



# 2017 Annual Report



## VISION

*A culture of health and safety where every decision made on Nova Scotia farms begins with safety*

## MISSION

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

## 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*  
Henry Vissers      *non-voting exofficio*

## Industry Partners:

Larry Stewart      *OHS/LAE*  
Heather DuPont      *WCB*  
Ruth Grant      *Department of Agriculture*

## FARM SAFETY MANAGER

Carolyn Van Den Heuvel  
(902) 893-2293  
cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca

[WWW.FARMSAFETYNS.CA](http://WWW.FARMSAFETYNS.CA)

# President's Message

This has been another busy year for Farm Safety Nova Scotia. Our biggest project this year has been our strategic plan update. This took a significant amount of board time and I invite you to read the outline in the report. We hope that members who came to a consultation session feel their challenges and recommendations were heard and are in the strategic plan. With *Growing Forward 2* funding ending this March, it was important to review our strategic plan.

We have also been working on courses including safe equipment operation, license testing, and workplace safety courses. There have been other workshops around the province as well, like the On-Farm Inspection Sessions, Safe Cattle Handling and others. Participation levels in courses and workshops were over 600 people.

It needs to be pointed out that a significant number of our members in the farming industry have had little or no contact with the Department of Labour historically. The Department of Labour and Advanced Education, through their Occupational Health and Safety Division, has made the farming industry a priority. They have rolled out an inspection plan which is made up of three phases — 2 of them educational and 1 of them compliance based. There is some detail on this plan in the annual report and I encourage you to read it.

One of the things I would encourage all to participate in is the 20% off safety related items at your local participating equipment dealer during the month of March. This is in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week and is a chance to replace PTO guards and other safety-related items during downtime at a significant discount. I would like to say a special thank you to the dealers who have supported this initiative during the past several years, Blueline New Holland, Central Equipment, Green Diamond Equipment and VanOostrum Farm Equipment.

On a final note, as the harvest year comes to an end, take a moment to reflect on what you are doing on the farm and try to make it safer for you and your families.

Sincerely,

Trevor Forbes

# Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting Agenda

**BEST WESTERN GLENGARRY, TRURO, NS  
DECEMBER 1, 2017**

- |            |   |             |  |
|------------|---|-------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | Call to Order   | <b>8.0</b>  | OHS Inspection Approach Rollout –<br><i>Scott Nauss, Department of Labour<br/>and Advanced Education</i> |
| <b>2.0</b> | Confirmation of Quorum  | <b>9.0</b>  | Consideration of the Financial Report –<br><i>PricewaterhouseCoopers</i>                                 |
| <b>3.0</b> | Approval of Agenda  | <b>10.0</b> | Appointment of Auditors  |
| <b>4.0</b> | Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting                                  | <b>11.0</b> | Nominating Committee Report<br>& Election of Directors – <i>Dennis Boudreau</i>                          |
| <b>5.0</b> | Business arising from the Minutes   | <b>12.0</b> | Other Business   |
| <b>6.0</b> | Consideration of Annual Report –<br><i>Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, FSNS Manager</i> | <b>13.0</b> | Adjourn  |
| <b>7.0</b> | Strategic Plan Rollout –<br><i>Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, FSNS Manager</i>         |             |  |

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## 2016 AGM Minutes

**1.0 Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Chairperson, Trevor Forbes. Trevor highlighted the President’s Message as printed in the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Annual Meeting book.

**2.0 Confirmation of Quorum** – *Quorum was declared by the Chair.*

**3.0 Approval of Agenda** – Agenda was approved as circulated referencing page 1 of the Annual Meeting Book. *(David Newcombe / Carol Tobin) M/C*

**4.0 Minutes of the previous AGM** – The minutes of the November 27, 2015 AGM were approved as circulated on pages 4 & 5 of the Annual Meeting Book. *(Geneve Newcombe / Greg Webster) M/C*

**5.0 Business arising from the Minutes** – There was no other business arising from the minutes to report.

**6.0 Annual Report** – Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, FSNS Manager, presented the Annual Activity Report as found on Page 6 & 7 of the Annual Meeting Book. The report noted social media activity and the number of people reached at events. It was also highlighted that there were 320 participants in training courses offered by Farm Safety NS in the past year and 200 participants attended workshops. Project and funding partners were highlighted and appreciation was given for their support in training courses, workshops and other projects including the 20% discount on safety related items that equipment dealers provided in March and will continue to offer the same for next year.

