New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association



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March Newsletter

March 2024 volume 10, issue 1 Edited by: Andrea Versloot

Candidates for the "Farm of the Year"

Farm of the Year is an award provided to a member of the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association who demonstrates exemplary efforts to improving agriculture sustainability and environmental stewardship on their farm. Nominated farms are judged based on their soil & crop management, pest and weed management, innovation, soil conservation and environmental practices, farm management, agriculture activities, and community involvement. Questions under these criteria are collected and evaluated to determine the deserving recipient.

This was not an easy task this year as each farm stood out in their unique way, showing devotion and innovation on their farms and towards the greater agricultural industry.

As a preview to our Farm of the Year presentation at the Farm of the Year Banquet happening March 14th; here is a short introduction for each of the nominees for 2023.

Ferme Oscar Daigle et Fils (Northwest Soil & Crop Club)

Ferme Oscar Daigle et Fils Ltd is located in Baker Brook, New Brunswick where is in managed by Marcel and Éric Daigle. These two cousins are the 6th generation on the farm with it originating back in 1852 when their ancestor Austin Daigle purchased 327 acres of land. Since then, the farm has been passed through the family and started raising dairy cows in 1953. As the farm continued through the family, expansions were made accumulating more acres and milk quota. Marcel bought into the farm in 2006 and became co-owner with Éric. Since then, the farm has doubled and almost tripled in size from milking 80kg to 250kg. They have installed 3 Deleval robots and are currently installing a fourth. Éric has a daughter and two sons and Marcel has a daughter who helps often when she isn't attending school. Marcel's uncles Jean-Guy and Rodolphe still help out on the farm with feeding and tractor work and the farm also employ's one full-time employee. Marcel's father and daughter also help out time to time.





Clarence Estabrooks Farm (Chignecto Soil & Crop Club)

Clarence Estabrooks' farm is located in Sackville, New Brunswick off the marsh of the Fundy Basin. The Clarence Estabrooks Farm originated in the early 1900's where it was started by Clarence Estabrook's grandfather. The farm was passed to Clarence's uncle in the 1960's and they milked 40 cows in a tie stall. In the year 2000, the farm was passed on to Clarence Estabrooks who currently runs the farm with his son Weldon raising both dairy and beef cattle. Weldon and his wife have three children, Evelyn, Arthur and Winston who enjoy helping out their father on the farm. Clarence and Weldon run the day-to-day operations and they employ two temporary foreign workers from India who work full time. A couple local retired men come to help on the farm when field work gets busy.



Bonnielm Farm Ltd. (Moncton Soil & Crop Club)

Bonnielm Farm is located about half an hour north of Moncton, New Brunswick in Ford Bank. Farming on this property dates back to 1826 when it was established by Scottish ancestors who had found residence there due to the great Miramichi fire in 1825. The year 1974 is when the farm first started to ship milk. Bonnielm Farm was purchased by Garth and Heather Morton in 2007. The farm is a dairy consisting of a primarily Holstein herd with the exception of a couple Jerseys for their two granddaughters in 4H. The daily activities are managed and run by Garth and his wife Heather, their daughter Stacey, their son-in-law Donny and three part-time hired hands. Stacy and Donny have two young daughters Tessa and Regan who love to be on the farm and spend time with the cows and cats.





Keswick River Farms (Central Soil & Crop Club)

Keswick River Farms is owned and operated by Jeremy Duplessis with the help of his father David and his mother Ida Duplessis in Keswick Ridge, New Brunswick. The farm had been vacant for 2-3 years before David Duplessis purchased it in 2004. Prior to purchasing the farm, the land was only used for hay and pasture but now is used to grow several different crops for various purposes. They have updated the horse barn and built an indoor riding arena. Grain bins were constructed for on farm storage and the fields were tile drained to improve soil drainage.





Message from the General Manager

Ray Carmichael

NBSCIA General Manager

New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association in partnership with New Brunswick Living Labs is excited to be providing a 3-day learning filled event from March 13th to 15th at the Fredericton Inn in 2024. The theme for the three days is "Agriculture Resilience: Data Informed Management".

March 14-15 will mark the 45th Annual General Meeting and Technical Workshop for NBSCIA. The technical workshop agenda and registration details are included in this newsletter. NBSCIA wants to thank all the tradeshow sponsors for their generous financial support in addition to the Sustainable Agriculture Partnership and the On Farm Climate Action Fund.



