

connection

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Farm Safety NS Board welcomes new directors and officers

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) held its annual meeting on November 27th, 2015 in Truro. There were two retiring Directors this year, Lloyd Evans and Charles Keddy. Lloyd and Charles were involved with the Committee responsible for the establishment of FSNS and were two of the original Directors of the Society. We thank both Lloyd and Charles for their time and dedication to the organization.

With two retiring Directors, FSNS welcomed two new Directors to the Board, Brenna Koneczny and Donna Langille, each elected to a three-year term.

Brenna Koneczny lives in Malagash with her husband Sebastian and operates Vista Bella Farms. With a passion for working outdoors Brenna and Sebastian began farming speciality vegetables and greenhouse crops. As time passed, they listened to their climate and soils and took a keen interest in farming fruit trees and caring for honeybees. Brenna and Sebastian now operate a small commercial farm where they grow pear, cherry, plum and apple trees. Living in a unique agricultural region, they are able to direct market all of their own product and do so by supplying local grocery stores and by selling at local farmers' markets. They now offer over fifty varieties of apples to customers and always have something new for customers to try! Brenna and Sebastian

farm with their three boys, aged 9, 6 and 4. Brenna believes that when it comes to children, farm safety must be made a priority. The importance of educating their children on the safety issues surrounding farm machinery and equipment continues to take priority as they work on the farm.

Donna Langille lives in Tatamagouche and operates Bayhead Farm with her children, Jamie and Tyler. Bayhead Farm is a mixed farm with a small cow-calf operation with Black Angus breeding, along with a small flock of North Country Cheviot sheep. Prior to 1998, the family had a commercial feeder hog operation for about 20 years. Since graduating from university with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Donna worked as the Operations Manager for the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) for 40 years, retiring in 2014. During her time with the NSFA she had the opportunity to work with various commodity groups, farm-based community groups and was involved with the Farm Health and Safety Committee and then FSNS as well as the Canadian Farmers with Disability Registry. Donna continues to see farm health and safety as an important priority for the Nova Scotia agricultural industry.



Brenna Koneczny (top) and Donna Langille joined the FSNS Board at the last AGM.

Returning Directors include Trevor Forbes, David Powers, David Newcombe, Peter Morine and the NSFA Executive Representative, Lloyd Dyck. Elected Officers for 2016 are Trevor Forbes – President, David Powers – Vice-President and David Newcombe – Treasurer & Corporate Secretary.

We would like to welcome new and returning Directors to the Board. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year! 🌱

The importance of educating their children on the safety issues surrounding farm machinery and equipment continues to take priority.

2016 Training Courses

We have expanded the training opportunities available to farmers for the upcoming year. We have scheduled a number of courses for early 2016. Members are required to pre-register with Farm Safety Nova Scotia for all training courses, unless otherwise stated.

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

Members may also request training to be hosted in their community or at their individual farms. We will try to accommodate these requests to the best of our ability but this will depend on instructor availability. Training costs for on-farm courses will differ from those listed. Contact FSNS to schedule a training course in your area.

The following courses are available through Farm Safety Nova Scotia for 2016:

Course	Delivery Method
First Aid (Emergency, Standard and Spanish)	In-class
WHMIS	In-class and online
Tractor Operator Safety	In-class
OHS for Farm Owners & Managers	In-class
Confined Space Entry Awareness	In-class
Forklift Awareness – upon request only	In-class
Chainsaw Safety – upon request only	In-class

February – March Training Schedule

OHS for Farm Owners & Managers

Participants will learn about the basics of occupational health and safety and will be provided with 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**

February 24	Berwick	9 am – 4 pm	Lunch provided
February 25	Truro	9 am – 4 pm	Lunch provided

Delivered in partnership with Safety Services Nova Scotia.

Confined Space Entry Awareness

Participants will learn about the hazards of working in confined spaces on the farm, and the protective measures and equipment that help ensure a safer working environment.

Who should attend?

Those required to enter confined spaces on the farm.

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

March 2	Antigonish	9 am – 4 pm	Lunch provided
March 8	Truro	9 am – 4 pm	Lunch provided
March 10	Berwick	9 am – 4 pm	Lunch provided

Delivered in partnership with Safety Services Nova Scotia.

Online Training Courses

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

- WHMIS
- Joint OHS Committee Orientation
- Lockout/Tagout
- Confined Space Awareness
- Worker Health and Safety Orientation
- Workplace Hazards: Identification, Assessment and Control
- Workplace Inspections

WHMIS

This course is designed to educate a worker, supervisor or manager on the major elements of the WHMIS Program. The student is taught how to implement a WHMIS Program in compliance with existing legislation.

Who should attend?

Anyone working with or in proximity to controlled products.

Cost: ~~\$50~~ **FSNS Member Cost: \$40**

February 16	Inverness	1 pm – 4 pm
February 17	Antigonish	9:30 am – 12:30 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: ~~\$80~~ **FSNS Member Cost: \$60**

February 3	Truro	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
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Delivered in partnership with St. John Ambulance.

To register for a course contact:

info@farmsafetyns.ca (902) 893-2293

2015 Member Feedback

Farm Safety Nova Scotia hosted an agricultural equipment panel and conducted a needs assessment in early 2015 in an effort to communicate with members on farm health and safety topics and to determine member needs.

