


UNION FARMER



UNION FERMIÈRE



NEW! NFU BIPOC CAUCUS WORKS TO MAKE FARMING MORE ACCESSIBLE

NOUVEAU ! LE CAUCUS PANDC DE L'UNF TRAVAILLE À RENDRE L'AGRICULTURE PLUS ACCESSIBLE

THE NFU IS CONFRONTING CONCENTRATION THIS FALL

The NFU invites you to join us in Saskatoon or join in from wherever you are to reunite with farmers again, to learn, network and push for change. Find more information on page 11.

L'UNF CONFRONTONS LA CONCENTRATION CE AUTOMNE

L'UNF vous invite à nous rejoindre en personne, à Saskatoon ou bien dans le confort de votre propre maison, pour vous réunir à nouveau avec les fermiers et fermières, pour apprendre, créer des réseaux et lutter pour le changement réel. Trouvez plus d'informations à la page 11.

IN UNION IS STRENGTH!

The NFU has various active committees, caucuses and working groups. The BIPOC Caucus has been advancing BIPOC work. Farmworkers across the country are meeting and organizing. Members are organizing and planning, from issues all within the realm of food sovereignty!

L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE !

L'UNF a plusieurs comités, caucus et groupes de travail actifs. Le Caucus PANDC avancement le travail de PANDC dans l'agriculture. Les travailleurs.euse.s agricoles se rencontrent et organisent. Les membres s'organisent et planifient, à partir de sujets qui concernent tous la sphère de la souveraineté alimentaire.



NEW! NFU FARMWORKERS HAVE BEEN MEETING AND ORGANIZING FROM COAST TO COAST

NOUVEAU ! LES TRAVAILLEUR.EUSE.S AGRICOLES DE L'UNF SE RÉUNISSENT ET S'ORGANISENT D'UN OcéAN À L'AUTRE

A MESSAGE FROM...

NFU YOUTH PRESIDENT JESSIE MACINNIS PRÉSIDENTE DES JEUNES

I hope as you read this your season is winding down and you have some time to rest and reflect (and listen to the **Who Will Feed Us Podcast**, written and produced by NFU youth!). As my farm work slows down, I always begin thinking more about my roles of policy and advocacy work with the NFU and La Via Campesina. Over the Summer the Youth Caucus hired a fellow NFU youth member to help Amber (Youth Vice President) and I strategize about how we envision the future of the Youth Caucus. In our conversations we shared that to us, building relationships and community with diverse yet like-minded young farmers across the country is a key priority. So, we began an outreach process to reel in young NFU members who may have felt removed from the NFU over the past few years, especially as COVID-19 took in-person gatherings away.

I'm happy to say that we're in the planning stage of a youth convergence for Winter 2023. As I write this, we are still having initial visioning discussions, but ultimately, we feel that connecting in-person is the best way to spark collective action and invigorate our drive for food sovereignty, and therefore should be a priority for this upcoming year. If you'd like to be added to our email list for updates and/or to learn how to get involved with the NFU, please reach out to nfuyouth@nfu.ca.

UN MESSAGE DE....

J'espère que vous lisez ceci alors que votre saison tire à sa fin et que vous avez du temps pour vous reposer et pour réfléchir (et écouter le podcast « **Who Will Feed Us** » écrit et produit pour les jeunes de l'UNF !). À mesure que mon travail agricole ralentit, je commence toujours à penser plus à propos de mes rôles, ainsi qu'à mon travail en matière de politiques et de revendications auprès de l'UNF et de La Via Campesina. Durant l'été, le Caucus des jeunes a embauché un autre membre des jeunes de l'UNF pour aider Amber (la Vice-Présidente des jeunes) et je pense aux stratégies sur comment nous envisageons l'avenir du Caucus des jeunes. Dans nos conversations, nous avons partagé que, pour nous, c'est une priorité essentielle de bâtir des relations et des communautés avec de jeunes fermiers qui pensent comme nous à travers le pays. Donc, nous avons commencé un processus de sensibilisation pour recueillir de jeunes membres de l'UNF qui pourraient s'être sentis mis de côté de l'UNF au cours des dernières années, surtout alors que la COVID-19 nous enlevait les rencontres en présentiel.

Je suis heureuse de dire que nous sommes à l'étape de la planification d'une Convergence des jeunes pour l'hiver 2023. Alors que je rédige ceci, nous sommes encore en discussions préliminaires de vision, mais en bout de ligne nous croyons que de connecter face à face est la meilleure façon d'initier une action collective et de revigorer nos efforts pour la souveraineté alimentaire et que cela devraient donc être une priorité pour la prochaine année. Si vous aimeriez être ajoutés à notre liste de courriels et/ou apprendre comment s'impliquer avec l'UNF, veuillez communiquer au nfuyouth@nfu.ca



Who Will Feed Us is a podcast by young farmers exploring the forces that shape Canadian agriculture and the solutions needed to build a more just and ecologically sustainable food system.

Throughout a nine episode arc, a variety of guests, including activists, policy advocates, and of course other farmers, farmworkers, seedkeepers and food providers, share individual experiences as they help hosts, and listeners, understand some of the underpinnings of what we believe is a food system that serves no one a healthy meal.

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LISTEN FROM WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS. MORE INFO: WWW.WHOWILLFEEDUS.CA/

A MESSAGE FROM...

NFU PRESIDENT KATIE WARD, PRÉSIDENTE DE L'UNF

We see examples all around us, every day it seems, of increasing industrial concentration being used to disempower farmers. Four companies sell fertilizer to farmers. Two companies process almost 90% of the beef raised in Canada. Five companies control sales of over 70% of farmers' grain. And three grocery chains sell consumer-ready foods to eaters.

