

## PEIFA 78th Annual General Meeting



The PEI Federation of Agriculture held a successful Annual General Meeting on Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown. Over 160 delegates were in attendance to take in a program that included presentations on International Trade and the current Market Outlook.

It also featured presentations from Premier Wade MacLauchlan, Ron Bonnet from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Amy Bysterveldt from Farm Credit Canada and PEIFA President David Mol who presented the Federations

Strategic Plan.

The lunch program drew a large crowd where the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay our Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Robert Henderson our Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries addressed the crowd of over 200 people. We thank both Ministers for attending our event and providing us with their takes on agriculture on PEI and how we can all work together to strengthen our industry.

The closed door session of the meeting yielded 7 strong resolutions that the Federation's Board of Directors and staff are tackling as we move forward in 2019. These resolutions are found within this report for your convenience. If you wish to discuss any one of them, do not hesitate to contact Robert Godfrey at the office at 902-368-7289 or by email at [rgodfrey@peifa.ca](mailto:rgodfrey@peifa.ca)

## President's Message

Fellow Members,

The feeling of spring: A new year, a new crop, some young added to your herd or flock; a renewed sense of hope for what the crop or young will be.

This past spring has ushered in a new Government, a new era, with a new set of politics as all political parties adjust to a Minority.

The Federation congratulates all 111 people who had the courage to put their name forward on a ballot and certainly extends a congratulations to those who were ultimately successful. I know they are as full of the same optimism as I am every spring as I set my focus on the work ahead. Premier King has made collaboration a central theme of his. The Federation is eager to work with him, his team and the Legislature as a whole to advance forward the issues affecting the farming community.

Bloyce Thompson has been named as Minister of Agriculture and Land in addition to his role as Minister of Justice and Public Safety as well as Attorney General. He will be one busy individual with a lot on his plate, but I have a feeling that agriculture is close to his heart having farmed his whole life. Congratulations to you Minister Thompson and we look forward to working with you.

## President's Message

Of course there are new faces in every department and many of the legislative seats of three political parties, so we are eager to get down to business with them all. In fact we are eager to showcase Island agriculture to them as well. We will be organizing farm tours for each political party later this summer with the help of Farm & Food Care PEI, to orient them with our industry. We want to show them the amount of investment the industry has been making, to ensure we remain competitive in today's economy in the face of policies around carbon, trade and taxation. We want to show them reality as well. We are making giant strides in terms of sustainability and the protection of our environment. We want to dispel any myths that they may have held coming into politics and allow them an opportunity to speak with some producers. We want to showcase the great work this industry is doing and are very much proud of.

With this change in Government, the PEIFA has been busy ensuring projects remain uninterrupted and have been working closely with individual departments to do the necessary work for that to occur. Happy to report that the Federation has recently been successful in signing a new three year contract on the Farm Safety file, to ensure funding remains in place for this important work. The Federation has entered into negotiations for a four year contract to continue to administer the Environmental Farm Plan and we are certain this will be successful in the coming weeks.

I also want to note a project of significance that the outgoing Government created in the early part of this year. A Task Force has been pulled together to deal with the issues around fish and the protection of the environment. This sustainability task force has the goal of mitigating or eliminating fish kills. In addition it will examine how we are growing our crops by looking at Best Management Practices with a goal of developing an industry practice in the future that we can all agree on. This would be a minimum set of practices we all can point to as the bar we agree we all meet. It is a tall task – but we need to be able to communicate to the Government (and the Courts) that we agree to a set of common standards.

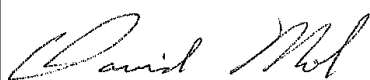
This of course will take time and commodity boards will be consulted when that time comes. The Federation is working with the PEI Water Alliance, the Potato Board and Government on how we can best protect aquatic life, but also protect farmers against prosecution. Best Management Practices certainly are a part of this work, but so is a common set of standards. The work has only just begun and I know it will bear fruit likely this fall and certainly by next spring. Stay tuned to this important initiative.

In addition to the Task Force, the Federation, alongside the Potato Board, was successful in meeting with Environment and Climate Change Canada folks about their Deleterious Substance charges – related to fish kills – and how they handle fish kill investigations. It allowed for us to communicate what we learned out via email and you will find that information within this publication. It is important to have an open dialogue with this department. They have committed to working with us on the Provincial Task force I mentioned above and to discuss the legislation and the fine structure in the future.

I am happy to serve in this role again this year and I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you and your interests as the President of the Federation. Working with you and the PEIFA Staff, I know we will continue to push our industry forward and establish a strong working relationship with new Government. Thank you for putting your trust in me.

