



**Annual
Report
2022**



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President's Message

2022 was certainly an interesting year to say the least. We saw numerous record-breaking events including extremely high temperatures, wildfires, drought, record rainfall, hurricane devastation, as well as high fertilizer prices and soaring fuel prices.

Several of these record-breaking events made it a very challenging year for our farmers. While the high temperatures were great for enjoying summer in Newfoundland, the wildfires and drought that came with it posed a challenge. We saw fires threatening farmland and animals in the Central region, forcing farmers to rehome their animals and be ready to evacuate at moments notice themselves. Because of drought on the Avalon, farmers mowed their second cut of hay to try and stimulate growth for a 3rd cut and then they were met with record breaking rainfall and localized flooding.

Every farmer in Newfoundland and Labrador was affected by the high cost of fertilizer and fuel. As farmers, we are very thankful that our government was willing to step up to the plate and help with fertilizer costs through the Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program (PAAP).

In July at the Calgary Stampede, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced that the NLFA was awarded one of nine provincial Agricultural Climate Solutions Living Labs Projects. This Living Labs – NL project will see the NLFA receive \$2.8 million over the next 5 years in conjunction with its partners to conduct producer-driven research on Climate Change.

We were very sorry to see our Vice-President, Rodney Reid resign from the Executive and Board of Directors, but were quite pleased when he applied for and was hired as the Climate Change Manager, as project lead for Living Labs – NL.

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministers Roundtable was held in Saskatoon in July. Agriculture



Wayne Simmons, President NLFA

“ Every farmer in Newfoundland and Labrador was affected by the high cost of fertilizer and fuel. As farmers, we are very thankful that our government was willing to step up to the plate and help with fertilizer costs through the Provincial Agrifoods Assistance Program (PAAP). ”

Ministers from across Canada met with the Federal Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau to complete the Next Policy Framework. It is now known as the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership. This new 5-year deal will inject \$500 million in new funds, representing a 25% increase in the cost-shared portion of the partnership.

In late September, Hurricane Fiona hit Atlantic Canada. The devastation that was seen in the agriculture sector across Nova Scotia and PEI was like nothing anyone had ever seen before. Crops were destroyed and barns and

building leveled. It will take years for these farmers to rebuild from the destruction. Here in Newfoundland, while the damage in the agriculture industry was minimal, some lost corn crops. However, on the Southwest Coast, the devastation was unbelievable and their journey to rebuild and replace will take years.

In 2022, Agriculture in the Classroom returned to in-person events, along with the return of an in-person Open Farm Day, and the ever-popular Agricultural Expo's returned after a two-year hiatus. It was quite evident from the high number of individuals who attended both Expo events in Corner Brook and Grand Falls-Windsor that public events such like these were long overdue.

After two years of exploring ways to secure a source of funding to hire a new General Manager and additional staff, the NLFA signed a three-year Labour Management Project with the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills worth \$2 million. This funding will be used to establish a west coast office that will be home to five new staff, including the new general manager.

We are thrilled that the NLFA will now have a presence across the island and we look forward to working more closely with the Department of Fisheries, Forest and Agriculture with the Corner Brook office.

In closing, I would like to thank members, staff, Executive and Board of Directors for their commitment to the NLFA. We look forward to exciting things to come in 2023.



NLFA Board of Directors

The Executive of the NLFA for 2022:

- Wayne Simmons** – President
- Rodney Reid** – Vice President
(departed July 2022)
- Terri Lynn Robbins** – Secretary-Treasurer
- Andy Wright** – Director at Large
- Eugene Legge** – Director at Large

The Board of Directors for 2022

- Nelson Fagan** – Director for Cattleman's Association
- Corey Reid** – Director for the Cranberry Association of NL
- Melvin Rideout** – Director for NL Horticulture
- Desmond Sellars** – Director for Labrador
- Ian Hussey** – Director for NL Beekeeping Association
- Kayla Minnett** – Director for NL Young Farmers Forum

Vacancies

- Director for Pork Producers Association of NL
- Director for Landscape NL
- Director for NL Farm Women's Association
- NL Fur Breeders Association

Staff at the NLFA

- Maureen Foley** – Little Green Thumbs Coordinator
- Lisa Davis** – Outreach Coordinator
- Chelsea Foley** – Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator
- Rodney Reid** – Climate Change Manager



NLFA Annual General Meeting 2022

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture hosted its 47th Annual Workshop and General Meeting as an online series on January 26, 27, and 31, 2022.

While there were initial plans to host an in-person meeting this year, with the arrival of the Omicron variant and the health orders in response to it, we made the switch back to an online event to adapt to the new reality.

Last year's theme was *Sustainable Agriculture in NL*. There was a strong focus on how to run a more sustainable farm, while also maintaining or improving profitability.

This was NLFA's second online AGM and workshop, after last year's event. The feedback has been positive and we feel as if we have been adapting well to the world of virtual events. It drew about 70 attendees.

The Honourable Derrick Bragg, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, greeted delegates and provided comments to open the proceedings on January 26th.

Event speakers included Carl Duivenvoorden, an environmental steward, writer, and seed potato expert; Cedric MacLeod, a beef producer and agronomist; and Ivan Emke, a professor, podcaster, and local food enthusiast.

This Workshop Session, as well as Annual General Meeting was beneficial to farmers and the agriculture sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. This workshop enhanced the agriculture industry's ability to adapt to a changing climate, and the Annual General Meeting also helped to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador's agricultural industry continues to prosper and address the food security issues in this province.



NLFA Annual General Meeting 2022 con't



One of the highlights of the AGM night, on January 31, was the awards presentation. Warren's Farm of Springdale received the Environmental Award; while the Outstanding Contribution Award went to Melvin Rideout, Sr. Gerard Cormier was also recognized for his induction into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame. Congratulations are extended to all the honourees for well-deserved recognition.

We held our Nominations and Elections as part of the AGM. Rodney Reid returned as Vice President, and Andy Wright joined as Director-at-Large.

Funding to host the workshop was provided by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative intended to foster innovation, competitiveness and adaptability in the agriculture and agrifoods industry.



Agriculture Expo

Agriculture Expos Take Place for the First Since 2019

One of the largest agriculture shows in the province, the Agriculture Expo highlights the agriculture industry and provides an opportunity for producers to display and sell their products.

