

news+views

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We Talk. We Grow.



We are just over two months into the launch of our newest initiative, and we are thrilled by the support that *We Talk. We Grow.* has received in such a short amount of time. It is great to see individuals, organizations, businesses, and government coming together. Mental health is something that impacts all of us, either directly or indirectly, and it's time we talk about it.

Over the next few months, we will be introducing you to various parts of *We Talk. We Grow.*, what's available to you, and how you can get involved.

Leadership Charter

Inspired by the Nova Scotia Health & Safety Leadership Charter, created in response to the province's Workplace Safety Strategy, Farm Safety Nova Scotia has established a Mental Health Leadership Charter – encouraging leaders across the province's farming community to commit to promoting and establishing a stronger and more responsive mental health and wellness system.

This Charter represents a commitment from leaders across Nova Scotia's farming community to support efforts within their own organizations, and the broader farming community, to promote a strong and sustainable culture of mental health and wellness.

By endorsing this Charter, these leaders commit to prioritizing the mental health and wellness of their employees, industry partners and community members; through workplace policies, advocacy efforts and day-to-day leadership activities.

Who has signed the charter so far?

We have received a great response from organizations stepping up and signing our leadership charter. Take a look at the signatories we have so far!

- David Newcombe, President, Farm Safety Nova Scotia
- Tim Marsh, President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

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Viewpoint

I realize I might sound like a broken record when I talk about climate change and the opportunities and pitfalls it presents for agriculture and your business, but here I am again. Not a day goes by that we don't have some sort of discussion about climate change, resiliency, and how to reduce our GHG emissions.

I think we are reaching a real turning point here in that the Federal and Provincial governments will be making concerted efforts to reduce emissions. For example, the NSFA recently participated in a presentation with Environment and Climate Change Canada, during which they said that their goal was to reduce emissions from fertilizer by 30% in 10 years. They referred to existing practices like 4R, slow-release fertilizers, precision nutrient management, and increased adoption of these tools as ways to reach the 30% reduction target. The target intends to address both direct (following fertilizer application) and indirect (from nitrogen leached from fields and volatilized to the atmosphere as ammonia) emissions. The reduction target is set relative to 2020 levels. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada believes that although the goal is ambitious it is achievable since the technology already exists. Consultations are slated to start this fall.

Agriculture is an important part of the climate solution; farmers need to trust that these policies will be supported by the government and citizens. Simply telling farmers they must do something is not collaborative, we need partnerships with government and other stakeholders to achieve these targets. There needs to be ongoing investments to support the work being done in order to make the required changes. Moving money around in federal provincial programs like CAP is simply not adequate, there needs to be new money and continuous support for the long term. A large emphasis also needs to go towards education, farmers need to see the cost

benefits of the solutions proposed. This work needs to make sense in order for people to embrace change, there are lots of examples of this already such as no till and precision ag. Recently, NSFA submitted an application to AAFC's Agriculture Climate Solutions Program, which was created to help to develop and implement farming practices to tackle climate change. I would like to thank our industry stakeholders for submitting letters of support to accompany our application.

Switching gears now, we have been living with COVID-19 for over 15 months but things are starting to get back to some sense of normal. Here's hoping that as you read this we are once again open to the rest of Canada. As we all know by now, we are still a long way from the real normal, some say 5 years. There is still lots of talk about vaccinations, which many expect to be a part of life every 6 months or so until we reach that magical herd immunity. I participated in a [session](#) a few weeks ago and one of the panel members was a Vet and a Medical doctor (how many years of study did that take!?) he said herd immunity is easy on a livestock farm, you just treat all the animals, we humans are a bit more of a challenge. I've heard it described as the finish line is 75% of entire population vaccinated so for now it seems like that's as good as it gets.

Shortages of supplies like lumber parts and other material are another consequence of the pandemic that will



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

be with us for a long time. Time will tell if the increase in prices is permanent and if we are looking at the beginnings of inflation and eventual interest rate spikes, it all adds to the uncertainty of production.

Due to the pandemic, many exhibitions have made the decision to suspend their shows for another year. I hope they all return next year but it's a difficult time for them with the lack of income from the event for two years running. They seem to have fallen through the cracks for funding support, hopefully they will get some support to get restarted next year, at least to maintain infrastructure and a restart fund. They are an important part of rural life in Nova Scotia.

Hopefully when you are reading this, we are moving into Phase 3 of the provincial opening plan. Friends and family can

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



We Talk. We Grow.

continued from page 1

- Hon. Iain Rankin, Premier of Nova Scotia
- Hon. Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture
- Dr. David Gray, Dean, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- Justin Cantafio, Executive Director, Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia
- Brittany Frenette, Outreach Manager, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
- Peter Burgess, Executive Director, Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia
- Jeff Clarke, Chair, Egg Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Amy VanderHeide, President, Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia
- Thom Oulton, Chair, Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia

"I hope this campaign and the long-term strategy will mean that we will open up more, we will talk more and make sure we pay attention to not only our own mental health, but the mental health of those around us."