Also, I need to recognize and thank Andrea Versloot, NBSCIA Central Region coordinator for the tremendous work she is undertaking in managing the organization and planning for this event.

NBSCIA ACS-OFCAF Manager

The New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association is now accepting applications for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund for the 2024-2025 crop year. The objective of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund is to support farmers in adopting beneficial management practices that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases, specifically in the areas of nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing practices.

First time applicants can register for the program at <u>https://www.nbscia.ca/ofcaf-program-registration/</u>. Farmers who have participated previously can request 2024-application documents by emailing <u>ofcaf.facf@nbscia.ca</u>. The deadline for the first intake of 2024-2025 applications is April 30, 2024 for projects funded in the fiscal year ending March 31,2025. Subject to the availability of funding the deadline for the second intake of applications is July 31, 2024. Applications for funding will be considered on a "first-come- first-serve" basis with priority given to first time applicants.

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) has introduced changes to the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) effective April 1, 2024, that affect eligible activities within the nitrogen management suite of beneficial management practices (BMPs) compared to previous years. For assistance with the application process contact a member of the NBSCIA OCAFA Program Administration team: Stephen London (506) 392-0408 <u>ofcaf.facf@nbscia.ca</u>; David Walker (506) 461-6046 <u>research@nbscia.ca</u>; David Good (506) 391-9424 <u>drgood449@gmail.com</u>; Ray Carmichael (506) 276-3311 <u>ofcafadmin@nbscia.ca</u>.

Agriculture and Agri-food Canada requires specific management plans for -A. nitrogen management, B. cover cropping, and C. rotational grazing approved by a Professional Agrologist or Certified Crop Advisor. For additional information regarding OFCAF Best Management Practices contact your local NBSCIA regional coordinator, NBDAAF Crop specialist, crop consultant, Professional Agrologist or Certified Crop Advisor.

2024 Annual General Meeting Agriculture Resilience: Data Informed Management

Thursday, March 14th

9:00am Registration Opens

10:00am NBSCIA Business Meeting

12:45pm Welcome & Commence of Afternoon Presentations

1:00pm Practical Ways You Can Improve Nitrogen Management on Your Farm

Keynote - Dr. David Burton, Dalhousie University

This presentation will discuss nitrogen management best management practices that you can currently implement on your farm to increase profitability and decrease environmental impacts.

1:45pm How to Get Value from Carbon

Dr. Brian McConkey, Science Lead, Viresco Solutions

By the end of 2023, half of the world's biggest 2000 companies, with combined annual revenues of \$27 trillion, have set targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Greenhouse gas emissions and removals have become embedded into business and investment decisions. Those companies in the agri-food value chain that are in the food business or who provide services or inputs to farms are particularly motivated to make investments to reduce emission on the farm. How farmers can make money in the offset and inset markets will be discussed.

2:15pm National Soil Health Strategy

Kier Miller, Past Chair Soil Conservation Council of Canada, Nutrients for Life

National Soil Health Strategy. What is it? How is it going to work? Who is participating? And most importantly, what will be the outcome?

2:30pm Nutrition Break and Networking

3:00pm Making the Most of Your Soil and Crop Data

Gabrielle Schenkels, NBSCIA

As the price on pollution rises, a new global market is developing for carbon offsets and sequestration credits for practices that have been used for decades on farms in Canada. Learn about what opportunities are on the horizon, and how your farm can capitalize on the incoming system.

3:45pm Forage Production

Dr. Dan Undersander, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin

How to minimize forage losses during harvest and storage. We have a new tool (NIR alfalfa leaf estimate) for determining harvesting efficiency. How to maximize the benefit of grass legume mixtures.

4:45pm Grazing Systems and Sustainability

Darren Bruhjell, Forage and Range Specialist, AAFC

Discussing the impact of grazing systems on sustainability.

5:30pm End of Afternoon Sessions

7:00pm Farm of the Year Banquet

Presentation of Farm of the Year by John Riordon and a special guest presentation from the Honorable Margaret Johnson, Minister of NBDAAF.



