

The mission of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association 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 2011-2012 ...

1. Industry Advocate:

- The NSFGA presents a single voice for the membership at all levels of government on industry interests, issues and challenges.
- Maintains a professional industry profile with organizations such as the NS Department of Agriculture (NSDA), the NS Federation of Agriculture (NSFA), AgraPoint International (A-P), Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) - Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Centre (AFHRC), AAFC Market Information Services Branch (MISB), the NS Agricultural College (NSAC), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC), other Canadian apple associations and agriculture stakeholders, colleges, universities and funding agencies.
- Represents NS apples at CHC and on the CHC Apple Working Group (AWG).
- Cooperates with other horticultural groups for the betterment of the NS horticultural industry.
- Represents the tree fruit industry on the NSFA's Council of Leaders and on various NSFA working groups.

2. Research & Innovation:

- Collaborates with government institutions, colleges, universities and commercial enterprises in the development and implementation of research programs & projects that support NS tree fruit production, harvest, postharvest storage and handling, cultivar evaluation, alternative uses for apples and orchard waste.
- Participates at the national level in the development and implementation of national apple sector research.
- Supports the NSAC's Tree Fruit Bio-product Research and Apple Genomics Programs
- Interacts with the Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundation (NSTFRF).

3. Technology Transfer & Education:

- Facilitates technology transfer and grower education through technical meetings, educational workshops, conferences, conventions, orchard tours and the dissemination of technical publications and reports.

4. Funding & Programs:

- Accesses federal and provincial project funding through programs such as:
 - AAFC "Growing Forward" Programs
 - Agri-Futures NS "Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program" (CAAP),
 - Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS) "Accelerate Program",
 - NSDA's Technology Development Program, Supporting the Innovative Capacity of Farmers and the NSDA Product and Quality Development Branch programs
 - Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP),
 - ACOA
 - Student employment programs.
- Accesses and administers grower loans from the federal "Advanced Payments Program".(APP)
- Provides NSFGA grower, packer and processor members with access to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SRED) tax credit program.
- Using NSFGA & NSTFRF seed funding, accesses project funding for promotion, economic and scientific research projects
- Provides an annual student bursary for a NS post secondary student

5. Tree Fruit Promotion and Agricultural Awareness:

- Promotes NS apples, the healthful benefits of eating apples and apple products.
- Promotes agricultural awareness through attendance at local exhibitions, school events, day camps and events such as the Maritime Fall Fair and March Break at the Halifax Museum of Natural History, Incredible Picnic events and other events through the province.
- Provides cash and in-kind contributions to the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival.
- Represents tree fruits on the provincial Agricultural Awareness Committee and on health and school related provincial committees.

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6. Management:

- Manages the day-to-day business and financial affairs of the NSFGA and the NSTFRF.
- Manages the long-term investment portfolio of the NSFGA and the NSTFRF.
- Manages the forward direction of the long-term NSFGA "Industry Vitalization Program" (addressing Integrated Fruit Production, Cultivar Development & Evaluation, Renewal of Orchards & Infrastructure, Bio-Product Development, Market Development and Commercialization).
- implements and manages all NSFGA projects.
- Plans and manages an annual apple maggot orchard inspection and apple maggot eradication program.
- Assists the NSFGA Committees and the NSTFRF in meeting their objectives and budget commitments.
- Develops, manages and reports on industry workshops that address industry issues.
- Development, implementation and review of long-term sector strategy.
- Manages the Blair House Museum
- Acts as a liaison between the NS tree fruit industry and research organizations such as the AAFC-AFHRC and other academic institutions.

7. Communications:

- Disseminates tree fruit related information to the industry.
- Creates and distributes regular NSFGA Newsletters and an Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention Report.
- Supports communication and technology transfer through the organization of orchard tours, grower workshops, conferences, seminars, visiting tours, annual membership meetings and an annual convention.

8. Issues Management and Monitoring:

- Works for the betterment of the industry through the management of issues associated with business risk management, crop insurance, pesticide minor use and harmonization, regulatory issues and more.
- Monitors and critiques government policy that affects the industry.
- Represents the industry on various federal/provincial/industry working groups and steering committees.

The Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundation (NSTFRF), incorporated in 1988 as a not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to the encouragement of research in the NS tree fruit industry.

What does the Nova Scotia Tree Fruit Research Foundation do for you?

- Develops scientific research priorities for the NS tree fruit industry in consultation with the NSFGA.
- Provides seed funding for NSTFRF Board approved research projects.
- Manages/administers approved projects.

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

- ✓ A voice in the industry.
- ✓ The opportunity to contribute to the common good of the industry, to its growth and to the economic sustainability of tree fruit production, packing and processing in NS and nationally.
- ✓ The right to audit all NSFGA Board meetings and to receive Board meeting minutes.
- ✓ The opportunity to become an NSFGA and/or NSTFRF Board or Committee member.
- ✓ The right to receive a copy of the NSFGA Newsletters, the Annual Report and technical publications.
- ✓ The right to attend and participate in all NSFGA workshops, education & technology transfer sessions, conferences, Annual General Meetings, Annual Conventions, orchard tours and association events.

Suggestions or comments? Please call Dela Erith at 902-678-1093 or send an e-mail to derith@nsapples.com