

Annual Report Edition

Keenan Re-Elected as PEIFA President



Alvin Keenan, a long time potato grower from Rollo Bay has been acclaimed as president of the PEIFA. Mr. Keenan, who operates Rollo Bay Holdings with his brother Ray took over the presidency from Bertha Campbell at last year's Annual Meeting and will complete the final year of his two year term in 2014. In the late 60's the Keenan family moved their potato operation to PEI from New Brunswick. In 1982, Alvin and Ray acquired the company, consisting of a growing, packing and marketing operation.

Other members of the PEIFA Executive Committee were named at th AGM. Mary Robinson continues in the role of 1st Vice President and David Mol continues in his role as 2nd Vice-President. Grant Compton, a potato farmer from Bangor joins the Federation executive as Member-at-Large. Other members of the Executive Committee are Pat Dunphy representing the Young Farmers of PEI and Bertha Campbell as Past President.

Abe Buttimer Recognized for Contribution to the PEIFA at AGM



During his closing remarks at the PEIFA's Annual Banquet, newly elected President Alvin Keenan thanked Abe Buttimer for his contributions to the Federation's Executive Committee and Board. Mr. Buttimer had completed two terms on the PEIFA Board and, due to the constitution, was not eligible for another term.

"Abe has been a wonderful leader and contributed significantly to the organization over the past few years. We were especially pleased to have Abe on the Federation Executive and we will miss the guidance he provided," said Alvin Keenan.

PEI Ag Notes by John Jamieson, Executive Director



Deep Water Wells: There is probably no issue that has galvanized farmers and the public as the issue surrounding the moratorium on deep water wells for irrigation. As many of you know the moratorium was put in place in 2001 to allow for further study into the impact of these wells on groundwater quantity and quality. The PEI Potato Board has looked into the issue and have asked the Province to investigate the possibility of ending the moratorium. The reasoning behind the request is that growers see potential for higher yields and better quality.

In planning for the AGM, the Federation's Board anticipated that the issue would come to the floor and we thought the most prudent action would be to bring in a speaker from the Department of Environment to present the science they are looking at when considering the request to remove the moratorium. The presentation was very informative and is available for viewing on the Department website (www.gov.pe.ca/environment/water-extraction). The presentation on wells followed a presentation by Dr. Adam Fenech on the implications of climate change to PEI agriculture. While not planned, it was interesting to see how the two presentations complemented each other.

At the end of the day a resolution was passed that supports the lifting of the moratorium only if the science says it does not negatively impact the environment and that significant controls go in place should the moratorium be lifted. The PEIFA is presenting to the Agriculture Standing Committee on the 13th of March on the issue. I am preparing a presentation that I will offer to the PEIFA board for their review and approval on the 11th of March. Once approved by the board, we will make the presentation available to members on our website. I think members who take the time to look at the presentation will see that we are taking a very balanced and cautious approach to the issue.

Bill C-18: Bill C-18, the Agricultural Growth Act, was introduced by Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz in early December 2013. The Act proposes changes to nine pieces of federal legislation. Seven under the oversight of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and two under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. For the PEIFA, the new act outlines a number of changes relating to the administration of the Advance Payments Program. Many of the proposed changes to the APP program are ones that have been asked for by industry for years. Many of the changes relate to reducing red tape and the administrative processes for both farmers and administrators. The key changes relate to increased flexibility around security arrangements, proof of sale and the means of repayments. We have a slide deck with the changes that are available for review. Please contact the office should you want a copy.

The other part of the Act that has been getting some press is related to changes in the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act*. The changes here will allow Canada to sign on to UPOV'91. An intergovernmental organization formed in 1961, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) seeks to advance the interests of plant breeders by allowing them to claim property rights in countries that sign on to the agreement. The move to sign on to this agreement should allow for increased investment by seed breeders in Canada.

