

Agriculture Services NEWSLETTER



February, 2001

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

New Agriculture and Fisheries Office for the Central Region

The Central Region Agricultural Resource Coordinator, management and administrative support staff have moved to Harlow Institute, Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus. This brings together most of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries agricultural staff in Truro to better serve the Agri-food industry.

All telephone numbers remain unchanged however the fax number is now (902) 895-4460.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board remains at the McRae Library Building. 4-H and Rural Organizations move to DeWolfe House in late February. The DeWolfe house is located directly across the road from Harlow Institute.



Gulf of Maine Action Plan Review

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is involved with the Gulf of Maine Council on Marine Environment. The Council, established in 1989 by the premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the governors of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire addresses environmental issues in the watershed surrounding the Bay of Fundy/ Gulf of Maine.

The current Action Plan deals with issues such as marine debris, shell fish closures, contaminants including farm nutrients, and habitats including marshlands. At this time it is proposed that the next Action Plan will continue to include habitat and contaminant issues as well as those of sustainability. The Council is looking for stakeholder comment on the next Action Plan. If you are interested to learn more please contact Andrew Cameron at 902-424-0406.

Agricultural Development Institute (ADI)

The Agricultural Development Institute (ADI) was created in September 2000 to give farmers a greater voice in determining what services are needed and how they should be delivered. The development of the Institute was the key recommendation of an industry restructuring committee established in the summer of 2000 to consult with farmers on a new way to deliver specific specialist services.

ADI will operate at arm's length from government with an annual commitment of \$2.2 million from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Agricultural Development Institute will be unique in that it will be industry led and able to respond to industry's needs and challenges.

Agricultural Development Institute's New Leader

Dale Kelly became Executive Director of the Agricultural Development Institute (ADI) January 1, 2001. Prior to taking on this new job Mr. Kelly was the general manager of the Canadian Charolais Association, an organization representing over 2000

members in Canada. Mr. Kelly has an extensive background in business, consulting and agricultural finance. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Agricultural Economics from McGill University and a Diploma in Agriculture from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. He completed the Canadian Agriculture Lifetime Leadership Program through the University of Saskatchewan in 1999. Mr. Kelly is originally from Moncton, New Brunswick.

Mr. Kelly feels the Agricultural Development Institute is the bridge between production technology and the future. To confirm with producers, what they believe to be the important issues and needs of the industry, interviews have been carried out throughout February. The ADI

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Agricultural Development Institute (ADI)

directors will meet in early March to look at these issues and develop a strategic plan.

"The Agricultural Development Institute will only be successful if it works in concert with the industry," said Kelly. He encourages Nova Scotia producers to look at the Agricultural Development Institute as an opportunity that has been presented to them.

ADI Board of Directors

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Council of Leaders representatives are: *Peter Clarke*, Cambridge Station, Kings Co., Chair;

Elsbeth McLean-Wile, Wileville, Lunenburg Co.; *Ken Hunter*, Whycocomagh, Inverness Co.; and *Jeff Cutten*, Truro, Colchester Co.

Government representatives are: *Peter Underwood*, Deputy Minister of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; *Garth Coffin*, Principal of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and *Rick Whitman*, department transition co-ordinator.

ADI telephone number is 835-2148

Nova Scotia Farm Cash Receipts Surpass \$400 Million

Nova Scotia's agriculture industry achieved a \$420 million milestone in the year 2000.

Government statistics project that the province's farm cash receipts last year surpassed the \$400 million level for the first time. And they're expected to increase by another 2 1/2 per cent this year.

The statistics are compiled by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Statistics Canada, and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

"Four hundred million dollars is an encouraging and positive achievement for the industry," said Ernest Fage, provincial Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Nova Scotia's agriculture industry is a highly diversified one, noted Mr. Fage. Situations vary for each sector and each commodity has its own challenges, but it was generally a good year.

Statistics indicate that improved livestock and fur prices were major contributors to higher sales receipts, as were increased poultry and mink production. Cattle and hog prices both recovered during the year, showing marked improvements. Poultry production increased by six per cent, while the number of mink pelts sold was up by 19 per cent, with significantly higher prices.

Compared with the drought conditions of the previous three years, the 2000 growing season was considered more normal, with generally good conditions for most crops. Better yields of strawberries, potatoes and many vegetable crops were part of the higher returns. The blueberry crop, at 41.3 million lbs. (18.7 million kilograms), was slightly larger than the previous record 1999 crop. The apple harvest yielded an average-sized crop of 2.5 million bushels. The quality of fresh fruit benefited from the more normal conditions.