The panel was focused on specialized equipment used in the Nova Scotia agricultural industry and the barriers that exist for farmers due to health and safety legislation. Discussion focused on the role FSNS can play to assist farmers with these barriers. A few of the main recommendations brought forward were:

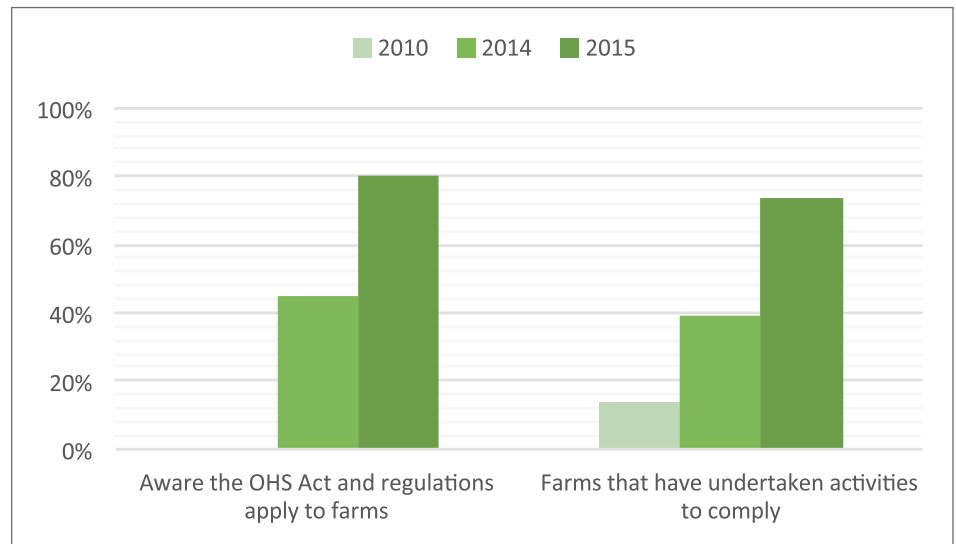
- Improved relationships with government, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture and commodity groups
- Improved communications with members and industry stakeholders
- Host an annual event to keep agenda moving forward
- On-farm assistance for members
- Increased funding for FSNS to increase capacity

The needs assessment was conducted among County Federations and the NSFA Council of Leaders. The industry was represented well with a cross section of commodities and farm sizes. The objectives of the needs assessment were to discover member needs, identify preferred methods of communication and determine the current industry status of health and safety legislation awareness.

The primary role identified for FSNS by members was providing education and training. Providing resources and advocating were listed as lower priorities. Members were looking for more workshops and training to be available including first aid, tractor operator safety and WHMIS.

In terms of resources, fact sheets and on-farm services were the priority areas identified by members. The on-farm services members felt would be beneficial included assessments and on-farm training.

Instructor Scott Reid reviews some basic maintenance during the Tractor Operator Safety Course held November 22–23 in Truro.



Awareness of occupational health and safety has steadily increased over the past 5 years.

Print newsletters and email were ranked the top two forms of communication to share information on workshops, resources and farm safety news.

The needs assessment also gave us an opportunity to determine the current status of health and safety awareness among members. As can be seen in the graph, awareness of occupational health and safety legislation has steadily increased as has the number of farms undertaking activities to comply.

While full compliance may not be achieved by many farmers, the increase

in health and safety practices on farm is encouraging. As this continues to increase, it is important that Farm Safety Nova Scotia continues to meet the changing needs of our members.

All feedback and recommendations collected over 2015 have been taken into consideration by the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Board and will be incorporated in the strategic direction of the organization moving forward. We thank all those who participated in these initiatives, as your feedback is essential to the success of the organization. 🌱



Canadian Agricultural Safety Week Workshop

Every year the third week of March marks Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), a public education campaign focusing on the importance of practicing safe agriculture. The 2016 CASW runs March 13–19 with the theme “Be an Ag Safe Family.”

Farm Safety Nova Scotia is hosting a workshop on a variety of farm safety topics.

When? Tuesday, March 15

Where? Old Orchard Inn,
Greenwich

March Discounts

And guess what else? A number of **farm equipment dealers across the province will offer promotional discounts** on safety-related items throughout the month of March!

Visit www.farmsafetyns.ca for more information.

What?

- Learn how to make your farm a safer place to live and work
- Understand your basic occupational health and safety requirements
- Understand farm vehicle requirements and the rules of the road; and more!

(Pre-registration is required.)



Board of Directors

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

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Children on the Farm

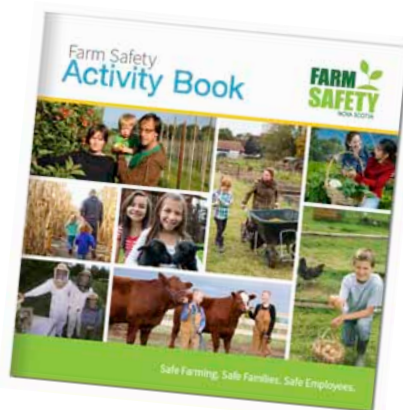
Farming is a unique industry where families often live where they work. This gives children the opportunity to learn about farming and the value of hard work and responsibility. It can also expose them to everyday farm hazards.

There are many hazards on the farm that children must be aware of. It is of critical importance that you talk to your children about farm safety so that they understand how to keep themselves safe. Children should be able to spot hazards so they can work and live safely on the farm. We have developed a Farm Safety Activity Book to help get the conversation started!

The Activity Book is designed to teach children about some of the hazards that exist on the farm and how to protect themselves from them. Some of the topics covered include tractors, chemicals and personal protective equipment.

Each topic has two activities for the kids to complete. One activity is to be done in the book and the other is an “On your farm...” activity. The “On your farm...” activities are designed so that children take what they have learned from the book activity and apply it to his/her farm. It is important that all “On your farm...” activities are completed with the supervision of an adult.

Visit our website or contact us to access a copy of the Farm Safety Activity Book.
www.farmsafetyns.ca



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.

1.844.880.9142

TTY 1.877.338.0275

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