



New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association

July 2026 Newsletter

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Revised by Gabrielle Schenkels

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Carleton County No-Till Pilot Project

NBSCIA is conducting a pilot project this year in Carleton County on no-tilling warm season annuals into naturalized forage stands this summer. Naturalized/native forage stands (consisting of cool-season species like timothy, redtop and bluegrass for example) typically experience a “summer slump” when conditions become hot and dry in July and August that significantly limits regrowth, as we all are familiar with. The theory behind introducing deep rooted and fast establishing annual species that tolerate or thrive in hot conditions is to supplement forage volume for the following grazing pass during the summer slump when the native stand has reduced regrowth in a relatively fast and low-cost way. Should it be successful, it could be of particular benefit in exceptionally dry years like last year where pasture regrowth was minimal.

Several different species and mixtures are being tested with three different seeding times and management strategies: planted following 1st cut silage in late June, heavy grazing in early July, and dry hay in early-mid July.

The following species and mixtures were planted with a no-till drill shortly after harvest and grazing:

- Crimson clover
- Berseem clover
- Tillage radish
- Buckwheat
- Sorghum sudangrass/pearl millet/annual ryegrass mix
- McCain Soil Builder mix (sorghum sudangrass/oats/rapeseed/phacelia/tillage radish/yellow peas/black forage peas/sunflower/annual ryegrass)
- Legume overseed mix (double cut red clover, white clover, ladino clover, birdsfoot trefoil)



*Beseem clover establishment
(note similar leaf shape to alfalfa)*

Each species was planted at a rate as if it were included in a mixture since we are not looking to replace the existing stand and to represent a low cost of seed, but we may find that we should have gone with higher rates. The legume overseed mix species are not necessarily warm-loving species but is included to test whether it is possible to establish the included species in the summer. It's too early to tell if the extra forage will amount to anything meaningful or is economical, but as of writing about two weeks after planting, all species in the earliest planting date have emerged and are off to a good start. Special thanks to Quality Seed for donating seed and also to McCain Fertilizer and Hartland Agromart for providing seed as well and to our participating farm locations.



Tillage radish



Buckwheat (lighter coloured broadleaves spread throughout)



Forage pea



Crimson clover



*Sorghum
sundangrass*

General Manager Report - Ray Carmichael



NBSCIA General Manager

The spring planting season for 2026 has been variable with regard to rainfall and heat. May 31, 2026 maps can be found on the NBSCIA website at <https://www.nbscia.ca/weather-maps/>.

NBSCIA has received funding for the following projects in 2026; NB2324-0027-Y4 - Agro-Environmental Clubs, NB2425-0045-Y3 NB Weather Monitoring & Mapping for Intensive Crop Management, NB2324-0090(Y3-Y4) Establishing Alfalfa with a Corn Companion Crop, NB2324-0184-Y4 Oat and Winter Wheat Cultivar Development, : NB2526-0011 (Y1 – Y3) – Impact of Starter Nitrogen in NB Soybean Production, and NB2425-0351-Y2 – Evaluation of Bio-strip Tillage in New Brunswick. NBSCIA has also applied to EARI for a project titled Establishing Cover Crops into Corn Using Aerial Drones.

Three staff members attended the Atlantic Agronomy and Extension Conference hosted by Perennia, in Kentville Nova Scotia, to obtain professional development credits.

Field day events are being planned as this is being written, so watch for social media posts and the Events tab on the NBSCIA website.



The Atlantic Agronomy and Extension Conference in Annapolis Valley had over 140 agriculture professionals in attendance

NBSCIA ACS-OFCAF Manager

As of January 28, 2025, AAFC announced that the NBSCIA was one of 13 organizations to receive funding for the expansion phase of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) ending March 31, 2028. As of June 30, NBSCIA using OFCAF dollars, has spent \$3,000,000 plus to support Ultimate Recipients (farmers) in BMP projects for nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing practices.

This OFCAF funding supports New Brunswick's producers in their ongoing progress in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and store carbon, specifically for in-field nitrogen management, expanding cover cropping, and implementing rotational grazing practices. These practices also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health.

