

New Brunswick Soil & Crop News



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editor: Andrea Koch

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2021 New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association Farm of the Year McCrea Farms Ltd.

Due to Covid restrictions judging for the farm of the year competition was not possible in 2020 and in spite of judging taking place in the summer of 2021, COVID again caused the cancellation of the 2021 Farm of the year banquet. Finally, NBSCIA had their first farm of the year banquet since 2020 on March 23, 2023, where, after much anticipation, McCrea Farms was named the recipient of the 2021 farm of the year award. McCrea Farms is located in Shannon, about 40 minutes from Sussex. Three generations currently operate the farm including James McCrea, Bruce, Nancy, Chandler and James Colpitts. Nancy's grandfather started the farm under its current format in the 1940s, but the family is still farming the land their ancestor settled on 200 years ago in 1823.

McCrea Farms is a diversified family farm producing dairy, beef, maple syrup and speckled trout. They grow and harvest all their own crops and harvest wood each winter and operate a small sawmill to generate some added value as well as sell roundwood. During the early spring, it is all hands-on deck working in the 2000-tap sugar bush. They also operate an agritourism business where families can come and stay at one of four farmhouses and participate in farm activities.

A new dairy barn was built in 2018, it is a free-stall barn with a robotic milker. The barn was built with cow comfort and efficiency of operation as the main goals. They are currently milking 60 cows and have doubled production from the tie-stall barn while reducing labor requirements. The beef herd is a mix of Hereford and Angus cattle with bull breeding by a Charolais or Angus. Feeders were once sold to feedlots but since 2019, they have tripled local sales of beef and now keep most of their feeders to supply local markets. The speckled trout are raised in two hatcheries on the farm and used to stock a lake on the farm that was built in the 80s for fishing and other recreation. Fish are also sold to individuals and fishing clubs to stock backyard ponds and lakes.



McCrea farm's cropping system is based heavily on perennial forages, using annual forage mixtures such as oats and peas as a nurse crop to establish a perennial stand. Their forage mix features primarily clovers, timothy and fescues. Stand longevity is a priority, using frost seeding and strategic harvesting windows to maintain legume concentrations and control weeds.

A combination of dairy and beef cattle allows for two distinct forage quality requirements; the newly established, highlegume stands are allocated to lactating dairy cattle, while the older stands remain suitable for beef and non-lactating animals. Fields are renovated based on weed prevalence and production indicators, some requiring re-establishment after four to five years, while others continue to produce after 25-plus years since establishment. They make use of liquid and solid manure, diverse grass and legume mixtures, application of wood ash and soil sampling. This leads to a minimal requirement for synthetic fertilizer beyond the establishment year.

In 2021 they built a 95kw solar array on the farm. This produces approximately 137,000kWh annually and is enough to run the entire farm. The goal of the solar array is to reduce energy costs over time, but it is also helping to reduce their carbon footprint. The past managers of the farm have built and expanded the farm to provide opportunities for future generations of their family. Bruce and Nancy continue to do the same, trying to constantly improve in hopes that they can maintain this lifestyle for generations to come.

We at Soil and Crop are happy to have Chandler join us as our newest and youngest provincial director. Congratulations to the Colpitts family.



Message from the General Manager Ray Carmichael

First and foremost, I am pleased to introduce our two new coordinators. Gabrielle Schenkels started as our Northshore Coordinator on May 1, 2023. Gabrielle, native to New Brunswick holds a General Bachelor of Business Administration, from UNB and a BSc in Agricultural Business, Certificate in Soil Science from Dalhousie University. Andrea Koch started as the Central Coordinator on June 1, grew up on a dairy and cash crop farm in Winchester Springs, Ontario. Andrea holds a Bachelors in Agriculture with a Major in Animal Science from Dalhousie Agriculture College in Truro, NS.

You win some you lose some, Zoshia Frasier our Coordinator for Moncton-Chignecto and Assistant General Manager will be returning to her Nova Scotia homeland as of the end of July. Zoshia was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable contributor to NBSCIA over the past four years. She will be missed but we all wish her well in her new career path.

