



President's Message

Greetings from the snowy Northwest! I would like to begin by welcoming our new CEO to the NB Agricultural Alliance team. Anna certainly hit the ground running, as she started her job on April 1st. We have lost count of the meetings and committees requiring input since that time, but Anna is doing great job, and we look forward to the time when she is able to meet more of our members and interact face to face with our industry stakeholders.

As I write this message on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, I can not help but marvel at this planet that we call home. We are in the midst of a miserable spring snow storm, yet days ago we were doing yard work without coats. We have been blindsided by a microscopic virus and we are in shock, mourning the unspeakable human cruelty of a massacre in rural Nova Scotia. There are so many reasons that one could be negative, but as we move in to Spring I would like to focus on the positive things that can arise from difficult times. From adversity comes growth.



For the first time since the advent of the modern grocery store, Canadian consumers are currently not guaranteed unlimited food choices when they shop. Most people have never considered where their food comes from, and this uncertainty has opened the door to long over due conversations about food security and our domestic food supply. With the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries both asking how we can increase food production while we are in the midst of a crisis trying to get current production processed and delivered to consumers in the new lockdown reality; it is more apparent than ever that there is a lack of understanding of the complexities of modern food and fibre production and distribution systems.

This is an opportunity for the Alliance to continue to push forward on many of the resolutions that our members have repeatedly brought to our annual general meetings over the years. The agriculture industry in New Brunswick absolutely has the ability to produce more food. To do this we need protection for agricultural land. We need to have immediate action to address our chronic labour shortages. We need long term, stable funding for our Agriculture in the Classroom program. The list could go on and on.

In short, this Covid-19 crisis has finally brought our food supply to the attention of the 98% of the population not involved in producing it. With the proper tools and infrastructure, as well as a guarantee of government support at all levels, we can move forward together in these uncertain times. I would encourage each of you to reach out and check in with fellow producers during these difficult times. Regardless of the commodities we produce, the size of our farms, or our geographic location; we are a community and we must support each other. Each farm family is facing personal and business challenges as best they can. Be assured that the Alliance is continuing to work on your behalf; not only on the resolution of current issues, but on measures to build and maintain the long term prosperity of our industry. If you need assistance, please reach out.

I wish each of you the best as we move into the Spring season, and I urge you to find the positives in each busy day on the farm. Minimal flooding as I write this is definitely a blessing this year! Take care, stay safe and here's to better days ahead.

Lisa Ashworth
Agricultural Alliance of NB President

Dear members,

This is Anna Belliveau, new Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Alliance of NB. I wanted to write a note to let all of you know that the Alliance is still working for you, and although our physical office is closed, all staff is working diligently from home in order to keep files moving and to try and help farmers in this time of hardship. You can reach our office through our phone number at 506-452-8101, send us an email at alliance@fermenbfarm.ca or visit our website at www.fermenbfarm.ca. Please contact us with any concerns or questions that we might be able to help you with.

I started my new job as CEO of the AANB last Wednesday, on April 1, and I have quickly learned some of the issues you all face with the Covid-19 pandemic. We have attended different committee meetings with both your Chair (Lisa Ashworth) and Vice-Chair (Marc Ouellet), who are trying to find solutions to problems such as how to bring in temporary foreign workers, where and how farmers can sell their products, lack of abattoir space, and the financial crisis many of you are in.

There is a new committee (Agriculture Workforce Labor Adjustment Action) which consists of representatives from AANB (myself and Marc O.), the National Farmers Union, Working NB, the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Really Local Harvest, and Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. This committee is tasked with hiring one or more consultants in order to deal specifically Covid-19 related issues facing farmers and agriculture in the province.

We will be adding useful links for you on our Web Site in the next few days, so I invite you to see what could be used for your needs. We will make sure to keep you updated as things develop.

