

# news+views

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## #NSFA125 Recap

### Meet Your NSFA President



Tim Marsh is a dairy farmer along the dykeland in Poplar Grove. Here he milks 90 Holsteins, has a herd size of around 200 and farms 750 acres of land of which almost 300 acres is dyke land. Before taking over the family farm in 2000, he graduated from Acadia University and was a Geologist for a gypsum mining company.

His passion for geology and soils is evident – in the past he served as the Chair of Nova Scotia Soil and Crop Association and was also a Nova Scotia Representative on the Soil Conservation Council of Canada. Tim was also one of the original Directors on the Board of Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia and has served as the Chair of Hants County Federation of Agriculture.

Tim enjoys spending time with family – he and his wife Shelley often take the grandkids to search for agate in the Bay of Fundy. Shelley and Tim have three

sons: Tyler is now driving trucks, Peter is at home on the farm, and their son Craig farms on PEI.

### NSFA Council

Below is your NSFA Council for 2021 featuring the new slate of officers:

Tim Marsh, President  
Allan Melvin, 1st Vice  
Lauren Park, 2nd Vice  
Chris de Waal, Corporate Secretary & Treasurer  
Andy Parker  
Josh Oulton  
Jacob Mullen  
Peter Morine  
Joe Piotti  
Alicia King  
Jocelyn Durston  
Victor Oulton, Past President

We are thrilled to welcome **Alicia King** and **Jocelyn Durston** to the Council table and would like to congratulate **Lauren Park** and **Joe Piotti** on their re-election.

### Meet Your New Council Members

#### Alicia King



...continued on page 3

# Viewpoint

Waiting for certainty, looking for normal. That's what we're all hoping for in 2021. Reflecting on 2020, the pandemic has been the biggest disruptor for agriculture and the world, recognizing that climate change is a larger long term issue the pandemic is a bigger disrupter for 2020-21. We have seen a massive shift to online both at the very local level with farmers markets and others shifting some or even all of their business to online. As well as on a larger scale with large grocers and others accelerating their move to online shopping. For example, a recent news article interviewed Sobeys staff who said they have seen a 300% increase in online ordering, the article featured a new warehouse in central Canada which is heavily reliant on automation, they said they were able to pick a 50-piece food order in 5 minutes using the new hardware and software – impressive.

We probably won't be going back to whatever was normal before, Sobeys' article said they would have expected to be at this point in online shopping in 3 years and they were moving that way before COVID. I expect farmers markets and others are the same, we're not going back. Smartphones and other technology are simply too pervasive and convenient.

Continuing to reflect on 2020, we have another Annual Meeting under our belt at the Federation. While it was not the 125th anniversary we would have liked, we made the best of it. We all seem to be getting better at the tech since last March! This was the second year of our bylaw change that calls for an application process for Council nominations and the election of officers to be held by the Council following the Annual Meeting. This process went well this year, we had five candidates for four positions, which led to the first election we have held in a long time. I would like to extend my appreciation to Victor who was our President for the past 3 years and lead us through our strategic planning process, governance and bylaw reset, and of course COVID-19. We also welcome Tim

Marsh as he takes the helm partway through the pandemic. We also have two new council members joining our table, Alicia King and Jocelyn Durston – along with the rest of our staff I look forward to a year of advancing agriculture for Nova Scotia's farmers.

Finally, politics! I'm a bit of a political junky so I've been closely watching the Brexit negotiations finish up. There are a few comparisons to our own situation being next to the USA and having just re-negotiated our trade agreement with them. I'd say when comparing CUSMA to Brexit, it may not be a great idea for the UK to force a breakup with a market of ~500 million people on your doorstep. As the saying goes, time will tell, but nationalism and sovereignty may not have been the best negotiation positions. On the USA front, Canada has never done well with a Democrats control of government, as their policy doesn't support free trade.

Provincially, we will be looking at a new Premier on February 6th and he will want to shuffle his cabinet to put something new and shiny in the window. My bet would be a spring or early summer election. They may want to go back to the legislature first and go to an election before passing their budget.

Federally, I'd expect another election too, if the polls look good it will just be too tempting to pull the trigger before any bad news hits. Once the vaccine starts to roll and people can move around a bit more, I think they will go - I'll go out on a limb and say fall if anyone wants to start a pool.

So, a bit of a look back and a few predictions for this year, COVID-19 sure isn't over but as vaccine rolls out hopefully, we receive some protection for people so we can all focus on the business of farming and putting food and other products on customers tables and in their homes.



*Henry Vissers  
Executive Director, Nova Scotia  
Federation of Agriculture*

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

## CAHRC Partnership

NSFA continues to partner with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) to deliver tools and resources to support human resources on farm. All NSFA members have access to the AgriHR Toolkit at <https://hrtoolkit.cahrc-ccrha.ca/>. Use the NSFA Member Discount Code: NSFAToolkit to get your free access.

