Federation Happenings

Summer 2017

www.peifa.ca

As the summer quickly flies by us and the grain harvest being in earnest, the Federation has been hard at work gearing up for the fall and winter months with some new programming.

As this issue will include, the Federation has partnered alongside Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to fund a full business risk review of agriculture on Prince Edward Island. The Federation has always tried to be proactive and has done some great work on that front in the past, we often find ourselves in reactive mode. While we must always remain vigilant and prepared to react, there is a desire to get ahead of the game and be more proactive in identifying specific issues and working on them before they reach a boiling point. Being the united voice of Island farmers means we need to be constantly looking ahead and bringing more value to the farming community by helping to solve issues before they become problems. This will help us do that.

This study is going to include focus groups of producers, stakeholders and government leaders who work in the agriculture environment and are acutely aware of the issues we face. It will draw out not just the everyday risks we are well aware of such as market forces – and weather in a year like this one – but some of the underlying issues around transportation, climate change and succession just to name a few. It is important that we all work together, government and industry, to ensure a bright future.

I am happy to report that the work has already begun. To date, the PEIFA has hired the professional services of Alan Miller and his team at Dynamic Consulting as well as the risk expertise of Myers, Norris Penny to carry out this project. They will be coming to you, as producers here in the province, to identify what you see as risks to our industry, how large you feel those risks have the potential of being, and working towards solutions that benefit us all. I encourage you to work with us in getting this study complete by the end March so we can carry it forward in doing the hard work of mitigating and eliminating risk. You will see a survey in the PEIFA Today beginning in September and I encourage you to take a few brief moments to fill it out. Every bit of input is going to be important.

The Federation is also in the process of developing a Farm and Food Care PEI - a program that will tackle the growing Public Trust issues that have been growing within our industry for sometime. Similar organizations that carry the Farm and Food Care name exist in Ontario and Saskatchewan today and are made up of producers, processors, government and food retailers. Working together, they promote not just agriculture awareness, but food production awareness that makes it easy for people to understand. The Federation currently is close to hiring a new Coordinator and that person should be in place in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for more news on that front.

In addition to this work, the Federation has been busy working on the National Food Policy. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have begun the consultation phase for this project and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has wasted little time. CFA has been talking about this issue since 2009 and are very encouraged about the Government's intentions to move ahead. PEIFA Past President Mary Robinson has been given a leadership role on this file with the CFA giving the PEIFA an important voice in the lobby efforts to ensure the Food Policy does not forget the people who grow and raise the product.

There is much work to be done and the Federation welcomes your input. Never hesitate to drop by or call and let me know your thoughts. As you head to the fields—I want to wish you a safe and prosperous harvest.

Robert Godfrey, Executive Director

2017 PEIFA Board of Directors

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- 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

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Prince County

- Parker Ellis
- Andrew Lawless

Queens County

- Jennifer MacLeod
- Willem VanderLeeuw

Kings County

- Philip Bullpitt
- Keisha Rose

2017 PEIFA Golf Tournament

The 20th Annual PEIFA Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, August 10th at Countryview Golf Club in Fairview.

Thanks to all players and prize sponsors for making this a successful day!

Environmental Farm Plans

Do You Need Your EFP Updated?

PEI ENHANCED ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

The PEI Federation of Agriculture continues to offer Island producers the opportunity to participate in the Enhanced Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program. In order to ensure your farm remains eligible for provincial programs linked with Enhanced EFPs, please contact the Federation of Agriculture to schedule a time to review your Enhanced Environmental Farm Plan. Any EFP from 2012 or older expires at the end of 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program, please feel free to contact Matt Hughes or JoAnn Pineau with the Enhanced EFP Program at 368-7289.

