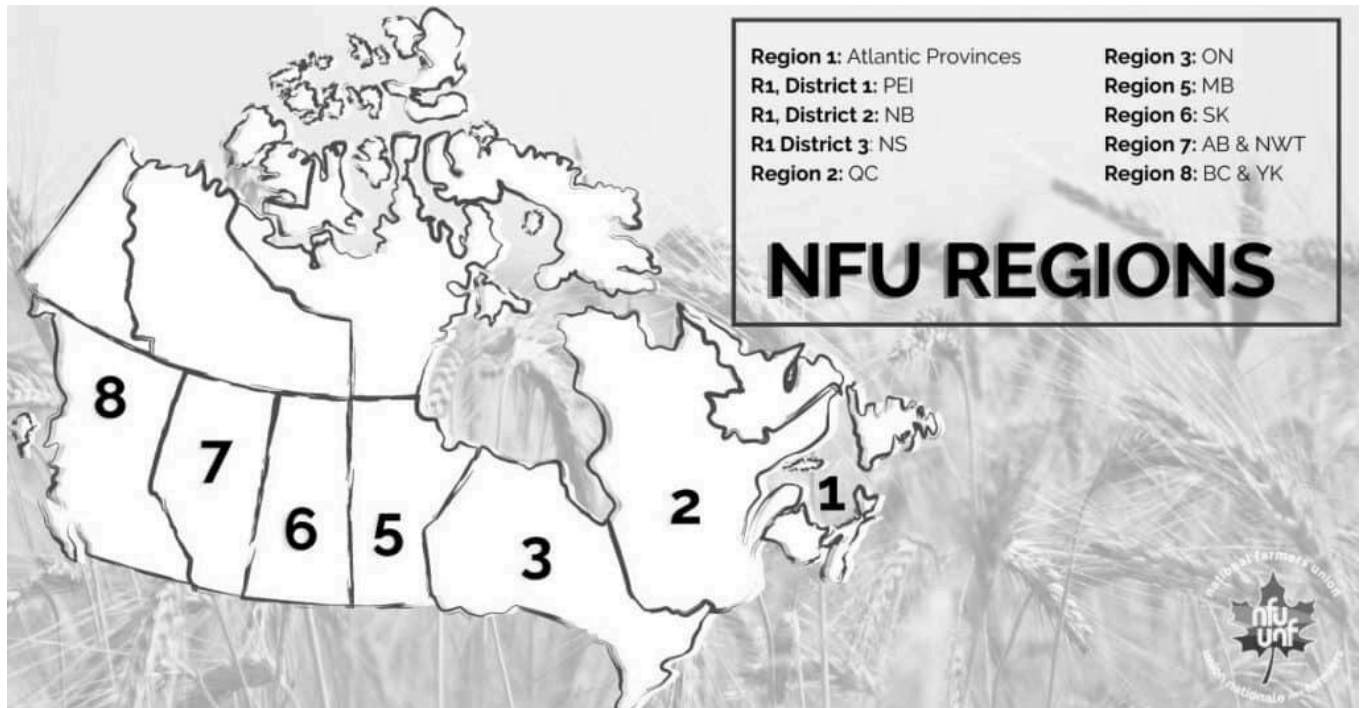

Welcome to the new Region 6 (Saskatchewan) monthly newsletter! Thank you for your support of the National Farmers Union. In Region 6, we have a vibrant membership, many upcoming events, and active campaigns in the interest of farmers, farmworkers, food systems, and the environment.



The NFU thrives as a democratic, farmer-led union. The NFU Region 6 council and core member group meets online via Zoom each month. If you would like to discuss attending and participating

in these monthly meetings, please contact [Michael Gertler](#), Regional Coordinator, or [Sarah Foley](#), Assistant to the Regional Coordinator.

