



Professionals Serving Agriculture

Member Communication

Message From the President

Winter seems to be closing in quickly this year and with the change in the seasons came the Semi-Annual Meeting for the NSIA. Like previous years, we were joined by three Graduate Students from Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture who shared information about their various projects. Having these students join the meeting was a great way to ensure that the NSIA builds relationships with our future potential members.

The programs committee was very active this fall. Starting with the fall tour in the Valley which was well attended. We were able to visit three farms in the Canning/Port Williams area, and enjoyed an excellent lunch of local foods at Tap Root Farms. It was great to see a good turnout for the tour. I am always interested and impressed with the wide range of people and knowledge that exists within the membership of the NSIA.

Plans are well underway to host PPP events this winter. The first one will be held in Truro January 16, 2020 with a Wolfville event February 18, 2020. I encourage everyone to consider attending future events, as they are a great way to network with fellow Agronomists.

At the Council level, one of the things that we are interested in doing is strengthening our relationships with Dal AC and, most importantly, the students. We feel that NSIA needs to raise our profile on campus with the students. Our reasoning for doing this is to ensure that graduating students are familiar with the NSIA and the role that we play within the Agriculture Industry. We hope that this creates greater recognition of the career opportunities in the dynamic Agra Food Sector in the Atlantic region and internationally. By fostering this relationship with students, we are building the future strength of the NSIA, and helping to encourage these students to be the future innovators and leaders of our industry. To this end, NSIA was present at two on-campus events this fall, with plans to participate in a social on January 21, 2020. I would like to thank the members who have already supported these activities by volunteering their time. I encourage other members to consider sharing some of their time with the students on behalf of the NSIA. Each one of us, active and retired, have experience that could help these young people as they embark on their career journey. Hopefully many of them will follow a path that will lead them into the Agra Food industry.

I would also like to remind everyone to submit their Professional Development hours, either through the website or directly to the office. If for some reason you are having difficulties doing this, I encourage you to contact the office. As a member of NSIA you have a professional responsibility to ensure that you remain current in your field, participating in PD and documenting this helps to ensure the credibility of the practice of Agronomy. When PD hours are not submitted, it eats into staff time tracking and chasing these hours. This staff time can be spent more productively supporting membership and the association.

I look forward to seeing members at upcoming events and I encourage you to attend these events.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Wort P.Ag
President, NSIA

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Programs Committee Update

We are currently preparing for the upcoming Pizza, Pint and Policy (PPP) events in both Truro and Wolfville. The theme for the upcoming PPP's is "*New Technologies Within Agriculture*". These will occur:

- ◆ January 16th, 2020: 5pm-7pm — Truro Horseman's Club, Bible Hill
- ◆ February 18th, 2020: 5pm-7pm — Paddy's Pub, Wolfville

We are also in the beginning stages of planning guest speakers for the NSIA Annual Meeting, April 2020. Watch for a Save the Date to be sent to membership early 2020.

We wish to remind everyone that we welcome all suggestions for future event speakers or tour ideas. If you have any ideas in mind, please contact one of the below:

- ⇒ Jacqueline Hoyt, Programs Committee Co-Chair—Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca
- ⇒ Ross MacNeil, Programs Committee Co-Chair—brossmacneil@gmail.com
- ⇒ Ashley Anderson, NSIA Administrator—info@nsagrologists.ca

Thursday, January 16th, 2020
The Horseman's Club, Bible Hill
5pm to 7pm



“New Technologies Within Agriculture”

Speakers

5:15-5:45pm - Craig MacEachern

Mechanized Systems in Wild Blueberries

Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

6:00-6:30pm - Teric Greenan

Nexus Robotics

To register, please email info@nsagrologists.ca or phone 902-893-7455 prior to January 13, 2020

Cost: **\$15 for Members; \$20 for Non-members; Students are free**
Please pay online through PayPal (<http://nsagrologists.ca/>) or cash at the door.

Pizza provided - Cash bar available

PIZZA, PINT & POLICY

Notes From NSIA Administrators

- ◆ We are requesting P.Ag volunteers for an upcoming event occurring at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture. This is an event to hopefully get students thinking of becoming future P.Ag's.

We will be holding a social from 5pm-7pm on January 21, 2020, where we are going to have P.Ag's discussing their backgrounds and career paths with interested students. This will be set up as a rotational session, where students at stations will be rotated in timed intervals to get the opportunity to speak with all present P.Ag's.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact NSIA Administrators.

- ◆ We would like to remind everyone that NSIA now has a Facebook page (@NSInstituteofAgrologists)! NSIA will frequently be posting industry news and events, as well as sharing potential PD resources. We also plan to livestream as many NSIA events as possible, such as the Annual Meeting, Semi-Annual Meeting, tours, Pizza, Pint & Policies, etc.

- ◆ It's that time of year again when we are accepting nominations for the following NSIA Awards:

- Distinguished Agrologist
- Distinguished Life Member
- Honorary Member
- Distinguished Farm
- Outstanding Young Agrologist

These awards will be presented to the recipients at the Honours Banquet, following the Annual Meeting in April 2020. For further explanation of these awards, as well as for the nomination forms, please visit: <http://nsagrologists.ca/>

- ◆ A reminder that Professional Development (PD) hours are due January 31, 2020 for the 2019 year. PD hours can be submitted through the "Members Only" login on our website. If you need assistance logging in, or if you have forgotten your Member ID/password, please contact NSIA Administrators.

The three PD Categories:

Category I: **Structured Learning** (agrology related courses, conferences, workshops, webinars, AGMs, commodity meetings)

Category II: **Personal Development** (agrology related reading, audio, video)

Category III: **Soft Skills** (language training, software training, project management, facilitation)

For further information relating to PD requirements, please see the NSIA Professional Development Policy at: <http://nsagrologists.ca/mandatory-professional-development/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact NSIA directly at:

902-895-0581

info@nsagrologists.ca

Or at our **NEW OFFICE LOCATION**:

**7 Atlantic Central Drive
East Mountain, NS B6L 2Z2**

The next Application Intake deadline is: February 28, 2020

For more information, please visit: <http://nsagrologists.ca/becoming-a-member/>