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November 2018- eActivity Report
Rapport d'activité électronique- novembre 2018

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

November 2018 eActivity Report



1) **Annual General Meeting- You are invited!**

Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick

Workshop

Wednesday, **January 16th**, 2019: Workshop with CropLife Canada
"Confident Conversations"

This interactive, one-day session has been designed to help industry staff speak confidently about the benefits our industry delivers through its technologies and to be comfortable managing difficult conversations when you encounter someone who is opposed to agricultural technologies like pest control products and plant biotechnology.

10:00AM - 4:30PM

Sponsored by



AGM & Conference

Thursday, **January 17th** et Friday **January 18th**, 2019:
Annual General Meeting & Conference



CROWNE PLAZA FREDERICTON-LORD BEAVERBROOK

www.fermenbfarm.ca
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You are invited to attend the Alliance's 13th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 17th & 18th, 2019 at the Fredericton Crowne Plaza. Please take note that a workshop is taking place on January 16th with CropLife Canada. Fill in the attached registration form for the workshop since the seats are limited. Be sure not to miss our event for three days filled with information, discussions, networking opportunities and speakers you will not want to miss!

Featuring Terry Betker, President and CEO of Backswath Management Inc.



Terry Betker, P.Ag., CAC, is President and CEO of Backswath Management Inc., a Manitoba-based company that originated in 1992. Terry has an interest and passion in providing consulting expertise to farmers, focusing primarily on strategic business and succession planning, financial analysis, and risk management. Consulting to agribusiness has been, and continues to be, part of the service suite.

Terry is recognized for his visionary and leading-edge contribution to farm management. Terry's 17 years experience as a grain, oilseed, and special crops producer in Western Manitoba, gives him first-hand insight into the issues producers face.

Make your room reservation before January 5th, 2019 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. You may also reserve your room through the dedicated website link as well:
<https://book.passkey.com/e/49801235>

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

Please contact the Alliance's office with any questions at (506) 452-8101 or alliance@fermenbfarm.ca All are welcome to attend and participate in discussions!

2) NB Food and Beverage Forum Recap

Further to the success of last year's event, this year's **NB Food and Beverage Forum** took place on November 22nd in Fredericton and included 123 participants. It was intended for all NB producers, food manufacturers, processors, importers, exporters, retailers and others involved in harvesting, producing and marketing food products. The Forum was a collaborative federal, provincial and industry initiative hosted by NB DAAF, in partnership with CFIA, AAFC and Health Canada.

Welcome remarks were given by the Hon. Ross Wetmore (N.B. Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries) and Emily O'Reilly (Director General - CFIA). The Forum featured a workshop, including commodity-specific breakout groups, for the new federal *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* that begin to come into force on January 15th, 2019. There were presentations on other various subjects as well, such as: My CFIA Enrollment; Healthy Eating Strategy; Labelling Modernization Initiative; Local Food and Beverages Strategy and Local Market Opportunities; Federal-Only and Canada-NB Programs under the Canadian Agricultural

Partnership (CAP); CBDC Support Programs relative to Guidance, Training and Financing for Entrepreneurs; Atlantic Fisheries Fund; and ACOA Support Programs relative to Value-Added Food, International Trade and Advanced Manufacturing. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions after every presentation and panels were held in the afternoon to spark discussions.

Like last year, it was a very informative Forum and gave an opportunity to those attending to obtain an update on all the national and provincial initiatives impacting our sector. We have included a link below to access the speakers' presentations.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/events-calendar.html>

3) Recap of 2018 Regional Meetings

Thank you to all of you that attended our meetings. We had great discussions on regional issues, submission of resolutions to be considered at our upcoming Annual General Meeting and appreciated the opportunity to provide you with an update on all the issues and initiatives we have addressed during the course of the year.

4) Important Information- Safe Food for Canadians Regulations

On January 15, 2019, the [Safe Food for Canadians Act](#) (SFCA) and the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) (SFCR) will come into effect.