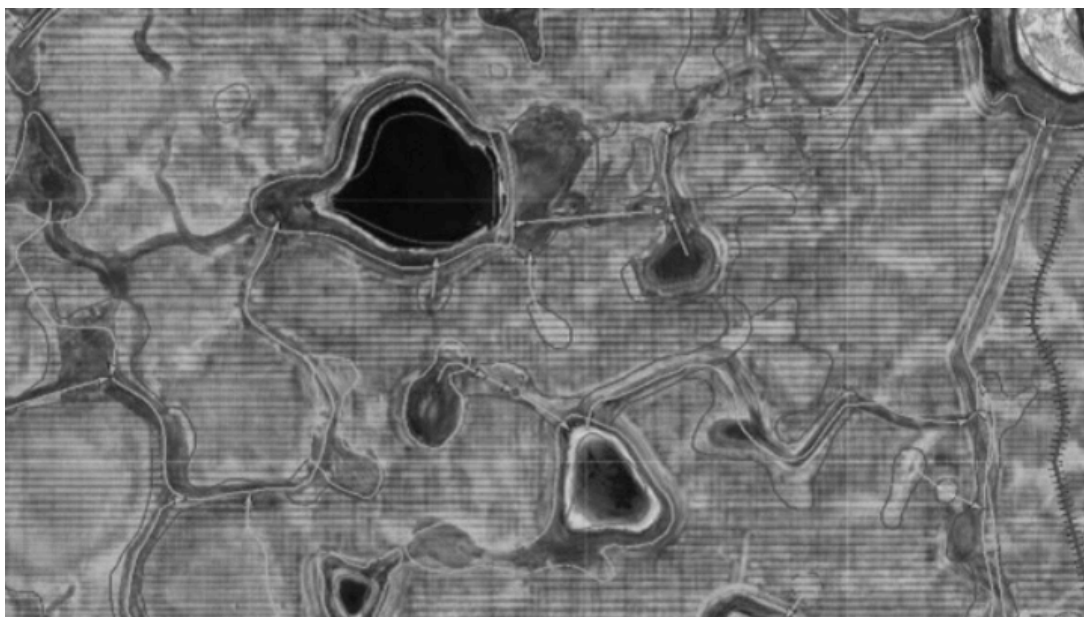
We are extending our sincere thanks to those who donated to support the union's advocacy work! In a recent fundraising campaign organized by members **Stewart Wells and Terry Toews**, \$16,350 was raised for The World We Want (TWWW) program at the [National Farmers Foundation](#). Approximately half of this funding will support Region 6 activities.

It's not too late to **donate!** The tax year has been extended to **February 29th** to donate and receive a charitable donation tax receipt. To support R6 in your donation, note on your cheque or donation form that you wish to support TWWW R6 (Saskatchewan) projects.

DONATE

Saskatchewan Wetlands Protection

A key issue for the NFU R6, Saskatchewan agroecology, and water security



An image of drained (red) and retained (green) wetlands in Saskatchewan from the Water Security Agency. Drainage and cropping of ephemeral or semi-permanent wetlands alongside the maintenance of permanent wetlands is promoted by the WSA as responsible agricultural water management.

NFU members Al Birchard and Lorne Scott are active with [Wetlands for Tomorrow](#). Wetland retention and illegal and poorly planned drainage are pressing issues for Saskatchewan farmers and the general public. There are implications for water security and biodiversity in the context of climate change, with its associated droughts and increasingly intense precipitation events. Biodiversity loss, excess nutrient loads in terminal basins, downstream flooding and damage to

municipal infrastructure are also a result of unregulated drainage. As wetlands disappear, the government is further weakening water security in the province by spending on expensive irrigation projects that benefit very few.

As an NFU Region, we seek to work alongside Wetlands for Tomorrow to advocate for change from both government and farmers in the management of Saskatchewan wetlands.

Current policy issues:

- Saskatchewan has no wetland policy, and we support the creation of a **Comprehensive Wetland Conservation Policy**. View Bill 29-615 from NDP Opposition Critic for the Water Security Agency, Erika Ritchie, [here](#).
- The Water Security Agency currently charges a **\$1000 fee** for submitting any complaints against drainage works affecting downstream land users.
- Wetland loss in Saskatchewan is estimated at approximately **50%** and is ongoing at a rate of around **10,000 hectares (24,711 acres) per year**. These numbers are estimates, as there is no provincial inventory of wetlands.

For more information or to discuss the issue and potential actions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Al Birchard](#) or [Lorne Scott](#).

Look for more in-depth discussions of wetlands protection in Saskatchewan in following newsletters!

We welcome members to share their water management concerns and strategies with us. As we include future features on members, we'd love to share about your farm and how you're addressing this issue. Send us a photo alongside your submission!

EMAIL US

Upcoming Events

February



WELCOME TO THE NFU!

New Member Onboarding



Be in the know, get connected, take action!

There is a national **New Member Onboarding Event** hosted online **February 6th at 2:00 pm CST**. Tell your friends and neighbours! For both members and non-members, this event is an opportunity to get to know the organization. It'll be an opportunity to learn, share interests, and ask questions about how to get involved.

[REGISTER](#)

Member **Glenn Wright** is speaking on global and Canadian perspectives in **climate litigation** on Zoom on **Sunday, February 9th** at 2 pm. Email Glenn to RSVP and receive the Zoom link.

[EMAIL GLENN](#)

NFUniversity's classes continue with a virtual event titled "**Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF): The NFU's Recent Report**" on **February 13th** at 2 PM CST. **Darrin Qualman**, NFU Director of Climate Crisis Policy and Action, will explain SAFs and tell webinar participants why the global SAF megaproject may be among the largest factors shaping agriculture and food systems this century.