And every day I see the NFU pushing back against ever-increasing attempts to take even more power from farmers in the marketplace, and engaging in debates about how to achieve a better future for farmers and rural communities. Calling for an investigation into profiteering by fertilizer companies, exploring the policy implications of a Maximum Revenue Entitlement for federal slaughter-houses. Investigating land tenure models with a goal of getting more new and young farmers on the land so the next generation can work toward their vision of food sovereignty, rather than bowing to the trend of evermore concentrated farm-land ownership. Pushing back on seed corporations' efforts to remove farmers' and public interest control over seed.

For over five decades the NFU has been known from coast to coast for the accuracy of our calls for action, when we ring the alarm bell for farmers. **"Should have listened to the NFU, they were right all along!"** At Convention in November we're calling out for farmers and the general public to confront concentration that's being used to transfer immense amounts of wealth away from our communities. I hope you'll join us, in Saskatoon or online, to gather with others who understand how hard you work, and who want all of us to get ahead, together.

UN MESSAGE DE....

PRÉSIDENTE DE L'UNF

Nous voyons tout autour de nous, tous les jours semble-t-il, des exemples de concentration industrielle toujours plus forte utilisée pour déresponsabiliser les fermiers. Quatre entreprises vendent des engrais aux fermiers. Deux entreprises transforment près de 90 % du bœuf élevé au Canada. Cinq entreprises contrôlent la vente de plus de 70 % des céréales des fermiers. Et trois chaînes d'épicerie vendent aux consommateurs des aliments prêts à être consommés.

Et chaque jour, je vois l'UNF s'opposer aux tentatives toujours plus nombreuses d'enlever encore plus de pouvoir aux fermiers sur le marché, et s'engager dans des débats sur la façon d'assurer un meilleur avenir aux fermiers et aux communautés rurales. Demander une enquête sur les profits des entreprises d'engrais, explorer les implications politiques d'un droit au revenu maximum pour les abattoirs fédéraux. Étudier les modèles de régime foncier dans le but d'attirer davantage de nouveaux et de jeunes fermiers sur les terres afin que la prochaine génération puisse travailler à la réalisation de sa vision de la souveraineté alimentaire, plutôt que de se plier à la tendance à la concentration croissante de la propriété des terres agricoles. Repousser les efforts des entreprises semencières visant à supprimer le contrôle des fermiers et de l'intérêt public sur les semences.

Depuis plus de cinq décennies, l'UNF est connue d'un bout à l'autre du pays pour la justesse de ses appels à l'action, lorsque nous tirons la sonnette d'alarme pour les fermiers. **« Vous auriez dû écouter l'UNF, ils avaient raison depuis le début ! »** Au congrès de novembre, nous appelons les fermiers et le grand public à faire face à la concentration qui est utilisée pour transférer d'immenses quantités de richesses loin de nos communautés. J'espère que vous vous joindrez à nous, à Saskatoon ou en ligne, pour vous rassembler avec d'autres personnes qui comprennent à quel point vous travaillez dur, et qui veulent que nous puissions tous progresser, ensemble.



LEAVE A LEGACY LAISSER UN HÉRITAGE

A legacy donation to the NFU or National Farmers Foundation empowers the next generation. Contact shaw@nfu.ca to discuss estate donations.

Un don en héritage à l'UNF ou à la National Farmers Foundation donne des moyens à la prochaine génération. Contactez shaw@nfu.ca pour discuter des dons de succession.

A MESSAGE FROM...

WOMENS' CAUCUS—BESS VANZANDWYK, CORAL SPROULE, REBECCA MACINNIS

The Women's Caucus took the summer season to regroup and prioritize farmwork and family, though with the support of a part-time hired staff person, the wheels kept on turning. In an attempt to create new connections within the union and continue the longstanding aim to gain recognition and rights for women and folks of under-represented genders in agriculture, we are putting together a communications campaign to uplift and normalize the many faces of farming—follow along this journey on social media (@nfuncanada). This campaign offers a platform to share stories of resilience from farmers and farmworkers of all genders from coast to coast to coast in an effort to make the union and the agricultural field in general a more welcoming and inclusive space.

In other news, the Women's Caucus is honoured to help celebrate the legacy of Stuart Thiesson's contributions to the NFU by overseeing the creation of the Stuart Thiesson Memorial Award - an annual award which will honour a member of the NFU who displays exemplary work and leadership in advancing gender equity in agriculture. Nominations are now open for the 2022 award. Send the name of the nominee and a brief description of the work they do to promote gender equity in agriculture to nfu@nfu.ca.

UN MESSAGE DE....

Le Caucus des femmes a pris la saison d'été pour se regrouper et prioriser le travail agricole et la famille, avec l'appui d'une personne embauchée à temps partiel les roues ont continué à tourner. Dans une tentative de créer de nouvelles connexions au sein de l'union et afin de continuer l'objectif à long terme d'obtenir la reconnaissance et les droits pour les femmes et les genres sous-représentés en agriculture, nous organisons une campagne de communications pour élever et normaliser les nombreuses facettes de l'agriculture. Suivez ce parcours sur les médias sociaux (@nfuncanada). Cette campagne offre une plateforme pour partager les anecdotes de résilience de la part de fermiers et de travailleurs agricoles de tous genres, d'un océan à l'autre, dans un effort de rendre l'union et le secteur agricole en général un espace plus accueillant et inclusif.

Par ailleurs, le Caucus des femmes est honoré d'aider à célébrer l'héritage des contributions de Stuart Thiesson à l'UNF en supervisant la création du Prix commémoratif Stuart Thiesson - un prix annuel qui va honorer un membre de l'UNF qui fait preuve de travail et de leadership exemplaire dans l'avancement de l'équité des sexes en agriculture. Les nominations sont maintenant ouvertes pour le prix 2022. Envoyez le nom de la personne proposée et une brève description de ses efforts pour promouvoir l'équité des sexes en agriculture à nfu@nfu.ca.

