



Gerrit Damsteegt (right) presents an Honourary Membership to DFNS to Bill Thomas, accompanied by his wife Jane.

DFNS Honourary Member Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas retired as Director of the Field Services Division at Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. in August 2017.

Bill has over 33 years of extension service in Nova Scotia specializing in forage quality, forage mixtures, silage fermentation, pasture management and soil fertility.

Over his career, Bill conducted many adaptive research trials addressing issues around forage establishment, cutting and grazing management, hay preservatives, silo management, corn hybrid development and pasture season extension.

Bill has coordinated the Atlantic Canada forage cultivar evaluation trials for many years. He was responsible for

the central Nova Scotia corn hybrid evaluation trial and has served on several regional and national crop committees including the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association and the former Canada Expert Committee on Corn.

Bill is a Certified Crop Advisor as well as a long-standing member of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrology, Agricultural Institute of Canada and a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy.

Bill says for now he wants to keep working part time. He recently finished teaching the second-year soils course at Dalhousie University where he is an adjunct professor. He is currently working on a short-term project for the Cumberland Business Connector.



Nancy Douglas (left) and Ashley Baskin (right) present DFNS Excellence Awards to Havey Whidden, James H. Lamb Farms Limited- Byron Lamb, Fort Land Farm Limited- Remo and Heather Luten, Bacon Farms Limited- Doug Bacon.

2016-2017 DFNS Excellence Award Winners

In order to receive the DFNS Excellence Award, a producer must have: all individual bacteria count (IBC) results less than 30,000/ml for the dairy year; all monthly SCC averages are less than or equal to 150,000/ml; a farm inspection score from the NSDA of 94 or higher; an appearance score on the farm inspection report of five or higher; no freezing point or antibiotic infractions during the dairy year; and maintain CQM/proAction registration for the entire dairy year.

These awards are based on milk shipped during August 2016 - July 2017 dairy year.

The winners were: Annapolis County- Lone Willow

Farm Inc.; Antigonish County- Allan MacDonald; Colchester County- Charles Hill & Son Limited, Fort Land Farm Limited, Havey M. Whidden; Cumberland County- Bacon Farms Limited; Hants County- Ballam Farms Limited, John Suidgeest; Kings County- James H. Lamb Farms Limited; Jeffrey and Josee Morse, Windcrest Farm Limited.



Elizabeth Crouse, General Manager, Natural Products Marketing Council brought greetings from the Honourable Keith Colwell, Nova Scotia's Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Ashley Baskin and Nancy Douglas. Through proAction Canadian dairy farmers collectively demonstrate responsible stewardship of their animals and the environment, sustainably producing high-quality safe and nutritious food for consumers.

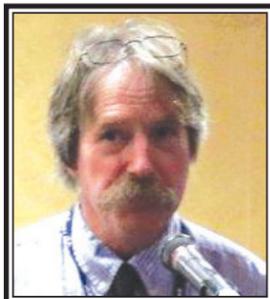
This mandatory program was designed by farmers for farmers and is striving for continuous improvement with reasonable time periods for farmers to meet targets.

On Sept. 1st, the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements were integrated into the Food Safety validations and all producers must meet the requirements.

Training on the Biosecurity and Environment programs will be held in 2018.



Ashley Baskin, proAction Coordinator outlined the reasons for the DFNS commitment to proAction and an update on the Food Safety component.



Nick Duivenvoorden, Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick noted the issues dairy farmers face in Nova Scotia are not unlike those they face in New Brunswick, with the same challenges and frustrations, thereby enhancing the urgency of working together.

Speakers Encourage Cooperation Across Industry

By Linda Harrington

Speakers from several agriculture partners called for uniformity and cooperation not only within the dairy industry but across the sectors to ensure a progressive future.

Tim Marsh, First Vice President, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture reported 1,826 Environmental Farm plans have been prepared, with Nova Scotia having the highest percent of plans of any province.

Congratulations to Larry & Pat Ward of Willow Pond Farm for receiving the 2017 Environmental Farm Plan Stewardship Award.

Agriculture Land Policy Committee continues to work on a comprehensive land use strategy and address concerns including increasing farmland values, trespasser damage to land, urban encroachment and the concern that land planning is not effectively taking place across all of Nova Scotia. NSFA will advocate for a comprehensive land use strategy that will include an agriculture land bank, 0% taxation on land owned by a registered farm or land actively maintained as farmland by a registered farmer, access to Crown Land for agriculture use, and support for those who bring land into agriculture production.

