



## Cape Breton Farmers' Market acknowledged for Agricultural Awareness!

2008 Agricultural Awareness Award was presented at the NSFA annual meeting to the Cape Breton Farmers Market. The market has been in operation for 30 years and recently underwent an expansion and relocation in order to accommodate the year round customers. It has grown over the years and is reaching upwards of 1500 visitors on a Saturday of peak season. In addition to supporting activities and events like the Select Nova Scotia Incredible Picnic, the Cape Breton Farmers Market and its board of volunteers have decided to get kids involved through 2 successful projects; Green Thumb Kids and the School Pumpkin Festival. Last year, Green Thumb Kids brought over 30 kids to the market with their parents to register and pick up heritage romano bean seeds and tomato plants. The children left with full instructions, contact information and access to an online chat room to go home and grow their own produce. When it came time for harvest, many of these kids turned entrepreneurs brought their produce to sell at the market. This successful project led to the idea of a



school pumpkin festival in a school in Sydney. The Farm Market participated by providing information and activities to help school children understand where their food comes from, the role of farm markets, and the importance of buying local. This nomination was submitted by the Cape Breton / Richmond Federation of Agriculture through the belief that this market has increase the profile of the Agricultural Industry in their region. Charles MacDonald and his wife Sharon (in the center of photo) accepted the award. Also in the photo is Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Paul LaFleche (far left) and 2008 NSFA President, Willy Versteeg (far right).



# 2009 comes in with some new faces...

After fourteen years of dedication and excellence, Laurence Nason is retiring as the CEO of the organization. A celebration to honour his work was held in January and to spite the unfavourable travel conditions many people came out to wish Laurence well in his future endeavours.

The same event was an opportunity to welcome Henry Vissers to the Federation as our new Executive Director. Henry comes on board in a time of Industry transitioning and changes and we are confident he will guide us through this era of development and growth. Henry has been involved in the agricultural industry for many years and looks forward to working with the various commodity groups and county federations in this position.

2009 also brings a new President to the organization. Richard Melvin, Melvin Farms Limited in Canning, with the help of his executive team will be challenging policy makers



Some of the new faces to bring in 2009, shown in the photo from left to right is Richard Melvin, NSFA President; Minister of Agriculture, Mark Parent and Henry Vissers, NSFA Executive Director.

with a number of ideas and concepts directed at achieving a competitive and sustainable agricultural economy in Nova Scotia.

2009 NSFA Executive is as follows:

President:	Richard Melvin
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President:	Beth Densmore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President:	David Young
CFA Director:	Dennis Boudreau
At Large:	Edna Foster
At Large:	Mary McCarron
At Large:	Danny Davison

Also recently, the NSFA was pleased to welcome Minister Mark Parent in his new portfolio of Nova Scotia Agriculture. The Federation looks forward to establishing a good working relationship with Minister Parent in the coming months.



NSFA President, Richard Melvin (left) thanks Willy Versteeg (right) for his dedication and commitment to the NSFA executive and representation at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

## Inductees into Senate Club



The NSFA's Senate Club held its annual meeting and banquet on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at the Glengarry Convention Centre, Truro. Eric Jennings (far left), owner of the Masstown Market, was guest speaker and told how his business developed and the reasons why he believes that his Masstown location has been so successful in attracting regular return customers, as well as becoming a destination point for many travelers. Charles Keddy (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), NSFA Past-President 1995-6, inducted Bob Murray (2<sup>nd</sup> from the right), former Small Fruit Specialist with the NS Dept of Agriculture, as an honorary member of the Senate Club. Dave Sangster (right) is secretary of the Senate Club. Also inducted as an honorary member of the Senate Club at the NSFA banquet the following evening was Laurence Nason, retiring Executive Director of the Federation and Willy Versteeg, 2008 President of the Federation was also inducted at this time.

# How the Federation Benefits the Agricultural Community in Nova Scotia

## Farm Registration Fee set to increase for 2009

Farm Registration renewals will be arriving in your mailboxes in the coming months. Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, there is an increase in farm registration fees to be paid for the 2009-10 year. During the 2008 Annual General Meeting in December, the following fee structure was adopted:

Gross Farm Receipts	Fee
< \$10,000	\$75
\$10,000- \$24,999	\$140
\$25,000- \$49,999	\$275
\$50,000- \$99,999	\$350
\$100,000- \$249,999	\$430
\$250,000- \$499,999	\$620
\$500,000- \$999,999	\$675
\$1,000,000- 1,999,999	\$750
\$2,000,000 and over	\$975

Through the Farm Registration Fees that you pay; the **Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture** is able to provide significant benefits to farm businesses in Nova Scotia. Following are some examples of these benefits:

*Status as the recognized voice of agriculture:* For more than 100 years the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has been recognized as the official voice of agriculture in Nova Scotia. For Federation members this means that they collectively enjoy the respect of, and are listened to, by both the public and private sectors.

