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November 2016- eActivity Report

Rapport d'activité électronique– novembre 2016

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

eActivity Report - November 2016



1) Annual General Meeting- January 19th and 20th 2017

You are invited to attend the Alliance's 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 19th & 20th, 2017 at the Fredericton Crowne Plaza. We are planning two days filled with information, discussions, networking opportunities and speakers you will not want to miss!

All are welcome to attend and participate in discussions! **Make your room reservation before January 5th, 2017 by calling the Crowne Plaza at (506) 455-3371 or 1-866-444-1946 and indicate that your reservation is for the Alliance's AGM.**

Click [HERE](#) for more information and for the conference/ AGM's agenda.

Keynote speakers-



Amy Matheson is a strong and vocal advocate for Canadian farmers, and is passionate about sharing stories of our food and the people who produce it.

Deeply rooted in family farm, Amy is the granddaughter and daughter of dairy farmers, and is now part of a 4th generation dairy and crop farm along with her husband, their children, and her in-laws.

Having found her voice on social media and speaking to industry groups and consumers, Amy strives to provide credible information to our urban neighbours, and encourages people to ask questions about how their food gets from farm gates to dinner plates. She hopes to inspire others in agriculture to stand up and be proud of the work they do, putting a face to the farm.

Amy recently joined the team at Farm & Food Care Canada in an industry development role. She is also a delegate for Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Grain Farmers of Ontario, a baseball coach, and a proud community volunteer, and is a past winner of the 'Leader in Charities' award by PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Aaron Law, How Farmers Can Make a Difference & Best Social Media Practices

Aaron Law is a third generation New Brunswick Egg Farmer, Keynote Speaker, Coach and inspiration to the community. Recently, his farm was nominated for several different awards with local Chambers of Commerce. His international work with the Egg Farmers of Canada in Swaziland Africa, has helped feed over 70,000 people a month in rural Swaziland. Aaron operates in business and life from the motto "If you see a band wagon.....it's too late" - James Goldsmith.

Also on our agenda:

- Hon. Rick Doucet, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries will address the meeting;
- Faith Matchett, Farm Credit Canada will give us tips on "how to talk agriculture" and provide insight of what is to come for our industry ;
- Presentation on Trespassing and Landowners Rights & Liability Responsibilities
- Presentation of the Local Food and Beverage Strategy;
- Drew Black, Director of Environment and Science Policy of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA), will make a presentation on the Impacts of Climate Change and the Implications of the Carbon Tax on our Industry and provide an update on CFA's 2016 activities;
- Janet Steele, from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) will give us the latest from AAFC;

- And many more speakers will address the meeting.

Please contact the Alliance's office with any questions at (506) 452-8101 or alliance@fermenbfarm.ca We hope to see you there!

2) Second Meeting of the Agriculture Land Policy Working Group

The group met this month to evaluate the progress made on the development of the provincial agriculture land policy and also address matters relating to the Topsoil Preservation Act, compatible and non-compatible activities for farmland, reviewed what other provinces have for reciprocal setbacks, and the Farm Land Identification Program.

The group will meet again in January and a thorough update on the working group's work will be provided at the Alliance's AGM.

3) NEW!- Agreement with Public Safety on the Utilization of ATVs and Side by Side Vehicles for Agriculture Activities

The Agricultural Alliance and Potatoes NB met with Justice and Public Safety representatives in early November to address the recent issues with producers being fined for utilizing their ATV and side by side vehicles while travelling from field to field.

We successfully entered an agreement with the Department to allow Registered Agricultural Professional Producers (RPAP) to utilize their ATV and side by side vehicles for travelling from field to field with the following conditions:

- Producers must have proof of RPAP (e.g. your letter providing confirmation that you are an RPAP);
- The driver and all occupants must wear a helmet; and
- The vehicle must have a slow moving triangle

The use of managed ATV Trails by agricultural producers should be discussed with the New Brunswick All-Terrain Vehicle Federation.

It is to be understood that this agreement is a privilege and will be evaluated after a certain time and is only limited to agriculture related activities.

4) Atlantic Presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Andrew Lovell, Alliance Director for Region 5, along with representatives from the other Atlantic Federation of Agriculture, made a presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry relating to their study on the acquisition of farmland in Canada and its potential impact on the farming sector.