Forage crops and supplies were also given a boost from early and late summer rainfalls and good harvesting weather.

On the cost side, operating expenditures are projected to have increased by 3.6 per cent to a total of \$321 million. Heating and vehicle/machinery fuel costs increased by between \$3 million and \$4 million and accounted for a third of the increase. In recent years, wages have become the largest expenditure of Nova Scotia farms, and last year they amounted to about \$84 million.

As for 2001, forecasters are predicting farm cash receipts to increase by 2.1 per cent to \$429.1 million, based on factors such as the higher receipts currently being received at fur auctions and sales of stored crops, and the higher poultry production.

These factors are fairly predictable, but many others that can impact upon production and market returns over the coming months are difficult to predict.

Application Deadlines Fast Approaching

Please be advised that deadlines for programs administered by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board are drawing near.

- The deadline for applications under the New Entrants to Agriculture Program is February 28th, 2001. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Maria McCurdy, Program Co-ordinator at 893-6505.
- The deadline for applications under the 1997 and 1998 Weather Related Loss Provision Programs is February 28, 2001. If you have any questions please contact Sandy Patterson, Program Co-ordinator at 893-6503.

Information Session ~ Agricultural Risk Management

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries representatives will provide information and answer questions on agricultural risk management programs. Topics for discussion will include an introduction to the Programs and Risk Management Division, an overview of risk management principals, the upcoming NISA Review process and recent improvements to Crop Insurance.

Date	Time	Location
February 27	7:30 pm	Truro: Room 138 Cox Institute, NSAC
February 28	1:00 pm	Lawrencetown: Exhibition Building
February 28	7:30 pm	Church Point: Room 412 Bernardin-Comeau Building, Universite Ste. Anne
March 6	1:00 pm	Kentville: Old Orchard Inn
March 9	1:00 pm	Bridgewater: Newcombville Hall
March 20	1:00 pm	Skye Glen, Skye Glen Community Hall
March 20	7:30 pm	North Sydney, North Star Inn
March 21	1:00 pm	Antigonish, Claymore Inn

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Events

March 2 – **Pork Nova Scotia** Annual Meeting, Best Western Glengarry, Truro

March 2 & 3 – **Pasture and Grazing Conference for Farmers**, Best Western Glengarry, Truro. For more information contact Dr. Ralph Martin (902) 893-6679. Topics of discussion include Grazing vs. Silage, Cultivar, Fertility and Watering systems for pastures, and improved pasture management. Guest speakers will discuss grazing of beef, sheep and chickens. Other topics include *Is Grass Fed Beef Heart Smart Beef?*, *To Pasture or Not to Pasture*, and *Pasture Output on Nova Scotia Beef Farms*.

March 5 – **Nova Scotia Turkey Producers Marketing Board** Annual General Meeting. Location and time yet to be determined.

March 7 – **Nova Scotia Egg and Pullet Producers Marketing Board** Annual General Meeting, Riverview Room, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro 9:30 am.

March 9 – **Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia** Annual General Meeting, Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook.

March 22 & 23 – **The Agri - Food Outlook Conference**, Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro. A cooperative venture between the NSFA and the Department. It is the first stage of an extensive planning exercise leading to the development of a new agri-food strategy for Nova Scotia. Contact local agriculture representative for more information.

March 29-31 – **Environmental Farm Planning Workshop**, Crystal Palace Convention Centre, Moncton, New Brunswick. The Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre in collaboration with the Soil Conservation Council of Canada will host this workshop.

The goals of the workshop are to bring together key farm organization leaders and interested stakeholders from across Canada to evaluate the Environmental Farm Plan progress achieved in the region; to improve regional networking in agri-environmental protection and to identify potential Environmental Farm Plan Workbook revisions.

Individual agricultural producers, farm organization leaders representing Federations of Agriculture, Soil and Crop Improvement Associations, Commodity groups, Environmental Farm Planning Provincial Steering Committees or Councils, Soil Conservation Council Taking Charge Team Leaders as well as representatives from governments, institutions and agri-industry groups are all encouraged to attend.