After a two-year absence NBSCIA started the year off with an in-person Annual General Meeting and Technical Workshop, on March 23-24, 2023, at Days Inn & Suites by Wyndham Moncton, NB. The theme of the AGM was "Regenerative Agriculture, what is it and how do we implement it?". Approximately 75 participants plus trade show exhibitors attended the event. The Pioneer J R Booker 2021 Farmer of the Year award was presented to McCrea Farms Ltd., a member of the Kings Soil and Crop local. Dedication awards were also presented to Jim Wheaton and David Acton in recognition of their years of service to the NBSCIA.

Funding for the NBSCIA coordinators to continue serving the farming community has been secured until March 31, 2024, under the new Sustainable Agricultural Partnership Program (SCAP). Pending the outcome of a review by NBDAAF, going forward we could see some changes to the services provided and business model of NBSCIA, but NBSCIA remains optimistic there will be continued support under SCAP.

NBSCIA is also working on five Sustainable Agricultural Partnership funded projects NB2324-0287 NB Weather Monitoring, NB2324-0090 Establishing Alfalfa with Corn, NB2324-0308 Tool for Soil Health, NB2324-0184 Oat & Winter Wheat Cultivar and AGC-Forage Variety Trial. NBSCIA is partnering with NBDAAF to bring weather maps to producers in NB. Find the maps for May precipitation, CHU, GDD and Soil Temperatures on the NBSCIA website.

In early June, NBSCIA welcomed Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Senior Project Officer for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund, Chantal Myers for a tour of New Brunswick farms to see their OFCAF projects in action!

Applications for OFCAF funding for 2023 were opened mid-March and available funding for Ultimate Recipients (farmers) was exceeded by May 31. We have been advised that the OFCAF program will be extended





for the next fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. It's never too early to start thinking about applying for an OFCAF project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Stay in touch with your local coordinator to help determine what BMP(s) may work on your farm. NBSCIA commends all the applicants for the steps they have taken to mitigate climate change and secure a bright future for generations to come.

NBSCIA continues to partner with Farmers for Climate Solutions to provide training to support farmers in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases, specifically in the areas of 1. nitrogen management, 2. cover cropping and 3. rotational grazing practices.

There will be a series of in-field events hosted in your local area over the next few weeks. So, watch your email and other social media for dates, times and locations.

Photo curtesy of Dave Walker

Chantal Meyers, Becky Perry and Ray Carmichael standing at the real of a vertical beater manure spreader purchased with the support of OFCAF.

OFCAF program and application details are available by contacting:

NBSCIA Ray Carmichael (506)276-3311 ofcafadmin@nbscia.ca

Carleton Andrew Sytsma (506)245-2220 carleton@nbscia.ca Kings Joseph Graham (506)567-0224 kings@nbscia.ca

Moncton-Chignecto Zoshia Fraser (902)220-9147 moncton@nbscia.ca Northwest Jean-Mars Jean-Francois (506)273-1674 nwno@nbscia.ca

Central Andrea Koch (613)262-5546 central@nbscia.ca Northshore Gabrielle Schenkels (506)625-7718 northshore@nbscia.ca

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund.

Cover Cropping Info Session

On February 9th, at JJ's Diner, Kings County Soil and Crop was fortunate to have Anne Verhallen Soil Management Specialist at Ontario Ministry of Agriculture. Anne is a long-time government specialist, first joining the ministry in the late 1980's. For the past several decades Anne has done research and studies supporting the horticultural industry in Ontario. Much of this work was directed towards increasing the understanding of cover crops and how they benefit soil health. Anne's presentation was focused on defining cover crops, what does it mean to each farm? How do these practices fit in various systems? Also, including the best methods used to establish and benefit from cover crops. Anne was clear in mentioning that a lot of work is being done by producers in her region, as she demonstrated many producer profiles that were using cover crops effectively. These producers all had varying backgrounds including beef producers, grain and corn crops, vegetable crops, and others. Anne made it clear that cover cropping is not one size fits all, but there are ways to make it fit in most commercial agricultural practices. Anne also discussed how the effort to commit to cover cropping was beneficial to increasing soil health and contributing to a more balanced system. Towards the end of the training session many producers in the crowd were very involved. Anne provided very relevant information to producers in this region on any questions. Species selection, timing of planting, and when to terminate were all discussed directly with local producers. Overall, the sessions were very well attended. Once again, we thank Anne for her time and her continued work towards improving agriculture.

