry was enough to evoke the precautionary principle upon a proposal to introduce wild turkeys in Nova Scotia.

NSFA has issued a letter to Minister Colwell highlighting NSFA's position and requesting that Minister Colwell continue to uphold NSFA's position on the introduction of Wild Turkeys.

## REGULATORY ALIGNMENT

### *Biodiversity Act*

During the Spring Legislature, the government introduced a Bill intended to "create a platform for regulations to manage threats to rare ecosystems and better protects wildlife against invasive species." When the Bill went to Law Amendments Committee, there was strong suggestion for more consultation.

The Department of Lands and Forest conducted consultations throughout July, in which NSFA participated. The information session highlighted that the Act is intended to protect wildlife and plant species not included under current legislation. Examples of current legislation that indirectly address biodiversity include: forestry practices, regulations on hunting and fishing to oversee the harvesting of vertebrates (bear, deer, fish, etc.), and NS Endangered Species Act protect species with low populations. An example used of a recent gap is white-nose syndrome in bats; because the bats were not protected by legislation of the day when population numbers were considered healthy, DNR at the time did not have the legal tools to protect the species until the population dwindled to the point of falling under the Endangered Species Act.

# Policy Corner

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The Act has two core elements: Management Zones and powers to act in emergency situations with protection orders. Management zones are areas of crown land that have been



strategically identified to support biodiversity. The Act also allows the establishment of Managements on Private Land in collaboration with and permission from the land owner. This can also be inferred as government CANNOT place a management zone

on private land without landowners' permission. With regards to powers to place orders, this can be applied across private owned land, however, the powers are intended to take place in dire, emergency situations, like the white-nosed syndrome in bats discussed earlier.

There are many parallels between this Biodiversity Act and other legislation in place to protect Agriculture or specific commodities. With regards to the protection orders, the honey bee importation legislation is similar to the protection orders in terms of purpose and, likely in some instances, in terms of process. When the Nova Scotia borders is open to hive importation, the hives are subject to inspection before they leave the origin location. This, in laymen's terms, is to ensure the pest profile of the hive doesn't include species not already present in Nova Scotia. Currently for non-cultivated species found in nature, there isn't presently any legislation to prohibit the movement of species into Nova Scotia when there is a pest of disease concern outside of the province.

Clearly, wildlife won't be inspected as they cross the natural forest border between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but the protection orders will provide legislation to inspect any that are imported into the province.

With the considerable backlash on the lack of consultation ahead of the Act development, it can be anticipated that the regulations will be heavily consulted on.

**Recommended action is for NSFA to participate in appropriate regulations going forward.**

If you wish to discuss the above issues or any of NSFA's other policies, please feel free to contact NSFA's Policy and Research Coordinator, Maxine MacLean at [mmaclean@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:mmaclean@nsfa-fane.ca)

**Watch the next News and Views for draft versions of NSFA's upcoming standing policies!**

# Mark Your Calendars!

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the 124th Annual General Meeting. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to have your say in the organization's direction. Each year a number of items are brought forward for members review and feedback – the annual operating budget, a slate of annual standing policies along with resolutions brought forward by members. There is also an update on policy progress and resolutions from last year; along with an update from the outreach programs. This year is especially important for members to attend as it is expected there will be amendments to the NSFA bylaws that provide the basis of governance structure to the organization. It's the place to be to get firsthand knowledge of the work being done on your behalf and to influence the work of the organization.

With keynote speakers, a tradeshow and banquet, it's a great opportunity to learn and network! We hope to see you there!



# International Society of Agriculture Safety and Health (ISASH) Conference

submitted by Lori Brookhouse, Farm Safety Advisor

The Farm Safety Advisor position is off to a roaring start with week two beginning at the International Society of Agriculture Safety and Health (ISASH) Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. This

experience gave a broad overview of Agriculture Health and Safety and allowed the opportunity to build a large Network of resources. See my new network of resources below from all over the world!



I want to share with you three key take-aways from the ISASH conference.