We are also partnering on a webinar series to be delivered over the coming months – check out our website, follow us on social media or sign up for our e-News to find out session dates! Topics to include:

- Workforce Planning for the Upcoming Season
- How to Recruit Workers for the Season
- How to Hire Foreign Workers
- Managing People on the Farm
- How to Keep Workers



...continued from page 1

Alicia and her husband Danny operate Six Maples Farm in Antigonish County. Farming as a family, they direct market much of their product and also sell on the commodity markets – providing Alicia with a vast connection to varying levels of Nova Scotia agriculture. Alicia currently sits on the board for the Antigonish/Guysborough County Federation of Agriculture, the national committee for the Verified Beef Plus Program and is active with 4-H committees both locally and provincially. In the past, Alicia has been involved with Nova Scotia and Canadian Young Farmers, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and the Maritime Beef Council.

Alicia is looking forward to promoting and advocating for our industry within Nova Scotia, as well as nationally and internationally.

#### Jocelyn Durston



Jocelyn owns and operates Seven Acres Farm located in Canning, a small vegetable, cut flower and secondary product producing operation. She relocated to Nova Scotia from British Columbia in 2014 to start building her farm business.

The majority of farm sales and activities are within the direct-sales, farmers market community in Nova Scotia.

Jocelyn currently serves as Vice President on the Wolfville Farmers' Market board, and has been actively involved in helping shape and launch the market's online shopping and delivery platform, WFM2Go. She has also been a member of Slow Food Canada and previously sat on the board of the Tantallon Village Farmers' Market.

In addition to being a small-scale, female farm owner and operator, Jocelyn is still a fairly "new" farmer. She did not grow up on or near farms but her interest in farming grew while she attended university studying food security and environmental sustainability.

### Annual Meeting Recap

Celebrating our 125th year as an organization was certainly different than it has been in previous years, with our annual meeting taking place virtually. In an effort to still have a "celebration" vibe for our 125th AGM, we hosted webinars and business meetings throughout the week that incorporated the programs delivered by the Federation.

The NSFA would like to thank everyone who attended our webinars and business meetings! We would also like to thank you all for your patience and understanding as we navigated our first virtual annual meeting.

A few highlights from the week:

- We welcomed **Clinton Monchuk** from **Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan!** Clinton gave a great presentation surrounding Public Trust and the challenges we're facing as an industry.
- We formally introduced the **Agri-Environmental Program (AEP)** - a three-way partnership between **NSFA (EFP)**, **NSDA**, and **Perennia**. The soil webinar was the first in an upcoming series of

webinars from AEP. We'd like to thank **Dr. Burton** for his great presentation.

- Nova Scotia Young Farmers held their Annual Meeting which saw the re-election of Directors: **Megan McCully, Alana Bent, Jillian Bent** and **Mandy Vosman**. After their AGM, Young Farmers and our AgSector Program tackled the topic of Farm Transition. We welcomed **three farms**, as well as an **FCC Agriculture Transition Specialist** to discuss their transition stories and answer some questions from the audience.

- During the NSFA Annual Meeting we welcomed MP **Kody Blois**, PC Party Leader: **Tim Houston**, PC Ag Critic: **John Lohr**, and NDP Ag Critic: **Lisa Roberts**. We appreciate them all taking the time to bring greetings to our members and allow for a quick Q&A session ahead of the Minister. We'd like to thank **Minister Colwell** for the Q&A session with our members, we appreciated hearing from you. During this meeting we also passed our four standing policies for 2021, as well as resolutions -see page 5 for highlights.

- Farm Safety Nova Scotia launched the creative for their Mental Health campaign "**We Talk. We Grow.**" We are thrilled with the warm reception this campaign has received thus far and are looking forward to bringing further mental health supports to the farming community in Nova Scotia. Following this, FSNS welcomed **Dr. Bill Howatt** to discuss Mental Fitness 101 and how to build our own Mental Fitness Plans. Rounding out the day was Farm Safety's Annual Meeting which saw the election of two new board members – **Janice Lutz** and **Foster Murphy!**

# Policy Corner

## Wildlife



Are you interested in knowing more about how you can manage wildlife around your farm? Join us as we welcome biologists from the **Department of Lands and Forestry Wildlife Division** for a lunch and learn webinar on **February 17th starting at 11:30a.m.** The session will provide a general overview of Wildlife Management in Nova Scotia, fur bearing animal (deer, bear, coyote and raccoon) biology and information on the human wildlife conflict program. There will also be 20 minutes for Q&A after the presentations. This session will be a great resource for farmers that deal with crop or livestock damage from wildlife and are looking for more information about management techniques. Pre-registration is required to avoid Zoom hackers! Please find the registration form on the event webpage: [nsfa-fane.ca/events](https://nsfa-fane.ca/events)

This will be the first of other wildlife information sessions to come!