Nitrogen Management Training

NBSCIA had the pleasure of having Dr. Dave Burton of Dalhousie University and retired NBDAAF soil specialist Pat Toner this past winter to present on nitrogen management. Dr. Burton and Pat Toner travelled across the province to speak to NBSCIA members and non-members alike in Moncton, Fredericton, Florenceville, Grand Falls, and Bathurst. The workshops focused on improving nitrogen fertilizer management practices for agronomic, economic and environmental gain. Several highlights include fertilizing for maximum economic gain versus maximum yield, the status of organic matter across Atlantic Canada, potential nitrogen available from organic matter mineralization, products to reduce nitrogen loss, and various nitrogen management research projects. The events were a big success with great attendance and discussion.

2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Update

The 2023 NBSCIA AGM hosted over 60 NBSCIA members, presenters and partners over two days at Days Inn Moncton on March 23rd & 24th. This year's theme of regenerative agriculture coincided with revival of in-person meetings for the first time since 2020. We were able to welcome expert presenters who have been working with producers in NB for years, as well as new faces bringing new perspectives from Alberta and Manitoba. Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin McCully introduced many of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) programs that will be administered through NBDAAF, including the framework for the Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program, which will assist farmers adopt practices that increase environmental resiliency through Ecological Goods and Services. Researchers Dr. Yousef Papadopoulos and Ryan Barrett shared updates on forage cultivar and cover crop selection projects they have been working on in Nova Scotia and PEI, respectively. Mary-Jane Orr and Kimberly Bornish engaged the group on how soil health is measured and improved in Western grazing settings.

Nominations for the Farm of the Year Award brought together many deserving farms from across the province; Scotch View Farms from Central (Roy van Brugge), McCrea Farms from Kings County (Colpitts Family), Ferme Floray from Northwest region (Lamarche family) New Steffeshof Farms from Moncton (Scheele family), and Davanna Holdings (Acton family) from Chignecto. The winner of the 2021 Farm of the Year was McCrea Farms, who we were so glad to be able to finally celebrate with in person. Their 8th generation farm hosts dairy and beef herds, a 2000 tap sugar bush, and fish hatchery. For them farming is truly a family affair!

We were happy to present two Dedication Awards this year to long-time supporters of NBSCIA, Jim Wheaton and David Acton. Jim grew up on a dairy farm in Port Elgin, returning to farm after graduating from NSAC, and venturing into beef and custom operations after that. Jim served as the President of the Chignecto Soil and Crop Improvement Association for 18 years, continuing as a director until 2002. He represented the Chignecto region on the provincial board of directors for many years, and through this role also sat on the Canadian Forage Council and the Soil Conservation Council of Canada. David grew up not too far from Jim in Cookville, NB, working in welding and cattle

buying before returning to farm with his father and brother. After his fathers' retirement, he and his wife Anna formed Davanna Holdings. David has been actively involved both in NBSCIA and the broader farming community for his entire career, including acting as President of the NB Cattle Producers Association, the Canadian Grain Council, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and more. In his community, his dedication to coaching minor hockey has earned him an award presented in his name each year. We are thankful to these two amazing members for their hard work and support over the years – Congratulations Jim and David!

Thank you to all members, presenters, and supporters that helped make our 2023 AGM possible! We hope to see some of you back again for the 2024 AGM!

2023 NBSCIA DIRECTORS

Tyler Coburn - President Dean Acton - Vice president Jason Cleveland - Secretary/Treasurer Allain Côté André Côté **Benoit Cormier** Alain Lepage **Charlie McIntosh** Jordan Crawford Alex Jopp John Bos Ryan van de Brand Fred Anderson Ellen Gammon John Riordon Chandler Colpitts

Grazing Management Workshop

On April 3rd, 2023, the city of Edmundston hosted a training session on rotational grazing, led by Mrs. Marie-Pier Beaulieu. About fifteen cattle breeders from the northwest region responded. This activity was made possible thanks to the financial support of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), an initiative to help farmers tackle climate change. To achieve this, the presenter of the day adopted the following approach: sharing personal experiences, her beginnings and difficulties encountered in grazing management, the five principles of grazing management and the challenges of each participating farmer. This training session came at the right time since the cattle industry faces major challenges, including the high cost of land and inputs, the scarcity of labor and poor performance pastures.

