

THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
L'UNION NATIONALE DES FERMIERS

FALL 2024
L'AUTOMNE 2024

UNION FARMER

UNION FERMIÈRE

May 2024-
**National
President visits
BC farms (page 3)**

Mai 2024
**Présidente
nationale
rencontre les
fermes de la C-B
(page 3)**



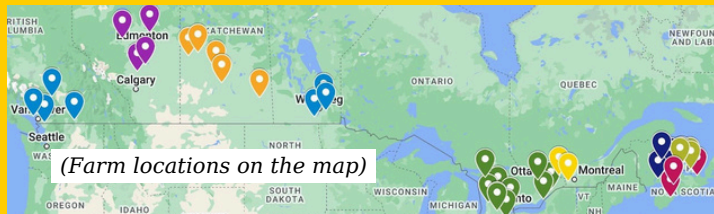
August 2024- **All
national short
films about
farming now
available (page 2)**

Août 2024 -**Tous
les courts-
métrages de
ferme sont
maintenant
disponibles
(page 2)**

— All Short Films Now Available for Free Streaming —

Tous les courts métrages sont maintenant disponibles gratuitement

Depth of Field: Films About Farming, a series of 40 short films highlighting Canadian farmers implementing sustainable agriculture practices from coast to coast, is complete! To each of you who participated, shared, organized, hosted and more: **Thank You!**



"Through 'Depth of Field,' viewers gain a deeper understanding of farming, including seed sovereignty, farm labour, decisions about farming organically, climate solutions in agriculture and access to farmland... we hope schools, families, universities, and communities will watch these films and know that their food choices matter to producers and their farms." - Jenn Pfenning, NFU President

Find all films for free on the NFU's website and YouTube channel.



Profondeur de champ : Films sur l'agriculture, une série de 40 courts métrages mettant en vedette des fermiers canadiens qui mettent en œuvre des pratiques agricoles durables d'un océan à l'autre, est maintenant terminée ! À chacun d'entre vous qui avez participé, partagé, organisé, accueilli et plus encore : Merci !

« Grâce à 'Profondeur de champ', les téléspectateurs acquièrent une meilleure compréhension de l'agriculture, notamment de la souveraineté en matière de semences, du travail agricole, des décisions relatives à l'agriculture biologique, des solutions climatiques dans l'agriculture et de l'accès aux terres agricoles... nous espérons que les écoles, les familles, les universités et les communautés regarderont ces films et sauront que leurs choix alimentaires sont importants pour les producteurs et leurs fermes ». - Jenn Pfenning, présidente de l'UNF.

Trouver tous les films gratuits sur le site web de l'UNF et sur le canal YouTube.



— Weathering The Harvest —

Voices from the Frontlines of Canada's Climate Crisis

In the middle of an early, record-breaking heatwave in Eastern Canada, NFU members launched *Weathering the Harvest: Voices from the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis* a storytelling and advocacy campaign that paints an intimate and confronting portrait of the daily realities of farming in an increasingly unpredictable and hostile climate. The NFU is calling for urgent changes to improve workplace safety regulations, strengthen labour rights, and deliver the comprehensive climate action needed to keep farm workers and farmers safe.



“ By 10am this morning, it was 35° with the humidex. These are hard conditions to work in but my employer encourages us to take breaks and prioritizes our health. **Not all farm workers have this privilege, as we are systematically excluded from many labour code standards.** I support permanent status for all so migrant workers can feel more safe in these climate conditions and can speak up without fear of deportation. -Eli Milton, Nova Scotia



NFU members across the country have been sharing their stories of how the climate crisis is endangering their health and safety on the farm. They also shared how high precipitation and extreme heat are impacting their planting and harvesting schedules, crop yields, and the health of their livestock. Our advocacy continues to make headlines across the country and abroad, bringing both our concerns and our solutions to political leaders, our neighbours, and the non-farming public.

“ Weeks like this remind me why I support **Status4All**. Migrant workers deserve to know that they can refuse to work in unsafe conditions without risking deportation. Justice for migrants is a matter of security. -Ariane Roberge, Quebec



As our work on the farm winds down, members are turning their attention to meeting with their representatives. We will continue to advocate for policies to preserve a farmable climate and guarantee a baseline of health and safety for all who work in agriculture.



A Message from Un message de

Jenn Pfenning

NFU President,

Présidente de l'UNF

How do we value land? We talk about the land we farm with pride. Maybe love. We are rooted in the soil as surely as our crops are. The feel and smells of our soil are familiar to us and give us information about the health of our land. Nurturing the whole farm beyond the field's edge, as well as the soil and crops that sustain us, is a whole-life labour of love as much as it is a business. We are fed by the land in ways that are hard to define and that at times we take for granted.

In society beyond our farms, there is nostalgia about what a farm is, yet farming and the true value of farmland is often not understood. Governments at every level and every political stripe across the country continue to enact policies that threaten this rare and precious resource. On my tour of British Columbia this spring, farmers talked about prime farmland being traded out of the Agricultural Land Reserve for lower quality acres. In Ontario we are losing 319 acres a day to development.

