

“The mission of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers’ Association (NSFGA) is to assist its’ members to be successful, by fostering the growth and development of a viable and sustainable industry.” **What the NSFGA is doing for its members in 2007/08...**

1. Spokesperson:

- Represents the majority of the commercial tree fruit growers, packers and processors in NS.
- Presents a single membership voice at all levels of government on industry interests and issues.
- Maintains a professional industry profile with government and other agricultural organizations such as the NS Department of Agriculture (NSDA), the NS Federation of Agriculture (NSFA), AgraPoint International, the Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Centre (AFHRC), Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada’s (AAFC) export marketing branch, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).
- Represents NS apples on the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and as a member of the CHC Apple Working Group.
- Cooperates with other NS horticultural groups for the betterment of the horticultural industry as a whole.
- Represents the tree fruit industry on the NS Federation of Agriculture’s (NSFA) Council of Leaders and on various NSFA working groups.

2. Research:

- Collaborates with the Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundations (NSTFRF), government institutions, colleges and universities and other commercial enterprises in the development and implementation of NS tree fruit production, pest management, harvest, postharvest storage and handling and bio-product development research.
- Participates at the national level in the development and implementation of a national apple sector research strategy.
- Collaborates with others in providing support to the Tree Fruit Bio-product (TFB) Research Program at the NSAC.
- Collaborates with the NSDA in providing a research economist to support the TFB Research Program.

3. Technology Transfer:

- Facilitates technology transfer and grower education through meetings, educational workshops, conferences, orchard tours and technical publications.

4. Funding:

- Accesses project funding from government programs such as the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, NSDA’s Agri-Food Industry Development (AFID) program, Advanced Payments Program (APP), Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP), student employment programs and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).
- Provides grower & processor members with access to the fed/prov “Scientific Research & Experimental Development” Input Tax Credit program.
- Provides an annual bursary for student following post secondary education.
- Provides the NS growers with access to the Federal Government’s “New Advanced Payments Program” (NAPP).

5. Marketing, Tree Fruit Promotion and Agricultural Awareness:

- Promotes the sale of NS apples domestically and internationally.
- Promotes the healthful benefits of eating apples and apple products.
- Promotes agricultural awareness through attendance at local exhibitions, schools, day camps and events such as the Maritime Fall Fair and March Break at the Museum of Natural History.
- Works annually with the Apple Blossom Festival.
- Represents the industry on the provincial Agricultural Awareness Committee and on other health related provincial committees.
- Maintains a comprehensive NSFGA website.

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6. Management

- Manages the forward direction and continuous development of the long term “Industry Vitalization Program” {Integrated Fruit Production (IFP), Cultivar Development & Evaluation, Renewal (orchard & infrastructure), Bio-Product Development, Generic Marketing and Commercialization}.
- Administers new and ongoing project work, often serving in a project management capacity.
- Administers the Honeycrisp™ Orchard Renewal Program (HCORP) and the NAPP.
- Provides technical services to the industry, such as the annual apple maggot inspection and eradication program.
- Manages the day-to-day business and financial affairs of the NSFGA and the Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundation (NSTFRF).
- Assists the NSFGA Committees and the NSTFRF Board of Directors in meeting their objectives.

7. Communications:

- Disseminates tree fruit related information, technical and otherwise.
- Creates and distributes regular NSFGA Newsletters and an Annual Report.
- Organizes orchard tours, grower workshops, conferences, seminars, an Annual Convention, visiting tours.
- Interacts with the media in presenting the views of the NSFGA membership.
- Participates with provincial government departments in promoting the industry.

8. Issues Management:

- Works for the betterment of NS tree fruits on business risk management issues, crop insurance, water, climate change, harvest labour, pesticide minor use & harmonization, regulatory issues, land use, on-farm food safety, renewal/transition etc.
- Monitors and critiques tree fruit related government policy.
- Represents the industry on various federal/provincial/industry working groups and steering committees.

*“The **Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundation** is dedicated to the encouragement of research in the tree fruit industry of Nova Scotia.”* **What does the NSTFRF do for you?**

1. Works collaboratively with the NSFGA to develop/update NS tree fruit production research priorities.
2. Issues calls for research proposals from government and academic institutions.
3. Provides limited seed funding for research projects that meets the NSTFRF criteria.
4. Acts as a liaison between the tree fruit industry and organizations such as the AFHRC (AAFC), the NSAC and Acadia University.

What does membership in the NSFGA provide for you as a grower, packer or processor?

- ✓ A voice in the industry, a chance to contribute constructively to the common good of the industry, to its growth and to the economic sustainability of tree fruit farming, packing and processing in NS and nationally.
- ✓ The right to audit all NSFGA Board meetings and receive Board meeting minutes (if requested).
- ✓ The opportunity to become an NSFGA and/or NSTFRF Board or Committee member.
- ✓ The right to attend and vote at the Annual and Semi Annual Business Meetings.
- ✓ The right to receive a copy of the NSFGA Newsletters, Annual Report and technical bulletins.
- ✓ Member administration rates for the New Advanced Payments Program (NAPP).
- ✓ Member administration rates for the Honeycrisp™ Orchard Renewal Program (HCORP).
- ✓ The right to attend and participate in NSFGA workshops, education & technology transfer sessions, conferences, orchard tours and association events.

Suggestions and/or comments? please call 902- 678-1093 and speak to Dela Erith or send an e-mail to derith@nsapples.com