

Resolutions to the 2023 NSFA Annual General Meeting

Resolution #1

Increase Funding for Group Programs

Whereas cooperatively owned agricultural equipment is a practical way for farms to access necessary equipment at a lower individual cost; and

Whereas funding assistance for individual producers to purchase new equipment or technology only benefits one farm; and

Whereas group sharing of new equipment and technologies benefits many farms; and

Whereas there is limited funding available for the purchase of new equipment and technology; and

Whereas increased funding levels lead to an increase in program uptake;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Department of Agriculture to increase the levels of Program funding assistance (cost share and project caps) available for groups (not-for-profits, co-ops societies, etc.);

And, further be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Department of Agriculture to prioritize funding of “equipment and technology” programs.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture on October 25, 2023

Resolution #2

Land Bank Program

Whereas all Municipalities are required to have a Municipal Planning Strategy by December 2024 and the Statement of Provincial Interest on Agriculture requires Municipalities to protect agricultural land; and

Whereas the average age of farmers is increasing and we expect a significant number of farms to retire in the next decade; and

Whereas there are challenges in accessing and acquiring agricultural land by new entrants, young farmers, and existing farmers looking to grow their operations; and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government to ensure the food security of our communities into the future;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the provincial government to establish a land bank program to ensure viable agriculture land remains in production and supports farm transition.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture on November 2, 2023

Resolution #3

Land Leasing for New Entrants

Whereas the number of farms are decreasing and the average age of farmers is increasing; and

Whereas the price of land is at a price most new entrants cannot cash flow on top of many other capital expenses needed to start farming;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development to purchase agriculture land to lease out to new entrants to grow the sector and the economy.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture on November 8, 2023

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Resolution #4

Temporary Road Signage for Farming Activity

Whereas farms depend on roadways for conducting their essential business operations; and
Whereas roadways in Nova Scotia frequently experience high traffic congestion, particularly during planting and harvest seasons; and

Whereas the 2020 Canadian Agricultural Injury Report identifies that 26% of rollover fatalities cite transportation as the most common activity leading up to the fatality, and 14% of agricultural fatalities occur on roads/highways and dry ditches; and

Whereas both farmers and the motoring public would benefit from increased awareness of farming activity that impacts traffic flow to improve road safety;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture collaborate with the appropriate government departments to develop and implement a temporary signage program alerting of farming activity and slow-moving farm vehicles.

- Adopted at a Board Meeting of Farm Safety Nova Scotia held on November 6, 2023

Resolution #5

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Whereas many of the agricultural Agencies, Boards and Commissions are not populated, which has significant impacts on the farm community;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture pressure the Provincial government to fully populate the agricultural ABCs with a particular emphasis on the Marshland Conservation Commission.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Hants County Federation of Agriculture on November 7, 2023

Resolution #6

Government Acquisition of Agricultural Land

Whereas the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has an existing position on the protection of agricultural land; and

Whereas the government has been actively purchasing agricultural land as part of the Making Room for Wetlands project;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to establish a policy to proactively consult with the agriculture industry before planned acquisition of agricultural land for government-led and government-funded projects.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Hants County Federation of Agriculture on November 7, 2023

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Resolution #7

Natural Products Marketing Council – Fully Resourced, Independent Body

Whereas timely decisions and knowledgeable guidance from Natural Products Marketing Council and its staff are critical to the governance processes of many agricultural boards and associations who oversee the production of food in the province; and

Whereas Natural Products Marketing Council is an independent administrative and adjudicative agency, supported by staff from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; and

Whereas recent changes in the organizational structure at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture have left the Natural Products Marketing Council with insufficient staff to manage the business of Council efficiently;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture call on the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to recognize the important role the Natural Products Marketing Council plays in Nova Scotia's Agriculture Industry by providing Council with enough dedicated staff to ensure they can provide comprehensive, timely administration of matters before them.

- Adopted at a Board Meeting of Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia on November 8, 2023

Resolution #8

Pesticide Applicators License

Whereas a pesticide applicator's license is a valuable certificate to have; and

Whereas people have many different levels of skills and access to computers, internet and technology;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture consult with government to review the pesticide applicators license to improve effectiveness and accessibility.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture on November 8, 2023

Resolution #9

Waterways and Drainage Maintenance

Whereas farmland has been developed, dyked, drained, ditched in Nova Scotia for hundreds of years; and

Whereas significant public finances were used to develop some of these lands; and

Whereas the government of Nova Scotia has policies restricting the maintenance of these drainage systems for environmental or fish habit; and

Whereas with climate change we are experiencing excessive rainfall events that are flooding these unmaintained waterways, flooding and eroding the farmland;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate change that waterways and drainage systems can be maintained to function properly by the landowner to prevent damage to farmland and farm infrastructure.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture on November 8, 2023

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Resolution #10

HST as Eligible Input Tax Credit on Bunkhouses

Whereas the need for on-farm housing is increasing year over year as farms increasingly rely on seasonal agricultural and temporary foreign workers to run their businesses and as farms grow more productive; and

Whereas when asked in a Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association survey in the fall of 2023 what the biggest challenges are related to on-farm housing, the number one response from Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association membership was "cost"; and

Whereas most major capital expenses on farms are eligible for rebate as input tax credits, and on-farm housing for labour should be considered a necessary cost of agriculture in the same way, and

Whereas the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has demonstrated that farm profitability in Nova Scotia is declining and this is a simple way for government to demonstrate support for the agriculture industry and contribute to viability of farms;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture support efforts to advocate to the federal government to include HST as an eligible input tax credit on the construction, maintenance, and furnishing of bunkhouses for seasonal agricultural and temporary foreign workers.

- Adopted at a Board Meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association on November 1, 2023

Resolution #11

Adoption of Private Member's Bill C-359

Whereas Farmers rely on timely access to crop protection products to ensure the quality of their crop; and

Whereas current practices regarding registration and re-evaluation of crop protection and pest control products by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency often creates a shifting landscape when it comes to the availability and usage practices of crop protection and pest control products; and

Whereas this shifting landscape can often lead to cost of production increases and logistical challenges on farms as farmers try to adapt to changing restrictions, re-entry timelines, and usage practices; and

Whereas Private Member's Bill C-359 would provide provisional registration to ensure farmers have access to these products in a timelier manner, without compromising public safety or the scientific process that we expect from Canadian regulators;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture support publicly and advocate for the adoption of Private Member's Bill C-359 by the federal government.

- Adopted at a Board Meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association on November 1, 2023

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Resolution #12

Scoring Rubrics for NSDA Projects

Whereas the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's lack of transparency creates confusion and leads to mistrust amongst Nova Scotia farmers; and

Whereas Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Programs touch farmers across all demographics and offer a starting place to start rebuilding lost trust amongst Nova Scotia Farmers;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to create and include fully transparent scoring rubrics detailing how each project will be scored and selected.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture on November 4, 2023

Resolution #13

Funding Eligibility – Farm Compensation

Whereas farmers were once compensated by the province for their land formation work (drainage, ditching, etc.); and

Whereas the Province has the capability to be able to audit Program related work;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture lobby the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to change Programs to allow farmers to perform their own work and be compensated at provincial averages, which would otherwise be completed by a third-party contractor.

- Adopted at an Annual Meeting of the Cumberland County Federation of Agriculture on November 4, 2023