

# connection

Vol. 2 Issue 1 FEBRUARY 2017

## On-Farm Safety Inspection Info Sessions

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) and the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education teamed up to offer On-Farm Safety Inspection Information Sessions at three farms in the province.

The objective of the initiative was to educate the farm community on the inspection process and key priority hazard areas to be considered on farm. The sessions also provided farmers with the opportunity to educate the OHS Inspectors on farming practices and to discuss any concerns they may have relating to farm health and safety.

The session format included a short overview of the inspection process and a tour of the host farms. Stopping at a number of places along the way, the farmers described the activities conducted in different areas of the farm, pointing out the best management practices they follow and any health and safety concerns they may have. At each stop, the OHS Inspectors provided comments and suggestions to improve upon health and safety, and also highlighted the key areas they would address in an inspection.

All participants were provided an opportunity for questions.

The first session was held at West River Holsteins in Antigonish and had 20 people in attendance.

The second session was held at Melvin Farms Ltd., Canning, with 24 people in attendance—this session was held on what seemed to be the coldest day of winter thus far. We had a few not able to attend due to weather but the rest of the group braved it well!

The third session is scheduled to be held at Bidalosy Farms, Old Barns, in early February.

We received excellent feedback from these sessions! We had multiple



*Tour of the facilities at West River Holsteins. Machinery maintenance and safe animal handling systems were among the discussion points.*

farms invite FSNS and OHS Inspectors to visit their farms to conduct a similar educational inspection. We also received some great feedback on improvements for future sessions, including more available templates and inspection checklists to help follow along. 🌱

**(See pg 2: “Top Hazards Identified”)**

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## ON-FARM INSPECTION INFO SESSIONS

# Top Hazards Identified

The top five areas identified during the farm inspections:

1. **Machinery & Equipment Guarding** – Ensure your machinery and equipment are adequately guarded to prevent injury.
2. **Lockout/Tagout** – Ensure you have a system for locking and tagging out machinery and equipment when you are working on it. It is important that your equipment cannot be started when performing maintenance and repairs.
3. **Fall Protection** – Ensure fall protection is in place where there is a risk of falling. The types of areas identified included floor openings to pits, mezzanine storage areas, etc. Installing proper guardrails will control these hazards.
4. **Training** – Identifying the training required on your farm and ensuring your employees are properly trained is important. Some of this training may be done by a third party (e.g. first aid, forklift) and others may be done in-house (e.g. WHMIS, tractor)



The group at Melvin Farms, Canning, discusses the importance of guarding and safe work practices with machinery and conveyors.

5. **General Tools/Equipment Condition & Requirements** – There are specific requirements around tools and equipment at the workplace. Examples include:
  - Ladders must be of proper grade for the workplace. Grade 3 portable ladders are not to be used in the workplace
  - Oxy-acetylene torches must have a flashback arrestor
  - Ensure bench grinders have tool rests

## UPCOMING Training

Each course requires a minimum number of participants and Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) reserves the right to cancel courses due to low enrollment.

Members may also request training to be hosted in their community or at a farm. Contact FSNS to schedule a training course in your area.

### Scheduled Training & Workshops

To register, contact FSNS at [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca) or (902) 893-2293

#### WCB Info Sessions

Have you ever wondered how WCB works? What benefits it provides? Is a good fit for your business?

These sessions provide a basic overview of WCB coverage including: rates, registration and benefits. There will also be time at the end of the session for individual questions and discussions.

#### Who should attend?

Those interested in learning more about WCB, whether you be registered or considering it.

**Feb 17 New Minas 9:30 am–12 pm**  
**Feb 28 Truro 1:30 pm–4 pm**

#### Online Training

There are also a number of online training courses available on the FSNS website. Cost per course varies.

Visit [www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca) or call (902) 893-2293

#### OHS for Farm Owners & Managers

Participants learn about the basics of occupational health & safety and gain a basic understanding of their roles and responsibilities with relation to safety.

#### Who should attend?

Those responsible for managing health and safety on the farm.

~~Cost: \$190~~ **FSNS Member Cost: \$75**

Lunch provided

**Feb 21 New Minas 8:30 am–4:30 pm**

*Delivered in partnership with Safety Services Nova Scotia*

#### Emergency First Aid

At a worksite with 1–19 people, at least one person must be trained in emergency first aid.

~~Cost: \$90~~ **FSNS Member Cost: \$65**

**Mar 2 Truro 9 am–5 pm**  
**Mar 7 Berwick 9 am–5 pm**

*Delivered in partnership with Saint John Ambulance*

#### OHS Committees

Participants will learn the responsibilities of a Health & Safety Committee, how such committees should function and how to apply the lessons learned to the operation of their own committee and organization.

#### Who should attend?

Those responsible for managing health and safety on the farm and/or Committee members.