If we do not rise up and unite to address this threat to our future, our children and their children will not have enough prime farmland left in Canada to grow the food needed to sustain our country.

The NFU's commitment to valuing farming, land, and people has never been more critical. The challenges we face— from the loss of prime farmland to multinational corporations' relentless lobbying over seed— underscore the urgency of our mission. The upcoming National Convention is not just a gathering; it's our opportunity to unify and take decisive action to protect the future of farming in Canada. This year's National Convention (page 11), will build off of our actions on saving the future of farming. Join in on the nationwide gathering where we get to have a say on the future of farming.

Your involvement in committees, caucuses, and discussions with policymakers, helps positively shape the future of agriculture. Let's build on the foundation we've laid for over 50+ years and make sure that our farms, our land, and our communities are valued and protected for generations to come.

Quelle est la valeur de la terre ? Nous parlons de la terre que nous cultivons avec fierté. Peut-être avec amour. Nous sommes enracinés dans le sol aussi sûrement que le sont nos cultures. Les sensations et les odeurs de notre sol nous sont familières et nous renseignent sur sa santé. Prendre soin de l'ensemble de la ferme au-delà du bord du champ, ainsi que du sol et des cultures qui nous nourrissent, est un travail d'amour tout au long de la vie, tout autant qu'une activité commerciale. La terre nous nourrit d'une manière difficile à définir et que nous considérons parfois ceci comme un acquis.

Dans la société, au-delà de nos fermes, il y a de la nostalgie sur ce qu'est une ferme, mais l'agriculture et la véritable valeur des terres agricoles sont souvent méconnues. Les gouvernements à tous les niveaux et de toutes les tendances politiques du pays continuent d'adopter des politiques qui menacent cette ressource rare et précieuse. Lors de ma tournée en Colombie-Britannique ce printemps, les fermiers ont parlé des terres agricoles de premier choix qui sont retirées de la réserve de terres agricoles au profit d'acres de moindre qualité. En Ontario, nous perdons 319 acres par jour au profit du développement.

Si nous ne nous levons pas et ne nous unissons pas pour faire face à cette menace qui pèse sur notre avenir, nos enfants et leurs enfants n'auront plus assez de terres agricoles de premier choix au Canada pour produire les aliments nécessaires pour soutenir notre pays.

L'engagement de l'UNF à valoriser la terre, les personnes et l'agriculture n'a jamais été aussi crucial. Les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés - de la perte de terres agricoles de premier choix au lobbying incessant des multinationales sur les semences - soulignent l'urgence de notre mission. La prochaine convention nationale n'est pas un simple rassemblement ; c'est l'occasion pour nous de nous unir et de prendre des mesures décisives pour protéger l'avenir de l'agriculture au Canada. La convention nationale de cette année (page 11) s'appuiera sur nos actions pour sauver l'avenir de l'agriculture. Participez à ce rassemblement national qui nous permettra d'avoir notre mot à dire sur l'avenir de l'agriculture.

Votre participation aux comités, aux caucus et aux discussions avec les décideurs politiques contribue à façonner positivement l'avenir de l'agriculture. Construisons sur les fondations que nous avons posées depuis plus de 50 ans et veillons à ce que nos fermes, nos terres et nos communautés soient valorisées et protégées pour les générations à venir.

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A Message from Julie Maxwell

NFU Youth President

Despite the busyness of the growing season, the Youth Caucus met regularly throughout the spring and summer to connect and chip away at some big plans and projects.

In the spring, we launched a mentorship program, matching long-time members with newer members to exchange knowledge and build relationships across generations. If you would like to participate, contact Caleb at caleb_woolcott@icloud.com.

Recognizing that **land access is the largest barrier facing young farmers today**, we've also been organizing a narrative-building project where we aim to collect as many stories as possible of young/aspiring farmers who are challenged in accessing land. We want to dispel the myth that "*nobody wants to farm anymore*" and use these stories to show the public just how many young people *want* to be farming, and how wonderfully generative these farms could be. If you have a story to share, see page 6 for more information. Story-tellers who are 30 and under will also be entered to win 1 of 2 cash prizes as part of the Paul Beingessner Award for Excellence in Creative Media.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to check out the *Sow and Grow* podcast, written and produced by NFU Youth. The most recent season grapples with issues of land access in a beautifully complex and comprehensive way. Listen: <https://sowandgrow.ca/>.

Lastly, we are excited to be organizing a Youth Convergence in Saskatoon this November, just prior to the National Convention (pg 15). We are seeking support to help cover travel costs and make these events accessible to all of our brilliant, diverse members. To donate go to gofundme.com/support-NFU-youth, and as always—reach out to us at nfuyouth@nfu.ca to connect.



A Message from Cady Foreman

NFU Women's President

The Women's caucus continues to address the political challenges that impact farmers. In collaboration with the Canadian Health Coalition, we're advocating for Bill C-64, ensuring pharmacare for all. Canadians rely heavily on hospitals and medications to deal with ailments due to limited physicians. Farms are typically rural, which are especially vulnerable due to limited pharmacies. Privatization threatens to exploit these trends with possible medication exclusivity deals, increasing its cost. If Bill C-64 does not pass in its original form, that's likely where pharmacare is heading.

