



New Brunswick Soil & Crop Newsletter



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NBSCIA AGM: Sustainable Food Production in NB

This year's AGM is hosted by the Moncton Soil & Crop Improvement Association. The keynote speaker will be Jo-Ann McCarthur, president and founder of Nourish Food Marketing. She is also the president at the International Food Marketing Alliance. The meeting will also feature talks on soil health, forage production, 4-R research and potato production. The first day of talks will

feature two sessions, one on forage and dairy production, and the other on horticultural production.

Rooms will be available at a special group rate of 125\$ until January 23rd. A complete meeting agenda will be available in the new year. Save the date! Hope to see you at the meeting in February!

WHEN: February 23-34, 2017

WHERE: Crowne Plaza, Moncton

NBSCIA Year in Review

This spring started out with a bang, hiring 5 new agronomists around the province all coming from different backgrounds. They hit the ground running when the snow melted and were able to begin their field season. May was busy with meetings, training sessions and meeting with members in their regions. In June, the Agronomists, along with our Research Coordinator, Walter Brown, started sampling the province wide forage project (see more on page 4). These samplings continued throughout the summer and kept many of us busy.

A few twilight meetings were held throughout the summer, the first was at the Richmond Corner site in July with special guest Patrick Lynch. Mr. Lynch was very impressed with our plots and delivered a great presentation on growing forages and corn. The second twilight meeting was held at Coburn Farms. David, Tyler and

Glen gave us a tour of the Agricultural museum and Walter gave an update on the forage project. On July 19th, participants met for a question and answer session, sponsored by Pickseed. Guest speaker Patrick Lynch, discussed corn and forage production, followed by an in-field session at Hazelhill Farm in Sussex.

The first field day of the season was in Sussex and what a turnout we had (50+ people)! We toured the corn plots, had a precision corn seeder demonstration, a tallest corn competition and a great lunch.



Tallest corn competition winners, Kings County field day.

NBSCIA Year in Review

On Saturday, September 24th, a field day was held in Miramichi. The day was a success in terms of attendance, as nearly 20 individuals took part in the field day. The day started at the Portage restaurant in Miramichi, with attendees enjoying lunch prior to a presentation by David Dykstra from the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture. David Dykstra was a very engaging speaker and provided the group with a thorough presentation focused around the importance of high quality forages. Topics including grass response to temperature, harvest timing, cutting height, and storage were all discussed during the presentation. Following David's talk, the group drove to the home location of

R & R Ag Services to observe their current corn crop and to discuss their operation and production methods. The attendees and David walked in the corn field and discussed the crop. Equipment was on hand for observation as well. Topics including localized weather were also a topic of discussion in relation to the corn crop. Overall, the day was a great learning opportunity for the members of the region and everyone enjoyed the enthusiasm and engaging nature of David's presentation. It was also great to see some of the members even brought their children to take in the day.



Field day in Miramichi

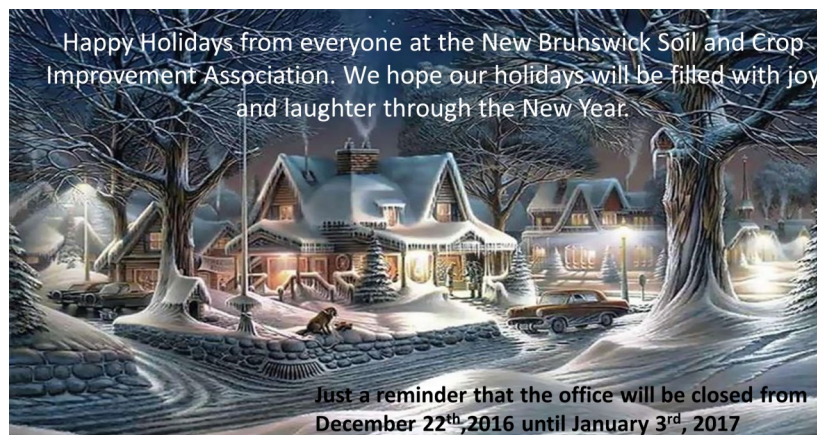


NBSCIA booth at the NBEX in Fredericton

Throughout the summer, Advertisements for our annual Forage and Grain competition were sent out. The event that took place in Fredericton at the NBEX. It was a hit and we more than doubled our entries from 2015. The judge was the former NBDAAF Forage Specialist, Mike Price. Please look for information on the 2017 competition in the coming months. During the fall, NBSCIA agrologists have been busy soil sampling and sending samples to PEI for analysis so that this winter, nutrient recommendations can be completed for members. We are looking for

project ideas for the 2017 growing season, if you have anything that is of interest to you, please let us know. We are always looking for new partnerships, collaborations and ideas are always welcome.

Thank you for your continuing support. We wish you a Happy Holiday season and all the best in 2017! We are looking forward to seeing you at our Local annual general meetings as well as our Provincial AGM in Moncton.



Happy Holidays from everyone at the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association. We hope our holidays will be filled with joy and laughter through the New Year.

Just a reminder that the office will be closed from December 22nd, 2016 until January 3rd, 2017

Membership Price Change

As some of you may know, NBSCIA has gone through some restructuring this past year. As such, there are going to be some changes to our membership pricing starting January 1st, 2017. **Membership with the New Brunswick Soil & Crop will now be a set rate of 60\$ for the calendar year (January-December).** Of that fee, 30\$ will be returned to your local Soil & Crop Improvement Association. Information for

services pricing will follow in the new year. Services to be offered will include: Soil Sampling and Interpretation, Geomatics, Nutrient Management Planning, Intensive Crop Management, Integrated Pest Management.

