

# The Natural Products Marketing Council

## Members

The Governor in Council is responsible for the appointment of Council members. Applications to join the Council are open to the public, but the Executive Council Office screens applicants before providing a list of possible finalists. One Council member is appointed as Chair and one Council member is appointed on the recommendation of the Nova Scotia Milk Processors' Division of the Atlantic Dairy Council.

Council convenes at least once a month to conduct regular business and holds additional meetings as required. Council members also work on committees tasked with special projects and attend commodity board meetings as a liaison between Council and the commodity board.

### ***Ian Blenkarn, Chair***

Ian Blenkarn holds a degree majoring in Agricultural Economics from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and is a registered member of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists. His experience includes thirteen years in the Agricultural Finance and Banking sector with an additional seven years' experience as an Agricultural Finance and Business Planning Consultant. Ian has served as director for several agriculture sector organizations, including the Canadian Poultry Research Council, the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute, Eden Valley Poultry Incorporated, and Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia, as well as other organizations in the grain and mink industries. Ian is the past President of Eden Valley Poultry Incorporated. Currently Ian is Chair of the Board of Country Ribbon Inc. in Newfoundland, CFO of Willowdale Farms Inc. and the Chair, President and CEO of Atlantic Poultry Incorporated.

### ***Jim Bremner***

Jim is from Falmouth, Nova Scotia, and holds a diploma in agriculture from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He has operated Castle Frederick Farms for 50 years, focusing on dairy, beef, forestry and forest management. He has been involved with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and was President of the Hants County Federation. Jim also served as Chairman of the Nova Scotia Cattlemen's Association and was founding chair of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers. He was a member of the first board of National Checkoff and the first Board of Canada Beef, as well as the Nova Scotia Representative on the Canadian Cattlemen. He is involved in many other community groups, and currently also serves as Chair of the Nova Scotia Marshland Commission. Jim joined Council in September of 2018.

### ***Jim Burrows***

Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Mount Allison University. In 1980 he and his brother split the home farm and Jim started what is today Clover Crest Farm Ltd., a dairy farm located in Colchester County. Today he and his wife are transitioning ownership of Clover Crest Farm to their son and a farm employee. Throughout his career Jim has held leadership positions in many community or farm organizations and Co-operatives, at the local, provincial, regional and national level.

***Carol Versteeg***

Carol Versteeg holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Macdonald College at McGill University. Carol has a dairy farming background and is a former co-owner of Barneybrook Farms. She is the Executive Director of the Soil & Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia and was a member of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board from 1994-2008, serving as Vice-Chair for the final three years of her term.

**Staff, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture**

Council staff assists in planning Council meetings, undertaking research and analysis on issues facing Council, and assists Council in reviewing and drafting regulations, orders, motions, and other documents required by the Council members.

- *Elizabeth A. Crouse*, Director
- *Michele Davidson*, Administrative Support
- *Danielle Dorn Kouwenberg*, Regulatory Planning Officer