

NSFA's Approach to Watershed Management

Wading In: Watershed Management in Nova Scotia

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Introduction

- The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
 - An Industry in Transition
 - NSFA's Approach to Watershed Management
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NSFA: Who are we?

- Since 1895, for the past 114 years, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has represented the interests of Nova Scotia's agricultural community.
- Today its members account for well over 95% of all agricultural production in Nova Scotia.
- With an organizational structure that includes representation from 13 county and regional federations and 24 recognized agricultural commodity groups, the Federation brings together over 2,400 individual farm businesses representing all aspects of primary agriculture in the province.

Our Mission is:

To ensure a competitive and sustainable future for agriculture and a high quality of rural life in Nova Scotia.

Our Goals

Our goal is to enable a sustainable future for our industry through building farm businesses that are:

- ***Financially Viable***
 - ***Ecologically Sound***
 - ***Socially Responsible***
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Industry Transition

- The NSFA, with industry partners, has developed a 3-pillar Industry Transition Model, which we believe will guide the industry through the transition into a profitable sector. The three pillars are:
 - ❑ Transitional Support;
 - ❑ Strategic Public Investment; and
 - ❑ Ecological Goods and Services
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Transition Model

Vision - An agricultural sector that is self-sufficient, independent, sustainable, has appropriate intervention by government, allowing market signals to drive businesses.

Guiding Principles

Transitional Support

Recognizes that to be competitive, some in the industry must undergo a transition to develop business opportunities that are more competitive. It is recognized that these industries will require transitional support programs and services, investments in innovation, technology and new opportunities, new markets, and strategic infrastructure.

Strategic Public Investment

Recognizes that to be competitive and sustainable, public investments must be made in human, capital and other resources that, in large, serve to benefit the industry as a whole rather than individual businesses. Examples of such strategic investments would include the development of strategic policy, strong partnerships, research, and support services to enable industry development.

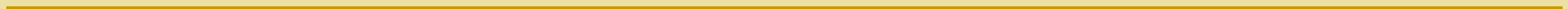
Public Goods and Services

Recognizes that in the pursuit of public benefits, costs may be imposed on a business or the public may value certain benefits that impose costs on farmers. This recognizes the need to compensate those 'targeted' costs/benefits, foster opportunity cost recovery and or purchase desired public benefits. Public Goods and Service includes but goes beyond the concept of Ecological Goods and Services.

Competitive, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Sector

Transitional Support

- Provide program support for producer who wish to transition from one business model to another.



Strategic Infrastructure

- Provides infrastructure to the industry which it cannot provide itself on an individual or collective basis.
 - ❑ Slaughter capacity;
 - ❑ Cooperative opportunities;
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Ecological Goods and Services

- Producers in Nova Scotia provide benefits to society through well-managed agricultural lands, for which they are not compensated.
 - ❑ Riparian areas;
 - ❑ Biodiversity habitats;
 - ❑ Groundwater protection and recharge; and
 - ❑ Scenic landscapes.
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Nova Scotia's Approach

- The NSFA has initiated a series of research projects to examine EG&S issues. With funding from various agencies and support of the farming community. Research projects are being conducted on water use, GHG emissions from importing food, riparian areas, a report card to evaluate agriculture's impact on the environment and carbon credit protocol formulas specific to the region.
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Environmental Report Card

- Partners: ACAAF and NovaKnowledge
- Objectives: this project will produce Report Card evaluating the industry's progress toward agri-environmental sustainability
- Outcomes: The project also involves the communication of key findings, articulating successes, highlighting new opportunities and challenges, and the development of a guide that will define how the agricultural industry will meet the new EGSPA 2020 targets

Exploring Carbon Credit Opportunities for the Maritime Livestock Industry

- Partners: ACAAF and MacLeod Agronomics
 - Objectives: This project will seek to deliver the Pork Sector GHG Project Builder Software and other quantification protocols and their associated electronic calculators to the Maritime livestock industry
 - Outcomes: Project completion date is November 30, 2009
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Food Miles

- Partners: ACAAF and Ecology Action Centre
 - Objectives: the goal of the project is to define the concept of 'food miles' and operationalize the concept in a Nova Scotia context.
 - Outcomes: to date the EAC has been calculating emissions associated with importing fresh and processed foods. A final report is anticipated in April, 2010.
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St. Andrew's Watershed Riparian Health Assessment

- Partners: GreenCover, EFP, and the Town of Stewiacke
- Objectives: Key attributes of healthy riparian areas include their ability to effectively trap and/or filter sediment, support groundwater recharge, provide primary productivity and enhance overall biodiversity. As a result riparian areas are frequently being identified as essential components of environmental management systems for many different types of farms.
- Outcomes: Results are anticipated in April, 2009

Riparian Health Assessment Training and Strategic Planning

- Partners: GreenCover, Kelco Consulting, and NSCC
 - Objectives: provide a series of workshop focusing on the importance of health assessments in riparian areas on agricultural land and small watersheds. The workshops will also cover the use of geomatics tools for riparian health assessments (RHA's).
 - Outcomes: workshops are currently taking place in conjunction with NSCC for municipal planners and industry stakeholders
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Annapolis Valley Groundwater Use Survey

- Partners: AAFC, DNR, NSDA, NS Environment, and CNSWSEP
 - Objectives: The current project will estimate groundwater demand for all users in the Annapolis Valley
 - Outcomes: Results are anticipated in April 2009.
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Drainage Water Management Systems and Strategies

- Partners: CNSWSEP and NSAC
 - Objectives: information on management of water drainage and information on using constructed wetlands for water quality protection. This project will also establish 2 demonstration sites for management systems in Nova Scotia
 - Outcomes: results are expected in April 2009
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Assessing the Impact of the Application of Biosolids on Drainage Water Quality

- Partners: ACAA and NSAC
 - Objectives: to determine environmental water quality issues related to applying biosolids on agricultural soils which undergo tillage or are no-till.
 - Outcomes: a summary of results is expected in April, 2010
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Questions & Comments

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