Friday, March 15th

9:00am Bridging the Gap Between What the Consumer Wants and Sustainable food Practices in Restaurants

Angela Griffiths, Vice President Food Safety, Animal Welfare and Environment, A&W

The vast majority of consumers say they care about sustainability and climate change - but don't follow with their wallets. The challenges are that the concept of sustainability is complicated and consumers are inundated with sometimes conflicting sustainability claims when they shop. I will review some of the consumer research A&W uses to make decisions on sustainability related claims, and how we communicate those decisions to our guests.

9:45am Resilient Cropping with Erratic Weather

Dr. Ralph Martin, University of Guelph

Farmers experience erratic weather in local regions with temperatures that are too low or too high or with too little or too much precipitation. Government programs to incentivize good soil organic matter levels will help them adapt to droughts and floods, as will slowing water and storing it for periods of drought. Other cropping adaptations will be discussed.

10:30am Nutrition Break and Networking

11:00am Using Data to Farm Efficiently

Darcy Herauf, Director of FCC AgExpert

Digitizing your farm records adds value to your operation. From reducing your time and effort through integrations in a trusted platform, to helping you make the most of your data to understand your cost of production and sustainability, digitization is helping producers spend less time in the office, and more in the field.

11:45am New Research Initiatives by NBCC-CORE in Precision Agriculture—Data Based Decisions in Weather Monitoring, Plant Phenotyping and Ad Drones

Leanne Carroll, Applied Research Development Lead in CORE, NBCC

New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) – College Office of Research Enterprise (CORE) has an Agrifood Department led by Research Associate Mullai Manoharan M. Sc. P. Ag. The new Agrifood Department has a research flagship initiative focusing on Precision Agriculture. The computer scientists at NBCC-CORE have developed a unique weather station that is currently de-ployed in different apple orchards. The presentation will include details on the

upcoming capacities related to Plant Phenotyping equipment and Ag drones and their applications to New Brunswick and discuss broader objectives with respect to Agrifood research for the benefit of NB growers and farmers.

12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm NBSCIA Weather Project Update

Andrew Sytsma, NBSCIA

1:45pm Forecasting and Managing Blossom Blight Infection and Risk for Apple Production in New Brunswick

Kendra McClure, Crop Development Specialist, Tree Fruit/Nursery/Floriculture, NBDAAF

This year NBDAAF and NBSCIA teamed up to trial PomeBlight, a new web-based fire blight forecasting platform. Fire blight is a bacterial disease of major concern for many North American apple growers, and accurate forecasting informs control decisions. Using a system of pre-existing NBSCIA weather stations in New Brunswick, NBDAAF staff were able to alert apple growers of the risk of blossom blight infections in their growing region, so that timely controls could be applied. 2:00pm 2023 Year in Review– Livestock Feed Crops

Jason Wells, Crop Development Specialist– Livestock Feed, NBDAAF

An update on the projects and workshops that were conducted the past year: Forage Cultivar Evaluation, Establishing Alfalfa with Corn Companion Crop, Rotational Grazing-Putting it All Together, NB Grain Commission DON Sur-vey, and Corn Insect Monitoring.

2:15pm Current Cereal & Oilseed Research

Peter Scott, Crop Development Specialist– Field Crops, NBDAAF

2:30pm 2023 Living Labs New Brunswick Update

Cedric MacLeod, LLNB

The NB Living Labs is closing out its first year of in-

AGM Registration

Registration for this event can be made at: <u>https://forms.office.com/r/HCP1KjmC2Q</u>

field activities, and planning for the 2024 field season is ramping up. The presentation will provide a 'Year in Review', present preliminary data on commercial scale GHG Emissions monitoring and review of the impact of Climate Smart BMP's being explored across the province.

2:45pm NBDAAF Climate Change Specialist Update

Amy McFadgen P.Ag, Acting Climate Change Specialist, NBDAAF

3:00pm New RALP Program Update

Cora Hornbrook, NBDAAF

3:15pm NBSCIA OFCAF Past and Future

Ray Carmichael, General Manager, NBSCIA

3:30pm End of Sessions

New Face at the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture Aquaculture and Fisheries

Vanessa Deveau

I am happy to be joining the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries (DAAF) as their new Weed Specialist. I am originally from Clare, Nova Scotia. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Plant Science (Hon) at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in 2019. Following completion of my bachelor's degree, I went on to graduate school, completing a Master of Science in Agriculture with a focus on lowbush blueberry vegetative management with a hemi-parasitic weed. I am keen on meeting various producers throughout the province of New Brunswick and assisting in anything weed related.



