

news+views

Vol. 34 Issue 6 October 2022

In this Issue...

Get Involved	1
Executive Director Message.....	2
Get Involved NSFA Cont'd	3
Policy Corner.....	4
Policy Corner.....	5
Get Involved FSNS Cont'd	6
Draft AGM Agenda	7
Open Farm Day Recap	8
Maximizing Manure Nitrogen Use Efficiency.....	9
Meet Patti!	10
Farm Safety and Youth.....	11
Upcoming Events.....	12
Farm Family Support Line.....	12

Get Involved!



As we begin to count down the days until our 127th Annual Meeting, have you considered getting involved with the Federation or Farm Safety before?

This year for elections we have **two (2) positions that must be filled in order to fulfill our requirement for a minimum of eight (8) Council members. There are an additional four (4) open** on NSFA Council, as well as **two (2) positions** on the Board for Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

Curious what involvement would look like with either of these boards? We're going to give you some highlights about both governing bodies, as well as some details related to the work and

expectations of directors and Council members.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has been serving Nova Scotia farmers since 1895. Representing the interests of over 90% of all agricultural production across the province. We work in the best interest of our members, and support farm families and businesses through lobby and advocacy efforts and the delivery of programs and services.

The NSFA monitors and reviews trends, legislations, and programs that impact

Continued on page 3

Message from the Executive

As I write this message, our industry continues to clean up from Hurricane Fiona. Like any storm, it's difficult to predict the outcome, there is hardly rhyme or reason to the path it takes or the destruction it causes. Fiona tracked across Nova Scotia, hitting farms across the province with varying levels of impact. We've heard of significant damages through Central NS, across the North Shore, into Eastern NS and Cape Breton.

The team at NSFA has been working around the clock with our partners at the Department of Agriculture and Perennia to support our farmers that were impacted by this storm.

We continue to advocate for funding support, immediate financial assistance, and prioritization through the Emergency Management Office. The key priority areas for support that we have identified includes:

- **Emergency management:** financial assistance to support the costs of maintaining operations (e.g. fuel)
- **Infrastructure:** financial assistance to support damages not covered by insurance
- **Storm clean-up** financial and capacity assistance to clear trees, buildings, etc.
- **Crop and product loss** financial assistance to support losses and damages not covered by insurance
- **Emergency preparedness** funding to ensure farms and industry are prepared for future weather events

I recognize this is a very stressful time. There are a number of mental health supports available to you, and I would just like to take a moment to share them with you now.

- Farm Family Support Line (Open 24/7) Farmers and their families have access to up to 3 hours of service at no cost. **1.844.880.9142**



Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, Executive Director

- wetalkwegrow.ca - you will find resources developed to optimize stress-free farm communities and prevent mental health challenges; and when mental health challenges occur – we have created readily accessible, culturally appropriate, and most of all effective, programs and supports.

Take care, and please know that we are here for you and will advocate for support on your behalf.

Thoughts? Let's chat!
cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca
(902) 893-2293

Lloyd Evans Memorial Award

The Lloyd Evans Memorial Award is now open for nominations! Do you know someone who you would consider a safety leader? Someone who has had a positive impact on the agriculture industry and continuously works towards improving health and safety?

Nominate them for the Lloyd Evans Memorial Award! Deadline October 31.

You can find the details by visiting farmsafetyns.ca/award

Award Recipients

2020 - David Powers

2021 - Jos & Patrick VanOostrum



Lloyd Evans Memorial Award



Get Involved Cont'd

the industry. We actively lobby and advocate for changes and improvements to legislation, programs, and public policy. We work with our members and a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure our members' voices are represented and heard. A few key advocacy areas of the NSFA are:

- Transportation: farm plates, infrastructure, regulatory challenges
- Labour and skills training
- Agricultural land
- Wildlife compensation and control
- Investment in agriculture through funding programs

The NSFA also delivers a variety of programs and services in partnership with other agencies, which support our members through education, awareness and training. Our programs include:

Environmental Farm Plan helps farmers identify and assess environmental risk on their property. It enables farmers to incorporate environmental considerations into their everyday business decisions.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia works with Nova Scotia farms to keep farmers, their families, and their employees safe. With a goal of ensuring farmers have access to the tools and resources they need to operate safe and productive farms.

