

News & Views

In this Issue...

It's that time of year again . 1

Viewpoint 2

Policy Corner 3

Proposed Bylaw Amendments 4

Bylaws continued 5

Risky Business 6

Coping with Stress on the Farm 7

Environmental Considerations in the Aftermath of Storm Events 8

That time of year continued 9

Policy Corner continued . . . 9

AGM Guest Speaker 9

Farm Safety NSAGM 9

Open Farm Day Recap . . . 10

Corporate Partner Highlight 11

Upcoming Events 12



@NSFAFANE

It's that time of year again

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will be holding the 124th Annual General Meeting on November 28 & 29 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro!

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for you to have a say in the organization's direction. Every year we look to our membership for their feedback and vote on a number of key items such as: our budget, standing policies for the upcoming year, resolutions brought forward by members across the province – just to name a few. This year your attendance is especially important, as there will be amendments to NSFA's bylaws being presented to the membership. Our bylaws are what provide the basis of the governance structure to NSFA – and these proposed changes could help improve our governance and ensure a smoother decision-making process. You can read more about these amendments in this edition of the News & Views.

A key piece of our Annual Meeting is voting on NSFA's proposed standing policies for 2020. This year, the policies being brought forward are: Agriculture Land, Soil Health, Transportation, Labour Gap and Regulatory Alignment. New to the docket is the policy on Soil Health – the goal of this policy is to ensure healthy and productive soils throughout Nova Scotia, this will be done by convening the appropriate groups and working together to achieve this goal. You will find our draft 2020 policies as the insert to this News & Views. Please read them thoroughly and come prepared to have your say.

While NSFA is a lobby organization, we also deliver and support a number of programs to the farming community in Nova Scotia including: Farm Safety Nova Scotia,

Environmental Farm Plan, Public Trust and most recently an Agriculture Sector Program which will help farmers in the province with a number of HR and labour related items. You will receive an update on these programs and hear more about what they've been up to over the last year.

If you follow us on social media, you would have seen our announcement regarding our keynote speaker for this year. We are excited to welcome Lesley Kelly, the farmer behind the blog High Heels and Canola Fields to our Annual Meeting! Lesley farms with her husband and family in Watrous, Saskatchewan, she is also the creator of a snack food company and the co-founder of Do More Agriculture. She will be joining us to talk about her role on their grain farm, the importance of diversity and women on the farm and how women are changing the face of farming.

Our Annual Meeting is a great place to connect with your fellow farmers, industry stakeholders and government officials! Agriculture Minister, Honourable Keith Colwell and Ag Critics John Lohr and Lisa Roberts have been invited to bring greetings to the crowd. During breaks you can visit our tradeshow to chat with businesses and organizations involved in the agriculture industry.

If you're looking for a little fun, don't worry we've got you covered! On the first night you can attend our annual banquet and enjoy a delicious three course meal prepared by the Best Western Glengarry, hear the award-winning speech from 4-H Nova Scotia and watch the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Viewpoint

NSFA has recently put out a damage survey which will give us an assessment of the damage across the province. Social and other media has shown the extensive damage to the apple crop as well as corn and other crops. There is also damage to buildings as well as the cost of coping with power outages while keeping animals housed and fed and crops in storage at the proper temperature has been a significant challenge to our members along with the crop loss. Longer term crop insurance premiums are expected to increase and over time lower yields will affect the averages used by crop insurance.

There will also be lessons learned in the resiliency of the telecom system including cell and land line as well as availability of fuel to run equipment and generators. As technology becomes increasingly important for communication and operating equipment, we will need to learn a lesson from this weather event so we are better prepared for the next one.