- Certain requirements for some foods or businesses will not apply on this date. Learn more about [timelines](#).
- If there are inconsistencies between the information found here and a related regulatory requirement, the requirement is what will apply to businesses. Please let the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) know if you find any such inconsistency by [commenting on the resources](#).
- Until January 15, 2019 [current information](#) and requirements (that will be replaced by the SFCA and SFCR) continue to apply.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has developed a toolkit for businesses summarizing the regulations. The toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

To find out if and how your operation will be impacted consult the interactive tools that can be accessed [here](#).

For more information visit the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations website](#)

5) Rural Road Enhancement Program

Six regional committees composed of Alliance directors, department of Transportation and Infrastructure and department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff were struck last year to provide for better planning for the rural road enhancement program. The committees met in November to set the regional priorities for the 2019 program. Each region will submit their priorities at the provincial level for approval. The goal is to meet in the fall to allow maintenance and repairs on these roads earlier in 2019 (if conditions allow).

6) Meeting between the Atlantic Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and the Atlantic Federation of Agriculture

The Alliance, the NS Federation, the PEI Federation and the NFLD Federation of Agriculture met the Atlantic Deputy Ministers of Agriculture in November. The issues covered public trust and how we can collaborate on an Atlantic level, the industry's concerns relating to the carbon tax, and industry's concerns relating to the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) Business Risk Management and non-Business Risk Management programs. The group agreed to strike an Atlantic public trust government/industry committee and the deputy ministers confirmed their support for the industry and agreed to bring our concerns forward at the federal government level.

7) December 2018 Column- Labour shortages- a costly issue for the agriculture sector

Labour shortages are chronically complex in agriculture. They have been extensively studied, but no simple solution has emerged. Farm work is simply not appealing or accessible to many potential workers. There is a yawning gap between the kinds of workers needed and the kinds of workers available. The diversity of the agriculture sector requires a broad range of skills. This issue is becoming more complicated as farming evolves in the face of climate change, economic pressures, mechanization, and a back-to-the-land movement which is reviving the small family farm.

Here's where we are. According to the NB Agricultural Labour Market Forecast to 2025, New Brunswick in 2014 employed 7,500 people in the agriculture sector. The field fruit and vegetable industry was the largest employer (22% of the labour force), followed by tree fruit and vine (16%) and dairy (14%). Some 400 jobs were unfilled, costing the sector \$7 million in lost sales. The situation goes beyond our provincial borders, it is estimated that unfilled jobs across the country cost \$1.5 billion in lost sales in 2014.

The labour shortage hits some industries harder than others. The field fruit and vegetable industry currently has one of the largest labour gaps in the sector, and that gap is predicted to widen the fastest of any agriculture industry. The dairy industry, on the other hand, will see its labour gap shrink significantly over the same time period.

While the demand for labour will decline overall in this province, the labour pool will shrink even faster. According to research conducted by the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council, a combination of stable production growth in some key industries and increased productivity in others will reduce the demand for labour in New Brunswick from now until 2025. But by then there will be 800 fewer domestic workers in the province's agricultural labour pool.

With the supply of workers shrinking faster than the sector's demand for labour, the province is expected to see a widening gap between the available workforce and the sector's labour needs, resulting in significantly more jobs going unfilled.

Two key factors are responsible for reducing New Brunswick's agricultural labour supply: retirement and the decreasing number of young people in the province. In 2011, 57% of our agriculture workforce was 45 years of age or older. The number of young people entering the field is expected to decrease by 12% over the next decade, one of the most rapid declines in the sector in Canada.

So how can we address this growing disparity? There are limited sources of farm workers; if they are not home-grown, they must be recruited elsewhere.

Currently, New Brunswick's reliance on foreign workers is low; only 1.4% of its workforce is foreign, compared to a national average of 12%. This is due in part to the complexity of the regulations around the hiring of foreign workers, which is particularly challenging for smaller farming operations with diverse commodities and those who do not have significant administrative infrastructures. The NB Agricultural Alliance has recommended changes in government programs and processes which will expedite and simplify the movement of workers, such as multi-year applications for regions with high and chronic labour shortages. Re-defining the parameters of primary agriculture is also important; restricting foreign workers to a specific commodity creates major obstacles for mixed farms, which are the majority in this province. Current government programs for foreign workers are not a good fit for much of New Brunswick agriculture.