## Work as Though Someone is Watching

The first take-away being, “You should always work as though someone is watching you.” This was uttered from Rick, a young farmer, who shared his story of when he fell from a ladder and broke his ribs. Upon reflection of the incident, he kept saying that if his wife was with him that day and was watching him work, he would have done things differently as he had done most other days they worked together. It is interesting to reflect on why we behave differently when we are being watched rather than when we are alone. We still desire the end result but the steps to complete the task may look a little different. When no one is watching, do you cut corners, use that piece of broken equipment one more time, do things faster, or act a little more reckless?

## Mental Health

The second take-away was from the “Mental Health Challenges the Agricultural Industry Faces” session.

Jenna Gibbs, Ph.D, MPH, Center Coordinator for the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, conducted a survey in which all participants who attended the “What’s Next? Overcoming Mental Health Stigma in Agricultural Communities” completed. This was a very large and diverse group. We completed the survey to answer questions in relation to the most common stressors experienced by agriculture workers in each of our regions. Jenna tallied the results of the survey and plotted those results on a map. The results were Climate Change/Weather: 19%; Finances: 16%; Commodity Prices: 10%; Economics/Trade/Government: 11%; Public Perception of Ag: 8%; Time Management: 5%; Labor/Workforce Issues: 4%; and Succession Planning: 4%. Do these results resonate with your concerns? As you can see, even with such a large diverse group, we (Nova Scotia) too are on the map! This session tied in with a talk by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton

from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, in which she conducted a National Survey of Farmer Mental Health, and notes problems with high stress, anxiety, depression and burnout among those farmers surveyed. About 76% of those farmers who sought out help, felt that the professional help was beneficial.

Using local resources such as the Farm Family Support Centre ([workhealthlife.com](http://workhealthlife.com) or 1-844-880-9142) or Mental Health Crisis Hotline (<https://www.ementalhealth.ca/index.php?m=record&ID=10508> or 902-429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167) may help you, especially if these stressors affect your business and or personal life.



# ISASH Conference

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## Road Safety

The third take-away was from the session “Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment: Driver Rural Roadway Perceptions and Beliefs” by Felicia Piper, Cara Hamann, Natoshia Askelson, and Whitney Bash- from the University of Iowa. I found this session resonated well as it is very close to our “One Road” campaign. It was noted that in Iowa, the leading cause of injury and fatality in agriculture was drivers of other vehicles on the roadway. Surveys of both the farmers and drivers as well as video technology on the farm vehicle were used to conduct the study. The top cited issues were road conditions, infrastructure and environment, driver behavior such as speeding and not signally, and distracted driving. The perception of the driver was that they decreased their speed, increased their following distance, and passed when it was safe to do so. It was interesting to note that most drivers felt their behavior was better than their peers and their actual performance was better than what was caught on camera. From a safety education and training perspective this is a challenge. How do we educate and train when public perception is better than actual performance?

Answering the following questions may help you to evaluate whether you exhibit aggressive driving behaviours:

1. When you see slow moving farm machinery on the road,

2. Do you leave more following distance when behind farm machinery?
3. Do you pass only when safe to do so?

4. Do you use your signal lights when changing lanes and turning?
5. Do you give pedestrians the right of way at crosswalks and marked intersections?
6. Do you refrain from road rage behaviour such as gesturing aggressively and cutting off other drivers?
7. Do you pass other drivers on the left?
8. Do you drive in your designate lane?
9. Do you slowdown in poor driving conditions?
10. Do you refrain from distracted driving such as using the cell phone, eating, drinking, reading, etc...?

The higher number of “no” responses to the questions above, the more increased chance you may be an aggressive driver.

To ensure all road-users go home at the end of their travels, can we agree to share the road? Here are some helpful hints and tips from the One Road campaign that may help us do just that:

1. Slow down and assess the situation;
2. Give 100% of your attention to the road when approaching farm equipment;
3. Do not tailgate or get too close to the farm vehicle;
4. Do not pass a farm vehicle until it is

safe to pass; and 5. Keep an eye out for upcoming turns. Watch for hand signals or blinkers indicating a turn. One element that can impair our driving, especially if we have been working in the heat all day, is heat stress. Heat stress can cause fatigue, headache, dizziness, confusion, dehydration, muscle cramps, sweating, and sometimes rapid heartbeat. All symptoms in which can interfere with your full attention on the road.

