



New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association



January 2025 Newsletter

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Revised by Andrea Versloot

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Farm of the Year Nominees 2024

Every year, a nominee from each local Soil & Crop Association is selected by their local board to be judged and placed against other regional nominees for the title of NBSCIA Farm of the Year. The tradition of nominating and awarding farmers in New Brunswick with the NBSCIA Farm of the Year title dates back to 1980 with the first ever Farm of the Year designation going to David Acton.

Once nominees are selected, a group of 3 judges are sent to the farms to ask a series of questions regarding the farm’s soil & crop practices. The categories a farm is judged upon are: soil & crop management, pest & weed management, innovation, environmental farm plan, nutrient management plan, manure & waste management, petroleum storage, riparian buffer zones, record keeping, marketing, operation, farm development & history, soil & crop involvement, agricultural organization involvement, community involvement, and farm appearance.

This award has been sponsored by Pioneer for the past few years and we are very thankful for their support in recognizing the amazing and innovative farmers in New Brunswick! All the nominees should be proud of their efforts to strive for sustainability and productivity on their farm while balancing family life and community involvement. It is amazing what farmers are able to accomplish! Last year’s 2023 Farm of the Year award recipient was Keswick River Farms; a grain farm which also produces strawberries, keeps some beef cattle and operates a horse stable. This farm is owned and operated by Jeremy DuPlessis.

Keswick River Farms - 2023 Farm of the Year Award Recipient.



2024's Nominees

There were 6 nominees put forward this year for the NBSCIA Farm of the Year award. The judging team this past year included David Walker, Leigha Beckwith and Andrea Versloot. The farm visits took place in September and October of 2024 to capture the beauty of harvest on each of these farms.

The nominee from the Northeast region is Légumes Chez Reno. This mixed vegetable and beef farm is owned and managed by Reno Poirier and his partner Kathy Smith in Grande-Anse.

The nominee from the Northwest region is Ferme Lionel & Alyre Poitras. Alyre Poitras and his son Paul own and operate this potato farm in Saint-André.

The nominee from the Central region is Coburn Farms. David Coburn and his sons Glen and Tyler own and operate this poultry, grain and cider farm in Keswick Ridge.

The nominee from the Kings region is EverAnne Farms Ltd. This dairy farm is owned and operated by brothers Scot and Blaire Frazee in Norton.

The nominee from the Moncton region is Ravenwood Holsteins Ltd. This dairy farm is owned and operated by Chris Henderson in Scotch Settlement.

Our last nominee from the Chignecto region is Willie A. LeBlanc and Sons Ltd. This dairy farm is owned and operated by Richard and Patrick LeBlanc in Memramcook.



Légumes Chez Reno



Ferme Lionel & Alyre Poitras



Coburn Farms



Willie A. Leblanc & Sons



Ravenwood Holsteins



EverAnne Farms

Message from the General Manager Ray Carmichael

NBSCIA staff continue to organize a number of workshops on various subjects to improve your understanding of best management practices to improve soil health and crop yields. During the last week of January, we have completed four Nitrogen Management workshops with Steve Watts, Genesis Crop Systems and Dr Andrew McKenzie-Gopsill speaking on integrating cover crops in corn and soybean rotations.



Once again, Marie-Pier Beaulieu, Canadian Forages and Grasslands Association will be teaming up with Jason Wells, NBDAAF Forage Specialist and a local grazing expert for a series “Managing a Rotational Grazing System” the week of February 3rd and 24th. NBSCIA has also scheduled a workshop with the Perennia, entitled “Nutrient Amendment Workshop with the Perennia Agri-Services Team” in Sussex on February 11, 2025.

All of these great sessions end with our 46th Annual General Meeting and Technical Workshop, taking place March 13th -14th at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel in Miramichi, themed “Farming for the future: using precision tools and technology to build resilience.” You will hear from speakers on how you can plan and adapt your on-farm practices to keep your farm sustainable for years to come. Of course, the highlight is NBSCIA’s Farm of the Year Banquet held the evening of March 13th at 7pm to celebrate the accomplishments and efforts of New Brunswick farmers. The Hon. Pat Finnigan, Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries will be the keynote speaker. Check the AGM tab on the NBSCIA website, watch for Facebook posts and remember to watch your email for specific times and program agendas.

NBSCIA ACS-OFCAF Manager

2024-2025 is the final year of the pilot phase of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund. NBSCIA has submitted an application for the expansion phase of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund for the period April 1, 2025 ending in March 2028. As of this date, NBSCIA does not have confirmation of OFCAF program details on the expansion phase.