As with any economic activity, the beginnings always seem difficult. However, over time, we learn from our mistakes and gradually improve. Mrs. Marie-Pier advises farmers to set themselves viable and realistic objectives. Also, one must have a business plan. Because we have to have the land available, invest in buildings, equipment and grazing management infrastructure, and respect the minimum separation distances from wells and watercourses and have the know-how. The participants also shared their experiences. In the former grazing system, few farmers have taken the time required to calculate costs and benefits. As an outcome, some had to work off the farm to continue farming. Farmers report that the biggest problem is the high cost of inputs and the low subsidies available to support cattle farmers. For example, manure storage can cost over \$150,000. However, the price of beef is far from compensating for the investments incurred. As a result, the only alternative remains good grazing management.

Afterwards, Mrs. Marie-Pier discussed the five principles of pasture management. This approach aims to restore soil health, increase biodiversity and improve ecosystems while ensuring sustained daily weight gain without altering pasture regrowth. The first principle aims to minimize ground disturbance. Moreover, disturbing the soil may lead to the destruction of the natural structure of the soil and the reduction of its capacity to retain water and nutrients. To do this, she advised dividing the plots into small plots and limiting the residence time of the cattle. This technique, called rotational grazing, avoids overgrazing and soil disturbance by improving its structure. Compared to their personal experiences, the breeders present find that this technique requires time. However, they were advised to try one plot and com-



Photo curtesy of Jean Mars Jean François

pare the results in terms of daily cattle weight gain, pasture regeneration and soil health. The literature proves that this principle is beneficial over time for the financial health of the farm. The second principle advocates the maximization of ground cover. Bare soil is vulnerable to erosion, water loss and nutrient depletion. The presenter's experience shows that this technique leaves enough vegetation cover on the soil which promotes healthy root systems and protects the soil from the adverse elements of nature. The third principle encourages increased biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem. Therefore, this technique is recommended because it avoids overgrazing, increases biodiversity, and promotes the growth of various plant species. The fourth principle is about keeping the roots alive. Plants with living roots sequester a lot of carbon, build soil structure and support soil microorganisms. The last principle encourages the integration of livestock at the right time. Livestock play a vital role in a regenerative grazing system by providing manure, pasture grasses and reducing weed pressure.

All in all, despite some reluctance expressed, in terms of the time required and the subdivision of the plots into smaller units, the farmers appreciated having learned new techniques and are committed to investing in the management of the pasture, in return for subsidies. In fact, one of the potential benefits of grazing management is increased forage production per unit area and net farm income. To make the grazing system profitable, it is advisable for farmers to discuss with an agronomist to design a development plan defined with field maps, enclosures, footbridges, water points, and the sowing of a mixture of varieties of plants adapted to the surrounding conditions.

Nitrogen Management Field Day—Memramcook June 8, 2023

On Thursday June 8th a field day and training session on Nitrogen Management was hosted by Belliveau Orchards and NBSCIA in Memramcook, NB. Guest speaker Dr David Burton came and spoke on the topic of Nitrogen Management utilizing the resources made available by the Farm Resilience Mentorship Program (FaRM). FaRM is a farmer-to-farmer hub to promote learning and mentorship on the topics of nitrogen management, rotational grazing, and cover cropping in Canada. This webpage contains Canadian region-specific learning sessions broken down into videos, PowerPoint presentations, and workbooks which farmers and others interested can progress through at their own pace. The focus of the day's presentation was on learning how to work with the unique nutrient management considerations that come with farming in Atlantic Canada to ensure nitrogen use optimization is achieved when providing this nutrient to a crop. The 4Rs of nutrient management were used to explain a mode of action that ensures more efficient use of nutrients and reduce the chances for their loss into the surrounding environment. A key point in the presentation was brought up that maximum yield does not equal maximum profit. With rising fertilizer prices, farmers need to focus on the efficient use of fertilizer with regards to prices and how much yield increase that added nitrogen will actually bring to their crop. Lunch was provided by the Pré d'en Haut Golden Age Club before continuing on into the afternoon session.

