

SALUTING ATLANTIC CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



(Photos by Linda Harrington)

Regulations a Challenge on Diversified Farm

By Linda Harrington

The Cooper family's Balamore Farm Limited is located in Great Village. The farm was originally a beef cattle farm but began producing strawberry plants in 1990 and in 2000 expanded the nursery operation to include field grown perennials.

Farm owner Joe Cooper says they currently grow strawberry runner tips, strawberry plugs, strawberries, barley, oats, pumpkins and perennials along with raising their herd of beef cattle.

This diversification and the increased size of the beef herd had been the biggest changes over the last 20 years. Joe says keeping current with government regulations is one of the biggest challenges on such a diversified farm.

The Copper's three boys are involved in the family farm and Joe says he sees a good future for them in agriculture.

Joe Cooper, of Balamore Farm Limited, heads back to work after taking time out of his busy schedule for an interview.

"They will just need to be open to new ideas and potentially new crops to keep on being successful," he says.

Balamore Farm Limited has a group of foreign labourers arrive to work on their farm each spring, along with the usual staff. "They are invaluable," says Joe. "We couldn't farm without them."

Strawberries grown on the farm are sold locally, with the strawberry tips and plugs and perennial crop going into the United States. With Trump adding duties and closing borders there is always a concern about possible issues but at this time it is business as usual.

When asked what Nova Scotians should know about their farmers, Joe says he hopes they know their food is safe. "All farmers are looking out for consumers and making sure the food they grow is safe."

Balamore Farms prides itself on their quality beef cattle, the foundation on which the farm was first established.

Strawberries have become a major crop for Balamore farm over the years, with the sale of fresh berries, runner tips and plugs.



It's a dirty job but it must be done! A Balamore Farm employee spreads liquid manure on a pasture field.



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