The other change to the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* incorporates a "Farmers Privilege" which is something that was **not** in the Act that C-18 replaces. The new amendment states **specifically** that farmers can save, store and clean/treat seed. Farmers can do this as often as they like and there are no limits other than they can't sell the seed to anyone else; it must be strictly for use on their own farm. The NFU have been opposed to this but the fact is that the previous Act had no provision for a farmers privilege, however, farmers were saving seed with no protection. The new Act offers much better protection where the old Act offered none.

Lands Protection Act: The Legislative Assembly of PEI will be opening around the 1st of April and there will be a number of amendments introduced to the Lands Protection Act. Our understanding is that the changes will allow for less red tape in reporting, changes to the way arable land is counted, what specifically is considered arable land and an expansion of what is eligible to be exempted from land holdings. Once the amendments are introduced the PEIFA will host meetings on the changes and make information available to members.

Cancer Committee Established: The PEI Government has announced a committee that will look into high cancer rates and poor treatment outcomes on PEI. The committee has a mandate to present a three-year strategy to government and will look into risk factors, detection and treatment. The committee will be holding public hearings and I will be recommending to our board that the Federation should present at those hearings. It is my opinion (only) that agriculture should welcome the committee. There are a number of people on PEI who feel that agriculture chemicals are the sole contributor to cancer rates on PEI but that may not be the reality. About a year ago, I heard the Chief Medical Officer from Nova Scotia talk about NS rates for chronic disease (cancer, heart disease, etc) which are the highest in Canada and he mentioned that more than 50% are "lifestyle" connected. It will be interesting to see if the PEI committee sees the same correlations.



Resolutions Passed at AGM

Resolution #1

WHEREAS, farm corporations are most owned by family farms on PEI and these people are the shareholders in the farm corporation;

And WHEREAS the bonafide status is granted to the corporation rather than the shareholders of the corporation

And WHEREAS, the shareholders of the corporation often own farm land that is used by the corporation for farm purposes

And WHEREAS, because the farm corporation shareholders do have bonafide status the land they own is now being assessed at the Farm Use Assessment rather than the Bonafide Farm Status Property Assessment which means a significant increase in the taxes paid

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Province of PEI to allow the shareholders of a farm corporation who own land that is used by the farm corporation for agricultural purposes that this land be assessed at the Bonafide Farmer Status Property Assessment.

Resolution #2

WHEREAS farmers who want to apply for a grassed headland variance or exemption permit under Section 7 of the Environmental Protection Act must complete a detail application that requires significant time and effort on behalf of the farmer;

And WHEREAS the waiting time for the processing of these permits is significant and the staff available to process these applications is limited;

And WHEREAS the granting of these permits is based on typography which is static;

And WHEREAS the Minister of Environment has the discretion to extend the permits;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to extend grassed headland variance or exemption permits and that the permits remain in effect unless there is a change unless there is a change in the typography or control of the land that the permit is applied to.

Resolution #3

WHEREAS the Province of Prince Edward Island owns Crown Land across PEI with a certain portion of that land may be appropriate for agricultural purposes;

And WHEREAS many farmers across PEI own land that is not suitable for agricultural purposes but has important natural features, wildlife or wetland habitat, recreational opportunities or ecological significance;

And WHEREAS increased agricultural production in rural PEI is good for the economy and this is supported by both the Province of PEI and the PEI Federation of Agriculture;

And WHEREAS a number of jurisdictions such as New Brunswick offer the opportunity to exchange private land with special features for Crown Land that is deemed appropriate for agricultural purposes;

And WHEREAS the program would guarantee no net loss of Crown Land on PEI but could increase the ecological value of provincially owned Crown Land

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Province of PEI to identify land that has potential for agricultural purposes and to implement a program that allows the exchange of private land for Crown Land

Resolutions Passed at 2014 AGM

Resolution # 4

WHEREAS farmers in PEI often require detailed information on parcels of land in order to purchase, rent or lease a property or field;

And WHEREAS this information is available through the province's GeoLinc system but it at a cost to the user

And WHEREAS Lands Protection Act Commissioner Horace Carver recognized the limitations of the current system in his report;

BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to make the GeoLinc system available to Bonafide farmers on Prince Edward Island at no charge.

Resolutions # 5 (from the floor)

Whereas the Department of Environment has reviewed all available scientific data and determined that there is adequate water available for long term sustainability;

Be it resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture request the Department of Environment remove the moratorium on new wells for supplemental agricultural irrigation provided that the scientific data shows that it will not negatively impact the environment and that the PEI Water Extraction Policy provides the adequate controls for the siting and operation of any new wells.

Federation Welcomes New Employee



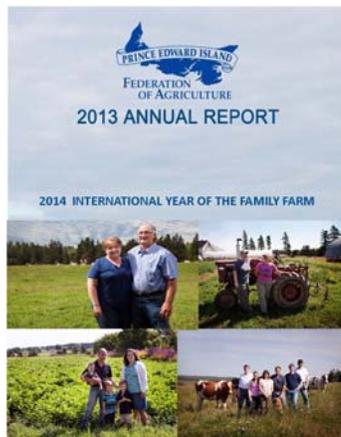
Amie Swallow-MacDonald has been hired by the PEIFA to fill the position vacated by Brent Smith with the Environmental Farm Plan program. Through a cooperative service agreement Ms. Swallow-MacDonald will also be providing administrative service and support to the PEI Wild Blueberry Grower Association.

Ms. Swallow-MacDonald lives in Little Pond with her husband Nicholas where they operate a dairy farm. Amie has a Business Administration degree and received her Masters of Business Administration in 2012. Her MBA signature project was based on volunteer board development and governance.

Amie has worked as an economic development officer and, as such, as worked with many communities to develop sustainability strategies, manage projects and budgets. She is a member of the Provincial 4-H board and has participated in a number of other volunteer organizations.

The Boards of the PEIFA and the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association welcome Amie and are pleased to have attracted such a high caliber candidate. She can be contacted at the Federation office (356-7289) and her email address is amiem@peifa.ca.

PEIFA Annual Report Available to Members



The PEIFA Annual Report is available to all members of the Federation. It includes our President'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.

The report is available to all members and if you would like a copy of our Annual Report please call the office and we send one out to you. The report is also on our website, www.peifa.ca, and can be viewed there.

PEIFA Offers Migrant Worker Workshop

March 12th, 2014
 PEI Farm Centre
 420 University Ave
 Room 105
 9:00am-12:00pm

Guest Speaker: Margarita Caropresi

8:30am- Registration

9:00am- Trainer introduction and participant survey

9:20am- Elements of Spanish speaking Latin American countries and their cultures. *Learn about diversity and general situation of Latin American countries migrant workers come from, with specific attention to socio-economic layer migrant workers belong to. This information is conducive to improve participant knowledge and reduce stereotypes.*

9:30- Characteristics of the SWAP and LSWP and how they affect communication

9:35am- Farmer evaluation per province given by Mexican migrant farm workers. *Participants will learn about the evaluation system Mexican authorities have in place, what is evaluated and actions taken by Mexican governments based on these results.*

9:40am- Communication on farms; current situation among people with different languages and cultures. *Participants will review communication elements; learn current communication state among people with diverse backgrounds working on farms and the effects of current communication on safety, training and general regulation compliance.*

10:20am- BREAK

10:25am- Provide communication strategies and guidelines to improve communication among participants and Latin American farm migrant workers. *Latin American migrant workers typical behaviour patterns will be introduced and compared with those generally accepted in Canada- in areas such as: gender, age, family roles, work, perception of law, authority, medical care, government services and assistance, transportation etc.*

10:55am- Issues migrant farm workers may face in Canada, interaction among migrant workers and their perception of Canada, farmers and others they interact with, and how intercultural knowledge can help to improve communication despite language and cultural differences.