Winter Workshops Review

These workshops were able to be provided with support from Farmers for Climate Solutions and the OFCAF program.

Rotational Grazing—Putting it All Together

There were six rotational grazing workshops hosted by NBSCIA around the province in January. These workshops included presentations from Marie-Pier Beaulieu and Jason Wells who elaborated on the important considerations when rotationally grazing livestock. Marie-Pier Beaulieu works for the Canadian Forages and Grasslands Association and has a small herd of rotationally grazed cattle in Drummondville, Quebec. Her presentation worked through the acronym 'THUMB' to provide a guide to the key features when it comes to managing a rotational grazing system. T stands for time; how much time do you have to pasture your animals, how long does regrowth take and the importance of taking time to sit out in the pasture and observe the system. H stands for herd type; different breeds and different farms have varying production goals that will change how the animals are grazed. U stands for usability; what is the yield of the paddocks grazed and what do the cattle need (high vs low quality forage). M stands for management; how the cattle are moved and how the paddocks are fenced. B stands for beverage (water); determining where and how you are going to provide water to your livestock is crucial when designing a rotational grazing plan. Jason Wells is the forage production specialist from the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture. He went over the importance of understanding the nutrient balance in your paddock soils. Using soil test results can help farmers discover what aspects of their soil nutrient profile may be limiting productivity. In New Brunswick, one of the most important numbers to look at is pH, if the soil pH is not within the optimal range, between 6-7 for most grass and legume species, some nutrients can be made unavailable to the plants although they are present in the soil.

Nitrogen Management In Potatoes

NBSCIA hosted nitrogen management in potatoes workshops in Florenceville on January 17th and in Grand Falls on January 18th with guest speakers Steve Watts of Genesis Crop Systems and Evan MacDonald of Contour Consulting from PEI. Steve presented on general nitrogen management in potatoes and various research project work involving nitrogen response trials and enhanced efficiency nitrogen fertilizers. Evan presented on implementing SWAT mapping for precision agriculture and how it can be used for variable rate planting, as well as other precision ag technology such as mapping and crop scouting with drones.

NBSCIA Nitrogen Management Workshop—LP Consulting

There were 5 nitrogen management workshops hosted by NBSCIA in February. LP Consulting provided these presentations which touched on how residual amendments that are available in New Brunswick can be valuable nutrient sources for our agricultural soils. Lise LeBlanc and Misty Croney presented on their 3-year project findings regarding the New Brunswick Soil Health Status and how their findings explain the shortfalls in nutrient availability in New Brunswick soils varying by county. Some of the challenges revealed by their findings is the low pH of our soils due to its lack of calcium which will restrict nutrient availability. Soils have low phosphorus and high aluminum content which causes phosphorus tie-up. Most NB soils also have low sulfur, potassium and boron. As a result of limiting nutrients in the soil there is poor nutrient balance which results in lower productivity. The province has also been slow to adopt the utilization of residual products such as wood-ash which have been found to have many nutrients that would benefit our soils for a much lower cost than synthetic fertilizers imported from other countries. There are many negative perceptions on these products that have not been properly supported by risk-based analysis and as a result have deterred farmers from using them. The presentation also went over strategies to reduce nitrogen loss to volatilization or nitrification based on management practices as well as the different products available to prevent loss.

Edmundston Workshop Report on: Rotational Grazing - Putting It All Together—By Jean-Mars Jean-François

On January 25, 2024, a workshop was held in Edmundston for the benefit of beef growers in the northwest region of New Brunswick. Two speakers Marie-Pier Beaulieu and Jason Wells (David Fontaine) spoke to the breeders for more than three hours. The following paragraphs constitute a summary of the information conveyed during this session.