The objective of the expansion phase of the On-Farm Climate Action Fund remains the same as the pilot phase, which is to support farmers in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases, specifically in the areas of:

1. nitrogen management
2. cover cropping
3. rotational grazing practices

Message from the NBSCIA President

Happy New Year! As I write this message we are in the grips of a deep-freeze. No doubt, this presents challenges to all of you, whether it be getting tractors started or keeping watering systems from freezing. The challenges change with the seasons! By now you have reflected on your 2024 cropping season and are starting to realize revenue through sales of crops or value-added products such as eggs, beef, etc.

This is the time of year we start to plan for the 2025 season so be sure to keep in mind programs that are available to help reduce costs for things such as seed and fertilizer. Contact your local NBSCIA coordinator for more information and guidance. The New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries also have some programs that may help in your planning.

We are working diligently on the next phase of the On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) which is the expansion phase from 2025 to 2028. Hopefully, we'll have more information to share soon as details are finalized.

Hopefully you are attending your local meetings. NBSCIA's provincial Annual General Meeting and Technical Workshop is being held March 13th and 14th at the Rodd Hotel in Miramichi and this year's theme is "Farming for the Future: Using Precision Tools and Technology to Build Resilience." Speakers at our event will include Steve Watts, David Shipley, and Dr. Agustin Olivo to name a few. On the evening of March 13th, we will be hosting our annual Farm of the Year banquet to celebrate those who excel in adopting new and innovative practices on their farms.

As you continue to celebrate the 2025 new year, we at NBSCIA hope you manage this winter season with few challenges and wish you success in your business and personal endeavors in the months to come.

Sincerely,

John Bos
President NBSCIA

Maritime Corn Guide

by Peter Scott, Grains Specialist at NBDAAF

(details in this article were derived from the corn guide on NBDAAF's website)

New Brunswick participates with the other two Maritime provinces in testing corn hybrids best suited to our region. Maturity and yield are both extremely important in our short season areas. Maritime corn testing is conducted using a performance index (PI) system that evaluates all hybrids against six hybrids that are designated as standards for the region. These six standard hybrids are designated into three early and three late hybrids for the Maritime region and are compared to all hybrids tested at each location.

A combined yield/maturity index PI is calculated for each hybrid in each trial. This PI is compared to the average yield/maturity of the early and late hybrids. This system allows for each hybrid to be compared to a standard and minimizes the influence of yearly fluctuations in weather and environmental factors. This PI is averaged across all sites for each hybrid and measured against the criteria for inclusion in the performance list.

Through this performance index system, hybrids are included in the Maritime corn guide when the hybrid performs equally or better than the standards or are not listed if the hybrid does not perform well. Therefore, confidence can be placed in selecting a hybrid from this list that has been tested across all five test locations in the Maritimes, of which two are in NB (Sussex & Hartland). This and other field crop variety guides are available on the NBDAAF website [Field Crops - Agriculture](#) . A full corn test report can also be found on the Atlantic Grains Council website [Variety Cultivars – Atlantic Grains Council](#) .



Northwest Projects - Impact of poultry manure in the production of corn silage

by Jean-Mars Jean-François

I. Context

Chicken manure is widely available in northwestern New Brunswick. For over two decades, farmers in this area have been using it to produce grains, potatoes, hay, canola and corn silage. However, despite the high content of this organic fertilizer, farmers have also applied nitrogen fertilizer as a starter without considering the possibility of over-fertilization. This is the case for corn silage growers, where approximately 65 pounds of nitrogen per acre are applied to the field during planting to ensure that the corn does not suffer from nitrogen deficiency during the growing season. For instance, approximately 125 pounds of 80-0-0 per acre are incorporated before planting. Then, 150 pounds of 40-20-0 are applied at planting. In addition, 6 to 7 tons of poultry manure providing 40-10-20 are incorporated before sowing. However, farmers do not take into account the nitrogen contribution of manure to meet the nitrogen requirement of corn silage. Based on these considerations, the coordinator of the Northwest Agri-conservation Club suggested to a farmer at Lac Baker, NB to conduct a trial to verify whether it is necessary to apply chemical nitrogen, given the high nitrogen content of poultry manure. It is in this context that a trial was conducted in Saint-Hilaire. The objective was to verify whether an application of chemical nitrogen will impact yield, despite the application of poultry manure.