Organized by the NL Federation of Agriculture, the provincial government supports the Agriculture Expo in funding and staffing key parts of the show. Without this support, the show would not be a success.

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19, The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture was excited to offer two Agriculture Expos this year. The first expo took place September 30th to October 2nd, 2022 at Civic Center in Corner Brook, while the second event took place at the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium in Grand Falls-Windsor from October 14th to October 16th. Key objectives of the show include:

- 1) Raising agriculture awareness within the province;
- 2) providing an opportunity to network and meet specialists within the agriculture sector;
- 3) Providing an avenue for producers to sell and generate revenue;
- 4) Educating the public on simple ways to include more local foods in day-to-day eating.

Over 5096 people visited the show in Corner Brook, and 3116 attended in Grand Falls-Windsor. The expos featured a petting farm, cooking demonstrations, informational booths, farm presentations and agriculture products from all different sectors in the province. The Agriculture Expo

provides an excellent opportunity for businesses and organizations to highlight local agriculture products and services to the public, increase awareness and attract new customers.

Hiring top-quality chefs to perform cooking demonstrations is essential in delivering a high-quality product and is a tremendous drawing card. The cooking demos help to introduce cooking techniques and different ways to prepare produce in an easy, tasty way. The cooking demonstrations are very high in value, and people enjoy watching the chefs prepare dishes and taste the food. The demos were well received; people interacted with the chefs and took lots of recipes and tips from them. The audience was encouraged to ask questions during each session. All recipes were uploaded to the website in a printable format.

The Agriculture Expo featured other exciting things for the public throughout the weekends including: Petting Farm, Little Green Thumbs Culinary Demonstration, Children's area, Farmers' Market, Storytime with a Farmer, Farmer Features and much more!



Membership Program

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture has been offering members its group benefits program, AgriVantage for over 16 years.

Through the Medavie Blue Cross plan, NLFA members (along with eligible dependents) are offered a comprehensive group insurance program designed to meet the needs of producers. The plan provides:

- Life and Accident insurance at competitive rates
- Robust health plan that provides coverage for prescription drugs, programs and services to manage your chronic conditions, mental health practitioners and medical services and supplies such as hearing aids, diabetic equipment and more.
- A comprehensive dental program that covers routine dental visits all the way to orthodontics.

The AgriVantage program offers great value to members with a full suite of benefits and discounts from retailers and other businesses including WestJet, PAL Airlines, AVIS, National Car Rental, Steele Hotels, Kent, Marks, Terminix, Western Petroleum, NL Kubota Ltd. and more.

Our members also see advantages beyond the great discounts. NLFA is the voice of the industry and is committed to delivering beneficial programs for its members. Members also receive lower rates on NLFA events, such as registration at the Federation AGM; and industry members are able to vote and hold office with the Federation.

Maximize your savings with the AgriVantage Program by becoming a member today. In the process you can help build a strong and united voice for the agriculture industry in this province.

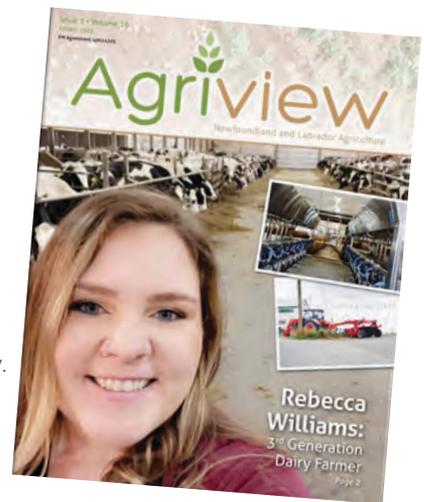
Current members receive an invoice for membership renewal in the mail. To make it even easier, payment may now be made by E-Mail Money Transfer.

We will continue our efforts to improve upon the AgriVantage Program to bring even more benefits and discounts to our members.

For more details, please visit our website, www.nlfa.ca and click on the 'Becoming a Member' link. If you have any questions, please contact the office at (709) 747-4874 or info@nlfa.ca.

AgriView

AgriView is a great way for the Federation of Agriculture to promote and create awareness of what's happening in the agriculture industry. This magazine is published three times a year (fall, winter and summer). It is also available in digital format on our website, <https://www.nlfa.ca/>



Each issue of *AgriView* features the latest happenings in our industry. The format regularly includes a profile of a local farmer titled 'Who is on the farm,' Feature stories and other articles under the headings of Events & Happenings and New & Exciting. The most recent edition of *AgriView* is the fall 2022 edition. It features a story about a young farmer from Cormack, Nathan Dennis.

AgriView is also available at a variety of events such as Career and Agriculture Expos and is distributed to other organizations and groups such as 4-H clubs, high schools, post-secondary schools and Farmers Markets. It is a fantastic medium for promoting events, sharing

information about programs and projects and most importantly it gives our members a place to get their message out to the public.

The next edition of *AgriView* will be published in mid-February. We encourage everyone to browse through a copy. Pick one up or read it online and let us know what you think. Your feedback is important to us. We also welcome all commodity groups and individual members to submit story ideas or finished articles they would like to share.

Open Farm Day

Farmers Welcome Visitors on Open Farm Day
Farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador opened their doors on September 18th to give the public a first-hand look at how local farms contribute to Canadian agriculture. Several farms participated in this year's Open Farm Day: Robbins Family Farm in Deer Lake, Three Mile Ridge in Lethbridge, Lester's Farm Chalet in St. John's and Campbellton Berry Farm in Campbellton. Lester's Farm Market in St. John's and Wright's Family Farm in Pasadena participated by giving out various promotional items.

The NL Federation of Agriculture hosted an Open Farm Day Contest where people posted pictures of themselves visiting local farms to enter to win a modular garden. The winner of this contest was Amber-Rae Pittman. An activity book was also developed for this event.

"Open Farm Day" provides a unique opportunity for the public to gain an awareness and appreciation for the agricultural products they use daily. Creating awareness of the agriculture industry in the province is an important objective for our organization. Events, like Open Farm Day, connect the public to their local producers and raise the profile of topics like food security while families enjoy a fun day on the farm," said Wayne Simmons, NLFA President.



