

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, GREENWICH, NS**

**DECEMBER 6, 2011**

**“Ethiopia and Kings County Linked at Sold Out Event”**

A first annual event in support of sustainable farming has sold out. Held by No Farms No Food, this 50/50 benefit dinner will be at the Old Orchard Inn on December 8. The aim is raising \$5,000 for the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust and \$5,000 for Oxfam Canada in support of its sustainable farming projects in Ethiopia.

Patricia Bishop, owner of Taproot Farms and Kings County Councillor for District 10, will chair the event. Bishop says: “Ticket sales quickly exceeded the group’s initial target of 100 for this first year. We are now packed to capacity with over 200 people gathering to celebrate the good fortune we have to live here in Nova Scotia’s “bread basket.” Bishop adds: “The magic of this event is that its proceeds will support farmers here in Nova Scotia as well as farm families struggling to re-establish farm fields in Ethiopia. This adds greatly to the event, especially at this time of year.”

Pauline Raven, one of the volunteers organizing the “Don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone” event says: “We were seeking a way to demonstrate in a practical way the high regard in which No Farms No Food members hold those whose daily work provides neighbours with nutritious foods and food security.” The Agricultural Land Review underscored the need to preserve Nova Scotia’s agricultural land base. It also noted that those who benefit from the food security that farm land affords should share in the costs of preservation. “That’s us,” says Raven.

The group’s plan is to hold events annually in support of sustainable farming here in Kings County and but also in regions where farming is jeopardized.

Raven says: “The purpose of our 50-50 perspective and sharing of funds is to caution us all that food security should not be taken for granted.”

While drought and the exploitation of arable land in Ethiopia by multi-nationals is contributing to food insecurity on a tragic scale, here in Kings County No Farms No Food members pressure government to decline requests aimed at placing houses on agricultural lands. The recently established Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust is mandated to raise money to pay farmers for easements on their farmland that might otherwise be used for housing.

Kings County is known as home to many of the best soils on our planet.

For more information contact:  
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## Background Information

The Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust is a non-profit, non-government organization that has been established to promote and facilitate the preservation of farmland for a productive and sustainable agricultural future, starting right here in Kings County.

Oxfam Canada is a key source of support for farm families working to re-establish sustainable farm practices in rural Ethiopia. This support puts food security in the hands of local communities and organizations with the goal of ensuring nutritious food is available to local families year round.

## Food Security Facts

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture recently released a report that estimates that only about 8.4% of our diet is produced here in Nova Scotia while 15-years ago it was closer to 15%.

Statistics Canada estimates that only about 5 percent of Canada's land is now free from severe constraints to crop production.

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that as many as 38 million Africans are living under the threat of starvation.

Oil-rich countries are buying up millions of hectares of fertile farmlands in Ethiopia and producing crops for consumption in the Middle East.

## More Information About:

**No Farms No Food...**

[www.nofarmsnofood.ca](http://www.nofarmsnofood.ca)

**Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust...**

<http://www.preservefarmland.com/>

**Oxfam Canada in Ethiopia...**

[www.oxfam.ca/what-we-do/where-we-work/east-africa/ethiopia/abcd](http://www.oxfam.ca/what-we-do/where-we-work/east-africa/ethiopia/abcd)

**Final Report of Nova Scotia's Agricultural Land Review Committee**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/elibrary/nsalrc/nsalrc-final%20report-discussion.pdf>