

Resolutions Adopted at 2019 AGM

A-2019-01 Assistance for Biology Testing of Soils

Whereas the Department of Agriculture presently assists farmers with the cost of soil testing to determine chemical makeup; and

Whereas soil biology is a very important part of soil health;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to assist farmers in the biology testing of soils in the same manner as it assists with the cost of soil testing for chemical makeup.

A-2019-02 Improve Conditions in Rural Nova Scotia

Whereas infrastructural support is a necessity for economic growth in any industry; and

Whereas access to services such as equipment dealers, financial professionals, adequate high-speed internet, reliable electricity, a trained workforce, agricultural specialists, markets, and so much more is getting harder to find in Rural Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to improve conditions in rural Nova Scotia to attract and keep Agricultural Infrastructure spread throughout the province.

A-2019-03 Reinstate Funding for Nutrient Management Plans

Whereas the number of farms completing a nutrient management plan dropped as a direct result of the lack of funding through the Department of Agriculture's Programs; and

Whereas there is new soil information coming from the analysis labs and new fertilizer technology being developed which may not be utilized to its full capacity without nutrient management plans; and

Whereas the profit margins on farms today are tighter than ever before in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the cost of soil amendments seems to keep going up; and

Whereas a nutrient management plan shows the most efficient use of soil amendments;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to reinstate funding for the Nutrient Management Plans.

A-2019-04 Investigate Allocation of Agricultural Extension Services

Whereas the Province of Nova Scotia is geographically spread out; and

Whereas many forms of agriculture are happening throughout the entire province; and

Whereas provincial funding should be used for all farmers in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas most of the Department of Agriculture offices and Perennia are located in Truro or the Valley;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture look into the allocation of Agricultural Extension Services from the Provincial Government and private sources as they relate to farmgate sales throughout the province.

A-2019-05 Organic Certification Fees

Whereas, organic agriculture is the fastest growing of all agricultural sectors; and

Whereas, despite the growth of Canadian organic acreage in recent years, demand for organic products is significantly outpacing supply. Organic retail sales in Canada was worth CAD\$4.7 billion in 2018, equivalent to 13.6% growth per year since 2007; and

Whereas, in 2017, 66% of Canadian shoppers were purchasing organic products weekly, 83% of millennials and 78% university graduates make up a significant share of this consumer segment. Given the age group and earnings potential of the consumers demanding organic crop, sales for organic products are anticipated to continue to grow at double-digit rates for the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, the discrepancy of Canada's organic agricultural production to domestic demand is resulting in an increased reliance on imported organic products. In 2017, domestic demand for organic products was 50% greater than production of domestic organic products; and

Whereas, The New Brunswick Organic Agriculture Development Program responds to the needs of an ever-growing organic sector in the province, helping to support established operations involved in organic production and value-added activities, facilitating the transition of new entrants into organic production and increasing the capacity of the organic certification system in the province; and

Whereas, The Prince Edward Island Organic Industry Development Program provides strategic assistance with projects which will increase the province's competitiveness, productivity, profitability and certified land conversion; and

Whereas, there were 5,053 certified organic operations in Canada in 2016, over half of which were in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Ontario; and

Whereas, Nova Scotia has no specific agricultural programs in place to nurture, assist or develop its under-performing organic sector and is missing out on the greatest opportunity in agriculture in North America today;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will request and lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to implement support at 70% funding for organic certification fees (to a maximum of \$750 annually) for organic farms or farms converting to organic certification.

A-2019-06 Road and Ditch Maintenance

Whereas, the condition of road ditches is at an unacceptable level of regular maintenance in terms of grass, weed, brush control and ditching; and

Whereas, this lack of maintenance leads to safety hazards for all motorists and in particular operators of agricultural equipment due to sight lines being blocked and road shoulders being deteriorated at an increasingly rapid rate; and

Whereas, lack of regular ditch maintenance leads to accelerated road bed deterioration due to lack of adequate drainage and frost heave;

Therefore be it resolved, that Kings County Federation of Agriculture requests that Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture raise the issue of road and ditch maintenance with upper management and Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and request access to existing road maintenance protocols and what the future plans are for regular maintenance of rural roads in Nova Scotia; and

Be it further resolved, that Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture assess with assistance of 3rd party experts if the existing maintenance plans and protocols are acceptable to ensure roads are kept in good repair and furthermore, that these plans and protocols are being followed.

