

# news+views

Vol. 32 Issue 6 October 2020

## In this Issue...

Meet Our New Team Members! ...	1
Viewpoint .....	2
Farm Family Support Line .....	2
Open Farm Day 2020 Recap .....	3
Your Farmers, Your Nova Scotia Recipe Competition .....	3
Policy Corner .....	4
Policy Corner cont'd .....	5
Annual Meeting Update .....	5
Mental Health in Agriculture .....	6
Farm Safety Update .....	6
Ponds & Wells .....	7
What is the AgSector Program? ...	8
Farewell to Agri-Futures NS .....	9
Meet Our New Team Members! Cont'd .....	10
Farm Safety Update Cont'd .....	10
NS Young Farmers AGM .....	11
Corporate Partner Highlight: Kings Mutual Insurance .....	11
Hurricane Dorian/AgriRecovery ...	12
Upcoming Events .....	12



## Meet Our New Team Members!

Say hello to Macy and Nicole, who have each joined the NSFA team for an eight week term through the Canada Summer Jobs program!

Macy will be working closely with Janette as our Public Trust Assistant, focusing her efforts on supporting Open Farm Day, Your Farmers Your Nova Scotia, and other public trust initiatives. Nicole will be working with various NSFA staff as our Member Services Assistant, supporting communications, member engagement and programs.

### Macy Cameron



#### Tell us a bit about yourself:

My name is Macy Penney Cameron. I'm looking forward to this work term with the NSFA, as I am honoured to kickstart my professional life with such an impactful organization.

#### Where did you go to school?

I studied at Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture. I was enrolled

in the International Food Business program. This is a dual degree program that consists of a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and a Bachelor of Agriculture (BAgr). The program has a sister school in the Netherlands, where I studied abroad for a year. I also had the opportunity to do two internships, one of which was with an NGO in Belgium, and the other was focused on food safety and product development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

#### What made you get into this field of work? What drew you in?

I share a common passion, that being agriculture. Agriculture is the foundation of everything. I take pride in what is grown locally, and the communities built around agriculture. I love knowing where my food comes from, and I want to support those working day in and day out that provide us with nutritious high-quality products.

#### What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I enjoy being outdoors, playing sports and spending time on my hobby farm.

#### What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about healthy living. A large component to this is food. I would definitely say that I live to eat, and not eat to live. Healthy living for me also involves living a balanced lifestyle. I find importance in reflecting on what I am grateful for, and trying my best to live in the moment.

...continued on page 10

# Viewpoint

As life with COVID-19 progresses, we now hold on for the possible second wave. Personally, I thought that by now the bubble with the rest of Canada would be burst and people and traffic would free flow inside our country. I would like to take a moment and acknowledge all of the hard work that you have put into your farming operations in order to adapt your practices to protect the health and safety of your workers, your families, your communities, and yourselves. This was something that none of us saw coming, and we are proud of how you all rose to the challenge.

In other news, there were notable improvements in rural internet announced recently with Develop Nova Scotia – the Crown Corporation responsible for developing and implementing the strategy for high speed in NS. Their commitment to roll out reliable high-speed access to 97% of Nova Scotia is something we've asked for and is in our policy. A very positive move, however, it makes me wonder how much awareness there is in urban Nova Scotia of the burden the lack of high-speed puts on rural NS when attempting to do business. For example, we have heard from farm families that did videos of their farm for Open Farm Day that they simply could not send the video in through their internet and ended up driving to town to do the upload. It's reminiscent of stories our parents told of having to drive to town to talk to the banker because the party phone line was not private.

Hopefully the strategy provides adequate download and upload speeds so rural Nova Scotia has good quality high-speed internet. We're going to need it since I expect a lot of our interactions will be virtual for the foreseeable future.

As we move into fall, meeting season is beginning to pick up again! The fall session of the provincial legislature hasn't been announced yet and as of this writing there hasn't been an agreement on how it will be conducted. Federally,

they have transitioned to partial in person and virtual so I would expect the province can do something similar. Up until the Premier announced his departure there was a lot of speculation surrounding when we could expect a provincial election. Since the Liberal leadership conference will elect a new leader and Premier in February that puts speculation at rest until at least the spring of 2021. Federal timing is a little harder to predict but we may be heading to the polls federally in 2021 as well or depending how the new session of parliament goes, as soon as this fall!

