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June 2018- eActivity Report
Rapport d'activité électronique– juin 2018

*To promote a sustainable and prosperous
agriculture industry
Favoriser une industrie de l'agriculture
durable et rentable*

June 2018 eActivity Report

1) Reminder- Employment Standard Survey & Workers' Compensation

We are requesting your help. The Agricultural Alliance of NB (AANB) Executive recently met with Labour, Employment and Population Growth Minister, Gilles LePage to address regulatory disparities relating to the Employment Standards Act & Regulation and Worker's Compensation rates leaving NB producers at a competitive disadvantage compared to producers in other provinces. New Brunswick is one of the only province where farm operations are not exempt from paying employees at overtime rates. Obtaining your input is very important in assisting us to demonstrate the economic impacts caused by the disparities and making a case for improving competitiveness in our province. Please answer the survey enclosed based on your operation and take note that we will respect your confidentiality and compile the answers to respect privacy.

2) Temporary Foreign Worker Program Consultation

Agricultural Alliance representatives and individual producers attended a consultation hosted by the federal government on temporary foreign workers' programs. The consultations took place following the 2016, House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) review of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program. On April 10, 2017, the Primary Agriculture review was announced as part of the Path Forward Plan for the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

The review's objective are to work with key stakeholders to modernize the Primary Agriculture Stream to meet the needs and priorities of the Canadian agricultural sector and to focus on the following:

1. Program Eligibility and Structure

Explore the definition of Primary Agriculture and the use of the National Commodities List in the context of the TFW Program, as well as the structure of Primary Agriculture Stream. Attendees agreed that the definition of primary agriculture for the program eligibility should be broaden to also include value-added and other types of agricultural operations such as agritourism and other activities such as operating a market stand, building and other infrastructure maintenance, and driving products to storage and market. Attendees also indicated that the timelines for approval are too long and causing a lot of uncertainties for applicants (up to 3-6 months). Attending producers expressed

their frustration over the timing of the consultation coinciding with the busy agriculture season.

2. Wages and Deductions

Discuss the current wage structure for the Primary Agriculture Stream and how it relates to the needs of the agricultural sector. Attendees recommended that they should have more flexibility to increase the wages of the foreign worker and establish their wages based on their experience, certification and job responsibility, especially during longer-term contracts. It was noted that employment insurance is being paid for foreign workers when they will not be able to benefit from the program if ever needed in most cases. The fact that New Brunswick is only one of a few province required to pay overtime rates while provinces such as Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI are exempt was pointed out as an unfair regulation.

3. Housing in Primary Agriculture

Explore the current requirements for housing provided to temporary foreign workers and the impact of creating a national housing standard for the Primary Agriculture Stream. Attendees mentioned that there are inconsistencies between provincial and federal requirements and often miscommunication and a lack of coordination between the two levels of government take place.

4. Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) Processing

Discuss the current system for processing of LMIA applications, including possible measures to improve efficiency and service standards; and the potential impacts of an LMIA fee. Producers recommended that a central database be developed to assist farm transfer opportunities. Producers in good standing with the program should be given more flexibility for farm transfer approvals during the season. The online application could be improved by assigning producers an online profile and remove the need to enter their information every year. Producers suggested that a multi-year application option should be made available. Producers agreed that they should continue to be exempt from the application fee.

Participants were informed that the consultation period is near completion and that the recommendations from the Canada wide consultation will be presented to the federal government this fall.

* **Written submissions** can sent directly to the TFW Program by writing to: NC-TFWP-PTET-REVISION_POL_AGRICULTURE_REVIEW-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

3) Safe Food for Canadians Regulations Now Published

On June 13 2018, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, and the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced that final Safe Food for Canadians Regulations were published in Canada Gazette, Part II (CGII). In the CFIA news release it was stated that some requirements will need to be met immediately upon coming into force while others will be phased in over a 12 to 30

month period. This is based on the food commodity produced, type of activity and the business' size. Timelines have been posted [here](#).

Many farms with a gross farm income under \$100,000 will not be required to have a written preventive control plan (PCP). While we understand the need for traceability and assurance of safe food, the cost prohibitive written PCP would have potentially put farms, particularly those that sell direct to market across provincial borders, out of business if required to comply. This exception will not apply to businesses that conduct any activity in respect to food animals, meat products, dairy products, fish, eggs, processed egg products, or processed fruits and vegetables.

The regulations will be phased in and will come into effect on January 15, 2019. Further review of the regulations is underway and highlights will be communicated in the future.