Meet Your Farmer works to increase the public's trust in Nova Scotia's agriculture industry through public awareness campaigns and supporting farmers in sharing their message.

Farm & Workforce Development supports farms with human resources tools and skills training, along with career promotion, worker recruitment and retention and succession planning.

Living Labs focuses on identifying innovative technologies and on-farm management practices that can be adopted by farmers to tackle climate change.

At the NSFA our values are at the centre of everything we do:

Collaboration: We bring people together to better the agriculture industry.

Integrity: We are rooted in transparency, honesty, and our members' best interests.

Equity + Inclusion: We create a place for everyone at the table, which makes us all stronger, together.

Innovation: We encourage new approaches that help us grow and thrive.

Our members: We are dedicated to helping our members grow Nova Scotia agriculture.

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) is seeking six (6) suitable candidates for 3-year terms on the Council of Leaders (Council) commencing after the 2022 Annual Meeting on November 24 & 25, 2022.

Candidates will have the skill sets, expertise and experience needed to further the mission, vision, and priorities of the organization, working towards a prosperous and sustainable future for Nova Scotia farms and farmers.

The Council consists of between 8 - 12 Directors, with an Executive consisting of a President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President and Corporate Secretary & Treasurer.

Eligibility: Directors must be elected from the membership of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Council Expectations: The Council meets between 10 - 12 times per year with a combination of in-person and online meetings. The Council upholds the values of the organization and works in the best interest of the industry.

Council provides oversight and direction for the activities and policy of the Federation in the areas of:

- Advocacy
- Financial Management

- Governance
- Public Relations
- Strategic Planning
- Member Relations
- Issues Management

Potential Directors will:

- Have experience or knowledge of agricultural business management or the NSFA itself;
- Be able to speak on behalf of the industry they represent as well as having an interest in the advancement of agriculture as a whole; and
- Be considered by their peers and colleagues as a credible representative.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) works with Nova Scotia farms to keep farmers, their families and their employees safe. It is their goal to ensure farmers have access to the tools and resources they need to operate safe and productive farms.

FSNS, a registered not-for-profit society, is an industry-driven organization working in the best interest of its members. All registered farm members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture are voting members of FSNS, who can participate in member meetings, and provide direction on our mandate.

However, whether a voting member or not, all registered farms can access services from FSNS.

Vision: A culture of health and safety where every decision made on Nova Scotia farms begins with safety.

Mission: To promote and support health and safety practices within our farm community.

Core Services

- Advocacy
- Awareness
- Resource Development
- Training & Education

Your resource for farm health and safety

- Access training at discounted rates
- Access tools and resources for use on-farm
- Access workshops on relevant industry topics

Continued on page 6

Policy Corner

Fertilizer Emissions Reduction Strategy

The Federal government announced an interest in reducing emissions from fertilizer. The target is 30% fewer emissions from 2020 levels by 2030. The path forward to meet this target is unclear, though there are high level areas where the federal government is targeting.

These targets are an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in accordance with the Paris Accord. The government is looking at the following tools to move this strategy forward:

- 4R Nutrient Stewardship
- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers and inhibitors
- Cover cropping where applicable
- Fall fertilizer use and increased split application
- Precision agriculture techniques; and
- Nutrient management planning and funding for precision application technologies

When reading through the strategy and other efforts to reduce fertilizer emissions – there are two glaring omissions. One is liming to amend soil pH. Amending pH will improve a crop's uptake of nutrients and lessen the amount of fertilizer needed. Less residual fertilizer will reduce the chance of nutrients being released as harmful gases and help meet the federal governments targets while improving crop production.

The strategy also appears to omit a potential increase in agriculture production. In a time where government says they are committed to food policy (ie: Food Policy for Canada) and “buy



local” (Nova Scotia Loyal), there is a great opportunity to increase agriculture production in Nova Scotia. Increasing food production will also require an increase in resources such as land, labour, and inputs. As long as the inputs are applied in a sustainable manner, the strategy would be most effective if it also accounted for and encouraged increase in production.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture is active on this file and environmental policy in general. There are three key issues CFA has identified:

- Developing a Strategic Approach to Meeting the Fertilizer Emissions Target
- Data Reporting and Measurement
- Innovation and Transformation Opportunities

CFA has also identified a series of recommendations to overcome the challenges including improving cost-share programs to adopt some of the techniques, ensure the strategy doesn't reduce profitability of farms, and expand rural infrastructure to allow for adoption of precision agriculture technologies.