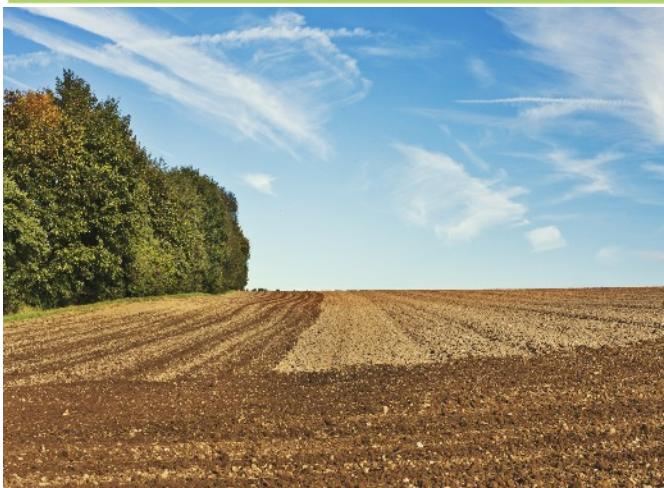
Stay safe,

Anna Belliveau, CEO
Agricultural Alliance of NB

Looking for Covid-19 Information? Check out our website!

To help guide our members through this difficult time, we've dedicated a page on our website to provide NB farmers with resources and information in regards to Covid-19 and the agricultural industry. Click the link for more info. <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/covid-19-information/>

***In an effort to reduce paper printing and improve communication efficiency, members that are currently receiving paper copies of the newsletters and communications who wish to receive emails from AANB instead, are encouraged to send us an email or call us. We will add you to our email list and limit our paper communications to you. Thank you.



Membership Renewals

We would like to remind you that the renewal period for this year began on **February 1st 2020**.

If you have not registered already you can access the form by visiting your closest SNB office (when they open) or by visiting www.fermenbfarm.ca/membership/farm-business-registration/.

For more information, contact our office by phone at (506) 452-8101 or email alliance@fermenbfarm.ca. Being a member of the Alliance will provide you access to membership benefits, fuel purchasers' permit, farm plates and remain informed on important agriculture topics, and our activities.

Issue Updates

AANB has been working diligently in order to address the crisis farmers are in now, while still trying to keep other files moving along. We are now part of a few new committees which are looking at ways to help farmers in NB.

1) Labour Force Adjustment Committee

A Government initiative (Post Secondary Education Training & Labour), members consist the AANB, the National Farmers Union (NFU), La Récolte de Chez Nous, Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). The committee is looking at helping farmers with specific labor issues relating to Covid-19. A survey will be sent to farmers to assess their needs in terms of labor.

2) Livestock Emergency Preparedness Committee

Members include the AANB, the NFU, livestock commodity representatives, and DAAF. The Committee is looking into various solutions regarding the backlog of livestock in the Province due to the lack or reduced capacity of abattoir space.

As well, the AANB attends several weekly meetings with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), weekly AAFC meetings, and now bi-weekly DAAF meetings. We are still moving forward with the Rural Roads and Why Local Why Not campaign with new ads added to our Facebook site using the winners of the photo contest which ran last fall.

3) Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

DAAF has a link to information for the agriculture sector on their front page, with FAQS and a Safety Plan for Agricultural Workers. You can find guidelines on how to work safely on your farm with staff. They also have a Quick Link on the main page regarding COVID-19 - [Information for the agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and processing sectors](#).

4) Loan & Loan Guarantee Programs

The Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries provides repayable loans and loan guarantees to promote development of the agriculture sector. New entrants, defined as someone who has owned a farm for five years or less, are eligible for lower interest rates and equity requirements. [Click here](#) for more information.

5) Canadian Federation of Agriculture

CFA is now conducting bi-weekly surveys which we are sending to our members. We encourage everyone to participate, as the results of these surveys is crucial to CFA's input on the Minister of Agriculture's Roundtable, which was created to discuss the impacts this situation is having on the sector in terms of the food supply chain. [Each survey is found the CFA website](#) and will change to reflect changing conditions and priorities. On April 16, CFA held a press conference to address the extraordinary challenges being faced by Canadian farmers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The President of CFA warned that without immediate assistance from the federal government, the Canadian agriculture sector cannot ensure our domestic food supply will remain secure for the immediate and long-term benefit of all Canadians. As the unified voice advocating for Canadian farmers at the national level, the CFA highlighted the urgent issues farmers are facing today:

- Ongoing labour shortage and market predictability and how that is impacting farms and food processing
- Unexpected and increasing costs for farmers due to COVID-19

The CFA and its members asked government to create an Emergency Fund or financial backstop so farmers in need can access funds to help them overcome these mounting costs. Canadian farmers need to hear a clear commitment from government to instill necessary confidence for the 2020 planting season. CFA also has updated Covid-19 resources on their website <https://www.cfa-fca.ca/>.

6) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AAFC launched the [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) - Information for industry](#) web page with information specifically for the sector. AAFC established an Industry-Government COVID-19 working group made up of national sector organizations, who meet by phone 3 times per week to share information and discuss issues facing industry, including potential impacts on trade. As of March 24th, AAFC is holding stakeholder calls every Tuesday and Thursday to share information on supply chain impacts of COVID-19 and provide updates to grower groups and the broader value chain.

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada has launched **Step up to the plate – Help feed Canadians**, an [online employment portal](#) to provide links to resources for job seekers who are interested in working on farms, in distribution, food processing, and other related occupations. Resources include national and regional employment websites, and information on skills and training.

Latest information from PM Trudeau for supporting Canada's farmers, food businesses, and food supply:
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/05/supporting-canadas-farmers-food-businesses-and-food-supply>

Farmer who are looking for futher information from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are encouraged to email Patricia Ouellette patricia.ouellette@canada.ca

Issue Updates Continued

7) AgriStability

The AgriStability enrollment deadline for the 2020 program year has been extended without penalty, **from April 30th to July 3, 2020**. This extension will allow farmers more time to sign up and benefit from the program. This exceptional step, agreed to by federal, provincial, and territorial governments, will enable the program to help more farmers manage the impact of current market disruptions, increased expenses, and production challenges facing many farm operations. Farmers experiencing losses are encouraged to apply for interim payments under AgriStability for more rapid support. For more information, visit <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1374758661655> or call the toll free number 1-866-367-8506.

8) Temporary Foreign Worker Program

The Alliance is pleased to announce that on May 22nd, 2020, the Province has lifted the ban on Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) entering New Brunswick. The announcement comes after 1 month of the original decision to restrict TFW on coming into the province to work on farms. As New Brunswick moves into the 3rd (yellow) stage of the covid-19 regulations model, temporary Foreign workers may now enter the province as of May 29th, 2020. Workers coming into New Brunswick will have to self-isolate for 14 days and adhere to strict provincial health and safety guidelines.

Much effort was done to reverse the ban, including several press releases sent jointly with the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick, the National Farmers Union in New Brunswick and Really Local Harvest, letters sent to the Premier, party leaders, and MLAs, a public petition gaining over 850 signatures and a joint press conference held on May 20th, 2020 via Zoom with the above mentioned organizations and the media.

For more information on Temporary Foreign Workers, please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/foreign-workers/employer-compliance/covid-guidance.html>

9) Why Local Why Not

The Alliance is finished it's second year of the Why Local Why Not campaign. The campaign had three main goals:

- To educate NBers to become aware of the benefits of local food
- To increase the demand for NB food products to ensure that our farms and producers have a reason to produce more
- To change the perception of farming to ensure more young people are interested in looking at agriculture as a sustainable profession of the future.

The campaign met another great success this past year. We released new visuals and continued our efforts to influence consumers in buying more local products, created retail partnership and so much more. Do not forget to visit www.whylocalwhynot.ca for more information.

As part of Year 2, we launched a photo contest to engage producers to see themselves as "Superheroes" and showcase their superpowers. Close to 24,400 people were reached over a period of a couple month through social media. The contest closed in November 2019 and winners from 6 categories were chosen as part of the next marketing initiative for Why Local Why Not. Visit <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/2019-agriculture-photo-contest/> to see the winning photos.

Haskap NB

Haskap New-Brunswick, an association for producers of Haskap, advises you that any producer of Haskap are invited to become members. For more information contact Haskap NB President Paul Laplante at ibem.acadie@gmail.com

Environmental Farm Plan

An up-to-date Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate is required for Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program. But whether you plan to apply for funding or not, we strongly encourage all farms to complete a plan for the benefit of yourselves and the agriculture industry as a whole. There are commodities requiring EFPs as a major component of their sustainability assurance programs. If your farm has never done an EFP, please give us a call.