EFP staff, JoAnn Pineau and Matt Hughes have been busy meeting with industry representatives and leading discussions on improving the effectiveness of the EFP program. The current EFP content is being reviewed, the aim is develop new content that better reflects current regional farming practices. JoAnn and Matt welcome input from producers of all commodities.
2017 is showing to be a positive year for the Environmental Farm Plan program. There has been great demand for the program this spring, from many different commodities. The EFP staff looks forward to working with producers, and to help develop an EFP for their operation.

On June 24th JoAnn and Matt participated in "Duck Day", an event hosted by Ducks Unlimited Canada at the Charlottetown Farm Centre. The EFP staff had an information booth, and discussed with the public what many Island farmers are doing to improve their environmental footprint. And how the EFP program helps farmers identify and assess environmental risk on their operation.

Farm Safety

Farm Safety Program
By Matt Hughes

On May 26th the Farm Safety Program hosted a Tractor Safety Day at the Kensington Fire Hall. The event was for students enrolled in the Kensington and Kinkora Academic Diploma Program. The day consisted of guest speakers from JVI driver training, Workers Compensation, Highway safety, and other agriculture industry representatives. The students spent the afternoon completing obstacle courses with various pieces of farm machinery, which were provided by Kensington Agriculture.

First Aid and CPR
Anyone requiring training in First Aid and or
CPR, courses are ongoing. Please contact Matt for further information on course dates.

Animal Husbandry Workshop
We are currently in the process of developing an animal husbandry workshop for producers. Any input or recommendations for the workshop would be appreciated. We want to make the event as beneficial as possible to our members. We are aiming to host the workshop during the upcoming winter.

Is there anything you would like to see done in Farm Safety?

The farm safety program is seeking input from our members on what you would like to see done in farm safety that isn't already being done. Are there any courses, services, or workshops that you would like to see offered? We want to serve our members the best we can and your feedback would be appreciated.
Please call or email Matt at the office mhughes@peifa.ca 902-368-7289.

Federation Activities

Climate Change Working Group

The Provincial Government's Climate Change Secretariat created an Agriculture Working Group this past spring to review sector specific recommendations provided by an energy consulting firm to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change in the agricultural sector on PEI.

The PEIFA and the PEI Potato Board as well as producers Ben Vos and Alvin Kennan joined Matt Ramsey of the Kensington North Watershed and government officials on this Committee.

The group has gone through seven recommendations and discussed them at length. They deal with:

Anaerobic Digestion
Nutrient Management
Conservation Cropping (reduced tillage, cover crops)
Potato Varieties (creation of new cultivates)
Cattle feeding strategies
Dairy milking/management systems

The recommendations were discussed by the Working Group and feedback was provided to the Provincial Climate Change Secretariat to consider as they develop a path forward.

Discussions centered on the practicality of the recommendations, the various steps required for them to be implemented and what type of incentives would need to be in place for them to materialize. In some cases, it was recognized that the recommendation itself would need to be changed or rewritten.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Communities Land and Environment are now drafting a report that summarizes the discussions this Working Group. It is anticipated that the Secretariat will come forward with their own report later this year and the Working Group will reconvene at that time to further discuss a path forward to reduce carbon emissions on PEI.

Pesticide Control Act (PCA) Review

The PEIFA and the PEI Potato Board met with the Department of Communities Land and Environment regarding the Pesticide Control Act regulations dealing with the Pesticide Applicator Certificate and pesticide records.

The Department asked the PEIFA and the PEI Potato Board to review two specific areas of the Act and make any recommended changes that they should consider. The PEIFA and the PEI Potato Board are currently in discussions and a draft set of recommendations was sent at the first of July for the Department's consideration. The aim is to simplify the current regulations surrounding spray records to make them more user friendly. The recommended changes are also centered around the desire for compliance versus enforcement to ensure producers are given the opportunity to learn rather than be issued a fine.

The PEIFA is using the recent AGM Resolution related to pesticide records as a guide for what these regulations should consider.

Federation Activities

Agri-Environmental Officers – Fish Mortalities

The Provincial Government's Agri-Environmental Unit will no longer be part of investigations related to fish mortalities.