Know that the Federation is hard at work and always willing to do what it can for you. Never hesitate to reach out to me or our staff on any issue you may be having. It is what we are here for.

I wish you all a very happy and successful growing season ahead.



Happy Spring.  
David.



## 2019 Board of Directors

### PEIFA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- David Mol - President
- Grant Compton - 1st Vice President
- Ron Maynard- 2nd Vice President
- Ian Drake - Exec Rep. for PEI Young Farmers
- Keisha Rose- Member at Large
- Mary Robinson - Past President
- Robert Godfrey - Executive Director

### PEIFA BOARD MEMBERS

- Janet Murphy - Director - Chicken Farmers of PEI
- Gary Hughes - Director - Dairy Farmers of P.E.I.
- Nathan Burns - Director - Egg Producers of P.E.I.
- David Mol - Director - Island Grains & Proteins Council
- Kevin Simmons - Director - PEI Cattle Producers
- Isaac Thompson - Director - PEI Fur Breeders Association
- Dale Murray - Director - PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board
- Bernie Shea - Director - PEI Horticulture Association
- Phil Hamming - Director - PEI Certified Organic Growers Cooperative
- Billy Cameron - Director - PEI Potato Board
- Patrick Byrne - Director - PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association
- Ian Drake - Director - PEI Young Farmers Association
- Harry Elsinga - Director - PEI Sheep Breeders Association
- Matt Compton - Director—PEI Strawberry Growers Association
- John Rowe –Director - PEI Woodlot Owners Association
- David MacNearney -Director-PEI Beekeepers Association
- Nancy MacKay - Fruit Tree Growers Association

### COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

#### Prince County

- Parker Ellis
- Andrew Lawless

#### Queens County

- William Visser
- Matt Hughes

#### Kings County

- Becky Townsend
- Keisha Rose

## PEIFA Annual Report



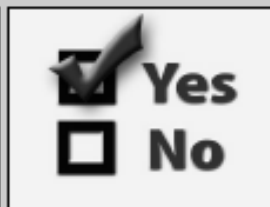
The PEIFA Annual Report is available to all members of the Federation. It includes our President's Message, Executive Director's Message, Staff and Program Reports, updates from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and reports from many of our commodity organizations.

The Annual Report also includes the audited financial statements as completed by BDO Canada LLP.

This report is available to all members of the Federation and if you will like a copy of our Annual Report, please call the office and we can send one directly to you. There are also copies in the office and the report is now available on our website. [www.peifa.ca/Documents](http://www.peifa.ca/Documents) and can be viewed there.

*Give yourself a voice...*

*Check the Box to become a member*



*The PEI Federation of Agriculture is  
YOUR VOICE  
in the Agriculture Industry  
When filling out the  
2019 Farm Registration Form, don't forget to show your support.*

*Contact us to find out more on becoming a member of the  
PEI Federation of Agriculture  
Phone—902-368-7289 or Email—[jmurphy@peifa.ca](mailto:jmurphy@peifa.ca) or [www.peifa.ca](http://www.peifa.ca)*

## 2019 Gordon Sobey Award

Congratulations to Brian and Sandra Craswell of Crasdale's Farms Inc. for winning this year's Gordon Sobey Award in recognition of outstanding efforts in projecting a positive image of agriculture on PEI.

Brian, his wife Amber and daughter Aleah own Crasdale Farms Inc. in South Rustico, PEI. Crasdale Farms Inc. is a modern dairy farm that specializes in Holstein genetics. They have won numerous All-Canadian, All-American & All-Atlantic nominations and awards. Most recently, the farm received their second Breeder's Herd at World Dairy Expo with Crasdale Lyster Lottery EX-94 2E and her two daughters. In 2016, Crasdale Farms Inc. won the Cow Comfort Award from the PEI Veterinary Medical Association and was an ambassador for a campaign with the Dairy Farmers of Canada.



*1st Vice President Grant Compton presents the award to Brian and Sandra Craswell of Crasdale's Farms*

## 2019 Gilbert Clements Award

The PEI Federation of Agriculture would like to congratulate Sommerset Farms on being awarded the 2019 Gilbert Clements Award.

Darren Peters of Sommerset Farms received the award at the PEI Federation of Agriculture's annual meeting. This award, named after the late Environment Minister, is given annually to a farm which is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible in the production and/or marketing of high quality food from a sustainable system.



*President David Mol presents the award to Darren Peters of Sommerset Farms.*

# 2019 PEIFA AGM



# 2019 PEIFA AGM



## Environmental Farm Plans



**PEI ENHANCED  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
FARM PLAN**

### Environmental Farm Plan Renewals

PEIFA staff have been contacting participants and sending out renewal letters throughout the year to notify producers of their upcoming environmental farms plan expiration.

