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## **President's Message**



Michael Bouma, President, AANB

Greetings Fellow Farmers,

Finally the grip of winter is slackening and the promise of better things to come is here. I must confess that springtime is my favorite time of the year. Plans for the upcoming summer pre-occupy my thoughts and the possible positive results that should be achieved by their completion. But the actual work of completing them is often a long hard road and many variables can come into play. This too is very true of the work we do here at the Alliance, the plans and asks of our members will definitely result in a more positive environment for all farmers and consumers alike, the actual process to achieve them however is often a long hard road with many variables. Whenever we consult and work towards resolution of one issue it always seems that another dept or level of Government seems to find ways of causing slippage in the wrong direction. Our provincial government has been more receptive towards real tangible results and changing the status quo for new and potentially positive outcomes. Despite this recent discussions with the Federal government on how can Canada become a larger player in exporting and taking advantage of the need to feed a growing world population we have all sorts of new cost added to our proverbial backs, carbon tax, increased corporate tax, cost recovery by CFIA, increases in labor burden on CPP and EI, proposed license fees for producers selling across provincial borders and increases to minimum wages. It really boggles my mind that a country like Holland which is about half the size of New Brunswick is the number 2 exporter of Agricultural products in the world and Canada sits in the number 5 position, I mean come on really??? Sheer size alone would make you think how is it possible??? But Holland suffered terribly during and after the war with starvation and decided never again, they got so good at it that exporting excess became possible and their government put measures in place for it to thrive. With the right conditions at the Governmental level just imagine the Agricultural potential of our great nation.

Now onto more positive news, we are so very pleased that after 20+ years of pushing by the Alliance for something to be done about the continued loss of Agricultural land, our provincial Government at our AGM announced the adoption of the NB Ag land policy. We understand most of the policy work is now done and the next step is to get it enacted. We continue pushing for it to come to full fruition. We at the Alliance have also been given the green light take the lead in developing and delivering Ag in the classroom with the first classes to be delivered to some schools this fall. We also have helped deliver Canada GAP training and in conjunction with the CCNB coordinated a welding short course for farmers. We have coordinated with our fellow Atlantic federation of Ag to ask for a extension before the implementation of the Safe Food for Canadians act as there seems to be a need for further discussion and input, we are also watching very closely and will be giving input on CFIA's plans for putting cost recovery for their organization squarely on farmers backs. We also are in preliminary discussions for the possible improvement of the rural roads enhancement program. We are also pushing the provincial government to give us an indication on the direction they will take on carbon taxation and at a recent meeting with all the relevant ministers on hand, presented and discussed all of the resolutions passed at our AGM with some very encouraging feedback. There's probably more to add but will stop it there as I'm getting long winded.

I encourage all farmers large and small don't be afraid to contact us or your MLA\MP if you have issue with the way farmers or your specific farms are being treated. The more often the problems we face are brought to the attention of the powers that be the greater the chance of being heard. I have to say as a dairy producer much of the unfounded rhetoric being thrown around by the President of the USA and several of our own politicians towards supply management make my blood boil but all I can do is defend and try to educate the unenlightened. It seems odd that I have to defend my chosen profession from people with full bellies and nothing else better to complain about. Keep on keeping on and two hairy thumbs up.

Sincerely,

Mike Bouma



**OPEN FARM DAY**  
**JOURNÉE AGRICOLE PORTES OUVERTES**

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's 2017 Open Farm Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to contact our office by phone at (506) 452-8101 or by email: [alliance@fermeNBfarm.ca](mailto:alliance@fermeNBfarm.ca) to let us know if you would like to be part of this fantastic event.

## **Issues Update:**

### **1. 2017 Annual General Meeting Resolutions**

The following resolutions passed at the Alliance's Annual General Meeting that took place in January 2017:

**Whereas** the bear population is increasing greatly in N.B.;  
**Whereas** bears do substantial damage to agricultural crops;  
**Whereas** hunting pressure is very light and not lessening the bear population;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the provincial government to have bears added to the wildlife species list found under subsection 5 of section 34(4) of the NB Fish and Wildlife Act that allows private landowners or designate to hunt any day at any time, except during the night that is found under, on or above that private land.

**Whereas** the farm plate registration fees costs are significantly higher compared to the our neighboring provinces;  
**Whereas** a trailer used for farming purposes is exempt from registration when towed by a vehicle registered in the name of a bona fide commercial farmer in Nova Scotia;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the provincial government to use the Maritime average cost for farm plate registration fees instead of the current rates;  
**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance lobby the provincial government to change our current trailer registration rules to the ones in Nova Scotia.

