

connection

OHS Compliance Inspection Initiative

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education has identified a three-phased approach to improve Occupational Health and Safety compliance in the agriculture industry.

There will be overlap through the phases, and the timeline is tentative and will be dependent on industry's participation.

PHASE 1 – EDUCATIONAL 1–2 years (Completed in 2018)

Phase 1 (currently underway) is an educational phase. On-Farm Inspection Sessions will be held at various farms across the province. They are open to farmers in the community to attend.

The objective of the sessions is to provide insight into potential health and safety improvements on your farm, to enhance compliance, and to educate on the OHS inspection process.

This Phase may extend beyond 2018 and be combined with Phase 2 and 3 if interest remains.



Farmers braved the cold at Bidalosy Farm Inspection Session, sharing in discussion on equipment and silos.

PHASE 2 – EDUCATIONAL 2–3 years (Completed in 2020)

Phase 2 remains educational, however actual inspections will be conducted at individual farms. This is an opportunity for farms to request an inspection of their operation during a phase when no orders or administrative penalties will be issued.

Arrangements may be made via FSNS, and a representative of FSNS or Department of Agriculture may be present for the inspection at the farmer's request.

PHASE 3 – COMPLIANCE 2020 forward

Phase 3 will be traditional compliance inspections, which could result in orders and administrative penalties if warranted.

Inspection priorities for this phase will be identified by OHS. FSNS will advise in the best interest of our members and will strive to ensure adequate resources are in place to support farms. This is a similar approach to those that

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OHS Compliance...

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have worked well in other industries. Clients will be selected for inspection based upon risk of injury or risk of non-compliance. Examples could include farms which utilize temporary foreign workers, have confined spaces or high incident rates.

Exceptions:

- Farms with recent inspection history will be treated as per OHS Division policy.
- Any incident will be investigated and treated as per OHS Division policy.
- Any complaint will be investigated and treated as per OHS Division policy.
- Farms identified as new businesses through the Nova Scotia Business Registry may receive an introductory visit.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN PHASE 1 OR 2 SESSIONS?

Taking part in Phase 1 or 2 of the inspection initiative is an excellent opportunity for your farm. These educational phases provide valuable and practical information, and allow you to demonstrate your proactive approach to farm health and safety.

For Phase 1 sessions, inspections can be requested by an individual farm, or by a commodity or regional group that would like to host a session for its members.

We would like to accommodate our members as best we can, so if you have any further questions or would like to sign up as a participating farm – let us know! 🌱



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.

Available Training

The following courses are available through Farm Safety Nova Scotia for 2017.

- 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

If you are interested in any of the courses listed above, please contact us to schedule a course in your area.

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

Upcoming Workshops

ON-FARM SAFETY INSPECTION INFORMATION SESSION

Have you ever wondered how an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Inspection occurs? What do OHS Inspectors look for on your farm? Is your farm operation prepared for an Inspection visit?

Farm Safety Nova Scotia, in partnership with Department of Labour and Advanced Education, is hosting On-Farm Safety Inspection Information Sessions.

Join Farm Safety Nova Scotia to learn about an OHS Inspection on a farm, what is required by farmers, how you can create a safe workplace, and to ask any questions you may have on health and safety.

“Mock” inspections will be conducted by OHS Officers and be solely educational. This is also a great time for farmers and industry to share information with OHS on current farming practices in Nova Scotia.

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

October: Bayview Dairy Farms Ltd. Mabou

Locations to be confirmed:

Valley Region

Pictou County

Western Region

If you are interested in attending a session, please contact info@farmsafetyns.ca or (902)893-2293 so that we can be sure to have enough coffee to go around!

Our Strategic Plan

2017-2021



Since its inception, Farm Safety Nova Scotia has made significant efforts to increase awareness of the importance of farm health and safety through education. With an increase in awareness comes an increase in demand for services and support. With this in mind, FSNS engaged in a strategic planning process in 2016 with a focus on member engagement.

We consulted with farmers, commodity and county federation representatives and industry stakeholders over the past year. From these consultations, our strategic plan was developed.

We thank all those that participated in the engagement sessions and look forward to continuing to work together.

Our Vision

A culture where every decision made on Nova Scotia farms begins with safety.

Our Mission

To promote and support health and safety practices within our farm community.

Core Functions

- Advocacy
- Awareness
- Resource development
- Training and education

Our Values

1. Our decisions and actions are based on openness, fairness, integrity and honesty.
2. We are committed to providing value to our members.
3. We are passionate about farm health and safety, and take pride in what we do.
4. We are the voice for farm safety across Nova Scotia.

Strategic Priorities

Secure funding to support operations and programs

As a not-for-profit organization, funding to support operations and programs is integral to the success of the organization. The goal is to secure \$350,000 per year for the next 5 years in multi-year agreements. FSNS will also lobby for financial assistance to be accessible to farmers for implementation of on-farm safety practices.

Over the next 5 years, FSNS will work on long-term sustainable funding programs to be implemented including a corporate and associate member program and member supported funding streams.

The following priorities will be implemented based on the capacity of the organization and its success in securing additional funding.

Support the farm community in understanding and implementing best practices on farm

Our goal is to increase the number of farms implementing safe best practices on farm. We will do this through:

- Development of farm safety tools and resources;
- Development of safe best management practices;
- Providing industry specific workshops and required training;
- Communications through various forms of media; and
- Providing on-farm advisory services.

Foster positive attitudes and strengthen engagement with the agriculture community

Our goal is to increase the number of farm safety inquiries and increase the support of and participation in initiatives. This will be done through:

- Farm safety campaigns
- Engaging with industry partners; and
- Representing industry at external consultations & events.



Harvesting at Browntown Farms, Shubenacadie. This shot, by photographer Martha Brown, is a sample of the kind of photos that will make up the project. The off-centred subject and lots of sky make this photo ideal for use in a poster or ad.

FARM SCENES WANTED

Nova Scotia Farm Photo Project

FSNS and the NSFA are developing a bank of photos featuring Nova Scotia farms. The goal is to create a diverse range of images featuring local farmers demonstrating best practices and general farm landscapes for use in various publications and print materials.

We are looking for farms to participate in this initiative!

We have contracted a photographer to visit a number of farms throughout the seasons to ensure representation

from various commodities and regions. Farm sessions will range from 2–5 hours, depending on size of the operation. Participating farms will receive up to two high quality digital prints from the session.

Interested in participating? Contact info@farmsafetyns.ca and let us know your location, commodity(ies) and what your farm has to showcase. Only a limited number of farms will be selected to participate. 🌱

Notice of FSNS Annual Meeting

DECEMBER 1, 2017

The Annual Meeting of Farm Safety Nova Scotia will be held **Friday, December 1 at 11 am, Best Western Glengarry, Truro.**

Items to be highlighted include 2017 Strategic Plan and the OHS Compliance Inspection Initiative.

The NSFA Annual Meeting will recess for the FSNS Annual Meeting and resume immediately after. If you have registered for the NSFA Annual Meeting, you are automatically registered for the FSNS Annual Meeting.

If you would like to register for the FSNS Annual Meeting only please contact info@farmsafetyns.ca

Farm Family Support Center

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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