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Agriculture Services NEWSLETTER

December 2001

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



On the Federation's Agenda

Michelle Butler, NSDAF

On December 7 and 8, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture held its Annual General Meeting in Truro. Over these two days, there were several opportunities for the department to present issues of shared interest to the federation and its members.

Friday evening Geoff Regan, MP from Halifax West announced on behalf of Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lyle Vanclief a \$300,000 Rural Water Development Program to support initiatives to increase water supply in areas of Nova Scotia affected by drought.

This funding will allow industry to determine the quantity and quality of ground and surface sources in key

areas of the province, with the long-term goal of enabling the agriculture sector and rural communities to initiate future water infrastructure projects.

Few specifics about distribution have been worked out, yet Government said the funds will be administered in cooperation with Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration staff who have the technical expertise well suited for this initiative. Further details will be shared with industry as soon as they are finalized over the coming weeks.

In response to this announcement, Nova Scotia Minister Ernest Fage stated that the province welcomes the funding, as it will compliment the current risk management programs in any capacity.

Other highlights from the Minister's presentation included:

- release of a departmental report Estimated Impact of the 2001 Drought on Agriculture in Nova Scotia (available to public at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/elibrary/pubs.htm>)
- commitments made within the report, in response to the federations recommendations
- announcement that the province will extend funds for negative margins under the CFIP program for 2001
- description of national and provincial review of safety net programs

Saturday morning, Deputy Minister Peter Underwood described how the federation, province and federal visions for agriculture are converging, which will position the industry well for future growth and partnerships. He summarized the issues we all share: environment, food safety, renewal, safety nets and science.

Mr. Underwood suggested that these issues can only be addressed with further dialogue, strategic partnerships and how we deal with the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Although the agenda was jam packed, there was an opportunity for Liz Crouse to give an update on and promote the Farm Family Support Centre, a project in partnership with the federation. Ruth Grant, Agriculture Awareness Coordinator helped with a presentation on the awareness issue. As well, Dr. Ralph Martin spoke about the progress of the Organic Agriculture Centre for Canada at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Water Task Group

On November 16, 2001, Deputy Minister Peter Underwood announced the formation of an inter-divisional water task group. This group was established to address one of the most important challenges facing the agriculture industry today – a reliable source of good quality water. The Deputy indicated, "This issue (water) is extremely complex and cuts across all divisions of the department."

The committee consists of Chair, Andrew Cameron, Mike Langman, Mike Johnson, Peter Swinkels, Mike Horwich, Loretta Robichaud, Rob Gordon, Andrew Bagnall, John MacMillan, Dianne Kenny, Natalie Webster and Debbie Trenaman.

The committee met for the first time on November 22, 2001. In addition to the water quantity issue facing the industry, the committee will address issues related to impacts to water resources from agricultural, fishery and aquaculture activities.

For further information contact Andrew Cameron at 902-424-0406.



Nutrient Management Planning in Nova Scotia

Bill MacLeod P.Ag., NSDAF

Interest in nutrient management planning has existed in Nova Scotia for many years. Today the focus is on the need to develop more extensive plans for farm applied nutrients in a science based, practical farm level system.

Based on information gathered from a number of stakeholders, priorities for the development of a comprehensive nutrient management planning program for Nova Scotia have been developed. These include:

- Standardization of a nutrient management planning program;
- Development of a strategy by all stakeholders to ensure a system that is effective and widely accepted;

- Development of a certification process applicable to Nova Scotia conditions and standards; and
- Development of appropriate standards, regulations and laws where necessary to support nutrient management planning, including alternatives to regulations that encourage compliance.

The agriculture industry, through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, has taken the lead in advancing the development and promotion of nutrient management planning. A steering committee comprised of representatives of the farming community, agri-business, private consultants, and the departments of Environment and

Labour (NSDEL) and Agriculture and Fisheries (NSDAF) has been formed to provide leadership in the development of nutrient management planning. A project is underway, focusing on the development and testing of a nutrient management protocol for the province. It will also include the development of a manual and a proactive approach to the delivery of nutrient management planning to all Nova Scotia farms.

This initiative will develop a basic model specific to Nova Scotia. This model will be tried on at least five farms. In conjunction with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) a training program for certification of nutrient management planners is anticipated. This initiative could easily be extended to other Atlantic provinces.

Staff Update

Dr. Gordon G. Finley

Legislation and Compliance Services, Quality Evaluation would like to welcome Dr. Gordon Finley, Program Veterinarian, to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Dr. Finley grew up on a mixed farm in Cumberland County and attended the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He transferred to the Ontario Veterinary College then joined the NS Department of Agriculture after graduation, as a veterinarian.

In 1971 he took post graduate training in Veterinary Pathology at OVC, again returning to NS, this time as a Veterinary Pathologist. Dr. Finley joined the Federal Government in 1982 in the Sackville, New Brunswick Laboratory as Veterinary Pathologist. He worked in Ottawa for two years as Acting Director of the Science Division, then in 1997 transferred to Winnipeg as a Section Head at the new CFIA high containment Laboratory – the National Center for Foreign Animal Disease.

In October 2001, we were pleased once again to have Dr. Finley join the Nova Scotia team.

