**A more sustainable farming model**

*Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture’s Living Labs aim to help farmers better tackle climate change*

From the Climate Story Network

**RADIO SCRIPT VERSION**

***[Bolded cut option runs 1 minute. Full version 1:30.]***

Nova Scotia farms and fields are turning into “living labs” in a bid to help farmers grow better crops and tackle climate change.

The Agricultural Climate Solutions Living Labs are active across Canada.

A key Nova Scotia project is studying orchards and vineyards - but not the apples and grapes.

Instead, they are planting clovers in the laneways.

Soil scientist, Keith Fuller, says farmers typically let random grass and broad-leaf weeds grow in the lanes.

But clovers could sequester more carbon in their deeper roots.

It could also lead to more fruitful harvests.

Fuller says the goal is to do the research so farmers can take action.

A second living lab has a cauliflower farmer turning their fallow field over to cattle.

The cows graze the grass and “pump” the nutrients back into the soil as natural fertilizer.

That brings earth worms and dung beetles to the soil, where they pull the carbon down deep into their burrows.

**A third living lab is studying cover crops.**

**They’re testing four plants farmers could seed on their fields as they rest from growing the cash crops.**

**Good cover crops can protect the soil, but many farmers simply don’t know which ones to plant.**

**A fourth project is focusing on riparian zones - where the water meets the land - to learn more about their role in the health of water, soil, and crops.**

Nova Scotia has 2,744 farms, all of which play a critical role in feeding the population and mitigating climate change.

All four living labs aim to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project will end in spring 2027.