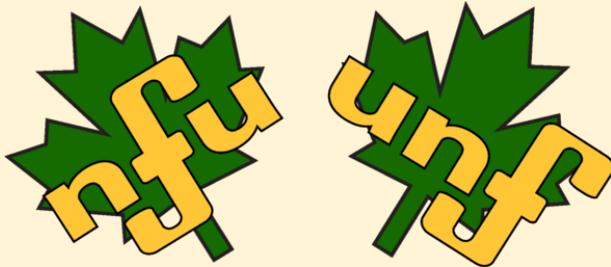


Like

Take a stand. Prenez position.
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**National Farmers Union in N. B.
Union nationale des fermiers au N-B**

NFU in NB's January E-Newsletter

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1. Announcements

How have you been affected by changes to the EI program?

The Council of Atlantic Premiers is asking the public and stakeholders to provide submissions that outline specific impacts they have experienced as a result of recent changes to Employment Insurance (EI). Public input is requested by January 31, 2014.

As a stakeholder group, the NFU in NB is preparing a response and **we would like to hear from farmers who have been affected by the changes to EI**. Please contact us by phone 1 (506) 260-0087 or [email us](#). We look forward to hearing from you!

Our main response is that farming is a seasonal business and cannot exist without seasonal labour. We believe that employment of high quality seasonal and temporary foreign workers has been altered dramatically under the new reform. The NFU in NB feels that farming should not be destabilized in the process as we work to establish a strong local food economy.

Here are some questions to consider:

1. Broadly, what is your opinion on the changes the federal government has implemented to Employment Insurance?
2. In your experience, how have any of the following changes to Employment Insurance impacted employers or employees?

- New rules around what constitutes a “reasonable job search” and “suitable employment” while on claim
- New formula for benefit calculations while working on claim
- New formula for calculating benefits based on your weekly earnings
- Canceling the pilot project that gave claimants an additional five weeks of benefits
- Establishment of a new appeals process

More information on the consultation can be viewed [here](#).

NFU Toll-free number no longer available.

Due to a high volume of computerized nuisance calls, the NFU in NB has cancelled our toll-free number. To reach one of our Directors please see our list [here](#) and to contact our office call 1 (506) 260-0087.



2. Opportunities

STEP-UP Mentorship Program

STEP UP is an on-farm mentorship program for those interested in learning Farm Business Management Skills in a hands-on setting.

For your time and effort as a STEP-UP Mentor, there is an honorarium of \$2000. This program is a minimum of 8 weeks. The application deadline is February 14 www.fmc-gac.com

STEP UP est un stage d'apprentissage à la ferme.

Ce programme de mentorat jumelle des personnes qui songent à poursuivre une carrière en agriculture avec des gestionnaire d'entreprise agricole chevronnés.

Tout gestionnaire d'entreprise agricole chevronné intéressé à investir du temps pour transmettre ses connaissances en gestion d'entreprise agricole. Les mentors reçoivent une rétribution de 2,000 \$ pour leur participation! www.fmc-gac.com



Reverse side of "Achetez N-B/Buy NB" t-shirt

FREE T-Shirt and Hat :

As a continued thank you to our new and returning members we are holding a competition. The competition winner will receive a FREE T-shirt (pictured) and hat. To enter the competition electronically all you have to do is forward this newsletter to a farmer and enter to win by emailing our Executive Director. All entries must be received by February 5.

Submit your email to the [Executive Director](#)

3. In the News



NFU Proposes New Seed Vision for Canadians

(Saskatoon, SK): **Bill C-18, the Agricultural Growth Act**, favours further consolidation of the seed industry into a few corporate hands, which will end up costing farmers more for seeds of all types.

"The government is selling the ag omnibus legislation as 'the only way' to provide the new plant varieties that farmers need to maintain their

competitive advantage," says Terry Boehm, Chair of the NFU's Seed and Trade Committee. "We – and many other farmers and progressive thinkers in the world – know that there are other ways to ensure that farmers have access to new seed varieties in ways that do not compromise either our national sovereignty or our control over seeds and, therefore, over our food."

The NFU has put forward "Fundamental Principles for a Farmers' Seed Act" ([available here](#)) which recognizes the inherent rights of farmers to save, reuse, select, exchange and sell seeds, while protecting public domains related to plant seeds. The principles build on Canada's 2002 signing of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, by which farmers would retain their "customary" use of seed.