David Newcombe, President, FSNS

"I'm happy to sign this charter on behalf of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. We are committed to supporting and promoting a strong and sustainable culture of mental health. It's time to act, let's get to work!"

Tim Marsh, President, NSFA

"Our department is proud to support the 'We Talk. We Grow.' campaign to help farmers experiencing mental health stress caused by workload, long hours, economic challenges, family issues and COVID-related anxiety. We encourage our farmers to take good care of themselves - and their families - by taking advantage of these helpful mental health resources."

Hon. Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture

Champions

Behind every great campaign are great champions, and the We Talk. We Grow. initiative will be no exception. We need community leaders with a broad reach to help us spread the word and raise awareness. As a We Talk. We Grow. Champion, you can amplify our messaging or share your story and experiences so others know they are not alone.

If you have a strong social media following and the ability to reach a wide audience across Nova Scotia's farming community – we're hoping you can lend a hand and help.

Share your story with mental health and wellness – whether it be a resource you found helpful such as Mental Health First Aid, a personal experience, or the reason mental health and wellness is important to you. Share on social media using the #WeTalkWeGrow hashtag or send us your stories for us to share through our channels.

We'll give you the tools to amplify the mental health campaign messages and generate greater awareness around the resources, training and support available. To learn more about how you can become a Champion, or to provide funding support to bolster the campaign, please contact comms@nsfa-fane.ca

Ambassadors

The We Talk. We Grow. Ambassador will help communicate and support the mental health and wellness of the farming community in Nova Scotia through the Mental Health Awareness Campaign. With education and training, the Ambassador will help reduce stigma, increase awareness of the various phases of mental health, and refer those in the community to the available mental health support and resources.

The Ambassador will promote We Talk. We Grow. through word of mouth or telling others about the program; will promote the campaign repeatedly; do it at no cost; encourage the use of training,

tools, and resources available; and fully and wholeheartedly support the campaign.

Objectives

- Increase education and awareness of mental health and wellness.
- Reduce stigma through continued communication of mental health best practices.
- Empower individuals and organizations to become leaders in promoting mental health and wellness.
- Strengthen relationships with partners to work together to enhance Nova Scotia's mental health offerings.
- Coordinate delivery of tailored tools, resources and supports for mental health and wellness.
- Reduce stressors negatively impacting mental health and wellness through advocacy and program delivery.

Criteria

The We Talk. We Grow. Ambassador has:

- Relationships with those working in the agriculture industry.
- Passion and willingness to talk about mental health.
- Encourage members of the farming community to use available resources & supports.
- Ability to listen without judgment and provide reassurance.
- Desire to help reduce the stigma around mental health through conversations.
- Desire to promote the We Talk. We Grow. brand in-person, on websites, and in social media.
- Use the In the Know training to facilitate safe conversations and practice self-care.

Training

1. Attend and participate in a presentation on the We Talk. We Grow. Campaign.
2. Attend and participate with In the Know Mental Health Literacy training.

If you have any questions, or would like more information about *We Talk. We Grow.* please email info@farmsafetyns.ca

Policy Corner

APF Consultations

A huge thank-you to the farmers who participated in our Agriculture Policy Framework Roundtable and provided feedback in the online form. We have lots of information to work with to help NSFA formulate responses to provincial and federal consultations.

The Federal government recently announced consultations on the Agriculture Policy Framework. NSFA will create a submission based on what we heard from members, but individuals are welcomed to participate, too.

Share your experiences and ideas for the next Policy Framework. Some questions you may wish to consider include:

- What new elements need to be considered for the Next Policy Framework?
- What challenges and opportunities, both current and emerging, do you see for the sector?
- What is working well with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)?
- Where can improvements be found?

Submissions can be sent to: aafc.npf-pcs.aac@canada.ca

Addressing Climate Change with Fertilizer Targets

The Federal government recently released a document titled “Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy.” The 79-page document highlights key areas the government will focus on to achieve their target of net 0 carbon by 2050. Highlights from the agriculture section of this document include: clean technology, reduction in emissions from fertilizer and feedstocks for biofuels.

