

2021 Annual Report

Farm Safety Nova Scotia





MISSION

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

VISION

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Newcombe	President
Katie Keddy	Vice-President
Lloyd Dyck	Treasurer & Corporate Secretary
Leonie de Waal	Director
Lauren Park	Director (NSFA Council Representative)
Janice Lutz	Director
Foster Murphy	Director

FARM SAFETY ADVISOR

Lori Brookhouse
(902) 893-2293
lbrookhouse@nsfa-fane.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NSFA

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

WWW.FARMSAFETYNS.CA

President's Message

Dear Members,

It has been quite the year! Over the last 365 days, Farm Safety has been working to equip Nova Scotia farmers with the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to operate safe farms. This includes keeping our COVID-19 resources up-to-date and easily accessible to the farming community.

I'm happy to have my first year of presidency under my belt, and I'm looking forward to the years ahead. We have a dedicated board and staff, who are passionate about on-farm safety and ensuring that everyone on our farms makes it home at the end of the day. This passion is shared with other safety organizations across the country, and we have continued to enhance our connections with these folks. In fact, what once started as a working group to share COVID-19 resources across the country, has now morphed into a national Farm Safety working group. Our Farm Safety Advisor, along with other provincial safety and agriculture organizations across Canada, meet once a month to discuss provincial initiatives and investigate opportunities for collaboration and sharing.

One of our biggest focuses this year has been on mental health. At our Annual Meeting last year, we introduced you to our mental health campaign **We Talk. We Grow.** I was happy to see the warm welcome the initiative received, as well as the traction we have made since its official launch.

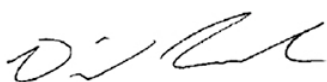
A key part of our **We Talk. We Grow.** campaign was the creation of the Mental Health Leadership Charter. This was inspired by the Nova Scotia Health & Safety Leadership Charter. We established ours to encourage leaders across our farming community to commit to promoting and establishing a stronger and more responsive mental health and wellness system. To date, our Charter has received a number of signatories, including: myself, the President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Premier of Nova Scotia, Minister of Agriculture, Dean of Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture. As well as Presidents and Executive Directors from a number of our commodity organizations. I am looking forward to bringing more signatories on board as we continue with our work in the mental health and wellness field.

Not only did we receive support from government and other industry organizations, we also received a lot of support and attention from the media. The launch of **We Talk. We Grow.** brought more media attention and public awareness to mental health in our farming community.

Thank you for joining us for our Annual General Meeting, I hope you enjoy our Mental Health and Wellness Keynote presentation from Lauren Van Ewyk on Resilience and Practical Strategies to Cope with the Everyday.

We are our farms' greatest asset.

I wish you a safe and happy year,



David Newcombe
President

Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting

December 4, 2020

As this meeting took place amid the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was conducted via Zoom.

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:41 pm by acting President, David Newcombe.

Voting was handled by Data on the Spot (DOTS). Quorum was established by way of an online vote. While waiting for quorum to be confirmed, David introduced the board members of Farm Safety Nova Scotia as well as the Farm Safety Advisor. David then delivered a message from the board to the meeting participants.

2.0 Confirmation of quorum

Quorum was established via the voting platform after presentation of financial statement. The meeting proceeded by dealing with agenda items not requiring a vote.

3.0 Consideration of Annual Report

This report was delivered while waiting for quorum to be established. Carolyn delivered the annual report for Farm Safety Nova Scotia. Farm Safety is working through the Strategic Plan from 2017 and the Strategic Priorities were reviewed. An activity update was provided, with COVID-19 playing a large role in which activities were able to proceed. The development of COVID-19 resources for the farm community was a high priority for the Farm Safety Advisor during 2020. An online training platform was launched in early 2020. Website analytics were presented with website spikes experienced as a result of COVID-19 resources available on the website. A new website will be launched in the new year.