First, Marie-Pier focused on the **GRASS** (**HERBE in French**) in pasture concept. Note that the **H** translates the notion of time and defines the critical time necessary to take action on the pasture. This notion takes into account the time, grazing time and presence of animals in a given pasture. It depends on the following factors: the availability of hay on the pasture, the number of enclosures and the physiology of the plants. For Marie-Pier, the first letter **E** translates the effect or mechanical



action of the livestock on the site. We must take into account the height of the hay cut, the presence of hair, manure saliva, urine of the livestock. This 2nd element highlights the effects of the management of the different tools used to establish a pasture. For instance, it is more beneficial to use fence wires that last up to 50 years than less expensive wires that need to be replaced every 5 years. It is also recommended to use 8 inches diameter stakes and good 12.5 galvanized pins. Regarding the waterer system, it is more practical to install drinkers that are easy to operate than drinkers that are too large and too expensive. The real factor in installing the drinking stall is the distance the livestock must travel to access it. Moreover, the fresher the grass, the less the animals will drink. Around small waterers, there is less compaction and it is easier to clean. The R symbolizes the rest of the pasture to facilitate its regrowth. Indeed, there is a minimum, maximum and optimum time limit for returning the animals to a meadow. Optimal rest depends on the context in which the breeder operates, his goal, the biology of the plants and the armor of the soil. Everything must be based in consideration. B concerns the biology and armor of the soil. Note that the soil temperature is 10 degrees higher than ungrazed hay that is too low. This explains why animals tend to lie on uncut hay when it is hot. Therefore, it is recommended not to let the meadow deplete to a critical level. The last E advocates for the balance and density of animals on a unit area of meadow. When we have a high density of animals, they are forced to eat intensively. The density depends on the weight of animals. So, you should look for a density of 1 pound per square foot. With 2 pounds per square foot, you have to spread manure and more fertilizer. Ideally, animals should be able to stay 3 days on pasture.

Subsequently, under the leadership of Jason Wells and David Fontaine, farmers learned good information about rotational grazing. This section features a summary of comments provided by Jason Wells. From the outset, the facilitators elaborated on the major and minor elements, and their role in plant health. Good soil is about more than high nutrient levels, namely its soil chemical characteristics. The physical and biological characteristics of the soil are determining, especially in the case of a meadow. Soil microbes help legumes fix more nitrogen and convert organic matter into plant-available minerals. To better understand the chemical characteristics of meadows, it is recommended to sample them every 2 to 3 years. According to studies carried out by Ray Carmichael, the soil pH level is below 6 in New Brunswick. However, a pH of 6.5 indicates high efficiency in the use of chemical fertilizer. Around pH 5.5, the farmer loses money by applying chemical fertilizers. Further, we learned that nitrogen is 18% less effective at a pH of 5.5 compared to 6.5. Thus, depending on the price of urea in spring 2023, the farmer loses \$23.76/acre of nitrogen. Following this logic, when N, P and K losses are combined, losses can amount to \$61.50 per acre. Ideally, the pH of meadows should be around 6.0 to 7.0. In addition, forage stands containing 30% legumes provide sufficient nitrogen. Regarding the renovation of pastures, the total reseeding of the meadow is likely to be expensive. So, it would be better to touch on the overall management, in terms of liming and division into several enclosures. Some breeders opt for overseeding. In this case, harrows are a good tool. Also, you can distribute the seed in the feeders. In some places, overseeding by drone is common in large prairies. According to John Duynisveld, a native pasture left to rest is more productive than an improved pasture (example of a pure stand of tall fescue or a stand with a high percentage of red clover). It is interesting to note that sowing on frozen ground is advantageous to the extent that animals left to overgraze create holes in the ground making it easier for seeds to settle in spring. Regarding mixtures, John Duynisveld of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada concludes that:

- If the land is "poor" or predominantly cow-calf, alfalfa-based pastures offer a greater volume of forage and can feed more cattle per acre of land.

- If a grass finish is sought, trefoil grazing may offer an advantage in terms of growth rate/fat deposition, although yield may be lower per acre.

- Finally, meadow fescue with any legume offers an optimal balance between sugars, energy and proteins.

John Duynisveld also elaborated on stored forages being a management tool for expanding the grazing system. During this period, pastures are allowed to grow without being grazed from July or early August until after the first killing frosts. In general. We want to have 12 inches of growth before the killing frost. Then, the pasture is removed, leaving 3 to 4 inches of *stubble*. So, it takes a little planning, as some grass species are better than others. Grasses such as bluegrass, meadow fescue, and timothy retained their nutritional value and continued to provide the 3 different classes of cattle with the appropriate amount of TDN from October to January. Indeed, the decline in quality of reed canary grass was greater and by January the quality was so poor that it could only feed dry cows. In conclusion, for storage, it is good to know the type of grass in the fields to better guarantee quality feed for the animals.