11:25am- BREAK

11:30am- Workshop and group conclusions. *Based on presentation content, participants will propose their own concerns and alternatives. At the same time, practical alternatives will be introduced by the speaker.*

12:00pm- Final survey and evaluation – a light lunch will be provided by the PEIFA's Farm Safety Program

2014 PEIFA Board of Directors

PEIFA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- Alvin Keenan - President
- Mary Robinson - 1st Vice President
- David Mol - 2nd Vice President
- Patrick Dunphy - Exec Rep. for PEI Young Farmers
- Grant Compton - Member at Large
- Bertha Campbell - Past President
- John Jamieson - Executive Director

PEIFA BOARD MEMBERS

- Janet Murphy - Director - Chicken Farmers of PEI
- Ron Maynard - Director - Dairy Farmers of P.E.I.
- Nathan Burns - Director - Egg Producers of P.E.I.
- David Mol - Director - Island Grains & Proteins Council
- Jeremy Stead - Director - PEI Cattle Producers
- Isaac Thompson - Director - PEI Fur Breeders Association
- Paul Larsen - Director - PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board
- Eddy Dykerman - Director - PEI Horticulture Association
- Chiel Middelkamp - Director - PEI Certified Organic Growers Cooperative
- Don Godfrey - Director - PEI Potato Board
- Paul Gallant - Director - PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association
- Pat Dunphy - Director - PEI Young Farmers Association
- Harry Elsinga - Director - PEI Sheep Breeders Association

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Prince County

- Justin Rogers - Coleman
- Eric Phillips - O'Leary

Queens County

- Fred Dollar—Winsloe
- Clair Green—Springfield

Kings County

- Paul Gallant—Souris
- Grant Compton - Morell

Federation Members Save with Co-op Energy



Rising fuel costs continue to be a concern for the 2014 growing season, Federation members have an opportunity to work with our benefits partner, Co-op Energy to save \$\$ off their fuel. Exclusive to PEIFA members is the Co-Op Energy Discount Offer and Rewards. Federation members are eligible for:

- 6 cents per litre **starting** discount on DYED diesel (Volume discounts as well), discounts on Regular diesel and gas;
- 15% off all farm fuel tanks and pumps (single and double walled);
- 15% off all heating equipment (furnaces, boilers , mini-splits);
- Employee discounts on home heating fuel and home heating equipment

Co-op Energy Benefits

- Farm and field fuelling
- 24 hr service
- Local contractors staff and drivers
- In-house and JDF Financing on farm accounts
- Airmiles rewards through Agline
- 180 days, No interest, no payment through JDF

Service provider for Esso



14 Exhibition Drive, Charlottetown, PE C1A 5Z5
902-892-9144

www.co-openergy.ca

54 Central Street, Summerside, PE C1N 3L1
902-432-3667

Open Enrollment Period For PEIFA Health Plan!

For the next couple of months, we are offering an open enrollment for Federation members to opt into the new refreshed benefit program for members of the PEI Federation of Agriculture . In collaboration with other Atlantic agriculture stakeholders we have launched a new PEIFA plan with Medavie Blue Cross that provides comprehensive coverage for life insurance, health, prescription drugs, and dental at an affordable price while also giving you the opportunity to purchase optional benefits coverage at preferred prices to better meet your individual and family protection needs. The Federation has moved this plan to Medavie BlueCross, but it is still being administered by Johnson Insurance and inquiries can still be made through the local Johnson Insurance office in Charlottetown, or by calling **628 – 3537**.

Plan costs are \$ 274.11/month family and \$ 114.91/month individual. Check out the PEIFA website under member benefits for more details!



Animal Welfare Lecture at Farm Centre



The PEI Federation of Agriculture, in partnership with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and the PEI Department of Agriculture, is offering an animal welfare lecture with University of Guelph researcher and professor Michael Von Massow. Dr. Von Massow will give a presentation on consumer knowledge about animal welfare and how it impacts buying decisions and perceptions of the industry. Dr. Massow recently completed research into animal welfare in co-operation with Tim Hortons. Dr. Massow has worked in the animal health industry with Elanco and has been a professor at the university since 2010.

Dr. Massow was a keynote speaker at the Dairy Farmers of Ontario AGM and is booked to give presentations to livestock groups in Western Canada.

The lecture will be held at the Farm Centre on Friday, March 21 at 11:00am. Anyone involved in livestock agriculture should attend.

PEIFA Corporate Partner



PEIFA Corporate Sponsor