The fertilizer target is starting to create some buzz. The federal government “set

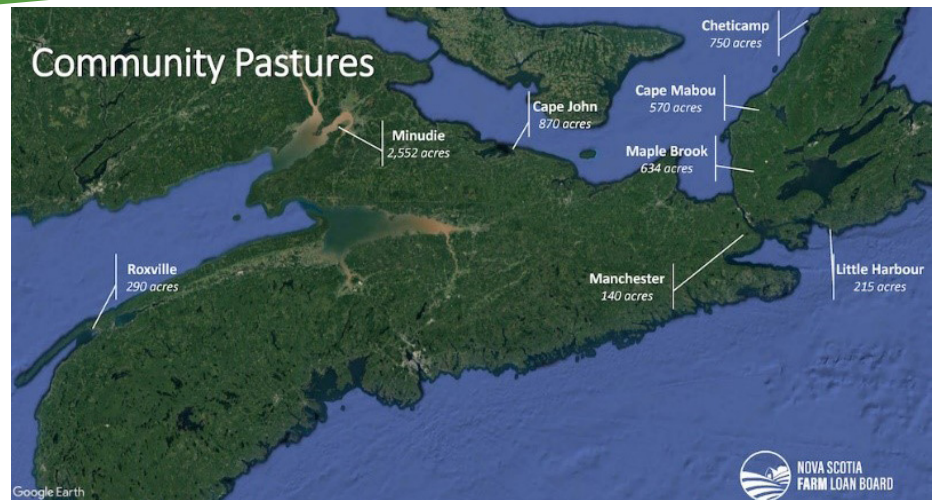


Photo sourced from Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board website

a national emission reduction target of 30% below 2020 levels from fertilizers and work with fertilizer manufacturers, farmers, provinces and territories, to develop an approach to meet it.” While a date wasn’t set for this objective in Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, speculation has a 2030 target date. Consultations are expected to roll out later this year on meeting this objective. Right off the bat, 2030 is an aggressive timeline, especially without having specific aspects of the fertilizer chain that will be targeted for improvement. NSFA was informed that the goal is 30% fewer emissions, not necessarily 30% less fertilizer being used.

At first glance, it’s probably safe to assume there will be some work on improving efficiencies in fertilizer production to reduce emissions. Secondly, education and awareness on fertilizer use will likely be another component of this rollout. Plant uptake of the nutrient means less nutrient to be released into the atmosphere or leached, but also should mean a better bottom line for farms. While not broadly promoted in Nova Scotia, the 4R principles (Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time & Right Place) from Fertilizer Canada seems to be what government is striving for with this target.

Going into the consultations, NSFA will advocate to make sure any approaches to meet the 30% objective make sense at the farm level and, if required, supports are available to farms during transitions.

Stay tuned to the News & Views and eNews for more information as it comes in.

Community Pastures

Last year a couple studies got underway to look at community pastures. The studies looked at both the governance of these pastures and also the agronomy and potential for each pasture. A report was recently released by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board discussing the findings for each of the pastures and highlighting recommendations. For further reading, the report can be found on the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board website here: novascotia.ca/farmloan/communitypastures/

Government Relations

As you may recall, following the swearing in ceremony in February, NSFA sent congratulatory letters to the Ministers of provincial government departments of which we have regular dealings. As a result of these letters, NSFA President, Tim Marsh, and NSFA staff had the opportunity to meet with Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Keith Irving and Department staff.

NSFA has an already established relationship with Minister Irving through our agricultural land efforts and we were pleased to have the opportunity to talk about wetlands, the Sustainable Development Goals Act & consultations, water initiatives, meat processing and pesticide applicators licensing.

Sustainable Development Goals Act

For those following along, the regulations for the *Sustainable Development Goals Act* – or SDGA – are open for consultation. As expected, these consultations are robust and offer a variety of opportunities to provide input. From an agriculture perspective, timing for these consultations isn't favourable, however, they are open until the last week of July.

Consultations for the SDGA provide an opportunity to demonstrate the role agriculture plays as part of a sustainable future here in Nova Scotia. This is an opportunity to highlight what farms and the agriculture industry as a whole means to Nova Scotia. There is also opportunity to highlight the challenges and barriers that are keeping agriculture from growing. Setting goals to address these challenges and barriers will help to benchmark progress towards targets along the way.

There are many ways to make sure agriculture is represented. There are online sessions for different themes – sustainable prosperity, natural assets and biodiversity, cleaner energy, climate change, circular economy, and inclusive economy. There are also a series of questions online with the same themes. You can select which theme(s) is/are important to you and comment in the form. A DIY Consultation toolkit is also available for organizations and individuals who wish to host targeted consultations for members or communities. And let's not forget the old-fashioned snailmail or email. The consultation information can be found at cleanfuture.ca.

NSFA will actively participate in the consultation sessions and provide a formal response. We will convey recommended goals that will support agriculture in efforts towards a sustainable future and highlight both

the benefits of achieving this goal and risks if we remain status quo. NSFA is also hosting an agriculture theme consultation for members on **July 15** (hoping this gets to you in time!). This session will encompass the themes that the consultation is focusing on and weave in the agriculture elements for those themes.

What is the SDGA exactly?

The SDGA creates a framework to set goals that advance Nova Scotia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth will be part of this and regulations that include goals in line with the act to encourage sustainable development according to the sustainable definitions. It's important to note that, as with every other Act in Nova Scotia, the SDGA was passed through the legislature. This makes the government accountable to meet and regularly report on the goals.

The SDGA replaces *Ecological Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act* (EGSPA) which was first passed unanimously in the 2007 legislature. EGSPA was the first real sustainability initiative for a Nova Scotia government and many goals were successfully achieved. At the time, three goals related to food were presented to be included; the goal on increasing the number of farms in Nova Scotia and the goal to increase local food spending were included in EGSPA. NSFA continues efforts to ensure protection of agricultural land for future generations.

To be blunt, the food related goals in EGSPA weren't met. While there was much conversation around increasing the number of farms in the province and equally as much around increasing awareness of local, not much traction was made on either of these goals. One element that was missing was a plan. How can a goal be achieved without a plan? Optimistically, lessons from EGSPA have been learned and for each goal that is adopted into regulations comes with a plan developed with farmers, government departments and agencies, and other stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Goals Act Consultations present an exciting time - this is an opportunity to have your say on a sustainable future for Nova Scotia, so be sure to get involved!

SIGN UP NOW

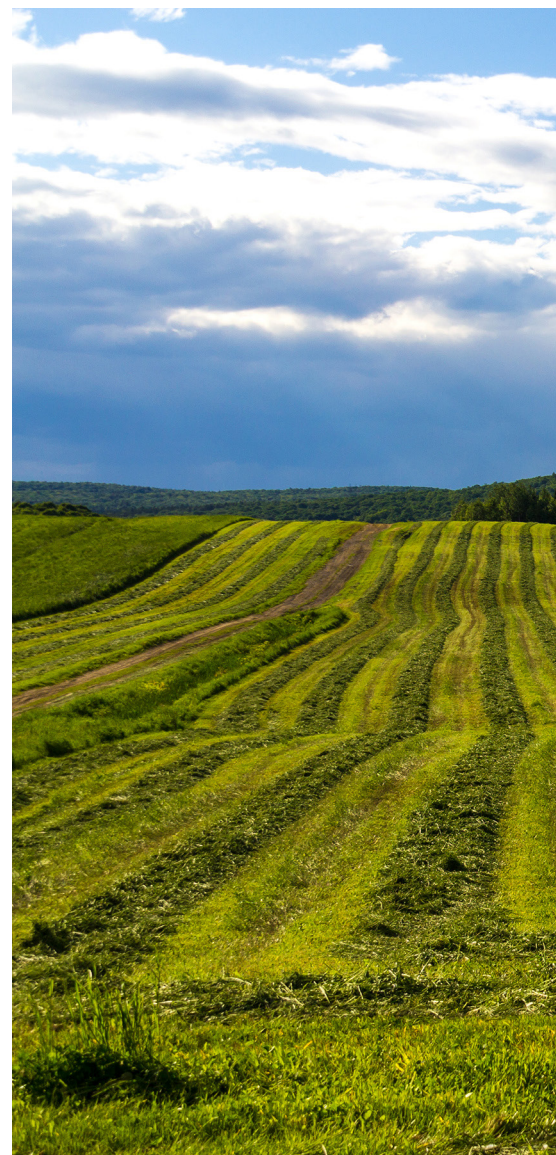
NSFA is facilitating a session for members on the SDGA and goals that can forward the agriculture industry.

Date: July 15

Time: 12:30-2p.m.

Location: Zoom

[Sign up on the events page](#) on NSFA's website to participate in this session!



Farm Safety Update



ONE ROAD
SAFETY IS A TWO-WAY STREET

One Road: Safety is a Two-Way Street

One of the stressors farmers face, especially this time of year, is driving on rural roads to move equipment and material from farm to field in a safe manner. The month of May, was the launch of the One Road Campaign (<https://farmsafetyns.ca/oneroad/>), and May 18 – 24, 2021, Farm Safety Nova Scotia participated in the Canada Road Safety Week (<https://www.casa-acsa.ca/en/resources/road-safety-week/>) to promote best practices for farmers and road users of provincial highways and roadways. Canada Road Safety Week resources available include public service announcements, toolbox talks, infographics, and safety advice articles. You can find those by visiting the website above.

When it comes to road safety and on-road accidents, the most common incidents include: left turn collisions, rear end collisions and passing collisions.

Left turn collisions occur when a farm vehicle is about to make a left turn and the motorist behind the tractor decides to pass.

Rear end collisions happen when a motorist misjudges the speed when approaching a slow-moving vehicle. This gives the motorist only a few seconds to react and slow down.

Passing collisions result when a motorist attempts to pass a farm vehicle and may be unaware that the equipment is extra wide or long until they are in the passing lane.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Road users must learn the hazards of the road and how to ensure all users go home at the end of the day in the same condition.

