

connection

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OHS Division takes educational & partnership approach

The Occupational Health and Safety Division (OHS) of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) has identified farming as one of its priority industries. The OHS Division regularly identifies industries based on risk. **Risk** is defined as risk of injury and/or fatality or risk of non-compliance. Some of the industries the OHS Division focused on in 2016 include fishing, construction, road building and youth safety.

Industry risks are typically identified based on Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) data, OHS inspection data, or for strategic reasons such as limited inspection history. Farming was selected based on OHS data on previous fatalities and because of limited inspection history and risk of non-compliance.

Goals of the Division

- Educate the industry on OHS legislation
- Improve compliance outcome – reduce non-compliance
- Reduce injuries and fatalities
- Build relationships
- Encourage industry ownership to improve health and safety practices

"I am really looking forward to working with the agriculture industry to improve their safety outcomes.


Many of the small farms employ family members or have long term employees who are just like family, so they have a vested interest in making sure that they work safely," says Scott Nauss, Senior Director of Compliance and Inspection Services. "On our end we hope to provide some understanding surrounding the regulations and allow the industry to drive the program. Particularly, I am looking forward to the mock inspection events planned for the fall. I think it will be a great way for information and idea sharing from both groups."

As a result of the identification of farming as a priority industry, Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) has established an Advisory Committee with the OHS Division, WCB and the Department of Agriculture to collaborate in support the above goals.

"We knew it was a matter of time before they prioritized farming," says Trevor Forbes, President of FSNS. "After they approached us, we suggested establishing an Advisory

Committee so that we could be sure the farmers' voice was at the table."

As part of these initiatives, FSNS has hired Thyagrissen Consulting Ltd. to facilitate strategic planning for the organization. This is being funded by LAE and WCB. The intent of the strategic planning is to ensure input from members and industry to determine the best approach to improve health and safety on the farm. The goal is to have members take a stake in the planning process to help ensure that the initiatives will help them improve health and safety practices on the farm.

The Advisory Committee has planned a collaborative outreach initiative for Fall 2016. Educational "mock" inspections will be conducted on three host farms. All members of the farm community are invited to attend the sessions at a host farm to learn about the inspection process. 

For more information on Strategic Planning Sessions or the Educational Inspection Initiative, see pages 2 and 3.

In this issue...

Training Schedule	2
On-Farm Inspection	2
Industry Strategic Plan	3
FSNS Annual Meeting	3
Required First Aid Supplies	4

Safe Animal Handling Programs	4
Farm Safety Nova Scotia Board of Directors and Contact information	4

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mosthead photo: Hilde van den Heuvel

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.



Tractor Licensing

At the age of 14, you are eligible to get your Tractor License (Class 8) by writing a test at Service Nova Scotia. This license is valid for operating a tractor only, with no implements, on public roads. In order to legally haul implements on public roads, you must also successfully complete a Tractor Safety Course.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia and Extended Learning of Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture partner to deliver these courses throughout the year.

Scheduled Training

Tractor Safety

This course is designed to increase awareness and test competency of tractor operators on the safe operation and use of farm tractors and implements.

Who should attend?

- 14–16 year olds with a valid NS Class 8 driver's license who want to be able to haul equipment on Nova Scotia roads
- anyone with a valid Class 5 driver's license who wants to increase their tractor safety knowledge and skills.

Cost: \$225 + HST

November 5 & 6

Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

Please note: This course is not intended to teach tractor driving. You must have at least 10 hours of supervised tractor driving experience before taking this course.

To register, contact:

Extended Learning, Dalhousie
Faculty of Agriculture
extended.learning@dal.ca
(902) 893-6666

Other courses available through FSNS

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

For Information or to schedule a course:

info@farmsafetyns.ca
(902) 893-2293

On-Farm Inspection Initiative

Have you ever wondered how an OHS Inspection happens? What do the Inspectors look for on the farm? What role does WCB play in OHS? We are hosting three educational inspections on-farm to give you a better understanding of how it all works!

These events, hosted in collaboration with the OHS Division and WCB, aim to educate the farm community on the inspection process and key priority hazard areas to be considered on farm. They will also provide

farmers with the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have relating to farm health and safety.

How will it work?

Three farms will host events this fall— one in the Antigonish, Kentville and Truro areas. The host farm receives support from FSNS in preparation for and follow-up from the event. There will be no warnings, orders or administrative penalties administered by OHS. The sole intention of the initiative is education, not enforcement.

Members of the farming community are invited to attend the events at the host farms. Inspectors with the OHS Division will provide an overview of what they look for when they arrive on the farm. Inspectors and the group will then tour the farm, mimicking an inspection.

Farmers will receive reference sheets and checklists of priority areas identified by the Inspectors so they can return to their farm and conduct their own farm assessment. There will be opportunities for discussion about health and safety and the inspection process.

