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President's Message



Mike Bouma, President, AANB

Greetings Fellow Farmers

Well my wife did warn me that this probably wasn't the best time for me to write a president's address as I'm normally a very optimistic fellow, but lately it's a little hard with the state of affairs being what it is this year in Ag. Here in N.B we've had a very unusual summer with a very wet early June, which delayed some ag. activities followed by droughty conditions in many parts, resulting in below average yields in various shallow rooted crops such as grains and grasses even deeper rooted crops were affected to varying degrees. Markets for many commodities have also been soft with low prices for beef, grain, blueberries, cranberries, fur, milk etc.... Farming is not for the faint of heart and challenges like these often come in waves but if you've been in this game for any amount of time you know that this too will run its course and sooner or later it will turn around.

We too here at the Agricultural Alliance, being composed of a board of your fellow farmers are very aware of these challenges and are facing them with you. We've additionally been tasked to address various challenges that Ag. faces at both the provincial and federal government levels. We've had some good success with regards to farm plates and online registration and continue to press for farm vehicle registration fees to be more in line with our provincial counterparts. Ag. in the classroom has seen some traction within the dept. of education and we continue with developing the program. The deer program has been continued for another year. Our initiative to address trespassing issues has resulted in 700 No trespassing signs to be printed and are now available to all registered producers (limit of 2) completely free. This has been a joint venture with N.B Power, the ATV, Snowmobile and 4 wheeler clubs of N.B. A public awareness program on trespassing issues is also being developed. We also have been engaged in the development of a new organization which offers administration services to various Ag. Commodities which previously were challenged to do so individually. We continue to work on the 2016-2018 Agriculture action plan with special emphasis on the Ag land component. We are also playing our part in the development of the next Agricultural Policy Framework (growing forward 3) and will be part of the consultation process. If producers have any suggestions or concerns in this regards feel free to share them with us and we will forward them at that time.

I probably could go on for another page of other activities we are engaged in but will call it at this.

Here's hoping that we have a long warmish drawn out fall and winters snow holds off for as long as possible. I know we all have just that one more project to finish off before the snow flies and hey winter is long enough already. Please come out and lend your voice to agriculture at our upcoming regional meetings. Two hairy thumbs up everyone and keep on keeping on.

Cheers
Mike Bouma

Regional Meeting Fall 2016

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's Regional Meetings will be starting late October and continue into November of 2016. Consult our website for more details: www.fermeNBfarm.ca

Scheduled dates for Regional Meeting:

October 27 th	- Region 5 (Fredericton & surrounding)
November 1 st	- Region 2 (Bathurst & surrounding)
November 3 rd	- Region 6 (Woodstock & surrounding)
November 7 th	- Region 3 (Moncton & surrounding)
November 8 th	- Region 4 (Sussex & surrounding)
November 10 th	- Region 1 (Grand Falls & surrounding)

These important meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. each night. Agenda will be posted on our website and guest speakers will be announced.

Annual General Meeting: January 19-20, 2017

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Fredericton on January 19th and 20th, 2017. More information will follow on our website at www.fermeNBfarm.ca.

New Brunswick Young Farmers Forum

The New Brunswick Young Farmers' Forum will be hosting their Annual General Meeting January 20th - 21st, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook hotel in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Watch www.nbyff.ca for details on the upcoming Annual General Meeting 2017 or contact the NBYFF office at info@nbyff.ca or 506-260-0872.

Registered Professional Agricultural Producer (RPAP) card

We would like to remind you that it is almost time to renew your Registered Professional Agricultural Producer (RPAP) this November to continue receiving membership benefits and remained informed on our activities. We encourage you to select the Alliance as your preferred general farming organization.

Please do not forget that your RPAP/Farmer Purchaser's Permit expire on October 31st. The registration form has been sent to you by the farm registrar by mail and is available on the Alliance's website: www.fermeNBfarm.ca. If you have not received your registration form, please contact us at 452-8101.

