



## President's Message

What do you get when you take a nasty virus, add a chronic labour shortage, minimal rainfall and a dash of political campaigning? Summer 2020!! There is certainly never a dull moment if you work in agriculture.

It is time once again for me to let our membership know what has been happening on your behalf. While producers are contending with historically high temperatures and low rainfalls, the staff, Board of Directors and myself have been working diligently on many files that will benefit our industry here in New Brunswick. As we find a way forward in the era of COVID-19, the Alliance has been able to work effectively with both industry and government through Zoom and conference calls. Although we would probably all prefer being able to sit together, and the lack of reliable rural connectivity has definitely been a challenge most days; a significant number of meetings have taken place and yielded noteworthy progress.



The April ban on Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) was an unanticipated blow to a number of producers. The reversal of the ban came too late for some, and created a great deal of extra paperwork for others. According to AAFC, New Brunswick currently has just 64% of TFWs compared to the same time in 2019. This truly saddens me, but there are two important positive outcomes I would like to note. First, the isolation protocols for incoming employees have proven effective. This should provide a much less stressful spring in 2021. Secondly, the Labour Force Adjustment committee has put in tremendous time and effort to understand and address our chronic labour issues. The Alliance's workforce development strategy provided useful guidance to the committee, and we have secured funding and a job posting for the development coordinator position recommended as one outcome of the strategy.

Another noteworthy positive outcome from the pandemic has been the establishment of bi-weekly information sharing calls between DAAF and our industry commodity groups. Time spent sharing questions and concerns has definitely benefited all participants and we plan to continue doing this. The Alliance was also able to host a virtual annual resolutions meeting involving various government departments. This productive interaction has allowed us to continue working on the resolutions brought forward at the AGM in January. I am happy to report that we have industry/government committees working on land use, trespassing and public trust; although the election has temporarily halted meetings for these three key issues.

Our Agriculture in the Classroom funding has been approved for another year. As well, funding for the development of our online Environmental Farm Plan is in place, and we are looking forward to being able to offer this option to producers in the near future. The Alliance also has representation on the government's self-sufficiency working group, giving us the opportunity to provide meaningful input into viable ways to sustainably grow our industry and contribute even more to the province's GDP.

As you can see from this short summary, there has been a great deal of activity happening this summer. I am thrilled to share that the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick, the National Farmer's Union of NB and Really Local Harvest have been working closely together to address many of the industry issues we have faced. As producer representatives, we all share the goal of a prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry in our province. Working together we can accomplish great things!

I look forward to seeing many of you virtually during our Regional meetings this fall and I encourage you to continue supporting fellow producers during harvest and the remainder of the year that has been one we won't soon forget. Take care and stay safe!

Lisa Ashworth  
Agricultural Alliance of NB President



# 2020 Regional Meetings Calendar Calendrier des assemblées régionales 2020



Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> - mercredi 28 octobre - 6pm/18h  
**Region 5**  
**Région 5**

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - jeudi 29 octobre - 6pm/18h  
**Region. 4**  
**Région 4**

Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - vendredi 30 octobre - 6pm/18h  
**Region 6**  
**Région 6**

Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - lundi 2 novembre - 10am  
**Region 3**  
**Région 3**

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - mardi 3 novembre - 6pm/18h  
**Region 1**  
**Région 1**



Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - mercredi 4 novembre - 6pm/18h  
**Region 2**  
**Région 2**

\* Virtual meeting links will be sent to the membership by email  
\* Les liens des réunions virtuelles seront envoyés aux membres par courriel

## AANB's Annual General Meeting (AGM) - SAVE THE DATE!

The Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick's Annual General Meeting will take place on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Due to Covid-19, the AGM will be held virtually via Zoom. Please note that for the safety of members and staff, there will be no in-person meeting this year. More details to follow via email.

### Access Prohibited Signs Now Available!

AANB printed Access Prohibited signs for members. Signs are available for purchase at \$5 each by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Limit of 3 signs per farms for the time being. Signs must be picked up at the Fredericton office.

Call or email us to order.



### Looking for Covid-19 Information? Check out our website!

To help guide our members through this difficult time, we've dedicated a page on our website to provide NB farmers with resources and information in regards to Covid-19 and the agricultural industry. Click the link for more info. <https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/covid-19-information/>

### Haskap NB

Haskap New-Brunswick, an association for producers of Haskap, advises you that any producer of Haskap are invited to become members. For more information contact Haskap NB President Paul Laplante at

[ibem.acadie@gmail.com](mailto:ibem.acadie@gmail.com)

# Issue Updates

## **1) Labour Force Adjustment Committee**

A Government initiative, voting members consist of the AANB, the National Farmers Union in NB, and Really Local Harvest. Initiatives from the committee have included free courses in basic agronomy and pesticide application at NBCC, a fund of up to \$6000 for farmers market to prepare during Covid, and a transportation fund for workers on farms. The committee has also established toll free 1-888 number for producers and job seekers to be able to speak with an HR consultant in order to facilitate job matching on farms.

## **2) Resolutions Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries**

In June the AANB had a virtual meeting with Minister Wetmore and Senior Management at the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss the resolutions from the 2020 AANB AGM. The meeting was very productive and initiatives from the meeting will be brought forth at the upcoming Regional meetings.

## **3) Workforce Development Strategy**

The AANB held interviews in September to hire a coordinator to implement the 5-year Workforce Development Strategy. We expect to have the coordinator in place before December 2020.

## **4) Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA)**

During the months of June, July and August, the AANB attended meetings with CASA to address any Covid-19 issues arising on farms across Canada, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitization equipment, on-farm biosecurity plans, hiring inexperienced workers on farms, and Temporary Foreign Workers (TFWs).

## **5) Canadian Federation of Agriculture**

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture continues to work on behalf of it's members, despite the challenges we are all facing regarding our ability to meet with stakeholders and have meaningful personal interactions. Like most groups, the CFA moved to a virtual format for meetings that were scheduled to take place in Guelph this summer, as well as regular board and executive meetings and the AGM happening February 24 - 26th, 2021. The Federation was pleased to hear agriculture mentioned in the September Throne Speech and is seeking further details on a number of the initiatives mentioned. NB could definitely benefit from the elimination of trade barriers between provinces, strengthening local food supply chains in Canada and accelerating the connectivity timelines to ensure all Canadians have access to high-speed internet; all topics mentioned in the speech.

The largest undertaking of CFA in recent months has been working with Edelman Communications on our Food for Thought Campaign. This is an ambitious project, aimed at urban consumers who have limited understanding of food production and distribution systems, as well as acquiring the government support necessary to ensure financial stability in our industry. This work is essential to ensure the long-term viability of our agricultural systems and food security as we know it today.

## **6) Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) – Health Canada**

The current pesticide re-evaluation program is legislated every 15 years, which leaves a large gap, and is a complex process. The PMRA is looking into an integrated approach to pesticide evaluation, which would be a continuous, less complex evaluations, any new information would be continuously integrated, and there would be a risk based approach to management.

## **7) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)**

The Emergency On-Farm Support Fund (EOFSF) was announced on July 31, 2020 and provides \$35 million to boost protections for domestic and temporary foreign workers and address COVID-19 outbreaks on farms.

The program will assist agricultural producers with some of the incremental costs for activities that improve the health and safety of all farm workers, domestic and temporary foreign workers (TFWs) by limiting the spread of COVID-19 in agricultural operations.

The program will provide up to \$100,000 per recipient in non-repayable funding for emergency COVID-19 response activities.

**Eligible activities can be retroactive to March 15, 2020 and must be completed by February 26, 2021.**

Visit <https://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/agricultural-programs-and-services/emergency-on-farm-support-fund/?id=1600991301312> for more information.

Farmer who are looking for futher information from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada are encouraged to email Patricia Ouellette [patricia.ouellette@canada.ca](mailto:patricia.ouellette@canada.ca)

# Virtual Atlantic Open Farm Day 2020

More than 21,000 viewers took part in the first-ever virtual Atlantic Open Farm Day on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Open Farm Day in Atlantic Canada to which farmers and members of the public celebrated by watching YouTube videos and Facebook Live videos produced by the farmers themselves.

