



# New Brunswick Soil & Crop Newsletter



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## NBSCIA Annual General Meeting & Workshop

The 40<sup>th</sup> NBSCIA Annual General Meeting took place on February 21-22nd 2019 in Sussex. The event was a great success, with around 85 attendees over 2 days. The Annual Meeting, featured talks on organics, Climate Change, carbon tax and forages. key note speaker Cindy Day kicked off the meeting with an excellent presentation on climate change and what implications it will have on the future on agriculture in the Maritimes.

At the banquet, we awarded the dedication award. This award is given to recognize members and contributors who have made a

longstanding and significant contribution to advancing soil and crop improvement endeavours in the province and local area. The recipient of the award this year, Walter Brown. The Farm of the Year award was awarded to Timber River Eco Farms! Congratulations to Pirmin & Katrine Kummer. Thanks to Pioneer for sponsoring this fantastic award.

The location of the 2020 AGM has been decided, and will be held in Woodstock on February 20-21.



Pirmin & Katrine Kummer with the Farm of the Year Trophy. From left to right: Colin Brown, Pioneer, Pirmin Kummer, Katrine Kummer.



NBSCIA president John Best (left) presenting Walter Brown (right) with the dedication award.

## Reminder Section

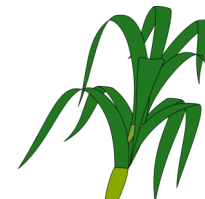
### Soil sampling

It is recommended to take samples every 3 years, or when changing crop type. Soil tests are best for potassium, and phosphorus.



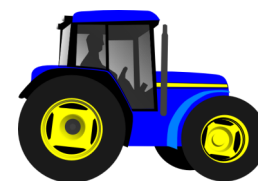
### Tissue sampling

Tissue sampling, coupled with soil sampling is a good way to get an idea of your crops nutrient uptake. It is especially beneficial for the level of some other nutrients which can make all the difference with certain crops (e.g. sulfur for alfalfa and cereals, zinc and boron for corn).



### Manure Sampling

Just like soil sampling, it is recommended to test your manure every 3 years. Testing your manure gives you a better idea of what nutrients you are putting on your fields, potentially leading to a decrease in applied fertilizer and a decrease in fertilizer cost.



### Machinery calibration

It is important to calibrate sprayers and seeders to avoid unnecessary product loss. Don't forget to also clean out sprayer tanks and seed boxes for the same reasons.

## NBSCIA 2019 Research

We have now received most of the project approvals and are busy getting ready to get seed in the ground. The NB Field Crop Germplasm project contains the Regional Cereal and Oilseed plots as well as the Regional Corn Hybrid Evaluation trials and is under the guidance of Peter Scott, Cereal and Oilseed Specialist with NBDAAF.

The NB Forage variety & Management project work includes an emergency forage crop trial as well as a forage fertility study.

The Rhodiola Rosea Cultivars for Biomass and Bioactive Components are managed by Ron Smith at UNB FOREM – Wood Science and Technology Centre (WSTC).

The 2019 industrial Hemp Variety Evaluation & Management Trial will be lead by JP Prive.



As part of an NB Weather Network, 15 Vantage Pro 2 weather stations have been installed across the province. Look for data coming to you in the near future!

We will be looking for cooperators to help us with Soil Health Bench Marking Project. The key objective of this project is to undertake an initial survey of the range of soil health values or parameters across a range of soil types and/or management practices common to New Brunswick farm systems.

Another project that we will be looking for assistance with is the Crop Yield Optimization. We will be seeking individuals with a basic agronomy membership that might be interested in participating in this project. Participants will receive crop yield maps that will quantify the potential yield improvement for each crop that yield data is available ---forage, cereal grain, corn, soybean and potatoes. Individual data will be maintained in confidence in the NBSCIA Geomatics Center software and provided to the cooperators in a format of their choice.

The maps prepared will define yield zones within the field, identify correlation between crop yield and soil chemical and physical characteristics and suggest the potential of crop yield improvement with site specific fertility management (variable rate application of inputs). If you are interested in taking part in these projects, please get in contact with your local coordinator to get started!