This includes the collection of spray records or any compliance issues that may be in question related to the potential cause of fish mortality.

This change happened in the wake of last year's investigations of two fish mortality events on PEI. It was felt that this was an area beyond their jurisdiction and actually hurt their efforts to rebuild trust with producers across PEI.

Conservation Officers alone will handle the investigations going forward.

Water Act

The Government released a Consultation draft of the Water Act in March of 2016 with the intention of passing the Act through the spring sitting of the Legislature.

The PEIFA presented on April 10th in Charlottetown making several recommendations for their consideration. When the Legislature broke for the summer, it should be noted that the Water Act was not introduced for debate. It is expected that the legislation will be forth coming in this fall's session.

Regulations related to this Act are expected to follow in the fall of 2018. The PEIFA will continue to monitor the bill and it's contents to ensure Island farmer's concerns are addressed.

Atlantic Federation of Agriculture

The four Atlantic Federations of Agriculture met on the sidelines of the CFA Semi-Annual Conference being held in July in St. John's Newfoundland

The agenda included the Next Agriculture Policy Framework, Carbon Pricing/Climate Change, and Public Trust.

The four Atlantic Executive Directors recently had a call that reviewed each respective organization's AGM resolutions for the year. Areas of collaboration were discussed and will be further pursued in discussions expected to take place in July.

The PEIFA is the current Chair of the AFA and will remain in this role for the year. The next meeting will take place in October when the Federations sit down with the four Atlantic Deputy Ministers of Agriculture to discuss regional issues.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

The PEIFA attended the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) Semi-Annual Meetings in St. John's Newfoundland on July 17-20th. The meeting focused on a number of key topics including the Next Agriculture Policy Framework, Public Trust, Labour, National Food Strategy and International Trade including NAFTA.

At the end of the meetings, the CFA organized an annual roundtable meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture and the agricultural industry. PEIFA Past President and CFA Board Member Mary Robinson led a discussion during this meeting on the importance of the National Food Policy being a strategy that is forward looking for years to come and inclusive of primary producers.

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Alan McIsaac and his Deputy Minister John Jamieson were both in attendance for this meeting.

Canadian Agriculture Partnership - New Framework

The next Agricultural Policy Framework has been announced. The Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) is a five year, $3 billion deal between the federal, provincial and territorial governments for the agriculture and agri-food sector that will begin on April 1, 2018. It was announced in St. John's on July 21 following a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Minister's of Agriculture.

The agreement is structured much the same way Growing Forward 2 is structured today and will support priorities in the areas of: science, research and innovation; markets and trade; and business risk management. New to the program is environmental sustainability and climate change; value-added agriculture and processing; and public trust. These welcome additions to the programming will tackle some of the emerging issues the sector has been having and the PEIFA looks forward to seeing further specifics related to that type of programming.

There has been some changes made to the Business Risk Management suite of programs. Notably:

AgriStability:

The Reference Margin Limit (RML) within the program will be capped to ensure a more equitable level of support for all producers. The intent behind this cap is to reduce the extent to which the RML could impact producers' reference margins, thus reducing inequalities that exist between different forms of production. The cap was established at 70% of a producer's reference margin, meaning that the RML could not result in a reference margin being limited by more than 30%.

While this is welcome news, the PEIFA lobbied for a more fundamental change. We had asked that the Cap be established at 85% of a producers reference margin and remain hopeful that this change will come in a further review of this program.

AgriInvest:

Beginning in the 2018 year, the maximum Allowable Net Sales eligible under AgriInvest will be reduced to $1 million – down from $1.5 million today. Furthermore, annual government contributions will be limited to $10,000 per AgriInvest account, down from $15,000 today. The PEIFA is disappointed with this change as it further reduces the efficacy of AgriInvest and appears solely motivated by federal budgetary concerns.

Business Risk Management Program Review

The Government announced their intent to undertake a review of the BRM programs. The Government statement announced this review was to "assess program effectiveness and impact on growth and innovation...with a specific focus on AgriStability."