Nutrient management planning is currently expected to be delivered through the private sector. The two departments are providing ongoing support in the design and delivery of the program as well as support in research. Training and education will be essential to a successful program as well as the use of existing infrastructure at facilities such as the NSAC. As the program develops there will be a need for program monitoring. Currently the NSDEL has some legislated responsibility in this area which most likely will be expanded in the future. The NSDAF continues to maintain provincial facilities for soil and manure testing, an integral part of nutrient planning. Additionally NSDAF provides assistance in the area of nutrient management both directly and indirectly through the Nova Scotia Farm Investment Fund.

Manure Management

Kevin Bekkers, NSDAF

As winter creeps upon us, it is a good time to review the manure management of your farm operation. There are four areas – storage, separation distances, nutrient management and land application.

Storage

There are several options available for storing manure such as concrete tanks, earthen storages and concrete pads with retaining walls. Fully-contained manure storages should have good run-off control or have run-off treated to prevent surface water contamination. A manure management system should meet the needs of each livestock operation. There is no single best system, each has advantages and disadvantages. Consult with your engineer, manure equipment dealer and other experts to determine the most appropriate system for your operation.

Two new types of storage are stockpiling and satellite storage. These types of storage can provide flexibility as manure can be stored on other areas of the farm such as fields furthest from the main farm. Stockpiling solid manure or constructing satellite storage for liquid manure often increases the total combined storage of the farm and assists in achieving seven months of storage capacity.

Separation Distances

Separation distances are outlined in the Nova Scotia Manure Management Guidelines.

Production and Manure Storage Separation Distances

- areas zoned residential 600 m
- property line 50 m
- off-farm well 100 m
- provincial highway 50 m

Manure Application Separation Distances

	Clay/Loam Soils	Sand & Gravel Soils
• wells	30 m	60 m
• ditches	3 m	3 m
• brooks, rivers and lakes	5 m	5 m

Nutrient Management

Soils should be tested every two to three years to determine the nutrient status of your fields. Manure spreading should be avoided on fields excessive in phosphorous and potassium. Consult with a nutrient management specialist for a detailed nutrient management plan.

Land Application

Manure applications should be conducted to benefit crop growth. Application should be avoided between late November and early April. Manure should not be spread on frozen, snow-covered ground or excessively wet soils. Fact sheets are available for calibrating manure spreaders to determine rates of application. It is recommended that manure analysis be conducted to determine the nutrient content of manure. Nutrient application in the form of manure and commercial fertilizer should be in balance with the requirements of crop to be grown. For more information on manure management contact Kevin Bekkers, Agricultural Resource Coordinator at 902-863-4705.

Applications for the 1997 and 1998 Loss Provision Program were mailed to eligible producers in May 2001. Please send your completed application to the Farm Loan Board office by February 28, 2002. For more information, please contact Sandy Patterson or Derrick Jamieson at 902-893-6506.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board continues to administer the New Entrants to Agriculture Program. The application deadline for 2002 is February 28, 2002. For more information, please contact John Murray at 902-893-6506.

NOTICE

Articles for this newsletter may be submitted by agricultural organizations. Articles should be timely, of interest and beneficial to the agricultural community. Articles of 100 to 300 words in length are preferred. We reserve the right to edit articles and to exclude them from the newsletter.

Pesticide Re-Certification Credit Point Program (PRCP)

Lorne Crozier, NSDAF

All users of commercial class or restricted class pesticides in Nova Scotia must be certified by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. A pesticide applicator certificate is valid for five years. The pesticide applicator must then re-certify.

The Pesticide Re-certification Credit Point program acknowledges applicators who, through private training or various industry associations, keep abreast of new development and changing technology in pest management.

You may re-certify by acquiring 15 Pesticide Re-certification Credit Points during the five-year period that your certificate is valid; or by writing an exam at the end of the five-year period.

Credit points are earned at the rate of one point for each hour of approved training.

Approved training is offered by industry associations, extension specialists, community colleges, trainers in private industry or on-line training providers and may also be

offered in conjunction with conference programs or grower field days.

You are responsible for keeping a record of your own training. When your certification is ready to expire, you must contact the nearest Department of Environment and Labour office. You are required to provide a record of your acquired points, along with payment of the \$50 license fee.

Only five PRCP points per calendar year are eligible to be credited toward re-certification.

No more than five points can come from training on any one topic.

A total of 10 points must come from training in Pest Management, Application Technology and/or Human Health Effects and Pesticide Safety. The remaining five points can come from these topics: Pesticide Regulations, Labeling, Environment Fate and Impact, Emergency Response and Professionalism.

Contacts:

Northern Region (*Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Antigonish and Guysborough - except Aulds Cove and Mulgrave area*) **Brad Skinner**
Tel: 902-667-6205

Eastern Region (*Cape Breton Island, Auld's Cove and Mulgrave area*)
Barb Bryden Tel: 902-563-2100

Central Region (*Halifax Regional Municipality, Hants*) **Meg Campbell**
Tel: 902-424-3650

Western Region (*Valley and South Shore*) **Steve Conway**
Tel: 902-543-4685

Pesticide Certification/ Re-certification Courses from ProAgri Consulting

Traci Curry, ProAgri

ProAgri Consulting will offer pesticide safety courses throughout Nova Scotia in 2002. They will include Pesticide Certification Courses, and Pesticide Re-certification Courses.