*Public policy role:* As the only recognized general farm organization in Nova Scotia, the Federation is regularly consulted by governments with respect to policy development and policy change. On behalf of the entire farm community, the Federation actively participates in the public policy making process through a variety of committees, working groups and task forces.

*Legislative and regulatory reviews:* The Federation reviews all new Legislation and Regulatory change to ensure there are no negative implications for agriculture. When any negative impacts are indicated, the Federation mounts a lobby campaign to have the appropriate changes made.

*Role as a 'watchdog' and lobby group:* In addition to its role in the Legislative process, the Federation also acts as a 'watchdog' with respect to the formulation and administration of public policy. Every farm business in Nova Scotia benefits from the Federation's public policy role.

*Linkage to National issues:* Through the Federation's participation as an active

member of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, farmers in Nova Scotia have a voice in Ottawa. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture also helps shape Canadian farm policy through direct representation on national advisory committees in the fields of farm income protection, the environment, biotechnology and trade, every farm business in the Province benefits from the results.

*Newsletters and reports:* The Federation publishes 6 newsletters a year to keep its membership apprised of what is taking place in the farm community. In addition to newsletters the Federation produces 'plain language' background and position papers on the major issues facing the industry.

*Annual General Meeting:* Each year, in November/December, the Federation convenes its Annual General Meeting. This meeting provides individual members and affiliated agricultural groups with an opportunity to 'have a say' in the affairs of the Federation and set the direction of the organization's lobby efforts. In addition to participation at the Annual General Meeting, Federation members are provided an opportunity to participate in focus groups, industry seminars and various committees that help shape the profile of the agricultural industry.

*Access to staff resources:* Federation members enjoy direct access to problem solving resource provided by Federation staff. The Federation maintains an extensive network of contacts in both the public and private sector that help members 'cut' bureaucratic red tape and solve problems quickly and effectively.

*Access to office resources:* For Federation members who live outside the central region of the province, the Federation office serves as a message center and a central point to access phone, fax and email services. This service is currently be provided to a variety of commodity groups.

*Services and promotions:* Federation members have access for themselves, their families and employees to health and accident insurance, AIL Canada offers a no cost Accidental Death Policy to all NSFA members. Members also receive benefit from special promotions such as tractor safety kits, discounts from Vogue Optical, Marks Work Ware House, Choice Hotels and Enterprise Car Rentals.

If you have any questions about the above mentioned benefits or the farm registration fee structure, feel free to contact the NSFA office at (902) 893-2293 or email [info@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:info@nsfa-fane.ca).





# Ag Day in Canada

## Be part of something big

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View presentations that feature industry specialists assessing some of the latest advances in ag innovation and technology. Get perspective from a range of agriculture's emerging movers and shakers.

**Wednesday, January 28**  
**1 – 3:30 p.m.**

For information about an Ag Day event near you, visit [www.AgDayinCanada.ca](http://www.AgDayinCanada.ca) or contact your local FCC office at 1-800-387-3232.



## What is Food Freedom Day?

Food Freedom Day, February 12, 2009, is the calendar date representing when the average Canadian has earned enough income to pay his or her individual grocery bill for the entire year. In many parts of the world, the cost of food is significantly higher. In observing Food Freedom Day, farmers across the country will celebrate their role in providing consumers with one of the safest and most affordable food supplies in the world.

## News & Views

**NSFA News & Views** is the Newsletter of the N.S. Federation of Agriculture, the United, Strong & Caring Farm Organization representing the best interest of Nova Scotia's Agricultural Industry.

**News & Views** is provided free of charge to its members. We value comments & concerns from our members, please direct them to Executive Members or the Office Staff.

### 2009 Executive Members:

President:	<b>Richard Melvin</b>	- Phone: 582-7939
1st. Vice President:	<b>Beth Densmore</b>	- Phone: 369-2876
2nd. Vice President:	<b>David Young</b>	- Phone: 543-8748
CFA Director:	<b>Dennis Boudreau</b>	- Phone: 769-3501
At Large:	<b>Edna Foster</b>	- Phone: 661-4366
At Large:	<b>Mary McCarron</b>	- Phone: 863-4026
At Large:	<b>Danny Davison</b>	- Phone: 798-0283

**STAFF:** Executive Director: Henry Vissers; Operations Manager: Donna Langille; Financial Services Officer: Krista Vroegh; Administrative Officer: Shelly MacKenzie; Communications Officer: Wanda Hamilton

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