We're brainstorming approaches to reduce food waste nationally, alongside allies at the Coalition of Healthy School Foods, Associated Country Women of the World and the federal government (AAFC & ECCC). We've referenced a VCIM study which implicates agriculture as a large contributor to food waste due to unharvested crops, rejected B grade crops, supply chain issues and delays to name a few. However, is it waste if it decomposes? What about restrictions from the CFIA (Canadian Food and Inspection Agency) that protect Canadians from unsafe foods? Should we lobby around deceptive food labeling that encourages food waste? Adequately defining food waste is the current challenge.

We continue efforts to advocate for safety, and mitigate violence in all forms, specifically Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). In Ontario we keep an eye on Bill C-173 – a status that designates IPV an epidemic and initiates actions from the provincial government. We support this bill, and intend to bring this to national attention.

I find comfort in what we've accomplished. **Being persistent, doing what we can when we can is enough. Continue to be compelled to speak up, bring awareness to challenges around you and we can collectively support one another.**

In memory of Ken & Ruth Sinclair The NFU lost two great supporters and advocates when Ken Sinclair and his wife Ruth passed away very close to each other. Ken, on April 2nd and Ruth on February 23rd. Ken was 94 and Ruth was 88. They had been married for 65 years. When you saw one, you saw the other. They had one daughter, 2 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Ken was a dedicated potato and cattle farmer, plus an avid hunter when deer season rolled around. Ruth was a public school teacher loved by her students. Ken spent countless hours drumming up NFU memberships long before it was compulsory to belong to a farm organization in Ontario. They hosted many meetings at their home for Local 345. He & Ruth will be missed by NFU family and the community.



A Message from Kishon Warmington NFU BIPOC Vice President

This year the **BIPOC* Caucus has continued our focus on equity and inclusion within the caucus, throughout the NFU and the wider farming community. As BIPOC farmers and farm workers, we are banded together by our commonality in the daily struggles of obtaining equality in all aspects of farming. This has cultivated a persistent and relentless group of individuals within the caucus that are passionate about creating a space in which everyone is welcomed to be a part of the broader farming community.

**BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour*

We have continued our ongoing work on building and deepening relationships within the caucus; within this, we've been organizing several gatherings to build our community. We have organized a learning fund initiative in which members of the caucus were able to access learning materials to further their farming enterprises. Each member then brought back what they learned to share with the group.

We had a very successful and meaningful virtual storytelling event. It created a safe space for members to share, listen, and empathize with each other. We organized an in-person gathering March 20th before the NFU-O convention.

This year, we were guided through a strategic plan for the caucus through the help of a facilitator. Our hope is to create a thoughtful and well-structured roadmap to the direction we would like the caucus to go as a collective. **Our focus continues to be grounded in building relationships, meaning, community, and inclusion** within the group. We are committed and determined to define our collective identity.

THE L'ÉCHANGE

Cultivating Diversity in Agriculture
cultiver la diversité dans l'agriculture

Are you an equity-deserving farmer and/or farm worker looking to advance your career in agriculture for long-term success? The NFU is proud to present The EXCHANGE, a new cohort-centered national program to help maximize your long-term success in Canadian agriculture, through access to staff support, funding for training, grant-writing support, mentorship, networking, a centralized Resource Hub online, and more. This program will support two successive cohorts of 20 farmers and farm workers.

Equity-deserving farmers include, but are not limited to, Indigenous farmers; Black and other racialized farmers; women farmers; youth farmers; 2SLGBTQI+ farmers, farmers with disabilities; and farmers in Official Language Minority Communities; and all farm workers in these same groups.

Applications for the first cohort are due September 27th. This issue of the Union Farmer may arrive after that date. *Don't despair*—applications for the second cohort will be due in Jan/Feb 2025.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit www.nfu.ca/theexchange. Questions? hakimian@nfu.ca & bunyan@nfu.ca. Pour en savoir plus, scannez le code QR ou visitez-nous au www.nfu.ca/theexchange aujourd'hui.



Êtes-vous un(e) fermier/fermière ou un(e) travailleur(euse) agricole en quête d'équité et désireux(se) de faire progresser votre carrière en agriculture pour une réussite à long terme ? L'UNF est fière de présenter L'ÉCHANGE, un nouveau programme national axé sur les cohortes qui vise à maximiser votre réussite à long terme dans l'agriculture canadienne, grâce à l'accès au soutien du personnel, au financement de la formation, à l'aide à la rédaction de demandes de subvention, au mentorat, au réseautage, à un centre de ressources centralisé en ligne, et plus encore. Ce programme soutiendra deux cohortes successives de 20 fermiers et travailleurs agricoles.

Les fermiers qui ont droit à l'équité comprennent, entre autres, les fermiers autochtones, les fermiers noirs et les autres fermiers racialisés, les femmes, les jeunes, les fermiers 2SLGBTQI+, les fermiers handicapés et les fermiers des communautés de langue officielle en situation minoritaire, ainsi que tous les travailleurs agricoles appartenant à ces mêmes groupes.