The afternoon's focus was on organic amendments and their management. Liquid manure, solid manure, and compost are all alternative amendments to synthetic fertilizer that add valuable nutrients to the soil. Liquid manure can add the most readily available nutrients but this form has the greatest risk for nutrient loss. Solid manure provides nutrients that are made available over time and are not as easily lost. Compost is another option that promotes soil building by providing nutrients that are made available over time. Creating compost is a long process where appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio (C:N), water content, oxygen availability, and temperature is critical to the success of the process. The optimal C:N ratio is between 20-30:1 as this supports efficiency in the bacterial decomposition process of the materials making up the compost. With the appropriate C:N ratio, routine turning, and adequate moisture content a homogenous compost is created which can supply a balanced source of essential nutrients to the soil.

After this session we were invited to Belliveau Orchards where Samuel Bourgeois spoke on their nutrient management plan utilizing compost as a soil amendment for their apple trees. The compost that they receive is a mixture of shellfish, woodchips, and peatmoss. A demonstration was made of their compost spreader in action. The farm was waiting on a larger compost spreader that would be more time efficient due to its increased holding capacity. There was a great turnout to the field day with approximately 40 attendees including agronomists, producers, and other industry representatives.



Samuel Bourgeois of Belliveau Orchards and Dr. David Burton at Belliveau Orchards in Memramcook.

Photo curtesy of Dave Walker



A graph from Dr. David Burton's Nitrogen Management presentation, showing usage levels in each Atlantic province in kT/year.

Photo curtesy of Gabrielle Schenkels



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- Environmental Farm Management Planning
- Improving Crop and Livestock Health and Quality
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General inquiries can be submitted by e-mail to Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca.



Scan to access funding program guidelines and application forms. Please contact staff from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries to discuss your project.

Contact information for staff can be found in the links below.









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Benefits of a Tripartite Plant-Mycorrhiza-Bacillus Symbiosis in Potato Production

Martin Trépanier, Mathieu Bouchard-Rochette, Jeremy Waugh and Marc Béland



Mycorrhizae are soil fungi that establish a symbiosis with plant roots. This combination allows better assimilation of water, phosphorus and other mineral elements, promoting better plant growth and better resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. By exploring the soil, the intense network of hyphae of the mycorrhizal fungus also plays a major role in the physical and microbiological characteristics of soils. Indeed, the carbon exuded into the soil by the hyphae helps support the significant growth of bacterial communities and promotes soil aggregation.

Since 2011, 1184 validation trials in real growing conditions have been carried out in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Maine and France. The results indicate that the application of the mycorrhizal inoculant resulted in an increase in yield in 82.3% of cases. This significant yield increase averaged 9.1%, representing an average marketable yield increase of 31.6 cwt/ac.





Bring the research further.

In 2021 and 2022, 6 experimental plots were implemented in Quebec, Ontario and Prince Edward Island. Three treatments were applied: an untreated control treatment, a treatment with a commercial mycorrhizal inoculant (AGTIV[®] REACHTM L POTATO) and a treatment with the same mycorrhizal inoculant supplemented with a biostimulating bacterium (*Bacillus inaquosorum*-PTB185). The results from the experimental plots demonstrate that inoculation with the mycorrhizal fungus brings an increase of 11 cwt/ac in yield, while simultaneous inoculation with the mycorrhizal fungus and a biostimulating bacterium results in nearly double the increase, i.e., a significant increase of yield in potato of 20 cwt/ac when compared to the control. The two microorganisms would therefore have additive or even synergistic effects on the improvement of the yield of marketable tubers.

The results obtained in real growing conditions demonstrate that it is profitable for a producer to apply mycorrhizal inoculants to his field. The use of biostimulant microorganisms in agriculture fits well with a sustainable agriculture perspective, by allowing better use of the water and nutrients present in the soil.

