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NFU in NB's April E-Newsletter

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1. Announcements

NFU & Day of Action to Stop GM Alfalfa

On Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 the NFU NB took part in a Canada-wide Day of Action to stop the release of GM Alfalfa patented seed in Canada. NFU NB joined supporters, ACORN staff and farm members in Moncton at MP Robert Goguen's office to deliver a bale of hay, box of sprouts and a petition to demand New Brunswick & Canada remain GM Alfalfa-free!



A petition was also signed (with 40 signatures), and information was distributed at the Carleton County Spring Show and Sale in Florenceville-Bristol.

Thanks to NFU NB Board Member Rebeka Frazer-Chiasson for organizing the Moncton, NB event.

For photos, [visit our facebook site](#).

NFU-NB partnered with ACORN (Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network) to say, "With a growing season approaching, the agricultural industry fears final approval of this unwanted technology could be requested any day now." See full press release [here](#).

For more information on the threats of GM Alfalfa, [see here](#).

Following the Day of ACTION this update was released:



Important Update on GM Alfalfa, April 11,

2013: The threat of genetically modified (GM) alfalfa is still urgent. Thanks to your actions this week, the company and government are under pressure to release information to the public about the status of GM alfalfa. The company Forage Genetics International (FGI) has confirmed to media that, while it is now getting too late to introduce GM alfalfa onto the market this spring, it has requested government registration for GM alfalfa. This registration process is underway and a decision could be made any day. A decision to register GM alfalfa for the market would be made by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency within an eight-week timeframe. We do not know when this process started because the process itself is secret. FGI continues to issue vague reassurances to farmers while continuing to seek registration so they can release GM alfalfa onto the market whenever they choose. We need the Minister of Agriculture, Gerry Ritz, to stop registration of any GM alfalfa seeds now so that farmers know their alfalfa markets and production practices are protected from the decisions of seed companies. The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network and the National Farmers Union are working to get further information and will release a statement on this question on Monday. Thank you for joining us for this critical work, your actions are already having an impact.

[To write an electronic letter via CBAN to Minister Ritz, click here](#)

Attention agricultural producers / Attention aux producteurs agricole :

The NFU is seeking nominations to fill a seat at the Minister's Roundtable on Agriculture for two year terms, starting this spring, 2013. For more information and to submit nominations, contact info@nfunb.ca, or toll-free 1(888) 246-5583.

L'UNF est à la recherche de candidats pour remplir une poste à la Table ronde du ministre de l'Agriculture pour des mandats de deux ans, en commençant au printemps 2013. Pour de plus amples renseignements et pour soumettre des candidatures, contactez info@nfunb.ca, ou bien composez le 1(888) 246-5583.

2. Opportunities

Agricultural Cooperative Opportunity: Interested in farm work that could lead to the development of an agricultural cooperative? Join Jean-Eudes Chiasson and Rebeka Frazer-Chiasson on 800 acres of land in North Eastern NB, just outside of a small Acadian village, Rogersville. For more details, [see here](#). We are looking for people that are passionate about agriculture, that adopt the principles of cooperation and see their applicability in farming, and that want to participate in a discussion on the ways to transition towards a modern, sustainable, relevant agricultural coop. For more details, contact jchiasson@xplornet.com.

Apprentice On A Farm! Curious about farm-living? Seeking a first-time experience in agriculture? Consider doing a SOIL apprenticeship this summer! Please pass this info along to your friends and share on Facebook! Find out more at SOIL www.soilapprenticeships.org. If you have any questions, or would like to know what other opportunities exist for new and aspiring farmers please contact Lucia Stephen, ACORN's Grow A Farmer Coordinator at lucia@acornorganic.org.

Job Opportunity: The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) is looking for an Executive Director. The organization is searching for an inspiring and visionary leader to advance its goals. The successful candidate will have a commitment to organic agriculture, to increasing the availability and affordability of locally produced organic food, and to building strong communities and a safe environment. A detailed job description is posted [here](#). The hiring process will remain open until MOFGA finds the appropriate candidate. MOFGA anticipates filling the position by June 2013. All inquiries should be directed to edsearch@mofga.org.



Guide technico-économique pour fermes opérant en ASC: Merci Jean-Martin Fortier de nous en informer. Visitez le site-web de Jean-Martin Fortier par cliquez sur l'image!

News and Events

3. In the News

Fredericton agriculture lab's future in question: New Brunswick farmers call soil testing critical to their industry



The New Brunswick government is considering whether it will close the province's agriculture laboratory in Fredericton, a possibility that is causing concern inside the farming community.