One of our signature events going into the fall months for the past 20 years has been Open Farm Day. This year, Open Farm Day was a virtual event and all of the videos can be found by going to the Meet Your Farmer Facebook page. Over the last year we have ramped-up our Public Trust efforts through Meet Your Farmer thanks to funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Public Trust continues to be an important part of the Federations advocacy and we will continue to support your efforts to connect with consumers and share how you produce their food and other products.

On a final note, we continue to hear about farm registrations that are tied up in the process of providing statements of farming income. We are certainly aware of the issues around privacy of



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

information and have been assured that the information will only be used for verification purposes. If you have paid your registration fee and have not received your farm registration, NSDA may be holding it while awaiting your farm income verification. We understand that this limits access to programs, fuel tax, etc. and this also means those farms are not on our current membership list, we will continue to do our best and keep our farmers informed. In the interim, if you have not received your Farm Registration card, we encourage you to reach out to the Farm Registrar's office at (902) 893-6377. While this hold-up is a frustration for you as farmers, it is also a frustration for us as it impacts our ability to connect with our farm members.

Have a good fall and safe harvest everyone.

## 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**







## Open Farm Day 2020 Recap

Open Farm Day took place on Sunday, September 20th, 2020. The 20th anniversary of Open Farm Day in the Atlantic Provinces was celebrated online this year. Thank you to the **30 plus farms** that participated in this virtual event! Some chose to create pre-recorded videos, and others went live on their own social media accounts. If you missed Open Farm Day, you can still watch the videos on the Atlantic Open Farm Day YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa8xf3l7Zxq07Kcf2YBo0JQ>

This year was also very special because the Atlantic Provinces worked together on this project. The public was able to watch videos of farms in our neighbouring provinces too!

Celebrating 20 years in the Atlantic  
Célébrons 20 ans dans l'Atlantique



# OPEN FARM DAY

## JOURNÉE AGRICOLE PORTES OUVERTES

September 20 septembre 2020

We are firm believers, that good things come from every situation. With the collaboration between provinces, there were also other benefits of hosting this year's event online. The videos allowed for farmers who cannot normally accommodate the public on their farms due to biosecurity protocols, to also connect with consumers. There were also promotional benefits for the farms participating in the event, as each farm was featured on our social media platforms, allowing for the public to also like/ follow their pages as well. Lastly, we suspect that we captured the attention of people who could not participate in this event because of transportation or physical limitations.

To engage the public and encourage people to watch as many videos as possible, we created a downloadable bingo card. The bingo card consisted of various family-friendly Open Farm Day questions and findings. As people submitted their cards to us, they were entered in a draw to win a basket of NS goodies. We are in the process of drawing for a winner and mailing out the prize.

Assuming next year's Open Farm Day can return to normal, we hope we can include a virtual component to Open Farm Day too. The more opportunities we provide to reach out and connect with Nova Scotians, the more opportunities we have to build trust in food and farming.

## Your Farmers, Your Nova Scotia - Recipe Competition

We are working on a new exciting event! We will be asking the public to submit their favorite recipe using Nova Scotian products to us. We will select **5 recipes** that will be distributed to **5 farmers**, and they will walk us through their experiences making the dishes from start to finish and rate the recipes on taste, ease to make, etc.

Contest details will be made available at: <https://meetyourfarmer.ca/your-farmers/>



## Policy Corner

### Internet Initiative in Nova Scotia

As our members are well aware, internet and cellular services are almost non-existent throughout rural Nova Scotia. Develop Nova Scotia announced plans to reach high speed internet services to 97% of Nova Scotia by Summer of 2022. The announcement released on September 1st highlights the areas expected to be covered by the projects. 97% isn't the full 100% that NSFA has been lobbying for, however, we are pleased to see the gap is finally narrowing. NSFA will continue to monitor progress on internet services throughout Nova Scotia.

Many in rural Nova Scotia will say that they have access to internet, but the quality is poor.