NSFA has raised the above points of concern in hopes the fertilizer reduction strategy is kind to farms in Nova Scotia and the acceptable tools include those that are already deemed appropriate for the region. Though 2030 isn't too far away, the Fertilizer Emission Reduction Strategy is expected to be slow moving.

More Federal Environment Policy

The federal government has recently indicated a Green Agriculture Plan – this was also indicated in the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food mandate letter. The plan aims to work with producers on an approach to help Canada meet it's commitments to reduce greenhouse gases by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Considering these targets, it's not surprising that the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (or Sustainable CAP for short) has a strong focus on environment and greenhouse gas reduction.

The plan is focusing on three key areas:

Livestock production

- Feed additives
- Liquid manure acidification
- Low methane pasture

Crop production

- Enhanced efficiency fertilizers
- Split application
- Increase legumes in rotations

Carbon sequestration

- Planting trees (ie: Shelter belts)
- Grasslands in marginal lands
- Other practices as necessary

The Green Agriculture Plan is in its early stages of being developed. A questionnaire is anticipated for this fall with further targeted engagement with agricultural groups. A “What we heard” report will be completed in the winter with a final plan being released in mid-2023.

Like any environmental policy, NSFA will be monitoring for opportunities to provide input and highlight regional priorities that may be missed. It appears as though AAFC’s environment policies are aligning – the fertilizer strategy and the framework for Sustainable CAP seem to be supporting this broad Green Agriculture Plan. Hopefully this will mean more funding for BMPs that will help farms mitigate against climate change.

Waiting Game...

Carbon Pricing seems to be a never-ending conversation. Just when it looked like everything was settling, news indicated the federal government rejected Nova Scotia’s carbon pricing plan for 2023-2028.

As a bit of refresher - the federal government implemented carbon pricing as part of the 2015 election win. Provinces had the opportunity to implement either a Cap and Trade or Carbon Tax mechanism. Nova Scotia has been operating on a Cap and Trade model. Nova Scotia’s Cap and Trade Regulations are from 2019 to December 31, 2022, meaning the regulations are set to expire this year unless updated. The December 31, 2022 timeline aligns with the federal governments benchmarking on GHG emission reduction and carbon pricing - provinces are required to resubmit plans every five years on how they plan to reduce carbon emissions. In August 2022, the federal government rejected Nova Scotia’s plan for 2023-2028.

For provinces without a plan, the Federal government has a backstop program in place. Many provinces use the federal carbon pricing backstop program, each for their own reason. Some provinces blatantly disagree with what the federal government is doing with respect to carbon pricing and is putting the political blame on federal government. Other provinces see the backstop as a suitable means and reduces provincial resources that are required to administer a carbon pricing program.

NSFA is waiting to see if the federal government will accept Nova Scotia’s newly submitted plan. Advocacy plans are in place for whichever way the pendulum swings – either Nova Scotia will continue with plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as per the *Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act* (EGCRA) or we will follow the federal backstop which is a carbon tax system.

There are pros, cons and uncertainty on the impact of both the provincial and federal programs. A lot of work is being done at the federal level to add additional agricultural exemptions to the federal backstop program. *Bill C-234*, which is to amend the federal backstop to exempt additional fuels (such as propane and natural gas) and equipment (building heating and cooling, and grain dryers) is being watched closely. A report is expected this fall with the Agriculture and Forestry Committee findings and recommendations to the House on *Bill C-234*. Regarding the Nova Scotia plan, we aren’t completely aware of what the government proposed to meet the federal government’s climate initiatives, we just know it’s in line with EGCRA.

Information Sessions

Over the last couple of years, NSFA has hosted lunch and learns and other information sessions for farms looking to learn more about specific topics. We are working on another series of events throughout this winter and are finalizing our schedule and topics now. More information about these sessions will be available once they are booked and will be communicated on our social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) and in our weekly eNews. Stay tuned!



