

## Highlights

- \*\* *President's Message- Michael Bouma*
- \*\* *Open Farm Day*
- \*\* *Issues Update*
- \*\* *What's New*
- \*\* *Environmental Farm Plan*
- \*\* *2016 Annual General Meeting awards winners*
- \*\* *Board of Directors 2016*
- \*\* *Associate Members program*

## President's Message



Michael Bouma, President, AANB

Greetings Fellow Farmers,

Well, the 2015 year is now behind us and a brand new year lays ahead. For those of you who attended our AGM in January, I think you may agree that many tasks were worked on by the Alliance with vigor and some with a good measure of success. I have been told by my wife frequently that I'm way too optimistic but is that not the very nature of those of us who farm? We plan, speculate, invest and work for the betterment of our particular farms and industry, both for the short and long term. Here at the Agricultural Alliance this same culture of planning for a brighter future for farmers in New Brunswick is alive and well.

A whole new set of objectives were identified by our members through various resolutions passed at the AGM including attempting to get more parity in farm plated vehicle registration fees compared to our provincial neighbors including the ability to register online and broaden the definition of a farm eligible vehicle with a knowledgeable staff in Fredericton. While the provincial government has identified and committed to building an agricultural land and topsoil preservation act by next winter, there were several resolutions which once again put an emphasis on this very important issue. Labour shortages in primary agriculture is a growing issue with nearly 60 000 positions unfilled in Canada. This results in 1.5 billion lost GDP potential for the nation and unfilled trade allocations to our various partners. A resolution was passed to attempt help farmers fill part time positions with retirees who may like to pick up some extra cash without hurting their guaranteed income supplement or incurring any penalties. We've also met with NB Power on the proposed Mactaquac dam route so as to disturb as little farm land as possible including the use of spent concrete as an erosion control material on sensitive areas of the river.

The Alliance is also working on the development of the NB Agri-Management Services branch to help some of the smaller commodities achieve greater cost savings, program development and overall structure. It is our hope to have this particular organization rolled out in the very near future.

We continue to work on the completion of the 2016-2018 Agricultural Action Plan with committees being tasked to each work on one of the 8 main actions and a final report should be drafted by fall. We've also met with the Department of Education on Agriculture in the classroom with the support of the Department Agriculture with some positive feedback but nothing set in stone as of yet. These are but a few of the various activities being undertaken and we will continue to address many more before year end.

Here's hoping that our unusual winter results in a banner summer for agriculture. I'm sure there will be some winners and others that will face challenges but we farmers are a resilient bunch, and if there is a will, there is a way. Happy Farming everyone and two hairy thumbs up.

Cheers,

Mike Bouma

## NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

### AGRIDISCOVERY & AGRIMENTOR

We are now seeking the assistance of qualified individuals willing to mentor individuals contemplating entering our industry and new entrants to offer them firsthand knowledge of our sector.

Contact our office at (506) 452-8101 for further program details



## Open Farm Day 2016

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's 2016 Open Farm Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to fill out the **application form enclosed** and become part of this fantastic event.

## **Issues Update:**

### **1. 2016-2018 Agriculture Industry Action Plan**

In order to continue the effort taken since the 2008 Agriculture Summit, a meeting was held in October 2015, with commodity group and government representatives, as observers, to develop a two year action plan based on a similar model that has proven itself with the fishery industry. Hon. Rick Doucet, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries, and Mike Bouma, Alliance's President, opened the meeting and the day was facilitated by a consultant to narrow down the number of priorities and place them in order of importance.

The identified priorities with specific actions for each were:

- Agriculture Land Policy;
- Market Development;
- Attracting/Supporting New Entrants & Attracting Youth to the Sector
- Technology & Innovation;
- Training & Education;
- Support in Production Infrastructure; and
- Crop & Livestock Diversity

Working groups composed of industry and government representatives were established at the last Advisory Commodity Group meeting in April and will begin addressing the action items found under the first four priorities classified as high priorities.

**Please contact our office to obtain a copy of the action plan.**

### **2. 2015-2016 Resolutions**

**Whereas** N.B. Agricultural Alliance members should have first chance at the product;

**Whereas** The N.B. Forestry Strategy Plan produces wood ash as a by-product and that all New Brunswick Agricultural producers should have first priority to N.B. produced wood ash;

**Be it resolved** that the Alliance consult the proper channels to ensure that all N.B. orders get first priority through an order desk managed by the distribution broker for all ash producers.