Don't forget that you have to be a paid member in order to have voting privileges at the AGM.

Farm of the Year Nominees

Farmer of the Year is a way to recognize what farmers do on their farms and to give them a chance to showcase their farm. The Farmer of the Year nominee comes from each of the Local Soil and Crops around the province. The judges visit each of the farms to give them an overall score, and decide on the winner. The judges consist of two NBSCIA board members and a representative from

the Department of Agriculture.

There are eleven things the nominees are judged on. Each of the eleven criteria are worth a certain number of points, they do not all have the same value. The categories the farmer's scores are based on are environmental issues, nutrient management, current soil and crop condition, soil and crop management, soil conservation, crop management practices, leadership in

crop technology, new varieties, organizational ability, agriculture and community activities, farm appearance, S.C.I.A participation and record keeping and planning systems. These farms must demonstrate the application of sustainable environmental practices.

The winner is announced at the Farm of the Year banquet held during the NBSCIA annual meeting.

Central nominee

Coburn Farms
David, Glen and Tyler Coburn



Sackville nominee

Strang's Produce Inc.
Richard Strang



Moncton nominee

La Ferme Michaud Farm
André «bud» Allain, François Lavigne,
Christian Michaud



Carleton County nominee

Graham Farms
Kenny, Mary, Nicholas, and John Graham



Kings County nominee

Clearland Holsteins
Malcolm and Elaine MacDonald



Project update: Improved Forage Quality and Quantity through the use of New Mixtures

A quick summary of the data looking at cutting dates shows that 66 percent of the first cut forage occurred between May 31st and June 7th and remainder was cut between June 15th and the 20th. Forages cut between May 31st and June 7th were predominately alfalfa but did include 4 of the farm with the red clover plots. 65 percent of the second cut plots were harvested from July 4th to the 14th with the rest staggered out from the 20th to August 3rd.

When the data collection was completed and presented to Dr. Nancy McLean at Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture at the

end of October we had a full complement of data on 25 of the 29 farms. Nancy has completed a preliminary run through the data which is presented in table 1 and 2. She is working on completing the analysis on all the data and will be presenting that at the NBSCIA annual meeting in Moncton on February 23rd, 2017.

While we had three mixtures in the trial they are basically either an Alfalfa or Clover mixture. However all three mixtures were fairly competitive through the first 2 cuts as shown in table 1. When visiting the farms where a 2 cut system is used the

field tend to have considerably more ground cover going into winter. The farms using a 3 cut system harvested by September 1st will also have good ground cover but allows the Alfalfa mix showed its worth in higher yields. The Alsike clover in the triple mix is a very aggressive species which allows that mixture to compete very closely with the Alfalfa and the Red Clover in the first production year. However the Alsike clover generally disappears in the second production year.

Table 1: Seasonal Forage Yields in t/ha by Cuts.

Treatments	Alfalfa 2 Cuts (t/ha)	Alfalfa 3 Cuts (t/ha)	Red Clover 2 Cuts (t/ha)
Test Mix	4.29 A	6.89 A	5.01 A
Triple Mix	3.99 A	6.38 AB	4.39 A
Farm Mix	3.73 A	5.04 B	4.35 A



The quality of all mixtures was more dependent on the time of harvest than the legume in the mixture and milk in kg/tonne of forage can give a good estimate of what your forage program is doing for you. Most forage species tend to rush to the reproductive stage, which is heading in the

grass species and flowering in the legume species, fairly aggressively; therefore taking the first cut early in June will result in higher milk in kg/tonne for the total seasons forage shown in table 2. In the subsequent cuts forage species tend to remain vegetative for a longer period which re-

sults in a longer harvest window for 2nd and 3rd cut. One caution with this however is that being calculation it will probably not result in a corresponding yield in the bulk tank.

Table 2: Seasonal Milk Yields in t/ha by Cuts.

Treatments	Alfalfa 2 Cuts (t/ha)	Alfalfa 3 Cuts (t/ha)	Red Clover 2 Cuts (t/ha)
Test Mix	6.30 A	10.41 A	7.49 A
Triple Mix	6.26 A	9.99 AB	6.75 A
Farm Mix	5.69 A	7.92 B	5.76 A

Walter Brown,
P.Ag, CCA

Save the Date

Central SCIA AGM

January 17th, 2017
Riverside Resort, Mactaquac
35 Mactaquac Road
French Village, Fredericton, NB

Moncton SCIA AGM

January 20th, 2017
St. James Gate, Dieppe
200 Golf Street
Dieppe, NB

North East SCIA AGM

January, 2017
Details to come

Carleton County SCIA AGM

January 18th, 2017
Best western, Woodstock
123 Gallop Court
Woodstock, NB

Kings County SCIA AGM

January 25th, 2017
Fairway Inn, Sussex
216 Roachville Road
Sussex, NB

NBSCIA Provincial AGM

February 23-24th, 2017
Crowne Plaza, Moncton
1005 Main Street
Moncton, NB

Agriculture Alliance of NB AGM

January 19-20th, 2017
Crowne Plaza, Moncton
1005 Main Street
Moncton, NB

Miramichi SCIA AGM

January, 2017
Details to come

NB Farmers Union AGM

March 17th, 2017
Details to come

Thank you to the NBSCIA sponsors

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