Get Involved Cont'd

- Access advice on health and safety practices for your farm

Join the discussion on farm safety by sharing your experience and insight with others

Our Commitment

- To work collaboratively with industry to ensure our best practices are safe and practical.
- To reach all generations on the farm – including youth – to ensure everyone has the tools they need to stay safe and make the best decisions possible.
- To work in the best interest of the industry; advocating on health and safety issues and promoting a positive image of our industry.
- To communicate with you in-person, as well as through newsletters, websites and social media.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) is seeking two (2) suitable candidates for 3-year terms on the Board of Directors commencing after the 2022 Annual Meeting on November 25th, 2022.

Candidates will have the skill-sets, expertise and experience needed to further the vision of the organization and the priorities of the Strategic Plan, supporting the industry in achieving safe farming, safe families and safe employees.

The Board of Directors consists of 7 Directors with one Director Appointment by the Council of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. From amongst the Directors there is a President, Vice-President and Corporate Treasurer & Secretary.

Eligibility: Directors must be elected from the membership of the organization - the registered farm members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

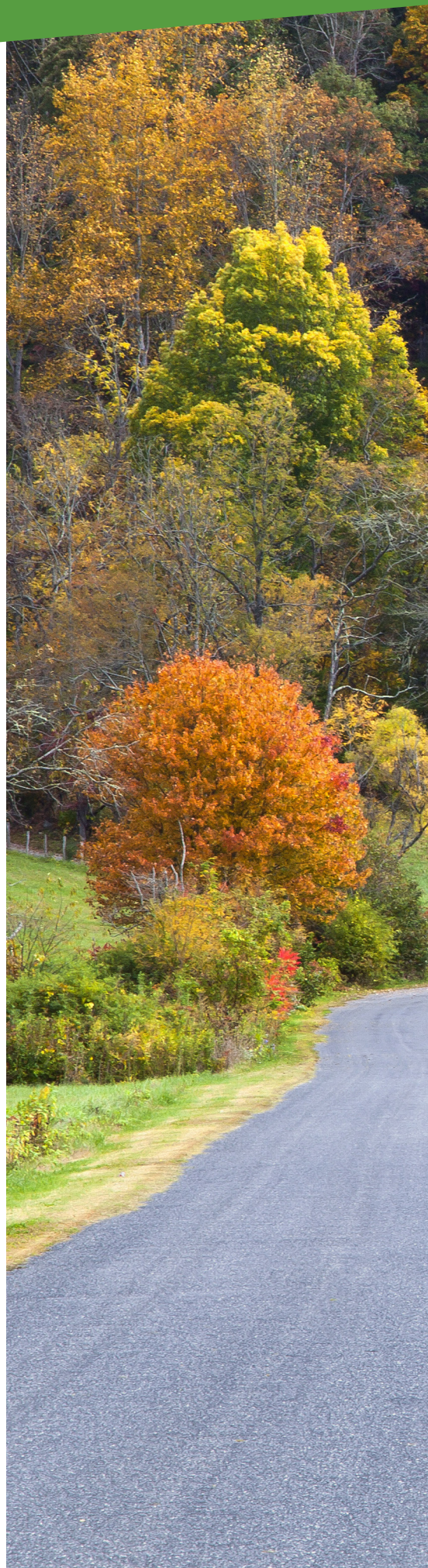
Board Expectations: The Board of Directors meets approximately six (6) times per year with a combination of in person and online meetings. The Board upholds the values of the organization and works in the best interest of the industry.

Criteria

- Directors must have intimate knowledge of the agriculture industry.
- Directors must be able to make a significant contribution to the organization.
- Directors should have board governance experience.
- Directors should have experience in government & industry relations.
- Directors should have experience advocating on behalf of the organization.
- Directors must be innovative and creative problem solvers.
- Directors must be strategic thinkers.
- Directors must support the mandate of the organization.

As always, if you have any questions about either of the positions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the office!

If you are interested in applying, you can find the nomination form inserted in this newsletter.