Each farm can go through your plan on your own, either on paper or electronically. Camille and John can provide you with the workbook/action plan or mail the electronic program files you need on a USB stick.

Most farmers find it beneficial to have assistance completing the tables and answering the questions. We can do this online via Zoom (with screen share), video chat with Facebook Messenger, Skype video, or over the phone. Let us know when you want assistance.

Send us an email at Efp-pfe@fermenbfarm.ca or call 506-452-8101





May 15th, 2020

Workforce Development Strategy

Fredericton, NB: The farming sector in New Brunswick is an important part of the New Brunswick economy producing both local food and product for national and international export markets. The farming sector has been increasing its economic contribution in recent years. However, like other industries, the agriculture sector is starting to face a significant challenge related to its workforce.

Given the seriousness of the challenge, the Agriculture Alliance of New Brunswick (AANB) commissioned the development of an agricultural workforce development plan that would guide a deliberate effort to address this challenge in the years ahead. This plan has a five-year time horizon but is the foundation for a longer-term effort to ensure the industry has a good pipeline of talent for the future.

This New Brunswick agricultural workforce development plan was developed by consulting team comprised of Jupia Consultants Inc., Mellor Murray Consulting and Viminio Recherche et Analyse inc. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership through the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, as well as the Department of Post-Secondary Training and Labour of New Brunswick made the funding of this initiative possible. A steering committee made up of industry stakeholders provided oversight and guidance into the development of the plan. To develop the New Brunswick agricultural workforce development plan, a number of actions were taken including:

- A survey of more than 100 farmers covering the entire province and each main commodity group.
- Interviews with over 30 industry, government and education sector stakeholders in New Brunswick and in other provinces.
- Best practices review of agricultural workforce development initiatives across North America and beyond.
- A full review of industry statistics provided by Statistics Canada, the Canadian Agricultural HR Council and other organizations.

All of the background research and analysis combined with insight from the steering committee led to the development of the New Brunswick Agricultural Workforce Development Plan.

English: <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/resources/workforce-development-strategy/>

French: <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/ressources/plan-de-developpement-de-la-main-doeuvre-agricole/?lang=fr>

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick is looking forward to working with Governments and industry groups in implementing the first phase of the Strategy.

For more information on the survey or the new agriculture sector Workforce Strategy, please contact:

Lisa Ashworth, President of the Agricultural Alliance of NB
Marc Ouellet, Vice-President of the Agricultural Alliance of NB
506-452-8101

2020 Resolutions

1. Maintenance of Designated Roads Required for the movement of agricultural products

Whereas producers must use many designated roads throughout the province to move their agricultural products;

Whereas some of these designated roads are in very poor condition;

Be it resolved that the Agricultural Alliance places pressure on the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to repair and maintain designated roads throughout the province when they are required for the movement of agricultural products.

Region 1

2. Regional Livestock Officer for the North West Region

Whereas the position of Regional Livestock Officer is currently vacant in the North West region;

Whereas; this region requires bilingual services;

Be it resolved that the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries fills that position as soon as possible with an individual who possesses the qualification for the position and is fully bilingual.

Region 1

3. Silviculture Specialist (Maple Syrup and Christmas Tree Production) Position

Whereas the position of silviculture specialist within the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries is currently vacant;

Whereas the maple syrup and Christmas tree production sectors are important economic drivers for New Brunswick;

Whereas; this region requires bilingual services;

Whereas the silviculture specialist for maple syrup and Christmas tree production acts as the liaison between producers and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries;

Be it resolved that the silviculture specialist position within the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries be filled as soon as possible to ensure that the producers' needs are met.

Region 1

4. Development of a Legal Procedure

Whereas producers throughout the province are increasingly being faced with harassment, discrimination and defamation by members of the public;

Be it resolved that the Alliance develops a legal protocol to help its members who are faced with harassment, discrimination and defamation from the public.

