



# New Brunswick Soil & Crop Newsletter



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## Inside this issue:

AGM Recap	1
Reminder	2
Research	2
Soil Your Undies	3
Website	3
Member Services	4
Contact Us	4
Save the Date	5

## NBSCIA AGM: Sustainable Food Production in NB

The 38<sup>th</sup> annual NBSCIA AGM took place on February 23-24<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Moncton. The event was a great success, with around 85 attendees over 2 days. The AGM, themed "Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Food Production", featured talks on horticulture, dairy, and soil health. key note speaker Jo-Ann McArthur kicking of the meeting with an excellent presentation on future consumer market trends that have implications for food production requirements.

At the banquet, we awarded the first ever 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. There were two recipients of the award this year, Bonar Morton and David Walker. The Farm of the Year award was given to La Ferme Michaud Farm. The FoY award was given to La Ferme Michaud Farm. Congratulations to Frank, Christian and Bud!! Thanks to Pioneer for sponsoring this fantastic award.

The location of the 2018 AGM has been decided, and will be held in Fredericton on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.



La Ferme Michaud Farm with the FoY trophy. From left to right: André "Bud" Allain, François Lavigne, Christian Michaud, and Colin Brown from Pioneer.



NBSCIA president John Best (left) presenting David Walker (right) with the dedication award.

**National Soil Conservation Week**  
April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

## 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

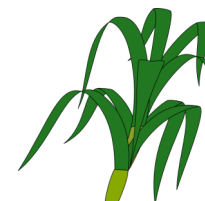
Tissue sampling, coupled with soil sampling is a good way to get an idea of your crops nutrient uptake. It is especially beneficial for the level of some other nutrients which can make all the difference with certain crops (e.g. sulfur for alfalfa and cereals, zinc and boron for corn).

### 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 2017 Research

With the beginning of April and the new budget year we await the approval of projects for 2017. We anticipate the approval of most projects from 2016. 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 Cultivar Development work includes the final year of the Regional Alfalfa and Fescue trials at Richmond Corner and the Improved Forage quality and quantity through the use of New Mixtures.

Following the On-Farm trials are also continuing in 2017 under the guidance of the NBSCIA Research Coordinator Walter Brown.

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

The Selection of Reedcanary Grass for Biomass Production is looking at cultivars of Reedcanary Grass selected by Art McElroy of PhytoGene Resources Inc. This project is managed by Ray Carmichael, NBSCIA Agrologist in Carleton County.

We have a number of smaller projects still in the development stage and will report on them as they are approved and the projects begin.

Walter J. Brown, Research Coordinator.



Improved Forage quality and quantity through the use of New Mixtures trial plot.



Selection of Reedcanary Grass for Biomass Production trial plot.

## It's Time to Soil Your Undies!

Have you heard of the underwear test? It is a fun play on the cotton test used to check the microbial activity of your soil. All you need is a pair of white 100% cotton briefs, a shovel and some flags. Dig a trench and bury the underwear in the first six inches of soil, leaving a small part of the waistband sticking out of the ground, and place a flag to be able find it again. Leave the undies in the ground for about 2 months. Carefully dig it up and wash off excess soil if necessary.

This at home experiment is a good way to be able to do easier visual comparison between fields having different management histories (e.g. till vs no till fields, different rotations and management, etc.). There are a few things to keep in mind to be able to do good comparisons, such as testing similar soil types, keeping track of each pair by writing on the waistband, and burying pairs of underwear being compared on the same day and leaving them in the ground for the same amount of time.

*The cotton test uses pre-measured squares of cotton as "food" for soil organisms. In soils with higher biological activity, there would be less cotton remaining when the squares are removed.*

The Soil Conservation Council of Canada is launching a "Soil Your Undies" Campaign, and we encourage you to take part! Don't forget to tag them on facebook, Twitter and Instagram @SoilCouncil using the hashtag #SoilYourUndies. NBSCIA will also be doing the Underwear test, so keep an eye out for pictures in the summer months. Soil and Crop, sponsored by Stanfield's, can even provide you with a pair of fresh briefs if you wish to participate in the campaign!



The Underwear Test — Laura Van Eerd, U Guelph, Ridgeway



**STANFIELD'S®**

## Website

We are currently working on updating and rejuvenating our website!! The website will feature a new modernised design, as well as an events calendar so you can keep track of our events in one convenient location. So keep an eye out for this well needed change coming soon.

**COMING SOON**

## 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)

### Equipment calibration

- Calibrations on sprayers, seeders and manure spreaders

### Environmental Farm Plan

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

### 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

### Pre-Audit Assessment

### Cost of Production Analysis

### Crop Monitoring

### Production Management

## Contact Us

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

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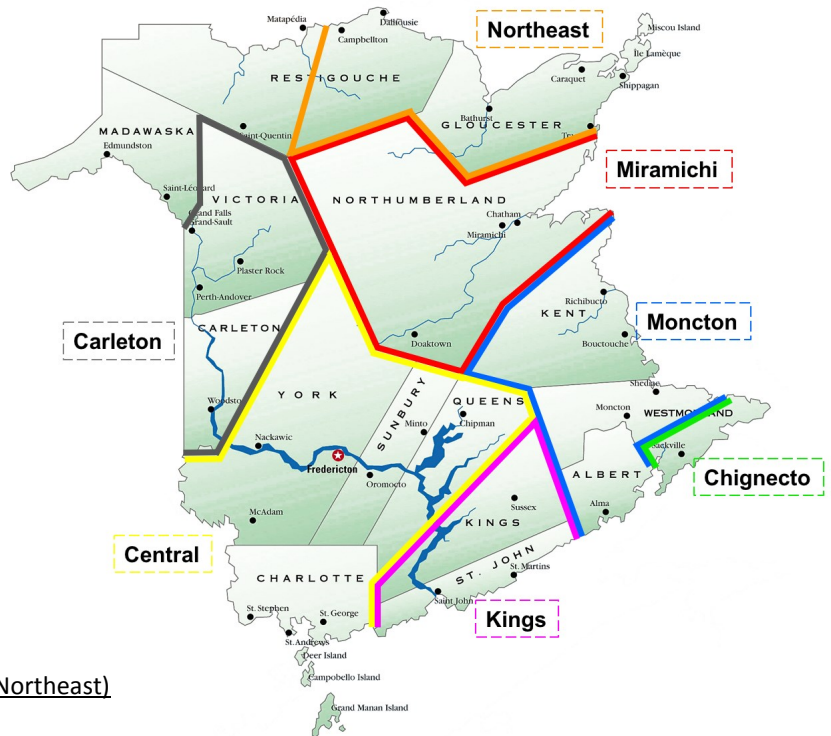
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### Northshore (Miramichi & Northeast)

#### **William McCallum**

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## Save the Date

### Private Agriculture L1 Pesticide Applicator Certification Training

April 28th, 2017  
Charlotte Room, Department of Agriculture  
850 Lincoln Road  
Fredericton, NB

### Private Agriculture L1 Pesticide Applicator Certification Training

May 3rd, 2017  
Sussex (Location to be determined)

## Thank you to the NBSCIA sponsors

### Gold Sponsors:



### Bronze Sponsors:



### Contributors:

