Federation Happenings

Spring 2016

www.peifa.ca

David Mol Elected as PEIFA President

David Mol was elected the 39th President of the PEIFA during he 76th Annual Meeting of the organization in late January. Mr. Mol's family has operated Meadowbrook Farms in Winsloe since 1962. The Mol family moved to Prince Edward Island from Chatham, Ontario where they grew sugar beets, seed oats, barley, tobacco, and had a beef feedlot.

David's grandfather grew one of the first commercial crops of winter wheat on PEI in 1962. David started soybean production in 1976, and for over 20 years the Charlottetown Research Station used the farm for its winter cereal plots.

The farm in Winsloe has seen crops of broccoli, cauliflower, onions, garlic, flax, canola, oil seed, and radish, and has actively cooperated with new and innovative industry initiatives. More recently after serving as national president of the Canadian Seed Growers, David has focused on developing new varieties of milling wheat, malt barley and food grade soybeans on the approximately 1300 acres they crop. He has also incorporated organic production on roughly 70 acres.

Before becoming President, he sat as the Prince County rep on the Federation Board, then as member-at-large on the executive, then as 1st Vice on the executive.

Mary Robinson Recognized at PEIFA AGM

Outgoing PEIFA President Mary Robinson was recognized for her contribution to the organization at the Federation's 76th Annual General Meeting. Mary Robinson was a very effective president that steered the PEIFA through a change in Executive Director as well as a host of issues and controversial pieces of legislation.

Highlights from Mrs. Robinson's time as president include:

- Off-Highway Vehicle Guidebook and Increased Enforcement of Off-Highway Law and Regulations
- Class 3A Licensing Changes
- Strong Voice at the Canadian Human Resource Council
- Influential voice in provincial and federal consultations regarding the Next Agricultural Policy Framework
- Influence on key pieces of legislation including the Municipal Act and the Draft Water Act
- Raised awareness of agriculture for Island youth including a day camp for children in grades 4-6
- Budget Surpluses for the PEIFA
- An increase in Member Benefits

President's Message

Writing this report only minutes after the official announcement of spring, I'm not sure what groundhog got it right. The one thing I do know is that when it happens, it has the potential to happen quickly with little snow, frost or ice this past month.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for allowing me the privilege of being President of the PEI Federation of Agriculture. I have been in the company of strong representation both at the Board and Executive level and wish to thank the outgoing member; Alvin Keenan, Don Godfrey, Fred Dollar, Justin Rogers and Paul Gallant for their invaluable service. I would also like to welcome the new Board members; Fulton Hamill, Andrew Lawless and Keisha Rose.

Before we climb into the tractor this spring, I'd like to ask you to reflect on our future as an industry. I'd like to feel optimistic about 2017 and beyond. As a farming community, we have shown resilience in the face of challenges. These challenges have come in the form of disease, weather, market pressures, regulatory and legislative change as some examples.

The industry has persevered over and above our challenges by diversifying and innovating. This has included growing different crops and coming up with new ideas on how to farm. When the hog industry shrank, barley production moved toward more exportable cash crops such soybeans. Currently additional cropping opportunities have opened up in the areas of peas and lentils. We've become self sufficient in many feed stocks. The beef industry and the processing facility appear to be better positioned than before. The Dairy industry in spite of dealing with trade pressures has become more competitive - so much so that the US dairy industry is complaining that in certain areas our farmers are out competing them.

The potato industry, faced with pest issues, has quickly adapted to new cultivation and rotation policies. There were things that a few generations ago would have taken much long to implement. Who had heard of 'little potatoes', but now they are every bit as important to some as have more 10+ ounce potatoes. It used to be potato boats but thanks to forward thinking, soybean boats are also in the mix. I could go on, as almost every commodity has overcome one challenge or another. A lot has changed in a short period of time and it's thanks to our innovative and progressive farmers facing the 21st Century.

Finally tying all of this together comes our obligation both as neighbors and citizens of PEI to interact with our non farm community in a responsible and informative manner. Remember, 'public trust' should be a two way dialogue (with us getting our message out there to those who don't know or are opposed to how we do things, we should expect). The public expects us to be good stewards of the land and environment and we in turn should expect the public to recognize no one knows our farm better than us and to show this by buying local.

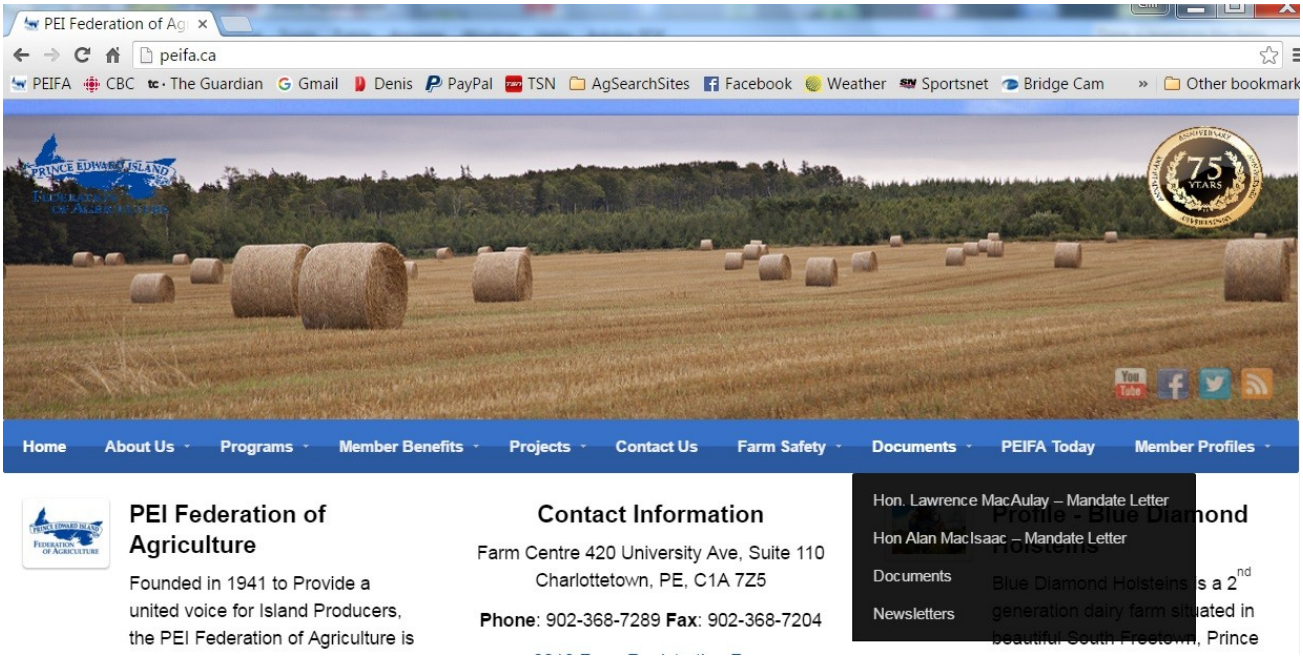
We have an excellent Board of Directors, 22 in total covering all areas of production on PEI. They are the frontline people you should refer to as the Federation, works with you in moving our industry forward. We are only a call away.

Thank you,

David Mol

President

Federal and Provincial Mandate Letters



Interested in what the Federal and Provincial Ministers were given as their working orders when they took on their Agriculture portfolio's?

Visit our web site at www.peifa.ca ….. Look under the Documents menu item to view these letters.

Environmental Farm Plans

Environmental Farm Plan Renewals

The Enhanced Environmental Farm Plan Program sent out renewal letters in early 2017 to notify producers that their environmental farms plans would be expiring at the end of the year. If you are a producer who has not yet contacted the office to have your plan updated please call Matt 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 Growing Forward 2 Agriculture 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/

Farm Safety

Think Safety This Spring

With spring upon us it will be no time at all before producers are back on the land. 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. Producers are reminded that most training needs to be updated every 3 years. Training is regularly scheduled in first aid and CPR, forklift, WHMIS, tractor safety and welding safety. The PEIFA has free training videos, pamphlets and other resources available on our website to assist you with the training of new workers. Some video resources are available in Spanish and Chinese.

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.

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 areas on the farm that are safe for play and point out areas that are unsafe.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 1

CONTINUATION OF POLICY

Whereas Document 1 lists all resolutions from the previous Annual General Meeting of the PEI Federation of Agriculture (2016) and

Whereas Document 1 also outlines all action taken to date toward resolution of the identified issues and shows where further action is required,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture continue its efforts to bring the issues which require further attention and activity as outlined in Document 1, to the attention of those bodies or interests concerned to ensure the issues are addressed.

Document 1. Confederation Centre of the Arts, *Charlottetown PEI January 27, 2017*

Resolution 1 Resolution 2	**Municipal Amalgamation**	Meetings with DMs and Officials Appearance before Standing Committee Regional discussions with some Members Municipal Act Passed but regulations are being drafted. The Federation will continue to press the concerns of Members
Resolution 5	**Individual Farm Plans**	Discussions with officials. Presentation to National Environmental Farm Summit Discussions ongoing
Resolution 6	**Financial payment protection for fruit and vegetable sellers**	Ongoing work with Canadian Horticultural Council Continues
Resolution 7	**Temporary Foreign Workers**	Recent changes announced in early January Ongoing work with Canadian Horticultural Council Continues

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 2 – Land Use Policy

The Issue:

The Provincial Government has recently passed the Municipal Act that will pursue municipal amalgamation and annexation province wide and download the responsibility of land use planning to local municipalities. PEI agricultural landowners remain concerned about what this will mean.

Concerns include, but are not limited to:

Multiple land use strategies related to farmland across the province

Municipal encroachment onto PEI farmland

Limitations with regard to change of purpose, if land is zoned agricultural

Whereas the Prince Edward Island Provincial Government has determined that land use policy will be required by all municipalities by 2022

Whereas a large percentage of PEI agricultural land has never been subject to land use planning or municipal policy

Whereas the long term interests of agricultural land is paramount

Whereas the agriculture industry is the largest economic driver on PEI because of producers responsible use of the land base

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA lobby the Provincial Government to retain land use planning of all land zoned agricultural; and Place strict limitations on municipal powers with respect to land use planning around agriculture.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 3 – Sale of Land to non-Island Residents

The Issue:

The Provincial Government requires the sale of any land to non-Island residents be advertised for 3 months prior to the closing in order to allow Island residents the first right at bidding on the property. There are concerns that this law is not being followed and land is being sold privately to non-Island residents or transferred to non-Island residents and Island residents are not being provided with the opportunity to put forward an offer.

Whereas the PEI Federation of Agriculture promotes the growth of a strong and vibrant agriculture sector

Whereas the PEI Federation of Agriculture welcomes new entrants from all areas of Canada and the World to our local industry

Whereas land is a limited resource that many farmers are competing for

Whereas Provincial laws need to be enforced and obeyed

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA lobby the Provincial Government to enforce the laws related to the sale of land on PEI and ensure that local residents are giving the opportunity to bid on any agricultural land/property for sale.

Resolution # 4 – Impact of Weight Limits for Transport of Agriculture Products within Canada

The Issue:

If a load of produce is to be shipped right across Canada, it must meet at least five different gross vehicle weight restrictions due to differing allowances in different provinces. The differences can be even greater if a province has stricter spring thaw weight limits. These differences functionally mean that trucks will load to the lowest weight limit and therefore all the available space in trailers is not utilized. This results in higher shipping costs on the goods or product, a requirement for more trucks, lower fuel efficiency, and a higher environmental impact. Furthermore, the availability of trucks is a constraint in most parts of Canada, making the most efficient use of the limited number of units available should be a goal of our sector

WHEREAS gross vehicle weight limits vary significantly among Canadian provinces; and

WHEREAS those differences prevent trucks from maximizing loads when travelling through different provinces; and

WHEREAS weight limits can become even more restrictive during winter and spring thaw conditions; and

WHEREAS the lack of harmonization of weight limits among provinces could be considered an interprovincial trade barrier, and is causing serious economic hardship to the horticultural industry; and

WHEREAS the economic hardship also applies to all industries that transport goods across provincial boundaries within Canada, thereby increasing the costs of goods, the number of shipments, fuel consumption, and trade deficits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the PEIFA work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and other likeminded national organizations to lobby appropriate federal and provincial departments to harmonize weight limits to the highest level established within Canada.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution #5 – Analysis of Weight Limits for Transport of Agriculture Products in Canada and the United States

The Issue:

Gross vehicle weight allowances are different between Canada and the United States, and are generally lower in the U.S. For many years, groups like the National Potato Council have worked as part of a coalition to increase trucking efficiency by seeking an increase in federal interstate weight limits of up to 97,000 pounds for trucks equipped with six axles. They indicate that this weight on six axles would preserve existing safety standards on roads, and would allow shippers of heavier produce/cargo to more fully utilize existing 53 foot trucks. Even though Canadian weight allowances are higher, we must load to the lower U.S. weight limits for shipments going south of the border. Analysis is needed to better understand the differences, but if harmonization to the 97,000 pound or higher limit could be achieved, we could make more efficient and cost effective use of this major mode of transportation. The Regulatory Cooperation Council has transportation as a major component of its mandate. It seems to have focused on harmonization of safety standards to date, and harmonization of weight limits should fit within this mandate/area. AAFC and Transport Canada also have means to assist with the fact gathering and analysis, and could support finding a solution.

WHEREAS the value of trade of agriculture goods between Canada and the United States is in the billions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS there are difference in the legislated/regulated weight limits for trucks that operate in each country, with the gross weight allowed in the United States currently being lower than is permitted in parts of Canada; and

WHEREAS availability of trucks is a concern on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS increased trucking efficiency via utilizing all the available space in a trailer would reduce costs and environmental impacts, as well as the total number of loads on highways; and

***WHEREAS* the** Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) was formed to increase regulatory transparency and coordination between the two countries, and has Transportation as one of the key areas within its mandate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIFA work with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to have them work with the RCC, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Transport Canada to document the differences in weight limits for trucks hauling agriculture goods in Canada and in the United States, and to identify means of addressing the differences to support harmonizing weight limits to the highest level established within either country and to enable more efficient transportation on both sides of the border.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 6 – Crop Protectant Application Records

The Issue:
High penalty fines have been issued to producers for incomplete spray records. In the majority of these instances, the missing data within the records presents a low risk. These producers are not only faced with fines, but their reputation is damaged and the reputation of the industry as a whole suffers. There is a need for a review of the regulations for crop protectant application records and a need for amendments to the regulations to allow for the consideration of risk the missing data poses.

Be it further resolved the provincial government review and amend penalties for noncompliance with regulations involving crop protection records

Whereas farmers strive for continuous improvement to the environment and achieving high standards for environmental stewardship;

Whereas maintaining comprehensive records of crop protectant application information is an important stewardship practice and required by provincial regulations;

Whereas it is important to maintain accurate application records;

Whereas it is an unrealistic expectation that records be perfect;

Whereas the current fines for incomplete or missing low risk data related to crop protectant application are severe;

Whereas the repercussions of high penalty fines resulting from low risk infractions lead to the erosion of public trust of the agriculture industry as a whole;

Whereas minor errors in records occur there is no increased risk to human health or to the environment;

Therefore be it resolved following consultation with PEIFA Members, the PEIFA lobby the provincial government to review the regulations for crop protectant application records and amend the regulations to allow for the consideration of risk the missing data poses; and

Be it further resolved the provincial government review and amend penalties for noncompliance with regulations involving crop protection records.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 7– Crop Insurance

The Issue:
Crop Insurance programs have changed many times since they were first designed. The agriculture industry has changed as well. In today's markets, it is imperative risk be managed. The existing Crop Insurance programs should be reviewed and revamped to account for the types of risks that exist today.

Whereas climate change has brought forward droughts and floods to many parts of the World including PEI and sometimes in the same year;

Whereas the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) rules have not given producers access to new chemicals to kill wire worm, nor does it allow producers to use old chemicals that will eradicate the pest;

Whereas the marketplace is demanding a near perfect product;
Whereas there is more major crop diseases at work today than 50 years ago such as black leg and a strong strain of blight;
Whereas there have been rapid increases in farmer's costs of production and the major financial risks associated with that;
Whereas crop insurance programs are imperative to managing the risks that a farmer or a bank cannot hold solely on their own;

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA work to ensure crop insurance programs do not provide a drop in probable yield when a producer has a loss;

Be it further resolved that crop insurance programs provide productions guarantees that are provincial or national, or the producers own average, whichever is highest; and

Be it further resolved that in following the review, the new crop insurance programs have premiums that are deemed affordable by the farming community.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution # 8 – Mandatory Bill of Sale or Bill of Lading

The Issue:

When cattle producers deliver cattle to a beef processing plant such at the Atlantic Beef Products plant, they are giving a slip that confirms the cattle have been received. However, this slip is not a legal document and if an issue arises in the future about the whether or not an animal has been received, this document does not stand up in court. A legal Bill of Sale or Bill of Lading will provide that protection for the producer.

Whereas it is important that the producer is protected in the event that a dispute arises where one party claims an animal has not been received;

Whereas the current slip given to producers is not considered a legal document

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA work with the Provincial Government and to make it mandatory for the receiver to provide producers with a legal Bill of Sale or Bill of Lading whenever animals are received.

Resolution # 9 – Viewing Carcasses after Slaughter

The Issue:

Beef is graded by Canadian Meat Graders based on a variety of factors in order to determine its value when sold by beef processing facilitates to their customers and what they pay producers for that meat. Cattle producers are mailed the information as to what that grading is and are paid according to the grade. If an animal grades high, the price is favorable compared to an animal that grades poorly. Cattle producers should have the right to view the carcass after slaughter in order to explain why a certain grade has been given.

Whereas the difference in price between grades can sometimes be great and negatively impact the producer financially

Whereas the producer should have the right to be given an explanation for why their animal was graded a certain way

Therefore be it resolved the PEIFA work with the Provincial Government and the Atlantic Beef Plant to ensure producers are given the right to view carcasses on the rail after slaughter and given a full explanation as to why the meat was given the grade determined.

Resolutions Passed at the 2017 AGM

Resolution 10 – Marked Fuel

The Issue:
PEI Farmers have over the years increased their efficiencies of moving farm products from the field to storage. This was done by changing from tractors and wagons to trucks with large capacity boxes. During this change, famers have lost the ability to use their marked fule for aa large part of their farm business.

Whereas the federal government has decided that there will be a carbon tax placed on all fuels

Whereas Mr. Todd Dupuis, in his presentation to the Federation of Agriculture on January 27, 2017 declared that marked fuel will not be subject to a carbon tax.

Whereas PEI farmers us a large portion of their budget to purchase non-marked fuel for vehicles that take their products from field to storage.

Whereas all farm vehicles are registered as such and are issued with a farm licence plate.

Whereas farm plated vehicles are prohibited by law from transporting goods interprovincially

Therefore be it resolved that the PEI Federation of Agriculture lobby the Provincial Government to allow PEI Farmers to use marked fuel in all farm plated vehicles on PEI.

