

AGENDA &
PROGRAMS
BOOKLET

NOVA SCOTIA
Climate
Smart
Farming
Forum

AGENDA

8:30 AM	REGISTRATION & MORNING COFFEE
9:30 AM	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
9:40 AM	THE ROLE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN SUPPORTING A GLOBAL TRANSITION TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FARM SYSTEMS Michelle D'Souza, Research & Innovation Manager – McCain Foods Farm of the Future
10:25 AM	CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS FOR NOVA SCOTIA Alex Cadel, Climate Services Specialist, CLIMAtlantic, Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change
10:50 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	THE CHALLENGE OF PREDICTING AND PREPARING FOR WEATHER EVENTS THAT HAVE NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE Jim Abraham, Severe Weather Meteorologist, President of CLIMaction Services, @YHZweatherguy
11:45 AM	PROGRAMS INTERLUDE 1: NS ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN, PERENNIA WEATHER STATIONS INITIATIVE, EFFICIENCY NS
12:00 PM	LUNCH – INTERACTIVE FEEDBACK WALL What do you produce and what climate issues are of top concern to you?
1:00 PM	*EFFECTIVE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE FOR THE FUTURE-PROOF FARM Steve Groff, Farmer, Consultant, and Author of The Future-Proof Farm: Changing Mindsets in a Changing World
1:45 PM	PROGRAMS INTERLUDE 2: ON FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUND, LIVING LABS, NSDA RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES PROGRAM
2:00 PM	FARMERS FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: FOR FARMERS, BY FARMERS Rosalie Gillis-Madden, FaRM Manager – Farmer Engagement and Learning
2:20 PM	BREAK
2:30 PM	PRODUCER PANEL: CLIMATE SMART FARMING IN A CHANGING WORLD Panelists: Brian Newcombe of Cornwallis Farms, Alicia King of Six Maples Farm, Timothy Stirling of Stirling's Mountainside Farms and Angus Ells, Manager of Carrot Farming of Bragg Lumber Company
3:45 PM	PROGRAMS INTERLUDE 3: NSDA BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT, NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS, NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LAB SERVICES, NS CLIMATE ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
4:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS

**This session is funded by the On-Farm Climate Action Fund Program*

Climate Adaptation Leadership Program

The Climate Adaptation Leadership Program, funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change, aims to support Nova Scotia agriculture with climate change adaptation.

Through participation in the program, commodity groups will develop their individual climate adaptation strategies. These strategies will identify and highlight; sector climate change concerns and risks, the potential impacts, industry adaptation priorities, support needed and establish roadmaps with actionable adaptation outcomes to build climate change sector resiliency.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to agricultural commodity associations and groups. Applicants are asked to submit an Expression of Interest highlighting the following:

- The commodity's sensitivity to changes in climate
- The commodity's importance to Nova Scotia, the local economy and/or farm income
- Demonstrated interest in assessing climate change impacts
- Willingness to devote time and resources to the initiative
- Willingness to approach issues in a new way and work collaboratively across organizations

CONTACT INFORMATION

Allan Thomson, PhD, P.Ag
Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator
Email: athomson@perennia.ca
Mobile: 782-370-2303



On Farm Climate Action Fund

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is an initiative to help farmers improve soil health, protect soil from erosion, tackle climate change by adopting beneficial management practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases. The program offers funding to help farmers implement nitrogen (N) management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing practices. In addition, the OFCAF program supports professional training for farmers, agronomists, and certified crop advisers.

This fund is part of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative and Perennia is a regional program delivery partner that distributes program funding to farmers, co-operatives and associations in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

FUNDING IMPACT

Up to 75% of the total project costs are available for eligible farmers, co-operatives, and non-profit organizations such as agricultural industry associations.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

The next round of applications is opening soon. Check out our website to find info and start planning your application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Georgia Lewis
On-farm Climate Action Fund –
Technical Lead
Email: glewis@perennia.ca
Office: 902-678-7722
Mobile: 902-670-9655



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Farmers for Climate Solutions

Farmers for Climate Solutions is a farmer-led national coalition working to scale up climate solutions in agriculture. We advance policy proposals to Canadian governments to better support farmers in the face of climate change, and we encourage farmers to adopt low emission, high resilience practices through the Farm Resilience Mentorship Program.