Les candidatures pour la première cohorte sont attendues pour le 27 septembre. Le présent numéro de l'Union Farmer pourrait arriver après cette date, mais ne vous découragez pas. Les candidatures pour la deuxième cohorte devront être déposées en janvier/février 2025.

Building International Solidarity

at the 6th Continental Women's School

When I first got actively involved with the NFU a few years ago, one of the first things I did was look up the International Programs Committee (IPC). I knew that the NFU was a founding member of La Via Campesina (LVC), the international peasants' movement, and connecting across borders on issues of farming and food sovereignty had long been important to me. In the IPC, which also houses the Indigenous Solidarity Working Group and the Migrant Worker Solidarity Working Group, I've found a sense of community and have learned so much about how the issues we encounter on our farm in Nova Scotia are interconnected with so many social, political, and environmental issues across Canada and around the world. A couple of the notable projects we've been involved with recently include a book club reading of Harvesting Freedom and meeting with author Gabriel Allahdua and his collaborator Edward Dunsworth, as well as our collective work to develop an Indigenous Solidarity Strategy through meetings and learning circles.



In the international arena, the NFU continues to be an active voice in solidarity with other farmers working to protect their food sovereignty, like our support for Mexico's right to restrict the use of genetically-modified corn in certain foods. In December 2023 in Colombia, the NFU participated in La Via Campesina's eighth international conference, and in March 2024 in Boston, we joined a special meeting focused on rebuilding the North American region of LVC. Following the meeting, we received an invitation to participate in the Continental Women's School, which took place May 24th to 31st, and I was honoured to be selected as the Canadian delegate.

This Women's School was organized by the CLOC (the Latin American Coordination of Peasant Organizations), which brings together 84 organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean. Over 90 women representing organizations across the Americas participated in the five-day meeting held at the Mama Tingo Training Centre in Dominican Republic.

Each day started with a *mística* led by representatives from one of the regions to ground our learning in connection to one another and to the land and water. We participated in workshops and lectures to deepen our political analysis on topics including violence against women in rural and farming communities, the rise of far-right extremism, and corporate consolidation and control in agriculture. While there was a huge diversity of experiences and contexts represented in the group, we found many points of commonality and shared experience. The days wrapped up with a cultural exchange as we deepened relationships of friendship and solidarity. NFU members Nettie Wiebe and Annette Desmarais were often mentioned over the course of the week because of the important role they played in the formation of La Via Campesina, especially ensuring that women had an equal role and voice in leadership and throughout the movement.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this exchange. It reinforced for me, once again, how critical it is that we situate our advocacy here in Canada within the

Interested in this ongoing work? Contact Terran, IPC Coordinator, at ipccordinator@nfu.ca.

larger context of the struggle for just and equitable food systems internationally. Our role and responsibility in these discussions, in particular in the Americas, is critically important.



Wyanne Sandler

International Programs Committee Member

Region 1, District 3



Visions for a just farm future



2024 PAUL BEINGESSNER AWARD

Are you a young farmer or farm worker, or someone who aspires to be? Have you been challenged with accessing land?

**Win
\$500.**

**We want to hear
from you.**

More info



Two age categories: 15 to 21 years old, & 22 to 30 years old.

Deadline: November 8, 2024.

Receiving the award: The prizes will be awarded at the NFU Convention 21-23 November 2024.

Region 1, District 1 (PEI)

Good day from the bright red mud! I extend my thanks for Doug Campbell's service as District Director, his commitment and leadership have been instrumental in driving our mission forward, particularly with the Lands Protection Act. I am pleased to introduce Rita Jackson as our new District Director. We are confident she will build on the solid foundation of past leaders. Another thanks to Travis Cummisky and Karen Fyfe for their valuable contributions.

The Land Coalition Forums continue to be a significant achievement, providing a platform for discussing land use issues. We are also excited to continue work on the Red Seal Butchery Program, which is progressing well with our local partners. We remain concerned about rising farmland prices and the ongoing trend of farmland loss. Recent legislative changes to the Lands Protection Act are troubling. See the [Island Farmer](#) for more information. We look forward to continuing the NFU's work and the positive impact of all our members who help to make farming in balance with nature and society as a whole worth fighting for.

Byron Petrie

District Representative



Region 1, District 2 NFU-NB / UNF au N-B

The NFU-NB has been hosting a successful series of BIPOC workshops for those who are active or interested in agriculture. Over 200 people attended our Open Farm Day event in collaboration with Ferron Family Farms. Our final event will be in Miramichi, November 16th at the Seamen's Hospital.

The launch of our updated NB Map of Farmers' Markets is coming soon, and this year will include an online interactive version. We are also hosting NB's first ever farmers' market conference this winter. The NFU-NB has partnered with other agricultural and environmental organizations to distribute information about Species at Risk on Agricultural Lands to our members. In August, we collaborated with the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network on a farm tour and potluck in Kouchibouguac. We are researching and building structures to support programs that address food insecurity and land access for new farmers. This fall and winter we will be working on a new strategic plan, we will work collectively to focus our objectives and build a vision for our future.

