

Agriculture Industry Symposium 2026

“Fifty Years Strong: Cultivating Legacy, Leading change”

Day 1 Tuesday, January 27th, 2026	
12:00 – 2:00 pm	NLFA Board of Directors Meeting
3:00 – 5:00 pm	NLLL Steering Committee Meeting
3:00 – 5:00 pm	AITC Annual General Meeting
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Women in Agriculture NL
6:30 pm	50 th Anniversary President’s Reception
Day 2 Wednesday, January 28th, 2026	
7:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast, Main Restaurant
8:00 am	Registration
8:30 - 8:45 am	Welcome: Wayne Simmons, President of the NLFA Greetings from Minister Pleaman Forsey, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
8:45 – 9:15 am	Keynote Speaker: Steve Watts, Genesis Crop Systems
9:15 – 9:45 am	From Soil to Solution: Updates from NL Living Lab Presenters: Linda Jewell – Agriculture and Agrifood Canada Tobias Laengle – Agriculture and Agrifood Canada Charles Manful – Memorial University Crystal McCall – Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
9:45 – 10:15	Building farmland resilience for long-term profitability, Ruth McCabe
10:15 – 10:35 am	Networking Break and Trade Show
10:35 – 11:35 am	"Managing Risk, Protecting Farms: How Business Risk Management Programs Support Newfoundland and Labrador Producers" Presenters: Jennifer Eustace, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands James Dawson, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands Sharon Wright, Wright's Family Farm Melvin Rideout, Rideout Farm Inc.
11:30 – 12:15 pm	The Recovering Farmer – A Journey through the Labyrinth of Anxiety and Depression Presented Gerry Friesen AKA The Recovering Farmer Agricultural and rural health and wellness advocate, retired hog farmer, and author of <i>“The Recovering Farmer – A Journey through the Labyrinth of Anxiety and Depression.”</i>
12:15 – 1:00 pm	Luncheon Presentation from Dalhousie University
1:00 – 2:30 pm	Parallel Sessions
Parallel A: Horticultural	
A.1 (15 Mins)	Evaluating Soil Parameters from Different Cropping Systems for Improved Soil Health Monitoring Presenter: Crystal McCall, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands Yeukai Katanda, Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands

A.2 (15 Mins)	Fertigation as a Nitrogen Management Tool Presenter: Krishna Kaja, On Farm Climate Action Fund NL
A.3 (20 Mins)	TBD, Steve Watts, Genesis Crop Systems
A.4 (35 Mins)	Nitrogen BMP Co-Development: Strip Trial Learnings in Action Presenter: Rodney Reid
Parallel B: Livestock	
B.1 (40 Mins)	Rotational Grazing and the benefits of collaboration to support soil health Presenter: John Duynisveld, Holdanca Farms, Nova Scotia
B. 2 (40 Mins)	Fencing and Watering Systems to manage your herd health and pasture resilience Presenter: Daryl Stoltz, Quality Sheep, PEI
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Networking Break and Trade Show
3:00 – 3:20 pm	Drone Technology Presenter: Randell Greene – NLVC Drone
3:20 – 4:10 pm	The Lonely Man Project: “Supporting Men and the Families Who Love Them” Presenter: Bill Jeffery, Jeffery Counselling and Wellness
4:10 – 4:15 pm	Wrap Up
4:15 – 6:00 pm	Relax and unwind...
4:30 – 6:30 pm	AGMs for Various Commodity Organizations
6:00 – 7:30 pm	NL Living Lab Focus Group – Survey in Real Time
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Networking Reception Hosted by: NL Institute of Agrologists Dalhousie University
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Screening of a Mental Health Movie, Presented by AgriCare Deep Rooted- A Short Documentary Exploring the Mental Health Crisis in Canadian Agriculture Followed by a panel discussion: Panelists Peter Parsons - NL Mental Health Programming Bill Jeffery: Lonely Man's Project Gerry Friesen: Farmer, Author MC: Kylie Stokes, AgriCare Program Manager, NLFA
Day 3, Thursday, January 29, 2026	
8:30 – 9:45 am	NLFA AGM – Closed Session
9:45 – 10:30 am	NLFA AGM – Open Session
10:30 – 11:00 am	Networking Break and Trade Show
11:00 – 12:00 pm	"Stronger Farms Through Collaboration: Supporting Newfoundland and Labrador Agriculture Today and Tomorrow" Panel Discussion: Representatives of the divisions at the Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands Moderator: Christa Wright, Industry Development Manager, NLFA
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 – 2:00 pm	"National Leadership, Local Impact: How Canada's Agriculture Organizations Support Newfoundland and Labrador Farms"

	<p>The National Panel will highlight the work of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, and Farm Management Canada, and how their national initiatives support and strengthen farms across Newfoundland and Labrador. Panelists will share insight on advocacy, labor, and farm business management, with a focus on the practical value these organizations deliver at the farm level.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Keith Currie, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture</p> <p>Jennifer Wright, Executive Director, Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council</p> <p>Nick Oakley, Business Development Lead, Farm Management Canada</p> <p>Moderator: Christa Wright, Industry Development Manager, NLFA</p>
2:00 – 3:00 pm	<p>“Lesson from the Fire Line: Preparing Farms for Wildfires”</p> <p>Presented by Tony Mulrooney, Local Firefighter and Blueberry Farmer, NL</p>
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Networking and Trade Show
3:30 – 5:00 pm	<p>Round Table Discussion for the Agriculture Industry Sector</p> <p>Harvesting Ideas: Collaborative dialogue to address shared industry challenges</p> <p>Moderators:</p> <p>NLFA Team</p>
5:00 pm	Wrap Up
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Refresh and recharge
6:30 pm	<p>50th Anniversary Celebrations</p> <p>Farmers Welcome Reception</p>
7:00 pm	Gala and Awards Banquet
9:00 – Midnight	Dance and refreshments