

# news+views

Vol. 33 Issue 2 March 2021

## In this Issue...

Farm Registration .....	1
Viewpoint .....	2
Friends of the NSFA Program .....	3
Young Farmers Update. ....	3
Policy Corner .....	4
Policy Corner cont'd .....	5
Canadian Agricultural Safety Week 2021. ....	6
Frost Seeding .....	7
AgSector Update .....	8
Public Trust Update .....	9
NSFA Member Benefits. ....	10
CASW Contest. ....	11
Maritime Fuels .....	11
Upcoming Events. ....	12
Farm Family Support Line. ....	12

## Farm Registration

It's that time of year again - farm registration renewals!

Please don't forget to **"Check the box"** on **Section 6** of your farm registration form to stay connected with the NSFA and up-to-date on industry trends and news, and to have your say in the direction of our organization.

Currently, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture represents the interests of over 90% of all agricultural production in the province, while supporting farm families and businesses through lobby and advocacy efforts and the delivery of outreach services. Your Federation works in the best interest of our members and by becoming a member, it means that your farm has a say in the work and direction of the organization.

The NSFA monitors and reviews trends, legislation and programs that impact the industry. We actively lobby and advocate for changes and improvements to legislation, programs and public policy. We work with our members and a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure our members' voices are represented and heard. Results of NSFA lobbying and advocacy include: farm plates, fuel tax rebates, labour advocacy for Temporary Foreign Workers, changes to the Municipal Planning Act, TIR Regulations, just to name a few.

As you know, 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.

We have also developed a formal partnership with Nova Scotia Young Farmers in order to further support their mission and vision - they are our future leaders and we are happy to provide them with the supports needed to flourish and grow.

In addition to the work we do on behalf of and in support of the industry, the NSFA also provides benefits to its members. Some benefits include access to Blue Cross group health insurance, preferred pricing at Maritime Fuels and Superior Propane, as well as discounts at Mark's Work Warehouse, Chrysler, Enterprise and more! For more details on our current member benefits, please visit **page 10**.

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. Once you check the box, please feel free to reach out to our team here at NSFA to find out how you can get involved! We are always looking for active members who are interested in engaging with us on our committees and initiatives.

# Viewpoint

*"Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns- the ones we don't know we don't know." - Donald Rumsfeld*

I love this quote; it really reflects our current reality in so many ways. Take for example, the issue of quarantine coming into Canada and how it affects the farms that are bringing in workers under the Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program and Temporary Foreign Worker streams. Last year, there were many unknowns and together we worked through the issues and were eventually able to bring in workers albeit late and in some cases fewer than projected.

We would have thought that this year we know enough that we could provide some certainty around the process. The wrench that the federal government threw into the gears means that we still don't have the details worked out on where workers will quarantine and how they finish their journey to Nova Scotia. But rest assured, we will continue to advocate for clarity on this matter, it is a top priority.

Speaking of Farm Safety Nova Scotia, farm safety in and of itself is another unknown known, having a plan and practicing safety on the farm is an important way to manage that risk. Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is March 14 to the 20th, this year. CASW is put on by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) and supported by Farm Safety Nova Scotia. For 2021, the theme is Safe & Strong Farms. The aim of the campaign is to empower farmers, farm families and farming communities to build (2019), grow (2020), and lead (2021) the agricultural industry in safety and sustainability. I remember when NSFA began the discussion of the

development of a farm safety association in Nova Scotia, at our first meeting when starting introductions someone lead off relating an incident on their farm, everyone around the table could relay an accident or injury they were aware of, that certainly set the tone for why we were there. Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is a good time to reflect on improving safety on your farm as spring approaches.

Turning over to politics now, the Food Policy for Canada consultations started in 2017 and recently a Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council has been named. Mary Robinson, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has been named to the council. The council reports to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, it's a pretty large and diverse group on the council which will focus on four pillars of the policy; helping Canadian communities access healthy food; making Canadian food the top choice at home and abroad; supporting food security in northern and Indigenous communities; and reducing food waste. While this is exciting, there are many challenges in implementing the policy.

Federally, we can also expect a long-awaited budget and specifically a decision on the proposal for enhancements to AgriStability that Minister Bibeau put on the table at the Federal Provincial Territorial meeting. It's been described by the farm community as a step in the right direction but certainly not a panacea for the Ag Policy Framework.