## Temporary Foreign Workers

NSFA continues to address issues that pertain to temporary foreign workers. This work includes advocacy to address COVID-19 related issues as well as a consultation put forward by ESDC back in the late fall.

## Lobby Efforts

NSFA continues to be active on matters related to COVID-19. With Temporary Foreign Workers starting to arrive, we are formulating our positions and lobbying efforts to support farms and workers. On January 8, NSFA submitted a letter to Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer of Health requesting that front line workers in the agriculture and agri-food industry to be included in Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout plan. NSFA also recommended the inclusion of TFWs in the roll out plan, which is in line with Nova Scotia's public vaccination policy.

Other topics on our radar include: continued funding for farms to support the TFWs quarantine period, chartered flights into Nova Scotia and voluntary testing for TFWs during the mandatory self-isolation period. NSFA also continues to request for inclusion of TFWs in Nova Scotia's MSI coverage.

The province has updated the Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers Employed in the Agriculture and Seafood Sectors. This resource can be found here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Guidance-for-Temporary-Foreign-Workers-employed-in-the-Agriculture-and-Seafood-Sectors.pdf>. See page 8 for highlights.

Watch the NSFA eNews for timely information.

*COVID-19 continues to be an evolving area. Be sure to check the weekly eNews for current information on programs, protocols and more.*

## TFW Consultation

From mid November until December 22nd, a consultation was open with ESDC on accommodations for Temporary Foreign Workers. This consultation proposed changes to the living arrangements and requested feedback on the implication of those changes. Changes included increased privacy for TFWs, building structure, common living spaces, sleeping quarters, washroom

facilities, eating facilities, laundry facilities and amenities. NSFA made a submission to this consultation with support from a working group of farms that employ TFWs and a survey open to other farms that employ TFWs to validate the responses in the submission.

Thank-you to those who participated in the process. NSFA will watch for any reports or changes that arise from this consultation.

## Transportation

NSFA is working to address transportation related issues impacting farms. We know the disrepair of rural roads cause concern with damage to equipment, quality of product and most importantly, overall safety while using the roads. In addition to this, the regulations pertaining to the use of the roads under the Traffic Safety Act are continuing to roll out.

## Rural Roads



Many of NSFA's rural roads are in rough shape. A survey to members was open from October to the end of November as an avenue for farmers to identify roads or sections of roads that require maintenance. NSFA made a submission to TIR with hopes of influencing Rural Impact Mitigation (RIM) spending for the 2021 year. We received over 20 submissions, all of which have been passed on to TIR for consideration. NSFA will follow up with TIR at a later date to gather progress.

Thank you to everyone who provided input on the submissions!

## Policy Corner *continued from page 4*

### Traffic Safety Act

The draft regulations for the Traffic Safety Act are open for consultation. There are six consultations to take place in total, the third just finished on January 22nd. The first consultation was on licencing; NSFA provided comment on endorsement testing and classes of licences. The second consultation was on equipment; NSFA provided comment on hauling more than one implement of husbandry, the definition of farm implement and plates for non-traditional farm vehicles (eg: forklift).

The most recent consultation covered rules of the road; here NSFA made comment on exemptions for log books and clarification on regulations pertaining to commercial carriers. The next three sets of consultations for the draft regulations are expected to roll out in the coming months. Topics include business and licensing, roles and responsibilities, and administration and penalties.

### Policy Direction from the AGM

At the 2020 AGM, NSFA members adopted four standing policies and four new

resolutions. Policies and resolutions identify priority issues for NSFA to address in the coming year. This year, NSFA policy and issues management will focus on the following:

**Agricultural Land** – Working with Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs to develop and deliver resources on “Municipal Planning and Agricultural Land” to County Federations. Also, working towards a plan for protecting agricultural land through easements and fair compensation for removal of development rights is in the que.

**Soil Health** – The soil health policy will continue to move forward as we work to identify what information is already available, what further information is needed and other existing gaps such as funding and knowledge transfer to farms.

**Agriculture Policy Framework** – NSFA is working to engage members to formulate our recommendations in the next Federal Provincial Territorial Partnership for the Agriculture Policy Framework. While the current framework doesn't expire until March 2023, negotiations for the next framework will start taking place this year.

**Regulatory Affairs** – NSFA will continue to provide feedback on government consultations that will have an impact on Nova Scotia farms. This includes the draft regulations for the Traffic Safety Act, submission to the Climate Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals Act. NSFA is also working to clarify information around wetlands and agriculture use, wildlife mitigation and addressing hauling of two implements.

**Resolutions** – NSFA added four new resolutions to the list this year. They include lobbying for:

- Reviewing and deciding on the criteria for the Nova Scotia Farm Registration System,
- Inclusion of processing on farm for the TFW and SAWP programs,
- Improving processing capacity and funding for existing processors, and
- Funding for wood ash/fly ash transportation subsidy.