Learn more about the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations:
www.inspection.gc.ca/safefood

[Licensing Interactive Tool](#)
[Preventative Control Plan \(PCP\) Interactive Tool](#)
[Traceability Interactive Tool](#)

4) Agricultural Alliance of NB Priorities in light of the Provincial Elections- Column

June 2018

Like all of the earth's seasons, elections roll around in their turn, bringing political weather which is becoming increasingly fickle. So it makes sense to be prepared to the best of our ability for a future which is even more unpredictable.

There is little doubt that agriculture is the sunrise industry of the Maritimes; all signs point to an array of developing opportunities which will strengthen farming as a formidable pillar of the regional economy. In New Brunswick, farm cash receipts grew 11% between 2012 and 2016. Agriculture and food manufacturing exports, not including seafood, increased by almost \$200 million in the same four years. The food manufacturing sector contributed \$714.3 million to the provincial GDP in 2016. The primary sector employed 5,200 individuals in 2016, the highest since 2010, with another 7,800 individuals working in food manufacturing. Yet less than 0.5% of the provincial budget is currently allocated to agricultural services and investments. Obviously, addressing the industry's development constraints would open the door to growth opportunities as yet only imagined.

The growth and changing nature of agriculture can be helped or hindered by government policies. To take advantage of the opportunities ahead, we must ensure that our policy makers are aware that it's critical to progress with the times, and that they commit to positive steps which will smooth the path for farmers in every production and farm sizes. The Agricultural Alliance is making some key calls to action for the incoming provincial government, whatever its political configuration.

First is the protection of agricultural land. Already, we feel pressure from buyers outside of the agriculture sector who see inexpensive farmland as an investment opportunity which may take even more land out of production. The provincial government introduced the NB Agriculture Land Policy in January 2017, after more than 20 years of pressure by the agriculture sector, but no further progress has been made on its implementation since. If we want to preserve the quality of rural life that defines us, we must protect the land that provides it from being overwhelmed by non-agricultural development. Another prime example is the much needed change to the Topsoil Preservation Act to provide enforcement control of topsoil stripping for commercial purposes.

Another concern is the federal and provincial governments' response to climate change, where uncertainties loom large. While agriculture currently benefits from certain fuel exemptions (that is if the federal government accepts our provincial government approach), developing carbon pricing and offset protocols are a concern. Farmers seek reassurance that they will be able to benefit from their positive contributions to climate change through offset protocols and that they will not be unfairly treated in future negotiations and policy development.

Transportation is also prominent in this election season. We need safe, well-maintained roads for the movement of products. We also need to address issues of interprovincial harmonization of weight limits and registration fees which place us at a financial disadvantage.

There are many other issues that require legislative attention, some that are universal and others needing a more targeted response. Lack of high-speed internet remains and reliable cell phone services are a pressing challenge, especially with the introduction of so many electronic aspects of farming. Much education and training is also done on line, but is not readily available across all rural areas.

Farm families, like all families, may need services such as day care which are not accessible or affordable. Urban lawmakers can easily lose sight of the informal care networks which exist in rural communities; these should be nourished and sustained, particularly with the removal of restrictive regulations which limit resources to people who support each other in non-institutional settings.

Farmers are a resilient breed and growing stronger by the day and the backbone of our rural economy. Elections provide an opportunity to make our voices heard. We do not wish to be strident or confrontational; we simply want recognition of our economic and social value, and a level playing field in government decision-making.

Christian Michaud, President
Agricultural Alliance of NB

5) Women in Agriculture- Column

May 2018

Like many sectors, agriculture is facing a major transformation, due to everything from climate change, consumer trends and to farming technology. But one of its most interesting evolutions is the growing number of women who identify themselves as farmers, not farmers' wives or simply serious gardeners. The face of farming is becoming more diverse, as young women increase their presence and their levels of responsibility and management. At 37%, British Columbia has the highest percentage of women farm operators. Evidence indicates that the number is also rising in Atlantic Canada. Across the country, women outnumber men in postsecondary agricultural and natural science faculties.

What is driving this trend? For one thing, new agricultural technologies require less physical strength than traditional methods. And business development, which attracts some women, is now central to the role, creating a need for marketing, financial and other skills not exclusive to men. More and better access to agricultural education and land acquisition have paved the way for women to enter farming on their own. They often seek niches for value-added products which appeal to them and require expertise beyond the basic functions of production and sale of commodities.