Draft AGM Agenda

Wednesday, November 23, 2022	
6:30pm	NSYF Annual Meeting
7:00pm	NSYF Panel Discussion
8:00pm	NSYF Tailgate
Thursday, November 24, 2022	
9:00am	Registration + Morning Coffee + Tradeshow
9:30am	Call to Order
	Declaration of Quorum
	President's Address
	Approval of Agenda
	Minutes of the last meeting
	Business Arising from the Minutes
10:00am	2021 – 2022 Financials – Auditor's Report
	Appointment of Auditor
	2022 – 2023 Budget
10:45am	Nominating Committee Report
11:00am	Government Speakers + Q&A
	Lisa Lachance, NDP Ag Critic
	Keith Irving, Liberal Ag Critic
	Honourable Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture
12:00pm	Lunch Break + Tradeshow
1:00pm	Media Relations 101 – Janice Landry, Groundhog Productions
1:30pm	Nominating
2:00pm	Executive Director Report
2:30pm	PAC Policy
3:00pm	Break + Tradeshow
3:30pm	Resolutions
4:30pm	End of Day 1
5:00pm	Happy Hour
7:00pm	Banquet
	Premier Tim Houston
	Tyler MacLean, 4H Speaker
	Economics Keynote: Gil Miner, Farm Credit Canada
	Lloyd Evans Memorial Award
9:30pm	President's Reception
Friday, November 25, 2022	
8:00am	Morning Coffee + Tradeshow
8:30 am	NSDA Update, Deputy Minister Robichaud
8:50 am	Business Risk Management – Peggy Weatherbee
9:15 am	Safety & Sustainability –Cher Mereweather, Anthesis Provision
9:45am	Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting
10:15am	Break + Tradeshow
10:45am	Dalhousie, Faculty of Agriculture, Dean Gray
11:00am	CFA Report, Keith Currie, 1 st Vice President
11:15am	Remarks on behalf of Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, MP Kody Blois
11:30am	Lunch

Public Trust Update

Open Farm Day 2022 Recap

Nova Scotia celebrated the 22nd annual Atlantic Open Farm Day in good company this year! New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia worked together to present **more than 80 farms** to the public! Open Farm Day took place on Sunday, September 18th, 2022. We were able to bring the event in-person and online this year. Thank you to the **20 plus** Nova Scotia farms that participated this year!

This year there were 17 farms who welcomed in-person visitors and 4 farms who shared their tours online. You can watch this year's videos at the Atlantic Open Farm Day YouTube Channel or on at www.atlanticopenfarmday.ca. offered en Français!

We plan on continuing with the hybrid version of Open Farm Day and are looking at how we can improve the event for farmers and the public. 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.



Resource Support

Meet Your Farmer was pleased to support Exhibitions and Fairs across Nova Scotia this year. If you or an organization are looking for materials for displays and events, please let us know and we will try our best to support your request. We are always looking for new resource and display materials. Please send your ideas to us!

Nova Scotia Food & Farming Feedback Contest

The Nova Scotia Food and Farm Survey is back again this year. We will be collecting another set of data on the attitudes and trust levels from the public on food and farming in Nova Scotia. The survey is available online. It is designed to compliment the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity's annual research. It focuses on the whole food system in Nova Scotia.



The survey gives respondents the opportunity to share their thoughts on how they trust farmers, agricultural organizations, restaurants, grocery stores and other groups throughout the food system. The survey is open until December 31, 2022. Fully completed surveys will be entered into the contest to win a weekend farm stay package. Scan the QR code above to complete the survey.

Results of the survey will be shared. Stay tuned!

To share the survey please visit: www.meetyourfarmer.ca or find us on Facebook or Instagram @nsfameetyourfarmer.



"We enjoyed being able to go to the farm in person and experience a few hours of life on the farm. We enjoyed talking with sociable farmers and getting to learn their way of life."

"It's a great way to see what and how our food is produced close to home."



Maximizing Manure Nitrogen Use Efficiency

With the recent increases in fertilizer costs, uncertainty around global fertilizer supply chains, and the looming prospect of new regulatory constraints to fertilizer use, farmers have an increased incentive to improve the nitrogen use efficiency of their manures. Ideally, good economic decisions overlap with good environmental practices. Any increase in the manure nutrients being taken up by crops, reduces nutrients that have the potential to end up as pollutants in watercourses, or in the atmosphere, and reduces reliance on fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer manufacturing and distribution is energy intensive and the reduction in nitrogen fertilizer inputs can reduce a farm's carbon footprint and improve the bottom line.

