



Vol. 33 Issue 5 September 2021

## Meet Amy!

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We would like to introduce you to our new Operations Manager, Amy Langille!

Amy resides in North River with her husband Justin, and two spoiled German Shepherds, Dallas and Spencer. In 2008, Amy completed the Office Information Technology course at the Nova Scotia Community College. Now she is in the process of completing her Business Management Certificate with Dalhousie – which she will wrap up in December!

Amy got into this field of work to help others, and she loves that she can help foster fun, safe, and effective work cultures. Amy feels strongly that everyone should enjoy going to work everyday. She enjoys creating effective and efficient solutions that get the job done and done well.

“I’m looking forward to meeting everyone, learning more about agriculture, and adding efficiencies to help the staff work as efficiently and effectively as possible.”

There are two fun questions that we ask our staff when building bios, which are:

1. What’s your favourite book and/or movie?
2. What’s the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?

While Amy says she doesn’t have a favourite book or movie per se, she does enjoy reading, watching or listening to anything true crime related! And if she won the lottery? She says she would help her family and friends, and also fund a local pet shelter anonymously.

As Operations Manager, Amy will be supporting the organization in increasing efficiency, implementing the strategic plan, and supporting the delivery of programs and services to the farming community.

We’re excited to welcome Amy to the team!



# Viewpoint

To quote Garrison Keillor, “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”

My time as Executive Director is coming to a close after almost 13 years. All of us have done good work together. Policy and advocacy are important, and we’ve had a number of wins over the years. Some of the wins that stand out to me are: advancing Farm Safety, helping to create the Agri Commodity Management Association, as well as the governance changes over the past few years. Additionally, the stability of owning our own building – that allowed us to fulfill a long term dream of the NSFA.

I have spent 32 years of my career in agriculture member organizations, and have things ever changed over that time! The speed of communication technology advances for one, but some things have stayed the same – variable weather, the need for planning and succession, and consistent profitability and risk mitigation. If the will is there, we can have some effect on almost all of these. The weather, however, all we can do is plan for the inevitable.

Certainly, the last 18 months haven’t rolled out as I would have expected. I haven’t been able to meet in person with as many people both in Nova Scotia and in other parts of Canada. However, we have made it through the pandemic relatively well so far.

As I move into an advisory and project role for the remainder of my time here at the Federation, I want to say thank you to the membership and Council for your support and advice over the years. I also want to give a big thank you to the NSFA staff past and present, for your hard work and dedication to our farm community. This is a wonderful organization and I have been privileged to work for you, it’s been quite a ride! How fortunate I am to be involved in an organization that is so special that it is difficult to say goodbye.

My closing viewpoint is about one of the bigger issues that never seems to be resolved, and is coming around again as the 5-year cycle for the CAP program is rolling into renegotiation. Farmers noted to government last year that there are many gaps in the program, the lack of bankability, the low payout at 70%, as well as issues around crop insurance and its lack of flexibility. Especially last year with the need for a response to labour shortages during harvest.

This makes me wonder how much time we should spend fixing a program that doesn’t seem to work. 10 years ago, they reduced the AgriStability compensation rate to 70% and moved the money that was saved to the strategic programs as they held the line on the amount of funds in the program. Five years later they added themes (i.e. public trust) and again left the same amount of available funds.

Now as we roll into another negotiation between the feds and provinces the big issue will be climate change and resiliency. Perhaps the drought and wildfires in the west have caught their attention. The question is, will they propose simply moving the money around again and making do with the same amount? I fear they will, but I hope they won’t. We are in need of a couple of things, including a more robust risk management program with an 85% trigger, an enhanced crop insurance that deals with more perils, and a separate fund that deals with both climate change and resiliency.



*Henry Vissers  
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture*

Expecting farmers to bear the brunt of this while still operating as normal will mean fewer farms. A recent report from Farm Credit Canada stated that input costs in Eastern Canada for 2021 have risen 9.3% year-over-year and almost 14% over the five-year average. This is another indicator that risk management and other programs need to keep pace with the needs of the sector.

In closing, I want to again say thank you and say goodbye as I exit my role as ED, you are in good hands with Carolyn and her team. As an organization we have been very fortunate in our succession plan!

Take care.

## 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**







# Nourish Nova Scotia Launches Local Food Lunch Toolkits

Are you looking to bring more locally-produced foods into your menus? Nourish Nova Scotia has developed an exciting Local Food Lunch Toolkit to serve up healthy, delicious and easy-to-make recipes for schools and families.

Available in **English** and **French**, the toolkit is the first of its kind, designed specifically with busy food service professionals in mind. The goal? To help make the incorporation of local ingredients into scratch-cooking not only more accessible, but rewarding! The toolkit's authors are food service professionals and know all too well how daunting it can be to create recipes from scratch for a large number of people, especially kids. This toolkit aims to alleviate some of that pressure with the reassurance that all recipes have been developed to align with the Canada Food Guide - and they have been tried, tested and approved by Nova Scotia students.