Another magnet for women in agriculture is the lifestyle. Young women seek to be self-sufficient, close to nature, and rooted in supportive communities; not all yearn for the high-pressure, high-rise life of urban or suburban Canada. They also prefer this environment in which to raise their children, providing them with healthy food and a respect for the ecological interdependence upon which we all depend. It's clear that the ground is shifting when you ask the two-year-old son of a young farming couple what his favourite food is, and he says, "broccoli."

It should come as no surprise that the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that women are responsible for half of the world's food production. In Canada, although the majority of farms are still owned and operated by men, women have always done an equal share of the work. Moreover, statistics are starting to show that young, educated, city-born women are bucking the aging male farmer demographic trend.

One of these newcomers, Emily Shapiro, who farms with her partner and year-old daughter in central New Brunswick, has been a leader in raising awareness of the growing presence and increasing value of young women farmers in this region. Now the executive director of SPADE (Sunrise Partnership for Agriculture Development and Education), she makes a strong case for the greater participation of women in all aspects of farming as a means of strengthening our agricultural and rural communities.

Emily writes that studies in the United States show that women are bringing differentiation and new approaches to farm and field management. Women are more likely than men to operate farms with a diversity of crops, to sell food directly to consumers rather than to large food-processing corporations, and to use ecologically sustainable farming methods. With consumers demanding more

authenticity, flavour, variety, and transparency in their foods, differentiated food products (in addition to the standard commodities), and more sustainable approaches to farming are a significant trend, not a fad. One clear way of ensuring the diversity and variety customers are looking for is enabling diversity and variety in our food producers. Thus, the importance of women's participation in the farming community, in business associations, farm associations, field trainings, and on the ground farming is beginning to be appreciated.

These young women also see the importance of strengthening their local or regional economy by keeping money circulating within their communities, rather than sending it away to other pockets.

Agriculture is not a sunset industry; it promises to sustain and increase the wealth of Atlantic Canada, not only in terms of generating income, but in creating a healthy and sustainable lifestyle. Let's thank the young women who are largely responsible for this renaissance.

Christian Michaud, President
Agricultural Alliance of NB

6) Watercourses and Wetlands and Agricultural Activities

Watercourses and regulated wetlands can be found throughout New Brunswick, including on agricultural lands. The Clean Water Act defines a watercourse as the full width and length, including the bed, banks, sides and shoreline, or any part of a river, creek, stream, spring, brook, lake, reservoir, channel, ditch or other natural or artificial channel open to the atmosphere, the primary function of which is the conveyance or containment of water, whether the flow be continuous or not. Regulated wetlands are characterized by areas that are saturated with water either permanently or seasonally and have soils and vegetation which have adapted to wet conditions. Regulated wetlands are an important part of an agricultural landscape because they perform important ecological functions, such as habitat for pollinating insects, flood buffering, erosion control, water storage and filtering of surface runoff while maintaining or enhancing biodiversity.

As per the Clean Water Act: Wetland means land that:

(a) either periodically or permanently, has a water table at, near or above the land's surface or that is saturated with water, and (b) sustains aquatic processes as indicated by the presence of hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation and biological activities adapted to wet conditions.

This fact sheet offers information on watercourses and regulated wetlands and how to best manage proposed new and existing agricultural activities located in proximity to a water course or regulated wetland.

7) Corrected- Carbaryl Fact Sheet

We were informed by the Health Canada that the previous carbaryl fact sheet we circulated contained errors. Please find the final version of the fact sheet enclosed.

8) Environmental Farm Plan

Friendly reminder that EFPs are “living documents” and should be updated every five years, or sooner to integrate new developments (e.g. construction of a new barn) or technologies, or to make adjustments as conditions change in your enterprise. John Russell will also be in the following areas updating Environmental Farm Plans. If you wish to update your plan, or if you are new to the Environmental Farm Plan, please contact Camille Coulombe at 506-452-8101 or efp-pfe@fermenbfarm.ca.

All regions: August 2018
Region 2 (North-East) First two weeks of September 2018
Region 3 (South-East) Last two weeks of September 2018
Region 4 (Center-South/ Sussex) First two weeks of October 2018

9) Notices



Cooperation in Agri-Food New Brunswick (CANB) is looking forward to serving more than 80 schools this September. To achieve this, we need you! CANB has recently hired a new procurement agent, Philippe Gervais, who is eager to speak with New Brunswick producers who are looking for an additional channel to move their products. Philippe has worked with farms of diverse types and sizes over the past four years, which he brings to this role. If you are interested in selling to CANB, we would love to hear from you! You can reach us by phone at (506) 871-2902, email purchasing@canb.org, or visit our website canb.org.