Host Farms

Inspection events take place during October and November at these host farms:

- West River Holsteins, Antigonish
- Bidalosy Farms Ltd., Old Barns
- Annapolis Valley location, TBA

*Keep your eye out for the confirmed dates in the **NSFA e-News**, on the **FSNS Website** and **FSNS Facebook**, or contact the **FSNS office**. If you are interested in attending, please contact FSNS at **(902) 893-2293** or **info@farmsafetyns.ca***

An Industry Strategic Plan

Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) has initiated strategic planning and is looking for industry input. Thyagrissen Consulting Ltd. has been hired to facilitate the strategic planning process with industry and member engagement highlighted as one of the key priorities.

With FSNS mid-way through its funding agreement *Growing Forward 2* (a federal-territorial-provincial initiative), and with farming identified as a priority industry for the OHS Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, this process is very timely.

Awareness of farm health and safety has increased over the years; however, farmers are still looking for support and resources to support that awareness. FSNS plays a key role for the industry and it is critical that the support and resources provided meet the needs of members.

There will be a number of facilitated sessions held in the coming months with commodity organizations and key stakeholders. The initial industry session was held at the September 2015 Council of Leaders meeting where there was lots of great discussion.

There are a number of reasons FSNS has identified industry and member

engagement as part of the process. The main reason is that we want to know what challenges you face, but we also want to know what types of solutions you see working for you and other farmers.

Are you aware of farm health and safety but aren't sure how to implement changes on your farm? Are there regulatory issues that you struggle with? Are your challenges related to economical or technological challenges? Do you have suggestions on initiatives or programs that would help you improve health and safety on your farm?

We need to hear from farmers so that we can work to help you overcome these challenges.

FSNS will be hosting facilitated sessions:

- October 19th from 10 am – 12 pm
Best Western Glengarry, Truro
- October 26th from 10 am – 12 pm
Louis Millet Centre, New Minas

Please RSVP for a session by contacting the FSNS office at **(902) 893-2293** or **info@farmsafetyns.ca**.

ANNUAL MEETING OF Farm Safety Nova Scotia

Friday, December 2, 11 am
Best Western Glengarry
150 Willow St
Truro, NS

Please join us for the Farm Safety Nova Scotia (FSNS) Annual Meeting. The agenda includes highlights from the past year, updates on upcoming initiatives, and a preview of resources available this coming year.

The NSFA Annual Meeting will recess at 11 am for the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting, and resume immediately after.

If you have registered for the NSFA Annual Meeting, you are automatically registered for the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting. If you would like to register for the FSNS Annual Meeting only please contact info@farmsafetyns.ca



Yvonne Thyssen-Post leads discussion, at the Council of Leaders meeting, September 2015.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENT: First Aid Supplies

Do you have the first aid supplies that you require on your farm?

Employees must have access to clean, dry first aid supplies at all times. There are a number of different types of kits and your requirement for these depends on the number of people at the worksite.

Be sure to consider each different area as a worksite. For example, you may have 10 people working in **Field A**, 1 in **Field B**, and 2 in the **Barn**. Each worksite requires first aid supplies. In this case you would need the following:

- Field A — 1 First Aid Kit #2
- Field B — 1 First Aid Kit #1
- Barn — 1 First Aid Kit #2

Number of Employees	Type of kit Required
1	First Aid Kit # 1
2-19	First Aid Kit #2
20-49	First Aid Kit #3
50-99	First Aid Kit #3 + increased supply of dressings, bandages and antiseptics
100 or more	First Aid Room

Note: Farm vehicles should have a First Aid Kit #1 when used off the farm.

FSNS has first aid kits available for sale at discounted rates for members.

- First Aid Kit #1** **\$18.52**
- First Aid Kit #2** **\$24.38**
- First Aid Kit #3** **\$36.65**

Costs include tax. Shipping charges apply.

To order kits, contact us at (902) 893-2293 or info@farmsafetyns.ca

Safe Animal Handling Programs

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers announced the continuation of the **Safe Handling of Cattle Program** in September.

The Safe Handling of Cattle Program provides support to cattle producers for the purchase of neck extending head gates, cattle squeezes and handling alleys, crowding tubs and locking head gates (dairy installations). This year the program also includes scales and scale heads. The use of this equipment has been proven to reduce the stress levels of animals and well as increase the safety of the handlers. Up to 40% of the purchase cost will be provided for this equipment.



For more information, or to apply, contact the NSCP at (902) 893-7455 **before October 11.**

The Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia announced the **Sheep Handling and Parasite Control Program** in September.

The Sheep Handling and Parasite Control Program provides support to sheep producers for the purchase of fencers, electric fencing and posts, page-wire fencing and posts, livestock gates and handling crates. Pasture rotation has been proven an effective tool in reducing parasite loads in sheep. The use of proper handling equipment is proven to reduce the stress level of animals and increase the safety of the handlers.



Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia

For more information, or to apply contact the SPANS at (902) 893-7455 **before October 11.**



Board of Directors

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- David Newcombe* *Treasurer & Corporate Secretary*
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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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