II. Hypothesis: Given the nitrogen value of poultry manure, the addition of nitrogen fertilizer has no influence on the yield of corn silage.

III. Method

- The experiment took place on the Oscar Daigle farm in Clair. The field in question measures 73 acres. To avoid surprises, the farmer agreed to reserve 3 acres on which only poultry manure was applied. The remaining 70 acres received poultry manure and nitrogen fertilizer, as is the farmer's standard practice.
- The corn variety used is Maizex 8022. This variety has exceptional spring vigor and seasonal growth dominating many hybrids. Plants are tall with moderate to high ear placement. This hybrid flowers early for its maturity and sets grain quickly after pollination. Ears are cylinders with good tipping. Hull coverage is average. Plant health is very good, but could benefit from a fungicide in Eastern Canada.
- Seven (7) tons of poultry manure were incorporated into the field over the entire field. Nitrogen was applied on 70 acres. Three acres received only poultry manure. Corn was planted on May 19, 2024.
- During the vegetative phase, observation visits were carried out to determine if there were visual nitrogen deficiencies in the plot that had not received chemical fertilizer.
- The harvest took place on October 5, 2025.
- In each plot and over a length of 10 feet, corn stalks were harvested, leaving 17 centimeters of stalk in the ground. The harvested stalks were weighed in the field. Subsequently, a one-way ANOVA analysis of variance was carried out on Excel, with a margin of error of 5%.

- The following three photos illustrate the evolution of silage corn from the 5-6 leaf stage until harvest.
- Finally, this report has been drafted.



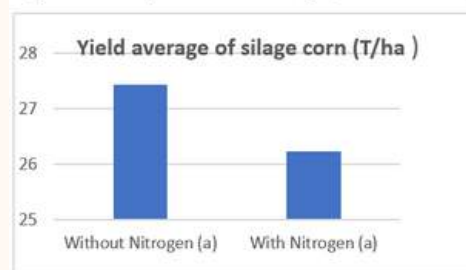
IV. Results

This section presents the results obtained from the trial conducted. Table 1 below illustrates the weight of corn silage harvested over a length of 10 feet and the yield obtained per hectare. Figure 1 displays the average yield obtained following the experiment. It should be noted that the average yields obtained without or with nitrogen applied are respectively 27.43 and 26.33 T/ha. However, despite a slight superiority observed in the yields with only poultry manure, the analysis of variance does not reveal any significant difference. Therefore, the initial hypothesis, according to which an application of nitrogen fertilizer in chemical form has no influence on the yield of corn silage, is verified. Thus, with 7 tons of poultry manure incorporated, the application of nitrogen fertilizer twice constitutes a loss of money for the farmer.

Table 1: Presentation of the yield by plots

Plots	Four - 10 Foot Sample Strips Per Treatment	
	Silage Corn Wet Weight (kg/10 ft strip)	Silage Corn wet Yield (T/ha)
Without N-1	14.97	27.27584746
Without N-2	13.15	26.77919492
Without N-3	14	27.12796610
Without N-4	14.5	28.52690678
With N-1	15.87	28.90222881
With N-2	13.6	26.26644068
With N-3	13.3	24.76843220
With N-4	12.8	24.98711864

Figure 1: Comparison of average yields in tons per hectare



V. Conclusion and recommendations

Overall, this trial shows the importance of poultry manure in the production of corn silage. With the high price of chemical fertilizers and the availability of this manure in Saint-François de Madawaska, it is interesting to note that this trial provides farmers with good information allowing them to make informed decisions about the use of chemical fertilizers. Moreover, poultry manure not only provides major and minor elements to the soil, but also contributes to soil improvement by increasing life and organic matter in the soil. However, given that these results relate to a single season, it is important to repeat this trial on another field by adding other parameters such as varying the rate of poultry manure applied and applying a nitrogen fertilizer as a starter at sowing to compensate for demand after the 8-leaf stage while waiting for the availability of nitrogen from poultry manure. At the end of the trial to be carried out in 2025, more information will be available to guide reliable recommendations for the production of corn silage.

Northshore Update

by Gabrielle Schenkels

With meeting season, or as some call it, “Winter”, in full swing, myself and many members are keeping busy this season attending AGMs and workshops. Though we had a white Christmas in our corner of the province, fields here faced some soggy January thaw before a nice blanket of snow to keep our crops protected from the Arctic temps at the end of the month – thank you snow!