To prevent heat stress, try any one or a combination of the following:

1. Become acclimatized to increasing temperatures by gradually becoming exposed to increased temperatures.
2. To reduce water loss from your body through sweating. Try to schedule strenuous work outside the hottest part of the day such as early to mid-morning, and early to late evening, if possible.
3. Wear light colored clothing that will reflect the light and has less tendency to absorb heat. Also, wear clothing that is breathable such as cotton. Cotton, when wet, cools the body 200 times faster than any other fabric.
4. Wear a hat. It provides a source of shade and will keep the head cool.
5. Take periodic breaks from sun exposure by seeking shelter in the shade.
6. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Water is the best source of hydration than any other beverage. Room temperature water is absorbed by the body much more quickly than cold water.

# What should I do with agricultural sharps?

submitted by Jay Woodworth, EFP Coordinator

Agricultural sharps (including needles, syringes, scalpel blades, etc.) are generated on livestock farms and are generally stored in sharps containers until a means of disposal is available. Across the province, disposal options are inconsistent and producers are asking- "What should I do with sharps"?

The health sector relies on the Nova Scotia Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program which is

undertaken by a joint partnership of pharmacies, medical supply manufacturers, and medication distributors.

Through this program, acceptable sharps containers (right) can be accessed from and returned to local pharmacies for disposal through Stericycle; however agricultural sharps are not technically accepted through this program.



Some veterinarians will accept sharps containers at their offices or even take

them when they are out to the farm for a call; but this practice is not consistent across all regions.

Many municipalities will accept agricultural sharps at their respective solid waste facilities. Nova Scotia has 20 waste management facilities and just over half (12) of them accept agricultural sharps for disposal (see map on the next page). For producers outside of these areas, contacting Stericycle directly is the recommended option.

Sharps should only ever be stored in an appropriate container; which ensures the safety of their disposal as well as the safety of employees and family on the farm.

#### Acceptable containers MUST be:

- Clearly labelled "FARM SHARPS" or "FARM SHARPS – DISINFECTED", if you have rinsed with sodium hypochlorite (bleach) prior to disposal
- Rigid, sealed, and puncture proof

- Separated from all other wastes
- Declared upon arrival at a disposal facility



The Environmental Farm Plan program has been delivering appropriate sharps containers to farmers for years. These containers (above) are always available at the office (7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain) or can be delivered by a farm planner during your EFP update.

**Please watch for a survey on sharps disposal practices to help us develop programming to ensure agricultural producers are able to safely dispose of sharps province-wide.**

## EFP Program to be Re-Launched in NS

As many of you are well aware, the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program has been under review by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) over the past year. After lengthy deliberations, the NSDA has agreed to continue with the NSFA delivering the on-farm portion of the program, with a significantly reduced budget.

The new program will be benchmarked

to align with the Farm Sustainability Assessment 2.1, which means the program will meet a recognized national standard – a direction NSFA had been advocating for a number of years. This work will be done through a 3-way partnership with the NSFA, NSDA and Perennia.

We are currently in the initial stages of planning exactly what the EFP re-launch will look like and have developed