Finally, a few words about the new provincial Premier and Cabinet. With the election of Premier Iain Rankin and a lot of new faces in the Cabinet, we are expecting a speech from the Throne on March 9th, that will lay out the government's objectives for this sitting of the legislature. Based on his campaign for leader, we can expect more emphasis on climate change and fiscally, less focus on balancing the budget at least in the



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

interim and until after the next election. Ministers will receive a mandate letter that will outline broader goals for the departments, we will of course review them all once they are public. It is certainly possible that we will have a provincial and a federal election this year, an unknown that we will prepare for in any case.

So, lots to watch for in the political and policy fronts over the next few months and, of course, there are also the unknown knowns to watch for as well.

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



## Friends of the NSFA Program

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

As you all know, we are always in a constant state of change, things are never exactly the same as they were the day before. Because of this, we wanted to develop a program that would meet your changing needs. This program is targeted at those who are no longer able to register a farm but want to stay connected with the work NSFA is doing on behalf of industry, or those who are no longer actively farming and want to stay in the loop.

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

## Young Farmers Update

Nova Scotia Young Farmers have been quite active throughout the end of 2020 and heading into 2021.

Following our annual meeting, where we were fortunate to host a succession and transition panel alongside the AgSector Program and Farm Credit Canada, NSYF also hosted an information session with the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. NSFLB provided an overview of their current offerings and allowed time for questions from attendees. We’d like to thank Jaclyn Biggs from the Farm Loan Board for taking the time!

Members of the NSYF Executive; Rebecca, Jonathan, and Alana - met with the PC Party Caucus, as well as NDP Ag Critic, Lisa Roberts. The NSYF Executive would like to thank the PC and NDP for expressing interest in youth in agriculture.

In our presentations, NSYF focused on three core pillars: Investment, Local Markets & Distribution, and Social & Family.

Below are points that were touched on under each pillar.

### Investment

- Initial Investment
- Agricultural Land
- Program Eligibility
- Professional Development
- Employment Programs

### Local Markets & Distribution

- Local Market
- Local Distribution
- School Food - Institutions

### Social & Family

- Childcare
- Succession & Transition

At the end of February, NSYF teamed up with Meet Your Farmer on their first Let’s Get Cooking series! We were excited to watch Chef Andy Hay from East Coast Kitchen in action. The ingredients used in the recipe were from young farmers from across Nova Scotia! Those farms were:

- Millen Family Farm
- Elmridge Farm
- Snowy River Farms
- River View Herbs
- Fox Hill Cheese
- den Haan Greenhouses
- Stokdijk Greenhouses Ltd.

On March 11, Nova Scotia Young Farmers will be going head to head with New Brunswick Young Farmers in a Virtual Trivia Night! If you want to get in on the action, you can register on the young farmers website: [nsyoungfarmers.ca/events](https://nsyoungfarmers.ca/events)



## Policy Corner

### Agriculture Policy Framework Standing Policy

As you may recall from the AGM, NSFA has a Standing Policy on influencing the next Agriculture Policy Framework (APF). In a presentation to Council from the Policy Director with NSDA, we have a timeline of how the next framework is expected to roll out. This timeline helps to influence our timeline and the “levels of asks” that we need to make. To explain further...

The APF rolls out with a high level “statement”. This essentially identifies the pillars and principles of the next framework. High level themes and the intention of the framework are named and provide the context for the Federal/Provincial/Territorial multi-lateral agreement. It is in this “high-level” space that we will be consulting with members on first.

Once the statement has been established, we will then need to influence the multi-lateral agreement. Specific targets for Canada and cost sharing are included here. Once the multi-lateral agreement is complete, we move into the bi-lateral between Canada and Nova Scotia. It is here where we will need to be most active and lobby for specific programs, demonstrate how those programs link to the multi-lateral agreement and statement while meeting the specific needs of farms in Nova Scotia. Consulting with members on aspects at the provincial level will take place, but not until after

the statement has been released. The Statement is typically released as part of a Federal/Provincial/Territorial Minister’s Roundtable meeting in the summer.

### Wildlife Webinar

A huge thank-you to everyone who tuned into the webinar on Wildlife Management. We had a whopping 64 people join us at peak! We had positive feedback on the event and the biologists from Lands and Forestry fielded many questions. For those who were unable to attend the session, we will be pulling together the questions that were asked into an online resource and that will be found on our website.

There were many questions about human wildlife conflict and the programs that can be used to mitigate against the damage to livestock and crops. As a start, you can contact your regional office to find out what options are available to you and the type of damage you are experiencing. Watch our website and News & Views for more answers to your questions!

### Not everything happens in 3s...

The Agriculture Census is a “snapshot in time” and is used as a bench mark of changes in the industry. The Agriculture Census takes place every five years; Spring 2021 is when the Agriculture Census will next take place.