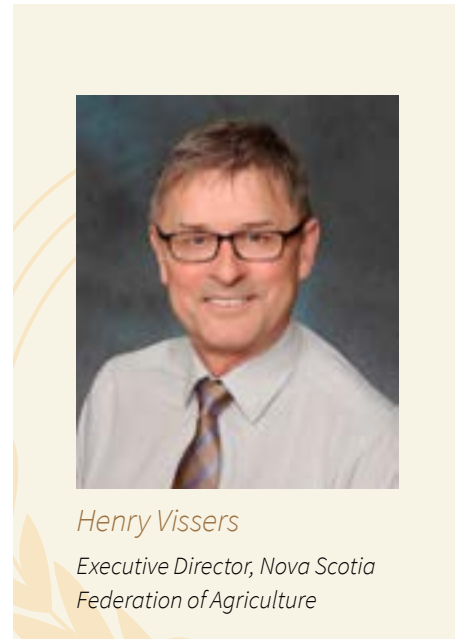
Speaking of the importance of cellular coverage, land lines and rural infrastructure, the Federal election is underway, as of this writing there are 61 candidates for the 10 ridings in Nova Scotia. Typically for federal ridings they are divided to allow approximately 100,000 voters per MP. Our job as the agriculture industry is to get the attention of these 61 candidates for our rural and agriculture issues. They have less than 30 days to convince voters that they should be the one they send to Ottawa.

We have to keep it to the point so whoever wins remembers what you told them when they knocked on your door, when you called them or when you shook their hand in the local Tim's. That is why the Canadian Federation of Agriculture developed the Producing Prosperity document. It gives you an opportunity to

hit the key issues with them in a concise manner. Economic Security, Food security and Environmental stewardship, and to encourage them to sign the pledge in support of Producing Prosperity in Canada.

As a segue from the election discussion Barton report from 2 years ago talked about the potential for Agriculture in Canada and the potential growth of exports and now a new report by RBC, Royal Bank of Canada echoes that report. It says that Canada has the potential to produce \$51 billion worth of food by 2030 compared to current output of \$32 billion, but only if farmers can afford to adopt new technology and find the workers to operate the new equipment. It's the usual song about within the coming decade there will be an additional 1 billion people on earth which makes the total population 9 billion. In some ways it is a detriment to agriculture in NS, in a number of cases our commodities are not of a large enough volume for export. With export markets being developed in other parts of the country, they may not take into consideration our size and export capabilities. This means we still end up being priced at the North American market prices which causes us to be price takers. Many of you in this situation have differentiated or value added your product to offset this pricing formula.

The report also talks about the lack of skilled workers and the need to ramp up education for this type of worker, and also speaks of the importance of data in the new tech world. It is presented as a unique opportunity to feed a hungry world. Lofty goals indeed, similar to the Barton report, all hat no cattle as they say. These reports are great except for the fact that farmers are expected to bear all the risk of this innovation and increase in trade. The typical risks of trade, currency border closures tariffs are expected to be borne by the farmer with little support



Henry Vissers
Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

from levels of government; AgriStability is only a disaster program and crop insurance usage is uneven across commodities.

Finally, as we move through fall, executive and staff will be attending county federation annual meetings leading up to the NSFA AGM on November 28 and 29th. We will be recommending bylaw changes at our AGM and will be reviewing them at the county meetings. Watch for your county AGM dates coming up in late October early November.

Comments?
hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca

Policy Corner

submitted by Maxine MacLean, Policy & Research Coordinator

Policy Updates

Regulatory modernization – Request for stakeholder comment

Over the summer months, the Treasury Board Secretariat, the body at the Federal level responsible for directing regulatory reform, was looking for input on regulatory modernization in Canada. NSFA took the opportunity to provide input on Canadian Federation of Agriculture's submission. Highlights of the submission include:

- Farmers face unprecedented pressures on their ability to remain profitable and competitive due to additional regulations put in place;
- Recommendation for gradual implementation of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations and ensure that the standards outlined in the SFCR also apply to imports;
- Recommendation for a federal carbon offset program;
- Challenges with certain permitting processes only available online; and,
- Pressing need for the consideration of social and economic factors in decisions made by PMRA on pest control product registration. For more information on the submission or NSFA's Regulatory Burden standing Policy, please contact Maxine MacLean at the NSFA office.