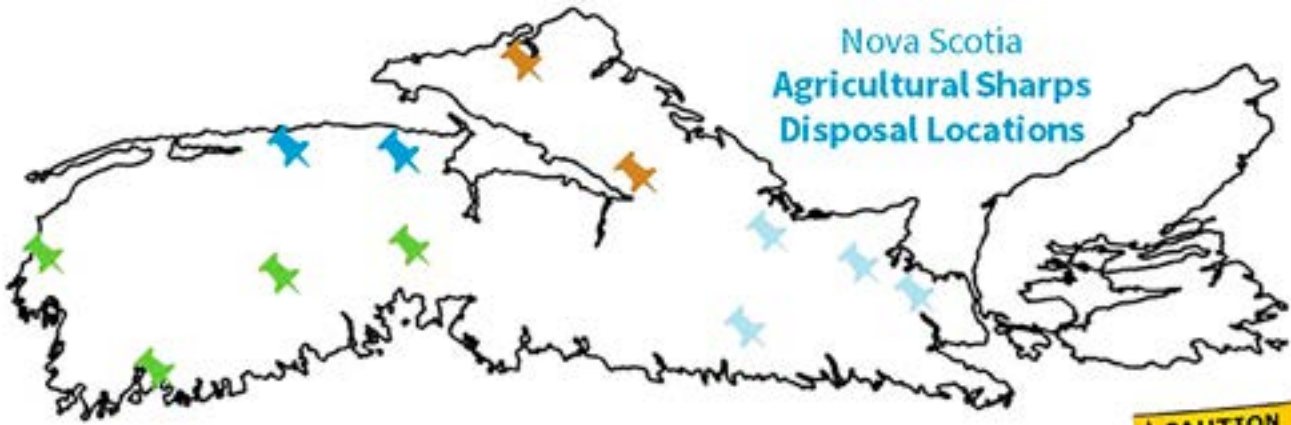
a task force and working group to lead this planning process. We look forward to seeing what the re-launch will be and will continue to advocate for a program that supports the best interest of the industry, while aligning with government priorities.

NSFA will continue to deliver the existing program at a reduced scale, with only two Coordinators, until the re-launch is finalized.

For more information on FSA 2.1 visit [www.fsatool.com](http://www.fsatool.com).



## Nova Scotia Agricultural Sharps Disposal Locations



WASTE FACILITY	CONTACT INFORMATION	FACILITY LOCATION
Beech Hill Waste Management Facility	902-863-4744	1356 BEECH HILL ROAD, ANTIGONISH
Guysborough Waste Management Facility	902-232-2316	151 WASTE MANAGEMENT ROAD, BOYLSTON
Pictou County	902-396-1495	220 LANDFILL ROAD, MOUNT WILLIAM
St. Mary's Transfer Station	902-522-2650	150 CAPE GEOGOGAN ROAD, HIGHWAY 7, GOLDENVILLE
Cumberland Central Landfill	902-667-5141	2052 LITTLE FORKS ROAD, LITTLE FORKS
Colchester Balerfill Facility	902-855-4777	188 MINGO ROAD, KEMPTOWN, COLCHESTER
Eastern Management Centre	902-670-1325 1-877-927-8308	100 DONALD E HILTZ CONNECTOR ROAD, KENTVILLE
Western Management Centre	902-670-1325 1-877-927-8308	343 ELLIOT ROAD, LAWRENCE TOWN
Kaizer Meadow Environmental Management Centre	902-275-2330	450 KAIZER MEADOW ROAD (OFF HIGHWAY 14), CHESTER
Shelburne Material Recovery Facility	902-656-3273	457 1 HIGHWAY 3, WEST GREEN HARBOUR
Region of Queens Waste Management Facility	902-350-1884	2758 HIGHWAY 8, LIVERPOOL
Yarmouth County Solid Waste	902-742-5852	1934 HARDSCRATCH ROAD, YARMOUTH COUNTY

If sharps are not accepted at your location, contact Stericycle for disposal: 1-866-783-7422 [stericycle.ca](http://stericycle.ca)



**DO YOU NEED A  
DESIGNATED SHARPS  
CONTAINER?**  
1-902-893-2293  
[info@nsfa-lane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-lane.ca)



# NSYF Tours and Summer BBQ recap:

Over 25 young farmers from across the province came together on July 20th for the 2019 NSYF Tours and Summer BBQ.

The first tour was of Forest Glen Greenhouses Ltd. located in Brookfield. Young farmers learned about the many different flower varieties grown, the efficient tools and methods used, and so much more.

The second tour was of the Truro Agromart, located in Onslow; here, young farmers got to see the facility, learn about their quick and proficient fertilizer mixers, and how orders are processed. Following the tour, everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ that was partially sponsored by the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers, with generous donations from Eden Valley Farms and Agropur.

Door prizes were then drawn, and thanks to the generous donations made from numerous companies (listed below), everyone in attendance received at least one. There were two big prizes drawn for as well, including an all-expense paid trip to the 2020 Canadian Young Farmers Annual Conference, and a Bluetooth lantern speaker sponsored by Farm Credit Canada; the lucky recipients were Daniel Muir and Timothy Tuttle.