4.0 Lloyd Evans Memorial Award Winner

David Newcombe reviewed the criteria for the Lloyd Evans Memorial Award and announced this year's recipient – David Powers. David Powers responded by thanking everyone for the honor of receiving this award.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion by Lauren Park and Victor Oulton. **MOTION CARRIED**

6.0 Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were approved on motion by Chris van den Heuvel and Katie Keddy. **MOTION CARRIED**

7.0 Business arising from the minutes — none

8.0 Consideration of the Financial Report

Joanne McRae and Greg Mosher joined the group to present the financial statement to the membership. The financial report was approved as presented on motion by Victor Oulton and Katie Keddy. **MOTION CARRIED**

9.0 Appointment of Auditors

It was recommended by the board to appoint MNP. MNP were appointed as auditors for next year on motion by Chris van den Heuvel and Allan Melvin. **MOTION CARRIED**

10.0 Nominating Committee Report & Election of Directors

Chris van den Heuvel presented the nominating committee report to the membership. Janice Lutz and Foster Murphy were the nominees put forward for a 1st term each. Lauren Park was appointed as the 2021 Council representative. After four calls for further nominations, nominations were declared closed with no further nominations. Chris van den Heuvel moved for acceptance of the report as presented and it was seconded by Katie Keddy. **MOTION CARRIED**

David welcomed the new directors to the board and thanked outgoing David Powers and Trevor Forbes for their time on the Farm Safety Nova Scotia board.

11.0 Other Business – No other business was noted.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and work involved in putting together the virtual event. The participants were reminded to complete the NSFA survey for a chance to win a smoker donated by G & G computers.

12.0 Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm on motion by Chris van den Heuvel.

2021 Annual General Meeting

Draft Agenda

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.0 Call to Order | 7.0 Consideration of the financial report – MNP |
| 2.0 Confirmation of quorum | 8.0 Appointment of Auditors |
| 3.0 Approval of agenda | 9.0 Nominating Committee Report & Election of Directors |
| 4.0 Minutes of the previous AGM | 10.0 Lloyd Evans Memorial Award Winner |
| 5.0 Business arising from the minutes | 11.0 Other Business |
| 6.0 Consideration of annual report – Carolyn Van Den Heuvel | 12.0 Adjourn |

Nominating Committee Report

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Nominating Committee of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is 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 the 2021 annual meeting:

*Respectfully submitted
by the Nominating Committee:*

*Victor Oulton (Chair); Jocelyn Durston;
Allan Melvin; Chris van den Heuvel; Tim Marsh
(ex-officio); Carolyn Van Den Heuvel (ex-officio)*

Name	Year(s) remaining in term	Term
Katie Keddy	3	2 nd
Jean Lynds	3	1 st
<p>A representative from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Council is also appointed from its members to serve as a director for Farm Safety Nova Scotia. The 2022 Council representative will be Peter Morine.</p>		

Activity Report

2020/21 Updates

AWARENESS & COMMUNICATIONS

Campaigns

One Road Campaign

Continued throughout the year by distributing posters, rack cards, stick figure window stickers, and digital media. These were distributed to equipment dealers, farmers markets, car dealerships, and parts stores throughout the province as well as an article in Farm Focus, News & Views and e-News. We also participated in the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Road Safety Week with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association in May 2021.

We Talk. We Grow.

This campaign was launched in May 2021. An initiative raising awareness and taking action to protect and nurture the mental health and well-being of Nova Scotia's farming community, and enhance and maintain a culture where mental health is valued, prioritized and protected. A website filled with tools, training & resources was developed as well as the available collateral including: yard signs, mental health kits, posters, rack cards, apps, and more.

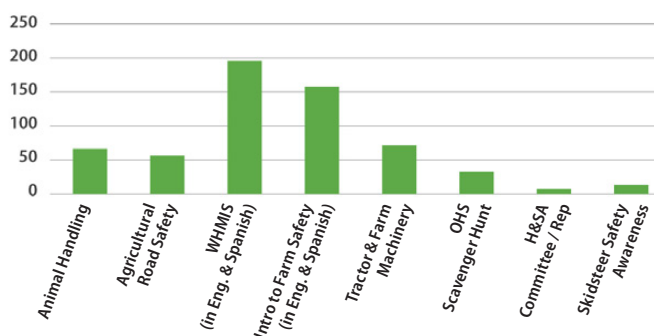
Mind the Gap: FARM-FARM-FARM.

A method to promote building a farm safety plan that includes creating a positive culture of safety on farm, the importance of building a plan as well as what can interfere with safety program success. A recorded webinar was added to the Christmas Tree Forum and is used in all training courses and webinars.

New for this year

ON-LINE TRAINING — Launched Spring 2020

326 users in total. Completion rate of 38%.



Social Media

Facebook (@farmsafetyns) = 766 likes

FSNS Website Views (farmsafetyns.ca) = 28,037 views



Twitter Followers (@farmsafetyns) = 279 followers

YouTube Visits = 65 viewers

News & Events

Advisory services offered to farms who want help with developing a Farm Safety Plan specifically for their farm activities and would like a consult on other farm safety issues, concerns or initiatives. Six farms participated in these services.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia Website Update —

Improved navigating for training, tools and resources.

Events Calendar continuously updated with in-house and external training resources.

Farmers Safety Rally — Templates for farms to hold their own safety meetings on farm. Template includes information, agenda, questions to encourage discussion, quiz questions to test participant understanding, and an attendance sheet. 52 developed.

YouTube Channel hosts recorded webinars and videos conducted throughout the year.

CASA Provincial Partnership — The farm safety advisor meets with other safety professionals from each of the provinces to share provincial safety resources. Started as a forum to share COVID-19 resources and has evolved from there.

Articles submitted to Christmas Tree Growers Journal, News & Views, Farm Focus, and Agricola.

TOOLS & RESOURCES

COVID-19 Resources ongoing updates as needed and added to the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Website.

farmsafetyns.ca

Commodity Specific Farm Safety Plan for Christmas Tree Growers developed and distributed on 30 USBs and added to Farm Safety website for download. Both NS Fruit Growers and Christmas Tree Growers Farm Safety Plans translated to Spanish and available on the Farm Safety Nova Scotia Website.

A variety of **policies, best practices** and **templates** created to include: Conveyors, Manure Pits, Heat & Cold Stress, Sharps, First Aid Needs Evaluation, and Confined Space and Smoke Free Workplaces Act Fact Sheets

INDUSTRY EVENTS

FSNS took advantage of attending a variety of events throughout the year to engage with our members. Most of these events were hosted in the fall and winter months! This year, all the conferences and AGMs were held virtually.



2020/2021 EVENTS

HALIFAX CAREER FAIR
ATTENDEES: 1665

NSFA ANNUAL MTG
ATTENDEES: 191
TRURO

FSNS ANNUAL MTG
ATTENDEES: 82
TRURO

HORTICULTURE NS CONGRESS
ATTENDEES: 227
GREENWICH

NS FRUIT GROWERS CONVENTION
ATTENDEES: 158
GREENWICH

LUNenburg COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCERS
ATTENDEES: 44
NEW ROSS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES: 153
VIRTUAL

Webinars

This year, Farm Safety presented a number of webinars on these six topics. Webinars allowed us to offer the farming community across the province a variety of sessions. In addition to the live sessions, all of our webinars are also recorded and housed on Farm Safety Nova Scotia's YouTube Channel.

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

TOTAL REACH: 2500+ people

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

WORKPLACE SAFETY



FIRST AID: EMERGENCY & STANDARD
PARTICIPANTS CERTIFIED: 100
IN KINGS COUNTY & COLCHESTER COUNTY

SAFE EQUIPMENT OPERATION

ENDORSEMENT TESTING
PARTICIPANTS: 59
COLCHESTER, KINGS COUNTIES

TRACTOR SAFETY COURSE FOR CLASS 8
PARTICIPANTS: 6
DAL AC CAMPUS, BIBLE HILL

WORKSHOPS

VIRTUAL
PROGRESSIVE AG SAFETY DAYS
PARTICIPANTS: 6

VIRTUAL
BUILD A FARM SAFETY PLAN
ATTENDEES: 7 PLUS 19 DAL AC DIPLOMA STUDENTS

(6-WEEK CURRICULUM COURSE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA)

CTCNS SAFETY SERIES – PART 2:
MIND THE GAP
PARTICIPANTS: 6

GEAR UP FOR AG
WITH DAL AC & 4-H STUDENTS
PARTICIPANTS: 44



We Talk. We Grow.

Awareness & Communications

Public Awareness Campaign

We Talk. We Grow. campaign launched in May 2021. An initiative raising awareness and taking action to protect and nurture the mental health and well-being of Nova Scotia's farming community, and enhance and maintain a culture where mental health is valued, prioritized and protected. A website filled with tools, training & resources is now available, as well as yard signs, mental health kits, posters, rack cards, t-shirts, apps, and more.

While we are happy to provide a number of diverse supports and resources, we know more work must be done. To address this need, we have developed a Blueprint for a Mental Health Action Plan for Nova Scotia Farmers, as well as the creation of the We Talk. We Grow. public awareness campaign.

We've called this a "blueprint" for an action plan, rather than an action plan itself. The reason being the approach needs to be shared-with, consulted-with and discussed-with our industry and government partners in order for the way forward to be fully embraced and supported by all necessary change makers.

What is absolutely clear is the need to act, and the need to act now.

This was all made possible through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) COVID-19 Agriculture Response Program.

wetalkwegrow.ca

WEBSITE VIEWS SINCE MAY 2021

1,508



News & Events

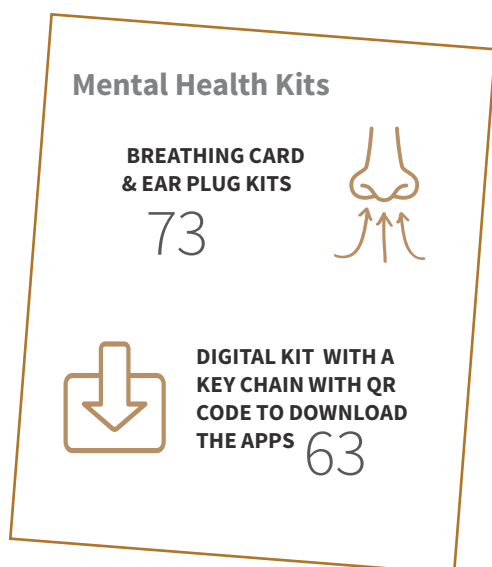
We Talk. We Grow Website Launch – Website created to communicate available resources & training, advocacy, leadership charters, how to get involved, and becoming a partner.

The **Maintaining Mental Fitness Series 2** posts of micro-skills to help maintain mental fitness to include topics of loneliness, feeling overwhelmed, negative emotions, relationships, emotional exhaustion, positive and negative daily change, Irritability, self-doubt, unplugging from work, social rejection, with two more to come this fall

Social Media Messaging added to the E-News, Facebook and Twitter to focus on an aspect of the resources and training available, self-care tip of the week, and "Don't Tough it Out, Talk It Out" messaging campaign with Do More Ag.



Training, Tools & Resources



Ag101

A program to educate mental health professionals on agriculture specific needs. **AgCulture** is a program to educate mental health professionals with the Do More Ag Foundation

Mental Health Focus Group 22 participants	Mental Health First Aid 49 participants	In the Know Mental Health Literacy Training 36 participants
Maintaining Mental Fitness 59 participants	Coping with Isolation & Loneliness 12 participants	Navigating Crisis 10 participants

Webinars and Participants

Farm Safety hosted a number of webinars and online training sessions related to mental health and wellness this year. We are looking forward to expanding these resources in the years to come.