This course covers a broad range of pesticide safety topics for land applicators and is designed to assist in preparation of the NSDEL pesticide certification exam. Cost: \$140 (includes HST and manual). Exam is offered on second day (9 a.m. – noon).

The Pesticide Re-certification Course is designed for licenced applicators who wish to accumulate points. Individuals complete five hours of pesticide safety course topics and are issued re-certification points, one point for each hour of training. Cost: \$60 (includes HST).

For more information on these courses contact your regional Agriculture Office or Traci Curry, ProAri Consulting, 902-798-2114, Fax 902-798-2542, e-mail proagri@ns.sympatico.ca.

Note: A schedule of dates and location for these courses is included in the regional sections on the last page(s) of this newsletter.

Farm Succession “Get Started – Get Familiar”

Lori Kittilsen, P.Ag. NSDAF

For many farm families a critical issue being faced today is the issue of farm succession. Preparing to transfer the farm to the next generation, whether within the family or to an outsider, can be an overwhelming concept. It is important to remember that the day you get into business you need to accept that some day you will exit the business. The better planned and prepared you are for the eventual exit the smoother it will go. One of

the most common flaws in the preparation for succession is that people begin planning too late. Succession of a business is a significant and important step in the life cycle of a business. No matter how succession is planned to happen or for what reasons, the health of the business is at stake so the succession needs to be carried out in a well planned manner, therefore it is critical that planning starts early.

No matter what the age of the business operator, size of the business, business structure or commodity produced getting started seems to be by far the largest hurdle. An excellent place to start is with education. Become familiar with the topic of succession by attaining appropriate resources suited to your learning style. Once you are familiar with the subject, terminology and issues you will find that it becomes easier to start planning.

In today’s age of information one obvious place to start searching for succession tools and information is the web. The Canadian Farm Business Management Council has a web site devoted to succession planning on the farm — “Farmsuccession.com”. Check it out! Also plan to attend one of the Succession Planning Workshops coming to a community near you.

New Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations

Don Cameron, NS Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations are needed to protect valuable habitat, to ensure Nova Scotia’s forests will maintain their diversity of wildlife species into the future. On January 14, 2002 these regulations become law and must be followed when forest harvesting on any Nova Scotia woodland.

There are three techniques that must be followed when harvesting forest land:

1. Leaving Buffer Strips Along Watercourses

The area next to a watercourse provides food and shelter for many species of wildlife. When harvesting adjacent to a watercourse that is 50 centimetres (20 inches) or more in width:

- leave at least a 20 metre (66 feet) wide strip, called a Special Management Zone (SMZ), along each edge of the watercourse.
- partial harvesting, under certain conditions, is permitted within the SMZ.

2. Leaving Legacy Trees/Wildlife Clumps

Many species of animals and birds require openings or cavities in standing trees for nesting and shelter. When harvesting any area larger than three hectares (7.4 acres):

- leave at least 10 living trees standing (future cavity trees) for each hectare harvested.
- leave these trees in clumps, with a minimum of 30 trees per clump.
- for information regarding the number of clumps required, their composition and their location, see www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/strategy/.

3. Leaving Coarse Woody Debris

Standing dead trees, fallen trees, large branches, and rotting logs are important habitat for many species of wildlife. When decomposed, they are a source of nutrients for the next forest. When harvesting leave standing dead trees and as much large woody debris on the harvested area as possible.

For more details on the Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations, visit www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/strategy/ or contact your local Department of Natural Resources office.

Succession Planning Workshop

Winter 2002 (Tentative)

1. Introduction to Succession – What it is and What it is Not! (20 min.)

- Understanding Succession – Exercise
- Understanding Succession – Information
- Dealing with Change

2. The Six Steps of Succession Planning (40 min.)

- i) Discovering Expectations
- ii) Exploring the Options
- iii) Building the Plan
- iv) Checking with the Experts
- v) Review and Finalize the Plan
- vi) Implementing the Plan

3. Common Pitfalls in Succession Planning (20 min.)

A review of some of the common areas of difficulty and suggestions for avoiding them.

4. A review of some of the Useful tools and Resources (10 min.)

5. Questions

Safety Net Update

Robin Bremner, NSDAF

I would like to thank county federations of agriculture and provincial commodity groups for the opportunity to speak at meetings and be present at exhibitions and trade shows this fall.

Here are a few things to note before year-end:

NISA 2000 Stabilization Year:

The deadline for final applications, deposits, withdrawals and requests for adjusted stabilization triggers is December 31, 2001.

NISA Red Meat Deposit Enhancement Pilot Project:

In place for 2000 and 2001 stabilization years, this allows red meat producers to deposit an additional four per cent of their eligible net sales (ENS). Take advantage of this enhancement for both years by applying to NISA now for 2000.

Fact Sheets Available Soon:

Based on frequently asked questions, a series of fact sheets will be developed. Topics include: Structural change (expansion and downsizing) and Safety Nets, Retirement and NISA Accounts, Partnerships and Incorporation and Safety Nets, and NISA Account Details (making deposits, deeming, withdrawals, account closures, tax implications).

If there are any other program details you would like to have written information about, contact me at 902-893-6374



Results and Conference

Lynne Godlien, ADI

The Agricultural Development Institute has issued the results of its first six months in full operation.