The information that can be teased out of Census data is extraordinary. It helps decision makers identify longer-term trends, influences funding priority areas

and is the go-to for a snapshot of the industry by commodity, province and localized regions.

Statistics Canada does a good job at maintaining anonymity. Though data is reported in aggregate, there are times when a figure is not available. For example, when we run provincial reports by counties, there are some counties and some commodities that Statistics Canada will not report on due to low numbers. Results will start to roll out in the spring following the census year, meaning, we can expect an initial report from Statistics Canada in Spring 2022.

It is always important for farms to participate in the Agriculture Census. According to resources available by Statistics Canada, the census survey has improved. The online version will intuitively select the next question based on your response to the previous question. This will eliminate the “if no, skip to section \_\_\_\_” directions. An invitation will be sent to farmers in May with directions on completing the census survey.

*Fun Fact: Statistics Canada is encouraging people to share their “census completion” stories on Social Media! Use #2021Census to share your story.*



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

# AGRICULTURE

www.census.gc.ca      www.recensement.gc.ca





## Save the Dates!



### March 25th - Agriculture Policy Framework Roundtable

As mentioned in the section on the APF, NSFA will be consulting with members on the statement for the next policy framework. NSFA will be holding a roundtable on March 25th in the afternoon to discuss this important topic and to frame recommendations for the next statement. While we recognize the much-needed input on provincially delivered programs, this session will focus on the high-level intentions and principles for the next policy framework. Keep watching for an opportunity to provide an update on provincially delivered programs.

### April 7th – Managing Wildlife on your farm: the feathers edition

After a successful webinar on Wildlife Management, NSFA is working with Canadian Wildlife Services and Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry to provide information on bird species – namely geese and starlings.

If you enjoyed the session on fur-bearing animals and are interested in managing damage caused by bird species, this is a session for you! This session will cover some of the habits of geese and starlings followed by information on the programs that farmers can access to mitigate against damage and loss.

Sign up for these and other events by visiting:  
[nsfa-fane.ca/events](https://nsfa-fane.ca/events)

## Government Relations

### Changing of the guard

There has been lots of change taking place! The Liberal Leadership Race decided Iain Rankin to be the Premier succeeding McNeil. Based on Rankin's platform, we can anticipate a strong focus on the environment, the establishment of an Economic Growth Council and a commitment to food security. NSFA looks forward to working with Premier Rankin and the new Cabinet on the issues most important to farmers and the agriculture industry.

### Provincial Political Party Conventions

As part of NSFA's government relations strategy, we attend the provincial party's conventions as an observer. Attending these conventions provides insight into the direction of the party, their initiatives and help identify the "who's who".

The PC Party of Nova Scotia held their convention in mid-February. Much like our own AGM – it was virtual for the first time. There was lots of conversation about election readiness and a report on the robust approach the party undertook to establish policies and positions the party can take when in power or push for as the opposition in the legislature. The MPs and of course party leader, Tim Houston, touted their recently released Hope for Health Care Plan.

NSFA is eagerly watching for annual conventions for both the Liberal and the NDP party!

### Contact for Department of Lands & Forestry Offices

#### Antigonish

Phone: 902-863-4513  
e-mail: [DNR-Antigonish@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Antigonish@novascotia.ca)

#### Baddeck

Phone: 902-295-2554  
e-mail: [DNR-Baddeck@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Baddeck@novascotia.ca)

#### Bible Hill

Phone: 902-893-5620  
e-mail: [LandsandForestry-BibleHill@novascotia.ca](mailto:LandsandForestry-BibleHill@novascotia.ca)

#### Coxheath

Phone: 902-563-3370  
e-mail: [DNR-COXHEATH@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-COXHEATH@novascotia.ca)

#### Digby

Phone: 902-638-2385 or 1-800-639-7030

#### Guysborough

Phone: 902-533-3503  
e-mail: [Guysborough-office@novascotia.ca](mailto:Guysborough-office@novascotia.ca)

#### Jeddore

Phone: 902-889-2332  
e-mail: [DNR\\_Jeddore@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR_Jeddore@novascotia.ca)

#### Kentville

Phone: 902-679-6097  
e-mail: [DNR-Kentville@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Kentville@novascotia.ca)

#### Lawrencetown

Phone: 902-584-2229  
e-mail: [DNR-Lawrencetown-Office2@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Lawrencetown-Office2@novascotia.ca)

#### Lunenburg

Phone: 902-634-7555  
e-mail: [dnr-lunenburg-office@novascotia.ca](mailto:dnr-lunenburg-office@novascotia.ca)