Updates on the progress for each of these policies, resolutions and outstanding resolutions from the 2018 and 2019 AGMs can be found in the eNews and in this News and Views.



## Young Farmers Update

### 2021 Membership

The Nova Scotia Young Farmers Board has decided to waive the fees for the 2021 membership year, fees will be reinstated in 2022.

Any memberships that were paid for 2020 prior to the fee waiver will be carried over to 2022. In order to be considered an active member for 2021, please visit [nsyoungfarmers.ca](http://nsyoungfarmers.ca) to renew your NSYF membership!

### 2021 NSYF Board of Directors

The first board meeting following the AGM was held this week, part of this meeting included the election of officers and directors! **Rebecca Archibald** continues her role as **President**, **Jonathan Waugh** has moved into the role of **Vice President** and **Alana Bent** as assumed the role of **Corporate Secretary & Treasurer**.

To the right you will find your 2021 NSYF Board.

**Rebecca Archibald**  
**President**

**Megan McCully**  
**Member at Large**

**Jonathan Waugh**  
**Vice President**

**Nichole van Dyk**  
**CYFF Rep NS/NFLD**

**Alana Bent**  
**Corporate Secretary & Treasurer**

**Nicolas Roy**  
**Past President**

**Larry Weatherby Jr.**  
**Central Region Director**

**Mandy Vosman**  
**Eastern Region Director**

**Jillian Bent**  
**Western Region Director**



## Farm Safety Update



Supporting the **MENTAL HEALTH** of Nova Scotia Farmers ❤️

In December, we launched our mental health campaign, “We Talk. We Grow.”, to support the mental health of Nova Scotia Farmers. This campaign will run alongside our action plan that is tailored to Nova Scotia’s farm community. We will be releasing the details of our action plan and our full campaign in the coming months!

Conversations about mental health are a vital piece to improving mental health literacy in our industry. We encourage you to begin or continue having these important conversations with your friends, family and neighbours, your coworkers and employees. While we have joined in the conversation, please know that we are actively listening to the concerns and needs of the industry to provide and advocate for mental health resources and support.

One resource that we continue to provide is the Farm Family Support Center (1.844.880.9142) which offers farmers and their family’s up to 3 hours of support services at no cost. The Member Assistance Program is designed to help you and your family to find solutions to farming challenges such as mental health, relationships, finances, and much more.

Part of our work with the We Talk. We Grow, campaign is to improve the mental



health literacy in Nova Scotia’s farm community. This includes providing you with workshops, webinars and training opportunities. In December 2020, we offered Virtual Mental Health First Aid training which included recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, learning how to provide initial help, and learning how to guide a person towards appropriate professional help. The training involved a 2 hour online self-paced course, and then two 3-hour virtual modules, our next session will be held being held on February 4 & 5th, 2021. We look forward to hosting more Mental Health First Aid courses in the near future.

We have a wide variety of workshops and webinars coming up over the next few weeks! Check out the table on to the right for our upcoming events or visit [farmsafetyns.ca/events/](https://farmsafetyns.ca/events/)!

### Canadian Agricultural Safety Week March 14-20

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) is an annual campaign held the third week of March of each year. Safe & Strong Farms is a three-year campaign celebrating farm safety across Canada. The aim of the campaign is to empower farmers, farm families and farming communities to build, grow, and lead the agricultural industry in safety and sustainability. Stay tuned to upcoming News & Views and E-News articles as well as social media for updates on what else is to come.

### Farmers Safety Rally

A great way to engage your workers in safety discussions is by holding a Farmer Safety Rally once per month using the meeting templates available on the farm safety website. There is a wide range of topics from bio-security to hurricanes as well as a template to document the meeting discussion, answer quiz questions and note attendance. This is an easy way to train your workers on hazardous tasks

and document the training conducted to meet OHS requirements.

### Available Online Courses

Delivering in-person training throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, but Farm Safety launched an online training platform in the spring of 2020. Courses include WHMIS and Introduction to Farm Safety in both English and Spanish, Agriculture Road Safety, Animal Handling (Cattle, Swine, Sheep, Avian and Fur Species included) and Tractor & Farm Machinery. Visit [farmsafetyns.ca](https://farmsafetyns.ca) and start your online training today!

Event <a href="https://farmsafetyns.ca/events">farmsafetyns.ca/events</a>	Date & Time
Farmers Safety Corner	February 17 @11:30am
Farmers Safety Corner	February 24 @7:00pm
Violence Isn't Just Physical	February 23 @11:30am
Under the Influence – Safe and Sober at work?	March 9 @11:30am
<b>Canadian Agricultural Safety Week: March 14-20</b>	
Gear up for Ag	March 16 @9:30am & 1:00pm
Virtual Progressive Ag Safety Days	March 17 @1:00pm
Farmers Safety Corner	March 17 @11:30am
Navigating Crisis	March 18 @11:30am
Build a Farm Safety Plan	March 19 @9:00am
Farmers Safety Corner	March 24 @7:00pm

# Recognizing Environmental Stewardship - Farmer Profiles

2020 was certainly a challenging year and the COVID-19 pandemic changed many things, including the way our EFP program was able to interact with farmers. We did not present an Environmental Stewardship Award, but that didn't mean that there weren't still a lot of deserving candidates for consideration.