Stuart Thiesson Memorial Award—Call for Nominations



This award is open to any NFU member who displays exemplary work and leadership in advancing gender equity in agriculture.

Nominations shall include:

- Name, pronouns, and region of nominee
- 250 words of the nominees contributions to advancing gender equity in agriculture

Ce prix est ouvert à tous les membres de l'UNF qui fait preuve d'un travail et d'un leadership exemplaire pour faire avancer l'égalité des sexes dans l'agriculture.

Les nominations doivent inclure :

- Le nom, les pronoms et la région du candidat.e.
- 250 mots sur les contributions du candidat à la promotion de l'équité entre les genres dans l'agriculture



National Farmers Union Canada
www.youtube.com/c/NationalFarmersUnionCanada



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www.store.nfu.ca



A MESSAGE FROM...

NFU BIPOC PRESIDENT, CHEYENNE SUNDANCE PRÉSIDENTE PANDC

I feel very lucky and grateful the BIPOC Caucus was created through the work of many, and to now be the first BIPOC President. Long term land access without intergenerational wealth, finding community within rural relocation, starting up a profitable small scale farm and hands-on learning hard skills like tractor maintenance and using a walk behind tractor are just some of the needs the Caucus has been working on.

July 23, 2022 the BIPOC Caucus organized a farm field day in Eastern Ontario at Vintage Soil Farm. The intent was to bring the BIPOC community together and learn about how Vintage Soil Farm manages a horse powered mixed vegetable market farm for CSA and markets. We had 29 people in attendance (the majority of whom have their own farms and some are hopeful farmers) and the majority were BIPOC Caucus members but a good amount were people who were invited by members to learn about the NFU and find a new network. People came from all across Ontario and also Quebec to learn from Isabelle. I spoke to everyone in attendance and people really liked the community element, plus, the snacks were good! Overall it was a great success!

Moving forward with the caucus we feel that the key to ensuring we can have more BIPOC farmers (more farmers in general means better for all) is to listen to the tangible needs. There is a real need to advocate for funding and programs that will truly help new farmers develop their start up farms and to expand - that is real inclusion, and will require collaborative work across the NFU to make this a reality. The NFU has secured funding to hire a staff coordinator to recruit and organize BIPOC farmers and farm workers to become NFU members across the country, and I'm excited to keep working toward ensuring we have more farmers in Canada!

UN MESSAGE DE....

Je me sens très chanceuse et reconnaissante que le Caucus PANDC ait été créé grâce au travail de nombreuses personnes, et d'être maintenant la première présidente du PANDC. L'accès à long terme aux terres sans la richesse intergénérationnelle, trouver une communauté par l'entremise d'une réinstallation rurale, lancer une ferme profitable à petite échelle et l'apprentissage pratique de connaissances spécialisées, comme l'entretien d'un tracteur et l'utilisation d'un tracteur monoaxe, ne sont que quelques-uns des besoins sur lesquels nous avons travaillé.



Le 23 juillet 2022, le Caucus PANDC a organisé une journée champêtre locale à la ferme Vintage Soil Farm. L'intention était de rassembler la communauté PANDC et d'en savoir plus sur comment Vintage Soil Farm, mûe par cheval, gère une ferme maraichère mixte ASC et des marchés. Nous avons 29 personnes (la majorité d'entre elles ont leur propres fermes et certains espèrent devenir fermiers) qui participaient et la majorité étaient des membres du Caucus PANDC, mais plusieurs étaient des gens d'ailleurs. Des gens vinrent d'à travers l'Ontario et aussi du Québec pour apprendre d'Isabelle. J'ai parlé à tout le monde présent et les gens ont vraiment aimé l'élément communautaire et, de plus, les goûters étaient délicieux !

En allant de l'avant avec le caucus, nous pensons que la clé pour s'assurer nous ayons plus de fermiers PANDC (plus de fermiers en général, c'est mieux pour tous), est d'écouter les besoins tangibles. Il y a un réel besoin de promouvoir le financement et les programmes qui aideront vraiment les nouveaux fermiers à développer leurs nouvelles fermes et à prendre de l'expansion - il s'agit d'une réelle inclusion et il faudra un travail de collaboration à travers l'UNF pour en faire une réalité. L'UNF a obtenu des fonds pour embaucher un coordonnateur du personnel chargé de recruter et d'organiser les fermiers et les travailleurs agricoles membres de la communauté PANDC pour qu'ils deviennent membres de l'UNF à travers le pays et je suis enthousiaste à l'idée de continuer à travailler pour que nous ayons plus de fermiers au Canada !

Know a BIPOC farmer that should join? Connaissiez-vous un fermier/fermière PANDC qui devrait rejoindre ?
<https://groups.google.com/u/2/g/nfu-bipoc-caucus>



A BUMPER CROP OF NFU INITIATIVES

A LOOK FORWARD WITH NFU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARA SHAW

As you are busy harvesting, here's an update on the bumper crop of NFU initiatives coming to fruition:



Depth of Field - Films about Farming

The NFU has retained March Forth Creative Inc. to create **40 films of NFU farms and farmers across Canada.**

March Forth has already created beautiful films featuring NFU members. This is an opportunity to highlight more farms and promote them heavily. After identifying the farms collaboratively for this project, we'll be hosting film screenings in each Region, sharing online, and promoting with great enthusiasm. We encourage everyone to invite and share with friends and neighbours, so stay tuned!

This work is made possible by AgriCommunications funding provided by AAFC.

Farm Workers Organizing

Following the creation of the Farm Worker membership category, an energized farm worker group has been meeting regularly. Now, thanks to funding from United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW), **we will be hiring a Farm Worker Organizer to build the membership and connectivity of farm workers** to bring their issues to the fore. Here's to working together so farm work is respected, fairly compensated, and recognized as central to our food systems and society!