Atlantic Federation of Agriculture

The four Atlantic federations of agriculture: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador continue to collaborate and work collectively on pan-Atlantic issues that pertain to agriculture and the agri-food production industry.

With the pandemic still at the forefront of discussion, there were few virtual meetings held in 2022. The Federations plan to hold more meetings in 2023.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture's (CFA) 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), taking place at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel from March 6 – 7, 2023 brings together farm leaders from across the country as well as industry stakeholders and government representatives to help set the priorities for Canadian Agriculture in the coming year.



Agriculture in the Classroom NL Program

Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) continues to deliver agriculture education in a fun, interactive, hands-on, virtual and inquiry-based learning manner. AITC-NL strives to connect youth to agriculture through education.

The AITC-NL program continues to expand and reach our goal of connecting students from K to 12 to agriculture. Our program is only as strong as the dedication and passion from the members of the AITC Steering Committee, farmers and volunteers. AITC-NL had over 400 volunteers last year assist us in achieving our success

Thank You! with all programs and events throughout the year. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone that believes in our organization and donates their time to us.

AITC-NL would like to thank our partners the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture and Canadian Agricultural Partnership. We would like to thank the community partners and business/commodities that support our program. We would also like to thank the teachers and administrators from all the schools across Newfoundland and Labrador that opened up their classrooms to us.

Here are some of the initiatives worked on throughout this year:

Canada's Agriculture Day

Canada's Agriculture Day is a time to showcase all of the amazing things happening in our industry and create a closer connection with consumers about where their food comes from and the people who produce it. This year, Canada's Agriculture Day was February 22, 2022. As part of the celebrations, Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador (AITC-NL) hosted a virtual

event with St. Mary's Elementary, Waterford Bridge Road, St. John's, with 200 students, staff and teachers. The event included interactive presentations and hands-on activities for all students through Google Classroom. To kick off the event, greetings were brought to the students from the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture from Minister Bragg, the Department of Education from Minister Osborne and the NL Federation of Agriculture from Terri Lynn Robbins, Chair of AITC-NL and Treasurer of the Federation.

The kindergartens to Grade 3 classes participated in doing the Living Necklaces with AITC-NL and the Grade 4s to 6s participated in doing the Three Essential Nutrients bracelets with AITC-NL. Students received Canada's Agriculture Day stickers and tattoos, as well as placemats with agriculture facts on it. AITC-NL also provided every student with a lunch bag for their lunch that was provided.



Chicken Farmer's of Newfoundland and Labrador provided a donation of chicken for chicken wraps. School Milk Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador donated milk for all students for their lunch as well. Lunch was prepared and delivered by Belbin's Grocery in St. John's, NL. Agropur

Agriculture in the Classroom NL Program con't

also donated ice cream sandwiches for the student's recess which was delivered by AITC-NL.

AITC-NL also shared a virtual performance from JUNO Award winning children's music group The Swinging Belles from St. John's. The band, who perform in a swing jazz style, consists of vocalists Laura Winter and Erin Power, and guitarist Duane Andrews. 119 teachers and the teachers at St. Mary's Elementary received the link for The Swinging Belles and had a great time participating in the concert. Over **2700 students** tuned in for the performance.

The NL Young Farmer's Forum, along with Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) hosted a virtual Young Farmer's Panel for high school students on February 22, 2022. Roughly 70 students participated in the live event with additional requests from teachers to view the recording later. Four young farmers from the agriculture community who chose farming as a career spoke candidly to the students about what they do and why they chose their career path.

The panel consisted of: Susan Lester, a sixth-generation fruit and vegetable grower from St. John's, and also serves as Chair of the NL Young Farmers' Forum; Darren Dinsmore, a Beef Farmer and Baptist Pastor in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, who is also the Labrador board representative with the NL Young Farmers' Forum; Nancy Lester, a sixth-generation farmer with Lester's Dairy Farm in St. John's, who is also the Secretary-Treasurer of the NL Young Farmers' Forum and Stephanie Lipp, originally from Mississauga, Ontario, who now farms gourmet mushrooms with her partner in Bonavista. Stephanie is also a board member on the NL Young Farmers Forum and is a mentee in the Young Farmers' mentorship program.

AITC-NL in collaboration with our commodity partners, hosted a social media campaign for all teachers. The campaign was launched through our Twitter and was posted on our Facebook page to advertise. It was a Twitter contest where teachers were encouraged to let us know how they were going to celebrate Canada's Agriculture Day in their classrooms.

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) is a national initiative hosted by AITC Canada. The event was held virtually in Newfoundland and Labrador March 1-31, 2022. CALM is a hands-on program that encourages children to learn about and celebrate agriculture in various ways, including reading books about agriculture and watching virtual farm tours and agriculture videos. The theme for CALM is "Our Food, Our Story." An important element of this event is the connection between students, local farmers and agriculture industry representatives and AITC-NL strives to continue to make that connection.

AITC-NL delivered this program in Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms across Newfoundland and Labrador in a



month-long virtual event. AITC-NL shared the stories of farmers and agriculture professionals with online presentations, virtual farm tours and other resources.



AITC-NL launched a new storybook, "Plant, Grow, Eat, Share." Follow Abby and Fabian as they plant and care for their indoor classroom garden. Not only do they work together to grow Tiny Tim Tomatoes, but they grow a friendship and an appreciation for growing their own food and other cultures.

On March 1, 2022, AITC-NL hosted a virtual CALM Launch with Natasha Caine and Kayla Legge's classes at Templeton Academy, as well as, Kim Cleary and Debbie Sacrey's classes at J.J. Curling Elementary. 108 students participated. Special guests were Terri Lynn Robbins and Melvin Rideout. This was the first time the new storybook had been read. Students also participated in a hand-on activity called "What Plants Need". This included a powerpoint presentation and the making of a bracelet "Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium". Materials were mailed out in advance of the virtual launch.

Great Canadian Farm Tour

NL students participated in a national initiative called the Great Canadian Farm Tours. AITC-Canada hosted the Great Canadian Farm Tours which included virtual visits to 11 farms across Canada focusing on the diversity of commodities across Canada.

Students had the opportunity to learn about Canada's agriculture and food story, connect and interact virtually with real farmers and experience farm environments across Canada.

On March 3, 2022, NL's Troutier's Special (Bay Bulls) was featured, highlighting vermi-composting.

Grade 7 to 12 Initiatives

AITC-NL has been expanding its reach into high schools. As part of this initiative, AITC-NL hosted a virtual thinkAG Career Expo March 7-15, 2022, as part of Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month celebrations. The goals of this event were to increase awareness of agriculture, agri-foods, agri-science careers to high school students; to encourage and attract new entrants to the agriculture industry; to provide direction on where to find agriculture career information; and to equip students with additional career information to better identify, evaluate and choose a career path.

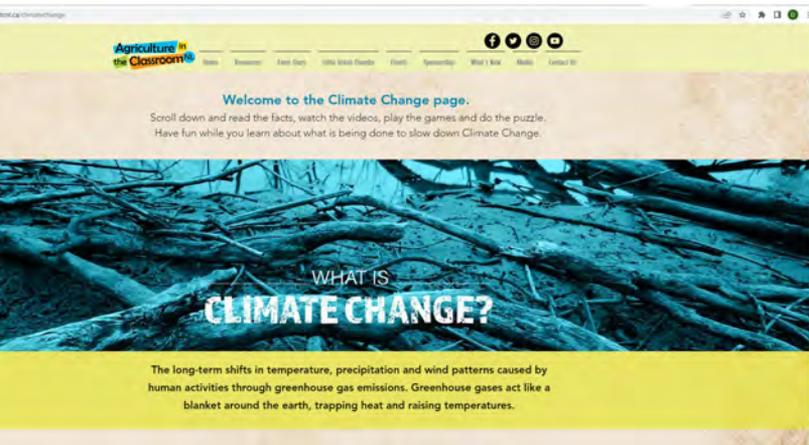
Volunteer presenters representing a variety of sectors in agri-food provided interesting and motivating sessions. Many of the presenters engaged the students in a variety of activities whereby the students had to demonstrate teamwork, communication and critical thinking skills. 518 students participated in the ThinkAG Career Expo. There were 10 virtual sessions incorporating 11 volunteer presenters.

AITC-NL continues to work with AITC-Canada on developing new resources for Junior High and High Schools. AITC-NL has helped link programs and events to the NL curriculum. The teachers' portal under the resources section of AITC-NL's website allows teachers to access resources that are applicable to their grade level and subject area. AITC-NL has also delivered resource packages to Junior High/High Schools in rural NL. We have also forwarded packages to schools that have requested information on our available resources.

AITC-NL worked with AITC-Canada to launch thinkAG's Career Case game. The goal of the thinkAG Career Case game is to demonstrate the diversity, variety, and importance of careers in agriculture. Through participation, students will have an increased awareness and interest in the careers that are a part of the agriculture sector.

Students will become more aware of the diversity of skills, interests, experiences, and opportunities in agriculture. Diversity is a strength in problem solving. The people in the agriculture community have a broad diversity of interests, skills, education, and backgrounds which help to solve everyday problems. We hope that by playing this game, students can begin to envision themselves and their diverse interests as having a place in agriculture.

In partnership with the Climate Change Project of NLFA, AITC-NL launched an online climate change resource on the website. Students learn about how climate change is affecting farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador and how farmers are adapting and mitigating climate change. There are interactive activities for teachers and students. This page can be updated as the Living Labs project progresses here in NL.



Growing at Home Gallery and Contest 2022

Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL) has not only been encouraging students to grow in their classrooms through the Little Green Thumbs program, Little Green Sprouts program and vermi-composting program, but we've been highlighting students, parents and teachers that have been starting their gardens at home in the summer. During the pandemic, a lot of people started



growing their own fruits and vegetables at home. Agriculture in the Classroom NL took notice of this and started the Growing At Home Gallery in 2020. Students, parents and teachers shared with us what they were growing at home and their progress throughout the summer.

For the Growing At Home Gallery 2022, AITC-NL hosted a contest. MUNN Poultry Farm Ltd. generously sponsored three Little Green Sprouts gardens for this contest. Students, parents and teachers shared what they have been growing at home and entered to win one of three available Little Green Sprouts gardens. Little Green Sprouts is an indoor garden kit that inspires hands-on learning and inquiry into seeds, nutrition, soil science, plant needs, how food is grown and more! The Little Green Sprouts garden kit includes a variety of microgreens, lettuce and herbs that students can grow in their classroom, but for this contest, they get to use it at home!

This contest was successful with engaging students, parents and teachers throughout the summer months. Students have been able to showcase the skills that they have learned in the classroom through AITC-NL programming at home. Agriculture in the Classroom NL is grateful to everyone that participated in this contest.

Amazing Agriculture Adventure

Agriculture in the Classroom NL's Amazing Agriculture Adventure (AAA) returned to the NL Federation of Agriculture's Agriculture Expos! The AAA returned to an in-person event at both the Agriculture Expo hosted in Corner Brook on September 29th and Grand Falls-Windsor on October 14th, 2022. Over 550 students and teachers participated in the AAA where students went from booth to booth and visited farmers and agriculture representatives to learn about the NL agriculture industry. Students were excited to be back to doing hands-on activities including making nutrient bracelets, living necklaces, vegetable painting, petting farm, beekeeping displays and much more!



Switching to virtual delivery has taught AITC-NL that we can reach more students with agriculture education through reimagined virtual events. AITC-NL brought the Amazing Agriculture Adventure to classrooms across NL virtually. The virtual AAA took place November 28 to December 9, 2022. 53 Grade 5 and 6 teachers from across the province signed up to participate. Teachers were provided with a package that included video links to 17 farm tours and agriculture related videos and the classes answered a series of questions based on whichever 4 videos they chose. Topics included in the farm tours videos were Food Safety, Chicken Farming, Berry Farming, Technology in Agriculture and more.

Each class that participated entered to win a class prize. 5 winners were chosen; however, each participating class received a set of resources and activities from AITC-NL. Winners were provided The Seed Detective kit where students investigate mystery seeds to guess what plants they are growing!

Little Green Thumbs Program

The Little Green Thumbs (LGT) program is an indoor gardening program, currently in its 11th year, for NL primary and elementary students. It gives the students and teachers the opportunity to become food producers right in their own classroom.