To register or for additional information please contact Jean-Louis Daigle or Lorraine Carroll at (506) 475-4040 or fax (506) 475-4030. Or you can visit the website:
<http://www.ccse-swcc.nb.ca>.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators:

Charles Thompson - Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: 895-4460 thompscn@gov.ns.ca
East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, and Halifax counties

Kevin Bekkers - Tel: (902) 863-4705
Fax: 863-7342 bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca
Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough counties

Bill MacLeod - Tel: (902) 563-2000
Fax: 563-3435 macleobj@gov.ns.ca
Cape Breton Island

Marianne Patten - Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: 837-7696 pattenmj@gov.ns.ca
Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, and Shelburne counties

Arthur Pick - Tel: (902) 679-6005
Fax: 679-6062 pickaa@gov.ns.ca
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, and Queens counties

Please note the upcoming events in our region. If you or your organization have events of interest to the farming community, please let us know and we will try to include in our next newsletter.

Events

- March 1-2 **On-Farm Food Safety Workshop.** The purpose of this workshop will be to train fresh fruit and vegetable growers in the identification of potential hazards, the basic principles of sanitation, the role of water as a source of potential contamination and how an On-Farm Food Safety Program will assist them in the market place and protect them from potential liability. Sponsored by Horticulture NS, with assistance from Agri-Futures NS. Contract ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register and for more information.
- March 3 **Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture Spring Dinner & Dance,** Brooklyn Fire Hall at 6:30 p.m. Info and tickets available from Directors.
- March 6 **Information Session on Risk Management Programs,** Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- March 9 **Information Session on Risk Management Programs,** Newcombville Fire Hall, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- March 15-16 **Pesticide Certification Course,** Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook. To register call ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114.
- March 26-27 **On-Farm Food Safety Workshop,** Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater. See above for details.
- March 30 **Pesticide Re-certification Course,** Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville. To register call ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114.
- April 2 **Pesticide Re-certification Course,** Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown. To register call ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114.
- April 27 **Lunenburg/Queens Co. Federation of Agriculture Spring Social,** 7:30 p.m., Hebbville Fire Hall. Tickets (\$8.00) available from Directors.

"Safe Farming"

Arthur can be contacted at:
Tel: (902) 679-6005
Fax: 679-6062
Email: pickaa@gov.ns.ca

Course in Mushroom Cultivation



Atlantic Gourmet Mushrooms will be hold beginners courses in cultivating Oyster, Shiitake, and Reishi mushrooms in woodland areas. This one-day course will be offered March 3, 17, 31, and on April 7, 2001. The course will take place at 524 Scotlaker Road, Cape Breton County. A registration fee of \$75.00 is required — this fee includes a manual and five lb. bag of mushroom spawn. For more information contact your agriculture office.



Government Program Info Session

Staff from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will be in Cape Breton to outline Risk Management Programs available to producers. These include Crop and Livestock Insurance, NISA (net income stabilization account), AIDA (agricultural income disaster account) as well as other related programs. The information sessions will be held Tuesday, March 20th, 2001 at 1:00pm at the Skye Glen Community Hall and, again at 7:30pm at the North Star Inn, North Sydney. All interested producers are encouraged to attend.

4H Conferences

A 4H leaders conference will be held on March 3-4, 2001 at St F.X. University in Antigonish. The theme of the conference is “Being the Best We Can Be” and will focus on selected project work, recruiting, getting parents involved, and community service ideas.

A 4H Senior Members conference will take place at the same time at St F.X. University. Some sessions will be held jointly. There will be group presentations and debates on topics such as land use, food safety and rural development. Fun activities include Ag Jeopardy, a Square Dance and scavenger hunt. The cost of these workshops is \$25.00. This includes meals and accommodation. For more information contact your 4H specialist.

Retirement

At the end of February people using the Mabou office will miss seeing the friendly smile of long time office secretary Shirley MacDonald. After many years of dedicated service to the Department of Agriculture Shirley will be retiring. I'm sure I will be joined by many in wishing her well in her very well deserved retirement and in thanking her for providing exemplary service to the many clients of the department.

Value-added Programs

Producers interested in getting involved in adding value to their products should note the following information sessions.

March 19th – Skye Glen Community Hall

March 21st – Point Edward Resource Center

These sessions will run from 7:00 to 9:00pm. There is no cost to attend. Topics include value adding and product development and local success stories. For more information contact your local agricultural office.

Pesticide & On-Farm Food Safety Courses

These courses originally scheduled for February have been rescheduled at the Resource Center in Point Edward, agriculture office.

Farm Food Safety – April 18-19, 2001

Pesticide – April 20-21, 2001

Those attending the pesticide course on Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm and Saturday morning will be able to write their pesticide applicators exam for certification. Anyone interested in recertification points can gain 3.5 points by attending Friday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:30pm. For more information contact your agriculture office.