As the upcoming provincial NBSCIA AGM is in Miramichi this year, I have been coordinating some great speakers and sessions – we look forward to you joining us on the Miramichi on March 13th-14th for our AGM and Technical Workshops. There will be a great mix of technology, agronomy, and of course, the celebration of our Farm of the Year Banquet.

As for other local upcoming events, please join us on February 4th, at the Atlantic Host for the Northeast AGM and Rotational Grazing Workshop. We will hear from familiar faces, including DAAF Forage Specialist Jason Wells, and CFGA Advisor Marie-Pier Beaulieu. We will also hear from local farmer Fraser McCallum on rotational grazing practices used on his farm. Recently, I also hosted a soil health workshop at the Miramichi Feed Mill and was able to present to 20 local small scale producers and gardeners, who were keen learners and happy to learn about the NBSCIA.

I also encourage all farmers thinking about their cropping plans for spring to reach out to me, especially if you are considering a nutrient management plan, environmental farm plan, or fertility plan, so we have time to build a plan around your farm goals. Stay safe and warm this winter folks!



Miramichi in the winter.

Carleton Region

by Andrew Sytsma

The 2024 growing season was without a doubt an exceptional one when it came to corn heat unit (CHU) accumulation. Most of Carleton County achieved almost 3000 CHU's, with some spots going over 3000. These totals may very well be record setting amounts for the area or at the very least some of the highest totals in recent memory. In the period from 1971-2000, the historical average for the Carleton region was in the 2400-2500 CHU range. Although we are still currently working with the data, the NBSCIA-NBDAAF weather station network data has determined that most of Carleton is averaging about 200 CHU's higher than the historical average over the past six years. The entire province as a whole is above average compared to historical averages, with many parts seeing increases of 300-400 or even 600-700 in some of the traditionally cooler areas up north! We hope to publish maps showing these changes shortly.

The winter wheat variety development plots in partnership with CEROM from Quebec were planted in Williamstown on September 10th, 2024, which may have been on the early side considering how the fall weather went. Despite extremely dry conditions at planting, it germinated without any issues and had a considerable amount of growth and numerous tillers going into the winter. This coming year will see CEROM's first winter wheat line being entered into the Maritime trials for registration, which was selected based on its superior performance in our NBSCIA trial work.



Winter wheat plots and a pulled up plant showing multiple tillers on October 29th.

Happy New Year from the Central Region!

by Andrea Versloot

We have had a mild start to the winter here in the Fredericton and surrounding area with a few larger snowfall events that were followed by mild temperatures and rain. This is not ideal for our fall seeded grains and cover crops; however, I hope for the best and that all those who planted this fall took advantage of the great planting conditions to get their crops in early and well established before the first killing frost.

A quick recap on the Manure Management field day hosted by Boreview Farms Ltd. back in October. This event had an amazing turn out with lots of questions for our presenters Ikechukwu Agomoh, AAFC Fredericton and Michel Landry from Kubota. We were so happy to get out into the field and see the demonstrations of Boreview's manure injector and Kubota's high-speed disk. I hope to host similar field day(s) this summer and fall.

There is an upcoming rotational grazing workshop which is being hosted at the Fredericton Inn (in Salon C) on February 26th from 6:30pm-9:00pm. Marie-Pier from CFGA is returning with a presentation on extending the grazing season along with Jason Wells, the forage specialist from NBDAAF, who will be explaining the introduction of legumes into a pasture and how to keep them there. At this workshop, a local beef farmer, Josh McFadgen from Windy View Farms, will present to us on how he manages his rotational grazing system. These workshop-type events are designed to stir up conversation and questions on the topics discussed, so don't hesitate to bring and share your questions and experiences.

A quick reminder that the Central Soil & Crop Improvement Association has their own Facebook Page where factsheets and local events are shared.

As always, I am looking forward to working with all of my members and colleagues in the agriculture industry of New Brunswick to help promote farm productivity and sustainability in 2025. This June will mark my second full year of working at NBSCIA and I just want to send out a huge thank you to all my members who have been patient and so great to work with while I settled into this new position at NBSCIA.



Images from the manure management field day on October 15th.

Kings County Happenings

by Joseph Graham

The Kings Region has been enjoying a cold Winter, with early December snowfall keeping the ground well covered for most of the season. This was an exceptional year for corn production in our region. With crops being harvested up to 3 weeks earlier than years prior. This left ample opportunity for some producers to experiment with cover cropping and prepare fields for 2025. The global trend towards a warming climate was felt on many farms across New Brunswick this season.

