

# ATLANTIC AGROLOGY NETWORK NEWSLETTER



## COUNCIL UPDATES

### In This Issue:

- **Council Updates**  
NLIA, NSIA, PEIIA & NBIA
- **Job Postings**  
NBIA, NLIA, NSIA & PEIIA
- **Trending Topic**  
NLIA

### NLIA – [NLAgrologists@gmail.com](mailto:NLAgrologists@gmail.com)

The NLIA in the spring of 2022 welcomed new members to the board and is looking forward to the coming year. A recent highlight involved the NSIA sharing learning resources with members of the NLIA. An important component of professional development involves access to content. The NSIA has been able to provide members of the NLIA with access to their ethics and professionalism course. Through resource sharing the NSIA has benefited the NLIA by relieving the Institute of having to create and host an area for learning. Continued resource sharing will create a greater continuity of standards and development thus furthering the practice of agrology in the region. We are grateful for the assistance and in the future would hope to extend the favour.

Richard Tingskou, P.Ag.  
President

### NSIA – [info@nsagrologists.ca](mailto:info@nsagrologists.ca)

NSIA had our AGM in April where the NSIA Presidency changed, and new Councillors were welcomed to NSIA. I wish to thank Maxine MacLean for her exemplary work as President these past two and a half years. Thank you also to Councillors who have completed their terms: Lord Abbey, Peter Duinker and Tracy Kittilsen, and welcome to Georgia Lewis, Francisco Diez, Jessica D'Entremont and Monica Sandepogu.

At the AGM, we saw presentations from Brent Preston, Farmers for Climate Solutions, and Rosalie Gillis-Madden, On-Farm Climate Action Fund. An awards reception was held following the presentations, where we presented one member and one farm with awards, with recipients being nominated by their peers and fellow Agrologists. Recipients included Francisco Diez (Distinguished Agrologist Award), and Steve and Karen Ells of Ellslea Farms Ltd. (Outstanding Farm Award).

NSIA held a spring tour in June within the Antigonish area, where attendees visited Brook Ridge Farm and Scott and Stewart Forestry Consultants, as well as had a presentation from the Lochaber Growers Co-operative and enjoyed lunch at the Antigonish Farmers' Market.

Council will meet next in September.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Ross MacNeil, P.Ag.  
President



The Prince Edward Island Institute of Agrologists held its 2022 Annual General Meeting on the 7th of April, 2022. This year's meeting was held at the Silver Fox Curling Club in Summerside. Each year at the AGM, the Institute presents the PEIIA Recognition Award, given to an individual whose achievements and service to agriculture in the province has been outstanding. This year, the PEIIA was pleased to present its Recognition Award to Joanne Driscoll.



Joanne Driscoll (center) receives the 2022 PEIIA Recognition Award from horticultural crop grower Gerald Dykerman (right) and PEI Department of Agriculture & Land horticultural crop specialist Lorraine MacKinnon, P.Ag.

Joanne graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, continuing on to MacDonald College to complete her education in 1987. Shortly thereafter, Joanne was hired by the PEI Horticulture Association as a crop scout. She gained tremendous experience and knowledge about the agronomy of horticultural crops and formed excellent, life-long working relationships with producers. Eventually, Joanne assumed the role of Executive Director of the association and has led initiatives for research and agronomy; has addressed industry issues facing horticultural producers and improved the overall productivity and profitability of the sector. Joanne is a champion for PEI horticultural producers in many venues across Canada.

In her role at the PEIIA, Joanne has hired many young people and has mentored them in the agriculture industry. She sets an example of dedication, passion and integrity.

Also recognized at our AGM, was Greg Donald, P.Ag. as 2022 Outstanding Agrologist of the Year.



Greg Donald, P.Ag. receives the 2022 Outstanding Agrologist Award from PEIIA Vice-President, Ryan Barrett, P.Ag.

Greg demonstrates his unwavering commitment to Prince Edward Island agriculture not only through his tireless efforts through his role as General Manager of the Prince Edward Island Potato Board, but also through his volunteer efforts in his local community.

Greg has been General Manager of the PEI Potato Board since 2009, after previous positions in the agriculture industry with both McCain Foods and Cavendish Agri-Services. Since joining the Board, Greg has exemplified professionalism and strategic thinking. Not only has he shown unwavering support for the potato growers that he works for collectively, he also has worked to build bridges with environmental advocates through his involvement with the Kensington North Watershed Association. Greg would accurately describe himself as an environmentalist, championing initiatives like 4R Nutrient Stewardship or the PEI Agri-Watershed Partnership that seek to combine environmental sustainability with short- and long-term profitability for Island farms.