From April 16 to October 31, 2001 the ADI team has made 766 farm calls, hosted or partnered in 16 workshops or field days with 600 participants, developed over 40 facts sheets and articles (including the monthly Cultivator column in Farm Focus), developed 16 partnerships for a variety of research and development projects and attended or participated in 82 industry meetings and conferences.

In addition, ADI partnered with Agri-ville.com to provide information written by ADI professionals, Atlantic news, agriculture-related links and discussion groups that are based on local commodities. It also launched the Resource Contact Centre, which has handled over 200 inquires since opening at the beginning of October. The centre is open Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 902-896-2345, fax 1-866-222-6609 (toll-free in Nova Scotia) or e-mail info@adil.ca.

ADI also announced its first conference, "Creating Momentum—Thinking Through Ideas" for February 28 and March 1, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth. The key focus is providing participants with practical tools to get move initiatives or new ventures from the idea stage to implementation. There will be several interactive sessions covering new market opportunities, functional foods, on-farm food safety, alliance building and consumer trends.

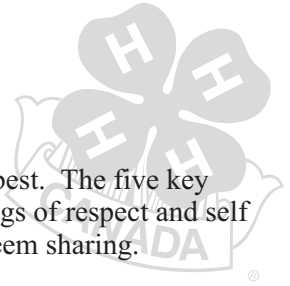
Keynote speakers are Frank MacKenna, former Premier of New Brunswick, and Dr. Lowell Catlett, renowned futurist at New Mexico State University. Session speakers include Earl Kidston, Rolf Meier and Casey van Dyk.

For more information about the conference, contact the Resource Contact Centre, or visit the website at www.agri-ville.com/adi.

To ensure you are receiving information on workshops, fact sheets and current ADI information, please call the Resource Contact Centre or visit www.agri-ville.com/adi to fill out the Contact Network on-line form on our homepage at www.agri-ville.com/adi.

*The Agriculture Services newsletter is available
on our website at
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/fs/arcs/>*

The "No Fear of the Future Factor"



Nova Scotia 4-H Intermediate Conference February 9 and 10, 2002 AgriTECH Park, Truro, NS

Starting Saturday, 10:30 a.m. until Sunday, 4:30 p.m., the conference is for 13 to 15 year-old 4-H members. Fantastic fun, friendships and learning are guaranteed! Meet members from across Nova Scotia!

This conference will focus on the skills you need to make a smooth transition from school to career — what do you need to know? Learn now what skills you will need to master!



Sessions will include:

A presentation by the Bionic Turkey on being the best. The five key ingredients on building personal F.O.R.S.E. (feelings of respect and self esteem) awareness, belief, change, dreams and esteem sharing.

Managing Money – how do you do it?

Nicely Networked – every day actual networking skills

Fear Factor Stunts – a self-development skill-a-thon

Building A Portfolio – it's more than a resume

Measures of Success – 4-H alumni share their success

Security First – protecting yourself!

Is your Future at NSAC?

Other social events will take place, like cosmic bowling, swimming and a dance.

The cost is \$45 per member. This conference is a joint project of the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Applications are available from your local 4-H Specialist or by calling 902-893-6587 or on the web at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/features/intermediate.htm>.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - JANUARY 3, 2002

Winter 2002 NSAC Continuing Education Courses

January 8 & 9, 2002

Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor's Training
Preparation for the Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor's Exam
Course is being offered in Charlottetown

January 11 – April 5, 2002

Landscape Installation Workshops
(Ten Topics)
Friday's, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

January 21 – April 26, 2002

Meat Cutting Certificate Program

January 21 – 25, 2002

Turf grass Maintenance

January 28 – February 1, 2002

Golf Green Culture

February 4 – March 8, 2002

Farm Equipment Mechanic
Apprenticeship

February 6 – March 27, 2002

Responsible Horse Owner II
Wednesday Evenings

February 7, 2002

Pesticide Application Technology
for Landscapers

February 18 – 21, 2002

Bovine Artificial Insemination

February 18 – 22, 2002

Computer Assisted Landscape
Design

February 18 – 21, 2002

Basic Farm Welding

February 18 – 20, 2002

Weed ID & Management in
Agricultural Systems

February 21, 2002

Pesticide Application Technology
for Farmers

March 20 – 21, 2002

Landscape Plant Identification
Training for the CCHT & ISA
Exams

March 11 – 14, 2002

Repair & Maintenance of Hydraulic
Systems

For further information please contact:

The Centre for Continuing & Distance Education

Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Tel: 902-893-6666 Fax: 902-895-5528 Email: cde@nsac.ns.ca

Water Approvals for the Storage or Withdrawal of Water

R. Jay Brenton, NSDEL

Under the Environment Act, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) is the lead government agency for managing Nova Scotia's water resources. As part of this mandate,

NSDEL is responsible to ensure that water resources are managed appropriately, used efficiently and allocated among competing users in a manner to ensure sustainability of the water resource. To achieve these

objectives, the NSDEL requires approvals for various activities where there is a use or alteration of a water course or a water resource. Some of these activities include:

- The withdrawal or diversion of greater than 23,000 litres of water per day from surface water or groundwater,
- the storage of 25,000 cubic meters or more of water,
- the construction or maintenance of a dam, and
- the alteration or diversion of a surface watercourse including the flow of water in the watercourse.