Looking forward, Carolyn highlighted initiatives for 2017 including new resources, workshops, training and the Industry Strategic Action Plan. The action plan is asking farmers and the industry to identify challenges with safety on farms as well as identify

## 2016 AGM Minutes (cont'd)

supports needed and services that Farm Safety can deliver. One other initiative is the On-Farm Inspections. This is an educational mock inspection; the first was held in Antigonish with 20 participants and others are planned for central and valley areas of the province.

The 2017 budget was also part of the activity report. Comments following the presentation included importance of communicating farm vehicle safety on the roads; noting the tractor equipment signs and left turning signage are useful initiatives. It was also noted that the Spanish courses are also a great support and should be continued.

### 7.0 Risk Management on Nova Scotia Farms –

Kenny Corscadden, Engineering Department, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture presented the Farm Safety Project “Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for Improving On Farm Safety.” This project highlighted common risks on Nova Scotia Farms with the intention of providing Nova Scotia farmers with a tool to use on their farm. The project identified 8 categories of hazards that were given risk levels and likelihood of occurrence that were then put into a risk assessment matrix. The report complete with risk mitigation strategies was provided to Farm Safety Nova Scotia. This information was reviewed and it was decided to present the information into a usable, accessible format for farmers through the use of technology; Farm Safety mobile app. A mockup of the app to be designed by Dal AC Engineering students was presented to the group.

**8.0 Financial Report** – Lisa Poehl, PricewaterhouseCoopers presented the Financial Report to the year end of August 31, 2016. *A motion by Tim Hennigar / Peter Morine to adopt the auditor’s report as presented. M/C*

### 9.0 Appointment of Auditors –

*On a motion of Peter Morine / Daniel Bruce, PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed as the auditor for 2017. M/C*

### 10.0 Nominating Committee Report & Election of Directors –

Dennis Boudreau presented the NSFA Nominating Committee Report referring to page 8 of the Annual Report book. Dennis Boudreau was declared chair for the election proceedings and made 3 calls for further nominations. There were no further nominations and the election chair declared nominations now closed with the nominations as follows:

NAME	YEAR(S) REMAINING IN TERM	TERM
LLOYD DYCK	3	1 <sup>ST</sup>
DAVID NEWCOMBE	3	1 <sup>ST</sup>

It was also noted that the NSFA Executive representative for 2017 is Jim Baillie.

*A motion by Greg Webster / Amanda Eisses to adopt the Nominating Committee report. M/C.*

**11.0 Other Business** – It was noted for the record that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Nova Scotia will be the only province of the Atlantic Provinces that does not have mandatory WCB. It was suggested that Farm Safety and the Federation of Agriculture take into consideration that this is a disservice to our membership and with harmonization of policies in Maritime Provinces, mandatory WCB become an area we move forward with.

**12.0 Adjourn** – *A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.*

*Meeting notes taken by:*

*Wanda Hamilton, Associate Director  
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture*

# 2016/2017 Activity Report

## AWARENESS & COMMUNICATIONS

- Farm Safety Nova Scotia is now on **Facebook**  **@farmsafetyns** with more than 400 likes!
- You have been receiving the Farm Safety **Connection** in the mail! This newsletter keeps you up-to-date on current initiatives, training and also includes some safety reminders. Distributed five times per year.
- Equipment dealers in Nova Scotia offered a 20% discount on safety-related items for the entire month of March, in support of **Canadian Agricultural Safety Week**. Thanks to Blueline New Holland, Central Equipment, Green Diamond Equipment and VanOostrum Farm Equipment for supporting this initiative.
- FSNS runs a public awareness campaign reminding motorists to “**Share the Road**” every spring.
- You may have seen us out at a number of industry trade shows throughout the year. Our reach at these trade shows — **over 12,000 people**.
- The **Farm Family Support Centre**, managed by Morneau Shepell, is accessible to registered farmers in the province for counselling support related to mental health, financial, legal and more.
- FSNS continues to promote and represent the **interests of the agriculture industry** at national and provincial health and safety related events and meetings.
- A number of new **educational tools and resources** were developed and are available on our website.
- FSNS focused a number of new initiatives on **youth in agriculture**.