Little Green Sprouts (LGS) was introduced to teachers in January 2019. It is a junior Little Green Thumbs program. It is a gardening program for grades K to 2 that includes a smaller system for micro-greens (lettuce, herbs, etc). It enables our younger students to care for their own garden.

overview

LGTs and LGSs:

January 2022 to June 2022
(School Year 2021-2022)

168 LGT gardens (3700 students)

83 LGS gardens. (1520 students)

September 2022– December 2022
(School Year 2022-2023)

192 LG Thumbs gardens (4000 students)

123 LG Sprouts gardens

**LGT/LGS is in 120 elementary/primary schools
across Newfoundland and Labrador.**

The gardens have inspired conversations about nutrition, healthy eating, cooking and planting. Children who grow their own food are much more willing to try new foods. The Little Green Thumbs and Sprouts gardens have become the focal point of the classroom. Many outdoor



school community gardens have grown from the LGT classroom gardens. Students have their families participating in growing at home and have developed home and community gardens with the skills they have acquired through the LGT's program.

Ongoing support has been provided for all teachers throughout the entire school by the Little Green Thumbs coordinator, volunteer mentors, LGT National office and other teachers. There is a national website www.littlegreenthumbs.org.

Kindergarten Science Curriculum

In June 2022, AITC-NL and LGT collaborated with the Department of Education to implement a LGS joint pilot project. Even though LGS was already in the schools, the Department of Education wanted to test the LGS program to identify its value as a designated resource to the new Kindergarten Science curriculum. This pilot was very successful and in September 2022 the LGS garden was officially designated as a resource in the NL Kindergarten Science curriculum. A teachers' Professional Learning Day was held at the end of September which created requests for 30 more LGS gardens. More training is to be

held for Kindergarten teachers and we expect many more requests.

LGS National Song

More exciting news came from the LGT National office. As the LGT song was written and produced in NL, AITC-NL/LGT were asked to secure songwriters to write and produce a LGS song, in our province. This song is underway and will be used as the national theme song for LGS.

Little Green Thumbs - Virtual Teachers' Training Session

On October 6, 2022, a LGT virtual teachers training session was hosted.

In attendance were 11 new teachers with new gardens and 15 new teachers with current gardens. There are 18 new classes that have joined the Little Green Thumbs Program and have received a new garden kit for their class.

An overview of Agriculture in the Classroom Program was presented along with details of available resources, activities, events, and contests.

Details were discussed on how it all starts, journals, seeds, germination, transplanting, vermi-composting and of course, recipes and eating. Benefits of the program to teachers and students were discussed, such as: curriculum links; how gardens improve social and emotional well-being; creates meaningful connections between gardens and agriculture; builds environmental stewardship; knowledge of local food and farmers; build responsibility and classroom inclusiveness; plants the seed of healthy eating; transforms wonder into knowledge; and creates great pride in knowing they can grow something themselves.

The final session was the Teachers' Perspective Panel. Three current Little Green Thumbs teachers joined us to discuss their experiences with their garden. Some teachers have had their gardens for 11 years since the beginning of the Program.

It was a great day of virtual learning and making new connections. Now our new teachers are ready to start the growing experience with their students.

Little Green Thumbs Culinary Demonstrations

In the fall of 2022, AITC-NL highlighted the Little Green



Thumbs program by hosting a Little Green Thumbs Culinary Demonstration at the NL Federation of Agriculture's Agriculture Expos.

LGT students from Templeton Academy (Corner Brook Expo) and Helen Tulk (Grand Falls- Windsor Expo) took to the stage to show off their culinary skills by making smoothies. Students created their own recipes and shared their creations with the audience. The students had a great time sharing their love of their gardens with the audience. It was really great to see students making the connection between produce they grew in their gardens and how they can use them in creative recipes. This is always a great experience for teachers, students and Little Green Thumbs.

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada

Agriculture in every classroom, inspiring every student

Canada has a remarkable agriculture and food story! Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (AITC-C), and its ten member organizations are dedicated to engaging, empowering, and inspiring youth to the exciting world of agriculture and food.

With our network of partners, stakeholders and volunteers, we provide accurate, balanced and current, curriculum-linked resources for students at all grade levels to inspire meaningful connections to agriculture and food.

At AITC-C, we love collaborating with our members to deliver national AITC initiatives including Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month and thinkAG, our exploratory, career-focused initiative. thinkAG has ignited exciting

resources such as an interesting self-assessment app; Kareero, and a career exploration board game; Career Case. AITC members also distribute our national teaching resources accessible through the Canadian Educator's Resource Library and help students learn about hot button topics in agriculture by reviewing the dynamic snapAG information sheets.

We are powered by AITC-C's insightful and dedicated board of directors and Chelsea Foley, Agriculture in the Classroom NL's AITC Coordinator, is the voice at the national table for Newfoundland and Labrador.



"We are proud of what the AITC collective has been able to accomplish from coast to coast. ORG is the integral piece of creating meaningful connections with students, educators, and agriculture sector professionals in PROV," said Johanne Ross, Executive Director of AITC-C. "Our members are the delivery network between classrooms and agriculture education resources and programs. Together, we are stronger, with a reach and impact that would be unattainable without the AITC collective's collaboration and coordination."

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Agriculture in the Classroom Canada is able to celebrate over 2 million student experiences across Canada each year, because of the commitment and passion from the AITC members. Read more in our national impact report.

Young Farmers' Initiative

The Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers' Forum (NLYFF) delivers new and exciting programs to young farmers in the province. The overall goal of the project is to increase visibility of the NLYFF and enhance the opportunities for young people in agriculture. The initiative began in January 2015 and has had great results.

Much of the work through the Young Farmers' Initiative is based on developing resources to support new farmers joining the industry and providing support for existing young farmers to grow their businesses.

We have now identified over 300 young farmers on our contact list. We have grown our membership with over 120 members identified.

In the spring of 2022, our Young Farmers' Forum Coordinator Matthew Carlson resigned from his position after being with the NL Federation of Agriculture for 15 years. We wish Matthew the best.



Land Matching Map

The Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers' Forum (NLYFF) launched the Land Matching Map in March 2020.

The service functions much like popular online classified sites. Users create an account, login, then answer a series of questions such as where the land is located, the size of the property, which crops are grown there or have been in the past, among others. There are options for various arrangements, including renting and leasing. Those seeking land can also create a listing with the ability to request land in a particular area, with certain attributes, useful to their particular crops or livestock.

The map itself has a familiar look and feel, as it is based on Google Maps. It allows users to zoom in on areas and see where the listings are located in relation to surrounding communities. For those who prefer a directory view, that is also available on the site.

Since launching this service, one match has been made and another new listing has been added. The seven listings presently on the site range geographically from western to eastern Newfoundland, and points in between, with none yet in Labrador. The transfer arrangements are primarily leases and rentals, with some looking to sell, and one open to a revenue sharing arrangement. Three are open to assisting with a mentorship or willingness to offer advice.

There is also a link on each listing to the NL government's Land Use Atlas. That allows users to check the status of a piece of land for certain attributes like if it is under lease from the provincial government.

A full page poster ad was placed in the Summer 2022 edition of AgriView magazine. The map service is available online at <http://map.nlyoungfarmers.ca>.

Mentorship Program

Stephanie Lipp, an aspiring mushroom grower in Bonavista was the newest mentee in NL Young Farmers' Forum (NLYFF) mentorship pilot program. She was matched with Krista Chatman of Three Mile Ridge in Lethbridge as her mentor. Krista is no stranger to mentoring, as she was matched with mentee Damian Oliver in 2019.



Stephanie and Krista's mentorship concluded in the Winter of 2022. There are currently no active matches, but we are looking forward to future matches in 2023. A full page poster ad was created and placed in the Fall 2022 edition of AgriView magazine to advertise the mentorship program.

Strategic Planning

The Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers' Forum (NLYFF) current strategic plan has expired. In November, 2017, a strategic planning was held where potential goals, mission and vision statements were proposed. This resulted in this mission statement:

MISSION

.....
TO ATTRACT, CREATE, AND EMPOWER
A NETWORK OF ASPIRING, NEW, AND EXISTING
YOUNG FARM LEADERS.

VISION

.....
YOUNG FARM LEADERS PRESERVING THE FUTURE
OF A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND WORKING
TOWARDS FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.



To attract, create, and empower a network of aspiring, new, and existing young farm leaders. Delegates also selected the following vision statement: Young farm leaders preserving the future of a sustainable agriculture industry and working towards food self-sufficiency.

Strategic Planning session facilitated by Carol Spicer will be taking place January 28th at the Alt Hotel in St. John's for the NL Young Farmers' Forum Strategic Plan 2023-2026. We look forward to planning for the future of young farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Leadership Summit

Due to the vacancy in the Young Farmer's Coordinator position, the Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmers' Forum (NLYFF) Annual Leadership Summit has been postponed and will now take place in the winter of 2023. Preliminary planning has begun on this year's event. Details of the Summit will be released in the coming weeks.

Digital Promotion

To raise awareness, a lot of our efforts have been focused on the digital realm. This included developing our website, extensive work on social media, and the partnership with Agriculture in the Classroom NL.

Two 'Young Farmer of the Week' social media campaigns were successfully carried out in the spring and fall of 2022 and ran on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We now have over 2,400 followers on Twitter, over 1,800 on Facebook, and over 750 on Instagram. Thank you to all the young farmers who participated in the campaign.

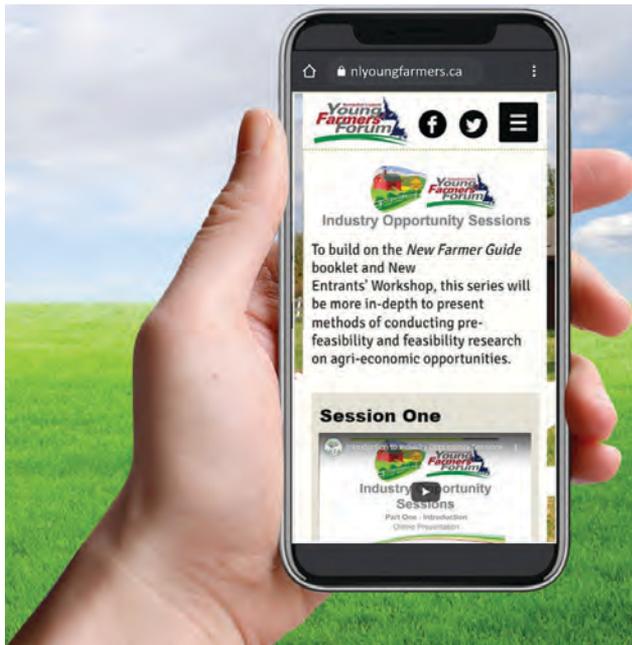
Trade Shows

NLYFF took part in the Amazing Agriculture Adventure. NLYFF Coordinator at the time, Kelsey Cullihall, developed an animal byproduct activity that showcased what everyday items are actually made using animal byproducts. Ex: gelatin for candy, etc. The students were really engaged in this activity.

NLYFF hosted a booth at both expos interacting with the public and handing out various resources (pamphlets, AgriView, New Farmer Guides). One on one conversations were held with the public to explain the benefits of NLYFF.

Workshops

Beginning in winter 2021, the NL Young Farmers Forum (NLYFF) launched an online workshop series called Industry Opportunity Sessions. To build on the New Farmer Guide booklet and New Entrants' Workshop, this series offers more in-depth information concerning methods of conducting pre-feasibility and feasibility research on agri-economic opportunities.



There are now several sessions available on the NL Young Farmers' website. The first is an introductory session, which provides a quick overview of the New Farmer Guide and Beginning Farmer (new entrant) workshop, which touches on topics like evaluating the resources you have and determining what you may need. It also includes an overview of the local market.



There is also a session on business feasibility. It examines how to do market research and analysis; and how to examine profitability, seeking to answer the question, 'will the venture make money?'

Three marketing sessions are also available. The first focuses on pricing, helping producers to develop a pricing strategy that takes into account factors like cost of production, market demand, and competition. The others are on social media and online storefronts.

Another session takes producers through topics related to leafy green production, examining it from the strategy of smaller and larger-scale production. The presentation draws on examples of spinach, romaine lettuce, and kale. This was followed up with a 'meet the farmer' video on leafy green production, with real-world thoughts from producers.

The human resources session focuses on recruitment and retention.