As a bonus, an adapted version was created for families to help take some of the stress out of meal planning, and encourage opportunities for families to cook together.

This toolkit was the combined vision of passionate school food service consultants Rosie Gair and Jenny Osburn. It was brought to life thanks to Nourish Nova Scotia in collaboration with Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Western Kings Memorial Health Society and Farm to Cafeteria Canada.

Special thanks to all those who contributed:

- Jenny Osburn, School Food Service Consultant - Co-author & recipe developer

- Rosie Gair, School Food Service Consultant - Co-Author & recipe developer
- Margo Riebe-Butt, Executive Director, Nourish Nova Scotia - Co-author & supervising dietitian
- Alyce Casey, Program Support & Communications, Nourish Nova Scotia - Design Lead
- Carolyn Van Den Huevel, Director of Outreach & Member Relations, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture - Working Group Advisor
- Jesse Veenstra, National Director, Farm to Cafeteria Canada - Working Group Advisor

Check out the Q&A below with the toolkit's co-authors and partners to learn more about why they developed this resource and how it can be used!

## Why is now the right time for this tool?

*Carolyn:* Unfortunately, the pandemic shone a light on the lack of healthy foods in our schools and communities. It also brought attention to the importance of our local food supply chain. With an increase in awareness around local food and the desire for communities to come together, this seemed to be the opportune time for this project.

*Rosie:* This tool provides part of a solution that focuses on operations and ground level conditions. This is a time that we can combine efforts and share the work that has come before us through sharing progress, resources, system set-ups and expertise on securing investment to move shared visions forward through a greater collective impact.

## In your experience, what is some of the most needed/practical information for enabling food service professionals to cook from scratch with local food? How did this influence the design of the toolkit?

*Jenny & Rosie:* Without additional time, remuneration, food subsidies and marketing expertise, it is important to support food service workers to cook from scratch through menus and tools. These can create efficiencies and buy-in quickly while meeting healthy food policies.

Two things that can get in the way of having enough time to cook with local food from scratch are (1) having a menu with too many options and therefore (2) needing ordering systems that are too time-consuming to track. Our method is to streamline menu offerings to one item that can suit many tastes and the dietary needs of most students. We do this by having them create their own meal with a salad or toppings bar or (in pandemic times) by serving these items on the side of delivered meals. Even if a child doesn't want the meatball, they may be excited to have the mashed potatoes and veggies that go with it. And serving a child's favourite fruit with a meal they aren't yet sure about is a great way to encourage them to try new tastes!

Local is integrated directly into these recipes and as such provides a guide to the potential to incorporate local rather than it being an afterthought.

## If you could share one thing with the world about your experience cooking and serving local food in schools, what would it be?

*Jenny & Rosie:* Serving local food in schools creates a lot of excitement and community goodwill. This can lead to great things happening in your cafeteria through increased engagement!

We have found that many parents will order lunch for their child if the program is well-promoted with a clear ordering system, if their child enjoys it, and they feel it is a good value. Finding ways to serve economical, healthy local food that kids will enjoy at school is a big win for everyone.

Children are the best positive influence on one another, so the more children that eat local healthy food together, the more others will come on board. And then eating healthy local food becomes the norm and not the exception.

*Margo:* Well nourished children do better in the classroom and in life. It's as simple as that.

Visit [nourishns.ca/local-food-lunch-toolkit](https://nourishns.ca/local-food-lunch-toolkit) to download the toolkit!

## Policy Corner

### Election Seasons!

What a whirlwind! Three elections in under 12 months here in Nova Scotia (Remember...municipal elections took place in October!) While caught in limbo between press time and election day, a synopsis on what we can expect from a new government can't be made just yet. As we heard at the Ag Leaders Debate on August 11, each party has its own take on how they will support the agriculture industry. The one thing that's for certain is that we will have a new Minister of Agriculture.

The Federal election is barely underway with a snap election just under two years since the last one. As per other federal elections, we expect CFA to host an Ag Leaders Debate. Check our online communications for more information on this event and other resources!

NSFA is working towards stronger government relations. Once the Federal and Provincial Cabinets are announced and mandate letters are released, we'll connect with the Ministers on setting meetings.

### Internet Survey

Thanks to members who took the time to complete our survey on internet service. This survey helped us understand whether farms are seeing the improvements to internet service since Develop Nova Scotia released their plans for more than 95% internet access by 2023.

Our survey received responses from all over Nova Scotia. Here are some of the highlights:

- **87%** of respondents said the upload and download speeds offered by their Internet Service Providers either stayed the same or increased in the last year.