#### McLellans Brook

Phone: 902-922-4020 / 902-922-4015  
e-mail: [DNR-McLellans-BrookRegnServ@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-McLellans-BrookRegnServ@novascotia.ca)

#### Parrsboro

Phone: 902-254-3241  
e-mail: [Parrsboro-office@novascotia.ca](mailto:Parrsboro-office@novascotia.ca)

#### Sheet Harbour

Phone: 902-885-2377  
e-mail: [DNRSHEETHARBOUR@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNRSHEETHARBOUR@novascotia.ca)

#### Middle Musquodoboit

Phone: 902-384-2290  
e-mail: [DNRMiddleMusquodoboit@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNRMiddleMusquodoboit@novascotia.ca)

#### Milton

Phone: 902-354-3462  
e-mail: [DNR-MILTON@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-MILTON@novascotia.ca)

#### Oxford

Phone: 902-447-2115  
e-mail: [DNR-Oxford@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Oxford@novascotia.ca)

#### Shelburne

Phone: 902-875-2501 / 902-875-3586

#### Shubenacadie (Hants East District Office)

Phone: 902-758-3437  
e-mail: [LandsandForestry-HantsEast@novascotia.ca](mailto:LandsandForestry-HantsEast@novascotia.ca)

#### St. Peter's

Phone: 902-535-2032 / (Fax) 902-535-3493  
e-mail: [DNR-STPETERS@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-STPETERS@novascotia.ca)

#### Stillwater

Phone: 902-522-2024 / 902-522-2097  
e-mail: [Stillwater-Office@novascotia.ca](mailto:Stillwater-Office@novascotia.ca)

#### Tusket (Yarmouth)

Phone: 902-648-3540  
e-mail: [DNR-TUSKET-OFFICE@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-TUSKET-OFFICE@novascotia.ca)

#### Waverley

Phone: 902-861-2560  
e-mail: [Waverleyoffice@novascotia.ca](mailto:Waverleyoffice@novascotia.ca)

#### Whycocomagh

Phone: 902-756-2339 / 902-756-2298 / 902-756-3159  
e-mail: [DNR-Whycocomagh@novascotia.ca](mailto:DNR-Whycocomagh@novascotia.ca)

#### Windsor

Phone: 902-798-2016 / 902-798-2796  
e-mail: [Windsor\\_office@novascotia.ca](mailto:Windsor_office@novascotia.ca)

# Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

## March 14-20

The slogan of “Safe & Strong Farms: Build an AgSafe Canada” is recognized Canada wide in promoting safety on farms in rural Canadian communities.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) is an annual campaign to empower farms, farm families and farm communities to build and grow, and lead the agricultural industry in safety and sustainability.

The AgSafe Ribbon Campaign is used as a symbol to celebrate safe and strong families and way to declare your support for farm safety. The ribbons help raise awareness about Farm Safety and the importance of implementing hazard controls on the farm. The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in cooperation with Farm Credit Canada is asking all Canadians not just farmers to wear the ribbon to show support for Safe & Strong Farms to Build an AgSafe Canada. The ribbons prompt discussion about farm safety and generate productive conversations on preventing incident and injuries on the farm.

### Download Your AgSafe Ribbon

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our contact with others is limited and conversations are happening often online in social media or through virtual platforms like Zoom or Teams. We want you to continue your safety conversations and to do that, the AgSafe Ribbon Campaign is a great conversation starter. Download the AgSafe Ribbon (<https://www.casa-acsa.ca/en/canadian-agricultural-safety-week/ribbons/>)



We encourage you to display your ribbon in support of farm safety and participate in many great webinars leading up to the week and during this special week. Add the Ribbon to your website, social media, and other electronic communications to show your support for farm safety.



### Farm Safety Resources

At Farm Safety Nova Scotia, we celebrate safe and strong farms year-round giving farmers the tools and resources they need to prevent incident and injury on farm. Visit <https://farmsafetytyns.ca/> to find a vast array of tools and resources available.

### CASW Celebrations

To help celebrate Ag Safety Week, we will be holding contests for youth and those young at heart! You will find these contests scattered throughout social media, the E-news and as part of this article. Prizes will be posted with the contest. Be sure to follow us on Facebook (@farmsafetytyns) and Twitter (@farmsafetytyns), and sign up for the E-news so you can learn some great safety information and maybe win some valuable prizes!

We would like to thank Green Diamond Equipment, Tidal Tractor in Port Williams and Truro, and Central Equipment of Truro who have agreed to participate in Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) by giving a 20% discount off of safety

related items at their stores from March 1 to 31st. Thanks for your continued support!