Please note that non-recurring use or withdrawal of water from the same watercourse for less than two weeks does not require an approval, although a maintenance flow must be maintained in the watercourse. If you are planning to undertake one of these activities or other possible alteration to a watercourse, you should contact your local office of the Department of Environment and Labour for further information before proceeding with the activity.

AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS

"IT'S ALL ABOUT FOOD"

Ruth Grant, Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator, NSDAF

Over the past year the Agricultural Awareness Committee has had a number of successful urban programs. We have presented exhibits to consumers, teachers and classrooms. Throughout all of this, it is becoming apparent that people are involved in the agri-food industry. At the Ag Cot Discovery Center, as part of the Maritime Fall Fair, we focused our exhibits on "food, back to the farm" rather than "farm to plate." People have not always understood the business of farming, and we want to tell the dynamic story of agriculture. When you start with the products people are most familiar with, ie the groceries in your cart or food demonstrations using recipes profiling Nova Scotia products, consumers want to learn more.

Consumers are concerned about the food they eat. This concern gives us an opportunity to share information by pointing out the benefits of buying local products and the contributions the agricultural industry makes to the economy and society. Consumers will be better able to track their food and develop a better understanding of the agricultural industry.

This new approach has been successful. The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee focuses on educating the public and continually tries to create new and creative programing ideas. The committees' efforts help keep agriculture growing in Nova Scotia. For more information on Agricultural Awareness, contact Ruth Grant at 902-893-6598.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

Arthur Pick –

Tel: (902) 679-6005 (Tues./Thurs.)

pickaa@gov.ns.ca

Weldon Smith –

Tel: (902) 679-6006

Fax: 679-6062

smithwe@gov.ns.ca

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

Arthur Pick –

Tel: (902) 893-7314 (Mon./Wed./Fri.)

pickaa@gov.ns.ca

Pictou, Antigonish, & Guysborough counties:

Kevin Bekkers –

Tel: (902) 863-4705

Fax: 863-7342

bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca

Cape Breton Island:

Bill MacLeod –

Tel: (902) 563-2000

Fax: 563-3435

macleobj@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –

Tel: (902) 837-5161

Fax: 837-7696

moermade@gov.ns.ca

It has been a busy fall with meetings and events. Lots of issues are being discussed, including the 2001 drought, a water strategy, NSDAF programs and services, farm succession, OH&S concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, labour issues, and societal pressures (animal welfare, wildlife habitat, etc.).

We hope that you will take advantage of any meetings in your area. If you

have a particular issue we need to meet about or if you want to organize a meeting for your area, please let me know so that we can make it happen.

Central Nova Plowing Match Results

An excellent plowing match and field day was held on September 8 at a Barney Brook Farms Field in Shubenacadie. This event was

sponsored by the Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture, the Stewiacke District Federation of Agriculture and the Central Nova Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Best Crown – Trevor Dillman

Best Finish – Nick Dillman

Best Split – John Dillman

Best 2-Furrow – Trevor Dillman

Best 3-Furrow – John van de Reit

Best 4-Furrow – Kris Ballam

Top Overall – Nick Dillman

The Maritime Rabbit Breeders Association (MRBA)

MRBA sponsored a show and skills clinic on November 24. In total there were 139 entries from three Provinces. 4-H members participated including members from Colchester, Antigonish and Cumberland.

Multi-Region Workshop

The Central Region is joining forces again with Cape Breton and Eastern regions to conduct workshops and leader training opportunities. Friday, February 8 in Truro, Bill Gordon will be presenting “The Power of Kindness.” On Saturday, February 9 in Port Hawkesbury, Bill will be presenting “OUTSTANDING!!!! You’re Not Just a 4-H Leader.” For more information contact Michael Kittilsen at 902-893-6586, e-mail kittilma@gov.ns.ca.

Events (2002)

- January 8 **Farm Succession – “Get Started – Get Familiar”**
Room 214, Administration Building, AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill, 7:30 p.m., Contact: Lori Kittilsen, NSDAF, 902-893-6582 for information.
- January 8 **Cumberland Co. 4-H Council meeting**
Shinimicas Fire Hall, 8 p.m.
- Mid-Jan. **Farmer Information Meeting on Environmental Issues**
sponsored by the Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture
Contact Carol Versteeg, 902-758-3530 for information.
- January 16 **Colchester Co. 4-H Scholarship Fund-raiser meeting**
Bible Hill, 7 p.m., Contact: Mike Kittilsen, 902-893-6586
- January 17 **Cumberland Co. Cattlemens’ Meetings**
Experimental Farm Pavilion, Nappan
Contact Sean Firth, ADI, 902-678-7722 for information.
- January 23 **Cumberland Co. New 4-H Leader Training Session,**
Pavilion, Nappan Experimental Farm, 7 p.m.
Contact: Mike Kittilsen, 902-893-6586
- January 28 **Farm Succession – “Get Started – Get Familiar”**
Pavilion, Nappan Experimental Farm, 7:30 p.m.
Contact Lori Kittilsen, NSDAF, 902-893-6582 for information.
- January 28 **North Shore Soil & Crop Improvement Association**
North Colchester High School, Tatamagouche, 7 p.m.
Purpose: To dissolve this Association and vote on dispersal of funds. This is a very important meeting. All Life Members and Current Annual Members are encouraged to attend.
- January 28 **North Colchester Federation of Agriculture Meeting**
North Colchester High School, 7:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker(s): Joann Craib and/or Wade Adshade
- February 5 **Pesticide Re-certification Training Course**
AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114 to register
- February 6 **Pesticide Re-certification Training Course**
Pavilion, Nappan Experimental Farm, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114 to register.