- **56%** of farmers that said their internet speeds increased also said the internet didn't meet their requirements.
- Some of the issues regarding quality of internet include: inconsistent, expensive for the quality, speeds are much lower than advertised and paid for, slow, and impeding progress for the farm business.
- Most farms pay between \$50 and \$125 for monthly internet services.
- Of the farms that pay between \$50 and \$125 a month for internet service, **almost twice** as many farmers responded "no" to the question: "Does the internet service you subscribe to meet the internet requirements for your farm?" when compared to those who responded "yes" to the same question.

### Agriculture Policy Framework

The Federal government announced consultations for the next Agriculture Policy Framework. This is welcomed since there weren't public consultations ahead of the current Agriculture Policy Framework, known as the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

As you may recall, NSFA held a roundtable back in the spring on the next APF. We discussed with members how the current framework should evolve to meet the needs of the agriculture industry today, and over the next decade. We also released a form for members

and agriculture organizations to provide their input. Some feedback we received includes:

- Need for regional focus on research and market development.
- Prioritize regional processing facilities, along with processing facilities for those seeking to participate in national and export markets.
- Business Risk Management programs must be measurable and predictable.
- Build public trust in the agriculture industry across Canada by demonstrating farms that are doing good work to protect the environment.
- Support for new entrants and farm succession.

Next steps will be determined when the next Agriculture Policy Framework is released at the Federal Provincial Territorial Agriculture Minister meetings this fall. Once this agreement is in place, provinces will start to assess programming. It will be at this time that NSFA will once again engage with members on the next policy framework. This engagement will focus on the provincial programming that fits within the framework. Watch future News & Views, social media and the eNews for upcoming engagement opportunities.

### Bill C-208

Bill C-208 made its way through the senate, received royal assent, and then caused a stir. Bill C-208 was designed to level the playing field for family businesses to transfer to the next generation without a lofty tax bill. C-208 was welcomed by the farming community as it was something we had been requesting for years. Before the bill, farms that transferred to a family member paid significantly higher taxes than those who sold their farm to a corporation.

To set the stage – C-208 was a Private Members bill introduced by the Conservative Party. The NDP and Conservatives worked together to get the bill passed through the minority Liberal government. There was quite a bit of debate on C-208 at the Senate. Whoever said the Senate was a rubber stamp was mistaken on this bill! For decision makers, the main concern with C-208 is that it doesn't lay out tax evasion protections. The bill eventually made it through Senate and received Royal Assent.

After releasing a few communications pieces on C-208, the federal Department of Finance released a clarifying statement on July 19th indicating that the Government of Canada is committed to facilitating genuine intergenerational share transfers and protecting the integrity of the tax system. We can expect, should a Liberal government to be elected on September 20th, to see amendments to C-208 addressing the following:

- The requirement to transfer legal and factual control of the corporation carrying on the business from the parent to their child or grandchild;
- The level of ownership in the corporation carrying on the business that the parent can maintain for a reasonable time after the transfer;
- The requirements and timeline for the parent to transition their involvement in the business to the next generation; and
- The level of involvement of the child or grandchild in the business after the transfer.

We are looking forward to opportunities to provide input on what works best for Nova Scotia farms for these amendments.

Better tax rules for farms transferring to the next generation has been a lobby effort of NSFA for around ten years. The topic was brought forward as a resolution at a CFA AGM and since then there has been a fair amount of work to improve fairness for farms transferring to the next generation. Stay tuned for more information.

### Sustainable Development Goals Act Consultations

The *Sustainable Development Goals Act* – or the SDGA – closed consultations in July. NSFA had opportunities for members to engage on the matter and provide input on how these goals can support the agriculture industry. There was a lot of discussion in our virtual breakout rooms about the SDGA and how agriculture can support and be supported by the goals.

Some key topics that stood out include:

- Improve mental health resources throughout rural Nova Scotia;
- Government procuring local food for institutions;
- Farm level regional research on BMPs;
- Equitable access to rural infrastructure such as cellular service and high-speed internet; and,
- Protection of agricultural land through land banks.

Regardless of which party takes power, we will still see some form of the SDGA roll out. The PC party is quick to note that it was PC led government that brought in the *Ecological Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act*; the Liberals will want to follow through on a project they've been working on for a few years now; and the NDP are committed to a sustainable Nova Scotia. What the actual regulations, goals and direction for the SDGA remains to be seen.

### TFW Consultation

The federal Department of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada held consultations for a month starting in Mid-July on changes to regulations pertaining to Temporary Foreign Workers. Along with endorsing CFA's submission, NSFA made a submission as well.

Topics include:

- Provincial health care for TFWs and SAWP workers;
- Employees working with recruiters; and,
- Clarification on the use of reprisal under the definition of abuse.





