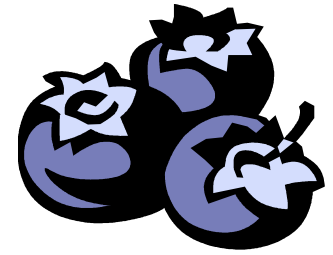




# NOVEMBER 2020 dispatch



Nova Scotia's Provincial Berry

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

168 Dakota Road, PO Box 119 Debert, NS B0M 1G0

Tel: (902) 662-3306 Fax: (902) 662-3284

Email: [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com) Website: [www.nswildblueberries.com](http://www.nswildblueberries.com)

## WBPANS VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

**Where – Zoom**

**When – Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> (2:30 – 5:00 pm)**

2020 has been a challenging year and has forced us to look at new and innovative ways to do things. The traditional AGM is not really a possibility this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, so WBPANS has decided to move forward with a virtual business meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have Board members and some Committee members, socially distanced in a room, with members given access to the meeting virtually through Zoom. There will be opportunity for members to ask questions from the floor and get updates and discuss the business of the Association and the industry.

**For those members who wish to attend the AGM, you will need to register with the Association office by November 17<sup>th</sup> either by phone (902-662-3306) or email ([info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com))**

Once registered you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting and electronic copies of documents for the meeting.

### **Technical sessions:**

One of the most valuable parts of the AGM is always the technical sessions on the Friday and Saturday of the meeting. This year we will be doing three separate sessions virtually via Zoom. **You will have to register separately for each session if you want to attend. (902-662-3306 or [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com))**

Once registered you will receive a login email the day of the session. **You must be registered not later than 10 am, the day of each session!!**

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** (6:00 -7:00 pm) – Dr. Scott White – *Weed Management Update - Research on Priority Weed Species and Advice for Management* (pesticide applicator re-certification points pending)

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** (6:00 – 7:00 pm) – Dr. Travis Esau – *Wild Blueberry Harvester Automation and Artificial Intelligence Advancements*

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** (6:00 – 7:00 pm) – Dr. David Percival – *Remote Sensing & Integrated Disease Management for Wild Blueberry Production* (pesticide applicator re-certification points pending)

**We will be recording each technical session and posting them on our new website in the new year.**

**WBPANS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 2020**  
**2:30 pm—5:00 pm via Zoom Conferencing**

**Anyone wishing to participate in this meeting must contact WBPANS office before 10:00 am on Nov. 17th to register. An email containing the link to the meeting and documents will be sent to those registered. Contact WBPANS Office at: 902-662-3306 or Email: [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com)**

Chair: Barron Blois

2:30 pm Call to Order

Minute of Silence

Approval of Agenda

WBPANS President's Report – Barron Blois

WBPANS Executive Director Report – Peter Burgess

- Crop Update
- WBPANS Business Update
- Building Tomorrow Fund Update
- US Trade Commission Update

Report from Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture - Victor Oulton, President, NSFA

WBANA-Canada Report—John Cameron, President, WBANA-Canada

Promotion Committee Report – Alice Pugsley, Chair, WBPANS Promotion Committee

Research Committee Report – Jeff Orr, Chair, WBPANS Research Committee

Atlantic Tech Transfer Team for Apiculture Update – Andrew Byers

Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Innovation Challenge Winner 2020-2021 Clever Fruit Products  
Liam Taylor

Approval of minutes from Annual Meeting 2019

Financial Statements presented by Nancy Frame, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

2021 Proposed Budget – Presented by Joe Slack, Chair, WBPANS Finance Committee

Appointment of Auditors

Nominating Committee Report – Jeff Orr

Presentations to Retiring Directors

- Barron Blois
- Jeff Perrin
- Peter Van Dyk

New Business

Adjournment

## WBANA-CANADA UPDATE

October 2020

2020 has really turned out to be unforgettable for many reasons. The world has been turned upside down as we know it and our daily lives have been impacted no matter where you live. WBANA Canada has been trying to have a face-to-face meeting with our WBANA Canada Board to discuss some very important topics, however, we keep having to reschedule due to ongoing Covid-19 protocols.

The Covid-19 pandemic did have some positive impact in sales of frozen retail packs of wild blueberries in North America and in other markets around the globe. This appears to have offset the negative impact on restaurant sales. Our understanding is that many people tried IQF wild blueberries for the first time and are very happy with their experience, now, we just need to produce more!

WBANA Canada continues to be active in promoting wild blueberries, albeit, in a much smaller way.

We are still active in promoting the health benefits of wild blueberries and making sure that the correct message and information is getting to consumers by using Dr. Willy Kalt's expertise on the matter. We encourage the grower Associations to use materials recently developed by Dr. Kalt on their web sites.

We continue to partner with WBANA US in making decisions and investing in Health research projects that we know will show positive results and drive the demand for wild blueberries.

Recently, the industry was informed of a US Trade Investigation into Blueberry imports into the United States. WBANA Canada has been asked to take the lead on this very important development for the industry. WBANA Canada will work with all stakeholders of the industry and provincial and federal government officials to get the best result for the wild blueberry industry. We will keep you informed on this topic in the coming weeks and months.

The 2020 crop was a big disappointment in terms of yields in almost all of the growing areas. Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and PEI all had below average crops. Quebec on the other hand, fared much better. It is a given that we will be looking at empty freezers when the 2021 season rolls around.



### LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**FACEBOOK:** [canadianwildblueberries.ca](https://www.facebook.com/canadianwildblueberries.ca)



**TWITTER:** [@canadianwildbb](https://twitter.com/canadianwildbb)



**INSTAGRAM:** [canadianwildblueberries.ca](https://www.instagram.com/canadianwildblueberries.ca)



Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 119 Debert, NS B0M 1G0 Tel: 902-662-3306 Email: [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com)

## COVID ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL FARMS

CEBA (Canadian Emergency Business Account) is now open to farms that have been operating using personal banking accounts. Check out the link to see if your operation is now eligible. This program can provide a zero interest loan of up to \$40,000. If the balance is paid back by December 31st 2022, it will result in loan forgiveness of 25% (\$10,000).

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/news/2020/10/canada-emergency-business-account-now-open-to-businesses-using-personal-banking-accounts.html>

## NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MEETING

*You are invited to join NSFA for their 125th Annual Meeting!*

Please see the schedule of events for the week long celebration below! On **December 3rd**, farmers from across Nova Scotia will be logging on to provide direction on key industry issues during the Annual Business Meeting.

In order to vote during the business meeting, you will be required to show proof of your NSFA membership.

If you are unable to attend and would like to have someone to represent your farm in your absence, please fill out and return a "Designated Representative Form", which can be found on the NSFA website.

To register for the NSFA AGM please go to their website: <https://nsfa-fane.ca/agm/> or call the NSFA office at 902.893.2293



**Monday, November 30**  
12:30pm Public Trust Webinar

**Tuesday, December 1**  
10:00am Ag-Environmental Webinar: Soils

**Wednesday, December 2**  
7:00pm Nova Scotia Young Farmers AGM  
7:30pm Farm Transition Webinar

**Thursday, December 3**  
9:30am Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting  
7:30pm Virtual Happy Hour with Shane the Bartender

**Friday, December 4**  
1:00pm Mental Health Campaign Launch  
1:30pm Mental Health Webinar  
2:30pm Farm Safety NS Annual Meeting

*Virtual Schedule*  
#NSFA125

**NSFA**  
NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE