

Your Valued Participation is Requested



Dear Agriculture Industry Stakeholder,

I would like to invite you to participate in a small focus group to discuss the “Need for a Blue Seal Farm Apprenticeship Technician Program in Nova Scotia”.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture with funding support from NSDA ThinkFARM is working with myself, Gary Morton (SKUFood Inc.) and your local Agriculture Resource Coordinators (ARC) to better understand the need and commitment from farmers for a Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program in this province.

There are many reports and statistics that highlight the local labour market in Nova Scotia, the skill needs, and labour demands as agriculture moves forward into the future. There are also a variety of options to fulfill the challenges, one of them being to establish a Blue Seal Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program like the one currently in Prince Edward Island, where classroom training components are delivered by Dalhousie University.

The NSFA and Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is interested in your impression, interest and commitment to an apprenticeship program specific to general farm labour in Nova Scotia.

There will be five focus group sessions held across the province. The dates and times are as follows.

January 29th – Antigonish, Eastern Region Boardroom, [190 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish](#) 1:00 – 3:00

January 31 – Kentville Research Station, Cornwallis Room, [32 Main Street, Kentville](#) 1:00 – 3:00

February 1 – Truro Lorraine Building, [74 Research Drive](#) 10:00 – 12:00

February 2 - Cornwallis/Annapolis, [173 Haida St, Cornwallis](#) Park (Near the Annapolis Conference Center) 1:00 – 3:00

February 6 – Baddeck, Provincial building in Baddeck, 2 Campbell Street 1:00 – 3:00

If you would be willing to share your thoughts and time to participate in this group discussion, please RSVP by contacting your local [Agriculture Resource Coordinator \(ARC\)](#) or Gary Morton at [902-670-3992](tel:902-670-3992) or gary@skufood.com for participation details.

There is limited space in these focus groups, so if you have interest in participating please RVSP with your local **ARC** to confirm your participation. I look forward to discussing this important industry issue in more detail with you at one of the meetings.

Sincerely,
Gary Morton, SKUfood Inc

Agriculture Resource Coordinator Contacts

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