2016 PEIFA 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
- Willem VanderLeeuw- Member at Large
- Mary Robinson - Past President
- Robert Godfrey - 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
- Dale Murray - Director - PEI Hog Commodity Marketing Board
- Paul Croken - Director - PEI Horticulture Association
- Sandy MacKay - Director - PEI Certified Organic Growers Cooperative
- Fulton Hamill - Director - PEI Potato Board
- Richard Farmer - Director - PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association
- Ian Drake - Director - PEI Young Farmers Association
- Harry Elsinga - Director - PEI Sheep Breeders Association
- Willem VanderLeeuw - Director—PEI Strawberry Growers Association
- John Rowe –Director - PEI Woodlot Owners Association
- David MacNearney -Director-PEI Beekeepers Association

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Prince County

- Parker Ellis
- Andrew Lawless

Queens County

- Jennifer MacLeod
- Willem VanderLeeuw

Kings County

- Philip Bullpitt
- Keisha Rose

Federation Activities

Sale of Land to Non-Island Residents

Land that is sold to non-Island residents must be advertised for three months prior to the close of the sale. This law is in place in order to ensure Island residents get an opportunity to purchased the land first. To qualify as a resident, someone must live on PEI for a period of 12 consecutive months. The PEIFA has received several calls from Members citing examples where it is believed this law has allegedly not been adhered to on occasion.

The PEIFA spoke with Communities, Land and Environment Minister Robert Mitchell in February on this issue. Minister Mitchell acknowledged that he has heard similar complaints about the law and has spoken with IRAC to ensure the sale of agricultural land is "high on their radar." The PEIFA has also had informal chats with Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Alan McIsaac on this issue to make him aware of the Membership's concerns.

In early February, the PEIFA reached out to Scott Mackenzie, the CEO of IRAC to discuss the laws surrounding the sale of land to non-Island resident. Mr. Mackenzie explained that his organization is a regulatory body. IRAC's mandate is to provide recommendations to Cabinet who then ultimately makes the decisions. Mr. Mackenzie told the PEIFA he has been asked by Island residents to look into certain land purchases. He acknowledged that there have been cases where land deals have been declined based on the law. He advised the PEIFA to speak with elected officials about the laws as IRAC has no control over the rules. The PEIFA will continue to speak with government on this issue to ensure the laws are being followed.

CFA Annual General Meeting

The Canadian Federation of Canada held their Annual General Meeting on February 22-24, 2017 in Ottawa. Past President Mary Robinson has taken over as the PEIFA's representative on the CFA Board of Directors from Alvin Kennan. The PEIFA thanks Alvin for serving on the CFA Board on the organization's behalf.

President Mol, Past President Robinson and Executive Director Robert Godfrey attended the meeting to represent the PEIFA. 1st Vice President Grant Compton followed from home and had remote voting privileges.

Two resolutions went forward from the PEIFA and were passed. These resolutions were passed at the PEIFA AGM and are related to the harmonization of weight restrictions for transportation across Canada and into the US.

The meeting seen elections for CFA President and 1st Vice President. Ron Bonnet remains President of the CFA, while CFA now has a new 1st Vice President. Norm Hall of the Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan has taken over from Humphry Bannock of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

4R Nutrient Stewardship

The PEIFA continues to partake in the MOU signed in 2012 around 4R Nutrient Stewardship. This program has is about the efficient use of fertilizer. In January, the stakeholder committee on this issue has been expanded to include the three agri-retailers in the Province: PEI Agromart, Cavendish Agri-Services and McCain's. These agri-retailers have been added because the Committee is looking to certify as many acres as we can as using the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program.

The Committee has developed a set of tiers that qualify a producer as basic 4R, Intermediate 4R and Advanced 4R. The belief is that most producers are at the basic level – they are soil sampling and using the soil sample to make informed decisions regarding their rate of application of nutrients.

