

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2025

NL Young Farmers Organization is Growing

NL Young Farmers saw its membership grow to 175 members over the past year as it welcomed 84 new members from all regions of the province, including young people interested in farming, new farmers, and established farmers producing a wide range of agriculture products.

NL Young Farmers supports and nurtures young farmers aged 18-40. Membership is free and provides access to resources, workshops, training, and networking opportunities.

“Organizations like NL Young Farmers do a great job of getting more young people interested in agriculture,” said the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. “We need to work together to support these young farmers as they begin, and continue, their journey – because they’re the future of the sector.”

“Young farmers bring innovation and fresh perspectives to our province’s agriculture sectors,” said the Honourable Lisa Dempster, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. “They truly are the future of this industry, and the success and growth of NL Young Farmers is a testament to their enthusiasm and drive.”

“NL Young Farmers is a wonderful organization,” said member Lauralee Ledrew (Upper Humber Settlement), who was named a Champion for a Greener Future by the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board. “It gives an opportunity for young farmers to become recognized in their area. They have a lot of mentorship programs; they have educational opportunities. So, they really connect young farmers with industry specialists.”

The organization planned various initiatives throughout the year to support young farmers. Highlights include hosting a two-day Leadership Summit in Deer Lake and a Young Farmer Forum at O’Brien Farm, launching the newsletter *Fieldnotes*, releasing the first two videos from a new Farm Walk Series, and making new mentor-mentee matches through the NL Young Farmers Mentorship Program.

“With NL Young Farmers, the resources are there,” said member Jonathan Holloway (Mosquito Cove Farm), who was mentored by Krista Chatman (Three Mile Ridge). “All you got to do is reach out and ask. Reach out to NL Young Farmers, reach out for a mentor. If you can find the land, utilize it, you’ll get it to work. Just don’t give up.”



With support from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), NL Young Farmers also covered 75 per cent of the cost for various members to attend out-of-province agriculture conferences.

“I would strongly recommend the Advancing Women Conference to other young people in agriculture,” said NL Young Farmers member Heather Zurel (Vinland Acres Forest Farm). “It brings together women from across the industry – farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, educators, and corporate leaders – creating an open, supportive space where you can learn from a wide range of experiences. For someone early in their career, this kind of exposure is invaluable.”

NL Young Farmers is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture and funded by the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). Sustainable CAP is a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5 billion agreement between the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada’s agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. The agreement includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities funded 60 per cent by the federal government and 40 per cent by provincial/territorial governments for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories. Sustainable CAP provides \$229,000 annually to support NL Young Farmers activities in the province.

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