Fredericton Direct Charge Co-op



The Fredericton Co-op is locally owned and operated by 9,500+ members. Established in 1974 we are as “local” as “local” can be.

Fredericton Co-op is now the only Independently Owned Grocer/One Stop Shopping Retailer in the city of Fredericton. (That means that money doesn't leave our community but stays here because the people who own the store LIVE HERE TOO!) We support our community by raising funds for local charities, donating to various youth groups, supporting other local businesses through our “Capital Area Buyers Club”, awarding scholarships each year to members and their families and by buying as much product as we can locally (especially from our farming friends!)

The Fredericton Co-op is exploring opportunities to expand our “LOCAL” products. Therefore, I am reaching out to the local producers in our area, to build a partnership so that we may achieve this goal. Please contact Paul King, General Manager at (506) 452-7689 to further discuss.

Firewood Study Survey – Institute des Sciences de la Forêt tempérée

A study on firewood harvesting practices in Eastern Canada is currently being conducted. Professor Frédéric Doyon and postdoctoral researcher Lluís Parcerisas from the Institut des Sciences de la Forêt Tempérée of the University of Quebec in Outaouais (isfort.uqo.ca) aim to improve the reliability of the data used to estimate the carbon sequestration capacity of our forests within a context of climate change, while supporting at the same time the use of renewable energies such as firewood. For that purpose, an invitation to complete a small survey is launched to anyone who harvests firewood, either for commercial or personal reasons.

If you want to participate and highlight this renewable energy go to:

<https://sondages.uqo.ca/index.php/562151?newtest=Y> Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Do not hesitate to spread the word! For more information or to complete the survey by telephone, please contact Frédéric or Luis:

Frédéric Doyon: frederik.doyon@uqo.ca / 819-595-3900 ext. 2930

Lluís Parcerisas: luisparcerisas@gmail.com / 514-572-8197

App to Connect Beekeepers and Farmers – BeeConnected

As the agriculture season is active, it's time to keep the line of communication lines open between farmers and beekeepers.

[BeeConnected](#) is an app connecting registered beekeepers with registered farmers and spray contractors, enabling anonymous communication on the location of hives and crop protection product activities. Farmers and contractors input information on their crop protection activities and beekeepers input the location of their hives. If they are within five km of each other, each party will receive a notification and they can communicate anonymously through an internal messaging system.

Please help promote the use of this app, available free of charge through a [web browser](#), the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Atlantic's Outstanding Young Farmers

Robert Anderson and Jill Ebbett of East Glassville, New Brunswick were recently named Atlantic's Outstanding Young Farmers in Truro, Nova Scotia. To view the article, click [here](#).

10) Coming Events

Nappan Forage Field Day 2018, presented by AAFC and Maritime Beef Council – AAFC Nappan Research Farm, NS – August 8th, 2018 – Please see the agenda attached. To RSVP for lunch, please email maritimebeefcouncil@gmail.com or call 902-969-1632.

You are invited to the following event:

EXPLORING THE RESEARCH AT KENTVILLE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



Event to be held at the following time,
date, and location:

Wednesday, 22 August 2018 from 10:00
AM to 3:00 PM (ADT)

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

32 Main Street
Kentville, NS B4N 1J6
Canada

[View Map](#)

Your event password is: AAFC

This event is password-protected. Register with the password above to attend this event.

Dear Farmers, Partners and Stakeholders,

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) invites you to learn about the exciting research we are conducting at the Kentville Research and Development Centre (32 Main Street, Kentville, NS). This event will take place rain or shine from **10:00am – 3:00pm on August 22nd, 2018.**

Highlights include guided field tours in the morning, where you can see our tree and small fruit research, nutrient management and water quality plots, minor use pesticides program, the vineyard and more. Lunch will be provided in the main complex, followed by an opportunity to “speed network” with scientists and technicians in their labs to discuss your interests and science priorities.

The aim is to strengthen connections within the agricultural research community to pave the way for future partnerships.

Space is limited and **pre-registration is required**. Please RSVP by clicking [here](#) (**password: AAFC**) no later than **AUGUST 3, 2018**.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming you on August 22nd.

2018 Maritime Honey Festival – Fredericton, NB – October 12th & 13th, 2018 – For more information, please see the attached poster.

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference – Hilton Fallsview, Niagara Falls, ON – October 14th-16th, 2018 – For more information and to register, click [here](#). For hotel reservations, click [here](#).