FSNS would like to give a shout out to the supporters of Canadian Agriculture Safety week for contributing to the safety of farmers, farm workers, farm families and farming communities across Canada. A big thank you to the Canadian Agriculture Safety Association, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Farm Credit Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Event	Date & Time
farmsafetytyns.ca/events	
<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



# Frost Seeding

## A Simple Alternative for Improving Pastures and Hayfields.

Spring may seem far away with the recent winter storms, but now is a good time to be thinking about which hay fields could use a little boost or how many pasture paddocks could be improved to help stretch the grazing season a little further. It won't be long before you start seeing some farmers out on an ATV or a tractor and a broadcast spreader making some passes back and forth on a hayfield or pasture as the snow starts receding. Have you ever thought about what they are doing? There is a very good chance they have adopted frost seeding as part of their forage management practices.

Frost seeding is the process of broadcasting seed on fields in late winter and early spring when the ground freezes at night and thaws during the day. The repeated thawing and freezing action help to work the new seed into the soil. Frost seeding can be done over a thin layer of snow as the moisture from melting snow and spring rains help the seed germinate and rejuvenate an aging forage stand. However, rapid snow melt or heavy rain can cause the seed to be washed away before it has had a chance to fall into soil cracks and germinate.

Part of the popularity of frost seeding is its ease of implementation and low cost. It's also a great way to improve fields that are too rough or hilly to be worked by conventional tillage that would otherwise be at risk of soil erosion. Producers simply buy the seed and broadcast it. Spraying, tillage, picking rocks (nobody likes that job), are optional depending on the site, and there is no loss of production for a season due to re-seeding. If all goes well, the end result can be almost as good as a new seeding at a fraction of the time and fuel costs.



**Overseeding on frozen ground or snow is known as “frost seeding”.**

In addition, there are other environmental benefits to frost seeding. Incorporating legumes adds nitrogen fixing capabilities to the sod, reducing the need to purchase as much commercial nitrogen fertilizer. While frost seeding may not always be as effective a strategy to rejuvenate a pasture or hayfield as ploughing and cultivation, the ability to establish new plants into an undisturbed sod has many additional soil health benefits. When the soil is left undisturbed, beneficial soil organisms can maintain their communities creating a healthy soil biome that is important for nutrient cycling and suppressing plant diseases. As soil organic matter improves, so does the soil's internal structure and its ability to retain moisture and keep carbon in the soil.

Legumes traditionally have worked best for frost seeding due to their seed shape. Clovers, trefoil and alfalfa are the legumes most used in frost seeding, but various grasses, e.g. orchardgrass, fescue and Italian ryegrass are becoming more popular in recent years as seed mixes with legumes.

Who can predict what the spring will be like? Unfortunately, no one can (sorry Shubenacadie Sam). Dry spring conditions will discourage seed

germination and the frost seeding results may not be as good as anticipated in a few seasons, but the potential benefit of a rejuvenated forage stand for the relatively low investment of seed cost and time make it a worthwhile activity more often than not. Still not convinced? Try frost seeding on a small scale. In a pasture situation, take a couple of similar paddocks and frost seed one, while leaving the other as is, and then compare the two plots over the next year or two. Similarly, in a forage field, frost seed half of it and compare the differences over time.

There is a new Agri-Environmental Program (AEP) factsheet, *Improving Pastures and Hayfields by Overseeding Legumes*. For this and other factsheets, check out the resources section of our new EFP website: <https://nsefp.ca/publications-fact-sheets/>. For more information on seed mixes and rates, contact Shane Wood, Forages Specialist at Perennia - [shanewood@perennia.ca](mailto:shanewood@perennia.ca) or discuss seed mix options and availability with your local seed rep or farm store.



# AgSector Update

## Introducing SkillsPass

We are pleased to introduce our new partnership with SkillsPass, a training management platform offering a library of online courses, training, and webinars specific to our industry. Funded by Labour and Advanced Education (LAE), the training is available at no cost to NSFA members!

SkillsPass has an experience for Employers and Learners. Employers are able to create a private portal to oversee all staff and all their training done via the NSFA SkillsPass Marketplace. Easily track and manage employee training, and ensure your staff are well equipped to help your business succeed. There are over 100 online courses available, in a wide array of topics:

- Communication
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Leadership
- Management
- Personal Development
- Professional
- Computer / Tech
- Microsoft
- Sales
- And more!

Curious how it works?