Even though OFCAF funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year has been fully allotted, NBSCIA encourages applications for projects to continue, as we need an amount to ask for should additional funding become available. Furthermore, application received prior to the advertised August 31, 2026 deadline will be processed on a first-come-first serve basis for 2027-2028 fiscal year.

Dr. David Burton has delivered a series of webinars on Nutrient Management in New Brunswick. This series will be comprised of six webinars addressing the following topics:

1. Soil sampling and understanding basic soil properties relevant to nutrient management
2. Importance of pH management
3. Nitrogen management
4. Phosphorus management
5. Base cations
6. Manure and organic amendment management

[Visit our
Youtube Page!](#)

If you missed any sessions on Nutrient Management Planning Series sessions with Dr. David Burton, you can now access the meeting recordings on our YouTube page! Or the NBSCIA website

Detailed program guidelines and the application process are available on the NBSCIA website:
<https://www.nbscia.ca/ofcaf-program-registration/>

For assistance with the application process contact a member of the NBSCIA OCAFA Program Administration team: Stephen London (506) 392-0408 ofcaf.facf@nbscia.ca; David Walker (506) 461-6046 research@nbscia.ca; David Good (506) 391-9424 drgood449@gmail.com; Ray Carmichael (506) 276-3311 ofcafadmin@nbscia.ca

Upcoming NBSCIA Events

NBSCIA local field days are coming up around the province. Please join us for demos, plot visits, and farm tours. **[Click here for location details about upcoming events.](#)**

- **Carleton NBDAAF-NBSCIA Cereal Plot Tour Field Day - Wednesday, August 5th, 10:30am-3pm**
 - Join us for a tour of NBDAAF's Maritime Cereal Registration trials and Soybean Variety Tests followed by NBSCIA's new variety development trials of oat, winter wheat and spring wheat
- **Northwest Cover Crops and Nitrogen Management: A Sustainable and Profitable Approach to Potato Production - Friday, August 14th, 10am**
 - Join us at Potato Brothers Company Farm to learn about cover cropping systems and soil health, potato nitrogen management, and live field demonstrations
- **Moncton Soil & Crop Farm Tour and Social - Friday, August 28th, 5:30pm**
 - Join the Moncton Soil & Crop club for a tour at Golden Acres Honey Farm Ltd., to learn about their sheep production system and commercial bee keeping operation, followed by a tour at Boscenic Farms forage site, solar panel site and BBQ and corn boil dinner.
- **Kings County and Northeast Field Day - TBD**
 - Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and updates from your local coordinators for upcoming field day dates!



PROGRAMS AND REBATES FOR AGRICULTURE BUSINESSES

Commercial Buildings Retrofit Program

Receive funding for energy audits, feasibility studies, and eligible energy-saving upgrades.

Get up to \$1.25 million toward implementation of approved efficiency projects .

Business Rebate Program

Claim cash back on the purchase and installation costs of energy-efficient equipment for your business.

Your energy future is bright

Many farmers are leading the way in sustainable practices. As stewards of New Brunswick's land and natural resources, making energy-efficient choices is important to our future.

Energy-saving solutions made for New Brunswick farmers

Whether you're operating a small family farm or managing a large facility, your expertise drives the future of agriculture. Success today ensures a legacy for future generations. We can help with energy-saving advice and incentives to support your operation.

Efficiency programs can help with improvements in these areas:

- Heating & cooling
- Ventilation & air circulation
- Water heating
- Pumping
- Refrigeration
- Heat recovery
- High efficiency electric motors
- Equipment replacement
- Building envelope improvements

saveenergy
écoénergie 

**QUESTIONS? OUR EXPERT
TEAM IS HERE TO HELP.**



1-800-663-6272
saveenergy.nb.ca/business



CFGA Conference 2026 taking place in Calgary

Early bird registration is now open for the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association's (CFGA) 17th Annual Conference, taking place Nov. 9 to 12, 2026, at the Best Western Calgary Plaza Hotel in partnership with the Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA).