A-2019-07 Generators

Whereas, with climate warming it is expected that power outages of longer duration will become more prevalent; and

Whereas, power interruptions can cause significant losses to farms in terms of inability to ensure adequate environment for livestock, running of cold storages and other farm related operations;

Therefore be it resolved, that Kings County Federation of Agriculture request the Nova Scotia

Federation of Agriculture to lobby for 50 percent cost sharing for on farm generators to be included in the CAP program.

A-2019-08 Land Use Planning

Whereas, the Municipality of the County of Kings is in the process of implementing a new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaws which include a Development Agreement option requiring consultation with the Kings County Federation of Agriculture (KCFA) on specific planning issues on Agricultural Zoned lands; and

Whereas, expertise may be required that is not available on the KCFA board; and

Whereas, KCFA is concerned about perceptions of conflict of interest; and

Whereas, the Provincial government is instituting mandatory land use planning in all municipalities in NS; and

Whereas, other municipalities and county federations may be dealing with similar agricultural advisory situations on land use matters;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture formulate a process or create a committee that provides necessary expertise to County Federations to assist with land use planning issues arising between Municipalities and local Federations.

A-2019-09 Lime Subsidy

Whereas, soils in Nova Scotia tend to be naturally acidic; and

Whereas, Limestone is a reliable means of increasing soil pH which increases available nutrients for plant.; and

Whereas, the Limestone Transportation Assistance Program is under subscribed; and

Whereas, the cost of Limestone is significant and cannot often be afforded due to other high, important costs such as seeding, harvesting and sprays;

Therefore be it Resolved, that Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby for a subsidy on the purchase of lime.

A-2019-10 Spring Bear Hunt

Whereas bears are increasingly causing damage to crops on agricultural land; and

Whereas other provinces in Canada have a Spring bear hunt; and

Whereas the Nova Scotia Federation of Hunters and Anglers are interested in working with farmers to mitigate damage caused by wildlife;

Therefore be it Resolved, that Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry for a Spring Bear Hunt.

A-2019-11 Protection for Farm Community from Activists

Whereas, activists are becoming more of a concern to the agriculture industry; and

Whereas, farmers are not necessarily aware of how to properly handle the situation; and

Whereas, farmers want to portray a positive industry;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture investigate other provincial legislation regarding on farm protesting via trespassing and lobby appropriate provincial departments to strengthen legislation as required, in order to protect the farm/industry.

Further, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture work towards educating the membership on how to handle such protests.

A-2019-12 Maintenance of Dyke Systems

Whereas, there is a major dyke system at the top end of St Mary's Bay, Digby County, and the Nova Scotia Government is a major farmland owner there, and

Whereas, many farmers use these and other lands owned by local farmers, and
Whereas, these marshlands provide much needed fields to graze cattle and sheep, and also provides some needed hay supplies to local farmers, and
Whereas, due to the dyke being damaged by weather and storms, animals have to be rescued at times due to flooding, and
Whereas, these lands floods at times, due to very poor drainage due to many years of non maintenance of the ditches, and
Whereas, the provincial focus should be on preserving the agricultural lands we currently have
Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby and request the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to do the necessary repair work on this dyke system so farmers can continue to farm these productive marshlands.

A-2019-13 Program Access

Whereas, the 2018 decision to increase the qualifying farm income level from \$10,000 to \$30,000 prevented many NS farmers from applying for traditional program funding; and
Whereas, many NS farmers do not generate \$30,000 in gross farm income; and
Whereas, the Small Farm Accelerator Program is not suitable for some farming operations that require substantial financial resources to expand; and
Whereas, many NS Farmers are at the stage in their farming career where they are unable or unwilling to begin a large transition or expansion of their operations;
Therefore be it resolved, that The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Agriculture Minister to allow access to existing programs for farms and farmers that are unable to expand.