Region 2

5. Financial Penalties for Animal Activists Trespassing on Farms

Whereas Trespassing by animal activists is on the rise, resulting in biosecurity risks and distress of animals and producers;

Whereas there seems to be very little consequences or repercussions for the invaders;

Whereas this can cause significant financial loss to the impacted producers;

Be it resolved that the province set significant fines for individuals and even more severe fines for organizations related to animal activist activities.

Region 2

6. Inspection Requirements for F-Plated Vehicles Weighing Less than 4,500 kilograms

Whereas the provincial government recently announced that passenger vehicles will now only require to be inspected every two years;

Whereas many of these vehicles within this class are used by the farming sectors and are farm plated;

Be it resolved that the Agricultural Alliance request that farm plated vehicles below 4,500 kilograms also be included within these new requirements and only require to be inspected once every two years.

Region 2

2020 Resolutions Continued

7. Legal Defence Trust Fund

Whereas some farmers are being harassed for conducting normal farm practices;

Whereas often emotion appears to trump science;

Be it resolved that the Agricultural Alliance start to build up the funds of our existing Legal Defense Trust Fund, which was established in 2004 by soliciting funds from companies that support our industry.

Region 2

8. Processing Infrastructure for NB Grown Products

Whereas the Federal and Provincial government is supportive and encouraging of the local food initiative;

Whereas a significant barrier to developing the local food sector and having it available in stores and restaurants is the lack of processing capacity within the province;

Whereas the cost of building processing plants and other necessary infrastructure is not feasible for local producers;

Be it resolved that the Agricultural Alliance of NB lobby the Federal and Provincial government to develop proper processing infrastructure for our agriculture products in NB to ensure we have the capacity to meet the increases in local food demand, extend the longevity of our product and pursue more value-added opportunities.

Region 3

9. Industry/ Government Public Trust Provincial Communication Plan

Whereas there is a lack of education and a great deal of misinformation regarding agricultural practices;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries has the agricultural knowledge, facts and resources to counter these concerns raised by the public;

Be it resolved that the Agricultural Alliance of NB work together with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries and the provincial commodity organizations to develop a communication plan to counter misinformation against agricultural practices when they are publicized and develop a proactive communication plan to help educate the public about our industries.

Region 3

10. Agriculture Operation Practices Act

Whereas many provinces have legislation in place to protect agriculture and farming for those using normal farming practices, such as the province of Ontario has the Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFP-PA);

Whereas the province of New Brunswick has a very similar piece of legislation called the Agriculture Operation Practices Act (AOPA) to protect agriculture and farming for those using acceptable farming practices;

Whereas municipalities and/or Local Service Districts in NB have and are attempting to introduce bylaws which would/could curtail or restrict normal/acceptable farming practices;

Be it resolved that the Government of New Brunswick amend the Agriculture Operation Practices Act to include a clause which emphatically states that NO MUNICIPAL BY-LAW OR LOCAL SERVICE DISTRICTS (LSDs) RESTRICTIONS APPLIES TO RESTRICT AN ACCEPTABLE FARM PRACTICE CARRIED ON AS PART OF AN AGRICULTURAL OPERATION, similar to the Ontario Farm and Food Production Protection Act.

Region 1,2,3,4, 5 & 6

Ag Alliance Annual General Meeting 2020

Save the date! January 14th & 15th, 2021

January 17th, 2020 Award Winners



Ag Education
Ambassador Award
Tamara Sealy Presented
by Christian Michaud



Hospitality Ambassador
Mike Slocum Presented by
Christian Michaud



Innovation Award André &
Éric Côté Presented by
Angie Brewer



James Robb Award Phil
Parlee Presented by
Christian Michaud



New Entrant Award Scott &
Lindy Brown Presented by
Angie Brewer

Associate Members



Pour l'amour du
Nouveau-Brunswick.



