

**Welcome to the**  
**ARTICLING AGROLOGIST PROGRAM**  
of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists



**[www.nsagrologists.ca](http://www.nsagrologists.ca)**

## FORWARD

The Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists Articling Agrologist Program (A.Ag. Program) is a priority of the Institute in assuring that Articling Agrologists have timely guidance, support and encouragement leading to their achievement of Professional Agrologist status.

This program is a guide and reference for the Articling Agrologist, Members, and the NSIA Council. This booklet outlines the Articling Agrologist Programs well as outlines the participant's role and responsibilities.

## PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

The A.Ag. Program provides the necessary support and guidance to a new member of NSIA. The strength of the program lies in the combination of training opportunities, networking and the mentoring component.

The verb article is defined: "to bind by written agreement", Winston Ready Reference. Gage Senior Dictionary defines article as, "to bind by contract". In entering the A.Ag. Program, the Articling Agrologist is committing to an Articling Contract to complete the Articling Agrologist Program.

## WHY BECOME A PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGIST?

Congratulations, you are on the road to becoming a P.Ag.

A Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) is an individual dedicated to contributing to the prosperity of Canada's agri-food industry by providing unbiased and professional expertise. We are committed to growing the agricultural industry and agricultural business in Nova Scotia. By providing professional development and networking opportunities to our members, we are dedicated to continuous improvement and self growth within their agricultural career.

NSIA protects the interest of the public by licensing and safeguarding the competence of Agrologists. Through following our code of ethics, NSIA ensures that professionals working in agriculture are giving advice that maintains the high quality of Canada's agri-food and health products.

Agrology is a self regulated profession and each province has a Provincial Agrologist Act which defines the scope of the profession and the practice of agrology. The act also defines the qualifications required for the right to practice.



Picture: Heather- Anne Grant with her mentor Dianne Dunlop, P.Ag. and Economics Professor, NSAC.

*"The NSIA Articling Agrologist Program put me on the right track! Having a structured mentoring program customized to my needs as a young professional entering the workforce was an invaluable resource. My mentor acted as a coach, a cheerleader, and a sounding board. Following the Articling Agrologist Program to its full potential and seeking input from my mentor gave me confidence and motivation to establish myself as a Professional Agrologist with a purpose."*

-Heather-Anne Grant, P.Ag.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Articling Agrologist Program was designed to:

- Facilitate the new members' entry, involvement, and participation in the NSIA
- Develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the ethics and responsibilities of being a Professional Agrologist
- Develop the skills and attitudes needed for the continuing professional development of the individual
- Provide opportunities for continuing professional development

## BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGIST

The three phases of the process to achieve Professional Agrologist (P.Ag.) status are:

**PHASE 1:** Application for membership in NSIA and Mentor assignment

**PHASE 2:** Completion of A.Ag. Program requirements

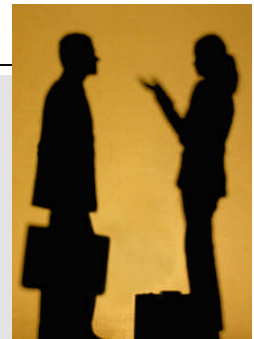
**PHASE 3:** Granting of P.Ag. Status

### PHASE 1: APPLICATION AND MENTOR ASSIGNMENT

Admission into the NSIA will be based on the applicants academic training and professional agricultural training and experience. The applicants may be required to attend one or several training sessions before achieving P.Ag. status. The Membership Committee, in cooperation with the A.Ag. Program Committee, are encouraged to submit names of Professional Agrologists as potential mentors to the A.Ag. Program Committee for approval. A mentor will be assigned if the A.Ag. does not find one. Applicants are encouraged to indicate a prospective Mentor on their NSIA application form.

#### CHOOSING A MENTOR

There may be situations in which an immediate “on the job” supervisor is available as a mentor to one or more A.Ag.. While no one has a better first hand knowledge of the A.Ag.’s work and prospects, or a better chance to observe the ethics, professionalism, and leadership of the A.Ag., there will be circumstances in which another person might be a better choice. Certain immediate supervisors can be suitable mentors if the A.Ag. prefers to have such an arrangement. However, there must be no ethical quarrel between the A.Ag. job description and the development of professional ethics.



## **PHASE 2: COMPLETION OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Within thirty days of the assignment of the mentor, the mentor will contact the Articling Agrologist and arrange an introductory meeting. At that meeting, the mentor will:

- Provide a copy of the Agrologists Act and By-Laws
- Review the requirements of the A.Ag. Program
- Together with the A.Ag. determine a plan for fulfilling the A.Ag. Program

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Note: The A.Ag. Program must be completed within two years from the time of introduction into the NSIA (Which coincides with the semi-annual or annual meeting). If the A.Ag. Program is not completed within the two year period, the candidate may apply, in writing to the Articling Agrologist Program Committee for an extension. If an extension is granted, the credits from the past year will be retained.