Early bird pricing is available until 11 p.m. on Aug. 31 at the following rates:

- Full conference (week): \$499
- One-day pass: \$245 Regular pricing begins Sept. 1, with full conference passes at \$550.

[Register here](#)

With the theme Canadian Forage Systems: Designing for Durability, this year's event brings together Canada's forage and grassland community to explore resilience and long-term system design. The agenda features two days of educational sessions, cutting-edge research, practical grazing and forage management insights, and cross-sector conversations linking science, policy and on-the-ground experience. Attendees will hear from Prairie innovators, discover tools that strengthen economic and environmental performance, and collaborate on building forage systems that can withstand climate, market and land-use pressures.

The CFGA Annual Conference is a prime opportunity to connect with sector stakeholders, expand your knowledge, grow your network and spark new collaborations. It's a gateway to Canada's 70 million acres of forage and grassland production, the science behind it and the producers who steward these landscapes. In addition to the educational program, the 2026 conference includes farm tours, a trade show, workshops and extensive networking with more than 150 participants expected, including producers, suppliers, service providers, government representatives and industry leaders.

More details coming soon!

Watch the [CFGA website](#), follow the CFGA on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or [subscribe](#) to the CFGA quarterly newsletter to stay up to date.



Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick Launches Workforce Development Website to Support the Future of Agriculture July 2026

Finding workers with the required skills and competencies has become one of the greatest challenges facing New Brunswick's agri-food industry. At the same time, many people—including students, newcomers, career changers, and experienced workers—are looking for meaningful employment opportunities but may not know where to start.

To help bridge that gap, the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick (AANB) has launched a new Workforce Development website that includes resources and programs for employers, job seekers, educators, students, and industry partners through one centralized online platform.

Developed with the support of the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) and the Department of Post-Secondary Education and Labour (PETL), the website serves as a central hub for workforce development in New Brunswick's agri-food sector. It provides easier access to recruitment services, career information, workforce resources, and industry updates while supporting the long-term growth of the province's agricultural industry.

Visitors can explore a wide range of tools and resources, including the Shared Workforce Program, a Job Hub featuring employment opportunities from New Brunswick employers alongside relevant positions from the Canada Job Bank, information on careers and training in agriculture, student internships and co-op opportunities, employer resources, and the latest workforce news and events. Together, these resources are designed to strengthen connections between employers and job seekers while making it easier for people to discover careers in the agri-food sector.

"People are at the heart of every successful farm and agri-food business," said Danielle Connell, President of the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick. "As workforce challenges continue to evolve, it is more important than ever that employers, job seekers, students, and industry partners have access to reliable information and practical resources. This new Workforce Development website brings those resources together in one place and reflects the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick's commitment to building a stronger, more connected, and resilient workforce for the future of agriculture in our province."

Agriculture continues to play a vital role in New Brunswick's economy, contributing approximately \$1.7 billion to the province's GDP and supporting more than 17,000 full-time equivalent jobs. By improving access to workforce information, recruitment services, and career resources, AANB hopes the new website will help attract, develop, and retain the workforce needed to support the industry's continued growth.

The Workforce Development website is now available at <https://workforce.fermenbfarm.ca>. Employers, job seekers, students, educators, and industry partners are encouraged to explore the platform and discover the programs, resources, and opportunities available to support New Brunswick's growing agri-food workforce.

Regional Updates

Central Update

by Lauren Boonstoppel



The growing season has been off to a strong start across the Central region. As I continue settling into my new role, I've enjoyed connecting with growers and learning more about the diverse operations throughout the area.

Weather conditions have supported timely planting, allowing plants to get off to a good start. Rainfall early in the season provided the moisture needed to promote healthy crop growth. More recently, warm sunny weather has supported corn development while also providing excellent conditions for forage harvest, with second-cut forage now underway.

As the season progresses, I look forward to continuing to work with producers throughout the Central region and supporting another successful growing season.