The Farm Resilience Mentorship Program, or FaRM, is delivered in partnership with regional farm organizations across the country. FaRM is a free farmer-to-farmer learning hub offering online resources, workshops, on-farm field days, mentorship, and farmer networks to help scale-up adoption of Beneficial Management Practices like Advanced Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping, and Advanced Grazing Systems.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rosalie Gillis-Madden

Email: rosalie@farmersforclimatesolutions.ca



Living Lab – Nova Scotia

The Living Lab program is delivered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. Funding for this project [in part] has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs. This is a five-year program that started in 2022 with the objectives of increasing carbon sequestration and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture. Other co-benefits that are focused on this in this program are water quality, biodiversity, habitat conservation, and soil health.

The Living Lab model is farmer driven, focusing on practical solutions to problems tested on real working farms. Focus is put on getting the information learned in the program out into the agricultural community through a strong knowledge and technology transfer plan.

We are researching four beneficial management practices on farms:

1. Cover Crops in Annual Cropping Systems
2. Floor Management in Perennial Systems
3. Establishment of Riparian and Shelterbelt Zones
4. Land Swap

We are looking into the socio-economic aspects of these beneficial management practices and their adoption on farm. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has a great team of collaborators on this project across government, industry, and academia.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more about the Living Lab program contact Carolyn Marshall, the Environment and Climate Change Manager with NSFA cmarshall@nsfa-fane.ca



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Environmental Farm Plan

The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan is an educational program, delivered by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan is funded through the Sustainable Agricultural Partnership, a five-year investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments. The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan program helps farmers identify and assess environmental risks on their properties and enables farmers to incorporate environmental considerations into their everyday business decisions.

The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan addresses environmental risks around water use, storage of chemicals and fuel, soil and crop management, livestock and manure.

The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan is confidential, practical, and is available at no cost to all registered farms. Environmental Farm Plans need to be updated every five years and are required for some provincial funding applications.

The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan process consists of an interview where a coordinator will ask you some questions about your farm and management practices. You will then have an on-farm visit with the coordinator where you will lead them on a tour of your property. The coordinator will point out areas of environmental risk and discuss recommendations with you during the visit. After the visit, you will receive a report that includes your risk ratings and an action plan to help address those risks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the program or to sign up to receive an Environmental Farm Plan please contact efp@nsfa-fane.ca



Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture - Lab Services

The Department of Agriculture manages laboratories that analyze a range of animal, food and agricultural materials, including: individual animal and herd/flock health diagnoses; raw and processed milk and related dairy products; drinking, milk house and greenhouse water; soils; livestock feed; plant tissue; compost; and manure analyses. Our services are aimed primarily at agricultural producers and industry, but we are available to private companies, other government agencies, researchers and the public.

We are located in the Harlow Building on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus at:
176 College Road
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia
B2N 2P3

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more in-depth lab information including drop-off hours, fees and specifics on sampling please visit our website: <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/lab-services/>

Reach us by phone at 902-863-6565



Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Programs

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture offers programs and services to help farmers be more competitive, sustainable, and profitable. From 2023 to 2028 \$46 million will be invested in Nova Scotia Agriculture through a federal-provincial partnership, The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP). Sustainable CAP funds are linked to five program streams: 1) Building Sector Capacity, Growth and Competitiveness; 2) Climate Change and Environment; 3) Market Development and Trade; 4) Science, Research, and Innovation; and 5) Resiliency and Public Trust.

The Climate Change and Environment funding stream has supported producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt the effects of climate change through programs like the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change program, the On-Farm Industry Preparedness Program and the On-Farm Electrical Preparedness program. The province of Nova Scotia is also pleased to support additional climate smart funding programs, such as Advancing Clean Technologies for Agriculture Program.

IMPORTANT DATES

Watch for our next round of programs to open in Spring 2024

ELIGIBILITY

Registered farms, agricultural industry associations, agri-businesses or Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in a Mi'kmaw communities. Please consult individual program guidelines for specific eligibility details.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Visit our website novascotia.ca/programs for up-to-date program details and eligibility.



If you have any questions please contact Programs or your regional Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for assistance.

NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS OFFICE	74 Research Drive Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2 Fax: 902-893-7579 Email: prm@novascotia.ca	Telephone: 902-893-6377 Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – WESTERN REGION OFFICES	Cornwallis	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - EASTERN REGION OFFICES	Truro	902-893-6575
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture offers programs and services to help farmers be more competitive, sustainable, and profitable. From 2023 to 2028 \$46 million will be invested in Nova Scotia Agriculture through a federal-provincial partnership, The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program is in this group of programs.

The objective of the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program is to increase the environmental resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of on-farm land use and management practices that maximum provisions of multiple ecological goods and services. Ecological goods and services are the benefits society derives from healthy functioning ecosystems. This includes the maintenance and provision of healthy soil and water resources, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, as well as adapting to the impacts of climate change (e.g. increasing carbon storage and resilience to floods and droughts). Specific outcomes for this program include:

- GHG reductions
- Improved soil health
- Increased conservation and restoration of critical wildlife habitat
- Strengthened resilience of agricultural lands
- Improved water quality

Projects must provide an incremental benefit in ecological goods and services.

IMPORTANT DATES

Watch for our next round of applications to Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program to open in Spring 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

Registered farms, agricultural industry associations, agri-businesses or Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in a Mi'kmaq communities.

Programs Areas (program streams, specific requirements and funding amounts please check guidelines):

- Stream 1 - Reduced Tillage
- Stream 2 - Pollinator Habitat
- Stream 4 - Riparian Buffers and Shelterbelts

Visit the link at <https://novascotia.ca/programs/resilient-agricultural-landscape/> for up-to-date program details and eligibility. If you have any questions, please contact the Jeff Wentzell, RALP Coordinator at jeff.wentzell@novascotia.ca or call 902-824-0924 or your Ag Rep in the regional Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for assistance.



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Business Risk Management

Share some of the financial risks facing your operation through the use of the suite of business risk management tools available to the agriculture industry:

AGRIINVEST

AgriInvest is a self-managed producer-government savings account designed to help you manage small income declines and make investments to manage risk and improve market income.

Each year, you can deposit up to 100% of your Allowable Net Sales to your AgriInvest account and receive a matching government contribution on 1% of your Allowable Net Sales.

AGRISTABILITY

Protects against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs and market conditions.

You may receive a payment if your production margin in the current year falls below your historical reference margin by more than 30%.

AgriStability covers 80% of the loss for every dollar below the threshold.

Contact information

Erin Sears

AgriStability Advisor

Phone: 902-324-8784

Email: Erin.Sears@novascotia.ca

AGRIINSURANCE

AgriInsurance, offered in Nova Scotia by the Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission, adds a degree of predictability to farm businesses by protecting against the effects of yield reductions and crop or livestock losses caused by naturally occurring perils.

The Commission offers 16 crop insurance plans, as well as dairy and poultry plans, that help farmers manage risk on their farms by maintaining cash flows during poor crop years. Premiums are cost shared with producers paying only approximately 40% of the total premium cost.

The Commission also administers a Wildlife Compensation Program that compensates registered farms (at no cost) who experience damage to specific agricultural products caused by specific wildlife species.

Looking for more info?

NSCLIC

Phone: (902) 893-6370

Toll-free: 1-800-565-6371

Email: nsclic@novascotia.ca



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We Talk. We Grow. Website

We Talk. We Grow. is an initiative of Farm Safety Nova Scotia raising awareness and taking action to protect and nurture the mental health and well-being of our farming community.

On the We Talk. We Grow. website, you will find resources developed to optimize stress-free farm communities and prevent mental health challenges; and when mental health challenges occur – we have created readily accessible, culturally appropriate, and effective, programs and supports.



Farm Family Support Line

For immediate, confidential assistance: 1-833-754-3692

- No cost for access to short-term counselling service.
- Line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Farm Family Support Line is a short-term counselling and advisory service provided by Farm Safety Nova Scotia and managed by Telus Health. It is in place to help our farming community manage and reduce the stresses in life, including mental health, legal, financial, and more.

If you require more specialized or longer-term support, professionals will help you find an appropriate specialist of community service that can provide continued assistance.

Provincial Mental Health and Additional Crisis Line

Phone: 902-429-8167

Toll Free: 1-888-429-8167

This 24/7 support line offers crisis intervention services for individuals of all ages experiencing a mental health crisis or mental distress. Additionally, it extends support to family members, friends, community agencies, and others involved in aiding someone facing mental health challenges. Beyond crisis intervention, the line serves as a valuable resource for education, outreach efforts, and consultation services.