CFIA's Food Labelling Modernization

CFIA's FLM initiative is aimed at developing a more modern and innovative food labelling system that meets the needs of consumers and industry, providing consistency around food labels. Their intention is to promote innovation and facilitate trade for industry, while allowing consumers to make more informed decisions on what foods they buy. The proposals include several changes to provide clearer information on food labels; including

where imported food comes from, what the food contains, and how long the quality of the food will last. CFA made a submission with input provided by members. Highlights include:

- Support for the inclusion of origin labelling indicating the foreign state of origin of imported food;
- The lack of adequate consultation with growers identifying what the challenges and opportunities could be; and,
- Lack of clarity around which businesses are targeted in the primary sector. More information on the proposed changes can be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's website – inspection.gc.ca.

Carbon Pricing

As you are likely aware, the Federal government requires each province to implement a price on carbon. Options for pricing are either a taxing method at the point of source or regulating how much greenhouse gas businesses or industries can emit before they have to pay for emissions released into the atmosphere. In 2019, Nova Scotia implemented a Cap and Trade program in order to meet the requirements of Canada's Climate Action Plan. This Cap and Trade Program only directly applies to approximately 20 businesses in Nova Scotia and accounts for the bulk of Nova Scotia's greenhouse gas emissions. Since then, the federal government has designed a program to be used in the provinces that don't have a program. Additionally, the federal government is also working on developing an "offset credit program" which will provide opportunity for those able to sequester carbon – or keep greenhouse gas from entering the atmosphere. CFA provided input on this offset credit program; highlights include:

- Endorsement for farmers to generate offset credits for remittance;
- Support for a Canada-wide approach which alleviates the need for multiple programs; and,
- Request to develop a soil carbon sequestration protocol.

Watch for a recap on policy and resolutions progress in 2019 in the upcoming AGM materials!

What Makes a Standing Policy?

An information piece on how standing policies are prepared ahead of the AGM

Careful consideration goes into developing Standing Policies. The issue and its impact on farms or the industry must be able to be conveyed to stakeholders and decision makers. Additionally, we must also know what a "win" looks like. This allows NSFA executive and staff to track progress and identify if a policy recommendation can be marked complete.

As mentioned, knowing the stakeholders and decision makers is important when developing our messaging. In some situations, a stronger effort can be made when we strategically align partnerships with other organizations. In other cases, we are better off conveying how agriculture is unique and separate ourselves from others. Regardless, we develop messaging and strategies to execute Standing Policies.

NSFA Executive Committee reviews standing policies every summer and identifies new priorities. Members were also given an opportunity to provide input throughout the summer as you will recall from our June 2019 News and Views. Our draft policies were passed by Council of Leaders at the September meeting and are now ready for review by membership. You will find our draft paper in this News and Views as well as on the NSFA website!

Policy topics this year include:

- Agricultural Land
- Soil Health
- Labour
- Regulatory Alignment
- Transportation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Proposed Bylaw Amendments



Over the last 124 years, a lot has changed in the agriculture industry and as the general farm organization in the province, we too have changed with the times. Through our strategic planning process, we identified three key priorities, one of them being “to improve the operational and governance structure.” The first piece of that priority was completed when the NSFA staff structure was adjusted to create the Operations and Outreach teams. Now, we are attempting to tackle the governance structure.

In order to serve our members to the best of our abilities, we have to ensure that our governance structure is one that will work effectively for our organization. In 2017, through the direction of Council of Leaders, a member engagement process was conducted. This detailed report provided comments from membership that stated the need for clarification between the roles of Council of Leaders and the Executive. One of the recommendations included restructuring the Council of Leaders as the group is too large to be the governing body of the NSFA. These findings were echoed by membership during the extensive consultations and focus group sessions that were hosted in various regions as we worked through the work on our strategic plan. The general consensus was that the governance structure needed realignment.

We hear you. And NSFA Bylaw Committee has made recommendations that will allow us to best serve you.

Who was on the Bylaw Committee?

The committee was made up of two Executive reps; Victor Oulton and Chris de Waal, two Council of Leaders reps; Tom Cosman and Phillip Keddy, and two NSFA staff; Henry Vissers and Wanda Hamilton.