Sponsors: OFCAF Program, Canadian Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture, Canadian Forage Grassland Association, and NBSCIA

Kings County Regional Update

By Joseph Graham

Kings County had a busy winter with many regional meetings and a Local AGM. The major themes under the OFCAF program being Nitrogen Management, Rotational Grazing, and Cover Cropping help to guide us in our topics for training sessions. Going into the 2024 growing season we hope to host more in person training sessions. One event our local will be planning for is our annual field day. This year the focus will be on Tillage Equipment, more information will be shared once we find a location. Normally this is hosted after corn silage harvest.

Our First Training Session for 2024 was a Rotational Grazing Session held on Jan 12th. This event was held in partnership with Farmers for Climate Solutions. Our Guest speakers were Jason Wells (NBDAAF) and Marie-Pier Beaulieu (CFGA). These Sessions were hosted province wide in many of our NBSCIA regions. We were very lucky to have engaging guest speakers covering an interesting mix of grazing topics.

Following this theme, we held a Nitrogen Management Training Session the same day as our Local AGM on Jan 30th. This session was led by our guest Lise Leblanc from LP consulting. One of the major topics discussed was the use of alternate soil amendments, such as wood-ash and compost. There were many details shared about research being done to find other sources of soil amendments for the producers of NB. We were also fortunate enough to learn a bit about the soil health status of our local soils. This information was based on analyzing soil reports collected in NB. Observing trends in our soils and discussing how we can mitigate and improve them made for an interesting session.

This was immediately followed by our Local AGM. Those in attendance discussed our Local Corn planter and the board has decided to move towards the sale of the equipment. The corn planter was a service available locally for a long time in Kings County. With more and more producers investing in their own equipment the local thought it best to move on from this service. Going forward they will be considering new opportunities to provide interesting and useful options for the membership. Any further information about the sale of the planter will be shared locally to the membership.

Carleton Region

By Andrew Sytsma

The new year kicked off with a nitrogen management in potatoes workshop with guest speakers Steve Watts and Evan MacDonald from PEI, who presented on various nitrogen management research projects and using SWAT map technology for precision agriculture. NBSCIA hosted a rotational grazing workshop in the end of January with Marie-Pier Beaulieu from CFGA presenting on various methods to implement rotational grazing and Jason Wells from NBDAAF presenting on pasture fertility management. Both events were very well attended, so thank you to everyone who made the events a success.

Applications to renew the weather monitoring, crop optimization and oat and winter wheat cultivar development research projects have been submitted so we hope to have these up and running this coming spring. Environmental farm planning has been in full swing so far this year. If your environmental farm plan is in need of a 5-year update or you'd like help with moving your plan to the new online format, feel free to reach out!

Central Region Update

By Andrea Versloot

Activity as the central region coordinator has been focused on preparing for the workshops that happened the past two months, one was on the topic of rotational grazing and the other was on the topic of nitrogen management. The Central Soil and Crop club also hosted their Annual general meeting on January 27th at the Fredericton Inn. This meeting was held in conjunction with the rotational grazing workshop and also had guest presentations from Kendra McClure and Leigha Beckwith. Kendra McClure is the provincial apple production specialist from the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and she provided a great overview of the New Brunswick apple production industry and touched on some of the challenges that apple producers faced this past season. Leigha Beckwith provided an update on the SCAP program and how to navigate the different programs to find funding opportunities. At the local annual meeting the Central Farm of the Year award was presented to Keswick River Farms. Jeremy DuPlessis gave a fantastic presentation about his farm

and family that included images sharing the history of the farm. Congratulations again are in order for this family's effort in maintaining sustainable practices on their farm.

As I am still relatively new to New Brunswick and my position as a soil and crop coordinator, I continue to try to learn as much as I can about the various agriculture sectors in the area. I look forward to the spring when more hands-on work can start and I can get away from my computer. As always, I am looking to work with farmers and other agricultural experts in order to learn more and provide the best service I can to New Brunswick producers and the industry as a whole.



The DuPlessis family.

Moncton/Chignecto

By Beverly Booth

Hello everyone! My name is Beverly Booth and for those of you who don't know I am the new Soil and Crop coordinator for the Moncton and Chignecto regions of New Brunswick. I am very excited to be working so close to home in an industry that I am passionate about. Since I started this position in August, I have collected many soil samples and formulated nutrient recommendations to match the soil test results. I have mapped numerous acres of land and helped farmers in my area with updating their environmental farm plans.