The hardest part in the award process was always trying to narrow down the candidates and eventually selecting a winner as all of the finalists over the years were deserving of recognition. Based on that realization, we have decided to introduce a new approach to highlight more farms throughout the year that are doing something unique (e.g. introducing new technology), or making a greater effort towards conservation (e.g. habitat biodiversity) or it could be as simple as just doing all of the little things right for a long time.

We will be adding these profiles to our **new EFP website**, <https://nsefp.ca> and promoting these farms on social media, but we wanted to start getting the word out now and encourage you to check back regularly to see the farms across the province that are committed to environmental stewardship.

## Elmridge Farm

The first farm in our new "Farmer Profile" series is Elmridge Farm Ltd. Owned and operated by Greg and Suzanne Gerrits, their two children Gillian and James and a dedicated team of local and international farm workers. Elmridge Farm Ltd. grows a wide variety of fresh



market fruit and vegetables, the majority of which are grown pesticide free.

They are a good example of doing many things right. Greg and Suzanne have maintained an Environmental Farm Plan for many years and during one of their updates, we discussed the use of their bale chopper for applying mulch on late season fields. Soil coverage over the winter is important for erosion control, but the mulch also has the added benefit of improving organic matter and soil structure. Not many farms make this investment to protect their fields, but the benefits to soil conservation and soil health should make it an investment worth considering for annual crop production.

In another visit, Greg commented on his use of rye grass and clover overseeded in his corn fields. At the time, there was very little use of that practice in the Valley. It is becoming more common now, often with rye overseeded at the 6th leaf stage (see our News and Views article: [Cover crops – not just an end of season conversation](#) for more information on that practice). These days, any fields harvested between June and August are immediately seeded down to a barley and vetch mix. Any fields harvested in September or October are immediately seeded to cereal rye. The rye grows vigorously until the ground freezes and starts growing again early in the spring. It is mowed before planting the next season's crops and baled for mulch to be used to protect open ground in the coming fall.

The farm is also interested in new technology. Late in 2018, after searching for ways to reduce the cost of hand

weeding, Greg found a Nova Scotia startup company called Nexus Robotics that was developing a weed pulling robot. In the summer of 2019 Nexus set up shop on the farm. In very basic terms, the robot has multiple arms similar to what are used in a 3-D printer that are controlled by visual computer recognition of plants. The robot is "learning" to be able to effectively distinguish between crop and weeds and reach down into the row of crop plants and pull only the weeds with a pincer type of "hand". It's relatively easy to tell an employee to "pull this, don't pull that" but to teach a computer how to do it right requires a lot of programming and testing. The plan for 2021 is to have a prototype in the fields at Elmridge Farm. Hopefully we will have a chance to see it in action this season.

Elmridge Farm Ltd. also has the largest private solar panel array in Maritimes. The farm has a 100-kilowatt solar energy system which produces enough electricity to cover almost all the farm's needs. The biggest power needs on the farm are for the coolers for the harvested crops, but there are also demands from the farm garage, lighting (much of which has been upgraded to LED's) and electric heat in the bunkhouses for workers.

To find out more about Elmridge Farm and the products they produce, check out their website: <https://elmridgefarm.com/> or find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/elmridgefarm/>.

Do you have a suggestion for a Farmer Profile? Let us know – [efp@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:efp@nsfa-fane.ca)



## AgSector Update

### Update on Temporary Foreign Worker Requirements for 2021

The **Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Perennia** and the **Nova Scotia Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries and Aquaculture** are working to work together to support agriculture and seafood companies in successfully completing the mandatory 14-day isolation period of temporary foreign workers, arriving in Nova Scotia via the SAWP and TFW streams.

Perennia is the primary contact to support employers through the isolation period and will act as the liaison to help employers ensure compliance with all provincial requirements. The NSFA takes an active role in supporting employers by ensuring all required resources and

templates are available for use during isolation and beyond. The NSFA is the voice of Nova Scotia farmers and takes an active role in advocating on various issues impacting temporary foreign workers and their employers. See the Policy Corner on page 4 for an update on advocacy related items.

As the employer, the process you follow for arranging your workers for the seasons remains the same – whether it be through F.A.R.M.S., another provider or on your own. The support provided by Perennia is to help prepare you for the arrival of your workers to Nova Scotia in compliance with the Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers employed in the Agriculture and Seafood Sectors document.