Why are we amending bylaws?

We are proposing amendments to bylaws so that we are able to simplify our governance structure. The current structure is one that often leads to confusion amongst membership when it

comes to whose role is whose. The goal is to simplify. These recommendations condense Council of Leaders and the Executive Committee into one governing body, which will be known as Council. The new Council will be made up of 10-12 members.

What is the role of the new Council?

The role of Council will be the governing body of NSFA, Council will manage the affairs of the Federation and will meet 8 times per year.

Why do we have to keep the name Council?

It is written in the Federation of Agriculture Act, that the governing body of our organization be known as the Council.

When will bylaws be approved and come into effect?

Bylaws if approved, at the Annual Meeting will come into effect immediately following the meeting with NSFA Council holding a meeting to elect the officers.

How will we ensure broad representation on new council?

The nominating committee will take into consideration; location, gender, commodity etc. when vetting the nominations for the new Council to ensure that there is broad representation not only by region but also by farm type and gender.

Do I have to be in person to vote?

In order to vote on the proposed bylaw amendments and the election of the new Council members you will need to be in person at our Annual Meeting. Registration forms for the Annual Meeting will be coming out in the November edition of the News & Views, or you can register online on our website.

How will quorum be determined?

Quorum for the annual meeting would be 40 members (4 times the size of Council). To call a special meeting – it is either requested by the President, the majority of Council or in writing by 75 members.

Who is the nominating committee?

The nominating committee is made up of two past presidents, an executive committee representative, the current president (ex-officio) and the executive director (ex-officio)

How will we engage with county federations and commodity groups?

With changes to the structure of Council of Leaders it will be essential that we provide ample opportunity for engagement with county federations and commodity organizations. The Member Relations Strategy of the NSFA will support this engagement. The objective of the Member Relations Strategy is “involved, active and engaged members”.

Activities and tactics used to support engagement from counties and commodities include:

County Federations:

- Develop County Federation support plan using County Federation survey results
- County Membership Share Program proposal
- Increased participation by NSFA Staff and Executive in County Federation events
- Supported through Communication Strategy, Media Relations Strategy, Government Relations Strategy
- County Presidents Roundtable (1/year)
- Regional Focus Group/Town Hall Sessions (1/region; 5/year)

Councils & Committees

- Governance Training
- Promotional plan for participation and nominations process

Commodities

- Commodity Presidents Roundtable (1/year)
- Commodity Managers Meeting (2/year)
- Distribute News & Views to Commodity Offices

How can I join Council?

Put forward your application to be vetted by the nominating committee, you can find the nomination form on our website or watch our social media channels for posts on nominations! You can also nominate yourself from the floor at the AGM, where you will present your case for nomination.

Without Council of Leaders how will you work on policies and resolutions?

Policies and resolutions will be managed by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

What is the role of the Policy Advisory Committee?

The PAC will be responsible for policy and position formulation, resolutions and to liaise member/industry trends and issues to Council.

How can I join the Policy Advisory Committee?

Pick up an application at the AGM and submit by January. Applicants will be selected by the new Council and will be filled during the January/February Council meeting.

How will the transition happen?

At the September Council of Leaders meeting the following draft motion was put forward for use at the AGM:

The NSFA bylaw amendments are adopted as presented with the following transitional implementation. Council is elected by NSFA members at the Annual General Meeting, to include the existing eligible Executive Committee members for the time remaining in their respective terms plus a minimum of 3 additional members to serve staggered terms as vetted by the Nominating Committee through the Committee Application process. The bylaws shall be in effect immediately following the Annual General Meeting in which they are approved with a Council meeting held to hold the election of NSFA Officers.



Risky Business

submitted by Lori Brookhouse, Farm Safety Advisor

Are you the type of person who buys new tools, equipment and machinery and tosses the owner's manual aside to take on the challenge of figuring out this new "toy" on your own? It is an exciting time!

If you are the person who reads the manual, do you look only for the maintenance schedule and parts list so you are prepared when it comes time to do regular maintenance or if there is break down?