The next in the series is about food safety. It covers on-farm food safety programs, provincial requirements, and other topics and programs like food safe transportation, and the Canada GAP program. A financing session looks at what Farm Credit Canada can offer young farmers, and a funding session is also available covering the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.

We have also been conducting workshops throughout the province. We have shifted much of this programming online. We conducted two virtual workshops in March 2022. The themes of these sessions were Animal Welfare and Farm Succession. The animal welfare workshop was covered from the perspectives of various frameworks, science, code of practice, animal-human interactions, housing and more. The Succession Planning session looked at what young farmers can do to prepare to take over from the older generation and what they can do to begin to hand off to the next generation themselves.

We will be adding to these in the future, with a land access session in the works and more sessions to come. Visit <https://www.nlyoungfarmers.ca/industry-opportunity-sessions> to view current sessions and check for the latest additions.

AITC Partnership

The Outreach Coordinator serves as a link between work on the Young Farmers Initiative and Agriculture in the Classroom NL (AITC-NL), focused primarily on careers. This position seeks to 'bridge the gap' between those

Programs and connect all the relevant organizations to high school programming and post-secondary programs/training. Half of the time of the position is spent working with one program, and the other half on the other program.

As per the AITC-NL update, NLYFF partnered on the thinkAG Career Expo in March 2022. On Canada's Agriculture Day on February 22, 2022, NLYFF hosted a Young Farmers Panel with high school students.

Women in Agriculture Videos



In partnership with AITC-NL, NLYFF launched the new Women in Agriculture Series videos with a focus on livestock. Featured in these videos is Crystal Parsons from D&D Farm, Kayla Minnett from N. Fagan Meats and Nancy Lester from Lester's Dairy Farm. This series is to showcase the amazing women in our agriculture industry and to engage students in the variety of careers available in the agriculture industry. AITC-NL looks to continue this series and partnership in the future.



Climate Change Project wraps up in June 2022

The NLFA Climate Change Project consisted of an environmental scan of agriculture climate change initiatives that are already taking place in our province, and networking/forming of partnerships with suitable organizations and stakeholders. From there, NLFA conducted their own regional producer consultations, to figure out what specific effects of climate change producers were noticing on their farms and in their businesses. NLFA then used that information to identify gaps in research for those particular areas. There were two main gaps in knowledge: NL producer knowledge of how to mitigate the effects of climate change (as well as the need for more research on on-farm best management practices) and the overall NL knowledge of how climate change is affecting the agriculture industry.

Next, NLFA consulted producers regionally on a more specific note of what particular climate change BMPs they most require research on, as well as reached out to Agriculture in the Classroom Newfoundland and Labrador to discuss the formulation of a resource on climate change in NLs agriculture industry and the ongoing distribution of said resource by AITC-NL throughout the NL high school system.

On May 6th, 2022, NLFA held a Climate Change and NL Agriculture Industry Workshop at the Mount Peyton in Grand Falls-Windsor. Attendees heard from speakers about the effects that Climate Change has on the Agriculture Industry and ways to mitigate and adapt for the future. Speakers included stakeholders and researchers from the provincial government, Grenfell, Perennia, CilmAtlantic and much more.

The project is ending on a great note. With the AITC-NL partnered resource completed and ready to be distributed for years to come by AITC-NL, and the NLFA applying for federal funding to begin a 5-year NL producer driven research climate change mitigation BMP research project.

Agricultural Climate Solutions-Phase 1 Summary

The Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) program is a federally funded program that helps develop and implement farming practices that can tackle climate change through the Living Lab model. The NLFA has engaged researchers at Grenfell Campus, Memorial University to assist in the development of an application under the ACS program to establish living labs in Newfoundland and Labrador. A steering committee including representatives of NLFA, and Grenfell Campus was established.



The NLFA hired Carole R. Spicer, owner of Spicer Facilitation & Learning to oversee the engagement process.

The objectives of the stakeholder engagement were:

- Provide an overview of the ACS program
- Ensure farmers have an opportunity to engage with each other and researchers
- Identify current practices
- Co-develop specific research objectives based on priorities for producers in each region of the province (Eastern, Central, Western, and Labrador)

Overwhelmingly, in all regions, most producers expressed interest in establishing a living lab. Levels of support and enthusiasm are high amongst producers. Some challenges identified include size and scale of farms, compensation, and uniqueness of microclimates in the province. Lead researchers were satisfied with the input received from producers. It is evident that including social scientists in the research community will be very beneficial to the living lab approach as not all concerns raised are specifically technical. Several areas of interest include policy, economics, and social benefits of agriculture.

NLFA applied for Agricultural Climate Solutions- Phase 2 of the Living Labs project in early 2022.

Agricultural Climate Solutions Living Labs Project

This year the NLFA was successful in its application to host a five-year Agriculture Climate Solutions Living Labs Project in Newfoundland and Labrador; one of nine announced nationally in July at the Calgary Stampede the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Marie-Claude Bibeau to the value of \$2.8 million to Living Labs-NL (LL-NL). The innovative collaborative approach of the Agricultural Climate Solutions focuses on farmers' needs to co-develop beneficial management practices (BMPs) to sequester carbon and/or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The five-year project brings together producers, academics, government, and industry partners. The total financial value of the LL-NL is: \$1 million in co-research from AAFC, in-kind resources (MUN, Government of NL and the NLFA) for a total of \$2.0 million and the \$2.8 million from Canada for a total of \$5.8 million.

Producers identified nutrient management, cropping strategies, and soil building/health as high priority areas for research. Specifically, options for diversifying annual forage rotations, improving productivity in vegetable systems, compost and biochar production and use, and fertilizer management strategies to optimize nitrogen use efficiency



and reduce soil carbon and nitrogen losses. These were identified and highlighted by producers as priority research areas during engagement sessions in Phase 1 of the project.

The economic analysis is also included in the BMP's of the LL-NL of the best farming practices in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Farmers are looking for stable, and to some extent, predictable income to minimize their exposure to both the output and price risks. The lack of sufficient research literature in the NL context brings serious challenges for the agriculture community in deciding whether to adopt innovations in practice. As the project investigates innovative methods of farming practices, it is expected that the findings of this research will have significant contributions to the industry and the literature and provide useful information for farmers and policymakers both at the provincial and national levels in Canada.