### Owners and Managers:

SkillsPass gives you free access to a library of up-to-date, industry specific, online training courses. What's more,



you can track and manage employee training, ensuring your staff are well equipped to help your business succeed.

### Employees:

Being successful in today's competitive workforce requires up-to-date knowledge and skills training. Upgrade your skills from the comfort of your own home with free high-quality courses designed for you. Get ahead and stay ahead with SkillsPass.

### Job Seekers:

Today's job market is a competitive place, where things change fast and keeping your skills fresh is essential. Prepare yourself for success with SkillsPass and learn what matters to you, at your own pace. Stand out from the crowd with SkillsPass.

Get started today, visit: [nsfa.skillspass.com](https://nsfa.skillspass.com)!

## Upcoming Webinars with Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council (CAHRC)

We are excited to be partnering with CAHRC on a series of webinars this spring! Here are some of the upcoming sessions.

There were two additional sessions that occurred prior to this mailout; **Workforce Planning for the Upcoming Season**, and **How to Hire Foreign Workers**. Those recordings are available on the NSFA YouTube Channel!

### March 12, 11:30am-12:30pm How to Recruit Workers for the Season

Finding enough of the right workers for the season can feel like finding a needle in a haystack. This webinar aims to help you know what to say in a job ad, where

to look for workers, what to do when you have applications and how to hire the best people for your farm.

### March 26, 11:30am-12:30pm Managing People on the Farm

Hiring great people is important. Being able to effectively manage them once they start on your farm is even more so. Join NSFA and CAHRC to learn strategies to ensure you are managing your people well.

### April 9, 11:30am-12:30pm Managing People on the Farm

Finding enough workers for the season is one thing. Keeping them for the season is another. Join this webinar to learn best practices for keeping workers with you for the season and beyond and how these best practices can make your farm the place people want to work.

## Upcoming Webinars with CAHRC

How to Recruit Workers for the Season

**Friday, March 12**

11:30am-12:30pm

Managing People on the Farm

**Friday, March 26**

11:30am-12:30pm

How to Keep Workers

**Friday, April 9**

11:30am-12:30pm







## Public Trust Update

### Canada's Ag Day Celebrated Online!

Canada's Agriculture Day was on February 23, and we celebrated online this year! Meet Your Farmer partnered with Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture to host a virtual fireside chat to talk about soil. Our soils and the way in which food is produced is getting more and more attention. Films like Kiss the Ground, the Biggest Little Farm, Dirt! The Movie, and Living Soil all give varying messaging on what's happening beneath our feet the role of soil in climate change, and how to protect soil in agriculture. We were pleased to have Amy Sangster, Soil Specialist with Perennia lead our discussion on this important topic with David Burton from Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, Angus Ells from Bragg Lumber Company, and David Blanchard of Pleasant Hill Farm. The event was livestreamed on social media through NSFA Meet Your Farmer and Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture.

### Colouring Contest a Bright Success!

We had over 100 entries in the #NSFarmKids Colouring Contest! Thanks to everyone who participated. You can see all the entries, prizes and contest winners on Facebook by following @NSFAMeetYourFarmer.

### Public Trust Strategy Launch

The Public Trust Committee is pleased to announce that strategy for building trust in food and farming for Nova Scotia is complete! To launch the strategy, we are hosting a Zoom session on Thursday, **March 18, 2021 from 1:30 to 3PM**. If you are interested in this session or would like a copy of the strategy document please email Janette McDonald [jmcdonald@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:jmcdonald@nsfa-fane.ca)



NOVA SCOTIA'S FOOD & FARMING

## PUBLIC TRUST STRATEGY LAUNCH

You are invited to join us to share the vision of building trust in food and farming in NS!

**March 18, 2021  
1:30PM  
Online via Zoom**

RSVP to Shelly MacKenzie  
at 902-893-2293 or  
[smackenzie@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:smackenzie@nsfa-fane.ca)

### Meet Your Farmer: Let's Get Cooking Kick-Off

This fun new series launched on February 25, with Nova Scotia Young Farmers! Chef Andy Hay of Andy's East Coast Kitchen was live on a Zoom webinar where he created Beef Kofta with tabouli, roasted lemon potatoes, and yogurt. Ingredients for this dish were from our young farmers from across the province.

The next Let's Get Cooking event will be on **Thursday, March 25, 2021!** Chef Andy Hay is back to make Maple Blueberry Short Cakes! This event will have three farm families in the kitchen cooking with Andy. Andy and the farmers will be available for questions on the 25th as it will be livestreamed on Facebook and Instagram.