**Whereas** the Rural Road Enhancement Pilot Project annual budget is minimal and restricted to non-designated roads;  
**Whereas** the communications between producers and Department of Transportation & Infrastructure staff is sometimes difficult;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance press the provincial government to increase the project's budget and include resources roads utilized by producers for agriculture related activities;  
**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance request that the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries assign staff to act as liaison between producers and Department of Transportation & Infrastructure staff.

**Whereas** the AgriStability and AgriInvest programs better corresponded to producers needs under Growing Forward 1;  
**Whereas** the AgriStability payment triggers under Growing Forward were at 85% and have been reduced to 70% under Growing Forward 2;  
**Whereas** the AgriInvest program is an integral component of an effective business risk management tool but is experiencing a low uptake in NB and Canada due to the current allowable net sales at 1%;  
**Whereas** the programs does not include the cost of hiring professional assistance for applications as an allowable expenses;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobbies the government to bring back the payment triggers to 85% under AgriStability and that the allowable net sales contributions be increased to 1.5% under AgriInvest under the Next Policy Framework.  
**Be it further resolved** that the cost of hiring professional help to apply for the programs be included as an allowable expense.

**Whereas** the provincial government is attempting to make changes to the Employment Standards Act;  
**Whereas** some of the proposed changes, if implemented, will be detrimental to our sector;  
**Whereas** it is already a struggle to find and keep employees;  
**Be it resolved** that the Agricultural Alliance of N.B. lobby the government to keep the Employment Standards Act as it is.

**Whereas** producers are faced with significant challenges in hiring and retaining employees;

**Whereas** A large proportion of hired individuals are not familiar with the job requirements and do not have the basic knowledge required for working on farms;

**Be it resolved** that the Alliance partner with key stakeholders to develop the curriculum for a short course that could be delivered in high schools and community college to help individuals be more prepared to work on farms and more likely to stay once hired.

**Whereas** the Energy East Pipeline will have significant economic returns for our province;  
**Whereas** the pipeline should drive employment and food sales in the local region;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance supports the project while ensuring that producers and landowners are treated fairly and equitably and not held liable for any situation arising from the pipeline.

**Whereas** the Federal government recently announced that it will give until 2018 for provinces to adopt a carbon pricing scheme or it will impose a price for them;  
**Whereas** Canada's targets are to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030;  
**Whereas** producers are price takers and cannot pass the cost to consumers;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the government to ensure farmers are properly and fairly compensated for the work that is done to help the environment.

**Whereas** hunting or trespassing occurs frequently on farm property;  
**Whereas** farmland should be considered private property;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the government to change the regulations to require a written consent from the producer/landowner to enter farmland and that entering without a written consent be illegal.

**Whereas** New Brunswick producers are prevented from operating at the same level economic playing field compared to producers in other provinces;  
**Whereas** New Brunswick should strive to increase its revenues and the agriculture sector already plays a significant role;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the New Brunswick government to obtain similar programs/support as other provinces to enable our sector to be competitive.

**Whereas** the carbon tax will affect all inputs on the farm;  
**Whereas** margins on most farms are thin;  
**Whereas** most farms have no means to pass extra cost on;  
**Whereas** Canadian beef, as an example, has one of the lowest greenhouse gas footprint per unit of production in the world, less than half of the average and that the land used for cattle stores 1.5 billion tonnes of carbon in addition to the carbon stored in trees on farms;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the provincial government to protect all primary agricultural production from the negative effects of the carbon tax.

**Whereas** the Agriculture Land Enhancement Program in New Brunswick does not provide sufficient funds to meet the industry needs;  
**Whereas** the project's approval are often not provided at the optimum time for land clearing activities;  
**Be it resolved** that the Alliance lobby the government to increase the resources for this program and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries develop a better approval system to approve projects in time to coincide with land development activities.

### **Motion on Farmland Investment Funds :**

That the Agricultural Alliance N.B. lobby the government to put in place laws preventing farmland investment funds the right to buy farmland in N.B. thus insuring the stability and sustainability of future generation of farmers. And that the alliance works with the government to insure that farmland currently owned by Farmland Investment Funds remains available to NB farmers.

## **2. Meeting with Provincial Ministers to Address the AANB 2017 Resolutions**

In order to address our resolutions in an efficient matter and to enable all the Departments that are affiliated with the issues, the Alliance's Executive met with the following Department representatives (Ministers and/or Deputy Ministers) in April: Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries, Education & Early Childhood Development, Justice & Public Safety, Post-Secondary, Training & Labour, Transportation & Infrastructure and the community colleges. The meeting was very positive, provide an excellent opportunity for the attendees to be made aware of agriculture related issues and will provide for better collaboration among the Alliance and the various Departments. A request for a separate meeting the Minister of Environment & Local Government will be made since he was not available to attend.