Énergie NB Power



Board of Directors 2020

Executive Committee

Lisa Ashworth, President David Goodine, Treasurer
Marc Ouellet, 1st VP Joan Duivenvoorden, Secretary
Robert Bourgeois, 2nd VP

Regional Representatives

Marc Ouellet	Linda Walker
Joan Duivenvoorden	Paul Vienneau
Wendy Omvlee	Roy Etheridge
Robert Bourgeois	Eric Walker
Jean-François Michaud	Lisa Ashworth
Maurice Castonguay	David Goodine
Alarie Lebreton	

Staff

Anna Belliveau, Chief Exe. Officer	Camille Coulombe, EFP
Nicole Arseneau, Office Manager	& Communications
Pam Walton, Office Assistant	John Russell, EFP
	Stéphane Sirois, Ag in the Classroom

Contact us:

2-150 Woodside Lane, Fredericton, NB, E3C 2R9
Phone: (506) 452-8101
Email: alliance@fermenbfarm.ca
Website: www.fermeNBfarm.ca

New Brunswick Ag Event Calendar

Thank you to all who have submitted events or activities to our provincial Event Calendar so far. These efforts help the public understand the work that farmers and agricultural groups do to sustain a healthy agricultural sector in the province. If you have a virtual public event coming up, send it our way and we will add it to our calendar. Feel free to share these events on your social media and with your members. Public calendar link:
<https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/events/calendar/>

Proposal to manage the maple syrup bushes in New Brunswick for better carbon sequestration

In New Brunswick, maple syrup Industry is concentrated in the Northwest region. According to Statistics Canada, in 2016, sales of sugar maple products totaled \$ 25.6 million. With this production and its 2.3 million taps, New Brunswick won the bronze medal behind the two biggest players in the world, Quebec and the United States of America respectively. However, it should be noted that, despite growing demand internationally, only 8% of Crown land in the Province is affected by this production of liquid gold. The balance of the area planted with sugar maples about 92% is exploiting by the forest industry through clearcut harvest. This way of proceeding reduces enormously the resource and the future regeneration of native species. Thus, we are certain that by proposing new tracks likely to strengthen the development of sugar bushes for better carbon sequestration, the Province will be a winner by allocating more Crown land to this flourishing sugar industry. This initiative will allow New Brunswick to improve not only its rank in terms of syrup production, but also its position in the net reduction of greenhouse gases annually. Moreover, we know that a better management of the resources will obviously lead to an increase in the potential for carbon sequestration by sugar bushes. These interventions will therefore pave the way for maple syrup growers to sell carbon credits annually to other sectors that emit them into the air.

With this in mind, starting in 2020, the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association will experiment with various types of management on different maple plots for a period of 5 years. This study will be conducted by the CCNO Coordinator on sugar bushes located in Saint-Quentin, Rivière-Verte and Saint-François. According to this study, the Province will have convincing information likely to strengthen the protection of maple sugar material, reduce its global carbon emission annually and allow it to play the role of world leader. Since the literature review so far shows that no gender study has yet been carried out. Note that this study will be made possible through an envelope granted by the New Brunswick Environment Trust Fund (ETF). Special thanks are extended to the NB Agricultural Alliance and the New Brunswick Maple Syrup Association for their support in this endeavor.

Jean-Mars Jean-François, P.Ag. M.Sc.
NWNO Coordinator

Spring greetings,

Well springtime is here, plows are in the fields, planters are being serviced, and the excitement of a new year of growth is upon us. As we all know this spring has been trying, frustrating, and tough on farmers and our families. However, let's all take time to reflect and consider how fortunate and blessed we are to live in New Brunswick and all the many benefits we have that other places can only hope for!

There have been some changes at NB Soil and Crop over the last few months as well. Firstly, John Best has resigned from the NBSCIA board. John has recently acquired a dairy farm and all of us want to congratulate him on chasing his dreams and making them a reality. John is appreciated by not only our board, but by our members!

Secondly, as you all know Leigha has also moved in her career and has accepted a new job with DAAF. We would like to congratulate her and wish her well in all her future endeavors! Everyone should also know the incredible amount of hard work and dedication that Leigha has put into NBSCIA over the past few years! Congratulations Leigha!