Issues Update:

1) Continuation of the NB Nuisance Deer Management Assistance Program

In case you missed our message in our August eActivity report, the provincial government has agreed to continue the program for another year. They have advanced the application date from September 6th to October 31st to better coincide with bow deer hunting season.

The Nuisance Deer Management Assistance Program (NDMAP) will allow Registered Agricultural Professional Producers (RAPP) who have experienced economic loss due to deer damage to receive special permits authorizing hunters to harvest ONE antlerless deer. The permits are issued to hunters who are chosen by the producer to harvest deer on their property. Permits will be provided to harvest only antlerless deer, as removal of those deer will have the greatest effect on controlling local populations. The number of available permits will be determined for each property by the Department of Energy and Resource Development (ERD) on a case-by-case basis. More information can be found on our website under our resources section.

2) Beginning of the work of the Agriculture Land Policy Working Group

The first working group established following the development of the 2016-2018 Agriculture Industry Action Plan began meeting over the summer months to assist the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries in their development of an NB Agriculture Land Policy.

The working group will be covering the following topics to name a few: amendments to the Topsoil Preservation Act, developing a list of activities compatible and non-compatible to agriculture, develop statements of provincial interest, changes to the Farm Land Identification Program (FLIP), ownership issues and work with the Department of Environment and Local Government to modernize the Municipalities Act and the Community Planning Act.

The working group will meet again in October. The Market Development, the Attracting and Supporting New Entrants & Attracting Youth to the Sector, and the Technology & Innovation working groups will begin their work in October-November.

3) Next Policy Framework

The Alliance prepared a preliminary submission with our recommendations for the Next Policy Framework. We have added the submission under our What's New section of our website. Please contact Pamela by phone (506) 452-8101 or by email pamela@fermenbfarm.ca if you would prefer receiving a hard copy.

We want to hear from you! Have we missed elements in our submission? What is working well and what isn't? What would like to be kept in the next suite of programs? What are the major barriers/deterrent keeping you from participating in some of the programs? We prepared a short survey that can be accessed on the home page of our website.

We will be attending consultations in Ottawa in October and November and we would like to receive your comments beforehand to ensure that our recommendations reflects your opinion. Thank you!

4) Presentation to the Legislative Select Committee on Climate Change

Josée Albert, Alliance's CEO and John Russel, Environmental Farm Plan coordinator presented to the Legislative Select Committee on Climate Change on September 1st 2016. Some of our recommendations consisted of: 1) continuing and improvement the Environmental Farm Plan Program, 2) Continue and enhance the services of the agri-environmental clubs, 3) Address the funding limitations of the Beneficial Management Program, 4) involving producers in the development of climate change policies, research and programs, 5) ensuring that actions to address climate change do not come at the expense of food production, 6) a nation carbon price must recognize the ecological goods and services provided by producers,

5) Presentation to the Legislative Select Committee on Climate Change (continued)

7) investing in government assistance and education toward clean technology and infrastructure to assist in reducing the carbon footprint, and 8) Involve our in a cross-sectoral approach to address both mitigation and adaptation due to diverse nature of agricultural practices, geographic dispersion of farms and the integration of farmers in rural and urban communities: adapting maintenance of non-designated roads used by agricultural operations to respond to the threat of severe weather events; preparing for extreme weather events through improved technology, mitigation and practices, for example increased water filtration capacities during storms and terraces development to address soil erosion.

The full submission can be found on our website under our environment section.

5) Launch of the new Agri-Management Services to support New Brunswick Agricultural Commodity Groups and Associations

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (Alliance) is pleased to announce that action has been taken since May 2016 to launch the new NB Agri-Management Services Inc.(NBAMS) – an arm's length, non-profit corporation whose mandate is to provide managerial, financial and administrative support to agricultural commodity groups and associations to enhance their performance on behalf of their farm members. A further benefit to groups and organizations will be to experience cost savings and synergies generated by services provided through a single delivery agency.