Manure contains nitrogen in several forms, primarily organic nitrogen and ammonia (NH₃). Ammonia is a volatile compound that will readily off-gas into the atmosphere. If there is a strong smell of manure in the air, it is likely that significant quantities of ammonia nitrogen are being lost. This nitrogen is then removed from the system and can no longer be used by the crop. While soil type, moisture content, and temperature, play a role in determining ammonia losses, manure application method is a factor that farmers can control and that can significantly increase nitrogen utilization. Regardless of the application method used, the principals are the same; in order to reduce ammonia loss, minimize contact with air and increase contact with soil.

When manure is applied in a manner that forces it to spread out in the air, it significantly increases the overall surface area of the manure coming in contact with the air. As a result, there are more opportunities for ammonia nitrogen to volatilize. Reducing disturbance and aeration of the manure keeps more of the ammonia in the manure. When manure is mixed with the soil, the volatile ammonia reacts with water to become ammonium (NH₄) which is non-volatile and

can be held more tightly in the soil until needed by the crop.

Broadcasting is the most common method of liquid manure application currently used in the province. Manure is pumped against a splash plate which causes it to break up into smaller particles and spread out over a relatively large area. While this method is faster, requires less passes and uses less fuel, it definitely leads to high ammonia losses. The manure will continue to lose nitrogen on the field surface and incorporation with tillage should be a priority to reduce further losses. The sooner the manure is incorporated into the soil, the lower the loss of nitrogen will be.

Manure injection has the highest potential to decrease manure ammonia losses. Deep injection pumps manure through a manifold to knives or shanks that are pulled through the soil. Manure can be injected between 5 and 20 cm below the soil surface. These systems often have rollers to close the trench after injection. Shallow injection uses a similar technology except instead of a knife, a relatively shallow trench is made with a coulter into which the manure is pumped. Some manure can be exposed at the soil surface with this system, so it is less efficient than deep injection. Limitations to injection include more passes, higher horsepower and fuel requirements and may not be suitable for stony land or grassland.

Where manure needs to be surface applied and where injection or tillage are impractical (e.g., grassland or side dressing a growing crop), placing manure gently on the field surface with as little contact with air is ideal. Trailing hose ("dribble bar") and trailing shoe ("sleigh foot") systems pump manure through a manifold into flexible tubes. The dribble bar tubes drag behind the implement while the shoes of a trailing shoe system parts the crop canopy so the manure is placed close to the soil surface and the canopy closes back over the manure band. Both methods apply manure gently and evenly in bands close to the soil surface. When manure is placed under a growing crop canopy, despite the fact that it is not incorporated into the soil, the local conditions can be more favorable for reducing ammonia losses because of lower temperatures, lower wind, and plant absorption. To get the full benefit from this canopy effect, the canopy should be at least 8 cm in height.

Additional best management practices should be followed when applying manure. Manure should be tested for nutrient content and applied based on crop requirements as determined through soil testing and consultation with a qualified nutrient specialist (e.g., a nutrient management plan). Minimum separation distances from wells and watercourses should be observed. Manure should not be applied to frozen, snow covered or saturated fields. Ideally manure should be applied when conditions are adequate for the crop and soil to absorb and utilize the manure nutrients. Conditions are generally unfavorable for manure application between December 1st and April 1st. On sloped fields (> 5%) where the potential for run-off is higher, manure should only be applied during the active growing season (June-September).

The federal government's On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is an initiative to help farmers improve soil health, protect soil from erosion, and tackle climate change by adopting beneficial management practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases. The program offers funding to help farmers implement nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing practices. Technology that improves manure nitrogen use efficiency and nitrogen based nutrient management plans are being cost shared through this program. The OFCAF program has a fall application window between October 1st and November 30th.

Nova Scotia farmers are motivated to reduce their reliance on purchased fertilizer inputs as a means to improve the bottom line and reduce their farm's environmental footprint. Research and new technologies have made it possible to significantly improve the nitrogen use efficiency of applied manures. There are pros and cons to the various options and careful consideration of your soil, existing equipment and cropping system should be made prior to purchasing new gear.

Resources:

- On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) - <https://ofcaf.perennia.ca/>
- NS Manure management guidelines - <https://nsefp.ca/publications-fact-sheets/>
- Environmental Guide for NS Farms - <https://nsefp.ca/environmental-guide-for-nova-scotia-farms/>

Welcome Patti!