The final tour was of Green Oaks Dairy Farm, located in Green Oaks. Like the previous two operations, Green Oaks Dairy Farm is not shy on technology; robots, a recycled cow manure bedding system, and automated feed pushers are only some of the advanced equipment utilized on this farm. The farm milks

Montbeliarde cross-bred cattle, a unique breed to this area. The NSYF Board of Directors wishes to thank everyone who contributed to making this day a success!

Door prize contributors:

Atlantic Farm Services  
Blueline New Holland  
Case IH  
Cavendish Agri Services  
Central Equipment  
Clairmont Farm Services  
Clarence Farm Services  
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia  
Dalhousie Agricultural Campus  
Green Diamond Equipment  
NSFA  
Perennia  
Truro Agromart

## Agriculture Clean Technology Program Invites Applicants

submitted by Amy Melmock, NSDA

The Agriculture Clean Technology (ACT) program is a \$25-million Agriculture and Agriculture-Food Canada (AAFC) program that supports research, development and adoption of new clean technologies through non-repayable federal contributions for precision agriculture and agri-based bioproducts. Recent changes to the three-year program (2018-2021) now allow Agricultural businesses, not-for-profit industry organizations and academic institutions looking to pioneer new clean technology initiatives to apply.

The program is well suited to projects that pilot the adoption of new technologies within Nova Scotia and can

demonstrate how these technologies reduce greenhouse gas (GHC) emissions in agricultural production.

Within the program priorities, **precision agriculture** is defined as an approach that uses technologies to gather and process data for the purpose of guiding actions that improve the sustainability, efficiency and productivity of agricultural operations. **Agri-based bio-products** are renewable products, other than food and feed, derived from agricultural resources or wastes, such as manure and crop residue.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will contribute 50% of eligible project funding of up to \$5 million and 75% funding may

be available to underrepresented groups. The program continues until March 31, 2021, and eligible applicants include:

- Provincial and territorial governments in Canada, acting on behalf of agricultural initiatives.
- For-profit and not-for-profit organizations incorporated in Canada including businesses and/or corporations, co-operatives, indigenous groups and academic institutions.

For-profit or not-for-profit applicants require a 10% financial contribution from the Province for proposed initiatives. A link to the Agriculture Clean Technology program webpage is available at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/agricultural-clean-technology-program/?id=1521202868490>

The first point of contact with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture regarding the program is Terry McKay, Manager of Programs and Business Risk Management [terry.mckay@novascotia.ca](mailto:terry.mckay@novascotia.ca).

# 2019 NSFA Senate Club Summer Tour

submitted by Honourary Senator Leslie Burrows

It was a beautiful summer day on July 27th when twenty-four members of the Senate Club plus family members gathered under the leadership of Senator Beth Densmore for a tour in Hants County.

To start the day, we met at Courthouse Hill Farm in Gore where we were greeted by owners Barren and Greg Blois. We toured their new biodigester which takes waste mainly gathered from restaurants and grocery stores in metro Halifax and turns it into gas that is then used to generate electricity which goes back into the Nova Scotia power grid. Surplus hot water is utilized on their dairy farm.



We then moved from the future to the past when we visited Craig Anthony's Antique Museum in the village of Kennetcook. Craig has old tractors, trucks, and steam engines to name but a few and is very proud to state that every piece of equipment he owns



works. He demonstrated making a barrel stave and then showed how to build a barrel; he fired up the shingle mill and turned out a shingle; he turned a lathe on with its giant belts; the thresher cranked over; and the giant steam engine turned for us.



Off we then headed to the Burntcoat Head Park, home to the world's highest tides, near Noel where we ate our lunch in the picnic area. This was a busy spot indeed. Some made the walk down to see the floor of the Bay of Fundy while others explored the lighthouse.

The group then enjoyed the beautiful drive along the Bay to Walton where we turned inland, heading to Newport and the Avondale Sky Winery. The main building was a former Anglican church which was floated down from Walton to become a historic part of the winery. Many members took part in a wine tasting following a brief history of the site and a walk to see the vines.