All articling Agrologists may be required to attend or complete:

- One “Introduction to NSIA” session on the Agrologists Act and By-Laws
- One “Professionalism” session
- Three additional credits from any sessions which adhere to the objectives set out by the program (i.e. “Reflection”). One of these credits may be through a personal development course. These credits are to be selected in consultation with the mentor and may include workshops, courses, and technical sessions of commodity meetings. Proof of attendance and a written synopsis of the meeting must be presented to and discussed with the mentor to receive credit for a “Reflection”.
- Attendance in at least one NSIA annual or semi-annual meeting.
- Endeavor to attend one’s formal induction into the NSIA at an annual or semi-annual meeting.
- A minimum of quarterly contact with their P.Ag. Mentor to discuss pertinent issues.
- Demonstrate to their mentor knowledge of professional behavior and practice.

Note: Articling Agrologists may request, in writing to the NSIA Council, to be exempted from the assignment of a mentor and/or the four training sessions, based on the individual’s academic background and training. Exemptions from the “Introduction to NSIA” session or the “Professionalism” session will not be granted.

### **PHASE 3: GRANTING OF PROFESSIONAL AGROLOGIST STATUS**

After an individual completes the A.Ag. Program, the mentor will forward a letter of recommendation to the NSIA council regarding the A.Ag's status.

If council accepts the recommendation for P.Ag. status, the new P.Ag. will be formally inducted into the profession at the semi-annual or annual meeting. The Mentor will present the Articling Agrologist to the NSIA members for installation as an Agrologist.

#### **PROGRAM FEES**

The Articling Agrologist fee for the first year will be \$75. 00. Full NSIA membership fees will be paid for the second year of the Articling Agrologist Program.

## THE ARTICLING AGROLOGISTS PROCESS

### The Application

1. Approval by NSIA Council to Articling Agrologist status
2. Articling Agrologist package is sent out to the new A.Ag and the A.Ag is contacted by the A.Ag. Program committee chair



### The Selection of a Mentor

A P.Ag. is chosen as a mentor by the new A.Ag. or is assigned by the A.Ag. Committee and is approved by NSIA Council



### The Introductory Meeting with Mentor

The Agrologists Act and the By-Laws are discussed (available at <http://nsagrologists.ca>) at this meeting and the “**Mentor’s Initial Report**” is filled out and passed in to the A.Ag. committee chair.



### Completion of the Program Requirements

1. Attend an introduction to NSIA session at the semi-annual or annual meeting
  2. Attend a professionalism session (usually held in conjunction with semi-annual and annual meetings)
  3. Attend three workshops, courses, or technical sessions. Write a brief (no more than one page) report and discuss with your mentor.
- (During this step the “**Mentor’s Interim Report**” is to be completed and passed in as proof on going progress. The “**Articling Agrologist’s Activity Summary**” must be updated.)



### Recommendation to P.Ag. Status

Upon completion of assignments, the mentor will submit the “**Mentor’s Final Report**” and the “**Articling Agrologist’s Activity Summary**” to the A.Ag. Chair with recommendation as to P.Ag. status.



### Congratulations!

Upon approval by NSIA council, the A.Ag. will receive professional status and a certificate will be presented at the next NSIA annual or semi-annual meeting.



**NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS**

**ARTICLING AGROLOGIST PROGRAM**

**Mentor's Interim Report # \_\_\_\_\_**

Articling Agrologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Period Covered: \_\_\_\_\_

Requirements met during this period:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comment on Articling Agrologist's progress:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS**

**ARTICLING AGROLOGIST PROGRAM**

**Mentor's Final Report**

Articling Agrologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Commencement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:

- Acceptance as P.Ag.
- Recommend for interview
- Recommend program extension (see comments below)
- Rejection

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Append copy of completed activity summary sheet.

**NOVA SCOTIA INSTITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS**

**ARTICLING AGROLOGIST PROGRAM**

**Articling Agrologist's Activity Summary**

Articling Agrologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Commencement Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Completed Activity	Date Completed
--------------------	----------------

“Introduction to NSIA & Ethics”	_____
---------------------------------	-------

“Professionalism Seminar”	_____
---------------------------	-------

Credit #1	_____
-----------	-------

Credit #2	_____
-----------	-------

Credit #3	_____
-----------	-------

NSIA annual/semi-annual meeting	_____
---------------------------------	-------

Note: One credit may be a “personal development” activity; two must be technical upgrading credits.

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mentor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