- Program evaluated and waiting for draft User Agreement
- Working with Dal AC Extended Learning to determine potential 2- or 3-way partnership on this program
- Physical Kit includes Stress Tractor, Notebook

Engage Leadership within the Farming Community

- Ambassador Program – 3 applications received
- Champion Program – no interest to date
- Leadership Charter – 12 signed

Advocate for Improved Access & Farm-Specific Resources

- Advocate for Rural Community Support
- Advocate to reduce Financial Barriers
- Establish a Network of Professionals

Support Farmers in Taking a Break from the Farm

- Preferred rates at various locations for members – In progress
- Explore relief work program – In progress
- Provide social and networking opportunities – continue to foster renewed relationship with CMHA

Peer-to-Peer Support Program

Working with CMHA, Worth Living, and Peer Support NS to draft a group peer support program for the farming community and establish training guidelines. MOU and Recruitment Poster prepared and almost ready to launch

Program Name

- **Fill Yer Boots** – You don't have to pull yourself up by the bootstraps anymore, join Fill Yer Boots. We Talk. We Grow.

Training

- Board member to attend Peer Support Training with Peer Support NS
- Start facilitator recruitment and training process with Keith Anderson from Worth Living in partnership with CMHA as part of 1 of 5 funded peer support group start-ups in NS.

Lloyd Evans Memorial Award

2021 Recipients: Jos & Patrick VanOostrum

Jos and Patrick VanOostrum are long time supporters of farm safety within Nova Scotia's farming community. In fact, the VanOostrums were already coordinating and supporting farm safety initiatives before the formation of our organization. This included partnering with the Faculty of Agriculture's Extended Learning to host a number of tractor safety courses for the 14–16-year-olds.

As Farm Safety Nova Scotia grew as an organization, Jos and Patrick continued to be strong supporters of our work, always eager to support and lend a helping hand in any way they could. Throughout the years they have supported countless safety initiatives such as:

- Progressive Agriculture Safety Days
- Road Safety Information Sessions
- Tractor Safety Courses
- Endorsement Testing
- Supporting Canadian Agricultural Safety Week by offering discounts on safety items for the month of March

When it comes to industry involvement, they ensured that safety was kept top of mind. For a number of years, Jos sat of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Transportation Committee. While this committee often focused on challenges related to transportation regulations, Jos always ensured that safety was part of the discussion and used as a lens to review the challenges brought forward at the meetings.



Endorsement Testing



Progressive Agriculture Safety Days

For over a decade they have been supporters, believers, and leaders in farm safety throughout Nova Scotia. Farm safety has been a key part of their commitment to our industry. Whether its ensuring safety is kept top of mind, offering their time and support to get safety on the map and a conscious part of our everyday business decisions, to providing any resources they can to the industry. Jos and Patrick are the definition of safety champions in Nova Scotia agriculture.

Congratulations to you both!

About the LLOYD EVANS Memorial Award

This award goes to an individual, farm, organization or agricultural business, who has had a positive impact on the agriculture industry and continuously works towards improving health and safety here in Nova Scotia. The Lloyd Evans Memorial Award is presented to someone who makes significant contributions to support the advancement of health and safety in the agriculture industry. Someone who is considered a safety leader – just like Lloyd.



Road Safety Information Sessions

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.



ENNIS Safety Services provides various training courses at discounted rates to members of FSNS.



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



The **Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal** and the **Department of Agriculture** supported a number of workshops.



The **Ag Health and Safety Alliance** delivered the Gear Up for Ag Program.



Tidal Tractor 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.



Central Equipment Ltd. offered a 20% discount on safety-related items during March in support of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.



PROJECT SUPPORTERS

Green Diamond 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.



Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture provided equipment and facilities for Endorsement Testings.



Interested in becoming a partner or supporter? Have a suggestion for a partnership opportunity? Let us know by contacting Lori Brookhouse at lbrookhouse@nsfa-fane.ca

FUNDING PARTNERS



Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture supports the administration of Farm Safety Nova Scotia.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-territorial-provincial initiative providing financial support to Farm Safety Nova Scotia.



FCC provided funding support for *Progressive Agriculture Safety Days*.



Workers' Compensation Board and **Department of Labour and Advanced Education** provided financial support to Farm Safety Nova Scotia.



Canadian Agricultural Safety Association provided funding support for the development of online training courses.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia
7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, NS B6L 2Z2
(902) 893-2293
info@farmsafetyns.ca
www.farmsafetyns.ca