## INDUSTRY EVENTS



FSNS was represented at numerous industry events with an opportunity to network with members.

**TOTAL REACH:** **12,080** people

## 2016/2017 Activity Report (cont'd)

# TRAINING COURSES

### SAFE EQUIPMENT OPERATION

#### TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE

PARTICIPANTS: 8  
TRURO

#### HOSTED: LICENSE ENDORSEMENT TESTING

PARTICIPANTS: 33  
ANTIGONISH, PORT WILLIAMS,  
TRURO (x 4),



### WORKPLACE SAFETY



#### FIRST AID

PARTICIPANTS: 130  
PROVINCE-WIDE

#### WHMIS

PARTICIPANTS: 5  
NEW ROSS

#### OHS FOR FARM OWNERS & MANAGERS

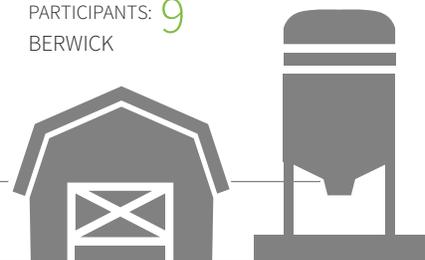
PARTICIPANTS: 7  
BERWICK

#### FALL PROTECTION:

PARTICIPANTS: 3  
TRURO

#### OHS FOR COMMITTEES:

PARTICIPANTS: 9  
BERWICK



With the support of partners, FSNS offered 12 different on-site and on-line training courses in 2016/17.

**TOTAL COURSE PARTICIPATION:** **195** people

# WORKSHOPS

#### INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH

PARTICIPANTS: 14

#### PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAYS

PARTICIPANTS: 25

#### ON-FARM INSPECTION

PARTICIPANTS: 24

#### SAFE CATTLE HANDLING

PARTICIPANTS: 50

#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP & AGRICULTURE CAMP PRESENTATION