There have been slight updates to the Guidance for Temporary Foreign Workers employed in the Agriculture and Seafood Sectors document and include:

- Limit to 10 workers per house during isolation; a pre-approval is required for more than 10 and will be based on individual circumstances – contact

Perennia for details.

- Perennia will not be at the airport this season;
- You are required to arrange for food for your workers upon their arrival in Nova Scotia.

There are additional Federal requirements as well, and include:

- As of November 21, 2020, those who are entering Canada by plane are required to complete the federal ArriveCAN app prior to arrival. Information is available on the federal government website.
- As of January 7, 2021, those who arrive in Canada by plane are required to have had a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival. Details can be found at <https://travel.gc.ca/>

The NSFA and Farm Safety Nova Scotia continues to support employers by ensuring you have access to the posters and templates you require during the 14-day isolation period. Visit [www.nsfa-fane.ca/covid-19/tfw](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca/covid-19/tfw) for more information.

For information on COVID-19 at the farm workplace visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca/covid-19](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca/covid-19).

### Farm Technician Apprenticeship

As you likely recall, Farm Technician was officially designated as a trade last year. This trade came to fruition after the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee whose members worked diligently to prepare a trade designation application to the NSAA Board after many discussions, industry consultations, a needs assessment and outlining the scope of the trade.

We are looking for participants to help support the development of the Farm Technician Apprenticeship program and are hoping to have representation from across commodities and farm sizes.

While Farm Technician is officially a trade and has a defined scope, there is still much work to be done to further develop the trade including development and validation of the occupational standard, curriculum standard, exam bank and

logbook.

To ensure a successful program, it is essential that we have Subject Matter Experts involved in this work.

**Who is a Subject Matter Expert?** Those with hands on experience working within the Farm Technician's scope of trade. This could be a farm owner or a farm worker.

**What is the time commitment?** Subject Matter Experts will be asked to participate in a series of workshops where they will provide their agricultural expertise and knowledge, which will then be used to develop the materials for the program.

Each workshop will run 6 hours in length and will be held in-person when possible and a Microsoft Teams option will be offered to those who wish to participate remotely.

1. Occupational Standards: 3 – 5

workshops

2. Task/Subtask Validation: 1 workshop

3. Certification Exam Questions: 1 – 2 workshops

4. Curriculum Standard: 2 – 3 workshops

Ideally, Subject Matter Experts would be able to participate in all sessions, but we recognize there may be time constraints. Participants will be compensated for travel related expenses along with an honorarium for lost wages and meals will be provided.

To ensure a robust and successful Farm Technician Apprenticeship program it is essential that we have Subject Matter Experts from across the industry.

Interested in becoming a Subject Matter Expert? Contact Carolyn for more information – [cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca).



# Public Trust Update

## Your Farmers, Your Nova Scotia: Recipe Competition Recap

In the fall Meet Your Farmer hosted the 5-Star Recipe Competition online, asking Nova Scotians to submit their favourite recipe that featured Nova Scotia ingredients. We had 11 entries submitted with NSFA staff reviewing and selecting the top 5. Those recipes went onto our farmer judges to make and judge. A special thank you to: **Alicia and Danny King, Amy and David Hill, Janice and Emily Lutz, Victor and NovaDawn Oulton, and Katie and Phillip Keddy and Family** for judging our recipes and sharing your experiences in the kitchen on social media! The winning recipe was judged by Victor and Nova Dawn and is... **Maritime Glory Loaf submitted by Donna Wager!** Donna won a beautiful wool blanket donated by Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture and few NS farm goodies. You can find the winning recipe at: <https://meetyourfarmer.ca/recipes/#maritime-glory-loaf>




Open to all youth ages 2-12!  
Entries due by  
February 23, 2021

It's easy to enter:  
Choose a colouring sheet from our website. Download, print and colour. Email it to us or post it on our Facebook page @nsfameetyourfarmer

MEETYOURFARMER.CA

CREATE WITH US  
COLOURING SHEETS  
FOR KIDS

All colouring sheets available at:

## Thank You Macy!

We said farewell to Macy Cameron at the end of December but we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her work in the public trust program during her time at NSFA! Best of luck in your future endeavors Macy!

## What's on deck?

2021 is moving right along and Meet Your Farmer is working on a number of online events this winter.

### 1. Meet Your Farmer: Keeping Food Safe

Scheduled for **Monday, February 1 at 12PM via Zoom**. Learn more about keeping your food safe. A panel will discuss what happens at the farm level, processing, and transport and who helps to regulate and inspect food safety systems. We will also have tips for you in the kitchen on proper storage and cooking techniques to reduce your chance of food borne illness. If you missed the live event the recording will be available at [meetyourfarmer.ca](https://meetyourfarmer.ca) or on YouTube.