L'UNF au N.-B. a organisé avec succès une série d'ateliers pour les Personnes autochtones, noires et de couleur (PANDC) à l'intention des personnes actives ou intéressées par l'agriculture. Plus de 200 personnes ont assisté à notre Journée agricole portes ouvertes en collaboration avec Ferron Family Farms. Notre dernier événement aura lieu à Miramichi le 16 novembre.

Le lancement de notre nouvelle carte des marchés agricoles du Nouveau-Brunswick est imminent et, cette année, elle comprendra une version interactive en ligne. Nous organisons également la toute première conférence sur les marchés fermiers du Nouveau-Brunswick cet hiver.

L'UNF-NB s'est associée à d'autres organisations agricoles et environnementales pour distribuer à ses membres de l'information sur les espèces en péril sur les terres agricoles. En août, nous avons également collaboré avec Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network pour organiser une visite de ferme et un repas-partage à Kouchibouguac. Nous effectuons des recherches et mettons en place des structures pour soutenir les programmes qui traitent de l'insécurité alimentaire et de l'accès à la terre pour les nouveaux fermiers. Cet automne et cet hiver, nous travaillerons sur un nouveau plan stratégique, nous travaillerons collectivement pour cibler nos objectifs et construire une vision pour notre avenir.

Suzanne Fournier

*NFU-NB Executive Director-Directrice
executive de l'UNF au N.-B.*



Region 1, District 3 (NS)

Nova Scotian farms are once again facing extreme weather this season. While already dealing with extended heat waves and flooding, we are all bracing for what is predicted to be an intense hurricane season. We applaud the efforts of the Weathering the Harvest campaign and look forward to continuing local conversations about climate action and workplace safety.

As a new district, this past year has focused on relationship building and bringing people together. This looked like hosting four Depth of Field Screenings, bringing together upwards of 130 people and launching our Agroecology Exchange Series - half day events hosted by farmers, farm workers or land stewards that focus on horizontal transfer of both technical and political aspects of agriculture. Through learning and shared meals, we come together to organize and identify focus areas for our work as the NFU. We look forward to hosting 15 unique exchanges and sharing our process and takeaways with the broader NFU community.

Eli Milton

District Representative



Region 2 (Québec)

Since a picnic last summer that sparked renewed local energy and a strong Region 2 (R2) contingent at the National Convention in Ottawa, NFU farmers and farm workers in Quebec have been building momentum. Members met with the McGill Dean of Agriculture, the Canadian Council of Deans and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to build broad support for the Canadian Farm Resilience Agency. We also hosted three Depth of Field Screenings in Ripon and Montreal showcasing local NFU farms and have organized farmer contingents in Migrant Rights and Palestinian Youth Movement protests. We meet monthly and are planning a Fall retreat to discuss issues and build community. Get involved by emailing hakimian@nfu.ca.

R2 is thrilled to see unionized workers at Lufa Farms in Ville Saint Laurent (UFCW Local 501) sign their first-ever collective agreement! If you are a farm worker needing support and/or interested in organizing your coworkers, contact kaya@nfu.ca.

Depuis le pique-nique de l'été dernier qui a suscité un regain d'énergie locale et un fort contingent de R2 à la convention nationale à Ottawa, les fermiers et les travailleurs agricoles de l'UNF au Québec ont pris de l'élan. Des membres ont rencontré le Doyen de la faculté d'agriculture de l'Université McGill, le Conseil canadien des doyens et la Fédération canadienne de l'agriculture afin d'obtenir un large soutien pour l'Agence canadienne de résilience agricole. Nous avons également organisé trois projections de Profondeur de champ à Ripon et à Montréal pour présenter les fermes locales de l'UNF et nous avons organisé des contingents de fermiers pour les manifestations sur les droits des migrants et le mouvement de la jeunesse palestinienne. Nous nous réunissons tous les mois et prévoyons une retraite à l'automne pour discuter des problèmes et construire une communauté. Participez en envoyant un courriel à hakimian@nfu.ca.

R2 est ravie de voir les travailleurs syndiqués des Fermes Lufa, à Ville Saint Laurent (Local 501 - TUAC), signer leur toute première convention collective ! Si vous êtes un travailleur agricole ayant besoin de soutien et/ou intéressé à organiser vos collègues, contactez kaya@nfu.ca.

Nasseem Hakimian

Region 2 Organizer /
Organisatrice de la région 2



Region 3 (NFU-Ontario)

This season has been extremely wet here in Ontario. Heavy rains flooded the Greater Toronto Area and other parts of the province in July. Many farmers are losing crops as they rot in the fields— climate resilience remains top of mind as our farm members continue to adjust to extreme weather patterns.

Region 3 hosted a meeting this spring with members around a non-quota egg resolution that was carried at our AGM & Convention. Members are interested in increasing the production limit of non-quota eggs in the province and being able to sell non-quota eggs at farmers' markets. We also continue the fight for farmland protection in Ontario. We have issued media statements and offered our support to local farmers in the Waterloo Region who are being threatened with having their land expropriated for future industrial development.

NFU-O is pleased to welcome a new Local - Local 303 in Niagara! Check out our local updates at nfuontario.ca to follow local and provincial policy and advocacy work.