Regional Updates from your NBSCIA Coordinators

News from the Northwest: Uncertainty of Farmers - Jean Mars Jean François

The 2023 crop year is relatively earlier than usual, due to rapid snowmelt. As a result, sowing was done about ten to 15 days before time. However, given the on-farm problems, producers remain skeptical about the future of farming in northwestern New Brunswick. Indeed, the results of the latest survey conducted by the Agrienvironmental Club Coordinator among members paint a gloomy picture of the reality in which the majority of agricultural farms operate. As far as labor is concerned, farmers are struggling to recruit people. When they manage to engage some, they must have a special time to train the agricultural staff. However, it happens that less than a month later, this workforce decides to change scenery without warning, leaving the farmer in disarray with daily tasks that cannot wait. Note that the sector that suffers the most is the dairy industry. To overcome this problem, some dairy farms are turning to robotic cattle milking. It should be noted that this initiative requires a lot of financial investment to such an extent that small farms do not have the belt to embark on such an adventure. In addition, farmers have to deal with high production costs. For more than three years, the prices of agricultural inputs have increased exponentially at all levels. The current price of fuel, an essential component in agricultural production, has seen a 65% increase compared to that of 2018 before the Covid19 pandemic. At the same time, the minimum wage recorded a 27% jump compared to 2018.

In the Saint-Quentin region, the last two years have seen strong speculation of agricultural land. For instance, land that was purchased for \$2,000 per acre



Photo curtesy of Jean Mars Jean François

sees its price relatively doubled. Because some investors from Ontario have made investments in agricultural lands, hoping that prices will double again 10 years later. In the meantime, these investors lease the acquired land to the farmers. These growers are very worried about this speculation. They feel threatened in an economic activity undertaken for generations. Farmers would like to do more crop rotation. On the other hand, they are faced with a flagrant lack of available land. This worrying situation, if it remains unresolved, will further contribute to soil degradation. On the other hand, agricultural equipment and spare parts have seen their prices explode and even doubled or even triple since the pandemic. Some farmers report that, because of their over-indebtedness, agricultural succession is no longer a given, as in the past. Beside this canvas, given the high price of chemical fertilizers, some farmers would like to adopt cover crops. But the lack of available land penalizes them pitifully. Furthermore, it should be noted that in 2022, despite the relative increase in potato yield, the low price of tubers did not compensate for production costs. Finally, the weak Canadian dollar represents a bottleneck when it comes to importing agricultural inputs as equipment and machinery.

Looking closer at what is happening in the fields in 2023, the reality is far from rosy. The maple syrup industry suffered a lot last spring. The quantity of sap collected was clearly below the seasonal average. This is explained by the fact that the rapid increase in night and daytime temperatures have considerably reduced the flow of sap. In terms of results, the 2023 season has left a bitter taste in the mouths of maple producers. As for hay, June was a very wet month. Obviously, the hay grew well like the weeds, to repeat the old saying. On the other hand, we recorded a lot of delay in the first cut. Added to this, farmers found it difficult to make dry hay on time. It is still too early to inquire about the quality of the hay. As far as potatoes growers concerned, everything seems normal, despite the delays recorded in phytosanitary treatments, due to too frequent rains. On that same note, the recent rains are having a mixed impact on the grain. Despite good plant growth, there was a lot of nitrogen loss through leaching. In some places, the observation of a pale-yellow color of the leaves is witness to this. However, nitrogen was applied one month after plants emergence.

In view of this gloomy picture, one can easily wonder if there is a favorable outcome for the agricultural industry in the northwest of the province. Far from giving up, farmers who want to leave a viable legacy for future generations say they are still motivated to continue the adventure that was flourishing their ancestors. However, such motivation will not survive without the call for urgent and sustained intervention from both levels of government.

Northshore Update – Gabrielle Schenkels

The Northshore club remained active in the winter months despite lacking a coordinator with the help of Zoshia Fraser and Dave Walker. Zoshia planned the Northeast AGM on February 2nd, with 12 members in attendance and a presentation from David Burton on nitrogen management BMPs; she was also the point of contact for members in the region for OFCAF inquiries. Dave Walker moderated the pasture management workshop, with presenter John Duynisveld. I wanted to take a moment to thank both Zoshia and Dave for their hand in programming this year.

As of May first, I'm happy to say that the Northshore coordinator role has been filled by myself, Gabrielle Schenkels! I'm from a dairy farm outside of Miramichi, NB, and just finished my degree in Agricultural Business at Dal AC in April. I'm very interested in forage crop production and look forward to building nutrient recommendation plans for our members. I am training under an experienced blueberry scout as well and am becoming familiar with management products and practices in wild blueberries.