If you are a producer who has not yet contacted the office to have your plan updated please call Hanna or JoAnn at 902-368-7289.

EFP's are valid for 5 years and we encourage all farmers to participate in the program. Participation in the program also allows you to apply for funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership Stewardship Program, Farmland Finance Program and the Future Farmer Program. For your convenience the EFP can be completed at your farm or at the PEI Federation of Agricultural office and takes approximately 1.5 hrs to complete. EFP's are no cost to the producer.

If you feel your EFP may be expired and you have not yet been contacted please call the office and we will check the status of your last plan. Further information on the Enhanced Environmental Farm Plan Program can be found on the PEI Federation of Agriculture webpage [www.peifa.ca/efp/](http://www.peifa.ca/efp/)

## 2019 Annual Golf Tournament



### Tournament Details

Thursday, August 8th – Countryview Golf Course.

9:00a.m. shotgun start. (Registration begins at 8:00am)

Includes 9 Holes of golf, cart and bbq steak dinner - \$65.00 per person (pay at the course).

To register please contact Jennifer at 902-368-7289 or [jmurphy@peifa.ca](mailto:jmurphy@peifa.ca)

Registration deadline is Friday, August 2nd, 2019 at 4:00 pm



## Farm Safety



### Think Safety This Spring

Spring means getting back onto the land and being preventative while operating farm machinery and equipment. In preparation for a busy season ahead the PEIFA Farm Safety Program would like to remind producers of the following:

- Ensure new and returning workers are properly trained for their jobs.
- As a farm employer with one or more (paid or unpaid) farm workers, ensure you are covered under the PEI Workers Compensation Board (WCB) Act. If you are unsure of the status of your coverage contact the WCB Farm Safety Specialist, Mitchell Jay, at: 902-368-6562 or [mjay@wcb.pe.ca](mailto:mjay@wcb.pe.ca).
- Ensure all equipment is properly maintained with brakes, lighting, guarding and safety alarms working properly.
- Be sure to practice caution when travelling on roadways.
- Ensure equipment is properly illuminated and slow moving vehicle signs are clearly posted. Use an escort vehicle when moving oversized equipment and when turning in and out of dangerous areas.
- Contact your local fire department for a Emergency Plan on your farm in case of an accident. Keep record of this plan on your farm and let workers and family members know of its whereabouts.
- When children are present and working on the farm please keep in mind:
  - Choose age appropriate tasks for your children, keeping in mind physical and cognitive abilities.
  - Ensure children and youth are properly supervised when playing and working on the farm.
  - Designate safe play areas on the farm and point out areas that are unsafe.
  - Consider having your child attend a youth farm safety day to learn more about safety on the farm.

Should you have any questions or be interested in any further information regarding PEIFA's Farm Safety Program, please contact our program coordinator Hanna Hameline at: 902-368-7289 or [hanna@peifa.ca](mailto:hanna@peifa.ca).

## Farm & Food Care PEI



Farm & Food Care PEI  
May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Online Presence

- FFCPEI's website ([www.farmfoodcarepei.org](http://www.farmfoodcarepei.org)) continues to be updated regularly to stay current.
- FFCPEI's Facebook page (Farm & Food Care PEI), Instagram page (@farmfoodcarepei), and Twitter page (@FarmFoodCarePEI) are active.

### Student Funding Proposals

- Submitted an application to Canada Summer Jobs on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Submitted an application to the Skills PEI Post-Secondary Program March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### Strategic Planning

- We hired Volume 18 to consult and create a three-year Strategic Plan.
- We hosted two FFCPEI Steering Committee meetings with Volume 18. These meetings started discussions and helped define Farm & Food Care PEI goals and direction.
- There is now a completed Three-Year Strategic Plan.

### Events

- Attended Farm Day in the City on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 11am – 5pm with our booth.
- Attended the Public Trust Summit hosted by the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity held on November 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Gatineau, Quebec.
- Attended the Atlantic Farm Women's Conference on November 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Moncton, NB.
- Attended Farm to Plate event with our booth at Montague Regional High School on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Attended Ag Adventure Days at Mill River Resort from 10am – 1:30pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as a station.
- Held Farm & Food Care PEI's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Workshop on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Murchison Centre in Charlottetown.

### Upcoming Initiatives

- Attending Food Marketing Group Meetings at Food Island Partnership
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breakfast on the Farm to be held on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Vanco Farms Ltd.
- Continue to circulate the RDOF PEI Digest and Canada version. It has been distributed to Farmer's Market, students, 6,500 copies inserted into the June 2018 Edition of the Salty, Public Library Services, High Schools across the island, the Farm Centre, into teacher bags for Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month and at our booth during events.
- Attend fairs, exhibitions and other public food and farm-related events.