The federation's representatives were in agreement that changes to farmland taxation, implementing land banks to ensure agricultural land remains in agriculture and affordable, the necessity for the federal government to make a clear statement of policy to protect Canada's

farmland, addressing the pressures from other industries and urban development are measures needed for our industry

Specifically to New Brunswick, Andrew highlighted the challenges new entrants are having to access land and capital, that our provincial government is currently working towards implementing an agriculture land use policy, providing changes to the New Land Purchase Program to add agricultural land that has been in production for the last two consecutive years, that the Farm Land Identification Program (FLIP) is in need of a review, and that our industry needs a directory of the land available for lease and for sale.

5) Atlantic Federation of Agriculture Meeting

Mike Bouma, President, Christian Michaud, Alliance's 1st Vice-President and Josée Albert, Alliance's CEO met with the other Atlantic Federation in November.

The group focused on sharing our respective issues relating to agricultural land use and protection. The Nova Scotia Federation expressed that agricultural land is also a top priority and that their Annual Meeting would be featuring speakers making presentation on land trust, easement and planning. The PEI government is currently looking at amalgamating and restructuring many of its municipalities, creating concerns relating the right to farm, public trust, taxation and land use planning. In Newfoundland, the Federation is currently working on developing guidelines for leasing land available for agriculture.

The PEI Federation has recently released an Off Highway Vehicle Operation booklet to help with their trespassing issues that could potentially be adapted to our province.

The four federations agree to send a joint letter to Minister MacAulay to request that we work in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to find the best approach for regional delivery of Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program funds to ensure that the Atlantic provinces receive a fair and equitable access to these funding opportunities.

The meeting closed with each Federation providing a provincial update.

6) Advisory Commodity Group Meeting

The group met in Fredericton on November 22nd and begun by receiving a presentation from Janet Steele from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Cathy Larochelle, Assistant Deputy Minister with the NB Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries on the next policy framework. Cathy shared the [Calgary Statement](#) priorities, provided an update on Growing Forward 2 and the group had a round table to provide input on how the provincial consultation should proceed. It is expected that the provincial consultation will begin in January 2017.

The representatives had the opportunity to provide an update on their sectors, provide feedback on Alliance's current and future undertakings, the Alliance's submission for the next policy framework and had a discussion to explore the possibility of expanding the services of the Harvest Hotline to all commodity groups to assist in filling vacant agriculture positions.

7) 2016 Outstanding Young Farmer of Canada- Andrew and Jennifer Lovell



Andrew and Jennifer Lovell and their children Robert and Elsie

We wish to extend our congratulations to Andrew and Jennifer for achieving the title of 2016 Outstanding Young Farmers (OYF) for the Atlantic Region. The last time a New Brunswick producer received the title was in 1995.

Excerpt from the GrainNews:

The Lovells own and operate River View Orchards, which includes a U-pick operation for apples, pears, plums, strawberries, raspberries, pumpkins and other vegetables, as well as commercial apple orchards, and a fence and orchard trellis construction company. And for education, awareness and entertainment they also host school tours, farm-themed birthday parties, and offer wagon rides and operate a corn maze. Neither Andrew nor Jennifer — who still works as a nurse full-time — grew up on a farm, but Andrew had wanted to be a farmer from the age of five. He began working on farms at age 12 and was a herdsman by age 18. After completing the Agriculture Technician program at New Brunswick Community College, Andrew ran his own landscaping and cabinet making businesses, until he finally got the opportunity to buy a farm.

Winning OYF was a huge and unexpected honour, says Andrew and is a rewarding experience largely because of the new friends they have made. “You are in the company of a group of producers that are your peers but at the same time they can become your mentors and the camaraderie is quite unbelievable,” he says. “The people are definitely the best part.”

Click [here](#) for the full article.

8) 2016 Gerrit Loo Achievement Award Recipient- Claude Berthélemé!



Claude Berthélemé

We also wish to congratulate Claude Berthélemé for receiving the Gerrit Loo Achievement Award!!!