Max Hansgen

NFU-Ontario President

Region 5 (Manitoba)

This June, NFU-MB launched a fund-raising and membership campaign to help strengthen our voice in Manitoba Agriculture. Our goal is to raise money to hire a regional staff person to help us focus on our two key issues:

- 1) **Stable Funding** - Achieving legislative changes in Manitoba to make NFU-MB the second general farm organization in the province eligible to receive check-off funding from farmers. Currently farmers have no choice of which general farm organization their check-off money supports. We are striving for "choice-of-voice" for Manitoba farmers regarding general farm organization representation.
- 2) **A Stronger Local Food Economy** - We are developing a campaign that calls on the Government of Manitoba to create a healthy regulation environment in which both direct market farmers and supply management farmers can effectively operate to expand the local food sector, especially related to increased local meat processing capacity.

Anyone can donate directly through the national office (email nfu@nfu.ca or call 306-652-9465) by allocating to "NFU-Manitoba", or through NFF's "World We Want".



Matthew Weins

Region 5 Representative

Region 6 (Saskatchewan)

R6 council has expanded and continues to meet monthly. We are monitoring government (in)actions on drainage and climate change, as well as initiatives to expand irrigation and intensify production. Building relationships with the organic movement, First Nations, Young Agrarians—as well as members of all categories—remain priorities. Our members are active on seed reregulation and pulse crop issues, on energy and conservation matters, and have been reaching out to media and politicians interested in related rural problems.

In December, we hosted a “Come to the Table” event for female and gender-diverse farming folks. In February, we consulted online with our membership. In conjunction with a hybrid regional convention in April, we hosted a “Depth of Field Film Festival” and panel. In July, we enjoyed a meet-up at Prairie Garden Seeds. Going forward we will co-host a “Wetlands for Tomorrow” public forum and focus on building and outreach activities. We are inspired by national staff and counterparts in other provinces, and we look forward to the National Convention in Saskatoon.



Michael Gertler
Region 6 Representative

Region 7 (Alberta)

It can be difficult to remain optimistic in Alberta as wildfires rage and our government fails us on so many fronts—climate-change action, education, and healthcare, to name a few. Amidst it all, the NFU offers an island of hope and solace in the company of like-minded people.

We held our Regional Convention in La Glace, AB on Saturday, August 3rd. It was a day full of good discussions, presentations, and delicious food. We elected almost a full slate of representatives to our regional council, although we are still looking for a BIPOC representative. If anyone out there is interested in taking leadership, please reach out to nfu@nfu.ca!

Another highlight of the year was a Depth of Field Film Festival in Edmonton, organized by our Youth Rep, Adama Bundu, in March. It was an excellent opportunity for young, urban folks to explore food sovereignty in a deeper way and connect with rural farmers. The films are excellent—be sure to watch them if you haven't already (nfu.ca/filmsaboutfarming/meet-your-farmers/)!



Glenn Norman
Region 7 Representative



Watch films!

Region 8 (British Columbia)

In February, leaders in Region 8 organized a “Convergence to Sow the Seeds of Farmland Protection” at the Fraser Common Farm Co-op. Thirteen people, ranging from farmers to filmmakers to supporters and activists came together for two days of learning, connecting and strategizing. This ultimately resulted in the creation of the BC Farmland and Foodlands Protection Coalition. Work on this front has slowed down for summer but will continue in the fall.

We have several members in Region 8 passionate about improving the policy landscape for small-scale meat producers. At our regional convention in August, a resolution was passed which aims to build an interprovincial coalition of farmers and farm advocacy organizations to develop and advocate for recommendations that can be implemented within the supply management system to promote a path to growth for differentiated poultry and egg production. We hope you will be at the National Convention in November to engage with this discussion further!

Region 8 Leadership

NFU Member Benefits



As an NFU member, you have benefits!
Check out the many benefits, including from Service Plus at <https://www.nfu.ca/join/member-benefits/> to learn more!



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NFU Leading in Climate Adaptation & Mitigation

The NFU continues to lead all farm organizations in Canada in calling for the swift implementation of programs to support farmers in reducing emissions, building resilience, adapting to climate change, and protecting biodiversity. Recently, NFU climate work has included the following:

- The NFU's Climate Committee continues to focus on the ambitious policy proposal of a CFRA—a **Canadian Farm Resilience Agency**. A CFRA could field hundreds of extension agrologists, create and staff demonstration farms where low-emission practices could be refined and showcased, collect and publish data, and support farmers in emissions reduction planning and soil health plans. The Committee will be meeting with MPs, Senators and staffers this October.
- The NFU continues to serve on the 21-organization **Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Advisory Committee (SAS-AC)**. The NFU and the other organizations met in Ottawa in mid-June to discuss improvements to a proposed draft Strategy.
- The NFU has convened a Task Force of experts to **quantify greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the destruction of wetlands**. Initial calculations indicate that these total millions of tonnes per year. The aim is to use this research to ensure that Environment and Climate Change Canada adds such emissions into Canada's official inventory—the National Inventory Report. The next step is to use the NIR and the NFU's research to press for programs to halt the loss of wetlands.
- The NFU continues to play core roles within the **Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS) coalition**, including serving on the board and Policy Working Group (PWG) and overseeing the creation of a **Task Force Report that quantifies ambitious emission-reduction measures**.
- Collaborating with a team of academics (led by Dr. Martin Entz, U. of Manitoba) on an NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council)-funded project, **"Net zero farming systems** using diversity, integration, and perennality." The project will explore and detail potential net zero pathways toward agricultural sustainability.
- The NFU is also partnering in another NSERC-funded research project to **identify and set-aside non-profitable cropland** with a team led by Dr. Christy Morrissey, U. of Saskatchewan, using in-field yield data and satellite images to identify land that underperforms and does not earn positive returns for farmers. The aim is to work with farmers to plant perennials on these acres or otherwise take them out of crop production—reducing GHG emissions while increasing biodiversity and farmers' net incomes.
- The NFU has drafted a first-of-its-kind critical analysis of **Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs)** to be published before year-end. SAFs are proposed as low-emission alternatives to conventional jet fuel. The feedstocks for SAFs are to come primarily from farmland: first from corn, soy, and canola and then from agricultural residues, including straw and stover, and from purpose-grown energy crops. The NFU's Darrin Qualman, will speak at the **Sustainable Aviation Futures North America Congress in Houston, Texas** in October, raising questions regarding impacts on soil carbon levels, agricultural emissions, and food prices.
- The NFU will be releasing a report calling for the re-engagement of the CFIA in **efficacy testing of non-fertilizer supplements**. Efficacy testing could enable farmers to use these products with confidence, perhaps reduce fertilizer use and emissions, give access to lower-cost alternatives, and boost margins.
- Other climate-related work continues, including work to critique and avert **offset trading schemes**; to help farmers and other Canadians better understand the **Carbon Levy**; to call attention to rapidly **rising input use** in Canada (fuel, fertilizer, and pesticide tonnage have all doubled since the mid-1990s); and serving on the jury for the federal **Enteric Methane Reduction Challenge**.



Darrin Qualman

Director of Climate Crisis Policy & Action



Coming January - April 2025: Learn deeply with 8 webinars featuring experts in agriculture policy, climate and society. <https://www.nfu.ca/nfuniversity/>

À venir de janvier à avril 2025 :

Apprendre en profondeur avec huit webinaires avec des experts de la politique agricole, du climat et de la société.

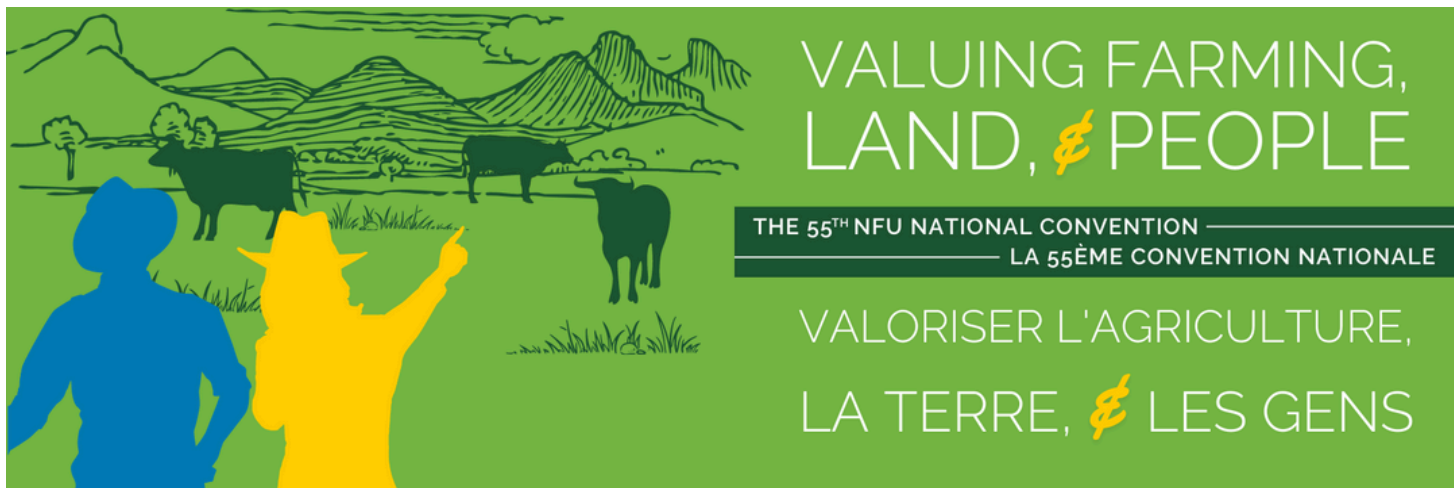


Announcing: NFU's 2024 National Convention

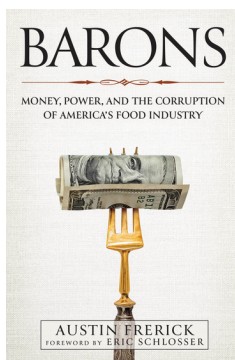
Annonçant : Convention nationale 2024 de l'UNF

Join in on democracy in action! Policy debates on issues brought by the membership, leadership elections, (re)kindling connections, dancing & music, inspiring speakers, Indigenous-led workshop, more debate, and planning collective action. It's all here - curated for you, fellow farmers and farm workers - in Saskatoon. We are also expecting a great closer to convention. Stay tuned to find out who!