The past month and a half has been very busy with workshops and meetings all over New Brunswick. A few that I feel need to be shared more in depth are the Chignecto Soil and Crop banquet and the Moncton AGM. The Chignecto Soil and Crop banquet was held on January 27th at the Sackville Legion and I am proud to say this was a sold-out event with 150 attendees. Many people enjoy this event as there is always a door prize for each individual, the meal is fantastic and the Chignecto Farm of the Year recipient provides a presentation about the family operation. This year's award was presented to the Estabrook family and sponsored by Cavendish Agri-services.

The Moncton AGM was held on February 9th at the Salisbury Legion where there was a large uptake of attendees, some even say it was the largest turnout there has ever been for a Moncton AGM. During this event, Bonnielm Farm Ltd were recognized as Farm of the Year in the Moncton region. The Morton and Cook family did a wonderful presentation of the day-to-day activities that make this farm so successful.

I look forward to working with and meeting everyone to improve the soil and crop sustainability in New Brunswick in the future. Lastly, I would like to say congratulations to the Morton family of the Moncton region as well as the Estabrooks family of the Chignecto region on Farm of the Year!



The Estabrooks family in their milking barn.



The Morton and Cook family with coordinator Beverly Booth and Moncton region president Ryan Van de Brand.

Message from the CFGA

CFGA 2023 conference recordings now available

With the theme Forage Resilience in a Changing Landscape: Manage risk. Overcome challenges. Discover opportunities., the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's (CFGA) 14th annual conference took place Nov. 28 to Dec. 1 in Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.

During this three-day event, participants celebrated the important environmental and economic role forages and grasslands play across the country while delivering the practical, grassroots-based agronomic knowledge the CFGA is known for.

Dr. Frank Mitloehner from UC Davis open the conference with a keynote address that offered a global picture on how methane from ruminants cycles through carbon in the soil. Other speakers included Dr. Dan Undersander from the University of Wisconsin speaking about sustainability metrics for forage systems, Josh Callen from the Hoyt Report providing a global forage export market update and Bart Lardner from the University of Saskatchewan speaking on advancing pasture management to store carbon and reduce methane emissions.

Did you miss the 2023 CFGA Conference? Or need a refresher on what you heard there?

The 2023 conference recordings are now available for free to those who registered for the conference.

If you were unable to attend but would like to purchase access to the recordings of the 2023 conference proceedings, visit the registration page here: <u>https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?</u> <u>oeidk=a07ek87or3gff3cb1ed&oseq=&c=&ch=</u>

To see what presentations are available, you can access the full agenda here: <u>https://www.canadianfga.ca/en/events/conference-2023/agenda/</u>

For more information email <u>info@canadianfga.ca</u>.



Online Conference Recordings Now Available

Forage Resilience in a Changing Landscape

Manage risk. Overcome challenges. Discover opportunities.

14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



www.canadianfga.ca

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.

General Manager Ray Carmichael Office: (506) 276-3311 Cell: (506) 392-7214 gm@nbscia.ca	Fredericton Office 150 Woodside Lane, Unit 2 Fredericton, NB, E3C 2R9 Telephone: (506) 454-1736 Fax: (506) 453-1985	Tide Head Charlo Belledune Grande-Anse Paquetville Saint-Isidore Gloucester Clair Rivière-Verte North
<u>Central</u> Andrea Versloot (613)262-5546 central@nbscia.ca	<u>Carleton</u> Andrew Sytsma Cell: (506) 245-2220 carleton@nbscia.ca	Norte Victoria Plaster Ceresen Northumberland Pettr Andover Roger public Florenceville Carleton Kent
<u>Moncton/Chignecto</u> Beverly Booth (506)364-2853 Moncton@nbscia.ca	<u>Kings</u> Joseph Graham (506) 567-0224 kings@nbscia.ca	Minville Vork Central Harvey McA dam Stanley Sunbury Chipman Salisbury Queens Periodiac Kings Albert Kongs
Northshore Gabrielle Schenkels (506)625-7718 northshore@nbscia.ca	<u>North West</u> Jean–Mars Jean–Francois (506) 273-1674 nwno@nbscia.ca	Charlotte Saint John

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