## 2019 Breakfast on the Farm

# BREAKFAST ON THE FARM

AUGUST 3RD, 2019 | 8 AM TO 11 AM  
VANCO FARMS LTD. AT 9311 TRANSCANADA  
HIGHWAY ROUTE 1, MT ALBION  
MORE INFO: [WWW.FARMFOODCAREPEI.ORG](http://WWW.FARMFOODCAREPEI.ORG)

Open to the Public and it's FREE!  
PEI-sourced breakfast, farm tours, children's  
activities and more!



## Food and Farming Champion Award



### 2019 Food & Farming Champion Award

The “Food & Farming Champion” Award is presented to an individual, organization or business who has taken the initiative to engage with consumers in a conversation about food and farming in PEI. The Champion is someone who is passionate about food and agriculture and proud of our industry – they use their skills to share their stories and provide consumers with accurate information about agriculture and food production.

The recipient of the 2019 Food & Farming Champion Award is Bryan and Kyle Maynard of Farmboys Inc.

Bryan and Kyle Maynard are young farmers with a farm success story—told through photography, video and social media - that is renewing enthusiasm for agriculture in Prince Edward Island.

The farmboys, as they are known, grew up on the family farm in Arlington. Bryan returned to farming shortly after finishing school, while Kyle embarked on a career with a local aerospace company. After ten years, the opportunity came up to purchase part of Arlington Farms from their grandfather, Allison Dennis. The brothers reunited to form Farmboys Inc in 2015.

The company name is a way of honoring their late father, who would have been proud of his boys for keeping the farm in the family. Bryan and Kyle’s own children are now the fifth generation on this land.

Farmboys Inc. is making waves in the province's agricultural scene. Through interviews and videos, Bryan’s BarnYard photography, Instagram photos and two websites, a Youtube video with North Capes Coastal Drive and more, they are capturing what it takes to grow potato, pulse and cereal crops and improve their environmental footprint.

The Maynards are passionate about increasing awareness of the ups and downs of the farming lifestyle, by capturing what it’s really like to be a farmer. They are trying to bridge the gap between farmers and non-farmers by showing their followers where their food comes from and how it’s made.

We all have a part to play in sharing the story of where our food comes from. Advocating takes a team and the Farmboys humbly shares this honour with all Islanders who are activity engaging the public in honest and open conversations about how we produce the highest quality food in the world!

## CFA Elects new Executive Team



The CFA held elections during its 2019 AGM for the positions of President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President. The new Executive Team will be focused on the key CFA priorities of the Producing Prosperity campaign, ensuring the pillars of economics, food security and the environment are at the forefront of

Canadian agriculture. Ron Bonnett, the previous President of the CFA, stepped down after nine years in the role.

**Mary Robinson** was elected as President of the CFA, stepping in as the first female President in the organization's 84 year history. Mary was previously the President of the Prince Edward Island Federation of

Agriculture, as well as the Chair of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council. She has been a force in farm politics for many years and an exceptional leader whose collaboration skills are highly recognized amongst the agricultural stakeholder community.

"I am looking forward to engaging key stakeholder and political decision makers on why the agri-food sector is the leading economic engine of Canada. It's critical that investments in agriculture is a priority for the

Canadian government. Investments in rural Canada and agriculture benefit not only rural Canada but the nation as a whole," said CFA President Mary Robinson.

**Keith Currie** won the election for 1st Vice-President. Keith is the current President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and has been a huge proponent behind the "Producing Prosperity" campaign in

Ontario. This campaign will soon be expanded nationally through CFA, focusing on the pillars of economics, food security and the environment.

**Chris van den Heuvel** was elected as 2nd Vice-President. Chris served previously as President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and has been heavily involved in efforts to keep agriculture in the minds of federal and provincial governments.

CFA's new executive team will work together to make the voice of farmers across the country heard. Through collaboration and teamwork we can show how important agriculture is to Canada, and how we can all strive to unlock its potential.

## Federation Activities

### 4R Nutrient Management



On February 20, 2019 the PEI Federation of Agriculture has re-signed an MOU with Fertilizer Canada, the PEI Potato Board, Kensington North Watershed, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Communities, Land and Environment as a part of the Potato Conference.

This MOU extends the original which has been in place since 2012 which has focused on work around 4R Nutrient Management. This MOU extension will see a commitment to provide \$60,000 over a three year period to implement 4R

Certification among the agri-retailers on Prince Edward Island.