Third, we have also now hired our new General Manager, Ray Carmichael and a new position of Assistant General Manager Zoshia Fraser. This decision to have an assistant general manager was made to help with succession planning at NBSCIA. These two people have accepted the responsibility of moving our organization forward through what I'm sure will be some interesting times. We will continue to do the work we have always done for our members at NBSCIA and we will be expanding our work to also provide necessary support to our growing horticulture industry. The government has already made clear that food security will be a top priority for the future and we want to help lead the charge ensuring that all New Brunswickers will have safe, locally grown food from right here at home! Part of providing more food for people is of course working with food safety programs. We are happy to share today that our Coordinators have received training on CanadaGAP and are available to help you prepare for your audit.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank Dave Walker for his outstanding service as our interim Manager over the past few months. Dave will be staying on as our research coordinator and will continue to fill in as Central Club Co-Ordinator until we have hired a new individual for this position.

We are excited about the future of NBSCIA and I am hoping that we will hear from our members with new ideas and initiatives that will help all of us to grow a stronger, more sustainable agriculture industry, which will provide for our farm families and all our neighbours.

Warmest Regards and best wishes for a safe planting season,

Andrew Lovell
President New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association



Feature article

Canadian farmland values continue to soften amid uncertainty, FCC reports

The average value of Canadian farmland increased by 5.2 per cent in 2019, the smallest increase over the past decade, according to the latest FCC Farmland Values Report.

The 2019 increase follows gains of 8.4 and 6.6 per cent in 2017 and 2018, respectively, and becomes part of a five-year trend of softening growth in average farmland values.

In New Brunswick, average farmland values increased by 17.2 per cent in 2019, following gains of 1.8 per cent in 2018 and 5.8 per cent in 2017.

The days of sharp increases in farmland values continue to be replaced by more modest growth. Changes in commodity prices, uncertainty around global trade and some challenging weather conditions may be tapping the brakes on an otherwise healthy and robust Canadian agriculture industry.

The highest provincial increases in 2019 were observed in two of the Atlantic provinces: Prince Edward Island with an average increase of 22.6 per cent and New Brunswick with an average increase of 17.2 per cent.

Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan reported average increases slightly above the national average at 6.7, 6.4 and 6.2 per cent, respectively, while British Columbia was closest to the national average at 5.4 per cent. Manitoba, Alberta and Nova Scotia had average increases below the national average at four, 3.3 and 1.2 per cent, respectively.

Increases in farmland values reported across the country are as wide and varied as the factors that may have influenced them. Average farmland values have increased every year since 1993; however, increases were more pronounced from 2011 to 2015 in many different regions. Since then, Canada has seen more moderate single-digit increases in average farmland values.

The COVID-19 pandemic makes the current economic environment challenging for farm operations and business owners throughout the entire food value chain.

Given the uncertainty, I expect farmers, ranchers and food processors to continue being careful with their investments and I encourage producers to have and maintain a risk management plan that considers a broad range of possible economic changes, such as variable production, volatile commodity prices or disruptions to

This year's Farmland Values Report reflects factors that influenced average land values and prices in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Any impact from the pandemic will be captured in future reports.

Jean-Philippe Gervais, PhD
Vice-president and chief agricultural economist
Farm Credit Canada



COVID-19: What workers and employers need to know

WorkSafeNB strongly encourages all New Brunswick workplaces to follow the advice of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick related to offering essential services, self-isolation, travel, and avoiding workplaces if symptomatic. Together, we can flatten the curve.

Check this web page regularly for new information to help New Brunswick workers and employers.

<https://www.worksafenb.ca/safety-topics/covid-19/covid-19-what-workers-and-employers-need-to-know/>



Solar Assessments

What Can Solar Do For Your Farm?

OPTION ONE

FREE

- Virtual Solar Model
- Cost Estimate
- Funding Opportunities

OPTION TWO

\$500

- Option One PLUS
- Site Evaluation
- Comprehensive Energy Forecast
- Electrical Infrastructure Review
- Firm Quote

OPTION THREE

\$2,500

- Option Two PLUS
- Comprehensive Financial Analysis
- Detailed Investment Report
- Engineered Drawings

Farmers of the FLIP Program may be eligible for up to 35-50% in rebates through the CAP Program for Solar Assessments and Installations*

*Subject to approval by CAP



506-849-3001 nick@smart-energy.ca