### 2. Canada's Ag Day with Meet Your Farmer and Dalhousie University

We are celebrating Canada's Ag Day on Tuesday, **February 23, 2021** this year! Together, Meet Your Farmer and DAL AC will be hosting a Fireside Chat on Facebook Live at 6pm to talk soils!

### 3. Meet Your Farmer: Let's Get Cooking

We will be heading to the kitchen with a few farmers and a Nova Scotia chef to whip up something delicious to help you get through the last bit of winter! Keep an eye for this event mid-late March. Details available on [meetyourfarmer.ca](https://meetyourfarmer.ca)

### 4. Kids Colouring Contest

This one is for kids! Grab your crayons, markers, paints, or whatever you like and head on over to [meetyourfarmer.ca](https://meetyourfarmer.ca) to find a colouring sheet to complete for a chance to win an awesome prize pack! Open to ages 2-12 with a prize pack available for 2-5 years old, 6-9 years old and 10-12 years old. Deadline to enter is **February 23, 2021!**

## 8 Reasons to be a NSFA member

**1. A Trusted Voice:** The NSFA has been the voice of Nova Scotia farmers since 1895. Representing the interests of over 2,000 farm families across the province.

**2. Accountable Representation:** NSFA Council members are elected directly from NSFA membership at the Annual General Meeting. The NSFA works closely with County Federations and commodity organizations - hosting county & commodity presidents round tables, commodity manager meetings and participating in their events whenever possible.

**3. Strong Committees:** The NSFA is home to a number of committees that help influence and guide the work of the Federation. Some of these committees include: Policy Advisory and Risk Management. Committee membership consists of Council members, members-at-large and various stakeholders.

**4. Effective Lobbying:** As the only general farm organization in the province, the results of NSFA's lobbying and advocacy efforts are a serious benefit to our members as well as the agriculture industry in the province. Results of NSFA lobbying and advocacy include: farm plates, fuel tax rebates, government funding programs, labour advocacy for Temporary Foreign Workers, changes to the Municipal Planning Act, TIR Regulations etc.

**5. Dedicated Staff:** The NSFA is home to a team of dedicated individuals who are passionate about the agriculture industry in Nova Scotia. This team works to tackle issues and challenges facing the industry and offer programs and other supports to the farming community.

### 6. Supporting Nova Scotia Young Farmers:

The NSFA is a proud supporter of the Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum. NSYF receives direct support from the Federation for governance, finance, communication, event logistics and more! We are happy to support the industry's future leaders.

### 7. Delivery of Industry Led Programs:

NSFA is home to a variety of programs including Farm Safety Nova Scotia, AgSector Program, Environmental Farm Plan Program and Meet Your Farmer. These programs support farms in accessing the tools and resources they need to operate safe and sustainable farm businesses.

**8. Member Benefits:** NSFA Member Benefit Partners offer significant savings to our members. Some of these benefits include: health insurance, fleet pricing on vehicles, retail discounts, preferred rates on fuel and propane - and that's just a few!

**Not eligible to register as a farm, or planing to retire, but still interested in staying connected with the NSFA? Become a Friend of NSFA.**

**A friend is non-voting and you would receive:**

- A membership card
- Each edition of the News & Views for the membership year
- Access to training opportunities and discounts through NSFA programs
- Access to select member benefits

Our "Friends of the NSFA" program is a yearly **\$75** membership. If you're interested in being our friend, or if you have any questions, please contact [comms@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:comms@nsfa-fane.ca) or call (902) 893-2293

## Farm Registration

### Becoming a Member

To become a member of the NSFA, you'll need to **"Check the Box" on Section 6 of your farm registration form** – there is no additional cost above your farm registration fee.

### What are the benefits of registering my farm?

- Access to farm assistance programs (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
- Access to veterinary services and herd health
- No tax on marked diesel fuel
- Zero taxation on farm land

### What does my registration pay for?

Registration fees provide funding for the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA).

### What is the fee structure?

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| • < \$29,999            | \$175 |
| • \$30,000 - \$99,999   | \$400 |
| • \$100,000 - \$499,999 | \$600 |
| • \$500,000 - \$999,999 | \$850 |
| • \$1,000,000 or more   | \$975 |

### What do I have to provide for proof of income?

You will have to provide proof of eligible gross commodity income, based on the Statement of Farming Activities, by submitting a copy of one of the following documents: **T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue**. Please submit the most recent version of the document that you have on hand. They are currently working on an automation process with the Canada Revenue Agency for sole proprietors.

For more information on Farm Registration and Renewals, you can contact the Registrar of Farms at the Department of Agriculture by calling 1-902-893-6377 or email: [farmreg@novascotia.ca](mailto:farmreg@novascotia.ca)





# Exciting times at the Provincial Exhibition

Nova Scotia has a strong history of agricultural exhibitions that provide family and community activities, promote the diversity and value of agriculture in our province, and support opportunities for youth and the public to participate. A provincial exhibition at the Bible Hill location is a key part of that history.