# We Talk. We Grow.

## A Mental Health & Wellness Campaign

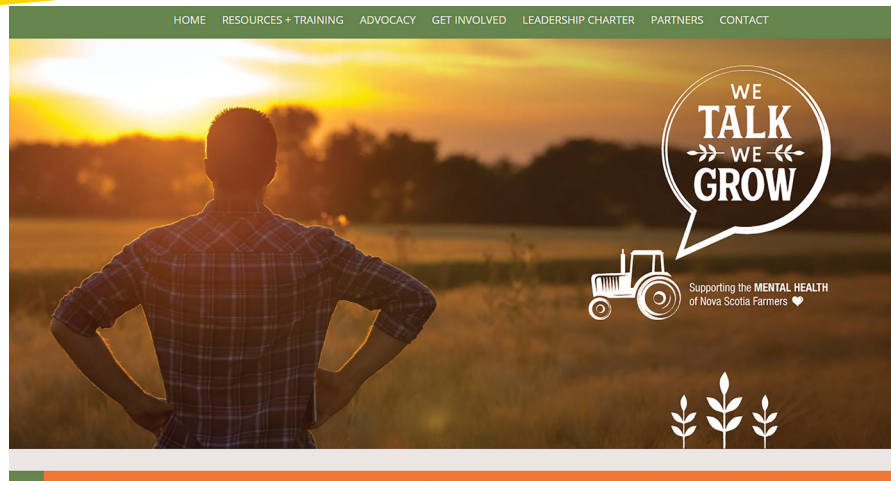
May 4, 2021, was a big day for the farming community in Nova Scotia with the launch of the We Talk. We Grow. Mental Health and Wellness Campaign.

### Background

At the outset of 2020, Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) was in the initial planning stage of developing a mental health framework for Nova Scotia's farmers when COVID-19 made landing in the province. The response and impacts were immediate – farmers' markets closed, social distancing was enforced, shifts were made in protocols for temporary foreign workers and the community revamped the process of getting product to Nova Scotia's consumers.

This dramatic change in process and day-to-day operations has also shifted the approach Farm Safety Nova Scotia has had to take in addressing the challenges our farm community is facing in understanding and acceptance around mental health, as well as the effectiveness and accessibility of the resources and services available to provide support.

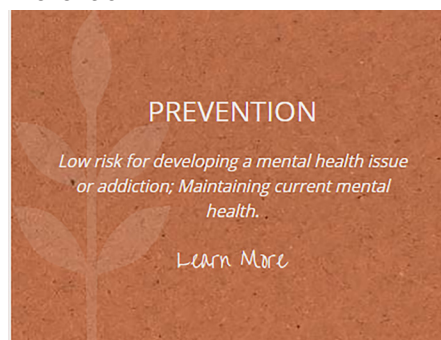
FSNS applied for and received funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program. The funding has provided immediate support for farmers, their employees and their families in the form of organized webinars and workshops that are offered through the FSNS at no cost to the participant. This funding also led to the development of a website offering resources to the farming community. To see what resources are available, continue reading or visit [wetalkwegrow.ca](http://wetalkwegrow.ca)



### We Talk. We Grow. Website

The RESOURCES & TRAINING page is broken into three categories of Prevention, Protection and Engagement.

#### Prevention



Resources for those who are at low risk for developing a mental health issue or addiction and maintaining current mental health.

Highlights of resources in this section include:

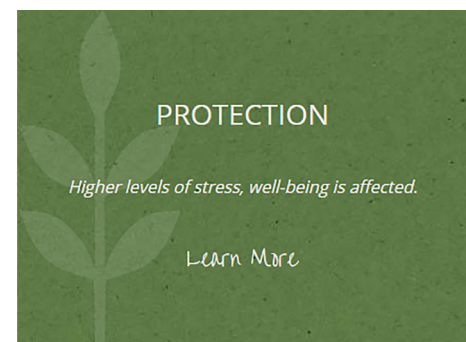
- Downloadable and print resources to include posters, rack cards and breathing cards
- Farm Family Support Center information in English and Spanish
- Mental fitness posts and 8 Domains of Well-Being
- Canadian Center for Health & Safety in Agriculture Farming and Mental Health Stress Inventory Assessment
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health resources for seasonal workers alone in Canada in both English and Spanish.

- Mobile apps to support mental health and wellness

- Access to webinar recordings for the maintaining mental fitness, coping with isolation and loneliness and navigating crisis Howatt HR series.

- Training programs available either online as independent learning or virtual workshops.