**Whereas** The Mactaquac dam will be under construction starting 2019 (projected);

**Whereas** the road now crossing the dam will be moved to another route and have 4 different routes suggested;

**Be it resolved** That the Alliance lobby NB Power to ensure that the proposed Mactaquac dam route disturb farm land as little as possible.

**Whereas** the Agricultural Insurance Program has not been updated for some commodities since 1993;

**Whereas** new technologies, Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) and improved varieties of crops have been developed since;

**Be it resolved** that the Alliance work with government to enhance, improve, and update the N.B. Agricultural Insurance Program.

**Whereas** labour shortage issues are a reality for many agricultural operations;

**Whereas** a lot of retirees would work if they did not lose their supplement;

**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the proper government agencies to provide changes to allow agricultural producers to access the local labour force without affecting their Guaranteed Income Supplement or incurring any penalties.

**Whereas** the current Agricultural Land Protection and Development Protection Act is well written and has the potential to provide the necessary provincial level plan to keep agricultural land in agricultural production; and

**Whereas** three sections of this Act have not yet been proclaimed making the Agricultural Land Protection and Development Act ineffective, leaving farm land vulnerable to many other interests and unavailable to agricultural producers limiting growth;

**Be it resolved** that the Agricultural Alliance of N.B. lobby the government of N.B. to proclaim the remaining sections of the Agricultural Land Protection and Development Act.

**Whereas** the definition for top soil has not been properly established therefore allowing a loophole for other interested parties to strip valuable agricultural land;

**Whereas** it takes a millennium to develop a proper top soil layer necessary for growing crops;

**Whereas** the availability of agricultural land impacts the possibility of growth of a farm business;

**Be it resolved** that the Agricultural Alliance of N.B. lobby the government to properly define top soil as the land necessary to grow crops on from the surface to the bedrock.

**Whereas** food production depends on climate and availability of soils capable of supporting agriculture and no plant life is possible without topsoil;

**Whereas** it takes centuries to form 1" of topsoil naturally and 25 billion tonnes of topsoil are lost annually due to wind and water erosion, urban sprawl, transportation infrastructure and pollution;

**Whereas** crop requirements will double by the middle of the century;

**Be it resolved** that the NB government puts in place a strict topsoil conservation law and enforces it, that the government sits down with farm organizations to determine how to protect good farm land for future and new farmers and that government invests in improving and expanding our present farms.

**Whereas** farm vehicle registration cost in PEI is only \$100.00 regardless of size for the life of the vehicle, even resulting in a refund of \$10.00 for every year the vehicle is retired or sold before 10 years is up and in NS costs are 0-3200 kg at \$11.95 to 62,001-62,500 kg at \$436.95 vs. in NB 0-1000 kg at \$27.00 to 62,001 – 62,500 kg at \$1675.00, leaving us at a huge competitive disadvantage;

**Whereas** registration fees of farm vehicles is not allowed on a monthly basis as is the case for commercial vehicles;

**Whereas** farm vehicles cannot be registered online like in other jurisdictions and there is no knowledgeable person available with authority to decide what qualifies as a farm vehicle, leaving us at the mercy of what is in a computer;

**Be it resolved that the Alliance lobby** the NB government be asked to immediately allow farm vehicle registration on a monthly basis, like commercial vehicles

**Be it further resolved** that online registration is made available, that a roll-back of fees is started to harmonize with other maritime provinces and make a person available capable of determining what qualifies as a farm vehicle.

### **3. Meeting with Roger Robichaud and Cathy Larochelle, Assistant Deputy Ministers for Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries (DAAF)**

The Alliance's Board of Directors met with Roger and Cathy in late April to bring our 2015-2016 resolutions to the Department's attention. In addition, the Board pressed the importance of implementing an Agriculture in the Classroom Program, supporting our efforts to provide changes to farm plate registration, and implementing the priorities identified in the 2016-2018 Agriculture Industry Action Plan. We were advised that the consultation for the next Agriculture Policy Framework (e.g. Growing Forward 3) are projected to begin this fall. The Board is overall pleased with the collaboration with the Department received to date on crucial agricultural issues, such as agriculture land preservation and topsoil stripping, to date and will continue our efforts to ensure progress is continuing on a timely manner.