Who actually reads the entire owners manual?

Oddly, when I pick up an owner's manual, I like to scan all the do's and don'ts or warnings of the new tool, equipment and machinery first. I like to see where I might be at risk before starting assembly or operation. Then I continue with each section and may make notes in the margins or highlight important information. This shouldn't just be a safety professionals' practice. I have to say, this has been a practice of mine long before I became a safety professional and it has paid off time and time again.

No matter the size of the tool, equipment or machine, **READ THE OWNERS MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING!** You see this in bold actually printed on every operators' manual cover. Why do we choose to ignore it? Does it take too much time to read through? Let's compare, it may take five to thirty minutes to read an owner's manual (depending) but an injury or incident could impact you for life. When you toss the owner's manual aside, you may also want to consider what you are willing to give up! Is it worth it?



Time may be tight, but I encourage you to make the time to learn all aspects of your equipment by reading the entire owner's manual. Don't wait for a new tool, equipment or machine to start the practice, go ahead and read the owners manual for existing tools, equipment and machines. If you have read it once already, you can read it again for friendly reminders. You never know what you may pick up!

Lifetime odds of dying from contact with machinery: 1 in 4,742 (National Safety Council Odds of Dying).

General Safety Rules for Farm Equipment:

1. Conduct a pre-trip inspection before operating the equipment. Document the inspection to be able to track any deficiencies.
2. Conduct a post-trip inspection after operation or between shifts to look for any issues that may have developed during operation. This will allow time to prepare for the next shift.
3. Use down time or the off-season to perform maintenance to ensure equipment is in top operating condition.
4. Keep to maintenance schedules. This may be difficult when work schedules can be unpredictable especially if work tasks are weather dependent. Regular maintenance helps prevent

breakdowns and keeps the equipment running efficiently.

5. Check to ensure all guards are securely in place.
6. Block raised hydraulic equipment before performing maintenance or allowing anyone in and around the lift parts.
7. Always disengage PTO before leaving the operators seat of the equipment. This will eliminate the risk of entanglement in moving parts.
8. Always carry a first aid kit and fire extinguisher on the machine in case of emergencies.
9. Create a safe distance rule for all workers and family members to obey to ensure they stay out of the path of the equipment. 🌱

Coping with Stress on the Farm

submitted by Lori Brookhouse, Farm Safety Advisor

Things are piling up. How do you cope? Here are some tools that may help you cope with the stress of farm life and all of the elements it can throw your way.

1. Can you delegate tasks? Do you have competent employees or family members that can take over a task?

Are you willing to let them do this? For some, it is tough to let go of control of some things for fear it won't be done "the right way." A big part of stress release is letting some things go. Try it and see what happens. Make adjustments for deficiencies, but do not take back the task. You will be pleasantly surprised of the outcome.

2. Make a list of high priority tasks. Complete all high priority tasks first. Typically, we like to tackle the quick and easy things first but this may take away valuable time needed for the high priority tasks.

3. I am going to say it, get regular exercise. Regular exercise is not a part of the regular work day. The regular work day is stressful and exercise is relaxing. It can take your mind off the day to day. I like to play some music and just let myself go. Oddly enough, this is an activity that can generate some fantastic ideas when you aren't really looking for them.

4. When was the last time you had a good hearty laugh? It truly is the best medicine. Laughter releases serotonin which is the chemical in the brain that balances our mood. If you are lacking this chemical it can lead to depression and anxiety thus increased stress.

5. You know what nutrition your body needs, and there is intent to eat well, but when you are crunched for time do your reach in the cupboard for what is most quick and easy? What may be quick and easy, can take a toll on your health in the long run and cause additional stress.

6. Are you getting enough sleep? Do you know how much sleep you need to make you feel rested? This is not an easy task for farmers with sun up to sun down operations. If possible, try to go to bed and wake up at the same time each day.

7. Take time away from farming and find an activity that focuses on something else. This can take as little as 15 minutes and the change in focus can be quite rejuvenating. Connect with your community.