#### Protection



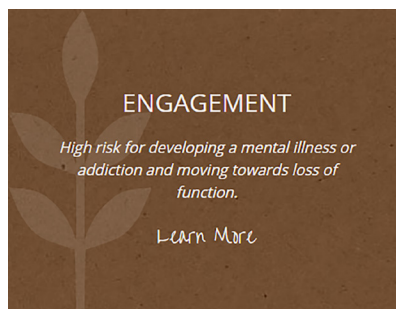
Resources for those who are at higher levels of stress and their well-being is affected.

Highlights of resources in this section include:

- Downloadable and print resources include posters, rack cards and breathing cards
- Farm Family Support Center information in English and Spanish
- When to Seek Help video

- Farm Credit Canada Rooted in Strength Booklet with tips on how to support your mental health
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health resources for seasonal workers alone in Canada in both English and Spanish.
- Emergency Response Model for Mental Health During Agricultural Crisis
- NS Mental Health and Addictions information
- CAST: Communities Addressing Suicide Together
- NS Survivors of Suicide Loss Guide
- Mobile apps to support mental health and wellness
- Training programs available either online independent learning and virtual workshops.

## Engagement



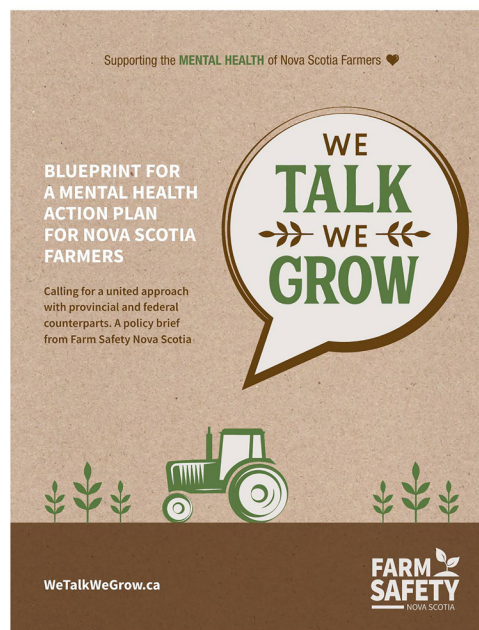
Resources for those who are at high risk for developing a mental illness or addiction and moving towards loss of function.

Highlights of resources in this section include:

- Farm Family Support Center information in English and Spanish
- Mental Health Crisis Line

- Kids Help Phone
- CAST: Communities Addressing Suicide Together
- NS Survivors of Suicide Loss Guide
- NS Mental Health and Addictions information
- Substance use resources
- Violence and harassment resources.

On the HOME page, don't forget to download the **Blueprint For A Mental Health Action Plan for Nova Scotia Farmers** as well as access the physical and digital mental health kits.



Digital mental health kits are mobile apps to support mental health and wellness and physical kits include a stress tractor, breathing card, ear plugs, and notebooks. E-mail [info@farmsafetytyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetytyns.ca) or call 902-893-2293 for your free kit.

Visit ADVOCACY, GET INVOLVED and download the LEADERSHIP CHARTER to see how you can become involved to increase awareness, reduce stigma, empower other individuals and organizations, and strengthen relationships.

Be sure to visit the PARTNERS page in recognition of those who have made this campaign possible.

## Road Signs



Part of our WTWG collateral are these road signs! If you would like one to put outside your farm office, at the end of the driveway, or in front of your own farm sign - let us know!

You can email [info@farmsafetytyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetytyns.ca) or call 902-893-2293 to request your own!





## Public Trust Update

Open Farm Day: Sunday, September 19

### OPEN FARM DAY JOURNÉE AGRICOLE PORTES OUVERTES

Sunday, September 19, 2021, is the 21st year for Open Farm Day in the Atlantic Provinces! The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, through Meet Your Farmer, is pleased to be working with New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador for farm tours and events online and in-person.



Together, we have created a new website where you will be able to find a map of participating farms, videos, and our passport. Complete the passport and be entered to win a great prize. Please visit: [atlanticopenfarmday.ca](http://atlanticopenfarmday.ca). We are excited to also have this website offered en Français!

There are more than 15 farms participating in this year's Open Farm Day!

There is a mix of farms submitting videos, going live on their own social media accounts, and hosting the public on their farms on September 19. The videos will be posted to the Atlantic Open Farm Day YouTube channel, as well as found on Meet Your Farmer's YouTube channel as a playlist.

A special thank you to all farms who have registered to participate! This is a very popular event, and one that many Nova Scotians look forward to each year.

### Canadian Centre for Food Integrity Releases 2020 Data

Earlier this year, NSFA hosted a webinar where we welcomed John Jamieson from the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity to discuss the findings of the 2020 public trust research. During the webinar, John provided the results from Nova Scotia.

The research is used to gauge and track public attitudes about Canadian food, agriculture, and food system issues with comparison to U.S. data, while also creating comparisons from year to year.

The research is also used to understand who Canadian's trust and hold responsible, and who Canadian consumers are turning to for information when it comes to food related topics.