Due to current circumstances with Covid-19, farm videos were the safest way for agricultural producers to showcase their operation and for the public to get a better understanding of how their food is produced. A total of 80 farms participated in this important virtual event.

This year's event was organized in collaboration with all four Atlantic Province's, including Prince Edward Island's Agriculture Sector Council, Nova Scotia's Federation of Agriculture, Newfoundland's Federation of Agriculture and the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick.

The goal for the event is to connect the public with their local farmers and to showcase the wide range of exceptional farm products across Atlantic Canada. This year's participants included beef, haskap, alpaca, dairy, various produce growers, and many more. Due to the virtual nature of the event, a few new farms were able to participate such as honey farms, as well as chicken and egg farms. Biosecurity protocols would normally limit the public's interaction with these type of farms, but the accessibility of an event online made for a more diverse group of participants. Viewers were able to visit many more farms virtually this year. They were able to participate in online discussions about the local food industry and understand the importance of buying local and supporting the local economy.

Open Farm Day was a highly mediatized event, utilizing primarily digital advertising such as Facebook and website banners, as well as radio ads. The public was able to locate the participating farm videos on a joint Atlantic Open Farm Day Map that was hosted on each agricultural organization's website and on the joint Atlantic Virtual Open Farm Day Facebook Event Page. 111,000 people were reached on the Facebook Event Page.

The event was made possible with the support of the New Brunswick government and by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

**To see participating farm videos, please visit the Atlantic Open Farm Day YouTube Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uca8xf3I7zxq07kcf2ybo0jq>



## Membership Renewals

We would like to remind you that the renewal period for next year will start on February 1st 2021. To register, you may access the form by visiting your closest SNB office or by visiting [www.fermenbfarm.ca/membership/farm-business-registration/](http://www.fermenbfarm.ca/membership/farm-business-registration/).

For more information, contact our office by phone at (506) 452-8101 or email [alliance@fermenbfarm.ca](mailto:alliance@fermenbfarm.ca). Being a member of the Alliance provides you access to membership benefits, fuel purchasers' permit, farm plates and keeps you informed on important agriculture topics, and our activities.

## Environmental Farm Plan

An up-to-date Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate is required for Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program. But whether you plan to apply for funding or not, we strongly encourage all farms to complete a plan for the benefit of yourselves and the agriculture industry as a whole. Dairy farmers be aware that is is needed for proAction. Lacking an up to date EFP will be a major non-compliance by fall of next year. If your farm has never done an EFP, please give us a call.

Each farm can go through your plan on your own, either on paper or electronically. Camille and John can mail you the workbook/action plan or mail a USB stick with the electronic program files you need. Most farmers find it beneficial to have assistance completing the tables and answering the questions. We can do this online via Zoom (with screen share), video chat with Facebook Messenger, Skype video, or over the phone. Let us know when you want assistance."

Send us an email at [efp-pfe@fermenbfarm.ca](mailto:efp-pfe@fermenbfarm.ca) or call 506-452-8101.



## **PigTRACE Mandatory in Canada**

A reminder to all farmers and livestock dealers in NB that the PigTRACE Traceability program has been mandatory since July 1, 2014. The program is enforced by CFIA. This includes the ability to fine any person not complying with the Regulations.

All custodians of swine and carcasses are responsible to report the necessary information to PigTRACE Canada. Reporting can be delegated to a third party, such as a head office, marketer or transporter; however, the responsibility remains with the custodian.