To find out how to take action on this topic including contacting your MP, petition etc. [click here](#)

Information in French will be coming shortly.



Photo source: CBC News Online

Province eyes easing criteria to qualify for daycare subsidy

The province has drafted revised legislation that, if enacted, would allow self-employed New Brunswickers to qualify for government subsidies for daycare.

The Day Care Assistance Program , which is administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, offers a subsidy to parents who might not be able to afford full daycare fees.

The National Farmers Union in New Brunswick has been pushing for the change, as a lot of independent farmers in the province are self-employed. The organization hailed the proposed revised regulation as good news for New Brunswickers.

"It's definitely a step (in the right direction)," Eva Rehak, the union's women's director in New Brunswick and a mother of three young children told The Daily Gleaner. Self-employed farmers could increase their farm's yields more easily if they could afford daycare, she said.

Rehak, who co-owns and co-runs Ferme Alva Farm in St-Maurice, said what has to happen next is an acknowledgement that spouses often co-own businesses, such as farms.

Listen to an NFU in NB interview on this topic[here](#)

NB Milk to increase 3 cents/litre in February

MONCTON, N.B. - Grocery shoppers in New Brunswick will have to pay more for a litre of milk next month.

The New Brunswick Farm Products commission says the price will increase by 3.1 cents a litre on Feb. 1.

Chairman Bob Shannon says the increase is needed due to increased production, processing and delivery costs.

The increase will be divided among dairy producers, dairy processors and retailers.

Producers will receive 1.32 cents per litre, while processors will get 1.37 cents per litre, with the balance going to retailers. The school milk program, which subsidizes the cost of milk for New Brunswick students, will not be affected by the increase.



Photo source: CBC News Online

4. Upcoming Events

January 26-31 OPEN HOUSES - Lower St. John River Conservation Planning. January 26-31 in the following communities: Keswick Ridge, Taymouth, Hampton, Grand Bay-Westfield, Sussex and Gagetown. For more information contact [Aaron Dowding](#) with the [Nature Trust of NB](#).

January 31 Deadline for feedback on changes to the EI program. For more information on the consultation visit the [Council of Atlantic Premiers](#)

February 6 New Brunswick Potato Conference and Trade Show from 8am to 4:00pm at the E.&P. Sénéchal Centre, 60 Ouellette Street, Grand Falls. For more information visit [Potatoes NB](#)

February 13 & 14 NBSCIA 35th Annual General Meeting and Technical Workshop will be held at the Rodd Miramichi. The annual NBSCIA Farmer of the Year Banquet will be held on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the New Brunswick Soil and Crop Association [website](#).

February 14 STEP-UP Farm Mentorship Program Deadline. View more information [here](#).

February 15 Fredericton Livestock Expo - Fredericton Exhibition Grounds. 8am - 8pm. For more information email nblivestockexpo@live.ca or call 471-7517

February 17 All NB organic stakeholders are invited to attend the 7th NB Organic Forum on February 17th at the Charlotte Street Arts Centre, 732 Charlotte St, Fredericton. Starting at 1pm, the day will feature presentations and discussions on key issues, challenges and opportunities in the NB organic sector with a focus on developing a strategic plan for the sector for 2014-2018, and will conclude with a simple buffet dinner around 6pm. Come connect, learn, and share your ideas and experiences! For more details please contact tegan@acornorganic.org or 506-536-2867.

Feb 21 & 22 NB Blueberries: Pollination Workshop in Moncton. Email [NB Blueberries](#) or call (506) 459-8920

February 24 Crop Storage Regional Workshop in Fredericton - NB Department of Agriculture Office. Register by contacting ACORN: acornoffice@acornorganic.org or by calling 1-866-322-2676.

February 25 Crop Storage Regional Workshop at Marché Dieppe Market in partnership with La Récolte de Chez Nous/Really Local Harvest Co-op. Register by contacting ACORN: acornoffice@acornorganic.org or by calling 1-866-322-2676.

March 7 Farm Credit Canada Forum at Moncton Wesleyan Church. FCC Website link is [here](#)

March 28 & 29 NB Spring Beef Conference in Moncton. Email [NB Cattle](#) or call (506) 458-8534

April 1 NB Institute of Agrologists AGM hosted by the Carleton-Victoria branch.

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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