Creating the Sustained, Intentional Structure for BIPOC Voices in Canadian Agriculture

The NFU will be working to **strengthen the membership, inclusion and leadership of Black, Indigenous and People of colour farmers**. We hope you will join in one of the free workshops this winter and next on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We'll also be looking at internal structures and policies while taking the lead of our Indigenous, Black and members of colour in approaches to building a stronger, more diverse union. This work is funded by Heritage Canada.

Policy Assistance

As a policy- and advocacy-focused organization, the NFU is consistently out in front when it comes to matters of agricultural and rural policy. Now we can lead even more effectively. Thanks to the Ivey Foundation, **we are hiring a policy assistant to support, and learn from, our Directors of Policy, Cathy Holtlander and Darrin Qualman.**

Shared Roles

NFU Executive Director Mara Shaw had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study French in France this fall, so she stepped down to half-time to do so. Making this possible is **NFU-Ontario's Ashlee Redmond who has stepped up to take on half of the work.** This arrangement is in place through December. Thank you, Ashlee, Merci beaucoup!

"World We Want" Fundraising Campaign

The National Farmers Foundation and the NFU are beginning a shared **fundraising initiative to build regional capacity for community organizing and engagement** to support farmer-centered, agroecological farm and food systems with a focus on local and regional issues. Half of the funds raised through this campaign will stay in the NFU Regions to support local organizing efforts, the other half will support the NFU National. As a registered charity, the National Farmers Foundation will issue charitable tax receipts for all donations of \$10 or more. For more information, or to make a donation, please get in touch with Wyanne at wyanne@nationalfarmersfoundation.ca.

NFU Days!

Every winter we work together to highlight the NFU with friends, fellow farmers, and neighbours. Join in the **NFU Days campaign, Jan. 26 - Feb. 28, 2023** to build membership and increase our collective impact on agricultural policy & secure our future as farmers.

Follow us on our socials:

Suivez nos réseaux sociaux:



@nfucanada



@NFUcanada



@nfuCanada

NOTE ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: As an organization, we try to minimize costs and maximize impact. But rising costs mean that we need to increase **Associate membership fees from \$75 to \$100.** Beginning Oct. 1, 2022, the NFU Associate membership fee will be increasing to \$100/year or \$9/month.

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1 DISTRICT 1 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Byron Petrie, R1D1 Coordinator



It's been a busy summer full of heat-waves, heavy rainfall and politics/business as usual. We are still reeling from the potato wart disaster of last fall. Since November when CFIA detected the first two fields with potato wart, there have been two new detections this summer in neighbouring fields. Though not completely unforeseen it was still a scary reminder that we are not out of the woods yet. And ironically one would hope instead of fields that there would be woods where we have detected this nasty potato wart. But that would not suit Cavendish Farms' bottom line—it makes no difference to them as they can continue to make french fries with affected potatoes regardless of what happens to the rest of the potato-growing community.

Island seed and table growers are still left in the dark not knowing when or if they will be able to

plant next year. CFIA has ramped up testing but we will be keeping a watchful eye to ensure that this is a fast and thorough process. In reaction to unstable potato markets, we have seen a rise in grain, soy, corn and hay production. In fact, we have had a bumper crop of hay not seen in a long while.

In partnership with the land coalition we are planning some more workshops meetings this fall on the land issue.

The NFU has also noted the ongoing labour shortages among farmers here. We have seen one operation take advantage of our temporary foreign worker program and scam workers out of their pay and living—more work needs to be done to ensure the rights and safety of our agricultural workers. With many potato farms who traditionally relied on their neighbours for workers, many of whom have since retired or moved on in search of higher-paid jobs, the pressure to find enough help or mechanize is only going to rise.

We are looking forward to the Region 1 convention! Lots left to do but such is the nature of farming!

REGION 1 DISTRICT 2

NEW BRUNSWICK

Suzanne Fournier, NFU-NB ED



The NFU-NB will host a joint AGM and Region 1 Convention, Sunday October 2nd at 1:30pm. Our theme is "The Power of the Union" and CUPE President, Stephen Drost will speak. In addition to business and other updates, we will also have a short presentation about work-force development support and initiatives in the province.

We have found a strong candidate for our Mental Health and Farm Safety Coordinator and hope to have them start building the program at the beginning of October.

We released our updated Map of NB Farmers' Markets (QR Code below) and distributed almost 14000 copies to the markets, tourism information centres and all public libraries.

NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK

L'UNF-NB organise conjointement une AGA et une Convention de la Région 1 pour le dimanche, 2 octobre, à 13h30. Notre thème est « Le pouvoir de l'Union » et le Président du SCFP, Stephen Drost, sera le conférencier. En plus de la séance de travail et autres mises à jour, nous aurons aussi une courte présentation sur l'appui et les initiatives en matière de développement de la main-d'œuvre dans la province.

Une bonne personne a été identifiée pour coordonner notre programme sur la Santé mentale et la sécurité à la ferme ; nous espérons que cette personne va commencer à bâtir le programme au début d'octobre.

Nous avons publié notre mise à jour de la Carte des marchés fermiers au Nouveau-Brunswick (QR code ci-dessus) et en avons distribué environ 14 000 copies dans les marchés, les centres d'information touristique et dans toutes les bibliothèques publiques.

REGION 1 CONVENTION DE LA RÉGION 1
www.nfu.ca/event/region-1-convention-2022/

Carte des marchés des fermiers du NB

NB Farmers' Market Map



REGION 3, ONTARIO

Max Hansgen, NFU-O President



This season has been one of extremes. Spring floods delayed the season for many, followed by multiple weeks of drought conditions. In some areas, August brought a month's worth of rain in a few short hours, while other regions remained parched. It appears these extremes are here to stay, and members shared that they are trying new ways of doing business to become more resilient.