*May the peace and good
will of this Christmas
Season gently fill your home
with joy that lasts
throughout 2002. Have a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*

Events continued on next page

Events

- February 8 **Multi Region 4-H Workshop with the Bionic Turkey**
Location TBA in Truro, 7 p.m. Contact Mike Kittilsen, 902-893-6586 for information.
- February 9–10 **4-H Provincial Intermediate Conference**
AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill, Contact Liz Crouse, 902-893-6587 for information.
- February 25 **North Nova Forest Owners Co-op Ltd.**
North Colchester High School, *Topic*: Forest Management
7:30 p.m. *Guest Speaker(s)*: Adrian Eelman, Local Farmer
Topic: Recent trip to Holland
- Feb.27– Mar. 1 **Creating Momentum – Thinking Through Ideas**
Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. Call 902-896-2345 or check www.agri-ville.com/adi for information.
- March TBA **Value Adding at my Farm Gate**, Truro area
Contact Peter Swinkels, NSDAF, 902-893-6570 for information.

Upcoming ADI Events

(Places and times to be confirmed ~ contact ADI numbers below for more information)

Provincial Forage Day, Truro area
Contact Bill Thomas, ADI, 902-896-0277

Central Region Dairy Club Meetings
Contact Sean Firth, ADI, 902-678-7722

Pork Producers, Barn Staff Training
Amherst area. One-day sessions for five weeks beginning the week of February 11 (tentative) Contact Nadine Funk, ADI, 678-7722

Vegetable Producers Drought Management Session
week of March 25. Contact Treasa Caldwell, ADI, 902-896-0277

Strawberry Production Workshop
Contact John Lewis, ADI, 901-678-7722

Sessions In Your Area

If there is sufficient interest we will arrange sessions on the following topics:

- Pesticide Certification (check your licence)
- St. John Ambulance First Aid/CPR

Call the office at 902-837-5161 and let us know before December 21, 2001.

Information Sessions

Farm organizations, department staff, the Agricultural Development Institute, and staff of private companies have been working together over the last month to line up a series of useful and informative sessions for the coming months. While all the details have not yet been hammered out the following list will give you a good flavor of what's in store. Watch for more detailed announcements in the near future on individual sessions coming up in your area.

Congratulations Shelburne County!

For being declared Top County at the 2001 4-H Show for the second time!

Events

Feb. 19 – 20 **Pesticide Certification**, ProAgri Consulting
(Yarmouth) (Place TBA) Course Times: *Day 1:* 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Area) *Day 2:* 9 a.m.– noon

Feb. 27 – Mar. 1 **Creating Momentum – Thinking Through Ideas**
Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. Call 902-896-2345 or check
www.agri-ville.com/adi for information.

TBA **Western Valley Dairy Club Monthly Meetings**
(Lawrencetown) Topics for this winter: herd health, bio-security,
financial sessions, manure management.

TBA **Programs for Farmers – NISA, CFIP, Agri-Futures, NSDAF**
Programs

TBA **Nutrient Management Plans**

TBA **Value Adding at My Farm Gate**

TBA **Farming with your Neighbours**

Upcoming ADI Events

(Places and times to be confirmed ~ contact ADI numbers below for more information)

Annapolis County Soils & Crops Day
Contact Jack vanRoestel, ADI, 902-678-7722

Bio-Security in the Mink Industry
Contact Alex Oderkirk, ADI, 902-896-0277

Barn Staff Training for Pork Producers, one-day sessions for
five weeks, Digby County
Contact Nadine Funk, ADI, 902-678-7722

Highbush Blueberry Production Workshop, Yarmouth
Contact John Lewis, ADI, 902-678-7722

Surveys - We have had a good response to the agricultural producer survey so far. **Thank you** to every one completed one. Your input was greatly appreciated. Those who had specific questions will be getting a response from me soon. For those who haven't responded yet, I'd like to hear from you.

Dennis Moerman



It has been a busy fall. Lots of issues are being discussed including the 2001 drought, a water strategy, NSDAF programs and services, farm succession, OH&S concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, labour issues, and societal pressures (animal welfare, wildlife habitat, etc.).

We are trying to address these issues and some winter meetings are being organized and coordinated. We hope that you will take advantage of any meetings in your area. If you have a particular issue we need to meet about or if you want to organize a meeting for your area, please let us know so that we can make it happen.

We appreciate hearing from you and discussing your issues. Let's work together to achieve success and seize the opportunity that exists in agriculture.

4-H Show - Hants Co., with assistance from Kings and Annapolis Counties will be hosting the 25th Anniversary of the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Windsor at the Hants Co. Exhibition Grounds, on September 27 to 29, 2002. Fund raising for this event is underway. Tickets on a side of "Zillig" Pork, donated by Linden Crest Farm, and two draws of \$100 of home heating oil from Oulton Fuels will be taking place throughout the months of January and February. See a 4-H family in Hants Co. to purchase tickets and support the 4-H Show.