Northeast Update

By Gabrielle Schenkels

Weather in the Northeast has been relatively stable, albeit a touch cooler than usual than previous years. First cut was interspersed with several heavy rains, making it difficult to get to all fields in a timely manner, especially in some heavier soils through the Northeast. However, early July offered two sunny weeks to allow farmers to catch up. Corn crops and forages both are performing well, with decent precipitation and heat units so far.

Blueberries in the Northeast are looking like an average year, with some losses from fields in sprout last year. Farmers have noted "bare spots" where a sprout plant had grown, but appears dead this year. There have also been fields noting a reduced number of flowers and fruit buds. However, with a longer pollination window and few disease risk events, the region is well set up to have a decent harvest should precipitation keep up in the area.



A new 80/20 alfalfa grass planting on June 8th (left) vs. July 8th (right)

Kings County Happenings Summer 2026

by Joseph Graham

This summer began with a very dry planting season, following last years drought it made for a concerning start to the summer cropping window. Fortunately, as of today, July 14, we have received consistent enough rain in the Kings region. The weather data being produced by NBSCIA will be interesting to monitor and compare to the prior years. So far, the Kings region has been a bit cooler as well.

Locally we will once again be planning our annual field day, this year would normally be a tillage day. However, as a local we are working towards finding new ideas for annual events. Live equipment demos are interesting, but innovative or new machinery is sometimes difficult to find. We plan on hosting an event in early October which will likely be themed around cover cropping and new cover cropping methods. Stay tuned for more information. The local would also like to congratulate the grads of 2026. This year Allie Waddle from Belleisle Regional High School received a bursary from KCSCIA. The bursary is awarded to students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental Studies.

Kings County producers have been busy gathering second cut silage or first cut hay. Before the season started, we saw a tremendous rise in European chafer beetle damage across Kings County. Many fields were spring tilled by crows and skunks hunting for the invasive grub. Similar to a June beetle, only half the size, the larva feed for multiple years on the grass roots before emerging. We are not certain where the beetle will attack next, but it is concerning to see it present in our agricultural forage and hay land.

Lastly, we hope everyone has a good cropping season and thank those who reached out for mapping and nutrient management work. We at NBSCIA also hope to provide some information going forward about the challenges and benefits of drones in Agriculture. The technology and rules surrounding drones is changing rapidly.

Moncton/Chignecto Update

by Beverly Booth

The Moncton and Chignecto regions have been busy getting forage crops off and it is great to hear that yields have been up compared to last year. Many producers have been able to take a cut off earlier than in previous years and with the timely moisture second cut should be a bumper crop as well. We need rain to continue to feed the plant nutrients and provide the water required for growth.

I had the opportunity to get out and meet with many growers to do some crop scouting. Although many corn stands are looking great, there have been a few cases of wireworm detected which have wiped out eighty percent of the field. It is important to get out and check your crops in order to catch pest or disease pressures before it is too late. Early detection is key in having minimal damage and loss to your crops.



Timothy/clover field cut for silage

In the Moncton region we are planning to host a field day happening the last week of August. This field day will consist of a tour of two local farms in the Salisbury area. We plan to visit Golden Acres Honey Farm Ltd., a sheep farm and apiary to showcase their facility. The second location will be held at Boscenic Farms Ltd. to showcase some of their crops. The event will round out with a corn boil and BBQ with corn being provided by Michaud Farms.

I recently attended a drone and technology demonstration day hosted by Cavendish Ag. Agrosout was onsite to give a rundown on how their drone program works and the prescriptions this program is able to formulate. We also received a demonstration from Picketa on the new technologies with tissue sampling that gives real time nutrient data from plant tissue.

It has been a very eventful summer aiding farmers with nutrient management planning. Nutrient management planning and providing fertility recommendations have taken a large portion of my day-to-day tasks. I have been fortunate to meet with many of the producers in my area from one end of my region to the other. I look forward to working with you to enhance the soil and crop sustainability in New Brunswick. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Moncton@nbscia.ca or by phone at 506-364-2853 for all of your soil and crop needs.