#### **4. New Brunswick Local Food and Beverage Strategy**

The Alliance's Board of Directors met with the DAAF Local Food and Beverage Strategy team members to receive an update on the strategy's development and to provide input. The strategy is expected to be launched later this year and address issues such as consumption, product availability and production. The strategy will be for a 10 year period with an action plan developed every two years. The team agreed that the mentorship and Ag in the Classroom project should be part of the strategy. Directors expressed that distributors' response is consumer driven, that the definition of local food must be uniform across the value chain, and that many successful examples exist within and outside the province that could serve as a guide for the strategy.

#### **5. Department of Environment Water Strategy**

As you may be aware, the Department of Environment & Local Government recently held stakeholders and public consultations to gather input for the development of a NB Water Strategy. Mike Slocum, Alliance director for region 4, and Josée Albert, Alliance CEO, attended one of the sessions. In addition, our Environment Committee prepared a written submission that touched on the following aspects, not limited to: striking a balance to enable agricultural producers to continue providing high quality and safe food while protecting water for generations to come, ensuring sufficient government staff capacity for monitoring and enforcement, addressing future infrastructure challenges as cities and towns continue to expand, focusing on providing expertise assistance during the planning phase of development projects, additional education and financial resources for the implementation of beneficial management practices and exploring the feasibility of implementing an agriculture Goods and Services Program. **Please contact our office to obtain a copy of our submission.**

#### **6. Transportation Related Issues**

To keep the remaining items in the Alliance's farm plate proposal at the forefront to government (reduction in farm plate registration fees, monthly licensing, and online farm plate registration) the Alliance met with Hon. Stephen Horsman, Minister of Public Safety to highlight the significant benefits these changes would give agricultural producers in operating their business, improve competitiveness, create jobs and encourage new entrants in joining the agricultural sector. In addition, we wrote to the Minister following our AGM to bring our farm plate resolution to his attention. The Alliance will continue to press for changes.

The Rural Road Enhancement Pilot project is continuing for a fourth consecutive year. The budget for this year is \$80,000 and is no longer limited to grading and brush cutting on non-designated roads but will also include filling potholes with gravel and gravel loads. **Please contact our office if you would like to add non-designated roads to the list.**

**The Association of Independent Haitian Farmers** is currently seeking operational agricultural equipment that could be donated by New Brunswick producers to bring in Haiti. The Association's goal is to enhance agriculture productivity in Haiti. The Association will be responsible to pick up the equipment. Please contact: [Wilfred Pierre](mailto:Wilfred.Pierre@friptex-recuperations@hotmail.com), Project initiator by phone (506) 253-9507 or by e-mail: [friptex-recuperations@hotmail.com](mailto:friptex-recuperations@hotmail.com)

#### **2016 Agricultural Census**

All Canadian farm operators will receive a letter at the beginning of May 2016 with instructions on how to complete the questionnaire online. Please note that the survey can be filled on paper also.

The online questionnaire will automatically add totals and skip sections that do not apply to the operator's farm. As a result, completing the questionnaire online will be faster and easier and reduce the need to call back farm operators in order to clarify answers. On average, producers should spend 30% less time responding to the 2016 Census of Agriculture compared to when responding to the previous census (2011). Overall, the 2016 questionnaire has 18 fewer questions than it did in 2011.

By law, farmers are required to participate in the Census of Agriculture. By the same law, Statistics Canada is required to protect the information provided in Census of Agriculture questionnaires. Privacy is a fundamental component of the census.

#### **Mentorship Program**

The goal of the program is to assist interested in entering our industry and create a stronger agricultural industry for New Brunswick. The program will be used as an incentive for new and potential farmers to gain information to come to and/or stay in the New Brunswick agricultural industry. The program is made possible through financial assistance from Growing Forward 2.

The program has two elements: **AgriDiscovery and AgriMentor**

**AgriDiscovery** is for individuals who want to explore the possibility of entering the agricultural industry and **AgriMentor** will be for individuals who have completed AgriDiscovery or for new and existing farmers who want to obtain mentorship to further increase their knowledge in business management skills and practices.

