

NEW FARMER ROUNDTABLE

Growing a Future for Canadian Agriculture

November 14th, 2014 at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Acadia C room

Canada's farmers are aging rapidly and there are significant concerns affecting new entrants to agriculture. Across the country people and organisations are working to encourage a new generation of farmers. The New Farmer Roundtable brings them together to expand the national knowledge base of new farmer needs and opportunities, to identify policy priorities, and to set direction for future collaboration.



The New Farmers' Initiative is a collaboration of:



FSC

Food Secure Canada
Healthy - Just - Sustainable



FARMSTART
supporting a new generation of farmers

Session 1: 11:15am – 12:45pm: Access to Land and Finance



Anne-Marie Royal is Co-President of the Nord Pas de Calais Regional Association of **Terre de Liens**, a civil society organisation in France created to address the difficulties faced by organic and small-scale farmers in securing farmland, particularly outside traditional family succession. To acquire land, Terre de Liens has created two financial tools; *la Foncière*, a solidarity investment company, and *le Fonds*; an endowment trust which collects investment or donations in cash or in kind. Terre de Liens owns, or is close to acquiring, 102 farms where 180 farmers are working, and has 12,000 members.



Severine von Tschanner Fleming is a farmer, activist, and organizer based in New York. She is director of **Greenhorns**, a grassroots organization working nationally, with the mission to recruit, promote and support the rising generation of new farmers in America. Severine serves on the board of the Schumacher Center for New Economics, which hosts **Agrarian Trust**, her latest startup, focused on land access for beginning farmers, and permanent protection of affordable organic farmland.



Paul Lecomte is General Manager of Quebec's **Fonds d'investissement pour la relève agricole (FIRA)**, holds a B.Sc. in Agronomy from Université Laval as well as having extensive experience in agriculture and agri-food. FIRA is a \$75 million public-private fund which aims to support young entrepreneurs in agriculture. Young farmers are enabled to purchase farmland through the fund, which provides subordinated loans and purchases land for rent-to-own arrangements.

Session 2: 2 – 3:30pm: Information Sharing and Policy Mobilization



Sophie Ackoff is National Field Director for the **National Young Farmers Coalition** in the US—a network of farmers, ranchers, and supportive consumers fighting for the future of farming. Sophie helps farmers across the country launch farmer networks in their communities and works to harness this grassroots power to make federal policy supportive of young, sustainable farmers.

Speakers representing 6 regions and from the NFU Youth Caucus will share knowledge gathered from consultations with new farmer stakeholders across Canada.

Following Session 2, we invite participants to join us for an additional 90 minutes (3:30 – 5pm) of group work in which we will dive more deeply into new farmer strategic policy and programming, to create a platform for the National New Farmers' Initiative.

**Register for FSC's 8th National Assembly at foodsecurecanada.org
RSVP for the NEW FARMER ROUNDTABLE by emailing margaret@farmstart.ca**