

LIVING LAB NEWS: ATLANTIC INSIGHTS

Updates from the four Living Lab projects in Atlantic Canada

This newsletter represents a joint effort among the four Atlantic provinces (PEI, NB, NS, NFLD) to promote awareness of living labs and the benefits they offer to farmers. Join us as we strive to amplify awareness and foster innovation in agricultural practices through this collaborative platform.

What is a living lab?

A living lab is a collaborative innovation project supported by research, funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), with additional contributions from partner organizations. It brings farmers, researchers, governments, and other sector stakeholders together to co-develop, test and evaluate beneficial management practices (BMPs) and innovative technologies in real-world conditions on working farms. With farmers at the centre of each living lab, their experiences and knowledge sharing will help accelerate the development and adoption of sustainable, on-farm practices and technologies to tackle climate change. There is now a nationwide network of 14 living labs under AAFC's Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – Living Labs program, with one in each Atlantic province.

What are BMPs?

Beneficial management practices (BMPs) are farming practices that address agricultural environmental impacts while promoting economic sustainability. These practices are often developed through partnerships between farmers, researchers, academia, and other sector stakeholders.

Which BMPs will we be focusing on?

The Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – Living Labs program is focused on developing and testing BMPs that have the potential to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions along with other environmental co-benefits such as improving soil health and water quality, and supporting biodiversity.

- Reduced Tillage
- Cover Cropping
- Advanced Nitrogen Management
 - 4R Nutrient Management
 - Split Application
 - Urease and Nitrification Inhibitors
- Carbon Rich Habitat Conservation
- Rotational Grazing
- Livestock Feeding Strategies

Get Involved in Your Province:

Prince Edward Island:

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- Soil pH Correction and Alternative Ammendments
- Enhanced Legume Content
- Orchard and Vineyard Floor Management
- Forested Riparian Buffers and Shelterbelts
- Land Swapping
- Pollinator and Biodiversity Habitat

Benefits of participating:

- Access to knowledge exchange, often direct from other farmers, provides a catalogue of locally proven BMPs.
- Addressing challenges on-farm in real-time.
- Farmer-led research is topical and it generates practical solutions applicable to their own farms.
- Collaboration with researchers and other partners to co-develop, test, and evaluate innovative practices on their own operations.
- Providing sector support to refine techniques and practices already used by farmers.

How do the Living Labs help farmers?

Living Labs enhance on-farm sustainability from economic, social and environmental lenses. Each living lab focuses on farmer's needs and incorporates their knowledge and expertise in the development of innovations at every step. The project also ensures that farmers are recognized for their commitment to implementing these initiatives and to create a more cohesive industry where knowledge exchange is widespread. Involvement with the Living Labs can help farmers become more sustainable and make more informed management decisions, improving efficiency, productivity and profitability.

Lead project partners



www.eastprinceassociation.com



www.lvnbl.ca



www.nsfa-fane.ca/livinglabs/



www.nllivinglab.ca

Funding for these living lab projects has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



NL Living Lab Larch Grove Farm Ian Richardson and son, Memorial University Grenfell College Campus, Dr. Yeukai Katanda, research lead and team, Dr Vanessa Kavangh, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.



Living Lab leads from the Atlantic provinces. Andrea McKenna - PEI (left), Rodney Reid - NL (top), Carolyn Marshall - NS (bottom), Cedric MacLeod - NB (right).