The PEIFA lobbied alongside the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for this change. And while the PEIFA is happy to see this announcement, the details around the review remain largely unclear. It is expected this review will begin this fall before CAP is implemented in April of 2018. The review will have the mandate to enact changes to BRM programs midway through CAP and the expectation is that any clear recommendations for reform will be implemented. PEIFA will continue to monitor the progress on the review and work with our other Federation colleagues in Atlantic Canada to provide input as it moves forward.

Women in Agriculture Award

The Women's Institute of PEI recently named PEIFA Past President Mary Robinson as the 2017 recipient of the Women in Agriculture Recognition Reward.

This award is presented bi-annually "to recognize an Island woman making a major contribution to the PEI agriculture industry within the last five years."

The Federation put forward Mary's name through the Augustine Cove Women's' Institute and she received the award at the Women's Institute of PEI's AGM during their luncheon. Congratulations Mary!

2018 Calendar in the works

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 mhughes@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.

Changes to Pesticide Control Act Regulations

The PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment have made some changes to the *Pesticides Control Act* Regulations. Many of these changes focus on the way you store and transport pesticides or pesticide-treated seed.

Make sure you review the Regulations and are familiar with all requirements. This includes always reading and following the pesticide product label.

To get you started, here is a summary of the requirements for storing and transporting pesticides:

Storing Pesticides

Proper storage of pesticides is important. It protects you, people working on your farm, the wider community, and the environment.

Pesticides must be stored separately from food, feed, or other items that might be consumed by people or animals and at least 8 metres away from materials that might react with pesticides, like fuel and fertilizer. Always store pesticides in their original container.

Your storage facility must

- be free of waste materials other than pesticide containers;
- have a water-impervious floor (e.g., concrete) with no floor drain;
- be ventilated (naturally or mechanically);
- have signs within storage areas and on doors that read "no smoking" and "warning – pesticide storage area" (ask an Ag-Environment Officer if they have any signs on hand that they can give you);
- be locked or secured; and
- have safety equipment for emergency situations, including a spill kit.

Keep emergency phone numbers posted by phone that is nearest to your storage facility. You must also maintain two copies of a product inventory and Safety Data Sheets (SDS); one kept in the storage facility and a second kept in a separate location. Product inventories include lists of products and estimated quantities normally held in storage. Make sure you tell the local fire department where you keep this second product inventory. This will allow them to better respond and protect themselves in the event of a fire.

Transporting Pesticides

Pesticides must be transported in a way that does not cause harm or injury to you, other people, property, and the environment.

Never transport pesticides in the same part of the vehicle as the driver or passengers, food, feed, household furnishings, toiletries, clothes, bedding, or similar items.

Make sure the pesticide is in the original manufacturer's sealed container and this container is kept upright at all times and secured to the vehicle.

Never leave pesticides unattended in a vehicle in a public place unless the pesticide is locked in the vehicle or in a locked compartment.

Seed treatment businesses must include a copy of the pesticide product label to anyone who purchases treated seed.

These changes came into effect on July 1, 2017.

For more information on these changes, please consult the Regulations at:
www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/pesticides-control-act/general-regulations

or contact Thane Clarke at the Pesticide Regulatory Program (ktclarke@gov.pe.ca or 902.368.5599)

Changes to Pesticide Control Act Regulations

Transporting Treated Seed

Treated seed must be transported in sacks, sealed containers, or in bulk. Sacks and sealed containers must be labeled with the words "seed treated with (name of pesticide). Do not use for food or feed". Seed transported in bulk does not have to be labeled, but it does need to be covered with a tarp or similar cover to prevent spills.

Seed treatment businesses must include a copy of the pesticide product label to anyone who purchases treated seed.

These changes came into effect on July 1, 2017.