2020 was a bit of an unusual year as COVID-19 closed restaurants, slowed travel, and disrupted supply chains. But the good news from this is that the food system was able to build trust with the public during this time.

A summary of results are included below.

### 2020 Data Results

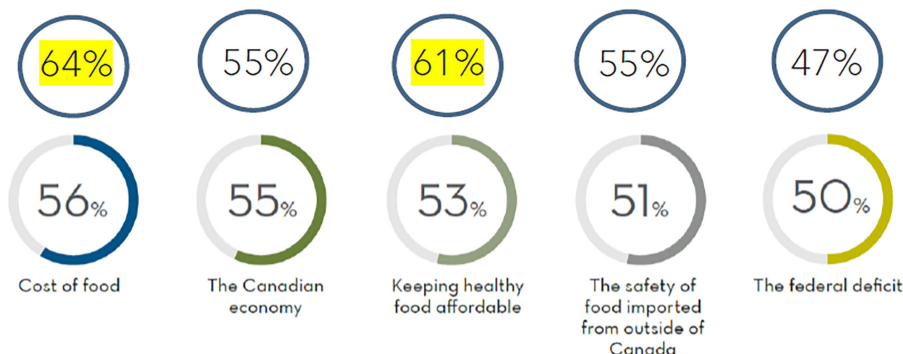
**2,903** Canadians with **258** Nova Scotia residents responded to an online survey conducted in the summer of 2020.

When asked "Is the food system headed in the right direction?" **45%** of Nova Scotians indicated right direction, **34%** were unsure and **22%** indicated wrong track.

When asked what their top life concerns were, Nova Scotians indicated they are concerned about the rising cost of food, keeping healthy food affordable, and rising health care costs.

When compared to the national results (bottom circles in the graphic below), more Nova Scotians are concerned with the rising cost of food. It comes as the top concern for another year.

As farmers this is an important piece of information to understand as food prices continue to change. **64%** of Nova Scotians are concerned with the rising cost of food. A close second for Nova Scotians is keeping healthy food affordable at **61%**. Both of these statistics are much higher than the national average.





## CCFI Data Cont'd

When looking at who Nova Scotians hold a high level of trust in, related to the food system, farmers hold the top spot at **43%** (42% last year). Only **3%** of those surveyed hold a low level of trust for farmers. There is room for improvement here, but this means the door is open for farmers to deepen and strengthen trust with Nova Scotians around food and farming.

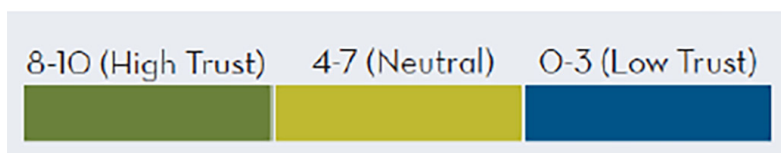
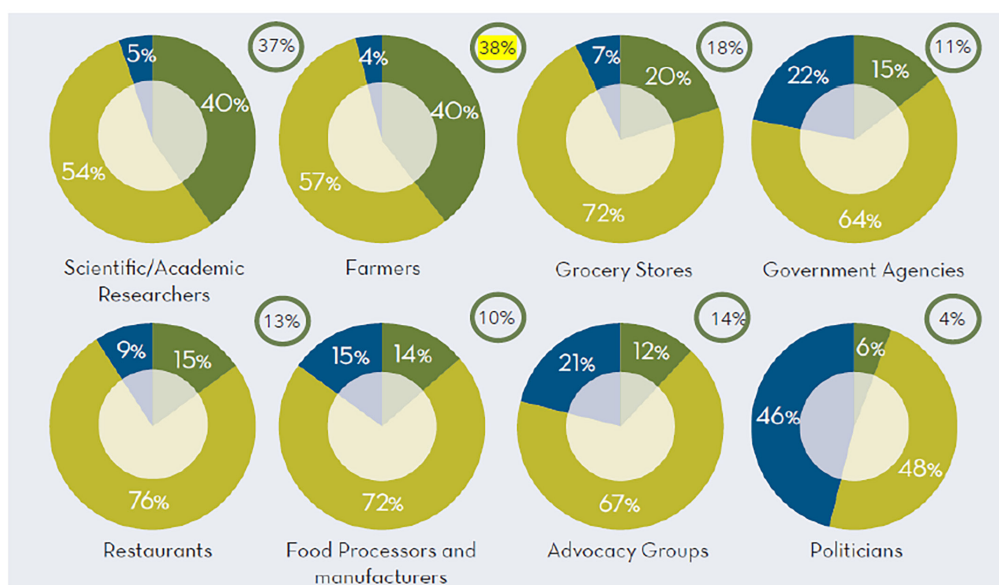
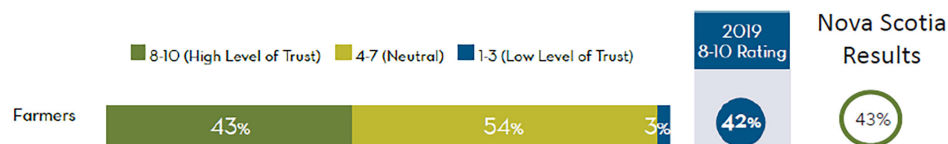
### Who do consumers trust to provide information about food?

