

ATLANTIC AGROLOGY NETWORK NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL UPDATES

NBIA - nbia@nsagrologists.nb.ca

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NLIA

With the current COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting to new norm protocols, the NBIA Council has not been meeting or active postponing all meetings and events for the summer months. We are hoping to reconvene again to normal in September with usual meetings and activities for the rest of 2020 – 2021.

Membership holds steady with 182 members, 6 pending applications, 5 A.Ag's to be scheduled to write their exams as soon as it is possible to do so safely, 2 members were promoted to P.Ag. after successfully passing the exam. Most of memberships and Professional Development reports are in.

NBIA Council wishes everyone to stay safe and use all recommended health precautions during this time especially with a few more restrictions being lifted across the Atlantic region. Have a great summer everyone.

Nicole Williams, P.Ag.
President

NSIA - info@nsagrologists.ca

With the COVID-19 restrictions in effect this past April, the AGM was postponed to November 18th, 2020. We are hoping to host our annual Honours & Awards Banquet that evening as well. Council will make a final decision in September as to the form of the meeting, whether it be in person or virtual, with membership being updated at that time. At our upcoming AGM, the new Council will be determined.

Membership remains consistent with 166 Professional Agrologists, 12 Articling Agrologists, 43 Retired Members and an Associate Member.

The Programs Committee is currently planning upcoming virtual events for members. This allows members to be able to obtain missed PD hours, as they can listen to the material afterwards, if not able to make schedules work for the original time. Additional information will be sent to members once it is determined.

NSIA Council wish a safe, enjoyable summer to all, with a reminder to please support local as best you can, especially during these tough economic times.

Jonathan Wort, P.Ag
President

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the NLIA Annual meeting was held via video conference (Zoom) for the first time on May 4th. Sixteen members attended. The Zoom meeting technology worked well for the AGM and our Institute plans to use video conferencing for other activities in the coming months. Nick Kelly, P.Ag. was elected as NLIA President.

Several events that NLIA regularly contributes to were cancelled this spring, including the Eastern Region Science Fair and the Newfoundland and Labrador Envirothon. The Newfoundland and Labrador Research Symposium, scheduled for November was also postponed indefinitely.

Two new membership applicants were accepted as P. Ag's in June, with a third application expected soon.

The 'Hot Topic' article for this edition of the Atlantic newsletter highlights one of several innovative projects NLIA members are involved in to advance agricultural technology in Newfoundland and Labrador. Developing practical and efficient methods of forage production has been an important contribution to the continued success of the dairy industry in our province.

The NLIA Executive asks all to keep safe, stay healthy, have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Nick Kelly, P.Ag.
President

Since the middle of March, activity in the PEIIA has been limited due to the Covid-19, but also because many of us have been getting through a busy planting season. It's great to see that spring conditions were fairly favourable for our growers to get the crops in during these uncertain times.

After a postponement due to Covid-19, the PEIIA held its 60th Annual Meeting on May 7, 2020 by Zoom Videoconference with 33 members participating. Some discussion was held around a bylaw review and update, as well as how we can best move forward under the Covid-19 guidelines. In addition, the new executive was also elected for the 2020-21 year:

- President: Steve Howatt, P.Ag.
- Past President: Dan MacEachern, P.Ag.
- President Elect: Gwen Vessey, P.Ag.
- Treasurer: Laura Dickson, P.Ag.
- Registrar: Mike Nabuurs, P.Ag.
- 1st year Councillor: Lindsay Birch, P.Ag.
- 2nd year Councillor: Michelle Dymont, P.Ag.
- Councillor at Large: Ryan Barrett, P.Ag.
- AIT Rep: Heather More, AIT

Over the upcoming months, Council will also be considering a Bylaw review, as well as updating a Policy and Procedures Manual for Council and committees. Moving forward we also plan to continue to focus our efforts on providing opportunities for us to attract new members and ensuring our current members have regular opportunity to participate in learning and networking activities.