**Chef Andy Hay cooks with Nova Scotia Farmers**  
**Livestream-**  
**@nsfameetyourfarmer on Facebook and Instagram**

**Thursday, March 25, 2021**  
**Recipe: Maple Blueberry Short Cakes**



# Member Benefits

## Payworks

Payworks is a leading expert in the field of total workforce management solutions, providing innovative cloud-based solutions for Payroll, Human Resources, Employee Time and Absence Management to Canadian businesses of all sectors from coast to coast. If you'd like to learn more about Payworks and the special pricing available to NSFA members, contact Craig Soontiens directly at **902.403.3325**.

## Superior Propane

Superior Propane is pleased to offer an exclusive pricing program to the members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. Including:

- Preferred Business Rates^
- Free Wireless SMART\* Tank™ Sensor
- Tank Rental for only \$1 annually!

For more information or if you have any questions at all, please contact Dade Migas directly at **902.399.8097**.

## Maritime Fuels

Maritime Fuels is proud to offer NSFA Members excellent exclusive offers on:

- Esso furnace oil
- Advanced diesel fuel
- High-quality heating equipment, lubricants, and industrial supplies

Please contact Jake Croft for more details, **902.497.6581**.

## CAHRC AgriHR Toolkit

The AgriHR Toolkit, developed by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) through extensive consultations with producers across Canada, offers assistance every step of the way with guides, templates, resources and the critical questions that you need to ask and answer about your business. It offers tools that you can download and customize for your farm. The AgSector Program has partnered with CAHRC to be able to offer this tool to all NSFA members. Contact the NSFA office to receive your discount code!

## Managed Health Care Services Inc.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture members have an opportunity to participate in an innovative Preferred Pharmacy Provider Program offered by MHCSI- Managed Health Care Services Inc. Participation in the program is purely voluntary; however, we encourage you to participate by choosing one of the participating preferred pharmacy provider locations when filling your prescriptions. To find out more, contact the NSFA office.

## Turner Drake & Partners Ltd.

Real Estate experts Turner Drake now offer NSFA members a 15% discount on valuation and property tax advisory services on farm properties throughout the province. Turner Drake has provided real estate consulting services to Nova Scotians for over 40 years. A local firm with deep roots in the region they have offices in all four Atlantic provinces and Ontario. Contact: **1-902-429-1811**.

## MCT Insurance

MCT Insurance is pleased to offer NSFA members exclusive access to Farm Advantage. The program offers unique and enhanced farm insurance coverage including:

- Increased coverage limits for tools, corrals and fencing and harvested produce and supplies
- Up to \$500,000 for newly acquired machinery instead of a percentage amount
- Up to \$100,000 for non-owned farm machinery instead of the usual \$50,000 with increased time from 30 days to 60 days for both owned and non-owned
- Increased pollution damage to owned property from \$5,000 to \$25,000

Plus, if your farm is claims-free for five years, you could be eligible to receive up to a 25% discount on your farm insurance. To learn more, contact Dustin Hickey today: Call **1-902-835-2261**.

## Medavie Blue Cross

As a member of NSFA you are entitled to receive preferred rates through our volume purchasing power. Get the most

comprehensive benefits for all of your needs, all in one place. When you join NSFA's group benefit program from Morneau Shepell, you will:

- Save with special discount rates, through volume purchasing by NSFA
- Choose your benefits (Life, Medical and Dental, Critical Illness) and amount of insurance you need
- Offer the savings, choice, and convenience to any staff you hire

Please contact the Morneau Shepell Client Service Centre, **1-866-432-8427**.

## Chrysler Canada

Chrysler Canada offers NSFA Members fleet discount pricing on Chrysler vehicles. Members will need to provide the NSFA Fleet Number, their valid NSFA Membership card and proof of HST/ Business Number. Chrysler Fleet Number and Concession information is available by contacting the NSFA Office.

## GBS Mobility

Through GBS Mobility, NSFA members receive preferred business rates on mobile phones and service on the Telus network.

## Kent Building Supplies

Kent will offer any member of NSFA a discount on any of their store front items and special pricing on lumber and building materials. They will also offer members special promotional pricing on seasonal items.

## Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is now offering NSFA members corporate class rental pricing.

## Mark's Work Warehouse

NSFA members receive a 10% discount on selected items and brand names. If you have not yet received your Mark's Discount Card, please contact NSFA directly.

## Choice Hotels Canada

NSFA members will receive discounted room rates at participating Choice locations worldwide. To access rates members will need to quote the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's assigned Client ID number.