~~Cost: \$190~~ **FSNS Member Cost: \$75**

Lunch provided

**Mar 21 New Minas 8:30 am–4:30 pm**

*Delivered in partnership with Safety Services Nova Scotia*

#### CASW Workshops

FSNS will be hosting workshops during **CASW (March 12 – 18)** focusing on developing farm safety plans for your individual operations. Details to follow!

# Annual Meeting & Board of Directors

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) held its Annual Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. The Annual Report of FSNS can be found on the website for those who were unable to attend. ([www.farmsafetyns.ca](http://www.farmsafetyns.ca))

Kenny Corscadden of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University, presented on the project “Hazard Identification and Risks Assessment for Improving on Farm Safety.” This project was completed in collaboration with Doug Bragg Enterprises and Farm Safety Nova Scotia. The intention of the project was to provide Nova Scotia farmers with an assessment tool to use on the farm. The next phase of this project is to present the information into a useable, accessible format for farmers through a mobile app. Students in the Engineering program at Dal AC will be developing a potential app in the winter semester.

The annual meeting also brought a farewell to retiring Director, Peter Morine. Peter was involved with Farm Safety Nova Scotia since its beginning, and with the Farm Health and Safety Committee prior to. Peter sat as chair of Farm Safety Nova Scotia from its inception in 2010 until 2014, after which he remained a director for two years. Peter is very passionate about safety and brought a different perspective to the table from his work at Michelin. Peter was always willing to share his experiences to help with the progression of safety on the farm. We thank Peter for his commitment to the organization.

We welcomed back David Newcombe into a three-year term, after filling

the remainder of a term for the past two years. Lloyd Dyck, the former representative of the NSFA Executive Committee, also joined us for a three-year term as a director from the membership at large. Jim Baillie is our newest director and joins us through an annual appointment from the NSFA Executive Committee. We are very happy to have Jim on board.

The Officers for FSNS were elected following the Annual Meeting.

Trevor Forbes remains president, David Powers as vice-president and David Newcombe as our treasurer and corporate secretary. Rounding off the Board of Directors, we have Brenna Koneczny and Donna Langille, both in the second year of their first term.

We are very pleased to have such a dedicated group of directors and are looking forward to another safe and successful year! 🌱

## NEW BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

### Jim Baillie



*Jim Baillie began his farming career with cereal and soybean field crops in the mid-90s in Tatamagouche. Shortly after he started farming, he added pedigreed seed production, contracting with several western Canadian seed groups to produce certified canola hybrids and later canola multiplications of parental lines, and also added certified seed flax varieties to his crops. During the late-90s, Jim began developing wild blueberry land, which remains his main crop today.*

*Jim has always been passionate about participating in farm and forestry groups and feels they are an important way to contribute to strengthening our farming sector.*

*Over the years Jim has been involved in many organizations. He is a past president of the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) and the*

*Maritime Branch of CSGA, and is also past president of two wood lot owner groups.*

*Jim remains involved in a number of industry organizations and is currently a Member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Executive Committee and a Director on the Board of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia.*

*Now as a Director on the Board of FSNS, Jim feels this position offers opportunity to help fellow farmers recognize the importance of developing safe farm work practices and to more easily incorporate safety into farming today.*

# Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Every year the third week of March marks Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), a public education campaign organized by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA). CASW focuses on the importance of practicing safe agriculture.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia will be hosting workshops throughout the week providing farmers with the resources and tools needed to keep themselves, their families and their workers safe on the farm. Workshops will focus on guiding farmers through their farm safety plans. More information to be available in the near future. Be sure to check out on Facebook (@farmsafetyns), our website, and the NSFA e-Newsbreak for more information! 



The 2017 CASW runs **March 12-18** with the theme of “**Be an Ag Safe Family – Appealing to Adults.**”

## 20% Discounts for the Month of March

We are pleased to announce that for the second year in a row equipment dealers will be providing **20% discounts on safety-related items** during the month of March.

Blueline New Holland, Central Equipment, Green Diamond Equipment and VanOostrum Farm Equipment are joining the “Be an Ag Safe Family” Campaign and supporting CASW in Nova Scotia through this promotion.

This is a great opportunity to get your equipment ready to hit the fields in the spring!

Need some guarding replaced? Beacon lights for the road? ROPS on an older tractor?

Take advantage of this opportunity and get your equipment ready for a busy and productive cropping season! 



### Board of Directors

Trevor Forbes *President*  
David Powers *Vice-President*  
David Newcombe *Treasurer & Corporate Secretary*  
Lloyd Dyck *Director*  
Brenna Koneczny *Director*  
Donna Langille *Director*  
Jim Baillie *NSFA Executive Representative*

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### Let us help

Access your Member Assistance Program (MAP)  
24/7 by phone, web or mobile app

Access support related to:  
Mental health, Finances, Legal and much more

Farmers and their families have access to up to 3 hours of service at no cost.

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[workhealthlife.com](http://workhealthlife.com)