4R Certification is a voluntary program that allows agri-retailers to train their staff and align with the sustainability principles of 4R Nutrient Stewardship. The 4R's themselves stand for: Applying nutrients using the Right Source @ Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place.

This program has generated field trial work since 2012 which has shown the positive results and a more efficient use of fertilizer products or nutrients such as manure. The Certification process will help us quantify acres in order to further promote the program to growers. Further this quantification process will help us show both Government and the public that fertilizer application is being done responsibly.

### Moncton Farm Show



The Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show was held in Moncton on March 7-9th, 2019. The PEI Federation of Agriculture had a booth as we have in the past. It gave the PEIFA a great opportunity to speak with many of our Members and talk about the issues.

## Federation Activities

### **PEIFA Debate**

As a part of the Provincial Election, the PEI Federation of Agriculture hosted an Agriculture Debate on the evening of April 10 at the Murchison Centre. All four Party Leaders were in attendance which was moderated by retired Guardian Editor Gary MacDougall.

General attendance was strong with about 175-200 people as well as an additional 120 online viewing the live-stream.

### **AFA Meeting**

The quarterly meeting of the Atlantic Federations of Agriculture was held in Moncton on April 30 2019. AAFC Atlantic Regional Director Janet Steele was in attendance and discussed the following items:

- 2019 Open Farm Day Funding –
- Regional collaboration program funding for public trust
- Canadian Brand Project and other progress on the Barton Report
- Clarification for funding for Farmers Markets announced in the federal budget

This meeting also allowed for the sharing of provincial issues and strategies.

### **Regional Public Trust Meeting**

The Atlantic Federation of Agriculture (AFA) has developed a Public Trust Coordination Committee that the PEIFA has taken the lead in chairing. This committee consists of representatives from each Atlantic Federation as well as a representative from each respective Government.

The First Face-to Face Meeting took place on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Charlottetown which gave all four provinces the chance to share their efforts surrounding public trust and agriculture awareness in each of their respective provinces alongside their government officials. The PEIFA was able to speak about Farm & Food Care PEI and how successful it's first year had been. We were also able to champion the idea of government and industry working together.

The Committee also discussed the idea of applying for a regional program through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership. AFA partners believe hosting an Atlantic Summit on Public Trust might be interesting and spark an interest amongst stakeholders to get on board with our efforts.

The AFA brought this plan forward to AAFC Atlantic Regional Director Janet Steele at their meetings at the end of April.

## Federation Activities

### **PEI Watershed and Agriculture Sustainability Committee**

Following the sentencing of Brookfield Gardens late last fall, the PEI Federation of Agriculture called upon the Government to create a Task Force to discuss deleterious substance charges and how to avoid farmers ending up in court facing crippling fines.

Provincially, pressure was placed on the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries (now known as Agriculture and Land) , and Communities, Land and Environment (now known as Environment, Water and Climate Change) to get a Task Force running which also included a representative from the Federal Government.

In the early part of 2019, the Federation met with the PEI Watershed Alliance to discuss the issues surrounding fish kills and deleterious substance charges. In these discussions, it became apparent that the ultimate goal of eliminating fish kills and keeping farmers out of court was shared by both organizations. It was agreed that the two organizations, as well as the PEI Potato Board, should work together.

This cooperation caused the creation of a Provincial task force headed by officials from the Provincial Departments of Environment, Water and Climate Change and Agriculture and Land. This Committee has been given a modest amount of funding to do some collective work related to fish kill elimination and protecting farmland from runoff.

A Steering Committee has been created that includes: PEIFA and the Potato Board, PEI Watershed Alliance, Department of Agriculture and Land and Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change. On occasion other individuals may be invited where issues or proposed actions intersect with their expertise.

The Committee has three specific goals:

- Reduction (ideally, elimination) of land-use related fish kills
- Keeping soil on the land, and out of waterways
- Developing an industry standard or code of practice for agricultural cropping

The work of this Committee will likely not bear fruit until this fall given the amount of work ahead. Projects in the pilot phase at a minimum will likely be seen in the spring of 2020.

In addition, the PEIFA and the PEI Potato Board have had multiple discussions with officials at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) about the need to examine the laws related to fish kills and the extremity of the process that follows. Some of the outcomes of these discussions are included in this publication (see: Protecting Your Farm). These discussions have shown that there needs to be a separate body created to examine the laws and regulations. In the meantime however, ECCC has agreed preliminarily, to join our Provincial Task Force and work with PEI to meet the Task Force's goals.

This is an exciting initiative that has environment and agriculture together with a common set of goals. There is a lot of work to be done, and we will continue to push forward for producers.



