

Agriculture Services NEWSLETTER



May 2001

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Foot and Mouth Disease ~ Keeping Nova Scotia Safe

Foot and Mouth Disease was confirmed in the Britain in February 2001, its first case in 20 years. Since then, the disease has been confirmed in parts of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Argentina. Canada has been free of Foot and Mouth disease since 1952, and efforts are currently being taken to protect Canada and Nova Scotia livestock from the risk of another outbreak.

Government Action

There have been a number of actions taken by the lead government agency, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, including: import conditions placed on susceptible commodities, increased surveillance at airports and seaports; educational campaigns including media advertisements, website and toll-free number (*see below*), enhanced animal disease control measures, restrictions placed on farm vehicles and equipment from infected countries, preventative measures established for military personnel, a detailed emergency response plan designed to respond swiftly in the event of an outbreak.

The Department is involved in the emergency response efforts of CFIA. Included in its current strategy: standard preventative measures for provincial facilities, increased bio-security efforts at Nova Scotia Agricultural College farms, direct communication with registered farmers and abattoir operators, enhanced bio-security protocol for staff who visit farms, public education/information program, government/ industry committee, and an interdepartmental committee to address provincial issues.

If you farm

- enhance your bio-security measures
- limit access to your animals
- watch for signs of Foot and Mouth Disease in your livestock
- if you are returning to your farm after visiting an infected area or you have visitors who have been to an infected area, you need to take extra precautions

For more information:

- call CFIA at 1-877-227-0677 or visit their website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>
- talk to your veterinarian about how you can keep your farm and your neighbours' farms safe
- visit the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/>

2001

Provincial Assistance Programs

by Michael Johnson

The **Farm Investment Fund** supports sustainable growth in Nova Scotia farm businesses by providing public investment to support projects that enhance economic viability, assist regulatory compliance, and promote farm and food safety and environmental stewardship.

The objectives of the Farm Investment Fund are to:

- enhance skills of farm business owners and their employees;
- increase awareness and compliance in areas of farm and public protection;
- improve the level of environmental management of agricultural resources; and
- develop marketing and value added opportunities.

Financial assistance will be available on approved projects to a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant per year or \$20,000 over two years.

Applicants to the Farm Investment Fund must be registered under the Nova Scotia Farm Registration Act and generating annual gross farm income of \$10,000 or more in the year of application. The requirement of \$10,000 income is waived for new entrants.

The **Agri-Food Industry Development Fund** is in place to encourage an entrepreneurial and market driven view of the agriculture and food industry, and its role in adaptation, economic growth and rural development in Nova Scotia.

The fund was established to develop opportunities for viable, long-term domestic and export markets for Nova Scotia Agriculture and food products and to introduce new agriculture and food marketing technologies and systems. While encouraging alliances and cooperation along the marketing chain, the fund provides for self-directed sector development, innovation and change management through agricultural industry organizations.

Financial contributions of up to 50 per cent of eligible costs are available on approved projects, to a maximum of \$20,000 per applicant per year.

continued on next page...

...continued from first page...

Eligible applicants include agri-business, agricultural industry associations and strategic alliances representing identifiable Nova Scotia agri-food products and services. Government agencies and universities may also be eligible.

Application forms for the Farm Investment Fund are being mailed directly to all registered farms in Nova Scotia. Applications for the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund are being mailed to past applicants, and commodity groups.

For more information: Programs and Risk Management Division, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Tel: (902) 893-6510, Fax: (902) 893-7579, or e-mail: prm@gov.ns.ca

Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP) 2000

The Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP) is a national program designed to target assistance to Canadian producers who have experienced a sudden and severe drop in farming income.

The program is in place for the 2000, 2001 and 2002 tax years. CFIP is cost shared on a 60/40 basis by federal and provincial governments with a total of \$2.2 billion available to farmers.

Program principles

- targeted to those who have experienced a sudden and severe drop in farm income;
- compatible with, and complementary to, other safety net programs;
- does not distort market price signals;
- does not influence the farm management decisions producers make; and,
- is not vulnerable under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

How does CFIP work?

Previous years' program margins are averaged to determine a reference margin. This is compared to the claim year program margin. If the claim year program margin falls below 70 per cent of the reference margin, you may be eligible for a CFIP payment. CFIP will provide assistance up to 70 per cent of a producer's reference margin. A program margin is allowable income minus allowable expenses. In the claim year, there are also adjustments made for change in inventories.

Am I eligible to apply?

CFIP is available to anyone in Canada who files an income tax return reporting income as a farmer. Individual producers, private corporations or cooperatives, trusts, communal organizations, and Status Indians who farm on reserves are eligible to apply. There is no application fee.

How do I apply?

To apply to CFIP, you must submit an application providing information on your purchased inputs, inventories, deferred income and receivables, and payables. This information will be used along with your income/expense information to calculate program margins. If you are a NISA participant, CFIP will obtain the tax information directly from NISA. Non-NISA participants must submit tax information on a supplementary schedule.

When is the deadline?