Brad McCallum, Managing Director of the NS Cattle Producers reported on the first Atlantic Canada Beef Summit held July 11th and 12th. The

summit brought stakeholders together to work on the Maritime Cattle Growth and Development Strategy, which proposes an expansion of 20,000 cows over 10 years.

The 2018 Maritime Beef Conference will be held March 16th and 17th in Moncton, with special keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin.

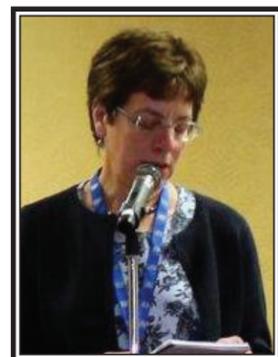
Cedric MacLeod, of the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association reported Canada's cultivated forages for pasture, feed and seed production account for 33.8 million acres, 39% of Canada's agriculture production, with an economic value of \$5.09 billion. This valuable resource is being depleted and measures must be taken to manage the next generation of forages: by the use of certified seed for highly digestible forage species and varieties; intensive rotational grazing systems; intensive forage harvesting systems; forage stand establishment, fertility and management for high performance yields and advanced crop production systems for perennial and annual forages.

Allan Miller, of the Atlantic Grains Council stated dairy farmers are the largest consumer of grains and oilseeds in Atlantic Canada. Active research continues in soybeans, corn, oats, spring and winter wheat, barley and peas with the majority of research carried out on dairy farms.

The proAction update was given by Atlantic Coordinators



Bob Woods brought greetings from the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.



Miriam Sweetnam brought greetings from the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba.

Milk Producer Survey Reflects Positive Outlook

By Linda Harrington

The P5 (Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) Milk Producers survey sent out in the fall of 2017 had a 61% response rate in NS, with 131 producers answering the 11 questions. There was good representation from across the farm and age demographics.

The P5 Quota Committee distributed the survey to gain information on the producer's ability to meet increased demand over the next three to five to five years. Processor infrastructure will result in an increased demand for Canadian milk by 4-6% from 2019 - 2021 and the demand for dairy products continues to increase by over 3% per year.

The survey indicated half of the producers are growing with quota as it is issued with 36% getting ready to transfer their farm.

The demand for quota has dropped off due to recent quota issued, and this was reflected in the 40% response indicating no plan to buy on the Quota Exchange often or at all in the next three years.

The survey indicated 74% of farms have extra barn capacity, with 84% of the farms in NS planning for an average



DFNS Board of Directors, Dustin Swinkels presented a review of the P5 Milk Producers Survey.

of 15% extra milk by 2020. 81% of farms plan to add production capacity by 2020.

Plans for expansion to dairy facilities indicated 1/3 of those surveyed plan on renovating or expanding their present facilities, with 1/4 planning on building new lactating facilities.

Overall summary shows there is 10% room in the barns for expansion right now, with an increase expansion of 20% by 2020 and a plan for 15% more milk over the next 2/3 years.

"The results of the survey really shows producers have kicked into gear and are interested in making milk," says Dustin Swinkels, presenter of the Survey Results. "This is an exciting time to be a dairy farmer!"



Gerrit Damsteegt, Chair of the DFNS and Brian Cameron, General Manager of DFNS, present a parting gift to Retiring Director John Vissers and his wife Nancy.

There is big money involved in dairy production planning!



The quota constitutes the most important part of a dairy farm's market value.

Ask your technician about **PLANI-LACTA** or call **1-800-266-5248**

What does it do for you?

- Keep track of pregnancies, animals entering or leaving the herd, and the true output from your cows.
- Get a precise estimate of total milk production in the coming months.
- An ideal way to anticipate problems and find solutions before they arise.
- A flexible tool to help you to optimize the use of quota over the course of the year.

Dairy Production Planning is like driving a car!

You keep your eyes on the road a good distance ahead of you and you make frequent small adjustments instead of making sharp turns, accelerating at the last minute and slamming on the brakes. All things considered, it's less stressful, much safer and somewhat easier on the pocketbook!