Participez à la démocratie en action ! Débats politiques sur des questions soulevées par les membres, élections des dirigeants, (re)nouer des liens, danse et musique, conférenciers inspirants, atelier dirigé par des autochtones, autres débats et planification d'une action collective. Tout est là - conçu pour vous, collègues fermiers et travailleurs agricoles - à Saskatoon. Nous nous attendons à une clôture spéciale de la convention. Restez à l'écoute pour savoir qui !



We will be joined in person with a fabulous Keynote Speaker: Austin Frerick, author of **Barons: Money, Power, and the Corruption of America's Food Industry**. Read his book before you come for deeply-informed conversations. His chapters on the monopolies of Cargill and JBS transcend borders and his compelling thesis is equally relevant to the Canadian food system.



Nous serons rejoints en personne par un fabuleux orateur principal : Austin Frerick, auteur de « **Barons : Money, Power, and the Corruption of America's Food Industry** » (Des barons : argent, pouvoir et corruption de l'industrie alimentaire américaine). Lisez son livre avant de venir pour des conversations profondément informées. Ses chapitres sur les monopoles de Cargill et JBS dépassent les frontières et sa thèse convaincante est tout aussi pertinente pour le système alimentaire canadien.

Book your stay / Réservez votre chambre :

Park Town Hotel, 924 Spadina Cres East, Saskatoon, SK

CALL OR EMAIL / ENVOYEZ UN COURRIEL OU APPELEZ : 1-306-244-5564, reservations@parktownhotel.com

Use NFU Group Code 2411NFU24 & Group ID435741 Utilisez le code 2411NFU 24 et l'identification de groupe 435741

With the group block discount, room rates are \$144 to \$194 if you book before Oct. 19, 2024. Avec la réduction de groupe, les tarifs des chambres sont de 144 \$ à 194 \$ si vous réservez avant le 19 octobre 2024.

— The National Farmers Foundation —

The **National Farmers Foundation** (NFF) is an independent, farmer-led, charitable organization dedicated to the promotion, creation and enhancement of food systems based on the principles of food sovereignty, sustainability, equity, and justice. Through research, education, and projects that advance these principles we aim to support farmers and food provisioners, workers, and rural communities in Canada. Through our close and long-standing partnership, the NFF seeks to build on and strengthen the work of the NFU and the progressive farm movement in Canada. **The World We Want** The NFF is excited to be working with the NFU on The World We Want project that is building capacity for community organizing activities and further engagement to support farmer-centred food and farm systems that advance rural development. Read more on page 12 on how to support the World We Want.



Leave a Legacy

or support in other easy ways

Let's be clear – the NFU is unique. As a farmer-led advocacy and organizing group, **there is nothing like it in Canada.** But these are challenging times for groups like ours, continuing to tackle the tough issues on a shoestring research budget, with volunteer support from farmer leadership. The NFU needs your financial support if you are able to contribute.



Learn about Leaving A Legacy

COMING
SOON
STAY TUNED



LEARN WITH US - EARLY 2025

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

40% of adult Canadians do not have a will. Farmers' finances are uniquely challenging. Planning may be possible to ensure the next generation's success on (or off) your farm while supporting the ongoing work of the one farm organization that will protect their broader interests.

The NFU and National Farmers Foundation will be hosting workshops this winter about legacy donations. These workshops will cover aspects of donating land, securities and cash; designating beneficiaries from your RRSP/RRIF or will; and what financial mechanisms, including insurance, support your estate planning.

Look for the upcoming workshop announcements in early 2025 or, if you aren't consistently on email, contact the office at nfu@nfu.ca or 306-652-9465 to receive a personal invitation. If you think this would be helpful to you, we want you to benefit from these!

Could YOU support the NFU today?

- 1) Donate directly to the NFU by cheque or on-line (Note: the NFU cannot issue charitable receipts)
- 2) Donate to the The World We Want through the National Farmers Foundation:

The World We Want project is a partnership between the National Farmers Foundation (NFF) and the NFU. Half of your donation stays in your region to support regionally-determined initiatives, the other half supports NFU's national policy and advocacy work. *A charitable receipt is issued for donations of \$20 or more.*

TOGETHER WE ARE THE NFU We encourage you to support _____ the NFU if you are able

Become a monthly supporter or make a one-time donation online at **Canada Helps** - search National Farmers Foundation. Select "The World We Want" from the menu and designate your Region (or Province) in the notes. OR Mail a cheque to the National Farmers Foundation: NFF c/o Glen Koroluk, NFF Coordinator, 595 Goulding St., Winnipeg, MB R3G 2S3 (Indicate TWWW + your Region/Province on the memo line)

The NFU is an organization of, and for, farmers and farm workers in Canada, working together to democratically achieve agricultural policies that ensure dignity and income security for farmers and farmworkers while protecting and enhancing rural environments for future generations. NFU policies are determined by farmers, including our vigorous defense of farmers' control of seeds and farmland, public crop breeding, and farmer-led programs that build our soil health.