Our leadership provided a necessary voice at an Ontario Food Summit in March, making key recommendations including developing OMAFRA's organic extension services and conducting localized field research to support ecological and sustainable production, increasing support for regional-scale food processing, abattoirs and canning, protecting farmland, and supporting on-farm training opportunities and improving land access for new, young and BIPOC farmers. Heading into the provincial election in June, support was

provided to a number of Locals working with Stop Sprawl campaigns and speaking out against proposed urban growth boundary expansions. Victories were secured in many jurisdictions, though the importance of municipal commitments to farmland preservation remains a focus as we prepare for municipal elections in October.

As part of the Farmers for Climate Solutions coalition in Ontario, we are working on recommendations for programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to include targets and incentives for farmers to reduce emissions.

We are also active on the province-wide Farmer Wellness Initiative, helping to ensure this program is offered 24-7 and is available for every family member and farm worker.

Wishing everyone a successful fall harvest,
Max Hansgen, NFU Region 3 Coordinator/NFU-O President

REGION 5 (MANITOBA)

Ian Robson, R5 Coordinator



Recently, NFU MB called upon the MB Government to help the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association and make it easier for students to become veterinarians. Lack of access to veterinary care has long since reached crisis levels across the country for livestock farmers and ranchers, and the vets who are still hanging on.

Speaking of hanging on, it's curious to note that ten years after the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) was taken from farmers by undemocratic means the "victory" is not celebrated by those who scrapped the CWB. What's there to celebrate? There are fewer grain delivery points and first come first serve for grain delivery is a logistical hurdle. Farmers juggle price and elevator space to get a chance to deliver grain, if they can grow a crop given recent drought and huge input price increases. The system embeds advantages for grain traders and imposes barriers to participation for farmers. The grain companies pool the farmers'

grain and blend it to maximize their profit while promised gains never materialized for most farmers.

Input and land costs spiral up consuming a very large portion of any price gains on our production. Talk of implementing a windfall tax on the large profits of food conglomerates is growing louder. We have an opportunity in this pivotal time to act in solidarity with workers and others outside of agriculture who are also feeling the price squeeze - our farm input price profiteering is their food price inflation and spiraling housing costs; the farmers' lack of power in the marketplace is their employer declaring record profits for shareholders while refusing to raise wages.

Better planning and more fair regulation and vision by our provincial and federal Governments is needed to support farmers. Companies are influencing our regulators to their advantage, with the most recent and blatant example being proof hitting the news that the new regulatory proposal from CFIA on gene edited seeds was actually written by the staff at the biggest seed and chemical lobby group, CropLife Canada.

REGION 6, SASKATCHEWAN

Dixie Green, R6 Coordinator



Members got together for the 2nd Annual Picnic on Lake Diefenbaker on July 31st. Members shared a delicious pot luck lunch and then sat under trees to hear two short speeches. Stan Rice helped us celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Medicare in Canada. Stan's background is as a pharmacist at the Saskatoon Community Clinic, where he was instrumental in establishing the first drug formulary used in community practice in Canada. Stan explained that a national pharmacare program would greatly improve the ability to buy drugs at competitive prices, especially for those drugs where the patent has expired. He encouraged us to press for more homecare with many models operating in Europe that can show us how to keep more people in their homes. Stan helped us understand the hard fought struggle to build Medicare in Canada and invited us to finish the job by including dental care, pharmacare and more home-centred long term care.

Al Birchard, reviewed the history of irrigation at Lake Diefenbaker and the mega project that is being developed there. The first phase will expand the development. Two other phases are to follow to complete the 4 Billion expansion. Rivers Tomorrow is asking for a federal environmental review of the project. The consequences of diverting water for this expanded irrigation project will be reduced wetlands and reduced habitat for wildlife that inhabits the wetlands. Other consequences of the increased irrigation may be a dramatic drop in water levels in the Lake.

The SK government had a strong objection to federal workers taking routine samples of water on private land. This was construed as trespass (it's not). Al Birchard and Trevor Herriot wrote an op ed that was picked by the Western Producer & the Reginal Leader Post: www.nfu.ca/op-ed-testing-the-waters/.

NFU was represented at the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency Mitigation Policy consultations and at the provincial Water Security Agency Plenary session.

REGION 7—ALBERTA

Doug Scott, R6 Coordinator



Across Alberta, harvest is underway. Some pea and barley crops have been combined and yields are reported to be average to above. In our area just northeast of Edmonton, the crops look very good—some of the best I have seen in years. The above average heat we have been experiencing has certainly accelerated crop development. Daytime highs of 30-35 have prevailed for most of August and are expected to continue into September, perfect harvest weather.

up and it is likely that Danielle Smith will become our next premier. The rhetoric spewed forth by Danielle and her supporters is disturbing. Her first act of business if she becomes premier will be to introduce the Alberta Sovereignty Act. This supposedly will give her government the right to disregard any Federal law she deems to be harmful to Alberta. The nation within a nation line of thought.

I recently heard of two federal water inspectors who were checking pesticide residues in streams in SK and were charged with trespassing even though they were on crown land.

Recent unprecedented spike in grain prices—some farms across the prairies have had good crops and captured incredible pricing opportunities with revenues in some cases exceeding \$1000 per acre. Unheard of in my 50 years of farming.

We held our regional convention on July 30, at Joyce Ollikka's farm residence. Our thanks to Katie and Katherine and everyone else who attended, rolled with the punches and helped make things work. It was a pleasure to meet and visit once again.

