



NSFA Actions on COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NSFA's main goal has been ensuring Nova Scotians have access to safe, healthy, high-quality food.

Actions:

- NSFA has been receiving regular updates from CFA on their efforts pertaining to COVID-19 and its impact on the agriculture industry.
- NSFA has held two conference calls with farm members of the Labour Committee in order to receive industry updates and perceptions.
- NSFA has also held daily conference calls with:
 - NSFA President, Victor Oulton
 - CFA 2nd Vice President, Chris van den Heuvel,
 - Council Member and Labour Committee Chair, Allan Melvin
 - Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture
 - Member of Parliament for Kings-Hants, Kody Blois, Member of the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Agri-Food
- Discussion topics on these calls have included:
 - How we are committed to working as a group through these difficult times.
 - The importance of career promotion of agriculture.
 - We have requested formal communication be posted that meat inspectors are considered to be essential service.
 - We discussed opportunities to provide some financial relief through Farm Loan Board, Farm Credit Canada and Chartered Banks in the form of interest free deferrals and access to lines of credit to support cashflow.
 - We have requested further consideration be given to AgriStability being increased to 85%. We support CFA's motion regarding AgriStability.
 - **Motion:** "CFA calls for an immediate AgriInvest stimulus, contributing a minimum of 5% of ANS without producer matching contributions, coupled with immediate implementation of AgriStability coverage at 85% and removal of the reference margin limit for the remainder of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership"
 - We have also requested consideration be given to increase the interest free amount of APP for all commodities and allow payment deferrals without penalty.
 - We have emphasized the importance that all aspects of the food chain be considered essential services – from inputs to processors to distributors.
- Throughout the week NSFA has provided daily updates to members, county presidents, commodity managers, commodity presidents, government and Perennia staff through our



Constant Contact distributions. We will be including updates on social media as well moving forward.

- Through our Constant Contact and social media, we distributed a COVID-19 Farm Labour Impact Survey to membership in an effort to better report the impact this border closure is having on farms in Nova Scotia.
- NSFA crafted key messages for farm members regarding the impact COVID-19 has on foreign labour, along with the actions NSFA and CFA are taking on the matter.
- NSFA drafted a letter for members that could be personalized and be sent to the Members of Parliament in their area relating to foreign labour.
- Today, March 20, 2020, CFA President Mary Robinson tweeted that she received a call from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau. Minister Bibeau assured Mary that she understands the important role that TFWs play in ensuring food security in Canada and wanted to put Canadian producers' minds at ease that details around allowing workers in will be announced shortly. We will update you on these details once they are released.
- NSFA is aware of the importance of assuring the public about health and safety protocols implemented with the TFWs joining us on-farm and will be communicating about the essential role they play in our food supply system.
- NSFA will also be making efforts to promote farmers' role in ensuring a safe and healthy food supply for Nova Scotians.