Farmers say the lab helps them find the best composition of their crops, which also helps their livestock. (Photo Source: CBC)

Source: CBC News Apr 2, 2013

Barb Somerville, a dairy farmer, who speaks for the National Farmers Union, said the laboratory provides a critical service for many people in the agriculture sector.

"We face enough challenges without having the government destroy us one brick at a time,"

Somerville said.

To read the full story, [click here](#).

New Brunswick farmers join push for local food labels: Farmers surveyed support move to introduce labels in time for fall harvest

Source: CBC News Apr 8, 2013

A group of farmers wants to introduce a new label for local, made in New Brunswick food, which would make it easier for customers to distinguish where their food comes from.

The National Farmers Union in New Brunswick began talks with the province, after a survey found its members largely supported a move to introduce labels for locally-grown food.

To read the full story, including an interview with livestock producer Stephanie Coburn, [click here](#).

Président de l'UNF N-B sur l'alimentation locale a la radio

Source: Radio Canada April 11, 2013

[Cliquez-ici pour écouter l'interview.](#)



Is it the time of year to sign up for CSA shares! If you are a consumer and are looking for a great source of great local veggies this summer, why not buy a share in a CSA! Photo Source: Alva Farm www.fermealvafarm.com

Renewing Our Community's Agricultural Life From Loss in South Central Los Angeles

Source: Huffington Post The Blog April 8, 2013

Too often, the same people who work our fields during the day, planting and harvesting fresh produce, spend their evenings in line at the local food bank. As large centralized corporate companies increasingly mechanize their production and conceal it behind closed doors, what actually happens in our food system is hidden from us. With each generation, our communities continue to be stripped of our farm land, cultural heritage, and know-how. In a dystopic future we can image that the agricultural landscape shall be forbidden from ordinary humans; merely because of their anthropomorphic pollution. Will it all be fenced and mechanized?

To read the full story, [click here](#).

Why is Ottawa abandoning swaths of prairie grassland?

Source: The Globe and Mail April 6, 2013

In the next few weeks, if the deep snows of this winter ever recede, prairie dwellers such as Georgiaday Hall may find themselves enacting a common rite of spring. Strolling through a hilltop scrap of native grass, they may stop above the first velvety crocus blooms emerging from the earth and crouch in wonderment, even gratitude.

Despite all forces aligned against it, a piece of old prairie sod is coming to life again as it has for 7,000 years.

To read the entire story, [click here](#).



Drought conditions showing drifting soil along a fence between Cadillac and Kincaid, Sask. (Canadian Press)

4. Upcoming Events

April 16 ACORN's Grow A Farmer Program presents 'The Dirt on Soil' with Av Singh, Organic and Small Farm Specialist, Perennia. 8pm (1-hour). Webinar/conference call. \$10 or free for ACORN members. Register by calling 1-866-322-2676 or email lucia@acornorganic.org.

April 17 International Day of Peasants' Struggles. Visit viacampesina.org for full details.

April 21 Transition Cocagne will host a Community breakfast featuring local products on Sunday, April 21st. For more details, [see here](#).

April 22 [Broadfork Farm](#) presents Intro to Biodynamic Farming. This free workshop will be held from 10am-3pm and includes a lunchtime potluck. Bring a dish! For more details, [see here](#).

April 23 ACORN CSA Report Webinar with Laura Mather. 8pm (1-hour). Webinar/conference call. \$10 or free for ACORN members. Register by calling 1-866-322-2676 or email lucia@acornorganic.org.

April 27 New Brunswick's Conservation Council (CCNB) will be holding their Annual Fundraiser & Awards Night on Saturday, April 27th at Memorial Hall, University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Doors will open at 7:30pm and the exciting programme will begin at 8:00pm. For more details, [see here](#).

August 6 NFU District 1 Regional Convention will be held this year on Prince Edward Island. Stay tuned for more details.

August 19 ACORN 2nd Beginner Farmer Symposium will be held in Sackville, NB.

August 19-September 2 The Falls Brook Centre (FBC) is hosting a Permaculture Design Certificate Course. This is a residential course, in Knowlesville, NB, with Permaculture specialist Mr. Grover Stock. Course fees include HST, meals and accommodation: \$1,300 - book now! The 2013 events schedule is available [here](#). For more information, please contact ja@fallsbrookcentre.ca.

September 21-28 Organic Week 2013! To get involved, please visit www.organicweek.ca

Enjoy these e-mails? Become an NFU member today and enjoy many other benefits! [Click here to find out more about membership](#). Be sure to visit us online: www.nfunb.org



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