## **3. Ag in the Classroom**

The first official meeting of the Ag in the Classroom steering committee took place in early April. The committee is composed of representatives from the Alliance, Education & Early Childhood Development, Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries, Social Development, 4H and Nutrients for Life. Our first meeting was very successful and the group will soon be looking at finding an individual to assume the role of the program's coordinator.

## **4. Changes to the Wetland and Watercourse Alteration (WAWA) Permit Definition**

The Alliance and the NB Private Woodlot Owners met with representatives from the Department of Environment Local & Government in March to discuss the changes with the definition of a watercourse under the WAWA permits. For administration purposes the Department has changed its definition to be in line with the requirements on Crown Lands.

It was confirmed that the exemptions for agriculture will remain in place, that enforcement will be based on what's on the ground vs what is on the map, that this change does not in any way changed the enforcement of other Acts and Regulations such as the Fisheries Act, and that they will be an education phase.

The Alliance is currently working with the Department to develop a fact sheet explaining in further details what these changes entails and will be with NB Soil and Crop Improvement Association to organize field days with Department representatives.

**In the meantime, if you are unsure if an activity requires a permit or not, please contact your regional Department of Environment and Local Government office.**

Bathurst- (506) 547-2092

Fredericton (506-453-2838

Grand Falls (506) 473-7744

Miramichi (506) 778-6032

Moncton (506) 856-2374

Saint John (506) 658-2558

## **5. Rural Road Enhancement Pilot Project**

The Rural Road Enhancement Pilot project is continuing for a fifth consecutive year. The project 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.**

## **6. Next Policy Framework Provincial Consultations**

The current Growing Forward 2 agreement will come to an end on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018. The Alliance has been provided input at both the provincial and federal level for the next suite of programs that will make up the next policy framework.

Our submission can be found on our website [www.fermenbfarm.ca](http://www.fermenbfarm.ca) Alliance representatives will be participating, among with other commodity groups and agriculture stakeholders, on upcoming provincial consultations specific on non-Business Risk Management. If you have recommendations or if you feel we fogot an important element in our submission we would appreciate if you could let out office staff know.

## **7. Atlantic Federation Meeting with Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister**

While in Ottawa, for the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting, Atlantic Federations representatives met with Hon. MacAulay to address issues impacting the Atlantic provinces. Among the topics were: strenghtening the AgriStalibility and other Business Risk Management programs for the next policy framework, the importance of the AgriMarketing program and the public trust portfolio.



## **8. New Co-operative to distribute local food to New Brunswick Schools-**

*Article published in the Sackville Tribune on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2017*

A total of \$273,000 has been allocated for a co-operative that is being established under the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries' Local Food and Beverages Strategy. Co-operation Agri-food NB is made up of non-profit organizations, including the Alliance, representing farmers and food service providers in public institutions. Its primary objective is to have more local food served in public institutions, beginning with school cafeterias.

The Local Food and Beverages Strategy, which was launched last fall, includes a three-pronged approach to local food promotion: increased awareness of local food, increased availability of local food, and improved support for local producers. The co-operative's work will address all three components.

"The local food co-operative will address many of the logistical issues, like storage, transportation and economies of scale, that have prevented school cafeterias from serving local food in a cost-effective way," said Doucet.

Much of New Brunswick's produce comes into season during the summer months when school is not in session. This seed funding will help the co-operative buy equipment to facilitate the storage, preservation and distribution of local food so it can be served throughout the school year. "With combined purchasing power, increased storage capacity and the right equipment to preserve local produce, the co-operative can work towards the government's goal of having at least 30 per cent of the food served in school cafeterias come from local sources," said Marc Allain, founding member of Co-operation Agri-food NB.

## **9. Agriculture Listing Website**

The Alliance, with financial assistance from Growing Forward 2, is undertaking the efforts of establishing an online listing website to provide new entrants with information on the farms for sale, agricultural land for sale or for lease and other important information. We are seeking your help to begin collecting this information while we develop the website. **Please complete the survey enclosed and return by mail or by fax or online via our website.**

### **Good news! Agricultural Youth GREEN JOBS Initiative**

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative has been approved for a 2 year period. Applications will be accepted starting April 26, 2017. For an application form and more details on the program, please visit:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/agricultural-youth-green-jobs-initiative/?id=1459879253586>

The program is designed to hire youth aged 15 to 30 for internships of up to 12 months. It will be of interest to producers and organizations working in the agriculture industry and interested in implementing agriculture projects that are environmentally beneficial. **Producers** operating a farm or ranch can hire a young person to implement an environmentally beneficial project in their operation.