Another piece of information that is important to work with is who Canadians and Nova Scotians hold responsible to provide credible information. Again, farmers hold the top spot in Nova Scotia with **38%** of those surveyed holding a high level of trust in farmers providing information on food. A very close second is scientific/academic researchers. With so many post-secondary institutions in Nova Scotia, this is a note-worthy statistic and shows opportunity for the whole food system to work with farmers and researchers to provide information to Nova Scotians.

And just where are people going to look for information? Across six different categories, a Google search or websites hold the top spot for where Canadians are getting their information. Lots of opportunity exists for search engine optimization (SEO) with all of our websites. Is Google placing our information on those first few result options when people are seeking information?

Thank you to the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture for investing in this research. These are important metrics to help track building and strengthening trust in the food system in Nova Scotia.

We are pleased to let you know what we have developed our own survey questions that will help to add to the data collected. This survey will be used at events and will be available online. It was trialed at the Saltscapes Virtual Expo in the spring with great results. Stay tuned for that data!





## AgSector Update

**Welcome our new Policy Analyst, Nick Cunningham!**



Nick originally grew up in New Brunswick and now lives in Halifax. He attended Saint Mary's University where he completed his Masters of Applied Economics degree following the completion of his Bachelor of Commerce degree with honors in Economics. His primary research focused on Health and Labour Economics in Nova Scotia.

Since graduating, Nick has been working closely with government and small businesses on various policy and legislative projects to help strengthen and grow the SME economy throughout Nova Scotia. He is passionate about transforming raw data into information, and information into insight.

In his spare time, Nick can regularly be found surfing in Lawrencetown, Cow Bay or Martinique. Nick also enjoys soccer, golfing, camping, hunting, fishing or any other activity that gets him outdoors.

### Labour Market Information (LMI) Dashboard

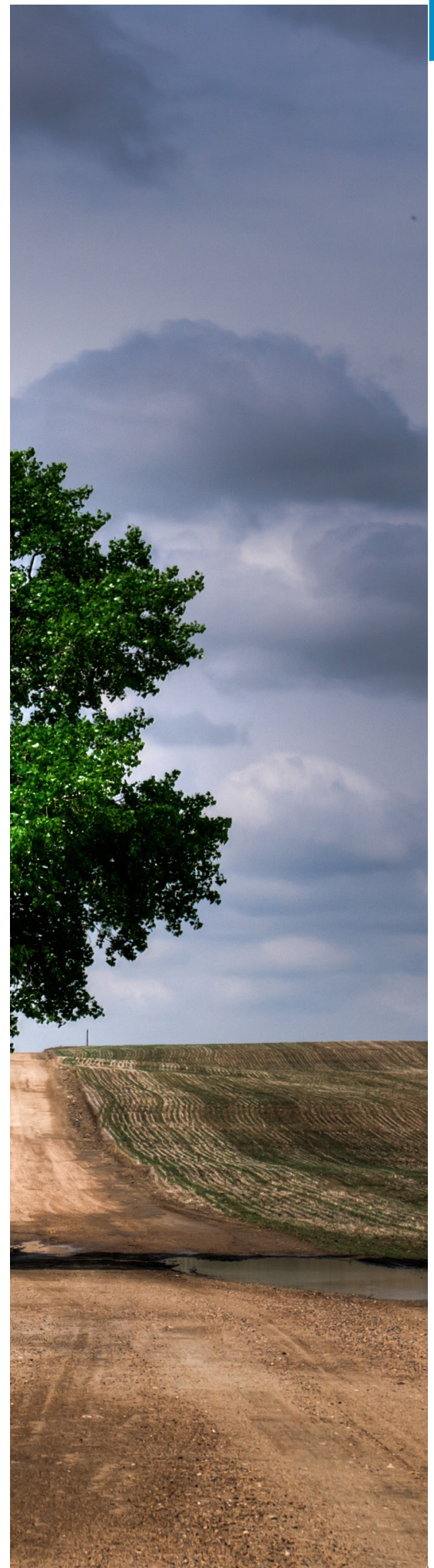
NSFA is working on a Labour Market Information (LMI) project in collaboration with the Association of Industry Sector Councils (AISC). Members of the AISC are collaborating to create a dashboard meant to increase access and ease of use of LMI data. Between now and March 2022, the Project Working Team will identify currently available data as well as any gaps that exist. The 14 analysts, each representing their respective industry sector, will then gather and input data to aid in the design and creation of this online dashboard.