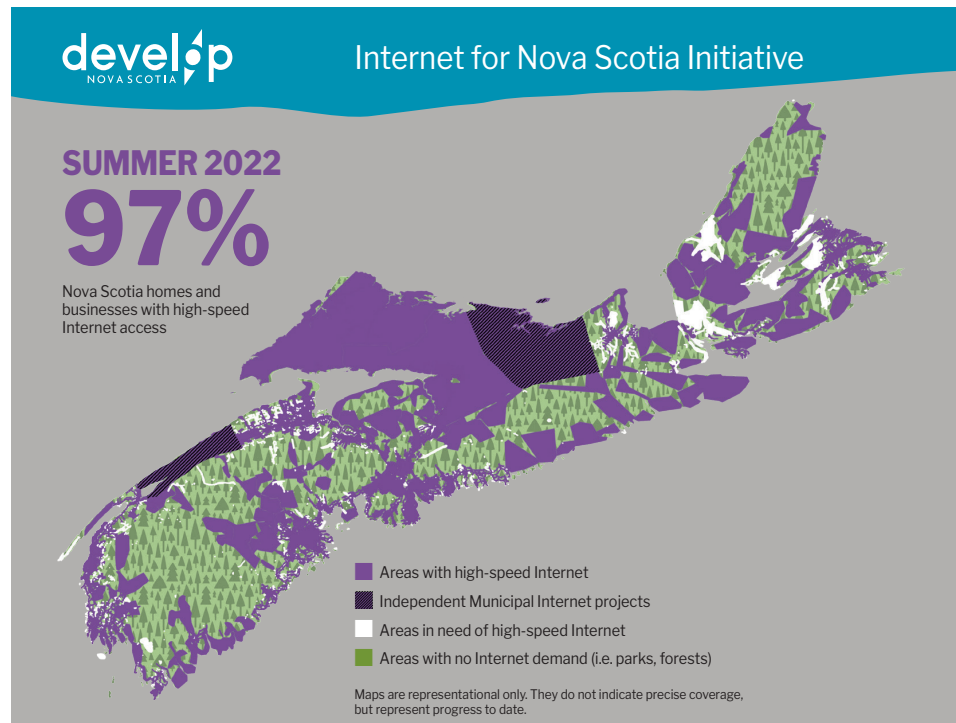
According to Develop NS,

**“all projects will meet or exceed minimum required speeds of 50 Mbps download/10 Mbps upload for wired connections, and 25 Mbps download/5Mbps upload for wireless connections, with a plan to reach 50 Mbps across the board.”**

The announcement and more details can be found: <https://internet.developns.ca/>

#### Road Maintenance

As road maintenance continues to concern farms throughout Nova Scotia, NSFA is continuing dialogue with senior staff on roadway maintenance plans. Many of you will recall a survey in 2016 which provided members an opportunity to identify which sections of roads were troublesome and why. TIR has once again agreed to consider submissions from NSFA for the “Rural Infrastructure Maintenance” or RIM funds. The RIM funds are allocated each February and



**The map above demonstrates the expected internet coverage throughout Nova Scotia when internet projects are completed by 2022**

are targeted towards road maintenance issues that aren't part of regular maintenance schedules or the “five-year plan”.

Watch for the opportunity to provide your input in the coming weeks.

#### More on Transportation:

NSFA has become increasingly aware that members are experiencing challenges with use of the roads. There appears to be inconsistent enforcement throughout the province and changes to procedures that weren't issues in recent years. NSFA staff have a meeting scheduled with the Deputy and staff from TIR to review these immediate concerns. Topics notably on our radar include hauling more than one implement behind a tractor, permitting FM plates on busses transporting farm workers, spring weight restrictions and clarification on the exemption for hauling agricultural products.

Regarding International Driving Permits (IDP) for foreign workers on farm in Nova Scotia, NSFA opened a conversation with TIR in early July to find a solution for TFWs requiring IDP past the August 31st extension originally granted. After some back and forth conversation and information gathering, we were unfortunately told near August 31st that government was unable to do anything further in terms of an extension. TIR did connect us with CAA, though this solution would have been preferred to have come earlier rather than at the last minute. For those who employ SAWP or TFW workers who require International Driving Permits, please follow NSFA's weekly eNews to receive timely updates. At the time of printing, a process was in place for workers from Mexico to obtain and International Driving Permit.



## Government Relations

A lot of changes have or are in the midst of taking place in the political world. Premier McNeil has announced his resignation meaning there will be a leadership race and the winner will become the Premier of Nova Scotia, Erin O'Toole was elected as the leader for the Conservative Party of Canada and municipal elections are coming up on October 17th. COVID-19 has forced government to adjust how they do business and has therefore made us adjust our approach to the ways we do government relations.

## Presentations to Caucuses

In August and September, NSFA Executive and Staff met with the caucuses for each the PC and NDP parties. Presentations to caucuses provide great opportunity to promote solutions for the pressing issues our industry is facing. Our presentations to the caucuses focused

on the importance of processing, local procurement, plan for maintaining dyke systems in Nova Scotia, funding for protecting agricultural land and the importance of maintaining rural infrastructure. There was a lot of discussion and we look forward to future collaborative efforts.