## Federation Activities

### **PEIFA Workshop – March 14, 2019**

On March 14, 2019 the PEI Federation of Agriculture hosted a Skill Set Workshop at the Farm Centre that focused on the following topics:

- Cost of Production, presented by Craig Dykerman of BDO Canada LLP.
- Worker Safety, presented by Mitchell Jay of the Workers Compensation Board
- Vance Easter, an injured worker, spoke about the values of safety
- Human Resources and Temporary Foreign Workers, presented by Janet Krayden and Portia Dewhirst MacDonald of the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council

Over 35 people attended this free workshop which also provided lunch which was sponsored by The Workers Compensation Board.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries covered the travel costs Janet Krayden and Portia Dewhirst MacDonald who had to fly in from Ottawa.

It was determined through the development of our newly adopted Strategic Plan that a workshop of this nature was needed.

### **Labour - PEI Farm Team**

In 2018 the PEIFA partnered with the PEI Agriculture Sector Council and Skills PEI to launch a program aimed at attracting students to work on farms for the summer. This program has now returned for the summer of 2019.

Students going into Grade 11 or 12 will be provided with a \$500 Summer Student Employment Bursary and students entering post secondary or continuing in post secondary education receiving \$1000.

The Bursary will be paid to those students upon completion of a summer work placement with a farm. Completion is defined as completing 250 hours for high school students and 500 for those entering or in post secondary.

The bursary will be paid for by participating employers (25%), Workforce and Advanced Learning (25%), and the Government of Canada (50%).

We encourage you to check out [www.peifarmteam.com](http://www.peifarmteam.com) and consider hiring a student this summer and show them that the agriculture sector has potential for them

## Protecting Your Farm Against Possible Federal Fishkill Charges

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, representatives of the PEI Potato Board and the PEI Federation of Agriculture, along with provincial Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and Environment, met with senior officials from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). A representative from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada's Market & Industry Services Branch also attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to understand what factors ECCC takes into consideration when conducting an investigation to determine the cause of a fishkill, and what their investigators look at to determine whether a charge(s) will be laid.

Some important points from the discussion:

- When a fishkill is reported, ECCC will investigate. They consider it their equivalent of a "murder" case, and take it very seriously. They survey streams/rivers and walk them to determine the point in the watercourse above which live fish are present. They then start checking fields/sites in proximity to where the mortality started in order to pinpoint the source.
- **ECCC feels that there have been major improvements in soil conservation/run-off prevention efforts on Island farms, especially over the past three years.** They also noted that they do not consider fishkill incidents in PEI to be a chronic, widespread problem but it is a high visibility issue. There are over 10,000 fields in agricultural production in PEI each year, and problems are arising on less than 0.015% of them.
- **They said there have been 17 reports of fishkills in the past 9 years, and ECCC responded to 14 of those incidents. Of the 14:**
  - **6 were closed due to a lack of evidence to lay a charge as they could not pinpoint a specific cause/location;**
  - **6 resulted in federal charges;**
  - **2 were closed (no charges laid even though they felt they identified the fields involved) because they felt the farms involved had exercised due diligence.**

### What is Due Diligence:

The charges that have been laid to date against PEI farms have been for offenses under the federal Fisheries Act, and involve the discharge of a "deleterious substance" into a watercourse. Such a discharge does not have to be intentional – it can be accidental or done without intent or malice, yet one can still be held responsible.

However, under the Fisheries Act, there is a section which references "Due Diligence", and it is important to understand what that means.

***Section 78.6: No person shall be convicted of an offence under this Act if the person establishes that the person a) exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence; or b) reasonably and honestly believed in the existence of facts that, if true, would render the person's conduct innocent.***

(continued on next page)

## Protecting Your Farm Against Possible Federal Fishkill Charges

We spent a lot of time talking about due diligence and what that means in terms of farms in PEI. **ECCC officials made it very clear that as a basic step of demonstrating due diligence, farms must be in compliance with all federal and provincial regulations.** This includes:

Provincial Legislation: Buffer zones, crop rotation regulations, high slope land restrictions and headland requirements.

Federal Legislation: The Pest Control Products Act covers the use of pesticides, and one must follow the label requirements when using the product. Specific requirements may govern buffer zones (which may be wider than provincial regulations require), application intervals (how many days between applications of the same product), high slope restrictions, application rates, total number of applications of a particular product per year, and weather conditions. Re weather conditions, some products may say they cannot be applied within 72 hours of a rainfall, etc.

We talked about the weather, including the increasing severity (intensity and volume of rainfall) of events, the inaccuracy of forecasts, and the need for better forecasting tools. ECCC acknowledged these points, and will put us in contact with their meteorology and their climate change staff for further discussions, but **they said in their view, extreme rainfall events are not an acceptable defense.** We feel strongly that the intensity of a rainfall event should be taken into account and will pursue this further, but in the interim, it is their position. One must demonstrate that measures were taken to mitigate the impacts of rainfall events, to keep soil and crop protectant run-off out of streams and rivers.