Patti Leurdijk has taken on the position of Employer Advisor for the Farm and Workforce Development team. Her work will be focused on supporting farm employers and owners in navigating human resources, occupational health and safety and various employment programs including temporary foreign workers. Her role will also support the industry by developing and supporting innovative and inclusive recruitment and retention strategies.

Tell us a bit about yourself!

I feel like being “from Canada” describes me well. I was born in BC, spent 8 years in the Annapolis Valley as a child, and then moved west to Saskatchewan. I spent my summers in Ontario and then moved to Alberta for university, and beyond. I am now married with 2 kids, and we returned “home” to Bible Hill in 2020 for my husband to attend Dalhousie at the Agriculture Campus. We have fallen in love with the area and hope to stay here long-term.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Business Management. My love of people and passion for HR lead me to take the Human Resource Management graduate certificate program through NSCC in 2021, which rounded out my education and experience, preparing me for this role.

What made you want to get into agriculture? What drew you in?

Spending roughly 25 years in the Prairies makes me feel like I have always been surrounded by agriculture; I know how vital it is to the future of our province and country. Having my husband in an agriculture program at university has also played a large part in my understanding of current trends and issues which has ignited my own passion for the industry



and desire to be involved in the future of farming in Nova Scotia. This opportunity to blend my passion for HR and my love of people and relationships with agriculture makes me excited to get out of bed in the morning.

What are you looking forward to in your new role?

I am looking forward to learning more about current concerns with recruitment, retention, and farm safety from our members and working to continue to improve the accessibility and availability of beneficial resources. If you have ideas, suggestions, or requests, please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have recently gotten into pottery. My dream, one day, is to have a “she shed” with my own wheel and kiln so I can make all the pretty pottery things. I also love traveling, adventuring, and camping and have embraced every opportunity to explore Nova Scotia with my family the past 2 years.

What are you passionate about?

People. Making the most of every opportunity. Learning. Honesty. Kindness.

I am human and love other humans. When I make mistakes, I own them, I apologize, I learn from them, and I strive to do better. I appreciate when others can be honest in their humanness too as it makes room for truth, realness, and growth – it makes the world a better place. I want to be part of a future where everyone feels safe and welcome to bring their whole selves with them wherever they go.

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

I value relationships and love to learn and grow. I embrace every chance I get to gain a new skill and look forward to learning and sharing as I build relationships with our members.

You can reach her at:
pleurdijk@nsfa-fane.ca

Farm Safety and Youth

Playing on the Farm

Children all across the province are growing up on farms, it is important that children have the information they need to keep themselves safe.

Most accidents are both predictable and preventable.

The leading causes of death and injury to non-working children on farms are:

- Machinery runaway
- Drowning
- Falls from heights
- Machinery entanglement
- Injury by animal

There are many ways to prevent injuries to non-working children. They include:

- Keeping children away from tractors and other farm equipment
- Installing passive physical barriers, such as fences
- Instituting safe storage practices
- Ensuring your children are equipped with the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe on-farm

By thinking about ways to protect children from farm hazards, you can ensure they safely enjoy the benefits of growing up on the farm.

Working on the Farm

When assigning work to youth, in addition to looking at the task, it is important to assess a youth's personality, work style and abilities. Children and teens are not simply "miniature adults". Their physical, cognitive and emotional development is different.

Youth may be more willing to take risks and less likely to ask questions. They may have a limited sense of their vulnerability to injury or behave impulsively. Additionally, they often lack work experience. Many of these behaviors/

traits are normal and are not easy to change. It's how children and youth act, and it's different than how adults act.

For more information on child/youth characteristics and strategies adults can use to address them visit cultivatesafety.org/child-development

While farms can be a great place to live, work and play, they can also be dangerous. See below for ways Farm Safety Nova Scotia can help you keep your children safe.

Farm Safety Activity Books



This activity book is designed to teach children about some of the hazards that exist on the farm. There are "On your farm..." activities associated with each topic. These activities are designed so that the children take what they have learned from the activity and apply it on their farm.