## New Standing Policies

It's policy season here at NSFA. Policy season is the time of year when draft versions of our standing policies are rolled out to our membership for review before being voted on at our AGM. It's also when we make plans on how we are going to make change over the next 12 months. To make change, barriers to success in agriculture in Nova Scotia are identified. What's even more important than knowing the barriers are the solutions. Some solutions are moderately easy while others take time and investment.

NSFA's Standing Policies focus on solutions. While the reasons for the

standing policies are the issues, we track our progress against the identified solutions. This gives us 1) a clear goal to work towards and 2) an "ask" when government wants to know what support is needed.

This year, NSFA has **four** Standing Policies. The following policies will be presented and voted on at the NSFA's virtual Annual Meeting on December 3rd. **Full drafts can be found included in this newsletter.**

## Make a difference!

To move the agriculture industry forward, we need direction from our members. What is a win? What are we striving for to correct the barrier? Opportunities to participate on NSFA committees arise throughout the year. NSFA members are encouraged to pick their passion and get involved! We currently have positions available for our newly formed Agriculture Risk Management Committee.

# Annual Meeting Update

We continue to move ahead with our plans for our first major online event! We are excited to share with you our topic areas for our week long celebration, along with the dates for all business meetings occurring that week!

Be sure to keep an eye out on social media, our eNews, and the Annual Report for a look at the full agenda! We will also be announcing speakers/panels/presenters in the coming weeks, along with times and registration!

This is a new process for all of us, and we hope that you will join us as we celebrate the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's 125th Annual Meeting!

## NSFA's 125th Annual Meeting *Virtual* Schedule

### Webinar Topics

**Monday, November 30: Public Trust**

**Tuesday, December 1: Ag Environmental Sustainability**

**Wednesday, December 2: Transition Planning**

**Thursday, December 3: Happy Hour**

**Friday, December 4: Mental Health**

### Business Meetings

**Wednesday, December 2: Nova Scotia Young Farmers**

**Thursday, December 3: Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture**

**Friday, December 4: Farm Safety Nova Scotia**

#NSFA125

# Mental Health in Agriculture

Supporting the mental health and wellness of our members continues to be a focus area for Farm Safety Nova Scotia and the NSFA – and has become a more significant priority as we all work through the obstacles created by COVID-19.

We applied for, and are grateful to have received, funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership's (CAP) COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program. The funding will support the development of a Mental Health Action Plan for Nova Scotia Farmers, which will include specific resources tailored to address the unique challenges and stressors presented in our region. Initial work has begun on the development of the Action Plan, and more information will be shared with our community in the coming months.

We also understand that immediate supports need to be put in place for our farmers, their employees and their families. This is why we have organized and scheduled a number of webinar and workshop options to be offered through Farm Safety Nova Scotia at no cost in the coming months and into the new year.

• **Mental Health First Aid, November 21 & 22 from 8:30am - 4:30pm.**

• **Mental Fitness 101: Foundational Elements to Building a Mental Fitness Plan, led by Dr. Bill Howatt – December 4th, 1:30pm to 2:30pm**