The key is to anticipate the hazard, slow down and assess the situation, be patient, and only pass if it is safe to do so. Farm equipment is usually not travelling down the road far, is your life worth a few extra minutes? Make the choice to protect yourself and all other road users.

We can prevent incidents on the road by slowing down, keeping back at least 50ft, avoiding the driver's blind spots, knowing equipment may take up more than one lane and be longer than you expect, only passing when it is legal and safe to do so, anticipating farm equipment turning off the road, looking for hand signals and turn signals, and giving them room to make a turn.


When in doubt, wait and see before you act.

If you would like to share the road safety message, you can by displaying posters and rack cards at your organization's location, by using the One Road Facebook Frame and sharing our Facebook and Twitter Social Media Graphics. New this year, we have the stick figure window sticker reminding road users to not pass on a double line. To request resources e-mail info@farmsafetyns.ca or phone 902-957-2785.

New Farm Safety Website

The Farm Safety Nova Scotia website has a fresh new look. Check it out at farmsafetyns.ca. The three most common search topics are clickable icons in the middle of the page. Click and an organized page opens with everything you need only a click or two away.



Not sure where to start. Go to Search  at the top right of the page and type in one or two words of what you are looking for and press enter. A page will open up with options to choose from.

Check out the [Events Calendar](#) to see what is coming in the days and months ahead. Click on an event, it will open up a short description of the event, and a link to register.

The [Resources](#) page is now organized into 6 categories to include Build a Farm Safety Plan, Commodity Plans, Farm Safety Rally, Legislation, Additional Supports, and Links.

The [Commodity Plans](#) include the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers and the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia Farm Safety Plans in both English and Spanish where all templates are available for download.

Use the [Farm Safety Rally](#) page to download your next safety meeting. There are 12 categories to choose from and several topics within each category. A meeting is featured weekly in the eNews as well.

Be sure to click [Online Training](#) from the homepage to go to the 7 courses available at no cost to train your workers. Two of the courses are available in Spanish.

Check out the [COVID-19 resources](#), Member Services, and the News. If you still would like some guidance, click Contact to choose one of the available methods to reach out to the Farm Safety Advisor.

New content is being added regularly so be sure to come back.

Riparian Zones - Little Areas with Big Benefits

Whether you are a livestock or crop producer, you need water. Watercourses are common on many farm properties and farms are shaped by where water is located. Traditionally, barns and farm yards were situated adjacent to watercourses so they had a reliable source of water for the farm. Over time, as new sources of water were developed (e.g., wells) and as our understanding of the impact that agricultural activities can have on aquatic ecosystems has increased, we have shifted our focus towards protecting watercourses from run-off and other contamination risks.

One of the best things we can do to protect watercourses is to ensure that we maintain an area of natural vegetation along the waterway. A riparian area, or riparian zone, is the term given to describe the permanently vegetated land located at the edge of a field along a river, stream, brook or pond. Although riparian areas make up only a small fraction of the land, they are among the most productive and valuable areas on the farm landscape.

Maintaining riparian zones helps to limit the negative impacts of soil erosion, nutrient loss and pesticide applications on water quality. Riparian zone vegetation usually contains a combination of plants of mixed height, growth habit and density, e.g., trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and ferns. Riparian zones can look quite different depending on their location and a diversity of plants within the riparian area is beneficial for a variety of ecological functions including:

- Naturally maintaining and reinforcing stream banks
- Shading the watercourse to keep the water cooler (improving water quality and fish habitat)
- Trapping sediments and filtering nutrients from precipitation run-off
- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Sequestering carbon

Riparian areas should be composed of at least 5 m (15 ft) of mixed vegetation. Wider is better as it provides a greater opportunity to maintain water quality and will provide more habitat. Riparian zones are established by discontinuing cropping to the edge of a watercourse, fencing livestock and allowing natural vegetation to re-establish. If the area is severely degraded, planting native trees and shrubs can help stabilize the bank and allow natural vegetation to establish more quickly. It will mean a slight decrease in cropping acreage, but will be worth the investment as the landscape will be more resilient to heavy rainfall events by buffering run-off and reducing erosion. For row crop production, it is also recommended to establish an additional 3 m (10 ft) grassed buffer strip between the riparian zone and the field as there is a greater risk of soil erosion. Buffers provide long-term conservation benefits but also provide practical benefits to farmers by straightening