### How to Ensure You've Done Due Diligence:

There are resources available to help you ensure you're meeting the provincial regulations. They include the Agro Environmental Unit at the PEI Department of Community, Lands and Environment. Please contact Team Leader Shawn Schofield (902-393-5285 or [seschofield@gov.pe.ca](mailto:seschofield@gov.pe.ca)) to walk your fields with you if you have concerns about whether you are in compliance with the regulations. In terms of soil conservation efforts, please contact the PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (Sustainable Agriculture Section at 902-368-4880). The importance of this is:

1. You demonstrate/document that you're sincere in seeking help to ensure you're in compliance;
2. You obtain the information needed to make sure your fields are truly in compliance;
3. It helps build the case that there is strong demand for soil conservation work, and that additional dollars need to be found to help get this work done on our farms.

**Federal officials stated that in every federal charge laid to date, buffer zones in the fields in question have been compromised.** They said that there were breaches and/or gullies, or the grass wasn't present, or the buffer zone wasn't wide enough...that in some way, the buffer zones on those fields were not intact and doing the work of helping keep soil out of watercourses before the rain came. We know there's an incredible amount of catch up to do this spring due to the early freeze up last fall and the damage done to fields this winter/spring by heavy rains, but keep this in mind when assessing your priorities this spring.

With respect to ensuring you meet the Pest Control Products Act requirements, read the labels to refresh your knowledge of special buffer zone or slope requirements, as well as application intervals and maximum numbers of applications per season. Some of PMRA's recent re-evaluation decisions have put much stricter limits on applications per season. We have asked CropLife for "cheat sheets/summaries" that highlight that type of information for PEI, but CropLife declined. We will ask provincial officials to have a look at this for us.

## Protecting Your Farm Against Possible Federal Fishkill Charges

Another possible resource in your community is the local watershed group. Many more farmers have been working cooperatively with the watershed groups, both by joining the groups and by simply reaching out to them to share information and seek input on specific fields. Additional efforts are underway to further build cooperation and understanding between agricultural groups and the watershed groups, including a new initiative involving the Potato Board, the Federation of Agriculture, the PEI Watershed Alliance, and provincial environment and agriculture departments. We'll provide more information on that once planting is over.

The farmers who participated in yesterday's meeting did an excellent job of conveying to ECCC how seriously they take the responsibility of protecting the environment, and how much the possibility of being involved in a fishkill and facing potential federal charges keeps them up at night. We also heard that in grower meetings around the province this past year. We asked whether alternative approaches to charges are possible, ie. could remedial action be an alternative to spending all the time and resources in court? We've found a much more positive environment has resulted when the Province formed the Ag-Environment Unit to work with farmers to achieve compliance rather than seeking to charge them at every turn. Could the federal government take a similar approach?

It did not appear that such an option is likely, given the prescriptive nature of the Fisheries Act, which was enacted in 1868. We will continue discussions with federal officials, including elected officials, on that point but it will be a slow road. Doing your due diligence – doing the things that a “reasonable person” would feel are “reasonable” to prevent problems, is your best protection in the interim for both your farm and for the environment.

**It's not possible to capture all the points raised in the discussion of May 6 in a few pages, but if you have any questions, please call the PEI Potato Board office (902-892-6551) or the PEI Federation of Agriculture (902-368-7289).**



**Look up. Look out.**

**PLAN AHEAD.  
LEAVE ELECTRICAL  
ACCIDENTS BEHIND.**

Electrical hazards can be harder to see when operating farm equipment. Which is why it's important to identify overhead line and guy wire locations BEFORE you begin on your route and perform regular safety checks as you go.

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## 2019 Calendar

The PEIFA is once again working on our very popular Faces of Farming calendar promoting Island farms and farm families to the general public. This calendar is very popular and the office constantly gets calls looking for these calendars from the non-farming public. The 2018 calendar was fully distributed within a couple of weeks of being printed.

If you would like to be featured in the calendar, please send us a note or give the PEIFA office a call.  
902-368-7289 or [hanna@peifa.ca](mailto:hanna@peifa.ca)

As a little thank you to the farms featured in the calendar, we provide the photos to the farmers which make great family photos or for use on websites. Facebook etc.





M E M B E R S

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Need more than 4 cards?

Contact the PEIFA office for questions about your discount card.