Events

- December 27 **Lunenburg County 4-H Christmas Party.** Skating at Bridgewater Arena (4 – 5:30 p.m.) then Wileville Hall for pizza & munchies. \$3/person for skating & pizza. Queens & Shelburne Clubs invited.
- January 2 & February 4 **Kings County 4-H Council Meeting,** 7:30 p.m. Agricultural Centre (Nominating Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. – January only)
- January 10 **Farm Succession – “Get Started - Get Familiar”** O'Brien Building, Exhibition Grounds, Windsor, 7:30 p.m. Contact Lori Kittilsen, NSDAF Call 902-893-6582, for information.
- January 10 & February 11 **Hants Co. 4-H Council Meeting** Hants West Regional High School, 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10–11 or Mar. 21–22 **Pesticide Certification Training Course** Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville
Day 1: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m., *Day 2:* 9 a.m.– noon
Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114 to register.
- Jan. 17 or Mar. 28 **Pesticide Re-certification Training Course** Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville
9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114 to register.
- January 23 **Hants Cattlemen Winter Meeting.** Stanley Mosherville Hall, 7:30 p.m. Contact Sean Firth, ADI, 902-678-7722 for information.
- February 5 **The Farm Practice Act & the Environmental Farm Plan Process,** Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater, 7:30 p.m. Contact Arthur Pick, NSDAF, 902-679-6005 for information.
- February 19 **Farm Succession “Get Started – Get Familiar”** Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater, 7:30 p.m. Contact Lori Kittilsen, NSDAF, Call 902-893-6582 for information.
- Feb.27– Mar. 1 **Creating Momentum – Thinking Through Ideas** Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. Call 902-896-2345 or check www.agri-ville.com/adi for information



Events continued on next page

Events

- TBA **First Aid Training for Lunenburg & Queens County Farmers.** Call David Young, 902-543-8748 to register. A course will be arranged when enough people are interested.
- TBA **Pesticide Re-certification for Lunenburg & Queens County Farmers.** Call Tom Mailman, 902-543-0171 to register. A course will be arranged when enough people are interested.

Upcoming ADI Events

(Places and times to be confirmed ~ call ADI contact for more information)

- February **Eastern Valley Dairy Club Meetings**
Contact Sean Firth, ADI, 902-678-7722
- February **Barn Staff Training for Pork Industry**, week of February 11
(tentative) Contact Nadine Funk, ADI, 902-678-7722
- February **Poultry Health Workshop**, Kentville, week of February 18
(tentative) Alex Oderkirk, ADI, 902-896-0277
- February **Biotechnology in Agriculture Seminar**, Kentville
Contact Viliam Zvalo, ADI, 902-678-7222
- February **Best Practices Management Workshop, Fruit Crops**
Contact Bill Craig, ADI, 902-678-7722
- March **Grass & Cattle Day**, Lunenburg & Queens Counties
Contact Jack van Roestel or Sean Firth, ADI, 902-678-7722
- Provincial Forage Day** – Valley area
Contact Jack van Roestel, ADI, 902-678-7722

Pesticide Certification/ Re-certification

The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture has asked ProAgri Consulting Ltd. to provide pesticide certification/re-certification training. February 12, 13 & 14, 2002 have been booked for these training sessions. Please contact the Antigonish agricultural office to discuss your pesticide safety needs.

Re-certification

February 12, 2002
Heather Hotel, Stellarton
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Certification

February 13 & 14, 2002
NSDAF agriculture office,
Beech Hill Rd. Antigonish
Day 1: 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Day 2: 9 a.m.– noon

Please check the expiry date on your NSDEL Pesticide Certification Card before making a final decision to earn re-certification points.

(Example: if your license expires in 2003 and you have not collected any points to date then you would be unable to collect all the points needed by the expiry date.) Cost is \$60 includes HST.

If you have any questions regarding pesticide certification/re-certification please call the agriculture office at 902-863-4705.

Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture elects new officers:

President Paul Corsten
Vice President Alan MacDonald
Secretary/ Treasurer Laughlin MacDonald

Pictou Federation of Agriculture

President William Bill Scott
902-925-2057
Vice President Jeff Gunn
902-485-1474
Secretary/ Treasurer Claudia Burns
902-485-5928

Directors:

Adrian Eelman # unknown
Mark Dykstra 902-485-5777
Willard MacDonald 902-923-2933
Alex MacLeod 902-485-8276
Robert "Robbie" MacGregor
902-923-2410
John R. Anderson 902-396-1315

4-H Events

Antigonish County

December 27 **4-H Family Skate** – Antigonish Arena, 1– 2:00 p.m.
No admission fee

January 15 **Council Meeting** – Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Board Room, 190 Beechill Rd., Antigonish, 7 p.m.

Pictou County

December 27 **4-H Family Skate** – Stellarton Arena, 7– 8:00 p.m.
\$2 per person

Food Safety & Holiday Turkey

A fresh turkey should be purchased one to two days before cooking. When purchasing a turkey, select it last and keep it separated from other foods to prevent its juices from cross-contaminating other foods. Proper hand washing should be practiced before and after handling raw turkey.