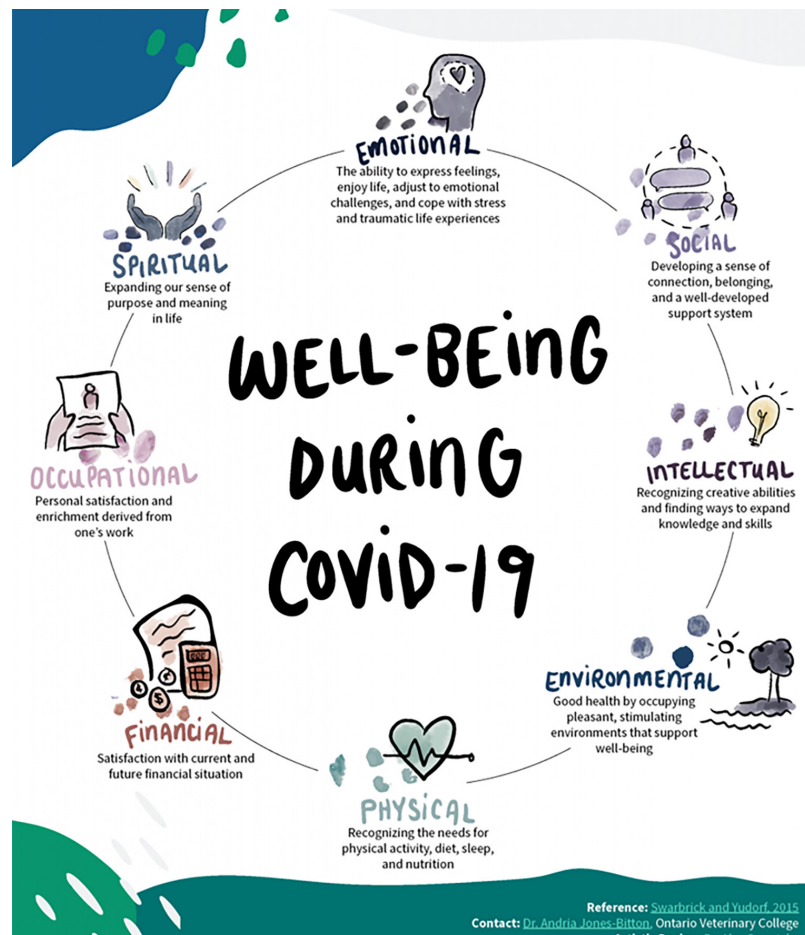
• **Coping with Isolation and Loneliness, led by a member of the Howatt HR Team – February 9th, 11:30am to 12:30pm**

• **Navigating Crisis, led by a member of the Howatt HR Team – March 18th, 11:30am to 12:30pm**

More information on these programs can be found on our events page. Search the date and click on the program title to access the full description.

We also want to remind everyone of the Maintaining Mental Fitness during COVID-19 section that has been added to the Farm Safe Nova Scotia website. This page was created to make sure that farmers had resources available to support both themselves and their families throughout the global pandemic. One of the resources available is the "Eight Domains of Well-Being" by Dr. Andrea Jones-Bitton.

If you, or anyone on your farm is experiencing a mental health emergency, please contact 911 to get help right away. Our Farm Family Support Centre is also available 24/7, managed through our Member Assistance Program by Morneau Shepell (MAP), where farmers and their families are able to access up to three hours of service at no cost.



...continued on page 10



# Do you need more water on the farm?

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture recently announced enhanced funding for the Sustainable Agricultural Water Supply section in the Soil and Water Sustainability program. This helps fund wells and pond construction, spring development, cistern installation and hook-ups to municipal pipelines. The assistance has been increased from **25% to 60%** to a maximum of **\$10,000**. The intake period for these projects (Sustainable Agricultural Water Supply section only) has been extended until **Dec 1, 2020**.

## Well Construction

If you are interested in a new well for the farm and are debating between a drilled or dug well, there are advantages and disadvantages to each type of construction. Drilled wells can provide a more consistent supply of potable water, but are more expensive to construct and flow rates and mineral levels can be issues in many areas around the province. Dug wells are cheaper to construct, but can run dry during dry periods of the growing season when water is needed the most. Bacteria issues are also common with dug wells and a water treatment system (i.e. UV light) would be recommended.

It would be a good idea to contact a local well driller to discuss the potential of well development in your area as their previous experience will provide an indication as to the potential for a new well. A searchable list of currently certified well drillers and diggers is available on the Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) website at: <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/cms/Search.asp>.



NSE also provides an online Well Logs Database: <http://novascotia.ca/nse/groundwater/welldatabase.asp> that can provide valuable information when deciding if a drilled well is a good choice for the farm. Existing wells within a community can be searched and provide information related to well depths and yields. By reviewing other wells in your area, some indication as to the consistency or variability of water supply that can be expected with a newly constructed well can be gained.

## Pond Construction

When planning to construct a pond on your property, there are a few considerations to keep in mind. A Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) approval is only required for water storage that exceeds 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> (for scale, 25,000 m<sup>3</sup> is equivalent to a two-acre pond that is 10 ft deep) or if wetlands or watercourses will be impacted during construction. If you would like assistance assessing your pond location, contact Cory ([croberts@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:croberts@nsfa-fane.ca)) or Trevor ([tdavison@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:tdavison@nsfa-fane.ca)) at the EFP office.