### **Important Information on Controlling Nuisance Wildlife (message on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources)**

Where necessary to prevent damage to private property or injury to owners of private property or owners or occupants of private land, the Fish and Wildlife Act has a section that allows private landowners or occupants of private land or their designates to, without permits or licenses, hunt, on any day and at any time, except during the night, or trap, snare, remove or relocate on any day and at any time, any of the 35 wildlife species listed below that is found under, on or above that private land.

The wildlife that may be hunted, trapped, snared, removed or relocated under this section consists: of American crow, beaver, black rat, brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, deer mouse, double-crested cormorant, eastern chipmunk, eastern coyote, eastern flying squirrel, European starling, grey squirrel, groundhog, house mouse, house sparrow, long-tailed weasel, meadow jumping mouse, meadow vole, mink, muskrat, northern flying squirrel, Norway rat, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, red squirrel, red-backed vole, red-winged blackbird, rock dove, rock vole, short-tailed weasel, star-nosed mole, striped skunk, varying hare or woodland-jumping mouse.

If landowners do not wish to control any of these wildlife species themselves, the landowner may contract the services of a licensed Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) who is licensed by the Department of Natural Resources to provide control services to the public for these 35 wildlife species in exchange for a fee paid by the client. The list of NWCO can be accessed here:

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural\\_resources/wildlife/content/NuisanceWildlifeControlOperatorsByRegion.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural_resources/wildlife/content/NuisanceWildlifeControlOperatorsByRegion.html)

**For control actions against wildlife other than the 35 species listed above**, such as **turkey**, bear, raven, bobcat, hawks, owls, etc., the landowner needs to acquire a Nuisance Animal Control Permit from a local district office of the Department of Natural Resources. The contact information for local district offices can be found here:

[http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural\\_resources/Regions.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/natural_resources/Regions.html). Private landowners do not require either a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator's License or a Varmint Hunting License to control turkey, bear, raven, bobcat, hawks, owls, etc., causing agricultural damage. Nuisance Animal Control Permits are usually valid for a period of 2 weeks (it can be renewed if circumstances warrant) and it has a mandatory reporting requirement. The permit will establish the type of damage being suffered by the producer; who is authorized to undertake the control action; where the control action can take place (the Parcel Identifier numbers – PIDs); as well as the control method/firearms approved for use. A standard condition would be to forfeit any nuisance wildlife killed to the local DNR District Office. The authorizing Conservation Officer can also establish additional terms and conditions on the permit if he/she determines it to be merited.

### **Annual General Meeting - January 2017**

The Agricultural Alliance of NB's Annual General Meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Fredericton, January 19 & 20, 2017.

#### **James Robb Award**



Kevin McCully (right), recipient of the James Robb Award presented by Andrew Lovell (left), director, AANB Board of Directors

#### **Innovation Award**



Samuel Bourgeois (right) recipient of the Innovation Award, presented by Jay Labonte (left), Farm Credit Canada

#### **New Entrant Award**



Ryan Taylor & Robyn McCallum (left), recipients of the New Entrant Award presented by David Brennan (right), Farm Credit Canada

#### **Hospitality Ambassador Award**



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

### 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 May and early June to be in Madawaska, Victoria, and Carleton County, but will be available throughout New Brunswick depending upon requests. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Environmental Farm Plan Survey. We will release our results in the upcoming future.

### Board of Directors 2017

#### Executive Committee

Michael Bouma, President                      Mike Slocum, Treasurer  
Christian Michaud, 1<sup>st</sup> VP                      Marc Ouellet, Secretary  
Lisa Ashworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

#### Staff

Josée Albert, Chief Exe. Officer              Camille Coulombe, EFP and  
Nicole Arseneau, Office Manager              Communications  
Pamela Walton, Office Assistant              Jean-Mars Jean-Francois, CCNO  
John Russell, EFP                                  Rino Thériault, CCNE

### Bronze level

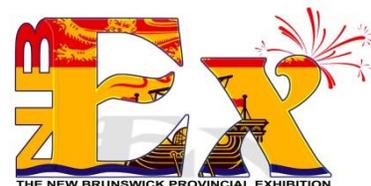


### Friends



### Associate Members

#### Gold Level



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)