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

1. In the refrigerator – it takes approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of turkey.
2. Submerged in cold water – change the water every 30 minutes to ensure it stays cold. It takes approximately 30 minutes per pound to thaw.
3. In a microwave – the turkey should be cooked immediately after thawing and not held to be cooked at a later time.

Approximate Cooking Times at 325°F

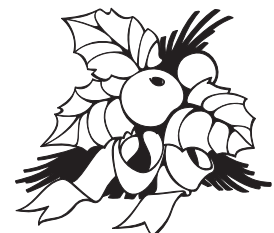
Unstuffed

weight	hours
8 – 12 lb.	2¾ – 3
12 – 14 lb.	3 – 3¾
14 – 18 lb.	3¾ – 4¼
18 – 20 lb.	4¼ – 4½

Stuffed

weight	hours
8 – 12 lb.	3 – 3½
12 – 14 lb.	3½ – 4
14 – 18 lb.	4 – 4¼
18 – 20 lb.	4¼ – 4¾

It is very important to ensure the internal temperature reaches 82°C (180°F). Use a food thermometer to check.



River Denys Information Meeting

An information/idea-sharing session will be held for all people involved in Agriculture in the River Denys/ Orangedale area. This informal program will be to discuss issues affecting agriculture in the area around the Denys Basin of the Bras d'Or Lakes. All farmers in the area are invited to participate. We will be discussing issues relating to water quality in the Bras d'Or Lakes, along with current and proposed activities that will be occurring in this area.

The meeting will be held at the Community Hall in Orangedale on February 11, 2002, beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information contact Bill MacLeod at 902-563-2000.

Producer Meetings

BEEF – January 29, 2002, Point Edward Resource Center, 7 p.m. Sean Firth, ADI Beef Specialist will be attending the Cape Breton/Richmond Cattlemens Association meeting. He will be discussing Marketing and Calf Health, as well as answering questions. Inverness and Victoria Cattlemen are invited to attend a Beef Information Session on Monday, February 25, 2002 at the Mabou Fire Hall, 7 p.m. Sean Firth, ADI Beef Specialist, will be speaking about Marketing, Calf Health and Managing For Drought.

SHEEP – Sheep producers on Cape Breton area invited to an information session on February 26, 2002, at the Christmas Island Fire Hall. Several presenters will be discussing various issues in the sheep business including Flock Health, Lambing, Nutrition, Pasture Management, Cost of Production and Coyote Predation. Speakers will include Dr. Byron Buick, Veterinarian, Sean Firth, ADI Sheep Specialist and Granton Hawley, DNR. The meeting gets underway at 7 p.m.

ORGANIC GROWERS – A meeting with Ralph Martin from Organic Center of Canada, based at the NSAC, will be held on January 22, 2002 at

the Point Edward Resource Center. The meeting will get underway at 7 p.m. and will focus on current and future activities at the Organic Center of Canada, potential research projects and needs of producers, opportunities in organic agriculture and educational opportunities. Anyone with an interest in organic production is welcome to attend.

DAIRY – Barn meetings are being planned for February. Sean Firth, ADI Dairy Specialist, will be discussing Forage Quality. Producers are asked to bring a silage or forage sample.

The meeting for Inverness/Victoria producers will be held at the farm of Peter & Janine Wilson, Skye Glen on Monday, February 25, 2002. In the Sydney area, it will be held at the farm of Arne & Frank Verschuren on Tuesday, February 26th. Both meetings get underway at 10 a.m.

VEGETABLE – The Vegetable Specialist with the Agricultural Development Institute (ADI) will be holding a vegetable producers seminar for producers on the Island on March 7, 2001. Topics to be discussed and the location will be announced.

Pesticide Certification and Re-certification Training

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a re-certification (for points) and a Certification Course for Pesticide applicators on Cape Breton. The Re-certification session will be a five-hour session and costs \$60 (includes HST). It will provide five points toward the 15-point requirement to re-certify your pesticide license.

The courses are being offered as follows:

Pesticide Re-certification – Tuesday, April 2, 2002; 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m., Pt. Edward agricultural office

Pesticide Certification – Wednesday & Thursday, April 3 & 4, 2002, Baddeck Provincial Building Boardroom; Wednesday 9 – 4 p.m. & Thursday 9 – 12 p.m.



SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of all of us at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Point Edward and Mabou, it is our hope that the Holiday Season is one filled with happiness. We wish each and every one of you the Peace and Joy that this time of year brings and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Regional news continued on next page

Succession Planning

On January 15 the Farm Business Management Section of the NSDAF will be offering a program for farm families either in the process or considering farm succession planning. The program will be held at the Baddeck Provincial Building and will run from 7–9 p.m. It is never too early to begin succession planning. This program will look at some of the basics and give information on how to get started.

If you are interested, please contact your agricultural office. This program will only be run if there is interest shown.

Programs to Watch For...

Farming with my Neighbors

This program will be offered around the province by the Farm Business Management Section of NSDAF and is expected to be held in March. The program will run from 10 a.m.– 3 p.m., at a location to be announced. In today's rural community there are many people who do not know a lot about or understand agriculture and some of the common agricultural

practices taking place on farms. This program is intended to act as a guide for farmers in preventing and resolving community conflicts over farming practices. We are currently determining the level of interest to determine the best location to hold such a program. If you are interested, please give the agricultural office a call.