

Update – November 25, 2019: Farm Technician

The Farm Technician TAC held its first meeting on January 17, 2019. Over the course of the first six meetings, the TAC:

- reviewed their terms of reference;
- reviewed the apprenticeship model of training leading to trade certification;
- reviewed the focus group report from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture;
- reviewed the application to designate Farm Technician as a trade;
- discussed the PEI Farm Technician program with Dalhousie University, who owns the curriculum and delivers the program in PEI;
- developed a scope of the Farm Technician occupation/trade;
- discussed promotion and recruitment of potential apprentices into the trade, as well as incentives available to apprentices and employers;
- held tours of farming operations of some of the TAC members;
- identified policy elements that are required for the development of a trade regulation (2:1 apprentice to journeyperson ratio, 3600 hours of combined practical experience and technical training, and 5400 hours for a trade qualifier);
- discussed methods to validate the TAC's agreement to designate Farm Technician as a trade and recommended the contracting of a report;
- attended the NSFA's Council of Leaders meeting to consult on trade designation;
- reviewed the consultation report results and discussed the TAC's recommendation to the Board to designate the Farm Technician trade as a voluntary trade.
- Recommended that Farm Technician be designated as a trade in Nova Scotia with a training pathway leading to trade certification.

On February 12, 2020, the Apprenticeship Board approved Farm Technician as a trade in Nova Scotia and requested the TAC reorganize to focus on program development.

The Farm Technician TAC met on July 15, 2020. The aim of this meeting was to provide information to the TAC on the new development proposal from Dalhousie University (DAL) Agricultural Campus and review the scope of work. NSAA shared the DAL proposal with the TAC and members agreed with the suggestion that the development work would be best conducted through a working group. The group would be made up of 1-2 members of the TAC, apprenticeship staff and consultants from DAL's Agricultural Campus. This working group will start work on the development activities and bring information to the TAC as appropriate. The working group will commence work in Fall 2020.