Greg has also been involved at the ground floor of the establishment of Farm & Food Care PEI, continuing to serve as director of this cross-sectoral organization tasked with building public trust in Island agriculture. He has also held board or advisory positions with the Canadian Potato Council, United Potato Growers of Canada, and the World Potato Congress.

Through the recent potato wart crisis, Greg has been steadfast in supporting farmers and working with all levels of government, putting in very long and stressful hours aimed at regaining access to markets for PEI potato growers. He is skilled not only in the language of diplomacy but also in holding feet to the fire to ensure that our industry is made a priority. His leadership during this challenging time has been first-rate.

We are now well into the growing season and so far on PEI, the weather has been cooperating, with adequate moisture and sunshine for the crops. The soybean and corn growers are waiting patiently for a little heat to boost things along. The PEIIA Council continues to meet on a regular basis and we are looking forward to some social-professional development events this summer now that most of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Gwen Corrigan Vessey, P.Ag.  
President

NBIA currently has 175 members. The business portion of our AGM was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> via Zoom. We have a tour and awards banquet planned at the end of September. It will be nice to get back to in-person meetings.

The membership is in favour of moving forward with the Atlantic Network Proposal. They think that there are synergies to be gained.

The new 'Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act' received royal assent on June 10<sup>th</sup>. This Act will require us to review our registration practices and report to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Labour.

As always, as we head into the heart of the summer season, we wish everyone good crops and time with family and friends.

Susannah Banks, P.Ag.  
President

## **JOB POSTINGS**

### **NBIA:**

Please frequently check [NB Jobs](#) for updates.

### **NLIA:**

Please keep checking the [Job Board](#) for new employment opportunities.

### **NSIA:**

Please routinely the [Job Postings page](#) on our website. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) also has an [online Job Board](#) for agriculture-related jobs in the province.

### **PEIIA:**

Please frequently check the [Careers page](#) on our website for updates.



### **Agriologists Agronomes Canada (AAC):**

Job postings nationwide can be found on the [AAC Employment Opportunities webpage](#).



## TRENDING TOPIC

*This current, hot topic within the agriculture industry will alternate between the four provinces each edition.*

### **Carbon Sequestration in Grassland Soils, Positive Attention with Questionable Application.**

Richard Tingskou, P.Ag.

Climate change undoubtedly impacts the agriculture industry, climatic variability and extreme weather events increase the risk of loss. Future industry sustainability requires greenhouse gas (GHG) emission mitigation and has become a focal point of management adaptations. Previously agriculture has been criticized for contribution to GHG emissions, but a recent more positive narrative has emerged. Agriculture grass and grazing lands have been recognized for their potential ability to capture and retain carbon. As a result, programs funding the adaption of BMPs that sequester carbon are currently in place.

According to current funding programs, carbon sequestration can simply be achieved by implementing beneficial management practices (BMP) such as rotational grazing and increasing forage species diversity.

As a reader you may wonder what may be so hot about this topic, isn't funding for BMP a benefit to the industry?

What should be considered and discussed is how these methods are being marketed and promoted; the concepts applied are not new yet rather like what has been associated with increasing soil organic matter. Enhancing a soils organic matter content is well accepted to improve the sustainability of the environment, improve overall fertility, and thus benefit production. What isn't fully considered is that soils can act as both a source and sink for atmospheric carbon, the net capture or emission of a grassland will be impacted by soil type, climatic variables, and management history.

For atmospheric carbon to integrate into soil it must be fixed by a plant and transferred to soil as surface litter or subsurface as particulate matter. For plant fixed carbons to become part of soil organic matter (SOM) participation in active carbon cycling is required where mineralization of SOM will the result in CO<sub>2</sub> respiration. The possibility of fractions of soil organic matter being retained is not up for debate but should be practically question. How effective are these practices in reducing atmospheric carbon, specifically how can sequestered carbons be quantified given the variabilities in soils and climate in NL and the Atlantic region?

Pasture lands in NL are capable of increased production and require the infrastructure supported through programs being offered. An opportunity now exists to track the impact that BMP adoption has on carbon storage in soils. By gathering site-specific parameters appropriate estimations for sequestered carbon may be obtained resulting in future revenues for farmers by accessing carbon markets.



*Photo taken from a pasture in Searston NL. This sight was plowed 5 years prior to disrupting surface as seen. Note the darker matter in soil, is this carbon stored, sequestered, or actively degrading, what carbon was lost at plowing and what has returned?*