(Excerpt from the ACORN December Enews) The Gerritt Loo Award is awarded annually at the ACORN Conference to an outstanding organic advocate and/or farmer who has contributed significantly to the organic industry in Atlantic Canada. Claude began his career at New Brunswick Department of Agriculture in 1987, which means he has spent just about 30 years with the department. The organic sector was very fortunate when he was assigned the organic file 16 years ago and has benefitted greatly from his tireless work to support organic farmers throughout New Brunswick. Claude has gone above and beyond his work as a public servant - in his efforts to support farmers, plan events, organize educational mission trips to Quebec and New England all in an effort to bring valuable resources to the province and to the Maritimes as a whole. He has been crucial to helping build the strength of the organic sector, including taking leadership in the development of New Brunswick's Organic Grade Provincial Regulation, and really listening, understanding and taking action on items identified by growers. The community of farmers in Atlantic Canada has been enriched by his commitment and service to our region as an advocate for organics. Thank you Claude!

9) Business Confidence Index (BCI) survey to be conducted by Corporate Research Associates Inc. (CRA) and sponsored by TD Canada Trust.

CRA has been conducting a Consumer Confidence Index in the region for the last twenty-five years and felt the time was right to have a business perspective on the economy in Atlantic Canada. CRA will produce a Business Confidence Index for each of the four Atlantic provinces and the region overall for comparison purposes.

There are two direct benefits to our members. The first is that all those participating in this survey (which will take about 10-12 minutes to complete online) will receive a copy of the results. The second is that if sufficient responses are received from those in our sector from across Atlantic Canada, CRA will develop a region-wide Business Confidence Index for our sector. There is **no cost** involved either for our Association or individual members who

participate in the survey. **To view the summary report of the inaugural Atlantic Business Confidence Index, click [here](#).**

We would encourage all our members to simply click on the link below and help us build our own Business Confidence Index. Please be assured that all individual company responses will be treated in complete confidence and only aggregated data will be reported. The survey will only be opened until **Wednesday, January 11, 2017**. Why not take a few moments and complete the survey **now**. This survey is only open to those in the private sector.

To complete the survey click on the following link: <https://surveys.cra.ca/s/112297/?assn&l=en>

Should you have any questions on the survey, or require assistance accessing or completing the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Corporate Research Associates at surveys@cra.ca.

Thank you for your anticipated support of this important initiative to develop an economic indicator for our sector.

10) NOTICES

Vacancy for appointment- Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Board - Board member

Bill 24 Part 2 establishes the Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Board (Board) to operate under the authority of the *Agricultural Development Act* and the *Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Act*. The Board's mandate is to support the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors by providing financial assistance in the form of loans and loan guarantees to clients demonstrating sound business plans and commitment to aid or encourage the establishment, development, and sustainability of the agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors in the Province of New Brunswick. The Board is responsible for reviewing applications for financial assistance under the *Agricultural Development Act* and the *Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Act* and providing recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. The Board consists of a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine members.

The provincial government is currently seeking members from the private sector. Expressions of interest are invited to fill these positions but may also be used to fill future vacancies. Click [here](#) for more information

Receive funding to hire an agriculture grad



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's **CAREER FOCUS PROGRAM** helps fund approximately **65 agricultural internships** for Canadian graduates aged 30 years or younger every year.

As an employer, you can receive **up to \$20,000** in matching funds to pay interns for positions in agriculture, agri-food, agri-food science and veterinary medicine. Internships can range from four to 12 months.

TO BE AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER, YOU MUST:

- offer projects that will give interns agriculture career-related work experiences in Canada;
- help interns gain new skills by mentoring and coaching them; and
- be a farm business, industry, not-for-profit organization, provincial/municipal government, association, board, council, college or university.

APPLICATIONS FROM EMPLOYERS
WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING
NOVEMBER 1, 2016 ON A FIRST
COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.



To learn more about the **CAREER FOCUS PROGRAM**
or to apply, click here.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability programs: Please see the poster attached for the upcoming deadlines for these programs.

Mentorship Program: Please see the poster attached for more details.

11) UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Atlantic Young Farmer Training Event - Bridging the Gap: Succession & Transition Planning Workshop for Farm Families! - Glengarry Hotel - Truro, Nova Scotia - February 9th and 10th, 2017

Register for Bridging the Gap: Succession & Transition Planning here:
www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/professional-development/BTG.html

Innovate for Value Chain Management - Dalhousie Agricultural Campus - Bible Hill, Nova Scotia - February 10th and 11th, 2017

Register for Innovate for Value Chain Management here:

www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/professional-development/AYF17innovate.html