During its formative period, NBAMS will be supervised by an Ad Hoc Committee of the Alliance and has received leadership support from Gerry Gartner since May to get the new corporation on its feet. We are very pleased to announce that Richard Bragdon was recently hired to assume the role of Executive Director.

Several agricultural commodity groups and associations are already receiving the services of NBAMS, which are: NB Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Apple Growers, Pork NB, NB Cattle and Producers and additional groups have also expressed interest in obtaining services.

We are confident that this new endeavor will provide great benefits to all involved and also for the industry as a whole. Providing these services will enable the groups to focus on growing their industry rather than the daily operations of their organization.

6) Trespassing Signs

We are very pleased to announce that we received funding from NB Power, the ATV Federation of NB and the NB Federation of Snowmobiles to prepare trespassing signs. Due to their limited numbers, we will need to allocate 2 signs per member. Please advise us if you would like additional signs and we will advise you if we have more signs available in few months. If we have a significant demand for the signs we will seek our options to develop further signs.

You can pick-up your sign (s) at the following regional department of agriculture office: St-André, Wicklow, Bathurst, Bouctouche, Moncton, Sussex and Fredericton. The signs can also be picked up at our office: 259 Brunswick Street-Suite 303, Fredericton.



Registration is now open- Atlantic Soils 2016- Digging into Soil Health



Healthy soils are the foundation of strong economies, sustainable reliable food production enhanced biodiversity, and cleaner air and water. Everyone is a stakeholder in the quest for healthy soil. It is the most important legacy we leave for future generation.

Come to hear experts on the physical, biological and chemical aspects of soil health, listen to the experiences of other producers and take part in open discussions on actions we can all take to promote soil health.

We hope you can join us in Moncton on November 17th!

To learn more and to register, please visit www.soilcc.ca – **Alliance members that register before November 10th will receive a special discount and only pay \$31.50 (includes GST).** Simultaneous translation available.

This event is organized by Soil Conservation Council of Canada, the Agricultural Alliance of NB, the NB Soil and Crop Improvement Association, NS Federation of Agriculture, Soil and Crop Improvement of NS, PEI Federation of Agriculture, PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Perennia and Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture.

Continuation of the Rural Road Enhancement Pilot Project

It is expected that the Rural Road Enhancement Pilot project will continue onto next year. The initiative was undertaken following a 2011 Alliance's Annual General Meeting resolution and resulted in a partnership with New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

You do not have to resubmit your road information if you have done so in the past. We continue to add roads requiring grading or other maintenance and repairs. Please contact the Alliance ***no later than November 30th 2016*** to provide your information. Phone: 506-452-8101 or email: alliance@fermenbfarm.ca



Step Up to Succession with Farm Management Canada! Is your family farm in a state of transition? Are you looking to start the succession conversation? Are you a young farmer looking to broaden your farm business skills?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the above, Farm Management Canada's new Bridging the Gap: Step Up to Succession program is for you!

Young farmers have a chance to apply to be selected to participate in a Successor Development program. For more information and to apply visit: www.fmc-qac.com

NB Soil & Crop Improvement Association – Enhanced Services

The NB Soil & Crop is now offering enhanced agronomy services to its members. The Association has undergone considerable restructuring and re-focusing of its service priorities to better assist producers adapt to emerging environmental and market forces.

The Association is fully staffed by fully qualified professional agronomists who are delivering the following services to producers:

- Soil sampling and interpretation
- GPS mapping
- Intensive crop management
- Nutrient management planning
- Integrated pest management

In addition to providing individual producer assistance, the Association undertakes numerous cereal and forage testing and demonstration projects throughout the province to demonstrate adaptability to local farmer requirements. The Association is a non-profit, producer managed organization with its Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the local associations. Professional agronomy services are delivered by six agronomists located throughout the province, and who work in partnership with local soil & crop associations. For more information please contact Gerry Gartner, General Manager at (506)454-1736 or at operations@nbagriservices.ca.

Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA) Canada / Wild Blueberry Research Extension Work (WildBREW) Symposium 2016 -

Date: October 20-21, 2016

Location: Fredericton Convention Centre

<http://nbwildblue.ca/events/>

Seeds of Change: Changing Climate, Changing Agriculture

Come join us in Moncton, NB at the Delta Beauséjour on November 28–30 for the annual ACORN Conference and Trade Show! ACORN's conference is a fun, three-day event that brings together organic and sustainable farmers, processors and businesses from across the region and beyond. Find out more at acornconference.org.

Potatoes N.B. –

The AGM will be held on Friday, December 2nd, 2016, from 9:00 to 3:00pm at the Kin Club of Florenceville, East Centreville, N.B. The address is: 381 route 110, East Centreville, N.B. (exit 153, from Trans. Can. #2).

Open Farm Day 2016

A total of fifty-five farms throughout the province opened their doors to the public showcasing of agriculture production in New Brunswick on Sunday, September 18th. While the weather may have been a hindrance for some people to go out on the day of the event, it was overall very well attended with approximately 10,000 participants by both New Brunswickers and visitors from outside the province.

Testimonials from the participating producers and public strongly support that the day was a success and a very positive experience for all. Participating farms showed a great deal of ingenuity in making the experience educational and enjoyable for the visitors by offering a wide array of activities for both children and adults alike. Comments and feedback received from visitors were extremely favorable with clear indication of how much the event is appreciated for both its social and educational value. Thank you to all the participating farms!

AGC Harvesting Second Year On-farm Agronomy Trials Across New Brunswick

Grain and oilseed producers in New Brunswick have been contributing to the Atlantic Grains Council (AGC) Research Check-off when they sell their crop. This Check-off was started in the fall of 2013, and has grown to represent all major buyers of grain and oilseed crops. When the crop is sold, the equivalent of approximately \$1 per acre is contributed to the Research Check-off. The Atlantic Grains Council has multiplied this Check-off with research funding from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and New Brunswick Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, as well as with the agriculture departments in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

"Producers told us that they wanted research happening in their backyard in real farm situations so that the results would be relevant to them" said Grains Council Executive Director Heather Russell, "and we have responded to that with the on-farm agronomy program."

This field season is the second for on-farm agronomy trials across New Brunswick. Trials have been expanded to approximately 20 farms from Grand Falls to Sussex to Miramichi. These trials are studying nitrogen fertility in corn, oats and barley, disease management in wheat, oats and soybeans and the impact of planting density on yield in soybeans.

Dave Bell and Walter Brown have been working with participating producers across New Brunswick and are midway through harvest, with soybeans and corn left to do. "Producers have been keen to participate," says Dave Bell, "and they really appreciate our sit down when the season is over to go over their results."

Atlantic Grains Council has similar trials running throughout the Maritime Provinces, and with the second year of data being collected, will be planning on getting out to as many meetings and conferences this winter to present the results to producers. "Presenting and reporting our results is the last but most important step in our research process –producers have to see the results in our research and determine what it means for their farm," says Roy Culberson, Vice Chair of AGC, "we are available this winter to present at meetings across the Province."

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

Our EFP coordinator, John Russell, has reserved two weeks for each region to help producers with the EFP. Be sure you keep your plan up to date. This is a requirement to obtain funding for BMP projects and to sell product to some buyers. If it has been more than five years since you last did your plan, it is update time!

North West (Region 1) - Early November
North East (Region 2) - Late November
South East (Region 3) - Late December
South Central/Sussex (Region 4) - Early October
Central (Region 5) - Late October
West Central/Wicklow (Region 6) – Early December

To schedule a meeting with John regarding your Environmental Farm Plan call 506-381-2887 or 506-452-8101 or e-mail: EFP-PFE@fermeNBfarm.ca

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