



NLFA Hosts Agriculture Industry Symposium in St. John's

January 23, 2025 – The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) is bringing agriculture leaders together in St. John's for the annual Agriculture Industry Symposium from January 28-30.

The 2.5-day, in-person event is being held at the Delta Hotels St. John's Conference Centre and will provide farmers and agriculture stakeholders with educational and networking opportunities.

The theme this year is "Cultivating Tomorrow: Regeneration & Resilience," which will be featured through keynote speakers, panel discussions, and information sessions. Attendees will also enjoy the opening reception, movie-night, and awards banquet featuring locally-sourced food and beverages where possible.

Agenda highlights include:

- Peter "Wheat Pete" Johnson from RealAg Radio will speak at the welcoming reception on January 28th.
- Shaun Haney from RealAgriculture will record a live podcast during his keynote speech on January 29th, which will include an Agronomist Panel on "Nitrogen Management in Cropping Systems".
- Ben Hartman from Clay Bottom Farm will speak on "The Lean Farm: Ideas for Profitable, Climate-Smart Farming".
- Rosalie Gillis-Madden from Farmers for Climate Solutions will host a Roundtable on "Identifying management priorities for nutrient, soil, water and other environmental benefits".
- Three plenary sessions on January 30th will feature information relevant to a) Fruit & Vegetable Growers, b) Apiculture & Bee Health, and c) Beef & Sheep Producers.
- The Producer Panel will bring insights on challenges and experiences from local farmers.

The Symposium will also include the NLFA Annual General Meeting, where voting on the executive positions of President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Director-at-Large will take place. The NL Beekeepers Association, Fruit & Vegetable Growers of NL, and NL Cattlemen's Association will also be hosting their Annual General Meetings.

Funding for the Agriculture Industry Symposium is partially provided by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion agreement between the federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and \$2.5-billion that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

To learn more about the Agriculture Industry Symposium, visit nlfa.ca/AgSymposium2025.

Quotes

“Farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador work hard every day, often in the face of various economic and environmental pressures. The Agriculture Industry Symposium is a wonderful opportunity for folks to come together to learn, collaborate, and build an even more resilient and prosperous sector.”

- *The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food*

“Continued collaboration is key to the continued growth of Newfoundland and Labrador’s strong, vital agriculture sector. The annual Agriculture Industry Symposium is once again bringing the province’s farmers, producers, agriculture professionals and commodity groups together to share experiences and expertise, avail of advice and resources, and connect with colleagues. The Provincial government is pleased to be a part of it.”

- *Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture*

“It’s beneficial for our farmers and industry partners to come together at events like this to discuss the growth of the sector and collaborate on creating a stronger and more sustainable agriculture industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. Our team has been working hard to make this year’s event a success, and we’re glad to be able to include provincial commodity groups in the planning this year.”

- *Wayne Simmons, NLFA President*

About NLFA

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) is an organization representing farmers and farm groups in the province. Our motto is “farmers helping farmers” and we believe that through sharing information and speaking with a united voice, farmers can work more effectively for the betterment of the agriculture industry. NLFA is partially funded by the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador through the Labour Market Partnerships agreement.

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