We are certainly living in interesting times.
Stay safe this fall.
Doug Scott

The political scene here continues to be disturbing. The UCP leadership race is heating

Farm Youth: Enter the Beingessner Award for Excellence in Writing



The National Farmers Union holds an annual national writing competition in memory of Paul Beingessner. Winners receive \$500. All farm youth are encouraged to apply.



Working with the family of Paul Beingessner, the NFU has established an annual literary prize in honour of Paul and his contribution to rural and agricultural journalism. Paul Beingessner was a farmer, an activist, and a writer who defended Canada's family farms until his tragic death in a farm accident in the spring of 2009. His widely-read and respected weekly columns brought a fresh and progressive perspective to rural and farm issues. Young writers are encouraged to submit their work to the Paul Beingessner Award for Excellence in Writing.

2022 THEME

How are young farmers using collaboration and/ or collective action to move towards more equitable food systems?

Feel free to include your own lived experiences or draw from what inspires you.

AWARD CRITERIA AND DETAILS

- Two age categories – 15 to 21 years old, and 22 to 30 years old.
- \$500 to one winner in each category.
- Submission: 500-1,000 word non-fiction open letter on the theme.
- Deadline: November 1, 2022.



Scan this QR code for more info on Paul's work and legacy

The winners will be announced at the NFU Convention in November 2022. All or some entries may be published by the NFU. We will confirm that we received your email submission within a week. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please resend your entry or phone the office at (306) 652-9465. Each person may only win the award once.

SEND ENTRIES TO THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION:

BY EMAIL: NFU@NFU.CA OR

BY MAIL: NATIONAL FARMERS UNION, 2717 WENTZ AVE., SASKATOON, SK S7K 4B6

In Memory of... John ("Jack") W. Warnock



Jack passed away at the age of 88 years on Friday, May 27, 2022 in Victoria, BC. Jack was a lifelong, committed political, social justice, and environmental activist, political commentator, writer, and university teacher. He leaves behind an incomparably rich political legacy. His work inspired a vision of what society could be like and he never once stopped working towards that. Whether it was through his involvement in the Waffle, his anti-war activism, his work with social justice committees or anti-poverty organizations, the NFU, or as Special Advisor to the Aboriginal Council of Regina, Jack gave it his all. Read more about Jack's life: <http://johnwwarnock.blogspot.com/>

Carla Joan Roppel



NFU's former ED, Carla Joan Roppel passed away Sept. 11, 2022. Carla fought her battle with cancer like a true warrior, touching the hearts of all who knew her! Carla completed a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture at the University of AB, and her Masters, with specialization in Soil Sciences, at the University of SK. Her education led to her work with Oxfam, Global Agriculture and at the NFU. Read more : <https://dalmenyfuneralhome.ca/2022/09/12/carla-joan-roppe/>

NFU NATIONAL CONVENTION NATIONALE DE L'UNF

NOV 24-26

The NFU is eager to host its first ever hybrid convention in which we will **CONFRONT CONCENTRATION!** From global supply chains to input profiteering, seed patents, land concentration, and inequities, we take them all on — together! Meet old friends and new, either in Saskatoon or from the comfort of your own home. Delve into farm policy and debate farmer-led resolutions. In times of uncertainty, of corporate greed and an ongoing struggle, we need one another, and we need to feel empowered, together. **Join us!**

L'UNF est ravie d'accueillir notre toute première convention hybride alors que nous CONFRONTERONS LA CONCENTRATION ! Des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, aux profits des intrants, en passant par les brevets sur les semences, la concentration des terres et les inégalités, nous les affronterons tous — ensemble ! Rencontrez de vieux et de nouveaux ami.es. Examinez la politique agricole et débattrez des résolutions dirigées par les membres fermiers et fermières. Retourner chez vous après avoir établi de nouveaux liens avec des fermiers et fermières tout aussi déterminés. En ces temps d'incertitude, de cupidité des entreprises et de lutte perpétuelle, nous avons besoin des uns des autres. Nous avons besoin de nous sentir habilités. **Rejoignez-nous!**



REGISTER online : www.nfu.ca/2022convention/register/
HOTEL: Book your hotel by October 23 for the convention rate. Call 306-244-5564 or Email reservations@parktownhotel.com . Booking code: 2211NATION

INSCRIVEZ en ligne : www.nfu.ca/fr/2022convention/register/
HÔTEL : Réservez votre chambre d'hôtel avant le 23 octobre pour bénéficier du tarif de la convention. Composez le 306-244-5564 ou allez au : reservations@parktownhotel.com. Utilisez le code de réservation : 2211NATION

NFUiversity

The NFU is starting up its third season of NFUiversity classes on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, resuming on Oct 13th. NFUiversity will feature experts, researchers, farmers, and others on topics ranging from:

- Nitrogen fertilizer
- Soil carbon sequestration
- Agroecology
- Seed policy
- Gene editing
- and more

The sessions will build upon the foundational knowledge many NFU members and others already have to delve deeper, advance our understanding to a higher level, and increase our capacities to analyze and advocate.

L'Université-NF



L'UNF commencera la troisième saison de l'Université-NF qui se déroulera toutes les deuxième et quatrième jeudis de chaque mois, en commençant le 13 octobre. L'UniversitéNF accueille des experts, des chercheurs, des fermiers et d'autres personnes sur des sujets divers comme:

- Les engrais d'azote
- La séquestration du carbone dans le sol
- L'agroécologie
- Politiques des semences
- L'édition de gènes
- Et plus

Les sessions sont basées sur les connaissances fondamentales que de nombreux membres d'UNF et d'autres personnes possèdent déjà pour approfondir, faire progresser notre compréhension à un niveau supérieur et augmenter nos capacités d'analyse et de lutter.