The goal is to showcase to the Government that the agriculture industry on PEI is taking real steps in regards to their nutrient applications. With a draft Water Act now released, the Committee felt it was imperative that the Government see real action on nutrient management. I encourage all members to visit www.fertilizercanada.ca/nutrient-stewardship/ to learn more, or call the office and speak with Robert Godfrey at 902-368-7289

Federation Activities

Soil Crop and Conservation Association

The SCCA AGM was held on March 1st and 2nd at the Rodd Royalty Inn of Charlottetown. This meeting was also combined with the 2017 Cereals and Oilseeds Workshop that was run by the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The two day event covered a number of sustainability initiatives as well as the sharing of information from government, stakeholders and academia. The PEIFA attended both days and took the opportunity to network and have informal discussions with stakeholders and government officials.

Vernon River Watershed and PEIFA Meeting

The Federation worked with the Vernon River Watershed to host a meeting with farmers and people in their area to talk about sustainability initiatives that the PEI agriculture industry is currently involved with.
John Phillips, the Coordinator of the East Prince Agri-Environment Group of growers in central PEI was a guest speaker. John spoke about a number of the groups initiatives including the use of cover crops and the planting of willow trees at the end of a number of potato fields. He generated considerable discussions with a number of the producers who attended this meeting.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Research Scientist Dr. Christine Nornoha also spoke to the group about the phase out of imidacloprid (Admire) and how the farming community may have to combat the Colorado Potato Beetle in the future. This too generated a significant amount of discussion.
Minister McIsaac was also in attendance for this meeting and the PEIFA took the opportunity to have informal discussions with him.

Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show

The PEIFA had a booth at the Bi-Annual Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show in Moncton, NB.
The event took place at the Moncton Coliseum on March 9-11, 2017 and featured displays from all over the region. A large contingent of Island farmers attended this event and it was great to see many of them stop by the display and speak with the PEIFA Staff. We are always eager to hear from our Members and hear any of the concerns they may have.

Federation Activities

Atlantic Federation of Agriculture

The four Atlantic Federations of Agriculture met on the side of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture meetings in Ottawa in February to discuss some of their priority areas, set a meeting date for the spring and outline a plan to meet with Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay.

The four Federations met with Minister MacAulay, his staff and some AAFC Departmental Staff on February 23rd, 2017 in Ottawa. They presented their document to those in attendance and stressed to the Minister that the four federations were in agreement with the contents of the document and that it was important that the Framework take into account all the regions in Canada. The Minister thanked the AFA for meeting with him and assured that our concerns would be passed on to the Department for consideration.

The PEIFA will be taking over as the Chair of the AFA starting at its next meeting on April 20th, 2017 in Halifax. The group plans to continue to push the Federal Government

Water Act

The Provincial Government released a Consultation Draft Water Act on March 16, 2017. The Government is encouraging people to read the draft and has planned four public meetings to allow people to offer their feedback on its contents before it goes to the Legislature either this spring or this fall for passage. The meeting dates and times:

- Thursday, March 30, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Kaylee Hall, Pooles Corner
- Monday, April 3, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Westisle Composite High School, Elmsdale
- Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Credit Union Place, Summerside
- Monday, April 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Murphy's Community Centre, Charlottetown

The PEIFA has set up a Board sub-Committee to discuss the Act and will be presenting on Monday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Some key new authorities the Act will enable:

◊ Right to amend, suspend, revoke or refuse an approval not in the public interest under the Act
◊ Provide greater protection for domestic water and environmental flows
◊ Hold water in reserve for distribution in the future
◊ Introduce timelines for approvals and provide rationale for refusals
◊ Establish a public reporting system through an online registry showing the status of water resources and water monitoring information.

The Act has established a "Low Capacity" threshold for water withdrawal that will required government approval if a person or company is to use between 25 - 346 m^3/day. Today, approval is only required when withdrawal exceeds 346 m^3/day.