For more information on these changes, please consult the Regulations online at:
www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/pesticides-control-act/general-regulations

or contact Thane Clarke at the Pesticide Regulatory Program ktclarke@gov.pe.ca or 902.368.5599

PEIFA, Island Lime and PEI Agromart 2017 Scholarship Winner

The PEIFA has again partnered with Island Lime and the PEI Agromart to offer a $2000 scholarship to a deserving member or daughter/son of a member that is pursuing higher educational training. Below is a picture of the 2017 recipient Robert Larsen along side (from left to right): Andrew Robinson, Mary Robinson, Robert Larsen, Robert Godfrey.

Thank you to Island Lime and PEI Agromart for their support of this scholarship

Business Risk Assessment of PEI Agriculture Industry

The PEIFA has partnered with Agriculture Food Canada and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to conduct a Business Risk Assessment of the PEI Agriculture Industry. AAFC has come forward with $300,500 in funding and the Province has come forward with $10,000 in order to fund this important piece of work

In the early part of fall, Myers Norris Penny (MNP) will begin surveying producers with questions related to risk both on their own operation, their own commodity as well as the industry as a whole. Beginning in the late fall, producers focus groups will be developed in order to narrow down the specific risks followed by two more rounds of focus groups over the winter to narrow the list, solicit ideas on how the risks can be mitigated and finally to review potential solutions to these risks.

The final product will be brought forward in the form of a final report that will be presented to both levels of Government and to the PEIFA Membership. The aim is to develop a strategic direction for the agriculture industry that can be pursued by the Federation in partnership with AAFC and the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Producers can expect to see the survey and possibly be asked to participate in some of these focus groups. We encourage you to be involved and help the Federation complete this important piece of work. It is for the benefit of the industry as a whole and the Federation is excited to be working with Government to move the industry forward.

Malpeque Member of Parliament Wayne Easter, Minister of Agriculture And Agri-Food Canada Lawrence MacAulay and PEIFA President David Mol discuss the AgriRisk Project at Harrington on August 4th, 2017

4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP

FARM TOUR & TAILGATE MEETING

Rollo Bay Holdings Ltd.
August 30, 2017 at 11am

Location:
310/312 Souris River Road
Souris, PE | C0A 2B0

Participation by: Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RSVP To:
agiamberardino@fertilizercanada.ca

AGENDA

11AM
PEI 4R Demonstration Trial
Alvin Keenan, Grower
Steve Watts, Genesis Crop Systems Inc.
Dr. David Burton, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

12PM
Lunch
BBQ & refreshments provided by
Souris & Area Branch: PEI Wildlife Federation

Prince Edward Island CANADA

FERTILIZER CANADA

Prince Edward Island POTATOES

Kensington North Watersheds Association

Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture

cleanfarms
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Return your unwanted or obsolete pesticides and livestock medications

Farmers: safely dispose of your unwanted agricultural pesticides and livestock medications from November 6–17, 2017, at one of the following locations, for no charge:

ALBANY
PEI Agromart
1804 Route 115
902-437-6666

BLOOMFIELD
McCain Fertilizer
31 Gard Road
902-853-4568

CHARLOTTETOWN
Cavendish Agri Services
19 Riverside Drive
902-566-5597

NEW PERTH
McCain Fertilizer
4763 Baldwin Road
902-838-2872

O'LEARY
Cavendish Agri Services
41 North Street
902-859-2200

SUMMERSIDE
McCain Fertilizer
168 Greenwood Drive
902-888-5571

TRAVELLERS REST
Cavendish Agri Services
848 Read Drive
902-436-4884

Note: Obsolete pesticides and livestock medications will only be accepted from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at each site on the dates indicated.

For more information: 1-877-622-4460 cleanfarms.ca

Please contact Andrew Wood or Tim Seeber for more information on the Advance Payment Program.
Federation Members received preferred administration fees
(Please contact the Agricultural Insurance office to forward crop insurance paperwork to Tim or Andrew)

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Farm Credit Canada
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