To get a copy of the Farm Safety Activity Book, email info@farmsafetyns.ca or visit the resources page at www.farmsafetyns.ca to download a digital copy

Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

Progressive Ag. Safety Days are designed for children, youth and families to learn about farm safety through hands on activities.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia is working towards consistently hosting these events across the province each year as a way of helping prevent accidents and injuries in rural and farm communities. Topics include Food Safety, Chemical Safety, First Aid, Animal Safety, Mental Health, Tractor Safety, Tool Safety, and Safe Hiking among others.

This fall the Progressive Ag. Safety Day will be held on Monday, November 14th at the West Hants Sportsplex in Windsor from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. The target audience for this event is 7 to 13-year-olds and all participants will receive t-shirts and take-home bags; lunch is provided.



Pre-register for this event by October 31st and you will be entered in a prize draw!

For more information email info@farmsafetyns.ca or call Margaret at 902-893-2293

Poetry Contest

First Place Winner: Jennifer Spencer of Yellow Brick Road Farm.

*There wasn't a 4H club here so we started one.
There wasn't a farmers' market here, so we started one.
There wasn't a farming community here, so we started one.
Do not underestimate the power of people connected to the land.
We have experienced the feeling of strength, peace and resilience that comes from our hands in the dirt.
We know the filaments of joy of raising youth in a simple world of fresh air, good food and hard work.
We know the strength of the web the filaments form when crops fail, livestock die, and families grieve.
We know how to be part of a community who rallies around when someone needs help.
We support each other, always giving more than we take.
This life in the dirt invigorates, energizes, and seeps into the moments of our lives and reverberates through the lives of others more than we will ever live to see.
Do not underestimate us with our feet and hands in the dirt and our eyes and hearts raised towards the sky.*

Upcoming Events

November 3-4, 2022

Minister's Conference

November 8, 2022

Hants County AGM

November 9, 2022

Annapolis County AGM

November 9, 2022

Antigonish/Guysborough AGM

November 9, 2022

Kings County AGM

November 10, 2022

Lunenburg/Queens AGM

November 12, 2022

Cumberland County AGM

November 14, 2022

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

November 17-19, 2022

Dig In - The Atlantic Canada Food Systems Summit

November 23, 2022

Nova Scotia Young Farmers Annual Meeting

November 24-25, 2022

NSFA Annual Meeting

November 25, 2022

Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting

November 25-26, 2022

2nd Annual Sheep Industry Conference

November 29-30, 2022

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia Annual Meeting

December 1-3, 2022

Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show



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

Website: www.nsfa-fane.ca



@nsfafane



@nsfa



@nsfa_fane

FARM FAMILY SUPPORT LINE

Available 24/7, the Farm Family Support Line is a toll-free, confidential helpline for farmers and their families. It provides information, support, and referrals for a variety of issues, including mental health, legal, financial, and more.

For more information, visit www.nsfa-fane.ca/support-line or call 1-888-880-9142. The support line is available 24/7, including weekends and holidays.

For more information, visit www.nsfa-fane.ca/support-line or call 1-888-880-9142.



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
FARM & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

FOR NOVA SCOTIA FARMERS
SEEKING SUPPORT

NO COST FOR UP TO 3 HOURS OF
SERVICE PER ISSUE

LIVE & OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

1-888-880-9142

TTY: 1-877-338-0275



2022 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tim Marsh
President/CFA
902-798-7924

Allan Melvin
1st Vice
902-499-6968

Alicia King
2nd Vice
902-870-4810

Jocelyn Durston
Corporate Secretary &
Treasurer
902-993-0083

Victor Oulton
Past President
902-798-4440

Lauren Park
902-292-5160

Peter Morine
902-527-3274

Andy Parker
902-679-8630

Bert Meyer
902-923-2408

STAFF

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel
Executive Director

Tracey Otterson
Financial Services
Coordinator

Shelly MacKenzie
Administrative Services
Coordinator

Maxine MacLean
Policy Analyst

Katherine Tuttle
Communications
Coordinator

Janette McDonald
Public Trust
Coordinator

Carolyn Marshall
Environment & Climate
Change Manager

Trevor Davison
EFP Coordinator

Cory Roberts
EFP Coordinator

Caitlyn Creelman
Farm & Workforce
Development Manager

Margaret Ells
Training & Awareness
Coordinator

Patti Leurdijk
Employer Advisor

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.