## NBSCIA New Structure

As of April 1st, 2019 the New Brunswick Soil & Crop Improvement Association will have 6 coordinators, divided into six regions across the province. The map to the right will show the boundaries



## New Coordinator

### Kings County

My name is Joseph Graham and I am the new Agro-Environmental Coordinator for the Kings County region. I am extremely excited to be a part of the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Growing up in the rural area of Belleisle, New Brunswick, I have spent most of my life surrounded by agriculture. My keen desire to have a degree in this field started at a young age. Thus, I pursued a four-year degree in Environment and Natural Resources management from the University of New Brunswick Fredericton (ENR). ENR provided me with knowledge in three major areas: water, wildlife, and core environmental management. I tended to lean towards core environmental management. My first two years in forestry focused on mapping with Geographic Information Systems, report writing, tree and shrub ID, and soil studies. Furthermore, I moved onto many environmental topics with a strong focus on conservation, restoration, park management, flood mitigation, and forest delineation. As a whole, my interest for this type of science came from the farm I grew up on. I lived on a farm that had beef cattle, Christmas trees, and various types of woodlots. Upon graduating from university, I worked uptown for the City of Saint John Parks Department; I got to see the how parks were managed from the ground up. Most importantly I used this position to learn all I could about plants, shrubs, trees, and soils in a city landscape. My experience challenged me to take what I know about the natural environment and then apply it to the unique and challenging dynamic of a city.

I fully expect this job to be equally challenging and I will look forward to contributing and learning with the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association. I would like to thank everyone who was a part of providing me with this opportunity and to the people that have already helped me with getting started.



-Joseph

## New Coordinators

### North East

Nadler Simon is an Agrologist with a Ph.D. diploma in soil science (Biogeochemistry)

from *Université de Poitiers* in France. Mr. Simon is well versed in the area of agro-environmental science. In 2013 he had a short period contract at *Centre québécois d'innovation en biotechnologie (CQIB)* where he worked for *Anatis Bioprotection Inc.* on the compatibility between beneficial insects and chemical pesticides.



Then he decided work as a postdoctoral researcher at the department of earth science of *Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)* on the valorization of industrial residues in agriculture. At this position, he studied the potential value of using drywall debris gypsum as amendment and fertilizer for cultivated soil. In 2015 Nadler Simon was employed by the *Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (AANB)* to coordinate the agro-environmental advisory club in the north east part of the province. In 2016 he accepted the position of researcher at the *Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre (ECSWCC)* of *Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB)* in Grand Falls/Edmundston. As agrologist and soil science specialist, he reviewed the action plans of the New Brunswick farmers environmental farm plans and issued the corresponding certificate. As well, he wrote, submitted and headed several bilingual projects funded as part of provincial and federal Research and Development (R&D) programs (NSERC, Growing Forward, FINB, EFT, NRC, etc.) intended for the local agricultural sector development. With the farmers and different stakeholders, he implemented and conducted several experiments in laboratory and field. After his experience at the ECSWCC, he returned in 2018 to the north east of New Brunswick. His mission is to, assist farmers in good stewardship of agricultural resources based on sound scientific principles. Nadler Simon believes in sustainable agriculture, notably in soil health for a better field production. *The New Brunswick Soil & Crop Improvement Association (NBSCIA)* appears then a great opportunity for him to further this topic toward adoption of beneficial management practices in the north east region.

### North West

Jean-Mars Jean-Francois graduated with a Bachelor in Agro-nomic sciences from State University of Haiti where he also received a specialization in Forestry. Subsequently, he received a Master degree in Agriculture management from Gembloux University of Belgium and a Master degree in Urban and rural planning at Laval University.