Increasing the number of New Brunswickers who choose farm work remains a challenge, but efforts are being made in several directions. One is to train unemployed workers for agricultural jobs. Another is to attract farmers and new entrants to farming from other regions by offering them access to land, training and support to get started. The third is to provide agriculture linked activities to the curriculum which combines theory and practice for all school grades through the Ag in the Classroom program and for community college students. These initiatives come from non-governmental organizations who recognize both the economic and social value of farming and food production.

Ignoring ongoing labour shortages is short-sighted; it jeopardizes future expansion of the sector. The agriculture industry is the second most important natural-resource based contributor to our provincial economy after the energy sector. Farm cash receipts have increased by 11% since 2012. Agriculture and food manufacturing exports (excluding seafood) have shown an almost \$200 million increase since 2012. The agriculture industry is at the heart of rural New Brunswick, providing some 13,000 jobs in primary agriculture and food manufacturing. This is a sunrise industry with a bright future if its labour issues can be addressed to establish farming as a sustainable driver of progress in this province.

Christian Michaud, President
Agricultural Alliance of NB

8) We have a new website!

Please make sure to take a moment to take a look at the Alliance's new website. The new website is mobile friendly and has tons of valuable information and resources for producers. www.fermeNBfarm.ca

9) **Congratulation to Robert Bourgeois- 2018 Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee**

We want to take a moment to congratulate Robert Bourgeois for his induction.



Robert Bourgeois was born in 1957, and grew up in the community of Belliveau-Village, in present-day Memramcook. The family home was surrounded by rows of apple trees, some planted by Sebastien Bourgeois, the distant relative who had established what would one day become Verger Belliveau Orchard. Robert's father Louis would eventually purchase the company in 1967. Robert helped out extensively on the farm, becoming familiar with a wide range of orchard tasks and developing a lasting appreciation for farming as a lifestyle.

In 1979, Robert enrolled in the Plant Science program at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He credits this program for instilling in him a deeper understanding and respect for the roles of soil and plant physiology in a farm's success, and creating lifelong networks of friends within the farming community. Nominated by the Apple Growers of New Brunswick for his entrepreneurial drive and dedication to improvements within the apple industry, Robert Bourgeois is a worthy inductee into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

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

10) **Upcoming Canada GAP Workshops**

We are pleased to announce that the Agricultural Alliance of NB will be hosting three **Canada GAP Workshop in February 2019.**

- **February 13th - Moncton**
- **February 14th- Sussex**
- **February 15th- Florenceville**

Since seating is limited to 25 farms per session, we would need you to send your registration form soon to reserve your space. Agenda and Registration form enclosed.

11) **Road Signage**

The National project to consider the "Standardization of Agricultural Vehicle Warning Signs" by the Traffic Operations and Management Standing Committee of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) was recently completed and approved.

The project included investigation into the various signing options currently in existence. Following their review, the following signs were approved to be used throughout Canada:



The intended purpose of the above sign and tab are to indicate to drivers that farm/agricultural vehicles may be crossing or entering the highway or travelling along the shoulder for short distances between fields.

The sign should only be used where visibility of an agricultural vehicle entrance or turning agricultural vehicles is not adequate (ie: there is not enough sight distance) or where these vehicles may unexpectedly turn across higher speed roads. The "Farm Traffic" tab can be added – but this is optional. In addition, a distance tab (less than 5 km) can be added in instances where this type of equipment regularly travels between 2 entrances/locations.

The requirement for agricultural equipment to include the reflective inverted 'slow moving vehicle' triangle symbol on the rear of equipment remains in NB. It should be noted that the slow-moving triangle requirement is a minimum, and concerned agricultural operators can add larger or additional reflective markings to enhance the conspicuity of their equipment/vehicles. Please refer to the [Lighting and Marking Guide](#) for more details.

It is important to note that even though these signs are now approved for use that before having them installed, Department of Transportation & Infrastructure technical staff need to undertake a review to confirm that the situations meet the intended criteria. A formal, written request made to our Operations section would be the best way to go about starting an evaluation. The request can be sent by email to: Transportation.Web@gnb.ca

12) Environmental Farm Plan



Now that the snow is here, whether we like it or not, it's time to ensure your paperwork is up to date! EFP's should be updated every five years. Don't get left behind.