8. Talk to a person who you trust and know to bounce your ideas and thoughts off of to either let off steam or help brain storm some solutions.

9. Learning to collaborate and brainstorm with others becomes solution-based problem solving instead of complaining. You will be amazed at the fixes that can be generated through this behaviour.

10. If you are not sure you have a person you can consult with use resources such as the Farm Family

Support Centre (1-844-8809142 or workhealthlife.com) or the Mental Health Crisis Hotline (902-429-8167 or 1-888-429-8167 or ementalhealth.ca).

We have focused on the distress and coping techniques to deal with distress but there is also good stress called eustress. Eustress or good stress actually motivates us to be creative and productive. Distress can become eustress as long as the distress is managed such as using the techniques listed above. We have also focused on you. It is a good idea to be on the look out for others who suffer from stress on the farm as well. Not only for their well-being such as increase risk for heart attack, hypertension and similar conditions but it can also help with your bottom line which can be causing your stress. Stressed employees have a tendency to be away from work more often, less productive, suffer from higher number of incidents and injuries, and always be looking for opportunities elsewhere. As long as stress is managed, all workers are at their best and your business becomes more sustainable. 🌱



Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

Milford, NS
October 25
10am-2pm

For kids aged 7-13
\$10/child
\$20/family



Environmental Considerations in the Aftermath of Storm Events

submitted by the Environmental Farm Plan Team

With the recent weather events that saw Dorian track across Nova Scotia and the post tropical storm that earlier dumped over 150 mm of rain in some parts of the Valley, it has been a very wet and destructive harvest season. Understandably, farmers have been busy assessing the impacts of these storms on their crops and harvest schedules, but it is also important to assess some key environmental aspects of the farm to determine what is working well and what will need some work in the future.

Impacts on the water supply

Severe weather events that generate high volumes of water in a relatively short period of time can cause flooding and cause precipitation run-off that can overwhelm a well-established vegetative treatment area (e.g. ditch full of cat tails). Dug wells can be especially prone to precipitation run-off resulting in bacterial contamination. It is important to ensure soil is mounded around the crock to divert runoff away from the well. Additional soil berms or cut-off ditches, depending on the location, in proximity to the well can also help divert water away and reduce the risk of water contamination. Nova Scotia Environment recommends water be tested for bacteria every six months. Typically, on-farm food safety programs require testing annually. If there was any short-term flooding or you are having any concerns about potential run-off, it is recommended that your water be tested. Contact the EFP office or your local NSDA extension coordinators for sample bottles and delivery options.

Damage to ditches and culverts

It is important to maintain surface ditches on the farm. In situations where open ditches are required to transport large volumes of water, they should be carefully

planned to avoid ditch bottom and side slope erosion (Figure 1). If high water volumes are expected, fieldstone can be used to line portions of the ditch to create small dams to dissipate the energy of the water flowing down the ditch. The ditch banks should also be seeded with a recommended grass mix as soon as possible after construction. This will help stabilize the ditch bank and prevent erosion.

Soil	[Horizontal (x) : Vertical]	
	Shallow Channels < 1.2 m (4 ft.)	Deep Channels > 1.2 m (4 ft.)
Peat and Muck	Vertical	0.25 : 1
Heavy Clay	0.5 : 1	1 : 1
Clay or Silt Loam	1 : 1	1.5 : 1
Sandy Loam	1.5 : 1	2 : 1
Loose Sandy	2 : 1	3 : 1

these plants to stabilize the stream bank. If there is currently limited vegetation, trees and shrubs native to the area should be planted along the watercourse to help stabilize the stream bank. Where vegetative cover is insufficient to protect the banks of an actively eroding streambank, other erosion prevention options such as bank shaping, riprap (armour rock), gabion baskets or mats or concrete crib walls may be needed.

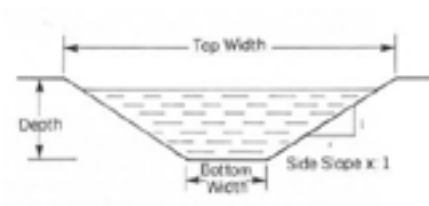


Figure 1. Recommended open ditch side slopes (left) and a typical open ditch cross section.