SCHEDULE/HORAIRE: WWW.NFU.CA/NFUNIVERSITY/

NFU Publishes New Report on Nitrogen Fertilizer

In late 2020, in a surprising but welcome move, the federal government set a target to reduce fertilizer-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30% by 2030. In recent months, the government has been consulting with organizations on ways to achieve that target.

On August 30th, as part of those consultations, the NFU submitted an ambitious, data-packed report. Entitled **Nitrogen Fertilizer: Critical Nutrient, Key Farm Input, and Major Environmental Problem**, the 70-page report contains over 200 references to scientific articles and more than two dozen graphs and data tables. The report takes a big-picture look at nitrogen—its many benefits to farmers but also the damage it causes when overused. Key ideas and conclusions from the report include:

- Nitrogen fertilizer is a valuable farm input that most farmers will continue to use.
- Canadian nitrogen fertilizer tonnage is rising fast —2021 tonnage was almost double that of 2006.
- Agricultural GHG emissions are rising mainly because fertilizer use and related emissions are rising.
- These rising agricultural emissions are incompatible with Canada's 2030 and 2050 commitments.
- Planet-wide, humans have tripled nitrogen flows through terrestrial ecosystems (through the land area of the Earth) with many regions seeing much higher multiples.
- In addition to exacerbating climate change, nitrogen fertilizer overuse contributes to water contamination, biodiversity loss, air pollution, damage to the ozone layer, and damage to human health.
- Rather than continuing to increase tonnage, we should reduce and optimize fertilizer use so as to maximize net benefits.
- Using fertilizer more efficiently and finding ways to use less fertilizer can reduce emissions, reduce farmers' costs, and increase margins.
- We need to work together: voluntary measures and incentives, not caps or bans. Farmers must be supported with cost-sharing programs and other incentives.

Members are encouraged to read the report and to discuss it with other members in their area. Interested in becoming more involved with the NFU's work on climate and emissions-reduction? Contact Darrin Qualman, NFU Director of Climate Crisis Policy and Action: qualman@nfu.ca

This report **recentres an authentic version of efficiency: one in which farming well actually means doing so while minimizing resource use** as well as GHG emissions, toxic releases, and depletion of crucial civilizational materials.

Experts who have studied the many benefits and harms of nitrogen use conclude that 'the net public health consequences of a changing N cycle are largely positive at lower levels, but they eventually peak and then become increasingly negative as our creation and use of fixed N continues to climb.'

Nitrogen fertilizer is neither 'good' nor 'bad'; rather, our choices about its use make it so.

Farmers need to be supported as we chart a new course. Farmers have spent much of the past two generations in an income crisis (1985 – 2008), and now face a climate crisis. Many lost most of their grain crops and livestock forage to drought in 2021. Since 2010, debt has doubled. **Farmers alone cannot shoulder new costs that cut deep into volatile and oft-tight margins. Governments must help farmers shoulder the risks...** and share the costs as farmers invest in new systems to reduce emissions and transform production systems.

A transition to a new, less-fertilizer-dependent, lower-emission future cannot be solely the responsibility of farmers. It will not come merely as the result of 'efficiency' or market forces or a simplistic focus on adoption of 'best management practices.' Rather, **governments, universities, and other institutions must provide significant resources and sustained leadership** as our global civilization of eight billion souls makes this critical transition.

[HTTPS://WWW.NFU.CA/PUBLICATIONS/NITROGEN-REPORT-2022/](https://www.nfu.ca/publications/nitrogen-report-2022/)

Gene-Editing Deregulation Gives Multinationals Too Much Power

BY CATHY HOLTSLANDER, NFU DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND POLICY



This fall, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is expected to release its new regulatory guidance for gene edited seeds. The final version will be very similar to the proposed versions we have commented on throughout its consultations. Health Canada and the CFIA are jointly responsible for regulating novel foods, as gene-edited products are called. Health Canada oversees food safety while the CFIA is responsible for environmental and feed safety, and is in charge of approving novel seed varieties for release.

Gene-editing is a powerful and still-emerging technology. Companies that want to market gene-edited varieties argue these seeds don't need to be regulated any differently from naturally bred plants—yet they claim gene-editing technology is much more powerful, faster, and able to produce traits not possible with traditional plant breeding or older genetic engineering techniques.

Gene-editing uses tools such as CRISPR/Cas 9 to cut DNA at specific locations, relying on cells to knit the DNA back together in a new way to silence or force the expression of specific genes, add or remove genes, and/or change the location of genes within the genome. Cells can repair their DNA in unexpected ways, and edited genes may change how the cell reads its DNA, producing unanticipated effects in the plant. Gene-editing can make radical changes to plant characteristics by over-riding the cell's

ability to protect areas of its genome that have evolved resistance to mutation. While plant developers can edit genes at specific sites within a plant's genome, results are not always as predictable, effective or beneficial as expected.

The CFIA's new proposals would exempt most gene-edited seed from regulatory oversight if the seed doesn't contain DNA from another species and if the plant developers believe the gene-edited plant will not cause specific environmental impacts listed by the CFIA. If the seed meets the exemption criteria, there will be no requirement for public disclosure that the variety is a product of gene-editing. Seed could be sold to farmers without informing them it is gene-edited, creating a massive risk to the organic sector which prohibits the use of gene-edited seed. While designing the new regulatory approach, the CFIA got advice from the same multinational corporations that dominate global seed sales and control patents on gene-editing technology. Seed of gene-edited crop varieties will be patent-protected in the same way genetically engineered canola, corn and soybean crops are today. Gene editing can be used to expand genetic engineering— and thus patenting— into cereal crops, flax, camelina, potatoes, horticultural crops, and pulses. Farmers who grow gene-edited varieties would have to buy seed and pay royalties to the patent holder every year, and farm saved seed of gene-edited varieties would be prohibited.