Onward to Oak River Sheep Farm in Newport and a tour and history with owners Wade and Printhe Sanford. They are breeding flock members every four months. The summer breeding time is a challenge as sheep like to breed according to the seasons. The lambs were cute and the ewes were noisy.

The final stop of the day was at the home of our hosts, Beth and Ron Densmore in Upper Rawdon where we enjoyed a lovely spread of food including local meats on the barbeque.

In celebration of our 60th year in existence, a motion was presented and unanimously carried to provide a \$1000 scholarship annually through the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus for a graduate student who is continuing their studies in a field that will benefit agriculture in Nova Scotia. This scholarship will be a five-year commitment, to be reviewed for continuation consideration at the end of the fourth year.

Any and all donations made to this scholarship through the NSFA Senate Club would be gratefully received. They can be sent to Leslie Burrows, 597 Highway 236, Green Oak, NS B6L 1J1. Cheques made out to "NSFA Senate Club" with "Scholarship" written in memo line.

# Upcoming Events

## SEPTEMBER 15 NOVA SCOTIA

Open Farm Day

## OCTOBER 3 VALLEY AREA

NSIA Annual Fall Tour

## OCTOBER 27, 28 & 29 NIAGRA FALLS

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

## NOVEMBER 14 & 15 TRURO

WPANS Annual Meeting

## NOVEMBER 28 & 29 TRURO

NSFA Annual General Meeting

## NOVEMBER 29 TRURO

Farm Safety NS Annual Meeting

## DECEMBER 2-4 FREDERICTON

Agricultural Excellence Conference

## DECEMBER 4-5 FREDERICTON

Nuffield Canada Annual Meeting and Conference

## DECEMBER 4-8 FREDERICTON

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' National Recognition Event

**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.

### 2019 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

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Tim Marsh	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	902-798-7924
Chris deWaal	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	902-582-7756
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Allan Melvin	Director at Large	902-499-6968
Amanda Eisses	Director at Large	902-662-3811
Lauren Park	Director at Large	902-292-5160
Past President:	Chris van den Heuvel	902-631-1884

**STAFF:** Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Director of Operations & Government Relations: Wanda Hamilton; Director of Outreach and Member Relations: Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, Financial Services Coordinator: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Services Coordinator: Shelly MacKenzie; Policy and Research Coordinator: Maxine MacLean; Communications Coordinator: Katherine Doyle; Farm Safety Advisor, Lori Brookhouse; EFP Staff: Trevor Davison, Jay Woodworth and Cory Roberts



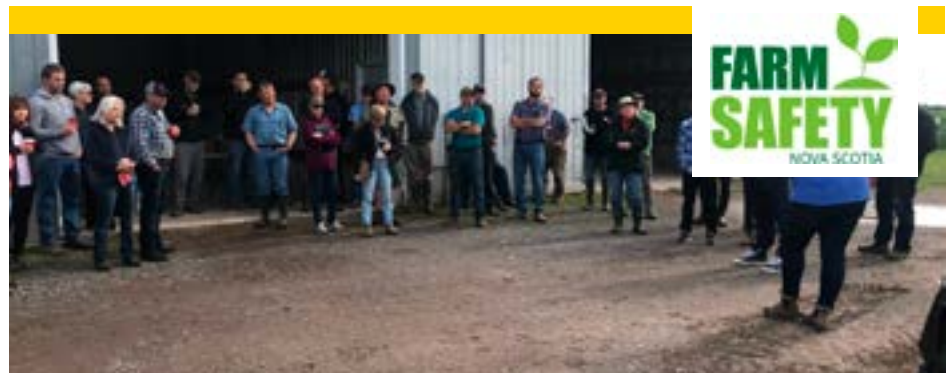
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## On Farm Safety Inspection Workshop

Have you ever wondered how an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) inspection occurs? What do inspectors look for on your farm? Is your farm ready for an inspection visit?

Learn about how an OHS inspection works on a farm, what your requirements are and how to create a safe farm workplace.

A mock inspection will be conducted by OHS inspectors and be solely educational.

For more information for this free educational workshop, visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca) and access the form.

### Book an On-Farm Inspection for the Fall!

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