There have been some reports of culvert washouts. Depending on the age of some culverts, they were not designed to have the capacity to withstand the water flow and intensity recently experienced. The watercourse alteration program requires that a culvert used in a watercourse must be sized based on a minimum of 1:100 year estimated storm flow. For assistance with future needs, NSE maintains a list of certified watercourse alteration sizes and installers. Links to these professionals and other resources is available: <https://novascotia.ca/nse/watercourse-alteration/>.

Streambank and field erosion

High water flow events can wreak havoc on streambanks and cultivated fields and create significant erosion impacts. Establishing and maintaining a diverse riparian area, i.e. the zone adjacent to a watercourse where natural vegetation such as grasses, shrubs, bushes and trees are allowed to grow, can help mitigate some of the issues. The riparian zone should be at least 5 m (15 ft) wide to provide an area for perennial plants to establish and allow the root systems of

When farming next to a watercourse, a grassed buffer strip should be grown between the field and the natural riparian zone. A grassed buffer strip should be a minimum of 3 m (10 ft) wide, but depending on site characteristics, may need to be wider to ensure it functions effectively. Grass buffer strips should be inspected periodically so that eroded areas (i.e. running through the strip or channels that may develop along the edges) are identified, repaired, and reseeded. To minimize soil losses in the field, it is important to implement cover crops and other soil conservation practices, e.g. grassed waterways or strip cropping.

Financial assistance for establishing or enhancing riparian areas and installing protection structures is available through the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Sustainability program.

Related resources on the EFP website:

Surface Drainage, Soil Conservation Practices, Well Construction, Water Quality and Use, and Agricultural Riparian Buffer Zones factsheets and Streambank Protection Project report.



That time of year again - AGM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10-year celebration showcase of the Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award. Wrapping up the evening with the President's reception hosted by Victor Oulton and the rest of the NSFA Executive.

Never been to one of our Annual Meetings before? There's no better time than the present! We encourage you to come to the meeting, get involved in your organization – learn about what's going on in the industry and the hard work NSFA staff is putting in to better our industry as a whole. One-farm, one-vote – you don't need to be a delegate to participate in the decision making. If you're a registered farm member of the NSFA, you will get a voting card when you arrive.

Be sure to bring your friends, we always enjoying seeing new faces at our Annual Meetings – see you in November!

Policy Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

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. Also, watch for social media posts to Like and Share!

If you're interested in talking about our Standing Policies, please feel free to contact Policy and Research Coordinator, Maxine MacLean at mmaclean@nsfa-fane.ca or (902) 893-2293.

Open Farm Day Recap

Despite the hurricane, despite the rain, despite the lack of power, Nova Scotia farmers still welcomed visitors onto their farm for the 18th Annual Open Farm Day! We would like to thank each and every farm who participated this year – as well as those who had to pull out due to the impact of Hurricane Dorian. We would also like to thank the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for supporting our Open Farm Day efforts this year.

We had 32 farms who participated across the province, educating Nova

Scotians on where their food comes from, showing them their farming operation and teaching them more about farming in Nova Scotia. This year's advertising efforts included radio ads on FX 101.9 in Halifax, paid social media ads in targeted locations across the province in areas that had farms participating. There were also ads in Saltscapes Magazine and other print publications.

According to the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's (CCFI) 2018 Public Trust research, only 36% of Canadians believe that our food system is on the right track. This is down 7% from 2017. Studies show

that people trust farmers but not farming – trusting the person not the process – it's time we change that. Open Farm Day is one key component of this approach – offering a hands-on experience and the chance to connect with consumers face to face.

We hope you will join us next year for the 19th Annual Open Farm Day on September 20th, 2020! Please enjoy some of the photos submitted from participating farms and our film crew that was out on Open Farm Day this year!