On behalf of the PEIIA, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Steve Howatt, P.Ag.
President

JOB POSTINGS

NLIA:

Please keep checking: <https://www.hiring.gov.nl.ca/Jobs.aspx/Public>



NSIA:

No current job postings are available, however, please keep checking the [Job Postings page](#) on our website.

Additionally, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) has created an [online Job Board](#) for agriculture related jobs in the province.

PEIA

Please frequently check the [Careers page](#) on our website for updates.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NSIA:

November 18th, 2020 **Annual Meeting and Honours & Awards Banquet**

*** if a virtual event, the Banquet may be moved to an alternate date*



TRENDING TOPIC

This current, hot topic within the agriculture industry will alternate between the four provinces each edition.

Newfoundland and Labrador Study Investigates the use of Fertilizer Stabilizers on Nitrogen Losses and Efficiency in Various Cropping Systems

Sabrina Ellsworth, MSc, PAg.

Research Manager, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources

To meet the growing global demand for food, agriculture must increase production either through the expansion of land used for cultivation or enhance practices to intensify production on the existing land base. As the climate warms, boreal regions will become more conducive for agricultural production. Within Canada, the boreal ecozone covers 35% of the total land area. In order to enhance sustainable food production, assessments and adoption of improved agricultural practices, such as nutrient management strategies are required. Widespread use of inorganic nitrogen (N) fertilizers in intensive agriculture is already contributing to global anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions with the effects of expanding agriculture to boreal regions not yet understood.

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) has a boreal climate with acidic soil conditions yet has some of the largest dairy and poultry industries in Canada. One of the biggest challenges facing livestock production in NL is that the majority of feed ingredients are imported, adding to the overall cost of production. Silage corn is the largest annual crop produced in the province and until recently, it has not been known what annual crops can be grown locally that could be a good fit in this rotation. Provincial research now suggests that grains, oilseeds, and some annual forage legumes are viable crops for NL and may be suitable for rotation with corn silage, however the benefits of such rotations have not yet been demonstrated.

Nitrogen is essential for achieving optimal crop yield. However, the timing of application, rate, source and placement of N is crucial to ensuring losses are minimized and farmers are getting the most out of their fertilizer investment. Nitrogen fertilizer stabilizers [urease inhibitor (N-(n-butyl)-thiophosphoric triamide) and nitrification inhibitors (Dicyandiamide and Nitrapyrin)], have been effective at improving nitrogen use efficiency and decreasing N losses through nitrate (NO₃-) leaching, ammonia (NH₃) volatilization, and denitrification in other regions and may prove to be effective in expanding boreal agriculture production.



Sabrina Ellsworth, P.Ag., taking a greenhouse gas sample from a static chamber

The Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, in collaboration with Grenfell Campus - MUN has initiated a collaborative research project with funding from the Federal - Provincial cost shared Agriculture Technology Program. The objectives of this study are to investigate the short term effects of nitrogen stabilizers on N leaching, N use efficiency, GHGs, and mineral N (NO₃- and NH₄⁺) dynamics under various cropping systems (monocropped corn; corn – wheat – corn; corn – canola – corn; corn – faba bean – corn; corn – oats and peas – corn). The experiment is taking place at the Department of Fisheries and Lands Resources' Agricultural Research Station Pynn's Brook, NL and will be conducted over a three-year period.

This ambitious project seeks to understand how commercially available N stabilizers (i.e. Agrotain™, eNtrench™ and Super U™) perform in a boreal climate in efforts to reduce N use on farm, reduce impacts to the environment, and improve on-farm profitability. In addition, this project will help us better understand the effects of the various crops used in rotation with corn and demonstrate the benefits of a short-term rotation locally. Finally, as GHG monitoring in NL agriculture is still a relatively new activity, this project will attempt to create a provincial GHG baseline inventory, contributing to the understanding of the relationship between different crop management practices and GHG emissions within a boreal climate.