This dashboard will make available, concise, digestible, and accurate labour market statistics, including both a “rolled up” version that shows collective data from our 14 sectors. Additionally, it will provide the ability to drill down on specific agriculture indicators which will be made publicly available.

Given the importance of the agri-food sector to the provincial economy in Nova Scotia, stakeholders are interested in obtaining relevant and timely LMI. The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the current labour shortages which threaten the ag sector's ability to grow into the future. The LMI Dashboard will assess the health of the local labour market in Nova Scotia and identify avenues to create a more robust workforce going forward.

This compiled data will aid the AgSector in its roles of skills training, career promotion and worker recruitment and retention by:

- Improving capacity of the sector to engage in human resource planning
- Informing policy/legislative changes
- Identifying current and future labour force requirements
- Highlighting current and future labour and skills supply issues
- Informing current and future programs, grants and funding





## Biobeds

### A good option for treating pesticide sprayer rinse water?

Pesticides are an important tool farmers rely on for protecting their crops. When used appropriately by well-trained people, the environmental impacts of pesticide use can be minimized. In our day-to-day use of these products, despite our best efforts, some mixed chemical may be left over after spraying is completed and additional rinse water is generated during cleaning. While detailed information can be found on product labels about mixing and application, information regarding the treatment and disposal of leftover product and rinse water is often less clear. Dumping leftover pesticides and rinse water on the ground has the potential to contaminate ground and surface water as well as potentially allowing chemicals to build up in the soil.

The first step in dealing with this issue is to reduce the amount of left-over product. The EFP program recommends applicators carefully gauge field size, mix an accurate volume of product and regularly calibrate sprayers. Spraying leftover product on the field being sprayed or on the headland areas is a disposal option, if you ensure that all label directions, including maximum product application rates and minimum separation distances, are observed. Although this can be an appropriate way to deal with spray waste, it would be preferable to capture and treat this waste in a contained environment.

Biobeds are a technology designed to treat pesticide rinsate. They have been in use in Europe for decades but more recently, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has been testing systems across Canada to evaluate their suitability in the various regions (Figure 1). Biobeds consist of an above ground container



Figure 1: Biobed example (AAFC)

or lined hole dug in the ground, filled with a mixture of organic materials (e.g., woodchips, chopped straw, peat and/or compost) and field soil. Sprayer rinse water is directed into the biobed system where microorganisms that inhabit this “biomix” work to consume the pesticides and convert them into forms that are environmentally more benign. There are many design options and several considerations that need to be taken into account before constructing such a system.

Most of the research to date has focused on their use for treating herbicide residues, but there is interest in assessing the suitability for treating fungicides residues as well. The volume of rinsate generated in a season would impact the size of the biobed system required. If you are interested in this technology and would like to learn more about some of the systems that are in use, please see the links below.

• [A Robust Biobed Design For Managing Pesticide Rinsate Under Canadian Conditions](https://www.farmingsmarter.com/wp-content/files/2019/04/biobed-manual.pdf) (<https://www.farmingsmarter.com/wp-content/files/2019/04/biobed-manual.pdf>)

• [Sprayers 101: Biobeds for Pesticide Waste Disposal](https://sprayers101.com/biobed/) (<https://sprayers101.com/biobed/>)

 cleanfarms



**Unwanted pesticides  
& livestock/equine  
medications**

**Nova Scotia Collection Events  
November 1 – 12, 2021**

**Participating Farm Supply Retailers**  
[cleanfarms.ca](https://cleanfarms.ca)

An early reminder for another pesticide related issue - Cleanfarms has organized an unwanted pesticides and livestock medications collection event for Nova Scotia this year. Mark **November 1st** on your calendar now and be sure to drop off any unwanted products by **November 12th** at one of the participating retailers.

For more information visit: [cleanfarms.ca](https://cleanfarms.ca)

# Upcoming Events

**September 19, 2021**

Open Farm Day

**September 20, 2021**

Federal Election

**November 18-20, 2021**

Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show

**November 24, 2021**

Nova Scotia Young Farmers Annual Meeting

**November 25-26, 2021**

NSFA 126th Annual Meeting

**November 26, 2021**

Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting

**December 8-9, 2021**

Virtual Mental Health First Aid

**January 11-12, 2022**

Virtual Mental Health First Aid

**February 8-9, 2022**

Virtual Mental Health First Aid



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East Mountain  
NS B6L 2Z2  
Ph: 893-2293  
Fax: 893-7063  
Email: [info@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-fane.ca)

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