From 1996 to 2005, He has conducted several agricultural projects in Haiti for the European Union, the Germanic organization, the Centre d'études canadiennes et de coopération internationale, and the Department of agriculture and Natural resources in Haiti. He used to teach French, Accounting, Math, Topography and Environment management. He speaks French, English, Creole, and Spanish. From 2005 to 2018, he developed and implement lots of project with the farmers in the North-west of New-Brunswick in order to protect the watersheds (soil, water and air), to control disease, to improve the crops quality and to promote the best management practices, in continuing to maintain high level of yield on farm. During his carrier, he obtained several awards. For instance, In April 2010, he received an Agricultural Initiative award from the Institute of Agrologist of New-Brunswick. Presented several radio programs on various themes: organic farming, animal and human health in connection with naturopathy. Actually, he sits as past President on the Cercle des Agronomes du nord-ouest, as Director on the Comité d'aménagement rural du nord-ouest board and as Director of Éco-citoyen/ Edmundston board. He has a practical skills in organic farming. Currently he works for New-Brunswick Soil and crop as North-west Club Coordinator. Feel free to contact him on 506-273-1674 or email: [nwno@nbscia.ca](mailto:nwno@nbscia.ca).

## Moncton/Chignecto News

It's been a busy and exciting first two months with the NBSCIA. I've started getting out and meeting with some of our members and attended my first AGM. It was an excellent weekend, filled with great speakers and social time. Huge congratulations to Timber River Eco Farms, on taking home the 2018 NBSCIA Farm of the year honours! In March, I was able to attend a Farm Safety workshop called "What Keeps You Up at Night" hosted by our colleagues at the Agricultural Alliance. The take-home message for me was to make sure your farms have a way to prove that you're taking steps to protect your employees. Document training, competency evaluations and equipment inspections so that in the event of an accident your farm is legally protected.

It would seem spring is finally here in the south-east. With that comes time for both spring soil sampling and scouting of perineal crops for winter kill. If you plan on taking your own soil samples this spring, I urge you to remember to take a minimum of 20 sub samples from different sites in the field. Then combine them and take one well mixed composite sample. Also, process the samples through NBSCIA to take advantage of your member discount! With the amount of ice in the region this winter, winter kill seems to be on the mind of many producers. So get out in your fields early, dig a few plants and check the roots for signs of decay such as brown colours and odours. With the frost seeding window quickly coming to a close, remediation is going to be left to no-till seeding and replanting.

Good luck everyone and if you need help with anything feel free to reach out to me!

-Zoshia

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## Central News

It's hard to believe it's May already! The last few months have flew by. The Central Annual Meeting was very well attended and we had a great presentation from Robert Berthiaume on forage production. The New Brunswick Soil & Crop Annual Meeting had a great group of representatives from the Central area and the event was a huge success.

With spring just around the corner in Central New Brunswick, it is time get your spring soil samples collected and look of any winter kill in perennial crops. If you would like assistance with this, please do not hesitate to call.

There will be the addition of a few new weather stations in the area this spring. I look forward to working with you all again this season.

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## Carleton News

## Member Service Description

### Geomatic packages

- Includes a basic set of farm maps. These maps are georeferenced and illustrate watercourses and other buffers
- Custom mapping packages include Soil Status maps, Target Balance Maps, Variable Rate Application Maps

### GPS work

- Perimeter mapping, area determination, crop yields

### Soil Sampling package

- Includes sampling, sample preparation, completion of soil form and submission of samples, and interpretation of results as well as recommendations (does not include cost of soil analysis)

### Environmental Farm Plan

- Can create field and farm maps, emergency response plans, as part of your environmental farm plan

### Equipment calibration

- Calibrations on sprayers, seeders and manure spreaders

### Emergency Response Plan

- A written emergency response plan for compliance with regulatory bodies

### Nutrient Management Plan

- Whole farm nutrient management plans, including plans compliant with the Livestock Operations Act

### Intensive Crop Management Planning

- Integrated Pest Management
- Scouting fields for insect pests and weeds
- Plant population counts and plant emergence counts

### Pre-Audit Assessment

### Cost of Production Analysis

### Crop Monitoring

## Contact Us

If you are in need of any services, or have any questions, please contact your local Agrologist.

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