A Promising Agricultural Season in the Northwest

by Jean-Mars Jean-Francois

Agriculture is an activity where each season brings its share of uncertainties. Weather conditions, seed quality, disease pressure, pests, and yield potential are constantly evolving. After several weeks of observations in the agricultural corridor of Saint-Quentin, Saint-André, Drummond, Baker Brook, and the surrounding area, the first half of the 2026 agricultural season is shaping up to be particularly promising for producers in northwestern New Brunswick. Unlike some years when planting is delayed by cold or waterlogged soils, planting has been completed on schedule, allowing crops to fully benefit from the favorable growing conditions observed since spring.

Potatoes, a flagship crop of our region, are showing excellent vegetative development. Plant stands are uniform, plants are vigorous, and no significant disease pressure has been observed in the fields visited. Despite frequent rain, growers applied plant protection treatments at the appropriate time, thus maintaining excellent crop health. Soybean fields are also showing steady growth thanks to favorable temperatures and good soil moisture. Silage corn is also benefiting fully from the weather conditions; on several farms between Saint-Quentin, Saint-André, and Baker Brook, plants have already reached the 10- to 12-leaf stage, suggesting excellent yield potential. Cereal crops are continuing their development under good conditions. Their beautiful dark green color and height indicate adequate nutrition and excellent production potential.

As for forage, the first hay cutting began towards the end of June due to weather conditions. This delay proved beneficial, as yields generally exceeded expectations. The producers interviewed expressed great satisfaction with both the quantity and quality of the harvested forage.



The pastures currently offer an abundance of very good quality green grass. However, the proliferation of wild salsify (*Tragopogon* spp.) is a concern and remains a challenge on many farms. Several producers have sought my assistance in implementing control strategies without herbicides or tillage. Observations show that integrated management based on dense plant cover, effective rotational grazing, and interventions before seed production is a promising approach.

In parallel with agronomic monitoring activities, several experimental potato plots were successfully established in Saint-André and Drummond, in collaboration with Charles Karemangingo and partner producers. Observations will continue until harvest to evaluate the performance of different treatments under the conditions of northwestern New Brunswick.

Rainfall observed since spring has maintained good soil moisture levels, while temperatures have promoted sustained crop growth. Observations indicate that growing conditions have generally been more favorable than at the same time in 2025, thanks in particular to regular rainfall that has ensured a good water balance.

At the halfway point of the season, all indicators point to an excellent agricultural year in northwestern New Brunswick. Crops are well established, producers have carried out their work professionally, and weather conditions remain favorable. While July, August, and September are crucial for final yields, observations to date allow for a decidedly optimistic outlook. Agriculture remains a profession of passion, perseverance, and hope. Let us hope that this season continues under these auspicious circumstances so that producers in Northwestern New Brunswick can reap the rewards of their labor and continue to develop productive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture.

Please see the title article for Andrew Sytsmas Carleton County update for this edition.



Open Farm Day - September 20th, 2026

Mark your calendars!

The 26th Atlantic Open Farm Day will take place on Sunday, September 20th, 2026.

This is your opportunity to open your gates to the community and give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at your operation. It's the perfect chance to connect with the public, promote your products, and help educate New Brunswickers on the importance of farming here at home.

Registration is open until July 31st! To register, please click on this link to complete the online form.

We also require you to send along a copy of your liability insurance to marketing@fermenbfarm.ca



Wild blueberries beginning to ripen, mid-July



A DJI drone mapping a field



Apple fruitlets in late June



A frog friend in the field



A "trailing shoe" liquid manure spreader attachment, to spread manure close to plant roots instead of on foliage



Strawberry U-picks were in full form around NB this month

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Thank you to our partners and sponsors!

Rainmakers



Thank you to our partners and sponsors!

Barn Raisers

The logo for AGTIV, featuring the word "AGTIV" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

LP CONSULTING

The logo for nova INTERNATIONAL Ltd., featuring the word "nova" in orange and "INTERNATIONAL Ltd." in black.

Harvesters



Seed Sowers