If a livestock dealer or farmer purchases weaner pigs from a hog producer to resell to backyard producers, each individual weaner pig must be ear tagged with CFIA-approved PigTRACE ear tags and the movement must be recorded in their PigTRACE account. This means the livestock dealer must have a PID# and a PigTRACE account set up prior to purchasing the weaner pigs so they can report movement to their PID site. Each individual backyard producer must also have a PID# and a PigTRACE account so they can record the movement to their PID site. When the pig is ready for slaughter at a provincial abattoir, the pig will already be tagged and the abattoir will be able to record the movement to their PID#. **Every person involved in the movement of all pigs is responsible to report movement in PigTRACE, this is the law in Canada.**

PigTRACE is about improved emergency management. In the event of a food safety issue or foreign animal disease outbreak in the pork sector, traceability gives animal health officials and food safety officials the tools to quickly and effectively contain and deal with the situation. Improved response time reduces the economic impact on the industry, producers, and all Canadians. More information at this link <https://www.cpc-ccp.com/traceability>

Please help us spread the word to educate anyone who is not aware because they will be held liable under the Regulations. If you have any questions, please contact NB Pork at 506-458-8051 or PigTRACE at 1-866-300-1825.

Thank-you,  
NB Pork

## **Survey: Impacts of Climate Change on Agroecosystems**

As part of the research project on climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector in New Brunswick, your assistance is being sought. We seek to identify the impacts of climate change on crop and livestock production. The aim of this project is to formulate an adaptation plan presenting suggestions and recommendations promoting agricultural adaptation based on the identified impacts. To do so, a short survey (10 questions) is accessible through the link below. Please complete the survey for each type of crop/livestock you produce, i.e., one type of crop/livestock per survey. You may click on the link below to start.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YS27Z6N>

Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Charlotte Poirier, research assistant at Valorès [ecp5936@umoncton.ca](mailto:ecp5936@umoncton.ca)



## **COVID-19: What workers and employers need to know**

WorkSafeNB strongly encourages all New Brunswick workplaces to follow the advice of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick related to offering essential services, self-isolation, travel, and avoiding workplaces if symptomatic. Together, we can flatten the curve.

Check this web page regularly for new information to help New Brunswick workers and employers.

<https://www.worksafenb.ca/safety-topics/covid-19/covid-19-what-workers-and-employers-need-to-know/>

## Feature article

### FCC AgExpert partners with 14-year-old innovator

Agriculture is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the world and 14-year-old Luke Silinski is inspiring his peers to be a part of it. The Canadian farm kid's summer plans include the realization of a dream, the launch of an ag tech learning program he created as part of his company, Ag Tech STEAM.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) AgExpert has joined Ag Tech STEAM as a key partner in the development of the online learning series that teaches rural youth about the exciting science, engineering, art and math fields of agriculture.

Created by Silinski, Ag Tech STEAM is offering the learning modules especially for students who live in rural and remote areas. Luke is passionate about sharing technology with the next generation of farmers.

"For kids who can't get to coding or engineering camps, or hop a bus to their local library, we can bring those skills to them through online programs at [agtechsteam.com](http://agtechsteam.com)." Silinski explains, "I want to help kids access ag tech and STEAM projects wherever they live."

FCC AgExpert recognizes the importance of teaching young students how agriculture intersects with technology so they can build fulfilling career paths that will also advance the industry.

"This partnership supports Ag Tech STEAM by giving families access to educational materials without them having to travel to urban centres, pay for expensive courses or buy costly equipment," says Fred Wall, marketing vice-president at FCC. "Agriculture relies heavily on technology and 'smart farming' is a key to the future. From bugs, soil, and plants to livestock and equipment, technology, robotics and computers are involved, but we need the people to make it happen."



Ag Tech STEAM calls the learning modules, "content packs," and the first one will be available this summer focusing on entomology. With over 50 content packs in the works, students will be able to access tools and projects on a variety of topics including crop and soil sciences. Each will explore activities that fall under the STEAM themes of science, technology, engineering, art and math. They will include both online and hands-on projects and experiments. Students can register for these content packs through [agtechsteam.com](http://agtechsteam.com).

To assist Ag Tech STEAM in the creation of content, Silinski is working with Olds College Smart Farm team. "Through our partnership with FCC and Ag Tech STEAM we are providing mentorship and access to our in-house experts," comments Dr. Joy Agnew, association vice-president, applied research, at Olds College.

Silinski has grown up around farming and his dream is to teach kids about ag tech.