For seed multinationals, exemption from regulation would significantly reduce costs, while patents would increase their revenues and cost farmers more money— incentives to accelerate gene-edited seed development. Corteva, ChemChina, Bayer, BASF and other major seed and chemical companies would use patents and licenses to control access to the technology and police the use of these seeds.

The CFIA plans to use its gene-edited seed framework as the model for regulating gene-edited microbes and animals to be used in food, bio-reactors, bio-chemical factories, and soil additives. The implications of deregulation of gene-edited seeds has implications even beyond agriculture.

As a public regulator empowered by Parliament, the CFIA is accountable to the public— not to the companies it regulates.

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO
STOP OUR GOVERNMENT
FROM HANDING OVER THE
POWER TO DESIGN,
MANAGE AND CONTROL
ACCESS TO
AGRICULTURAL DNA TO
GLOBAL CORPORATIONS.**

TAKE ACTION

Send Ag Minister
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critics a message!

www.nfu.ca/gmseedaction



Report Back—Committee on World Food Security

BY JESSIE MACINNIS, YOUTH PRESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEMBER

In early July, I travelled to Rome to represent La Via Campesina (LVC) in negotiations of the final text of the “CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”, a product of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). LVC is a key actor in the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSIPM), a non-voting, multi-constituent consultative body within the CFS space. Members of the CSIPM’s Youth Working Group represent different social movements and NGOs from all corners of the globe. We spent the last year preparing for these negotiations together. This document is meant to provide national governments with policy recommendations aimed at supporting youth participation in meaningful food system engagement and employment. We arrived at the negotiations with these key priorities in mind:

- strengthening human rights language,
- giving more emphasis to climate justice,
- acknowledging the diverse range of youth aspirations and educational opportunities (especially those other than conventional entrepreneurship, workers’ rights, redistributive and mediated market policies, horizontal social processes, etc.),
- eliminating barriers to youth participation in governance spaces, and acknowledging the necessity of a change in course to eliminate the harms of “business as usual” and the deep-rooted marginalization of individuals and communities.

Though we could not vote during the negotiations – only member states can vote – we drafted text additions and deletions for every section of the policy document, which we presented and provided rationales for during the three days of intense debate. We also held bilateral meetings with member state delegates to gauge which states we could count on to support our proposals. This policy process should have been an important opportunity for diverse youth to put their expertise on the table and be championed by member states. Instead, our critical contributions to the negotiation were often met by ideological differences and stiff geopolitical alliances not in our favour.

Since we could not vote, many of our text proposals were not approved by member states and removed from the document. We had small wins, but it was an uphill battle. Between paragraphs, our group would be rapidly firing WhatsApp messages to one another changing our strategy and helping one another.

Despite the challenges, I was proud to be part of such a dynamic group of youth, many of whom had never participated in such processes before. We had excellent facilitators who broke down the complicated world of policy negotiations and all their associated protocols and held the group together while we made difficult decisions. While the Youth Working Group left feeling that the final text did not reflect our priorities, we built some unexpectedly good alliances with member states, and with one another.



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No, No! WTO! - Reporting from La Via Campesina's Global Mobilization against the WTO



Celeste Smith is the Co-Chair of the International Program Committee (IPC), which coordinates the NFU's involvement in La Via Campesina (LVC)— a 200 million strong movement that gives voice to farmers around the world. Celeste shares her experiences as a delegate from LVC North America to the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

On June 14, 2022, we came from all corners of the world. We represented every continent at the biggest gathering of the global peasant movement since the pandemic began. I was proud to represent the NFU and LVC in Geneva. I was inspired by my Indigenous comrades and embraced as the first Indigenous member from Northern Turtle Island (Canada).

Enduring the unprecedented heat wave that was just starting to grip Europe, we marched and sang the phrases that summed up our message: **"Stop the Food Crisis!"**, **"Free Trade Fuels Hunger!"** and **"No, No, WTO!"**

As I marched shoulder to shoulder with fellow small-and-medium

scale farmers in the streets of Geneva, the immensity of what we were trying to do struck me: we were trying to stop the World Trade Organization (WTO) from taking over our food systems and economies, globally. As Dr. Vandana Shiva says in her book *Stolen Harvest*,

“ **A corporate myth has been created, shared by most mainstream environmentalists and development orgs that industrial agriculture is necessary to grow more food and reduce hunger...(but) the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has institutionalized and legalized corporate growth based on harvests stolen from nature and people.** ”

As a small traditional Indigenous farmer and seed keeper I share this belief that the WTO has caused our current global food crisis by stealing harvests, dismantling local food systems and criminalizing seed keeping and other regenerative agricultural practices. This was our time to push back and remind the WTO and world leaders that small-and-medium scale farmers

and Indigenous peoples are the backbones of our local food systems.

The moment for resistance was ripe. The WTO had gathered in a place that had not been accessible to the public since the ministerial meeting in Mexico where Korean peasant and LVC member Lee Kyung Hae, sacrificed his life for the movement. During one of our big mobilizations, we stopped for a moment of silence. Mrs. Kim from the Korean Women Peasants Association spoke in commemoration of Lee. We wept and reflected on all the other farmers who have been sacrificed to corporate globalization. This onslaught has fueled our resolve. As we climbed up to the protected area of the WTO headquarters, the heavily armed police stopped us. But our message was loud and clear: **WTO MUST GET OUT OF AGRICULTURE.**

I give thanks to the NFU for helping me navigate this new role. Yaw'Ko.

Please join our monthly IPC meetings!

Email ipccordinator@nfu.ca

Take a photo of this code to read the LVC Geneva Declaration:



GLOBALIZE HOPE! GLOBALIZE THE STRUGGLE!
GLOBALISONS L'ESPOIR ! GLOBALISONS LA LUTTE !

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