



REPORTING DOCUMENT 2022

LOBBYING

<p>Monthly meetings with various Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) representatives to discuss ongoing and new projects.</p>	<p>Agriculture NB (AANB, National Farmers Union-NB and Really Local Harvest) had a joint Press Release against Bill-75, an amendment to the Mining Act which would give prospectors leave to go on private or farm land without permission. An Open Letter was then sent to Premier Higgs, with 46 signatures on it. This letter was read at the Legislature, where the Bill was then sent to the Law Amendment Committee to be examined more closely. The Bill has not come up again. No consultations were made with industry prior to the Bill coming out.</p>
<p>Regular meetings with Minister Johnson (DAAF) and other agricultural stakeholders to discuss issues of importance.</p>	
<p>AANB took part in the Farm Land Identification Program (FLIP) consultations, which were held by DAAF. Members were asked for their comments and these were forwarded to the Department.</p>	
<p>The AANB Chairs a Trespass Committee with representatives from DAAF, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development (DNRED), the Department of Justice and Public Safety (DJPS), and the NB Federation of Woodlot Owners. Amendments to the Trespass Act were sent to the three different departments in June, 2021. Four follow-up letters were sent. We received a response in October 2022 stating that the responsibility for the file was now in the hands of another Minister at DJPS to follow up with an appropriate course of action. A meeting was held in December 2022 with representatives from DAAF. They are working with DJPS and DNRED to work on the recommended amendments to the Act.</p>	<p>A letter was sent to Federal Minister Bibeau asking for assistance for farmers due to the rising cost of inputs on the farm. AANB had asked the membership for written statements on how these issues were affecting their farms. We received many responses, and these were also added to the letter. In her letter of response, she said that farmers have access to the Advanced Payment Program, and she mentioned the suite of business risk management programs, including AgriInvest and AgriInsurance.</p>
<p>After meeting with Minister Johnson in 2021, under CAP funding, a new Agriculture in the Classroom (AIC) Manager was hired and shortly after a AIC coordinator.</p>	<p>The Department of Environment and Local Government released Drafts of Statements of Public Interest (SPI) which are Regulations supposed to protect farm and forestry practices within the new municipalities being created in January 2023. With our partners at Farms and Forests NB, we held a meeting with Minister Allain from the Department to express our concerns that the SPIs would not protect farms and forestry activities from bylaws that could be passed by the new municipalities. The Department recognizes this and is working to solve the issue.</p>
<p>----- A process improvement exercise, led by a DAAF facilitator, was started in January 2022 in order to stream line the process by which producers can access the program. Producers were also part of these meetings, as were representatives from DAAF and DNRED. The exercise ended in May and the improved program is expected to launch in 2023.</p>	
<p>Worked with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DTI) to implement the Designated Roads Program and Non-Designated Roads Program.</p>	<p>A joint letter was sent by our Farms and Forests NB coalition to the Mayor of Miramichi regarding a by-law that was on the table which would have severely impacted private woodlot owners (which many producers have). The by-law was not passed.</p>
<p>A letter was sent to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada regarding the Federal Strategy to reduce fertilizer usage by 30% from the 2020 level by 2030. We stressed that this should not become mandatory, and that there should be an</p>	

educational piece, with a pool of funding to help farmers transition into new and improved management practices.		
MEMBER SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, PROGRAMS and PROJECTS	PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNICATIONS
The AgriNB website is up and running and now includes additional components such as HR tools for farmers, immigration processes, training and development resources and industry contacts.	The Agriculture Workforce Development Strategy is still ongoing. Jessica McKenna, our coordinator, continues to work with producers and stakeholders to address the labor shortage in agriculture. The steering committee meets regularly to help guide Jessica with priorities under the Strategy.	Member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.
Hosted three webinars by The Smart Energy Company about renewable energy resources for members		Letters of support were written for CCNB-INOV, the Maple Syrup Association of NB and NetZero Atlantic for various projects. AANB was part of the process improvement project for the Nuisance Deer Program
Staff work with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on the non-designated road program. There is only \$100,000 allocated to this program per year. We had asked for more but were denied this request.	AANB is a stakeholder in the DAAF Self-Sufficiency Action Plan, and is involved in several of the pillars under the plan, including the Local Food and Beverage Strategy, Education and Training, and Labour Needs.	Member of the Atlantic Federation of Agriculture (AFA).
Members Benefits ongoing for the 2022-2023 year	Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) – Charlotte Flores is Manager of AIRC and Michelle Landry is the coordinator. They have expanded the programming vastly and growth is expected during the next 5 years. There is also a new AIRC-NB website.	Atlantic Veterinary College representation on the Advisory Council.
Sent out Newsletters and E-Activity reports to members, commodity groups and industry partners.		Member of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) and representation on their Board of Directors.
Mulch program was redesigned in order to alleviate staff time and streamline the process for producers.	A new Shared Workforce project is being led by Jimmy Alam and continue into the next few years. The project will match farms and workers, who will be able to move from farm to farm. The logistics of the project are currently being examined.	Prepared and sent E-activity reports and bi-annual newsletters to members, commodity groups and industry partners.
		Hosted Advisory Commodity Group- the group met on two occasions (April & September).
Promoted courses, training and events in our communications, website and activity reports.	A new Mental Health and Farm Safety Program for NB is currently being worked on in with the National Farmers Union in NB, Really Local Harvest, and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.	AANB is part of the Advisory Committee at CCNB-INOV
Organized the Atlantic Open Farm Day event in New Brunswick in collaboration with the other Atlantic Provinces.	AANB applied and were selected to lead Phase 2 of the Federal Agriculture Climate Solutions project. Cedric McLeod is our coordinator on this project.	Part of the committee on the Local Food & Beverage Strategy lead by DAAF.
Provided a Canada GAP workshop in April 2022		Member of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Association (CASA) and representation on their Board of Directors.
Trespass signs are still available at \$5.00 each at the Alliance office in Fredericton.	The AANB continues to deliver the Environmental Farm Plan. The new Online Environmental Farm Plan was launched at a Press Conference held in October. The Online EFP can be used on computers, tablets and phones making it easier for farmers to use	Three different easement permits requests were sent to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in order to allow the companies in question to import products that they needed for their operations.

Staff work with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on the designated roads program. No set funding is allocated to this program.

A new sponsorship package was launched in the Spring with a streamlined process and more value at each level.

Social Media- promoting facts and a positive image of the agricultural industry on AANB's Facebook page, which now has 2,771 followers.