## CASW Contest

Below is your first contest of CASW. Submit your responses to one of the methods below and be entered into a draw for 3 hours of Advisory Services including Travel and a Farm Safety Prize Pack.

### Test Your Knowledge:

1. **True or False.** The Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations apply to farmers who employ workers in the province and farmers are required to comply with the act and regulations.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **True or False.** To help learn more about the OHS Act, on the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Website, there is an online OHS Scavenger Hunt to make this a little more fun.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **True or False.** Farm Safety Nova Scotia launched 7 online courses in 2020 at no cost to the farmer. Courses continue to be at no cost until further notice.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **True or False.** Farm Safety Nova Scotia can provide resources such as a Farm Safety Plan Guide and Workbook to help farmers build their own farm safety plan specific to their farm.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **True or False.** You require an endorsement on your license if you drive a vehicle or tractor with a combined weight of 14,000 kg or more.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **True or False.** Farm Safety Rally templates are available for download to provide information and a method of recording your safety meetings on farm on the Farm Safety website. This saves the farmer time in building their own meetings.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. **True or False.** There is an entire page on the Farm Safety Nova Scotia website dedicated to COVID-19 with tools and resources to help reduce the spread on farm.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. **True or False.** Farm Safety Nova Scotia has a YouTube channel with recorded webinars and other safety videos.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Mail: Farm Safety Nova Scotia, 7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, NS B6L 2Z2

E-Mail: [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca)

Phone: Office: (902) 893-2293; Cell: (902) 957-2785



## QUALITY GULF LUBRICANTS FOR ALL INDUSTRY TYPES



Contact us today to learn more about our excellent selection of quality Gulf Lubricants!

310-3776 | [maritimefuels.ca](http://maritimefuels.ca) | [@maritimefuels](https://www.instagram.com/maritimefuels)



# Upcoming Events

## March 12, 2021

Webinar: How to Recruit Workers for the Season

## March 14-20, 2021

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

## March 16, 2021

Gear Up for Ag

## March 17, 2021

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

## March 18, 2021

Webinar: Navigating Crisis

## March 18, 2021

Public Trust Strategy Launch

## March 20, 2021

Grape Growers Association of NS AGM

## March 25, 2021

Meet Your Farmer: Let's Get Cooking!

## March 26, 2021

Webinar: Managing People on the Farm

## March 25, 2021

Agriculture Policy Framework Roundtable

## April 7, 2021

Lunch & Learn: Managing Wildlife on Your Farm: Feathers Edition

## April 9, 2021

Webinar: How to Keep Workers

## May 13, 2021

Christmas Tree Council of NS AGM



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

## FARM FAMILY SUPPORT LINE

A confidential, short-term counselling and advisory service - to help farmers manage and reduce the stresses in life, including mental health, legal, financial and more.

If you require more specialized or longer-term support, professionals will help you find an appropriate specialist or community service that can provide continued assistance.

Available to farmers or their immediate family members



Farm Family Support Line is managed by Morneau Shepell as a Member Assistance Program funded by Farm Safety Nova Scotia

FOR NOVA SCOTIA FARMERS  
SEEKING SUPPORT

NO COST FOR UP TO 3 HOURS OF  
SERVICE PER ISSUE

LINE IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

**1-884-880-9142**

**TTY: 1-877-338-0275**



## 2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tim Marsh  
President/CFA  
902-798-7924

Victor Oulton  
Past President  
902-798-4440

Jacob Mullen  
902-778-0063

Joe Piotti  
902-657-2308

Allan Melvin  
1st Vice  
902-499-6968

Lauren Park  
902-292-5160

Alicia King  
902-870-4810

Josh Oulton  
902-670-4538

Lauren Park  
2nd Vice  
902-292-5160

Peter Morine  
902-527-3274

Jocelyn Durston  
902-993-0083

Chris de Waal  
Corporate Secretary &  
Treasurer  
902-582-7756

Andy Parker  
902-679-8630

## STAFF

Henry Vissers  
Executive Director

Maxine MacLean  
Policy Analyst

Trevor Davison  
EFP Coordinator

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel  
Director of Outreach &  
Member Relations

Katherine Tuttle  
Communications  
Coordinator

Cory Roberts  
EFP Coordinator

Tracey Otterson  
Financial Services  
Coordinator

Janette McDonald  
Public Trust  
Coordinator

Nicole Shanahan  
EFP Assistant (Term)

Shelly MacKenzie  
Administrative Services  
Coordinator

Lori Brookhouse  
Farm Safety Advisor

VACANT  
AgSector Coordinator

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

@nsfafane

@nsfa

@nsfa\_fane

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.