Corporate Partner Highlight - Truro Agromart



Tim and Sandra Fisher are no strangers to Nova Scotia agriculture. Both grew up on small beef and dairy farms outside Truro, and continued on to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to pursue degrees in Agriculture. From there, they both held extension roles with the NS Department of Agriculture and quickly moved into the crop input supply business. In 2004, the Fishers purchased Truro Agromart Limited in Onslow, NS, and have grown the business over the past 15 years.

Truro Agromart is a unique player in the crop input market space, as it is part locally-owned by farmers. Tim and Sandra farm full-time at home in the Stewiacke Valley with 30 head of beef cattle and about 1200 acres of forages, corn, soybeans, and grain. Company partners, Donnie MacGregor and Nicholas Juurlink also both have farming background and/or actively farming families at home. Several other members of the team at Truro Agromart also farm "on the side" in dairy, beef, cash crops, and strawberries, giving the group lots of first-hand expertise to bring to their customers.

The Truro Agromart currently has a full-time team of about 18 people, 9 of whom are NSAC / DAL AC grads, and 5 of whom are Certified Crop Advisors. The team covers all of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, supplying crop inputs

and agronomic services to farmers of all sectors; from dairy, to lowbush blueberries, to onions, to hemp. Specializing in fertilizer, crop protection, seed, and farm supply, the Agromart team also actively scout fields, and collect samples to test nutrient levels in soils and crops to help growers better understand the immediate needs of their crops, be it nutrient deficiencies or pest control.

The fertilizer industry has changed a lot over the years, moving away from the "old faithful" standard blends like 17-17-17, to more customized blends geared towards specific nutrient needs by field and by crop. Micronutrients like Boron, Sulphur, and Zinc, are increasingly more important to be incorporated into these blends. The Agromart offers a few premium fertilizer products which use various modern technologies that have been designed, for example, to help evenly distribute micronutrients with each prill; or to release Nitrogen slowly over time.

The Agromart also offers SAP sampling, which is a relatively new technology in comparison to soil or tissue testing, that tests the nutrient levels in the crop (berry, apple, onion) itself to understand if, how, and when previously applied nutrients are taken up into the crop, or alternatively if the applied nutrient is not being taken

up by the plant at all. The need for future applications of nutrients can be adjusted based on the levels discovered by these tests.

Being a team of people so heavily involved in communities and primary agriculture throughout Nova Scotia, the Agromart has always supported and valued relationships with groups such as the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, 4-H, DAL AC, Nova Scotia Young Farmers, and the various provincial commodity associations. Many of the group at Truro Agromart and their families are intrinsically involved with these programs.

April thru July proves to be a very busy time for the Agromart each year, with spring fertilizing, planting and grass silaging being in full swing on farms across NS and NL. Much of the fall and winter months are devoted to preparing for the next spring season, with team training on new products and new technologies in the industry, bringing in fertilizer products from all over the world, and joining in on commodity events and meetings to keep current on challenges facing their growers.



Upcoming Events

- OCTOBER 8** **DURHAM**
Pictou North Colchester Federation Annual Meeting
- OCTOBER 23** **SKYE GLEN**
Inverness/Victoria Federation Annual Meeting
- OCTOBER 28** **BROOKLYN**
Hants County Federation Annual Meeting
- OCTOBER 27, 28 & 29** **NIAGRA FALLS**
Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference
- NOVEMBER 6** **BRIDGETOWN**
Annapolis County Federation Annual Meeting
- NOVEMBER 7** **PORT WILLIAMS**
Kings County Federation Annual Meeting
- NOVEMBER 14 & 15** **TRURO**
WBPANS 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:

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
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: vacant; Administrative Services Coordinator: Shelly MacKenzie; Policy and Research Coordinator: Maxine MacLean; Communications Coordinator: Katherine Doyle; Farm Safety Advisor, Lori Brookhouse; EFP Staff: Trevor Davison and Cory Roberts



7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, NS B6L 2Z2
Ph: 893-2293 Fax: 893-7063
Email: info@nsfa-fane.ca
Website: www.nsfa-fane.ca Facebook: @nsfafane