Key New Powers include:

◊ Water Protection Order requiring a person, at their cost, to remedy any damage they caused to a water resource
◊ Emergency Field Orders to immediately cease an activity that may cause damage to the water resource and remedy whatever damage has been caused
◊ Order the repair, restoration and remedy of a water resource to the minimum standards required by legislation or higher.

PEIFA Annual Report

The PEIF A 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

The 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 and can be viewed there.

The Federation wants to thank Alvin Keenan for his 10 years of serving on the PEIFA Board of Directors. His voice of experience around the Board table will be missed and we are grateful for the time he has given to serving our Members.

The Federation wants to thank Don Godfrey for his 7 years of serving on the PEIFA Board of Directors as the PEI Potato Board representative. Don has been replaced by Fulton Hamill.

The Federation wants to thank Justin Rogers for serving two terms as the Prince County Representative on the PEIFA Board of Directors. We welcome Andrew Lawless to the Board who has taken up the reins from Justin.

The Federation wants to thank Paul Gallant for his 4 years of serving on the PEIFA Board of Directors as the Kings County representative. Paul has been replaced by Keisha Rose.

The PEI Federation of Agriculture would like to congratulate David and Brett Francis on being awarded the 2017 Gilbert Clements Award.
They 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.

The PEI Federation of Agriculture would also like to thank Fred Dollar for his years of service.

Fred served on the PEIFA Board Directors for 4 years as the Queen's County representative and on the PEIFA Executive as Member at Large. Fred has been replaced by Willem VanderLeeuw.

Fred is pictured below along side his son Kent.

During the Annual General Meeting, in lieu of speaker's gifts, the PEIFA decided to make a contribution to the PEI Farmers Helping Farmers to support their ongoing efforts in Kenya. Pictured below from left to right is David Mol, PEIFA President, Barry Cudmore, Board Member of the PEI Farmers Helping Farmers and Robert Godfrey, PEIFA Executive Director. Barry accepted the $180 payment on behalf of the organization.

PEIFA Annual General Meeting

On January 27th, 2017 the PEIFA held their Annual General Meeting at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown.

The speakers for the day included:

- Kim McConnell, one of the lead authors of a recent report dealing with Public Trust for the Agriculture Industry,
- Craig Klemmer, one of Farm Credit Canada's senior economists
- Portia MacDonald-Dewhirst, Executive Director of the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council.
- Ron Bonnett, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Todd Dupuis, Executive Director Environment, PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment

Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning Richard Brown and Wayne Easter, Malpeque MP spoke at the AGM Luncheon.

There were in excess of 120 Members in attendance at the Annual meeting and about 150 people attended the Luncheon. With 10 Resolutions passed dealing with land policy, environment, transportation, and marked fuel, the PEIFA is looking forward The Excellence in Agriculture Banquet that evening seen approximately 100 guests.

The PEIFA thanks the many sponsors who donated to the event and all those that were able to partake in the Federation's Trade Show that was held outside the main meeting room in the hall of the Confederation Centre. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming AGMS

- **PEI Certified Organic Producers Cooperative - March 29 at Farm Centre**
- **PEI Hog Marketing Board Meeting - March 23, Rodd Royalty Inn**
- **PEI Wild Blueberry Growers - April 4, 2017 Florence Simmons Hall**
- **Dairy Farmers of PEI - April 5, 2017 Summerside**
- **PEI Strawberry Growers Association - April 13, Summerside—Loyalist Inn**
- **PEI Woodlot Owners Association - April 1, Farm Centre**

Please contact Andrew Wood or Tim Seeber for more information on the Advance Payment Program.
Federation Members received preferred administration fees

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Examples of Discounts available for Federation Members for 2017

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Dodge Grand Caravan (Excl CVP - 29E)	**$9,600**
Dodge Grand Caravan CVP - 29E	**$8,700**
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Jeep Grand Cherokee (excl SRT8)	**$6,700**
Chrysler 300 / 300S / 300C (excl SRT8)	**$8,300**
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