Food Safety
is in your hands

The logo features the text 'Food Safety' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'is in your hands' in a smaller, italicized font below it. The text is positioned over a stylized illustration of two hands cupping each other, with water droplets falling from them.

Bill can be contacted at:
Tel: (902) 563-2000
Fax: 563-3435
Email: macleobjb@gov.ns.ca

UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION

The Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture is organizing a Recertification course. The Federation has applied for funding through the N.S. Farm Health & Safety Committee which will offset some of the expenses. This is being passed on to PNC Federation members in the form of a reduced registration fee.

Traci Curry, of Pro Agri Consulting Ltd., has a new Pesticide Recertification Program for the year 2001. The three modules (for five "points") will cover:

1. Current Legislation - discussing National Standards, regulations, storage and disposal
2. Pesticides & the Environment - overview of where pesticides go after application, development of a drift policy, buffer zones, discussing case studies.
3. Professionalism - elements of a Good Neighbor Program and workshop exercises.

A course has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 at the Heather Hotel, Stellarton 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. Registration fee for PNC Federation members is \$25 (regular price is \$60). Please call 798-2114 to preregister or Brenda Brown at 351-2519.

PNC Federation members are reminded of their upcoming Semi Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2001. PNC Federation would also like to organize a St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid course in the near future provided there is sufficient interest from membership. Please call Brenda Brown at 351-2519 if you are interested.

REMINDERS

Your Farm License Plates may soon expire. In order to renew them, your Farm Registration must be up to date. Applications are available at your agriculture office.

Effective January 1, 2001 only registered producers will be eligible for assistance under the Livestock Health Services Program (LHSP). Your local vet clinics will require your Farm Registration number so be sure keep it up to date.

Effective January 22, 2001, an environmental sample disposal fee of 87¢ plus tax per sample will be invoiced to clients. The disposal fee will be applied to feeds, soils, effluents, dairy waste, Ammonia-N, TKN, and Phosphorus (total, inorganic and reactive).

WHMIS — under the Occupational Health & Safety regulations, farmers are required to have WHMIS (Work Place Hazardous Material Information System) training.

The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture is sponsoring a WHMIS training day Thursday, March 22, 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. (lunch will be on your own) at the Agriculture & Fisheries office, Beech Hill Road. The course will include:

- Introduction
- Responsibilities
- Classification & Hazardous Symbols
- Labels
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Maritime Aberdeen Angus Association Annual Field Day & Junior Show will be held in Pictou County this summer - June 8th & 9th.

Pictou County Angus Breeders have begun planning the weekend. Friday evening activities will begin at

Stonehame Chalets in Scotsburn with registration, remarks from, the President of the Canadian Angus Assoc., Stan Christensen of Ferme Sage in Quebec and an informative talk on the marketing advantages of Angus beef, a Maritime Junior Angus Ambassador Competition, the traditional fun auction and, of course, lots of Pictou County hospitality and food and fun. Saturday's action will move to WindCrest Farm — the Scott family in Mount Thom. The day will start with a fitting demonstration for the young people and a pasture fencing demonstration for interested adults. Lunch will be provided by a local 4-H Club. The serious Angus business begins after lunch with conformation classes and showmanship.

A hip-of-beef barbecue of Canadian Angus Beef will wrap up the afternoon activities. Organizers are tentatively considering a musical evening event for Saturday. Entry forms and further details will be available later this winter. Anyone wanting more information can contact Betty Lou Scott, Maritime Angus Sec./Tres. At (902) 925-2057.

March 13, 2001— **Forage Day 2001**, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Demonstration Building Lawrencetown. Sponsored by the Annapolis County Soil and Crops. Listen to *Resources Today* for details. For more information please phone 584-3736.

EASTERN REGION 4-H PROGRAM

Congratulations to Mary Alisha Hanifen, Guys Co., who will be traveling to the National Members Conference in Washington, DC March 29-April 7.

Upcoming Conferences

Multi Region 4-H Senior Members Conference – March 3 & 4, St.F.X. University, Antigonish. Designed for members 14 to 21 years of age. Topics include: speaking in public, issue groups, debates, and fun activities such as bowling, Ag jeopardy and a dance.

Multi Region 4-H Leaders Conference – “Being The Best We Can Be”. March 3 & 4, St.F.X.U., Antigonish. This conference is for all leaders and topics will include: recruiting new leaders, parent involvement, making meetings interesting, etc. Also there will be break out sessions specifically on the Small Engines, Woodworking, Foods, sewing, dog and rabbit projects.

Upcoming 4-H Events.