PARTICIPANTS: 14

#### SAFE CATTLE HANDLING

PARTICIPANTS: 33

#### ON-FARM INSPECTION

PARTICIPANTS: 20

#### ROAD SAFETY

PARTICIPANTS: 14

#### ROAD SAFETY

PARTICIPANTS: 14

#### BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

PARTICIPANTS: 28 STUDENTS AT DALAC

#### ORIENTATION TO AGRICULTURE HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR

PARTICIPANTS: 22 STUDENTS AT DALAC

#### ON-FARM INSPECTION

PARTICIPANTS: 22

#### YOUTH LEADERSHIP & AG CAMP PRESENTATION

PARTICIPANTS: 12

#### PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAYS

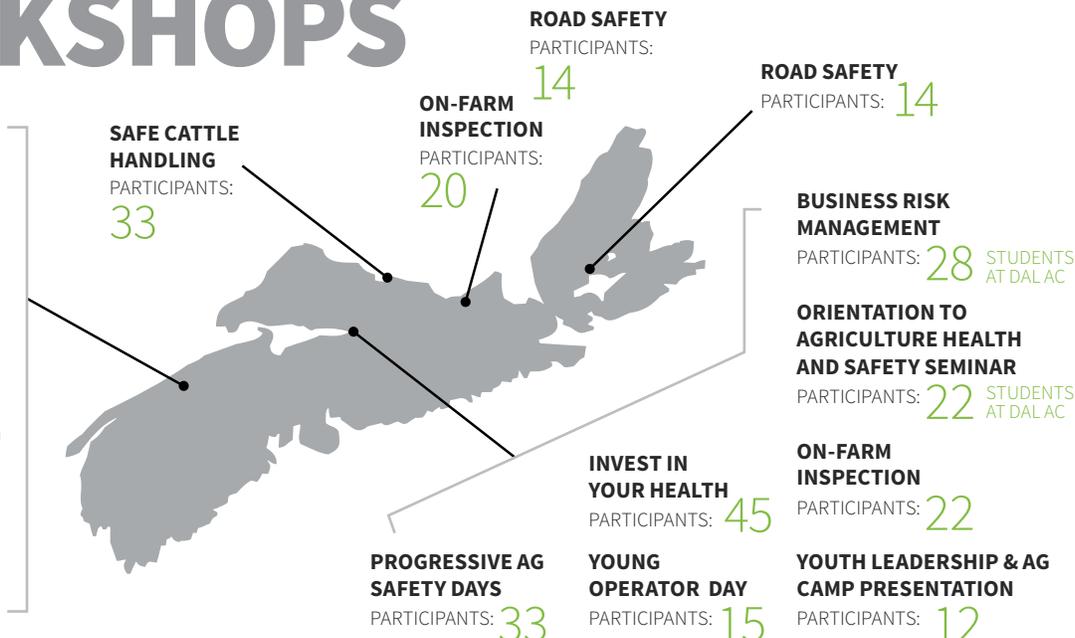
PARTICIPANTS: 33

#### INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH

PARTICIPANTS: 45

#### YOUNG OPERATOR DAY

PARTICIPANTS: 15



FSNS partnered with over ten organizations in 2016/17 to deliver workshops across NS.

**TOTAL WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION:** **400+** people

# Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is made up of one executive committee member and the two past Presidents of the NSFA. If one or both of the past Presidents are not able to participate, the preceding past President will be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee. The President and Executive Director shall be ex-officio members of the Nominating Committee.

Members of the nominating committee are responsible to find qualified nominees for the Board of Directors for Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

The Nominating Committee puts forward the following names as Directors of Farm Safety Nova Scotia for 2017:

Name	Year(s) remaining in term	Term
Trevor Forbes	3	2 <sup>nd</sup>
David Powers	3	2 <sup>nd</sup>

A representative from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Executive Committee is also appointed from its members to serve as a director for Farm Safety Nova Scotia. The 2018 Executive Committee representative is **Amanda Eisses**.

*Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee:*

*Dennis Boudreau, Chair; Jim Baillie; Beth Densmore; Chris van den Heuvel (ex officio)*

# Collaboration Advisory Committee Report

The Farm Safety Collaboration Advisory Committee was established as a committee of Farm Safety Nova Scotia in early 2016. The objective of this Committee is to collaborate on improving health and safety on Nova Scotia farms and to create a forum that will enable timely communications and discussion of agricultural health and safety among various organizations.

The OHS Inspection Plan for the farming industry was a key area of discussion over the past year. With farming identified as a priority industry for

the OHS Division, a clear approach to traditional compliance inspections was developed. See page 10 for more information.

The Committee has also discussed various joint educational initiatives and funding opportunities for Farm Safety Nova Scotia. This Committee is very supportive of industry led initiatives and will continue to work together to improve health and safety on Nova Scotia farms.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Trevor Forbes</b>	<i>President, Farm Safety Nova Scotia</i>
<b>David Powers</b>	<i>Vice-President, Farm Safety Nova Scotia</i>
<b>Carolyn Van Den Heuvel</b>	<i>Manager, Farm Safety Nova Scotia</i>
<b>Harold Carroll</b>	<i>Executive Director, OHS, Department of LAE</i>
<b>Jason Dauphinee-Muise</b>	<i>Director Technical and Outreach Services, OHS, Department of LAE</i>
<b>Scott Nauss</b>	<i>Senior Director Compliance and Inspection Services, OHS, Department of LAE</i>
<b>Steve MacDonald</b>	<i>Director of Communications, WCB</i>
<b>Ruth Grant</b>	<i>Manager Extension and Outreach Services, Department of Agriculture</i>
<b>Becky Sooksom</b>	<i>Regional Services Coordinator, Department of Agriculture</i>
<b>Henry Vissers</b>	<i>Executive Director, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture</i>

# 2016/17 At a Glance

Farm Safety Nova Scotia has a number of initiatives planned for the upcoming year!