The Federation leads the project, and they have partnered with researchers from Grenfell Campus of MUN, the Government of NL and Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada to co-develop BMPs that will address farmers' priorities. The Living Labs initiative focuses on producer needs; hence continued producer engagement is critical for the success of the project. The Knowledge Technology Transfer (KTT) which is led by the NLFA Climate Change Manager, will deliver the workplan deliverables of LL-NL.

If you would like more information or to become involved, please contact Rodney Reid, NLFA Climate Change Manager (rodney@nlfa.ca) or Dr. Yeukai Katanda, Grenfell Campus Research Coordinator (ykatanda@grenfell.mun.ca).



Devoted Beekeeper inducted into the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame

Newfoundland and Labrador's honey bee sector can be traced back to the work of one pioneer: Wallace (Wally) Skinner.

Wally recently joined the ranks of the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, N.S. He was nominated by his peers at the Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeepers Association.

Born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Wally came to NL in 1968 and worked for the Provincial Government as a wildlife biologist for nearly 30 years. He started beekeeping in 1974 in Pasadena. By 1980, he was managing up to 40 bee colonies and was the first primary producer to supply queen bees and hives to other beekeepers. Today, approximately 130 beekeepers are managing 900 colonies in the province.

For many years Wally's wife, Judy, participated in honey extraction, and numerous other beekeeping activities in the bee yard along with Wally. Beekeeping runs in the Skinner family. Backyard and commercial beekeepers still turn to Wally and his daughters, Alison (Tuckamore Honey) and Andrea for expert advice and support, and their influence is ever-present in bee yards across the province.

Congratulations Wally, and thanks to the Skinner family for your vital contribution to our beekeeping industry! "On behalf of membership and the NLBKA Board of Directors, we want to congratulate Mr. Skinner and say thank you for your significant contribution to the craft of NL beekeeping we enjoy today," said Rodney Reid, NLBKA President.



Photo: ADM Keith Deering, Mr. Skinner, and his daughter Alison at the induction ceremony October 13th in Truro, NS. (Photo credit: Gov of NL)

Dalhousie University- Faculty of Agriculture Scholarship

2022 recipients of the Newfoundland & Labrador Federation of Agriculture Scholarships are Kadence Martin and Dena Lundrigan. Kadence is from Stephenville, NL and enrolled in the BSc (Agriculture), Animal Science program.

Dena is from Bay Roberts, NL and enrolled in the BSc (Agriculture), Pre-Veterinary Medicine program. We wish them the best in the academic journey and their careers.



Environmental Award

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture Environment Award is the most prestigious environmental and conservation award in the province. The award is presented each year to an individual producer or farm group that makes great contributions to sustainable resource management and/or to the prevention of environmental damage on the agricultural landscape in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding achievements by individuals and farming businesses,

organizations and agencies for successful environmental projects and conservation actions. It encourages leadership by example and is designed to bring about a greater knowledge and awareness of environmental and conservation practices and projects, and to give proper recognition to those persons and organizations that make contributions to agricultural stewardship in their community and the province. The award recipient for 2022 was Warren's Farm.

Outstanding Contribution Award

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) has recognized an individual who has made a long-term contribution to our industry and devoted their time to advance NLFA and farming in general. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the agriculture industry, Melvin Rideout Senior received this award at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Born in Cormack Newfoundland in 1944, Melvin worked in the forestry and construction industries before he found his true profession in farming.

Melvin is a second generation farmer. His parents Alexander and Clara started a vegetable and beef farm in Cormack as part of the agriculture settlement for veterans returning from World War II. Melvin's father, a WWII veteran was awarded 50 acres of land and was required to clear the land, construct a house and barn and purchase livestock. Today Cormack remains a major agricultural community in the province due to the efforts of farm families like the Rideouts.

Melvin is credited with introducing modern agriculture into the Cormack area, encouraging agricultural development in his community and throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. He has been a tireless lobbyist for the formation of agricultural organizations to help improve production, agriculture awareness and overall development of agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador. He has had a special impact on the vegetable sector and is considered a true pioneer and innovator in the industry.

Melvin was a driving force in the formation of Vegetable Marketing Associates Limited (VMAL) in 1977 to introduce cooperative marketing for the Newfoundland vegetable sector and was also instrumental in the formation of the Vegetable Growers Association. He was a member of the Humber Valley Agriculture Association; member of the

Farm Debt Review Board and an active member of the Dairy Transport Committee and New Entrants Committee. He has mentored many farmers in the area sometimes working as many hours on their farms as on his own.

In his role as Mayor of Cormack, he focused on the promotion of agriculture in Cormack. It was the demands of the agricultural industry and Melvin's leadership that put pavement into his hometown so many years ago.

Melvin and his wife Anne (Hiscock) have six children: Alan, Rick, Eugene, Stephen, Bernice and Melvin Jr. and 10 grandchildren. He is still active on his dairy and vegetable farm which he and his children operate. The Rideout farm is comprised of 700 acres of forage, 100 acres of vegetables, 360 dairy cows producing 7900 litres daily and is among the most well-known and successfully operated farms in the province.





Conclusion

To advance our industry and the provincial economy, the Federation continues to collaborate with the various organizations including: Federal and provincial government departments, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, other provinces' Federations of Agriculture, as well as other national and provincial commodity groups and organizations, other provincial industry associations, and many other agriculture groups.

We are always researching and evaluating new programs to help advance our agriculture industry and increase the profile of the sector, particularly in light of our ongoing work on our strategic plan.

Supporting the growth and development of the agriculture industry will be accomplished by: Continuing to build awareness about the industry, leading projects and initiatives aimed at advancing various sectors of the industry, and being a strong and effective voice on provincial and national boards and committees.

It is vital for the success and sustainability of the Federation of Agriculture that we make every effort to stay informed about all aspects of our industry. We do our best to keep members updated on developments, and we also encourage our members to contact us with feedback. It is valuable for us to know what our members need and are thinking. We will continue to listen to member concerns and take on the issues that are most important to them.

We appreciate the support of the NLFA and all its programs and initiatives. Our members are the driving force behind these programs and more importantly, the driving force behind the Federation.

Thank you for allowing us to serve the agriculture industry as we strive to continue to improve the industry and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.



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