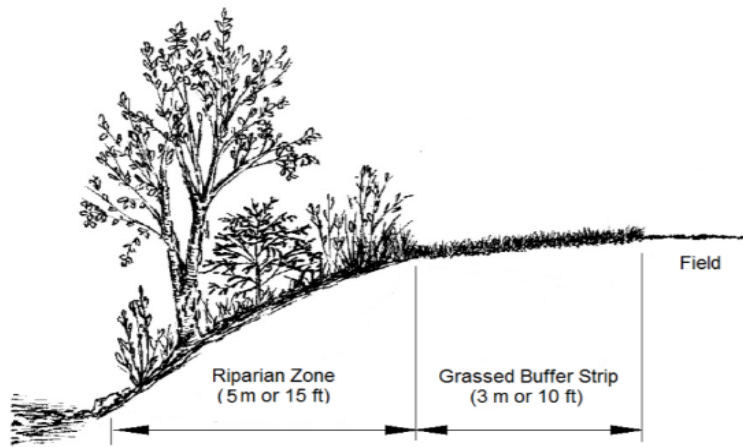


Figure 1: Riparian zone and grassed buffer strip widths¹

irregular fields and avoiding the need to plant end-rows where crop yields are often lower.

To help with costs associated with establishing riparian areas, funding is available through the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's Soil and Water Sustainability Program. Producers can receive up to 60% (to max. of \$10,000) of eligible expenses such as the purchase of trees, shrubs, and riparian fencing for restricting livestock access to watercourses. Funding is also available for remote livestock watering systems to provide an alternate water source for livestock.

For more information related to riparian areas, there is the Beneficial Management Practices for Riparian Zones in Atlantic Canada publication available and a new AEP factsheet, Life on the Edge – Riparian Zone Establishment. For these documents and other factsheets, check out the resources section of our EFP website: <https://nsefp.ca/publications-fact-sheets/>.

#HowNSAgs Contest

Our winning photo for the 2021 #HowNSAgs Photo Contest was submitted by Nadia Levy! In the image to the right you will see their oldest son Issac mimicking their dog Gus after throwing him some sticks at the barn. These two love playing together especially at the farm!

To see all of the photo submissions for this year, head to the [Nova Scotia Young Farmers Facebook page](#).



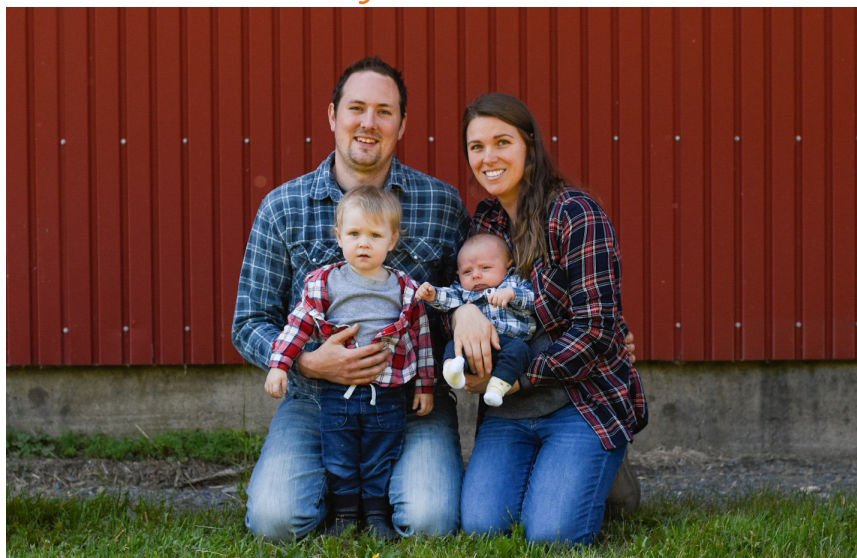
#HowNSAgs Keigan & Nadia Levy

We have a growing little family that lives and breathes agriculture. My husband Keigan grew up on his family's dairy farm (Arnel Levy & Sons) and attended NSAC and obtained his Diploma of Business Management in Dairy Farming. He will be taking over the business as the 3rd generation successor.

I (Nadia) have also grown up on a family dairy farm located here in the valley. I attended NSAC and obtained a Diploma of Business Management in Agriculture. I worked on my family's farm for many years before taking a whole new agricultural shift to the wine industry. I worked at a few different wineries and managed Mercator Vineyards before leaving that role to focus more on our growing family. Recently I've tapped into the cider industry and worked with Annapolis Cider Co.

We have two young boys, Issac (20 months) and our newest addition Aiden, who is only two months old. As you can imagine I'm a busy mama!

Our dairy farm is called Arnel Levy & Sons Farm Ltd. and we are located in Black River, Annapolis Valley. We milk around 225 Holstein cows and manage



375 additional animals including dry cows, heifers and calves. We crop about 850 acres in total, strictly for feed for our animals.

Our main goals for our farm would be to improve cow comfort and health, increase milk production, improve farm profitability and acquire more land for further use for feed.

Given the fact that we've both grown up in agriculture, we couldn't imagine being a part of anything else. Agriculture is progressive, diverse, and unpredictable

which challenges us to adapt, work harder and be smarter. It enables us to appreciate the enormous amount of effort to sustain it and makes it even more rewarding to experience it firsthand.

Our advice to young farmers and young adults would be to have a positive mindset and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. There are many challenges in all areas of agriculture, but keeping a level head and surrounding yourself with support will help the difficult times become easier.

Public Trust Update

Register now to participate in Open Farm Day!

Open Farm Day is scheduled for Sunday, **September 19, 2021** and we are gearing up for an exciting hybrid edition! Open Farm Day will be held **online and in-person** this year! You can register your farm to participate online, in-person or both!

To be eligible to participate we require that:

- your farm registration is current, and you are member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.
- a virtual visit on your farm will provide an educational experience to the public and/or
- that an in-person visit will provide an educational experience to the public and follow all current public health guidelines.
- you do not charge admission to visit the farm on Open Farm Day

Farms who will be opening their doors to the public will need to create an approved COVID-19 event plan and adhere to all current public health guidelines. Farms that are participating online will need to have recorded videos complete by **August 15**. Support for video editing is available.

We are excited to be working with the other Atlantic Provinces to launch a new Atlantic Open Farm Day website! The participating farm map and all videos will be shared on the new website! As always, Meet Your Farmer will be sharing the event too.

Open Farm Day is a wildly popular event in Nova Scotia! It is something families



OPEN FARM DAY
Supported by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

REGISTER NOW!

Sunday, September 19, 2021
Online and In-person

Registration for farm participation in Open Farm Day is live! You can select online, in-person, or both options this year. All farms participating in-person must agree to providing a COVID-19 event plan that meets current public health guidelines.

Details & Registration:
<https://nsfa-fane.ca/open-farm-day/>

Deadline: July 31, 2021

from all over the province look forward to each year. To make this event the most successful it can be, we need farms to share your story and welcome guests in-person or online. We are here to support you. Please reach out to discuss how we can help.

Registration deadline: **July 31, 2021!**
Registration can be completed online at:
<https://nsfa-fane.ca/open-farm-day/>

Food Day Canada is July 31!

Food Day Canada is an annual event that takes place on the Saturday of the long weekend in August. It's all about celebrating and exploring the flavours of Canada from coast to coast to coast. Help us put Canada on the menu by pledging Canadian and taking part in #FoodDayCanada activities.

Some fun ways for you to celebrate include:

- Host a summer BBQ using local ingredients for your family or farm team
- Shop at your local farmers' market

- Eat out at your favourite restaurant and share your meal on social media using #FoodDayCanada
- Pack a picnic and head to the beach or park to enjoy Canadian in the great outdoors!

Tell your friends and family to shop, cook, and dine Canadian on July 31! And don't forget to snap a few pictures and share your fun.

New Training Opportunities Available

NSFA has secured **28 seats** for training options from [Utensil.ca](https://utensil.ca). Utensil was developed as a resource for the entire food system and anyone interested in learning more about it and our incredible food. There are three online courses offered: So...your client is a farmer, Grow Your brand, and Media Training. These are all self-directed learning options where you login to the course and work at your own pace. You will receive a certificate of completion when you finish the course. You can learn more about the courses at utensil.ca. To apply to take one of the courses for free through NSFA, please visit: nsfa-fane.ca/publictrust to fill out and submit the application form.

AgSector Update

Meet our new team member, Caitlyn Clements!



Caitlyn will be joining us in her new role as the Workforce Development Coordinator (WDC). Some of her responsibilities include developing and facilitating industry focused strategies that attract, retain, and develop workers to meet the needs of the industry. Caitlyn will also work with community partners to raise awareness of career and job opportunities, identify skill and training requirements of the industry, provide training to current and potential workers, and increase collaboration and coordination of workforce development efforts.

Tell us a bit about yourself

I grew up in Bass River, NS and went to high school in Truro. I left home to attend Dalhousie University in Halifax for a B.A., double majoring in Economics and International Development Studies. I stayed in the city for a couple of years before spending a 14 month stint in Labrador and then 5 years in northern Saskatchewan. My 11 year old rescue beagle has been by my side through all

the moves and we are so excited to finally be returning home.

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

I have always had a community focus in both my work and volunteer life, be it within Canada or over seas. I am happy to have the opportunity to apply my knowledge and experiences to my 'home turf'. When I couple that with my interest in food security and sustainability, along with my experiences in economics/ labour, it makes the coordinator position an ideal fit.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

I'm looking forward to meeting new people and hearing about their experiences and perspectives.

What do you do in your spare time?

I do quite a bit of beadwork as well as hide and fur sewing. You can also find me enjoying a good book alongside a strong cup of coffee. Having said that however, I am equally happy kayaking, camping, hiking, etc. I like to live by the motto "it's impossible to waste time if you're outside".