*Maximum water storage without a permit.*

Units	Amount
cubic meters	25,000
cubic yards	32,700
cubic feet	882,867
litres	25 million
imp. gallons	5.4 million

Run-off from prolonged rainfall or heavy storms can flood a pond quickly. An important consideration is a good-sized overflow or spillway. Spillway design is one aspect of pond construction where professional assistance may be beneficial, however overflows work best if kept simple. Culverts through the front of an embankment, or tubular risers extending from the water surface to a drain running through the base of a dam, may leak around the edges, get plugged, or be too small to handle floods.

The alternative is to place a spillway at a low point in the embankment, so excess water flows over and down the side of the pond. A liner made of waterproof geotextile should be used to prevent erosion, with rip-rap, or armor rock, placed on the liner to break the force of the water. Whenever possible, overflows should spill onto the natural gradient where the soil is well-sodded, rather than onto an artificial embankment where the soil may be more prone to erosion. An emergency spillway, set slightly higher than the main one, should also be considered as a backup.

# What is the AgSector Program?

The AgSector Program supports farms by providing access to the tools and resources they need to ensure a sustainable workforce. Our work is focused on the needs of employers and workers, and actively promotes agriculture as a rewarding career.

## Your Resource for Attracting and Retaining a Sustainable Workforce

- Delivering human resources support and best practices.
- Navigating labour legislation and programs.
- Supporting succession planning through tools and resources.
- Promoting innovative approaches to workforce challenges.
- Fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion within the industry.
- Strengthening the workforce through skills development, education and training, and career promotion.

## How we do it

- Deliver training and workshops
- Develop templates, tools, and best practices for use on farm
- Keep you up to date through newsletters, websites and social media
- Work with stakeholders and industry partners

- Promote agricultural careers to Nova Scotians

To discuss how AgSector can support the needs of your farm, please feel free to reach out to Heather at [hboyd@nsfafane.ca](mailto:hboyd@nsfafane.ca) or 902-893-2293.

## Workplace Education

The AgSector Program delivers Workplace Education, a Labour and Advanced Education Initiative, which supports the development of workers by increasing workplace skills. Education and development are key to retaining valuable employees. Did you know that all Workplace Ed courses are available to farmers, their families, and their employees? We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity for skill development that available to you and your staff at no cost.

Planning for winter sessions is underway and we want to deliver what YOUR farm business needs. If you participated in the survey that was in the eNews, thank you!

Sessions this winter will be delivered virtually, from January to March. That means all class time is online, with no travel time. Keep an eye out for the schedule, or in the meantime let us know what training you would sign up for.

## Succession Planning

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, "Failing to plan is planning to fail". We all know that when it comes to planting and harvesting! Your farm legacy deserves a smart succession plan. The thought of succession planning can bring up emotions that may be difficult to face. A succession plan can address the progression of management of the farm, and also the transition of assets. Getting the conversation started can be the hardest step.

You may not know when or where to begin planning for a successful transition of your farm business, and

you only get one chance to transition so understanding the best approach and potential pitfalls are key. Although every situation is unique, there are common steps with the goal of structuring your exit from an ideal financial, tax and legal perspective.

There are many supports and resources to help you build a plan and as you go through each phase of a transition:

[NS Farm Succession](#)  
[CAHRC Succession Planning Overview](#)  
[FCC Transition Planning](#)  
[MNP Transition Smart](#)

Contact the AgSector Coordinator if you like more information on these resources.





## Farewell to Agri-Futures Nova Scotia

To say that the last few years have been full of change would be an understatement. This is something that the agriculture industry knows all too well. This is something that industry organizations can attest to– including Agri-Futures Nova Scotia (AFNS). This past year alone has brought significant changes to AFNS with the Executive Director taking on a new role with the NSFA to support Nova Scotia farmers connecting with consumers in our province. This left the organization at a cross roads, wondering what direction they should turn and what action should be taken.

Agri-Futures has done a lot of work since its formation in 1997. It's most known for delivering programs on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food for 17 years. More than \$16 million was delivered through five different funding programs from 1997 to 2014. More than 200 Nova Scotia led projects were completed and hundreds more collective outcome projects with other provinces were funded. Supporting industry led research and innovation was always at the heart of the association. When funding delivery ended AFNS believed that the industry needed support to connect the food system and increase collaboration. Launching recent initiatives that focus on Collective Impact, such as Grow Nova Scotia and overseeing the Salad Bar Pilot Project – working to increase local food procurement in NS schools.

The AFNS board held a special meeting last month to discuss next steps for the organization. Ultimately, with decreased capacity and resources, a special resolution was put forward to dissolve the organization. This decision was made after months of careful consideration.