After Field work was finished in 2024 NBSCIA began planning many events to help better understand this changing environment. There are many sessions planned across NB and locally. The local AGM is planned for Jan 28th, at JJ's Diner, which includes a nitrogen management training session. Other important dates include, Feb 5th and Feb 11th both hosted by The All-Seasons Restaurant. Feb 5th will be an evening session to further our understanding on Rotational Grazing Systems, and Feb 11th will be a Perennia (Nutrient Amendment) training session. Please keep an eye on the NBSCIA Facebook and your email for details.

This upcoming season will see the local association host a Forage Day, which is expected to be planned for late summer. We hope to see many of you at our local AGM or provincial AGM.



Greetings from Moncton & Chignecto

by Beverly Booth

Hello everyone! I hope calving season is going well.

I have been very busy with nutrient management planning and have been consistent with that throughout the fall. Along with nutrient management planning comes nutrient and fertility recommendations which have been the bulk of my work load. I have also been able to help a few of my producers with updating EFP's. I have been fortunate to meet with many of the producers in my area from one end of my region to the other.

The past month has been very busy with planning workshops and meetings all over New Brunswick. A few that I feel need to be shared more in depth are the Chignecto Soil and Crop banquet and the Moncton AGM. The Chignecto Soil and Crop banquet will be held on January 25th at the Sackville Legion and I am proud to say this is always a sold-out event with 150 attendees. Many people enjoy this event as there is a door prize for each individual, the meal is fantastic and the Chignecto Farm of the Year recipient provides a presentation about the family operation. This year's award will be presented to Willie A. Leblanc & Sons Ltd. and is sponsored by Cavendish Agri-Services.

The Moncton AGM will be held on Jan 23rd at the Salisbury Legion where Alex and Chris Henderson of Ravenwood Holsteins Ltd. will be recognized as Farm of the Year in the Moncton region. The Henderson family will be presenting on the day-to-day activities that make this farm so successful. The meal at this event is sponsored by Cavendish Agri-Services and the Moncton Soil & Crop. There will be two upcoming workshops, one on the topic of nitrogen management and the other will cover aspects of rotational grazing. The Nitrogen management workshop will be held on January 27th at the 4-Points hotel in Moncton. This presentation is titled "Practical Benefits of EEN Fertilizers & Legumes in Corn and Potato Production" by Steve Watts of Genesis Crop Systems Inc. A second presentation on integrating cover crops in corn and soybean rotations will be delivered by Dr Andrew McKenzie-Gopsill, Research Scientist, AAFC Charlottetown. On February 3rd at the 4-Points hotel in Moncton, Marie-Pier Beaulieu, CFGA will talk on extending the grazing season with rotations. Jason Wells, Forage specialist, NBDAAF will speak on introducing and managing legumes in pastures. I hope to see you all there!

Don't hesitate to contact me at 506-364-2853 or moncton@nbscia.ca for any of your soil or crop needs!





Beverly Booth & Andrea Versloot at the Maritime Beef Conference.



Harvest of the biological Nitrogen Fixation plots on Sugar Island.



Cover crop field day in Sussex with Jason Wells, NBDAAF Forage Specialist.



Weather station repairs in Point de Bute.



Project plot using cover crops to assess their benefit to soil health.



Andrea, Gabrielle and Beverly tending the NBSCIA booth at Farm MECH in November.

Service Description

Geomatic Package

Includes a basic set of farm maps. These maps are georeferenced and illustrate watercourses and other buffers.

Custom mapping packages include soil status maps, target balance maps, variable rate application maps, GPS work, perimeter mapping, area determination, and crop yield determination.

Soil, Manure & Tissue Sampling

Sampling, sample preparation, completion of soil form, submission of samples, interpretation of results, and recommendations. Does not include the cost of soil analysis. 15% discount for PEI lab soil analysis.

Emergency Response Plan

A written emergency response plan for compliance with regulatory bodies.

Environmental Farm Plan

Preparation of field maps and emergency response plans as part of your EFP.

Equipment Calibration

Manure spreaders, sprayers and seeders.

Nutrient Management Plan

Whole farm nutrient management plans including plans compliant with the Livestock operations Act.

Crop Monitoring and IPM

Planning, integrated pest management, scouting fields for insects, pests and weeds, plant population counts, and plant emergence counts.

Cost of Production Analysis
Research
Production Management

And more!

Contact Us

If you are in need of any services, or have any questions, please contact your local coordinator.

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