This has been an interesting season to start as a coordinator with NBSCIA. The rain we had at the end of May dampened growing conditions for corn during sprout and blueberries during pollination. Not to mention delaying first cut due to saturated soils. Our weather stations have been very helpful in monitoring precipitation at these key times. I've been travelling around the region and have been able to do some soil sampling and disease/insect scouting. I'd certainly like to get out and do more of this, as well as meeting



with farmers to get a better understanding of their agronomic goals.

As the season continues, I look forward to doing tissue, manure, and soil sampling, as well as building nutrient and crop recommendations with these results. Digital field mapping, environmental farm plans (EFPs), and disease and pest scouting also remain priorities in the coming months. I look forward to seeing folks at our upcoming field days. Keep an eye out for RSVP emails in the near future! We have one coming up August 17th, 1-4pm in Robertville (outside Bathurst) for nitrogen management presentations and equipment demos from Green Diamond.



Photos curtesy of Gabrielle Schenkels

What's New in Carleton - Andrew Sytsma

The first half of the year was an eventful one in the Carleton region with all sorts of workshops and meetings that were all well attended by the agricultural community. The year kicked off with a nitrogen management workshop with presenters Dave Burton and Pat Toner in January. In early February, OMAFRA soil management specialist Anne Verhallen presented on cover crop management. Both events were very well attended and generated a lot of interest and good discussion. Later in February the Carleton region AGM was held at the Amsterdam Inn, which turned out to be one of the most well attended Carleton AGM's with about 45 people! Martin Boulerice from the Department of Agriculture talked about New Brunswick's new climate strategy, Ray Carmichael on NBSCIA's research projects and Anneke Osinga from McCain presented on regenerative agriculture. Special thanks to our presenters and everyone that came, making it a good event! Our last event of the spring was a rotational grazing workshop with PEI beef farmer Nick Green and Maritime Beef Council's Amy Higgins presenting about different approaches to rotational grazing and paddock design.

The Phytogene oat cultivar development and CEROM winter wheat cultivar development plot work is in full swing again this year. The Weather Monitoring project is continuing as well with monthly weather maps posted on the NBSCIA website. We're hoping to have a field day at the oat and winter wheat sites and a cover cropping and rotational grazing field day later in the summer so stay tuned!



Photo curtesy of Andrew Sytsma

Kings County Happenings - Joseph Graham

Kings County had a very busy spring with lots of crops getting planted during the very dry April and May. Hoping to catch producers before everything was planted. The local organized a Seeder Demo on April 29th, Equipment Specialist Ben Sandercock was brought in by Halls to discuss the locals no-till seeder. The event went very well with a lot of good information shared. A big thank you to Halls for hosting and helping guide producers on using this equipment.

Also occurring during the month of April was a Cell Design Workshop on April 11th, this was an evening event where producers could discuss and learn more about setting up a rotational grazing plan. Producers shared challenges and ideas late into the evening. This was hosted as part of our commitment to train and support producers under the new OFCAF funding. The three main topics under the OFCAF program are Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping and Rotational Grazing. These topics will be well covered going into August, as site tours with guest speakers are being planned for each major theme. Dates will be shared once all the scheduling is confirmed.

Other upcoming events include the Local Forage Day, which is being planned for August 15th. Look for more info as the date gets closer, but we are once again excited to have producers and dealerships out sharing knowledge. This will be a forage themed event, so we will hopefully have lots of equipment to display that makes hay or silage.

Lastly, I must congratulate the Graduation class of 2023. The Kings County Soil and Crop has awarded bursaries to 2 separate schools. These bursaries go to students continuing their education in either Agriculture or Environmental Studies. It has become increasingly difficult to find students committed to agriculture. All this rain makes growing anything difficult, perhaps they will help find solutions for producers in the future.

New Face in the Central Region - Andrea Koch

A few of you may know me, I am the new coordinator for the Central Region of NB. I started with NBSCIA June 1st, 2023 taking on the role of coordinator for the Central Region. I grew up on a dairy and cash crop farm in Winchester Springs, Ontario where my family continues to farm today. Growing up I have always had a passion for farming with great respect for the hard work and responsibility that goes into the work a farmer does each day.

