

# SALUTING ATLANTIC CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



## MacEachern's, Chosen Atlantic's Outstanding Young Farmers

By Maurice Rees

Lauchie and Jolene MacEachern of Debert, NS have been selected as the Atlantic region's Outstanding Young Farmers for their achievements on their Holstein operation, Folly River Farms Ltd. The event in Moncton, N.B., on March 10 recognized their accomplishment of becoming dairy farmers through a unique succession plan.

Lauchie MacEachern's ownership of his dairy farm began with a summer job while attending university. Lauchie was not raised on a farm, but his exposure to a local strawberry and beef farm as a youth led him to Nova Scotia Agriculture College. It was there that he met his future wife, Jolene, and found summer employment on a dairy farm, sparking his interest for a career.

The journey that led Lauchie and Jolene MacEachern to owning a farm is not a traditional one in a supply managed commodity. The MacEachern's were able to do so by working with the former owner for 7 years prior to purchasing the farm, and by devel-

oping a succession plan that would lead them to the ownership of Folly River Farm Ltd. Folly River Farms is a 100 head purebred Holstein operation in Debert, Nova Scotia. The farm includes 350 acres of crop land managed in accordance to the farm's Nutrient Management Plan and Environment Farm Plan.

With a strong work ethic, a lean approach to management, and measured growth strategies, Lauchie and Jolene have been able to introduce new technology to the farm, make investments in infrastructure, significantly enhance forage quality, and increase production by 20%. With careful debt management, while maximizing animal health and nutrition programs, the MacEachern's have witnessed an increase in revenue each year of operation.

Lauchie and Jolene have a young family, including Ewan, age 10; Allister, age 8, and Adriana, age 5. In addition to the demands of raising a young family, Lauchie and Jolene are busy community leaders. Their involvement in agricultural organizations stretches from the

Central Nova Holstein Club and the National Holstein Convention Organizing Committee to Nova Scotia Livestock Health Services Board, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia Milk Committee, and Agri Futures.

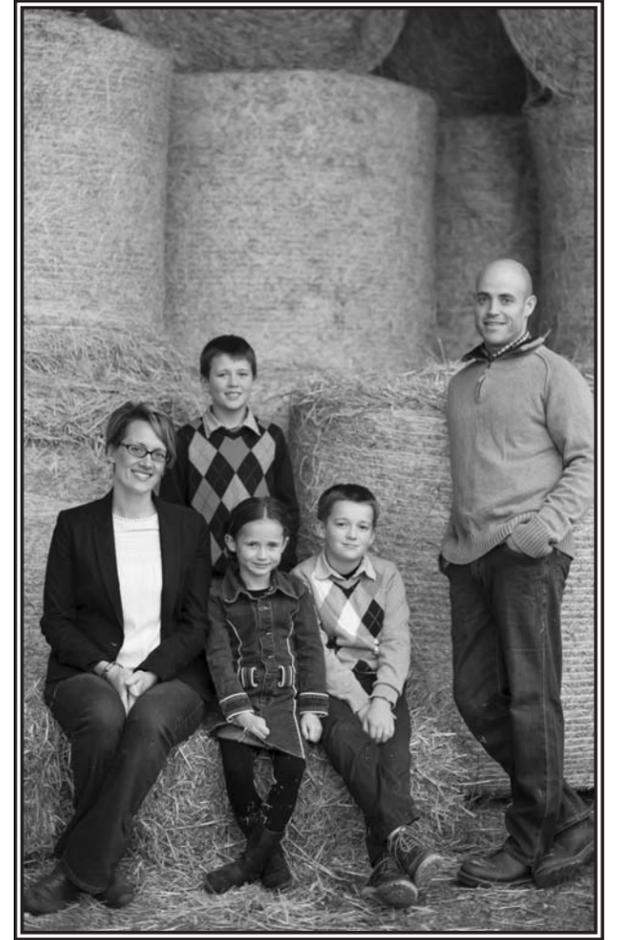
True believers in being actively involved in their local community, Lauchie and Jolene also jointly share their time as 4-H volunteers, coaching minor hockey for their children's three teams, and serving in executive roles with the local pre-school and with the School Advisory Committee

Celebrating 37 years, Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program is an annual competition to recognize farmers that exemplify excellence in their profession and promote the tremendous contribution of agriculture. Open to participants 18 to 39 years of age, making the majority of income from on-farm sources, participants are selected from seven regions across Canada, with two national winners chosen each year. The program is sponsored nationally by CIBC, John Deere, Bayer, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Growing For-

ward 2, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative. The national media sponsor is Annex Business Media, and the program is supported nationally by AdFarm, BDO and Farm Management Canada.

The MacEachern's trip to stardom might not be over. As the Atlantic representatives, their name will go forward to a national stage. Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2017 will be chosen at the National Event in Penticton, BC from November 29 - December 3, 2017.

Lauchie & Jolene MacEachern owners of Folly River Farm Ltd, Debert have been selected as Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers. They will represent Atlantic Canada in the national 2017 Young Farmer's competition to be held in British Columbia at the end of November. Lauchie and Jolene have a young family, including Ewan, age 10; Allister, age 8, and Adriana, age 5. (Submitted)



## Lowland Gardens Opens New Greenhouse

Story and photos by Linda Harrington

A celebration was held on April 29th and 30th to commemorate the opening of Greenhouse #13 at Lowland Gardens, Great Village. There were guided tours of the greenhouses and a couple of seminars each day, as well as a barbeque running both days.

The new addition is 4,500 square feet, and will house all the perennials, with a large open concept area in front for new creative displays. It also has space to display an addi-

tional 250 hanging baskets.

In the petting zoo area, three potbellied pigs have been added to keep the goats and rabbits company. The pigs are courtesy of the extended van den Hoek family at That Dutchman's Cheese farm. A vote was held on Mother's Day weekend to help decide on the names for the pigs. Anyone who voted on the names were entered in a draw to win a hanging basket.

Lowlands Gardens is now open for the season, 7 days a week.

The new 4500 sq. foot addition has an inviting open concept with a large area for creative displays.



Gerrie van den Hoek offers a gardening seminar in the new greenhouse on opening day.



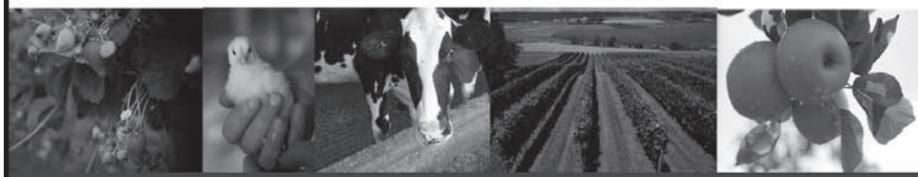
Ribbon cutting for the opening of Green House #13. Left to Right: Tony, Michael & Gerrie van den Hoek, with Tony & Gerrie's grandchildren, Owen van den Hoek & Presley Tibbo helping out.

## Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

The Voice of Nova Scotia Farmers

Representing more than 2,400 family farms across Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture advocates on behalf of farmers on issues including:

- Agricultural Land
- Energy production
- Labour
- Local awareness
- Regulatory Burden



(902) 893-2293 | info@nsfa-fane.ca | nsfa-fane.ca