**Please contact us if you would like to be on our list as a mentor by phone at (506) 452-8101 or by e-mail:**

[pamela@fermenbfarm.ca](mailto:pamela@fermenbfarm.ca) Remuneration is available for mentors through Growing Forward 2.

#### **New Entrant Roadmap**

In case you missed it, the New Entrant Roadmap is now available on the NB Department of Agriculture website or by calling our office. The document contains the major elements, contact numbers, Acts and Regulations, to name a few that new entrants need to be aware of before beginning farming in NB. The Alliance is really pleased by this initiative undertaken by the Department of Agriculture staff.

<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/10/pdf/Agriculture/FarmingInNewBrunswick-RoadMapForNewEntrants.pdf>

#### **New Incentive**

- **Refer a Producer Incentive-** Individuals recruiting new Alliance members will receive a financial incentive of \$100 per sign up. The new member will need to notify the Alliance they were referred by a fellow producer.
- **Associate Members-** Individuals who successfully close the deal to sign up new Associate Members (Gold, Silver or Bronze) to the Alliance will receive \$250 per new Associate Member.

### **Agricultural Youth GREEN JOBS Initiative**

If you are thinking of an environmental project that you don't have time for, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada recently launched the **Agricultural Youth GREEN JOBS Initiative**, that enable successful applicants to hire agricultural youth graduated from college or university to support the implementation of an environmentally beneficial activity(ies) on the farm.

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/agricultural-youth-green-jobs-initiative/green-farms-stream-1-overview/?id=1459879871410> Eligible projects are approved on a first-come, first-served basis, so you are encouraged to apply early.

### **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)**

If you require assistance updating your plan or preparing your plan for the first time, please contact the Agricultural Alliance office a week or so beforehand at [efp-pfe@fermeNBfarm.ca](mailto:efp-pfe@fermeNBfarm.ca) or 506-452-8101. Environmental Farm Plan personnel expect late June to be in Carleton County, but will be available throughout New Brunswick depending upon requests.

### **New Entrant Award**



Eric Walker, recipient of the New Entrant Award presented by Faith Matchett, Farm Credit Canada

### **Hospitality Ambassador**



Rob English (left) recipient of the Hospitality Ambassador Award presented by Mike Bouma (right), president of the AANB.



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### **2016 Outstanding Young Farmers for Atlantic Region**



First generation producers Andrew and Jennifer Lovell of Keswick Ridge, NB were chosen as the 2016 Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) for the Atlantic region at a recent awards event in Charlottetown, PEI. This is the first time in 15 years that a NB producers has won the award. Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2016 will be chosen at the National Event in Niagara Falls, Ontario from November 29 – December 4, 2016. Congratulations and good luck for the Nationals Andrew and Jennifer!

### **Annual General Meeting - January 2016**

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's Annual General Meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Fredericton, January 21& 22, 2016.

### **James Robb Award**



Gordon Fairchild (left), recipient of the James Robb Award presented by Mike Bouma (right), president of the AANB

### **Innovation Award**



Rock Laforge (left) recipient of the Innovation Award, presented by Sylvain Levasseur (right), Farm Credit Canada

### **Board of Directors 2016**



(Left to right). In the front: Andrew Lovell, Mike Slocum, Samuel Bourgeois, Christian Michaud, Philippe Morin, Paul Vienneau, Lisa Ashworth. In the back: Marc Ouellet, Wendy Omvlee, Mike Bouma, Michel Ross, Jeremy Duplessis, Eric Walker.

### **Executive Committee**

Michael Bouma, President	Mike Slocum, Treasurer
Christian Michaud, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Eric Walker, Secretary
Samuel Bourgeois, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	

### **Staff**

Josée Albert, Chief Exe. Officer	Julian Godin, EFP
Nicole Arseneau, Office Manager	Jean-Mars Jean-Francois, CCNO
Pamela Walton, Office Assistant	Vacant, CCNE
John Russell, EFP	

**Woodash availability-** Several options are available for you if you are looking to obtain woodash:

- Twin Rivers Paper Company Inc.: site located in Edmundston, please contact Stéphanie Cormier for more information on the product by phone at: (506) 473-6661, cellphone: (506) 479-0938 or by e-mail [stephanie@easterngrains.ca](mailto:stephanie@easterngrains.ca) and Jacinthe Roy to arrange transportation and trucking cost by phone: (506) 735-6681 or by e-mail [secretaire@wbvs.ca](mailto:secretaire@wbvs.ca) (please refer to the pdf enclosed for further information)
- Irving: sites located in Saint John, St. Leonard, and Chipman locations please contact Misty Croney with LP Consulting at (902) 256-2638.