I attended Dalhousie University in Truro, NS and graduated in the spring of 2022 with a Bachelors in Animal Science. During my time in university my focus was drawn to the improvement of agriculture to support the needs of a growing global population as well as the need for improved environmental stewardship.

I was very excited for the opportunity to work with NBSCIA as a coordinator. The main reason for this was my love for talking and learning from farmers. I am working to expand my knowledge so that I can provide support to farmers in the region. Recently, I have been spending most of my time getting comfortable with my roles in this position as well as reaching out to get to know our members. I have also arranged two field days. The first one titled Rotational Grazing, A Look Underneath the Pasture to be held July 28th and the second titled Opportunities Revealed by Crop Diversity to be held August 9th. Links to these events can be found on the Farmers for Climate Solutions and NBSCIA website as well as the NBSCIA Facebook & Twitter pages.

I look forward to becoming more involved in the agricultural community here and throughout New Brunswick in hopes to provide support to farmers in the application of BMPs and to engage in new research opportunities.



Photo curtesy of Andrea Koch

I look forward to working with all of you in the future!

Rotational Grazing, a Look Underneath the Pasture Registration Link : <u>Register Now –</u> <u>Rotational Grazing - A look underneath the pas-</u> <u>ture – 107 Route 616, Keswick Ridge, NB, Fri 28</u> Jul 2023 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (tickettailor.com)

Opportunities Revealed by Crop Diversity Registration Link: <u>Register Now – The Oppor-</u> <u>tunities Revealed by Crop Diversity – 4200</u> <u>Route 104, Hawkins Corner, NB, Wed 9 Aug</u> <u>2023 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (tickettailor.com)</u>



Moncton/Chignecto News - Zoshia Fraser

What a six months we've had in the Moncton-Chignecto region. We hosted all three of the NBSCIA OFCAF workshops, two local AGMS, the Chignecto Farm of the Year banquet, a field day and the region also hosted the Provincial AGM. It was great to have all these events in our region and you can find articles about each event throughout the newsletter.

The Moncton Soil and Crop Club held their AGM in January in conjunction with the Nitrogen Management workshop. The event had several new members in attendance, and we were able to congratulate our Moncton Farm of the Year New Steffeshof Farms – David & Lidy Scheele. The history of New Steffeshof Farms goes back 24 years, when David, Lidy and their three children immigrated to St. Louis, New Brunswick from Germany. David and Lidy operate a 270ac seed potato farm in St Louis and Berryland farms in Rexton featuring haskaps, strawberries and raspberries for U-pick. They also grow and sell sweet corn, string beans, wax beans, carrots, beets, cucumbers, pickles, onions, tomatoes, and pumpkins. Congratulations to the Scheele Family! The AGM also saw Ryan Van de Brand, John Bos and Winston Jones retain their roles as the Moncton club executives and we are excited to add Chris Henderson and Chris Michaud as new directors.

The Chignecto Annual Banquet was well attended with over 120 participants including our provincial minister of agriculture the Hon. Margaret Johnson. The group enjoyed dinner, door prizes and celebrating our local farm of the year Davanna Holdings. Davanna Holdings is a beef farm in Cookeville NB, operated by David, Anna and Dean Acton. Davanna Holdings consists of 1100 acres – 800 wooded and 300 cleared. They also rent 300 acres from neighbouring farmers and operate a custom feedlot with a capacity of 1300 head. Congratulations to the Acton Family! At the Chignecto AGM in March, Nathan Murray and Dean Acton retained their roles as president and vice president of the club with Erin Ward stepping up and joining the board of directors as their new secretary. The board also welcomed 2 new members to their ranks, Evan Davis and David Dulenty.

Finally, July will be my last month with Soil and Crop, I've had an amazing 4.5 years working with you all! Thanks for trusting me with your farms. In August I will be starting a new position as the Cumberland County Agriculture Representative with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Rest assured that Ray and the rest of the staff are busy looking for your next coordinator and they will be there to help you with any problems that pop up in the mean-time!

I hope some of you choose to keep in touch,

Zoshia



Photo curtesy of Zoshia Fraser

Smile!



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)

<u>Environmental Farm Plan</u>

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

Canada GAP 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 Coordinator.

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Rainmakers





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Barn Raisers