Since 1876, when William Blair's family farm hosted the first agricultural exhibition in Truro, to the 2019 exhibition that welcomed more than 30,000 people to the grounds, the Provincial Exhibition has continued to evolve and reinvent itself. It is now taking another step forward with several exciting renovations



Steve Currie, CineMedia

to the buildings and grounds, building on its history as the central place to hold agricultural events in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, located on 65 acres of land in Bible Hill, proudly produces the largest exhibition in the province and hosts many popular agricultural and community events each year. It is home to the Colchester County 4-H, the Farm Equipment Museum, the Truro Horseman's Club, and the Truro Raceway, which is one of the oldest harness racing facilities in the country.

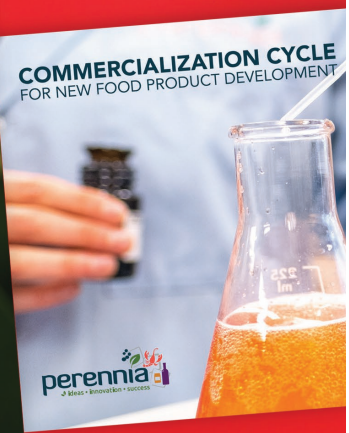
## Transformation in 2021

The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition is thrilled for these capital upgrades, and you can share in this exciting journey of transformation by following along on its Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OfficialNSPE/](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialNSPE/). This exciting new project will include a new horse barn, renovations of several buildings on site, and much more!

These renovations will ensure this important agricultural asset will be available into the future, to the benefit of the economy of Colchester County and the province.

## Did you know that Perennia offers a variety of resources and publications to provide support for the industry?

Our newest publications include the Safe Food for Canadians, Good Agricultural Practices Guide and the Commercialization Booklet for New Food Product Development.



To receive a copy of either of these publications, please contact **Sara Bone** at [sbone@perennia.ca](mailto:sbone@perennia.ca) or by phone at **902-678-7722** [www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca)



# Upcoming Events

**February 10, 2021 - Online**  
Greenhouse Nova Scotia AGM

**February 23, 2021**  
Canada's Agriculture Day

**March 2, 2021 - Online**  
Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia AGM

**March 3, 2021 - Online**  
Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia AGM

**March 6, 2021**  
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers AGM

**March 14-20, 2021**  
Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

**March 16, 2021 - Online**  
Gear Up for Ag

**March 20, 2021**  
Grape Growers Association of NS AGM

**May 13, 2021**  
Christmas Tree Council of NS AGM

## NSFA Senate Club

At the Senate Club Zoom AGM on November 26th, we were pleased to elect as Honourary Senators, Leo Cox and Wanda Hamilton for their contributions to the agricultural community over the years.

We look forward to when we will have the opportunity to "pin" them and greet them in person.



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## Get involved!

### Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month 2021

#### Why Participate?

- Increase public trust in agriculture by educating the next generation of consumers about where their food comes from
- Create a personal connection with the students to help to create a positive image of agriculture
- Increase the connection to farms that has been lost over time
- Share your story about how amazing an agriculture career can be



March 2021 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month! Did you know that this national program started in Nova Scotia? Please join us in virtual visits to bring the story of "Our Food, Our Story" to Nova Scotia classrooms.

If you would like to participate, please email [Ag.Education@novascotia.ca](mailto:Ag.Education@novascotia.ca).

Resources and assistance will be supplied to all volunteers.



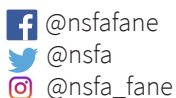
### 2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tim Marsh President/CFA 902-798-7924	Victor Oulton Past President 902-798-4440	Jacob Mullen 902-778-0063
Allan Melvin 1st Vice 902-499-6968	Lauren Park 902-292-5160	Joe Piotti 902-657-2308
Lauren Park 2nd Vice 902-292-5160	Josh Oulton 902-670-4538	Alicia King 902-870-4810
Chris de Waal Corporate Secretary & Treasurer 902-582-7756	Peter Morine 902-527-3274	Jocelyn Durston 902-993-0083
	Andy Parker 902-679-8630	

### STAFF

Henry Visser Executive Director	Maxine MacLean Policy Analyst	VACANT AgSector Coordinator
Carolyn Van Den Heuvel Director of Outreach & Member Relations	Katherine Tuttle Communications Coordinator	Trevor Davison EFP Coordinator
Tracey Otterson Financial Services Coordinator	Janette McDonald Public Trust Coordinator	Cory Roberts EFP Coordinator
Shelly MacKenzie Administrative Services Coordinator	Lori Brookhouse Farm Safety Advisor	Nicole Shanahan EFP Assistant (Term)

Website: [www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca)



NSFA News + Views is the Newsletter of the NS Federation of Agriculture, the voice of Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.

News + Views is provided free of charge to its members. We value comments and concerns from our members. Please direct them to Council members or Office Staff.