[REGISTER](#)

Julie Maxwell, National VP Operations, is coordinating the next cohort of NFU participants in **Organizing 4 Power**, which is a strategic union organizing training program running every Thursday from February 13th to March 20th.

Thurs, February 20 @ 3pm EST

LEAVE A LEGACY

Legacy donations can reduce your tax burden while ensuring your funds go directly to the important, farmer-led work you want to see continue.

With Mike Skrypnek, fundraiser, author and legacy coach



national farmers union | union nationale des fermiers



NATIONAL FARMERS FOUNDATION



2 PM CST

REGISTER

On **February 27th** at 2 PM CST, CBC Massey Lecturer **Astra Taylor** will host an NFUniversity class titled "**Achieving Security and Justice Through Collective Action and Solidarity.**"

"Rising farm debts, the transformation of land into a financial instrument, and our reliance on the market to fulfill basic needs has created insecurity and hollowed out rural communities. We live in the most prosperous era in human history, but it's also an era of profound insecurity. Ultimately, however, we are reliant on each other for our collective existence, and it is this interdependence that will help us to resist the manufactured insecurity that we face today."

REGISTER

Opportunities

to support NFU initiatives!

NFU DAYS
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NFU Days membership drive runs January 20 to February 28th. **Encourage farmers and non-farmer allies to join the organization or to renew their membership!** Whether you're chatting with neighbours, posting about the NFU on social media, or joining our NFU Days calling campaign, your efforts help ensure the future of the union. **Farmer memberships are now 50% off!**

If you would like to call lapsed or potential members to encourage them to renew or join, please reach out to [Michael Gertler](#), [Lyle Orchard](#), or [Sarah Foley](#).

Use the link below to renew or join, or share it with potential members!

JOIN THE NFU

We are implementing a **poster campaign** to reach out to potential members and promote the union across the province. We ask that you print the attached poster and post it in a **community centre** of your choosing: a grocery store, post office, RM office, or university notice board, for example. Print as a 9" x 16" in colour or low ink options, or print 2 per page for smaller postcard-style posters.

COLOUR POSTER DOWNLOAD

LOW INK POSTER DOWNLOAD

We encourage members and non-members to participate in the public consultation by the **Government of Canada's Competition Bureau** on greenwashing in advertising. Examples to look at include advertising from Cenovus Energy and the Government of Saskatchewan's advertising to promote SustainableSK.

COMPLAINT FORM

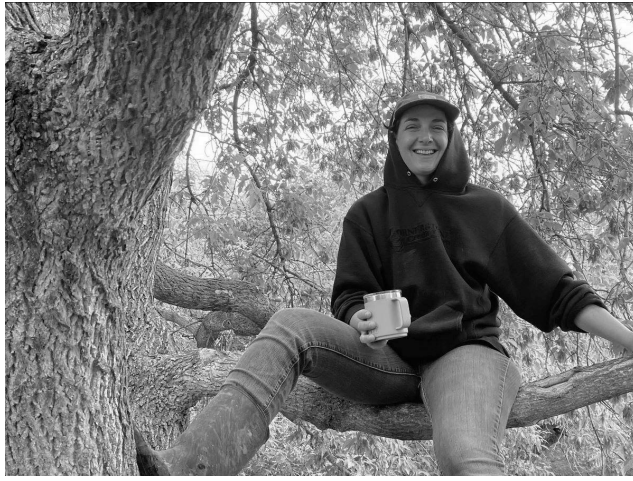


Our **Region 6 Convention** is quickly approaching! We will host a social and educational event the evening of **Friday, April 4th** and the R6 Convention programming during the day on **Saturday, April 5th**. The theme for this year is Farmland: Ownership, Stewardship, and Access. We will meet in Saskatoon (venue to be determined), and we welcome you to assist in organizing or suggesting venues, speakers and topics. For more information or to participate, please send us an email.

EMAIL

Member Feature

Sarah Foley, Quill Lake



Sarah farms with her father on Treaty 4 territory, south of Quill Lake. They grain farm on 800 acres and custom graze cattle on a section of pasture. Sarah is starting separate enterprises in local, organic, gluten-free oat beverages, pastured pork, and Boer meat goats. As part of the Young Agrarians Business Mentorship Network, she is grateful to learn from her mentor and connect with a network of young farmers from across Canada. She is working with NFU R6 as an Assistant to the Regional Coordinator and in Membership Development. She loves the union for the community of like-minded farmers and for opportunities to learn and participate in politics and agroecology. Sarah writes this monthly newsletter, and she welcomes any comments, questions, additions, or concerns!

Would you like to be featured in the February/March newsletter? Let me know!

EMAIL SARAH

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