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about people. A running theme in all my activities is people. I volunteer where I can - I've been an active member of Search and Rescue for many years, a board member for the local housing authority and a participant in MMIWG and Every Child Matters fundraising/events to name a few. I want to see everyone be given the opportunity to lead a fulfilling and safe life.

Anything else about yourself you would like to share with our members?

I love to learn so please don't be shy to tell or teach me things as we work together. Henry Ford said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young"

We are excited to welcome Caitlyn on board and look forward to all we can accomplish together!

Workforce Development and Industry Capacity Strategy

NSFA and the AgSector program have contracted the services of Barrington Consulting to help develop a collaborative approach to ensuring a sustainable industry through workforce development and industry capacity building.

There have been five key areas identified and visions of the future established for each, which were shared in our previous Newsletter. Those five key areas are:

- **Career & Farming Promotions (Connect to Farming)**
- **Skills, Training, and Education (Prepare Strong Farmers)**
- **HR Management (Manage Farms & People)**
- **Automation & Innovation (Automate & Innovate)**
- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (Grow in Diversity).**

Since the participation and contributions from our visioning and action planning sessions, we have been working to further develop a comprehensive implementation plan with clear goals and initiatives for the AgSector going forward.

Some aspects of the goals being established can be found below:

Connect to Farming

43% of the agriculture workforce in Nova Scotia is set to retire by 2029. We will strive to strengthen community connections to farming and farming careers and further increase interest in agriculture career opportunities in youth. Celebrating the successes of the industry and sharing possible career pathways for others.

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Prepare Strong Farmers

Included in our goals to prepare strong farmers is the need to understand the recurring and potential future workforce and capacity gaps in the industry. Where more skills, training, and education is needed, we will work to coordinate and expand those efforts.

Manage Farms & People

Recruitment, retention, and succession planning are at the core of our approach.

By providing the necessary resources and connections to supports and services for successful farm business management, farm operators will be equipped with the tools to succeed.

Automate & Innovate

Innovation and automation will help drive the industry forward. Through innovative thinking, applied research, and collaboration, we can work toward solutions to complex problems. We will encourage a culture of continuous improvement in the industry to ensure a

sustainable future.

Grow in Diversity

We are stronger together. We consider diversity, inclusion, and equity vital throughout all other key themes and as a key theme itself. We will work towards equitable agriculture pathways for all and foster a culture of inclusion within the industry.

We will be organizing an industry consultation in the fall for feedback and look forward to hearing from you. Stay tuned for more details!



Letter to the Editor

Submitted to The Chronicle Herald by Allan Melvin, 1st Vice President.

Every business has its own support system, its own group that they rely on in order to keep things moving. For the agriculture industry, our support systems are usually made up of staff, suppliers, dealers, financial advisors, agronomists, etc. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have added two more to that list, Public Health and our hospitality industry. These are two key players who have made a world of difference, especially over the last few months.

On behalf of our industry, I would like to thank Dr. Strang for his leadership, guiding us through some of the most challenging times we have faced as a province. As well as Public Health for the help and support they have provided the farming community. They have both worked diligently to address our questions and concerns, and provide

solutions to our challenges. All while maintaining a high level of care to the rest of the province.

With the support of Public Health and the Department of Health & Wellness, our Temporary Foreign Workers were included in Nova Scotia's vaccine rollout and were able to book within their age cohorts. Over the past few months, our farmers have been working with Public Health to get their workers booked in for vaccine appointments. In addition to this, Public Health has been working with industry through the trialing of a vaccination process that would see our workers receive their first dose of vaccine when they finish their hotel isolation. I for one, am truly grateful to our healthcare system throughout this pandemic.

Another group that I would like to tip my hat to is our hospitality industry. When people visit the Maritimes, they always rave about "Maritimers' hospitality" and I couldn't agree more. Nova Scotia's hospitality industry has truly stepped up and supported our industry. With our workers entering the province now required to isolate in single hotel rooms, our working group began coordinating with several hotels across the province.

The support from these facilities has been a tremendous help and they are a great group to work with through these challenging times. They have gone above and beyond in order to ensure that the workers have everything they need for a comfortable stay, and have staff available to answer any questions they may have. Hotel staff have worked hard to offer meals that the workers will enjoy and are culturally appropriate. Doing their best to make them feel at home during their stay.

If there is one thing this pandemic has taught us, it's the importance of supporting one another. Supporting your friends, family and neighbours. Supporting local farms and businesses. We're all in this together.

Upcoming Events

July 15, 2021

Sustainable Development Goals Act Session

July 31, 2021

Food Day Canada

September 19, 2021

Open Farm Day

November 25, 2021

NSFA 126th Annual Meeting



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New Corporate Partner



Canada Trust

Agriculture Services

We would like to welcome our newest Corporate Partner member! TD Agriculture has joined our Partner Program as an Investor.

We appreciate their support and dedication to Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.

2021 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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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.