# Agr-Futures Nova Scotia

We would like to acknowledge and commend the work that Agri-Futures has done over the past number of years as they worked to increase the amount of local food in our schools across the province.

### Next Steps

The remaining AFNS funds will be distributed to the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA). Following this, the NSFA will establish the “Grow Nova Scotia Food Committee” which will approve the disbursement of the Grow Nova Scotia food system funds held in internally restricted funds for projects that align with the establishment of a whole food system approach to increase access to local and healthy foods in schools.

*“Agri-Futures has been a driving force behind local food initiatives our schools. The passion and dedication of current and previous board members and staff is noteworthy, they have shared the same drive to increase Nova Scotians local food consumption. I would like to thank everyone for the support they have provided our organization over the years and I look forward to the work of the Grow Nova Scotia Food Committee.” – Richard Melvin, AFNS Board Chair.*

*“At the NSFA our vision is a prosperous and sustainable future for Nova Scotia farms and farmers. One of the many ways we can work towards this vision is to continue AFNS’s local food initiatives. Over the past number of months we have seen a significant shift in the buy local/support local movement, with Nova Scotians developing a great appreciation for Nova Scotian grown products. We are happy to accept the funds from AFNS and we are committed to continuing to build on the strong foundation Agri-Futures has built.” – Victor Oulton, NSFA President*



## Meet Our New Team Members! Cont'd

...continued from page 1

### Nicole Shanahan



#### Tell us a bit about yourself:

Originally from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, I have spent the past ten years

living across Canada and abroad. I have since returned and am happy to call the Annapolis Valley home.

#### Where did you go to school?

I have a BSc in Environmental Sciences from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the University of Freiburg in Germany. My master's thesis studied the effects of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilization on tree root growth under drought conditions as part of an international diversity experiment. I also had the opportunity to study abroad during my bachelor's degree and spent a year in Fairbanks, Alaska.

#### What made you get into this field of work? What drew you in?

I have always been passionate about sustainable living and knowing where

food comes from. Travelling and learning about new cultures, food is always at the centre, which is why I try to always connect with resident farmers, hunters and/or fisherman to find locally supplied products. I have worked on grain, olive, hops, and other farms locally and abroad and love being a part of these communities.

#### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am an avid hiker and love spending time in the backcountry. When home, I can be found in the garden and am currently dabbling in homebrewing.

#### What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about food security and sustainable living. I try to live green and make conscious environmental decisions as part of my everyday life.

## Farm Safety Update

...continued from page 6

Fall is such a busy time of year on the farm with harvest on top of regular farm tasks and responsibilities. It is during this busy time when fatigue may set in and interfere with safe operations on the farm. Farm Safety has tools and resources to help mitigate the risk on farm. In the last News & Views, we introduced [Mind The GAP! FARM-FARM-FARM](#) in which one FARM is [Fatigue at Risk Management](#).



The next [Cultivating Your Way to Burnout](#) webinar is coming up on February 2, 2021 from 11:30am-12:30pm.

### Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

[Progressive Agriculture Safety Days](#) is virtual this year. It is being held on October 23, 2020 from 10 am to 12 pm. This webinar will educate kids on and off the farm on various farm hazards to include Electricity & Underground Utilities, Stress, ATV Safety, Sun Safety, and much more. This is an opportunity for children ages 7 to 13 to learn about the hazards on the farm and what they can do to stay safe. Children will visit virtual safety stations where they will learn in fun, interactive ways. To register and submit the [2020 Release and Consent Form](#) visit the Farm Safety Website and click on Events under the News and Events tab.

### Building a Farm Safety Plan

This workshop turned webinar is back by popular demand. [Building a Farm Safety Plan: Sections 1 to 5](#) webinar is

on December 15, 2020 from 9am -12pm. This webinar will coach participants in building a farm safety plan by learning how to adapt and change available safety plan templates to include a health and safety policy, inspection checklists, hazard & risk assessments, safe work practices, written work procedures, safety orientations for workers, incident reporting, and emergency response. [The Guide for the Farm Safety Plan and Workbook](#) referenced in this webinar are available in print, online and USB. For more information go to the [Farm Safety Nova Scotia Website](#) to review and download the resources. For print resources contact Farm Safety Nova Scotia at least 1 week prior to the webinar so they can be picked up or mailed to the farm.