Card expires April 30, 2019

# 2019 Farm Team Bursary



**Are you ready to play on the PEI Farm Team and earn a bursary ranging from \$500 to \$1000?**

PEI Farm Team Bursary is a program funded by the provincial and federal governments and participating farms. It is designed to encourage students to support our agricultural sector by working on a farm for the spring and summer.

**LEARN MORE!**



It provides students going into grades 11 and 12 in the fall of 2019 with a \$500 bursary paid directly to the student.



Students starting or returning to university or college in the fall can earn a bursary of \$1000.



**500 DOLLARS**  
Available to students going into Grade Eleven or Twelve



**1000 DOLLARS**  
Available to students starting or returning to College

**90%**

Over 90% of students participating in the PEI Farm Team Bursary programs were satisfied with the money they earned and the hours they worked.



## STEP ONE

Contact [join@farmteam.ca](mailto:join@farmteam.ca) or go directly to a **farm** that you know is **hiring**

## STEP TWO

Get the farm to apply for the bursary... **it's easy!**

## STEP THREE

Fill out the **participant form**

## STEP FOUR

At the end of the summer collect **\$500** if you are going into grades 11 or 12 or **\$1000** if you are starting or returning to university or college in the fall of 2019

**For more information:**

Visit: [www.peifarmteam.ca](http://www.peifarmteam.ca) • Email: [join@peifarmteam.ca](mailto:join@peifarmteam.ca) • Call: 902 314-0623



## Changes to Advance Payment Program

The Federation of Agriculture is pleased to announce they have once again been approved by AAFC to be able to offer the 2019 Advance Payment Program to eligible producers to assist them with working capital in order to raise live-stock or plant, harvest and market their crops effectively. All funds received under this program are repayable within the time frame as established for the production period.

On May 1, 2019 Agriculture & Agri-Food Minister Marie- Claude Bibeau announced that the Government of Canada was implementing new regulations to strengthen the Advance Payments Program. These new regulations were formally announced in a press release June 3, 2019.

The amendments made to the Agricultural Marketing Programs Regulations increase loan limits from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 for all eligible producers on a permanent basis. Unfortunately the interest free portion of loans remains capped at \$100,000 with the exception of canola advances for the 2019 program year only. Eligible producers will be able to apply for the new amounts by mid June with actual advances expected to be issued beginning June 26, 2019. Any producers who do not qualify or do not wish to exceed their current advance payment limits (400k or less) can apply at anytime.

This program is offered under the guidelines and directions as stated by Agriculture & Agri-Foods Canada.

The following conditions have been established for the operation and delivery of this lending program and are the same as they were in 2018 (but are subject to change upon direction from the Board of Directors of the PEIFA).

Approved producers will be required to invest 5% on all amounts over \$100,000; interest charged at rate of Prime – 0.75 %) to a trust account administered by the Federation. The Federation shall hold this money in trust and use it to pay the interest portion monthly until such time as the producer has repaid the net amount received, or in the case of default, at such time as determined by the program operating guidelines. Please keep in mind all repayments are applied towards interest free portion of the advance first and with increased limits available comes increased scrutiny in following administrative obligations (ie repayment from proceeds of sale of crop, crop insurance payments, proof of sales report accompanying payment etc).

Approved producers under this program shall pay an administration fee dependent on the level of funding they are eligible for and/or choose to receive. Federation members receive a discounted fee with proof of membership as of December 31, 2018.

Advances up to 25K - 200+55 (member) 250+55 (non member)  
Advances 25K-100K 360+55 (member) 460+55 (non member)  
Advances 100K-400K 565+55 (member) 665+55 (non member)  
Advances 400K-1M 1000+55 (member) 1200+55 (non member)

Approved producers will also be charged fees associated with delivering this program as well if necessary (ie Crop Inspection fees, credit verification etc.)”

**For more information please contact either Tim Seeber or Andrew Wood at 902-368-7289.**

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**CONTACT US**

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[www.peifa.ca](http://www.peifa.ca)

Phone: (902) 368-7289

Fax: (902) 368-7204



## Special Fleet Pricing for PEIFA Members



### *Examples of Discounts available for Federation Members for 2019 Models*

Ram 1500 Quad/Crew Cab (DS Models)	\$14,000
Ram 1500 Reg Cab (DS Models)	\$9,500
Dodge Grand Caravan (all other models—excl. CVP)	\$9,750
Dodge Grand Caravan CVP (RTKH53—29E only)	\$8,700
Pacifica (L, LX, Touring, Excl. Hybrid)	\$7,100
Jeep Wrangler JL	\$4,000
Jeep Grand Cherokee (excl. SRT & Trackhawk)	\$7,000
Chrysler 300 (All Models)	\$8,300
Dodge Journey FWD (excl. SE)	\$6,000

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