- We will be hosting **Progressive Agriculture Safety Days** in the Cape Breton and Yarmouth regions. These events are open to children ages 8–13.
- We will be hosting a number of **workshops** and **information sessions** throughout the winter months so be sure to keep an eye out!
- We will be hosting more **on-farm safety inspection sessions** across the province. We will also coordinate **individual inspections** for those interested in participating in Phase 2.
- A framework for the development of **best practices** will be available for implementation.
- A new, more farm user-friendly **website** will be available to our members.

## AVAILABLE TRAINING

FSNS continues to deliver training at discounted rates to members. Available training includes:

- First Aid (Emergency, Standard and Spanish)
- Tractor Operator Safety
- Forklift Awareness – upon request only
- Chainsaw Safety – upon request only
- and more...

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

- WHMIS
- Joint OHS Committee Orientation
- Worker Health and Safety Orientation
- and more...

### For Nova Scotia farmers seeking support — **Farm Family Support Line**

A confidential, short-term counselling and advisory service — to help you manage and reduce the stresses in life, including mental health, legal, financial and more.

#### **No cost for up to 3 hrs of service per issue.**

If you require more specialized or longer-term support, professionals will help you find an appropriate specialist or community service that can provide continued assistance.

**Line is open 24 hours a day** —  
Available to farmers or their immediate family members

**1.844.880.9142**

**TTY: 1.877.338.0275**

**workhealthlife.com**



*Farm Family Support Line is managed by Morneau Shepell as a Member Assistance Program.*

## International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health (ISASH) Conference



Showcasing our agriculture industry through educational tours and local meals, the conference will be full of Nova Scotia flavour.

The conference is targeted to professionals working in agricultural health and safety.

**REGISTRATION** [www.ISASHconference2018.ca](http://www.ISASHconference2018.ca)

**CONFERENCE LOCATION** **Marriott Harbourfront Hotel** Halifax

*We are excited to be the 2018 Conference Co-hosts*



# NOVA SCOTIA

JUNE 24 TO 27, 2018

# 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 advocate 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 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.

# OHS Inspection Plan

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)**

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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.

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

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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**

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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 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.

*On-farm inspection at Bidalosy Farms (February 2017)*



# Thank you to our partners and supporters!

## PROJECT PARTNERS

**Morneau Shepell** manages the Farm Family Support Line as a member assistance program.



**St. John Ambulance** provides first aid training and first aid kits at discounted rates to members of FSNS.



**Safety Services Nova Scotia** provides various training courses at discounted rates to members of FSNS.



**Dalhousie University** (Extended Learning, Faculty of Agriculture) delivers the Tractor Safety Course and provided equipment and facilities for Endorsement Testing.



**WBANS** partners to deliver the Introduction to Wild Blueberry Harvester Operation Course.



**Perennia** partners with FSNS on various workshops.



**NS Cattle Producers** partnered on the "Safe Cattle Handling" Workshop.



The **AgriSafe Network** delivered the Invest in Your Health Program.



The **Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal** and the **Department of Agriculture** supported a number of workshops.



**DBE** supports the Introduction to Wild Blueberry Harvester Operation course by providing facilities and equipment.



**Green Diamond Equipment Ltd.** supported FSNS at the Young Operator Day, provided equipment for Tractor Endorsement Testings, and offered a 20% discount on safety-related items during March in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.



**Progressive Agriculture Foundation** supports the delivery of Progressive Agriculture Safety Days.



## PROJECT SUPPORTERS

**Blueline New Holland** offered a 20% discount in March on safety-related items in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.



**Central Equipment Ltd.** supported FSNS at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days and offered a 20% discount on safety-related items during March in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.



**VanOostrum Farm Equipment Ltd.** supported FSNS at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days, provided equipment and facilities for Endorsement Testings, and offered a 20% discount on safety-related items in March in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.



## FUNDING PARTNERS



**Growing Forward 2**, a federal-territorial-provincial initiative providing financial support to Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

**Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture** supports Farm Safety Nova Scotia through staff and in-kind contributions.



**FCC** provided funding support for the *Invest in Your Health* Program.



**OHS Education Trust Fund**, administered by the OHS Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, provided support to the development of the *Farm Safety Workbook*.



**Workers' Compensation Board** and **Department of Labour and Advanced Education** provided financial support for the *FSNS Strategic Action Plan*.