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| Feb. 28 | FCC 4-H Scholarship due in Ottawa |
| Mar. 3-4 | Multi Region Sr. Member Conference |
| Mar. 3-4 | Multi Region Leaders Conference, St.F.X. |
| Mar. 6 | Antigonish Council Meeting – 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 14 | Antigonish/Guys. 4-H Family Skate – Antigonish Arena 1:00–2:00 p.m. |
| Mar. 21 | Pictou Co Council Meeting – 7:30 |
| Mar. 28– | Prov. Chocolate Almond Fundraiser |
| Apr. 30 | |
| Apr. 7 | Pictou Rally - West Pictou – 9:00 a.m. |
| | Antigonish Rally – Dr. J.H.Gillis School – 9:00 a.m. |
| Apr. 8 | Guysborough Rally – Goshen |

Kevin can be contacted at:
Tel: (902) 863-3645
Fax: 863-7342
Email: bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca

Please note the upcoming events for this region. If you or your organization have events of interest to the farming community, please let us know and we will try to include them in our next newsletter.

February 27 – **Agricultural Ambassadors Workshop**, Weymouth Legion. To register contact Joy Shears at 893- 2722.

February 28 – **Agricultural Ambassadors Workshop**, Kentville Research Station. To register contact Joy Shears at 893- 2722.

February 28 – Information session on **Risk Management Programs**

1:00 – 3:30 pm Demonstration Building,
Lawrencetown

7:30 – 10:30 pm Bernadin- Comeau Building,
Universite Ste. Anne Rm 412

March 1& 2 – **On-Farm Food Safety Workshop**, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 9am-4pm. Horticulture Nova Scotia with assistance of Agri-Futures Nova Scotia is sponsoring a series of workshops throughout Nova Scotia On-Farm Food Safety. The benefits of the workshop are to educate fresh fruit and vegetable growers, packers and processors in On-Farm Food Safety Issues. The course will include identification of potential hazards, the basic principles of sanitation, the role of water as a source of potential contamination and how the program will assist them in the market place and protect them from potential liability. To register contact either HortNS or Pro-Agri Consulting 798-2114. Cost is \$45.00 for members of HortNS or \$60.00 for non members.

March 13/2001– **Forage Day 2001** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Demonstration Building Lawrencetown. Sponsored by the Annapolis County Soil and Crops. Listen to *Resources Today* for details. For more information please phone 584-3736.

March 16 & 17 – **4-H Chatarama** - “Teamwork at It’s Best”, Paradise, Annapolis County. Applications have been mailed directly to eligible members (age 14-17) and the deadline to apply is February 28th.

March 19/20 – **On-Farm Food Safety Workshop**, Weymouth Library, 9am - 4pm. For details see above.

March 21 – **Pesticide Recertification Course**, Weymouth Library. To register contact Pro-Agri Consulting at 798-2114

April 1– **Application deadline for EBI 4-H Showcase**. Beef and Dairy 4-H members are encouraged to apply to attend this weekend event in Truro to advance their skills in fitting and showmanship. Applications are available from General 4-H Leaders.

April 2 – **Pesticide Recertification Course**, Lawrencetown, Back Room of Demonstration Building. To register contact Pro-Agri Consulting at 798-2114.

April 28 – **Western 4-H Regional Rally**, Yarmouth. Members from Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth Counties compete in public speaking, demonstrations and royalty competitions.

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Marianne can be contacted at:
Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: 837-7696
Email: pattenmj@gov.ns.ca

Maple Syrup Event

The 27th maple syrup Festival is scheduled from Saturday March 24 to Saturday April 14, 2001. More information is available at the website:

<http://www.novascotiamaplesyrup.com>

Most Festival participants are in Cumberland and Colchester Counties. For further information call 1-902-548-2973

Meetings

- February 27 **North Colchester Federation of Agriculture Meeting** at N.C. High School at 7:30 pm
- March 6 **Pesticide Recertification Course** presented by Pro-Agri Consulting Limited, Bedford-Sunnyside Mall Boardroom 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.
- March 9 Halifax-East Hants Federation members are being offered a **Motor Coach Tour to the Farm Machinery Show** in Moncton. You must contact Carol Versteeg at 758-3530. The cost is \$15 per person and \$35 per family. The tour leaves the Coop in Milford at 8:30 am and returning at 10:00 pm.
- March 27 **North Colchester Federation of Agriculture Meeting**, N.C. High School at 7:30 pm

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Charles can be contacted at:
Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: 895-4460
Email: thompson@gov.ns.ca