Friendly reminder that EFPs are "living documents" and should be updated every five years, or sooner to integrate new developments (e.g. construction of a new barn) or technologies, or to make adjustments as conditions change in your enterprise. Winter is a great time to update the EFP and John Russell will be in the following areas meeting with producers. If you wish to update your plan, or if you are new to the Environmental Farm Plan, please contact Camille Coulombe at 506-452-8101 or efp-pfe@fermenbfarm.ca.

Region 6 (Centre West/ Wicklow) First two weeks of December 2018

Region 3 (South East) Third week of December 2018 & two first weeks of January 2019

Region 5 (Centre) Last two weeks of January 2019

Region 1 (North-West) First two weeks of February 2019

13) Notices

- Mental Health Support



Farm Credit Canada has partnered with experts to create a bilingual publication titled, Rooted in Strength: Taking Care of Our Families and Ourselves that will be delivered to all farm mailboxes in Canada the week of November 19. This booklet contains testimonials, tips and tools for managing farm stress along with national and provincial help lines and websites. A copy of the publication can be found [here](#).

The Rooted in Strength mission is to promote awareness, encourage dialogue and empower people to seek support if they need it. And the more industry and community leaders can come together to share these messages, the bigger impact we can make. We will be sending a couple of copies of the publication and a poster to each farm and ranch supply store for their use.

A list of resources for mental health can be found on the [Do More Ag Foundation website](#).

- **Best Food Facts**

What is Best Food Facts? It is your expert source for every course. We are consumers with a passion for food and our mission is to bring you objective, fact-based information about food.

Our goal is to load your plate with a balanced diet of data so that you can make informed choices for yourself and your family – at home, at the grocery store, at your favorite restaurant – and feel confident in your decisions based on an understanding of all sides of the smorgasbord of food issues. It's a tall order, we know, but we're constantly in the kitchen whipping up food facts and are ready to fill your plate!

Best Food Facts is supported by [The Center for Food Integrity](#) and [The Canadian Center for Food Integrity](#), not-for-profit organizations that help today's food system earn consumer trust.

For more information visit the <https://www.bestfoodfacts.org/> Best Food Facts website.

- **Late participation for 2018 AgriStability is available for New Brunswick producers**

If your farm experienced large yield losses because of extreme weather events in 2018, AgriStability can help.

Although the 2018 enrolment deadline has passed you can still participate in AgriStability as a late participant. Under the new Canadian Agricultural Partnership, governments agreed to allow producers to join the program after the enrolment deadline if there is a significant downturn in a farm sector and a gap in participation. To address the challenges facing New Brunswick producers, the governments of Canada and New Brunswick have agreed to late participation for 2018. This will ensure all New Brunswick producers can access AgriStability support for the 2018 program year to help protect the viability of their farm.

Governments encourage all producers in New Brunswick to take advantage of the support available under AgriStability and other existing business risk management programs.

For more information, please refer to the letter and information sheet enclosed.

14) Coming Events

Potatoes NB AGM - Centre E. & P. Sénéchal Center – Grand Falls, N.B. – December 7th, 2018 – For more information, please see the attached agenda.

Canada GAP Workshops:

Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 – Crowne Plaza, Moncton NB

Thursday, February 14th, 2019 – All Seasons Inn, Sussex NB

Friday, February 15th, 2019 – Florenceville Inn, Florenceville NB

Please see the attached agenda and registration form to reserve your space.

IGNITE – FCC Young Farmers Summit – Crowne Plaza, Moncton, NB – March 9th, 2019 -

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference – Hyatt Regency, Calgary AB – March 11th & 12th, 2019 –

For more information and to register click [here](#).

NBYFF Conference & AGM

The NBYFF is pleased to invite you to their 2019 Conference & AGM on January 18th, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel in Fredericton, NB. Speakers, banquet, networking & hospitality suite awaits young farmers at this exciting annual event. Room bookings are now available at <https://book.passkey.com/e/49818831>. For more information about the event, follow NBYFF on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2057408444280237/> or email GM, Camille Coulombe at info@nbyff.ca or call 506-452-8101.