

ATLANTIC AGROLOGY NETWORK NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL UPDATES

PEIIA – info@peiia.ca

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NBIA

Here on PEI, the potato harvest is well underway. After a growing season with abundant moisture for the first time in three years, early results point to very good yields. The grain, oilseed and forages crops are all reported to be doing well due to the nearly ideal growing conditions on the Island.

The PEIIA held its regular monthly Council meeting on September 14th as a hybrid in-person/ zoom meeting. It is our intention to try to alternate between these hybrid meetings and zoom meetings to give ourselves the opportunity to personally interact with our fellow councilors - something we are all missing since the pandemic began. We will, however, continue to adjust our plans according to the dictates of the office of the Chief Public Health Officer.

The PEIIA Council continues to work on streamlining our new member application process. In assessing membership applications, the PEIIA strives to adhere to the National Education Standards, as laid out in the Agrologists Canada report “*National Education Standards for the Agrology Profession in Canada*”. The professional agricultural advisor sector mirrors the agriculture industry in its diversity and there are many professionally qualified practitioners whose training and experience requires consideration within the broader definition of agrology - as outlined in the NES Report and the AAC website. Assessing equivalencies in various educational programs takes significant time and effort for a small organization like the PEIIA, so we will continue to

focus on finding efficiencies in the process.

The PEIIA is making plans to offer more professional development opportunities for our membership in the coming months. The turn-out for recent events has been excellent and positive feedback from the membership is encouraging the Institute to provide more of these networking sessions in the future.

Gwen Corrigan Vessey, P.Ag.
President



Healthy 2021 PEI potato crop bordered by a permanently grassed headland

During the summer of 2021, the NLIA was able to continue on initiatives identified in the AGM. We are able to continually meet virtually on a monthly basis even in the high demands of the growing season.

As mentioned previously, enhanced member engagement has been a target for the 2021 NLIA Board. As a result, we are looking forward to hosting a virtual professional development session that will focus on the pressures of coyotes on the agricultural sector in NL. This event is intended to act as a springboard for future engagements with the next session focusing on developing networks in the academic, environmental and aquaculture communities. The NLIA is looking at these virtual sessions as a foundation for hosting in person professional development and networking sessions when deemed appropriate by public health departments. Please stay posted for items from our professional development session on our social media outlets.

With the fall comes a new cohort of students, the College of the North Atlantic welcomes another class to the Agriculture Technician program. The NLIA looks forward to engaging with these students and highlighting the Technical Agrologist designation (T.Ag) recognized across the Atlantic Provinces.

We have continued correspondence with the NL Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) and have been invited to attend the NLFA Annual General Meeting. The NLFA has invited the NLIA to bring forward an application as a professional group under the NLFA, how we will approach this opportunity will be discussed in future meetings.

We are looking forward to participating in the next phase of the Agrologists Agronomes Canada (AAC) strategic plan. We are excited to see how the profession of Agrology can further in unification and recognition on a national stage. The NLIA also welcomes the collective nature of the Atlantic Agrology Network and would like to acknowledge the efforts of our neighbouring institutes in the development of regional representation.

Happy harvest to all,

Richard Tingskou, P.Ag.
President

NSIA has been active in implementing our strategic initiatives, following up on recommendations to improve compliance with the Nova Scotia Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA) and working on governance training for Council Members.

The Programs Committee have been busy preparing PD activities for members, such as the Annual Fall Tour, which occurred this year as two tours, in both the Debert and Berwick areas this October. Looking ahead to November, a Technology in Agriculture webinar will occur November 9th, and the Semi-Annual meeting planned for November 18th. As in previous years, this session will consist of Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture graduate students presenting their research ahead of the business meeting. This meeting is offered with both in-person and virtual participation options.

The Committee has also been actively working with the Agrology Club from the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture campus, to get that back up and running for students interested in Agrology.

FRPA is the legislation that sets out the criteria for self regulating professions to follow. In recent years, the division of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration that oversees compliance on this Act started to conduct surveys and prepare annual reports. The inspector asks a series of question and looks for follow up on recommendations from the previous report. The FRPA division also provides useful training, information and resources for the registrars from each of the regulating bodies. The most recent quarterly meeting had a presentation on immigration and what it means for self-regulating bodies. There was also great information on the specific programs available for immigration here in Nova Scotia including the provincial nominee program and the Atlantic Immigration Program.

As a self-regulating profession, we are unique from many other member type organizations. Like many Institutes, we have strong leaders around the table who have great experience in how boards should function and govern. To add to this experience, we are working towards governance training and resources to strengthen Council's understanding of responsibilities to comply with FRPA. These supports and resources will roll out in the coming months with intentions to be used for onboarding of new Council members and refresher for us who have been around the table for a few years or terms!

Maxine MacLean, P.Ag.
President

Welcome fall and the bounty of the harvest. It has been an exceptional growing season resulting in a bountiful harvest. We are grateful to be spared the water issues of last year or the extremely dry conditions of the west.

NBIA was relatively inactive during the summer month and we are now getting back to a regular meeting schedule. We are investigating the opportunities to move to on-line tracking of PD credits and an on-line membership portal. We wish to increase the amount of communication and discussion, between members.

We continue to discuss the role of Agrology Canada and the roles that we see them addressing into the future.

NBIA continues to be committed to Atlantic collaboration and hopes that everyone has a bountiful harvest and an opportunity to rest a bit once the winter preparations are completed.

Susannah Banks, P.Ag.
President



JOB POSTINGS

NBIA:

[Regional Crop Development Officer](#) – *New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries*

Please frequently check [NB Jobs](#) for updates.

NLIA:

Please keep checking the [Job Board](#) for new employment opportunities.

NSIA:

Please routinely the [Job Postings page](#) on our website. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) also has an [online Job Board](#) for agriculture related jobs in the province.

PEIIA:



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

Job postings nationwide can also be found on the **Agrologists Agronomes Canada (AAC)** [Employment Opportunities webpage](#).



TRENDING TOPIC

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

The NB Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Crop Development Branch tour was held on September 14 and 15, 2021. The tour is part of the continuing professional development for staff to learn about opportunities and practices in areas outside of the group specialities or region. The team welcomed two new members, Pauline Richard and Johan Philippe, both eligible for P.Ag. The tour was held in southwestern NB, which include a tour of a cannabis greenhouse operation, dairy farm operation, Kingsbrae Garden, Cooke Aquaculture and a honey bee operation.

Crop staff had the opportunity to review practices and technologies used in the cannabis industry through Controlled Environment Atmosphere (CEA) as the sector continues to express interest in expanding. The knowledge of crop parameters is critical to providing the crop with optimal growing conditions.

Returning to outdoor growing, our group visited an established dairy farm with emerging technology and practices for forage production. The on-going evaluation and assessment of each parcels of land is paramount to a successful rotational and rejuvenation of forage land.

Our group learnt about the business model and development of the Salmon production industry from Cooke Aquaculture. From a small salmon farming operation in the Bay of Fundy to one of the major international suppliers of salmon and seafood products, Cooke Aquaculture is a giant in our region and one of the largest family owned aquaculture business in the world.

One of the final professional development activities included visiting a beekeeping operation. Many staff are new to the beekeeping profession but is an important aspect for many fruit crops. BrettLynn Farms supplies honey bees for pollination of fruit crops, honey, flavoured creamed honey, lip balm, soaps and moisturizing cream. The farm is also expanding in building hive component for the local market.

Overall, the tour was considered a success with team building and professional development.

Susannah Banks, P.Ag.
NBIA President