"I noticed a lot of my classmates didn't have access to ag tech, but they loved farming. I want them to know they can learn both agriculture and other fun and challenging areas like coding, robotics and engineering."

Canadian farms are evolving to sustainably support the world's population by meeting the technological needs of a digital ag world. FCC AgExpert is excited to support Ag Tech STEAM as it strives to give the next generation of farmers the knowledge to lead Canadian agriculture.

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YOU HAVE NATURE | WE HAVE THE TOOLS | VOUS AVEZ LA NATURE | NOUS AVONS LES OUTILS |



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Website: [www.fermeNBfarm.ca](http://www.fermeNBfarm.ca)

## New Brunswick Ag Event Calendar

Thank you to all who have submitted events or activities to our provincial Event Calendar so far. These efforts help the public understand the work that farmers and agricultural groups do to sustain a healthy agricultural sector in the province. If you have a virtual public event coming up, send it our way and we will add it to our calendar. Feel free to share these events on your social media and with your members. Public calendar link:

<https://www.fermenbfarm.ca/events/calendar/>

## NEW BRUNSWICK Nuisance Deer Management Assistance Program 2020 FACT SHEET

- What?** The Nuisance Deer Management Assistance Program (NDMAP) will allow Registered Agricultural Professional Producers (RAPP) who have experienced economic loss due to deer damage to receive special permits authorizing hunters to harvest ONE antlerless deer. The permits are issued to hunters who are chosen by the producer to harvest deer on their property. Permits will be provided to harvest only antlerless deer, as removal of those deer will have the greatest effect on controlling local populations. The number of available permits will be determined for each property by the Department of Energy and Resource Development (ERD) on a case-by-case basis.
- When?** NDMAP permits will be valid for use by hunters only during the open deer hunting season for the local area of the property (October 6 – November 22, 2020).  
**Application dates are September 1 to October 31, 2020.**
- Why?** Deer can have significant impacts to agricultural producers. ERD is working with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) to help reduce local deer densities in a manner that is safe, effective and acceptable to most residents. Allowing hunters to harvest extra deer is an efficient approach to address the issue while allowing public benefit from the resource.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A NUISANCE DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PERMIT

Registered Agricultural Professional Producers that are eligible for the *Wildlife Damage Compensation Program* or the *Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program* (administered by DAAF) are eligible to apply:

- STEP 1** **Contact your local ERD office to express your interest in obtaining NDMAP permits for your property.** – Eligibility for the *Wildlife Damage Compensation Program* or the *Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program*, and Property Identification Numbers (PIDs) are required to apply.
- STEP 2** **Site Assessment** – Private properties greater than 1 acre with legal hunting potential are eligible. Properties may receive a site visit by ERD staff to assess for any potential safety concerns and the number of permits to be issued. Hunting will NOT be allowed within 100 meters of neighboring dwellings. Discharge distances for archery may be reduced from the landowners dwelling with the landowner's permission.  
Applications for privately leased lands must include signed permission from the landowner.
- STEP 3** **Approval** – Qualifying agricultural producers will receive written notification from ERD of the number of NDMAP permits that will be issued for their respective property (PID) and any conditions that may be applied.
- STEP 4** **Selection of Hunters** – Most landowners desire some control over who accesses their property. It will be the responsibility of the producer to select hunters to hunt deer on their property under a NDMAP permit. Producers will provide each hunter's name, address and 2020 deer hunting license number to the local ERD office to apply for NDMAPs. Once approved, eligible hunters can pick up their permit at the local ERD office.

#### NOTE:

- Only hunters holding a current Class III Resident deer hunting license are eligible for NDMAP permits;
- Only one (1) NDMAP permit will be issued to each hunter per year;
- Only one **antlerless** deer may be harvested under a NDMAP permit;
- The NDMAP permit is in addition to the normal one-deer bag limit;
- Hunters must register the harvested deer at an ERD office.

For local ERD offices, please see:

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

**Application ends on October 31, 2020. Processing times for applications could take up to 3 weeks, but may vary depending on volume.**