## Associate Members

### Gold Level



#### **Build your future with the FCC Young Farmer Loan**

Launched in March 2012, FCC's commitment to the Young Farmer Loan has grown to \$2 billion over four years, with almost 6,000 loans worth more than \$1.3 billion approved, as of Dec. 31, 2015. "FCC is proud to support the next generation of farmers through every stage of their career," FCC President and CEO Michael Hoffort said. "Products like the Young Farmer Loan can make a real difference for producers looking to enter the industry or grow their business."

The Young Farmer Loan provides qualified producers, under age 40, with loans of up to \$500,000 to purchase or improve farmland and buildings. The loan includes variable lending rates at prime plus 0.5 per cent, a special fixed rate if producers choose that avenue of repayment and no loan processing fees.

Shawn Paget, owner of Riverview Farm Corporation, used a Young Farmer Loan three years ago to acquire more land for his Hartland, New Brunswick-area potato farm. "FCC's Young Farmer Loan was exactly what we needed to expand our operations in order to grow a wider variety of cash crops, such as soybeans, corn and cereals," Paget said. "Access to flexible financing is very important when you are starting out or trying to become more established in the industry. It's more than a loan – it's an investment in the future of farming."

Enabling young producers to borrow with no fees at affordable interest rates helps them develop a solid credit history and build their business. "The long-term success of Canadian agriculture relies heavily on our ability to attract and retain young, innovative people to the business of agriculture," said Lawrence MacAulay, minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. "By helping the next generation become established in this vital industry, FCC is fulfilling an important part of its mandate and a key commitment of this government."

To find out more about the demographic impact of young farmers on Canadian agriculture, read the latest Ag Economist blog post at [www.fcc.ca/AgEconomist](http://www.fcc.ca/AgEconomist). The Young Farmer Loan enhances FCC's suite of existing products and services that support young producers, such as the FCC Transition Loan, FCC Ag Knowledge Exchange events, FCC Publications, FCC on Campus, and FCC Management Software for both accounting and field management.

For more information on the FCC Young Farmer Loan, visit [www.fcc.ca/youngfarmerloan](http://www.fcc.ca/youngfarmerloan) or call the local FCC office at 1-800-387-3232. Visit [fcc.ca](http://fcc.ca) or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and on Twitter @FCCagriculture.

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To learn more, please contact:

### **Marty Hall**

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[marty@yorkfinancial.ca](mailto:marty@yorkfinancial.ca)



Important information about these Funds, including their investment objectives and strategies, purchase options, and applicable management fees, performance fees (if any), and expenses, is contained in their prospectus. Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees, performance fees, other charges and expenses all may be associated with investing in the Funds. Please read the prospectus before investing. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

### Bronze level



Rainville Gaz Propane is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the propane industry and has been operating in New Brunswick for the last 8 years at 610 Main Street in Shediac NB formally known as Eastern Propane.

We are pleased to announce that in those 8 years we have had unprecedented growth throughout all of New Brunswick in both residential, commercial, agriculture as well as industrial customers and are getting the reputation in the propane industry for being competitive in our pricing, service and above all reliability.

Our free quote will not cost you anything but not getting one might.

Thank you to our existing customers and feel free to contact us with regards to your propane requirements @ 1-844-296-3045 or visit our web site @ [www.gazpropanerainville.com](http://www.gazpropanerainville.com)

### Friends



**To contact us:** 259 rue Brunswick St. Suite/Pièce 303 Fredericton, NB E3B 1G8 Ph/Tél: 506-452-8101 Fax/Télécopieur: 506-452-1085 email: [alliance@fermeBfarm.ca](mailto:alliance@fermeBfarm.ca) Web Site: [www.fermeNBfarm.ca](http://www.fermeNBfarm.ca)