Check out all of the upcoming webinars, workshops on the Farm Safety Website by taking a look at the Events Calendar. Use the available training and resources to enhance safety protocols and to protect human and material resources on your farm to increase its' sustainability.



## NSYF Annual Meeting & Farm Transition Panel

**Wednesday, December 2 @ 7:30pm**

It is expected that in the next ten years \$50 billion in Canadian farm assets are to be transferred to the next generation or out of the industry. A 2019 survey indicated that only 16% of the farms have a written plan outlining how their transition will take place. With the transition of a farm operation being a journey that often takes years and a team of advisors to complete, this planning exercise is often delayed because there are too many jobs that need to be done today, this week or this season. The result is the senior generation feels overwhelmed and the junior generation confused with both wondering "Where do I start?" and "Who can I trust?".

Farm Credit Canada has recognized these challenges and in 2018 formed an Advisory Services team to work with farming families to do pre-transition planning. It is free service to help identify the family's transition goals. They will perform gap analysis in identifying where things are today and how you will get to where you need to be in the future. The farm is given some guidance and direction on what steps to take. Then there is a clear hand-off to the appropriate professionals where you can clearly discuss the plan to get you to the finish line.

A big key to successful family transfers is using strong, open communication.

Multi-generational farm families that have successfully transitioned did so by implementing a written plan, making decisions based on values and vision, and considering the impacts from an ideal financial, tax and legal perspective. A transition plan will examine options and identify obstacles, dealing with the management succession and the transition of assets.

**To start conversations and help farmers learn from others' experience, we will be hosting a virtual panel discussion. FCC Agriculture Transition Specialist Terry Jones will moderating the panel of two farms who will share their stories with you, followed by a question and answer session.**

## Corporate Partner Highlight - Kings Mutual Insurance

Kings Mutual is rooted in agricultural insurance. The company has been serving Nova Scotians in the agricultural community since 1904. Your operation is unique to you, and your insurance should follow suit. Coverages are tailored to your needs on structures; produce; machinery and equipment; livestock; and liability.

### Things we can cover:

**Business Interruption** - covers loss of earnings to your business when you have an insurance claim.

**Equipment Breakdown** - insurance coverage for sudden and accidental breakdown of your equipment.

**Enhanced Coverages** - building by-laws, debris removal, professional fees, and much more!



Contact Us: 902.538.3187

# Upcoming Events

**October 23, 2020 - Online**  
Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

**November 19-20, 2020**  
Wild Blueberry Producers of Nova Scotia AGM

**November 21 & 22, 2020**  
Mental Health First Aid

**November 25-26, 2020**  
Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia AGM

**November 30, 2020 - Webinar**  
Public Trust Webinar

**December 1, 2020 - Webinar**  
Ag Environmental Sustainability

**December 2, 2020 - Webinar**  
Transition Planning Panel

**December 2, 2020 - Online**  
Nova Scotia Young Farmers' AGM

**December 3, 2020 - Online**  
125th NSFA Annual Meeting

**December 4, 2020 - Online**  
Farm Safety NS Annual Meeting

**December 4, 2020 - Webinar**  
Mental Fitness 101

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



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

# An Update on the AgriRecovery Request for Hurricane Dorian

Earlier this year, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture issued a Hurricane Dorian survey to gauge the impact Dorian caused on farms in the province. This survey was conducted as the preliminary assessment to determine whether Dorian met the eligibility criteria for an AgriRecovery request to the Federal government.

We have been informed by the NSDA that the information obtained through this survey did not provide enough to validate a request for AgriRecovery.

## 2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Victor Oulton President 902-798-4440	Allan Melvin Corporate Secretary & Treasurer 902-499-6968	Jacob Mullen 902-778-0063
Tim Marsh 1st Vice President/CFA 902-798-7924	Lauren Park 902-292-5160	Joe Piotti 902-657-2308
Chris deWaal 2nd Vice President 902-582-7756	Josh Oulton 902-670-4538	Gordon Jackson 902-584-3205
Chris van den Heuvel Past President 902-631-1884	Peter Morine 902-527-3274	
	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 Doyle Communications Coordinator	Cory Roberts EFP Coordinator
Tracey Otterson Financial Services Coordinator	Janette McDonald Public Trust Coordinator	Macy Cameron Public Trust Assistant
Shelly MacKenzie Administrative Services Coordinator	Lori Brookhouse Farm Safety Advisor	Nicole Shanahan Member Services Assistant
	Heather Boyd 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.