The deadline to apply for the 2000 claim year is October 1, 2001.

To request a CFIP 2000 form, guide or program handbook, contact the CFIP administration toll free at: 1-888-343-1064, or visit the CFIP web site at: www.agr.ca/cfip



by George D. Burris, General Manager

The Natural Products Marketing Council is an agency of the provincial government, responsible for administering the *Natural Products Act* and the *Dairy Industry Act*. It was first established as the Nova Scotia Marketing Board in 1946. Commodity boards governing Nova Scotia farm products have since been established. These producer-run marketing boards operate under government regulations controlling such things as by-laws, board operations, producer facilities, quota, licenses, producer levies and pricing.

New Dairy Marketing Board in 2001

The Dairy Industry Act was passed in the House of assembly last fall, repealing the Dairy Commission Act. The new Act gives the Natural Products Marketing Council new responsibilities for regulating the Nova Scotia dairy industry. It also gives milk producers more control over how their industry is run and ensures that issues affecting processors, retailers and consumers are still regulated by the government.

A new marketing board, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia (DFNS) is up and running, as of April 1, 2001. Gabriel Comeau, former Manager of the Dairy Commission, is now the General Manager of DFNS.

Under the new Act, DFNS regulates production, transportation and sale of raw milk under legislative powers delegated by the Council. The Council regulates processing of raw milk and the pricing, packaging, distribution and sale of dairy products.

For more information: Council offices: 1st Floor, Harlow Institute, 176 College Road, Bible Hill (NSAC campus), mail: PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3, Tel: (902) 893-5943 Fax: (902) 893-7579, website www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/npmc/

Municipal Land Use Planning ~ Stay Informed

The Municipal Government Act enables Municipal Governments to assume the primary authority for planning within their respective jurisdictions, consistent with their urban or rural character, through the adoption of municipal planning strategies and land use bylaws. Farmers need to be aware of what is occurring in their municipality regarding land use planning, and work with their municipalities to deal with land use conflicts and complaints.

Recently, the Municipality of Yarmouth completed its planning exercise and has established separation distances for mink, fox, fowl and hog farms based on square footage. For example:

Piggeries Buildings and Structures

- i) up to 5000 sq. ft.0 ft.
- ii) 5001 to 10000 sq. ft.
- iii)10, 000 sq. ft +

Minimum Distance from off-site existing dwellings, cottages, recreational and institutional uses*

- 1320 ft. (1/4 mile)
- 1760 ft. (1/3 mile)
- 2640 ft (1/2 mile)

* The special minimum separation distances shall not apply to existing piggeries where they can't otherwise be met.

The minimum separation distances of the above shall apply to manure piles and burial sites for the disposal of dead animals in accordance with the building and structures square footage of i), ii), and iii). Buildings, structures, manure piles, burial sites for the disposal of dead animals used in connection with piggeries shall not locate within: a) 328 feet from any off-site waterwell or any watercourse or b) where piggeries abut, the abutting yard may be reduced to a minimum of 10 feet.

As well, the minimum lot area has to be 10 acres. There is no requirement for lot frontage. The front yard must be 164 feet, the rear yard 164 feet and side yards must be 164 feet on both sides.

It is obvious that the adoption of these bylaws has implications for agriculture in all of Nova Scotia. Agriculture is important to the economy of Nova Scotia, yet the industry receives complaints about odor, water concerns, pollution, changes in the neighborhood and the "not in my backyard" syndrome. Good proactive bylaws need to be developed to enable an environmentally and economically sustainable growth in Nova Scotia agriculture.

Transportation Update for Farmers ~ Keep on Truckin'

National Safety Code

The Province of Nova Scotia is now beginning to enforce the standards of the National Safety Code. These standards apply to truck, truck-tractor or trailer combination thereof exceeding a registered gross weight of 4500 kg. Resource industries such as agriculture are exempt from certain parts, i.e. the hours of work regulations, but not from all the Code requirements.

For more information: Paul R. Lohnes, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (902) 424-5517.

Reflectors and Flashing Lights

Anything that you can do to increase the visibility of your equipment on the highway is a good idea. If you are traveling after sunset, lights are required. You may put on some reflective self-adhesive strips along the sides and outer extremities of your equipment.

Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) Signs

Slow Moving Vehicle Signs are used to indicate to motorists that a vehicle is moving slower than the normal speed of traffic. Do not place SMV signs on equipment or trailers which travel on the highway at normal highway speeds, as others have been fined for this. Many items of farm equipment are not manufactured for high speed travel on highways so please check this out prior to deciding how to transport it from field to field.

A SMV sign should be placed on tractors and towed farm equipment not capable of maintaining a speed in excess of 40 km/hr under normal conditions.

Tools for Management



by Pam Fraser, Farm Data Coordinator

"Management Tools" — We hear this more and more often as the business of farming grows more complex. These special tools cannot be purchased at the hardware store. The management tools we refer to are the tools that provide farm managers with information about their farm business.

It has been proven that one of the keys to running a successful and profitable farm business is to know your costs. Successful managers do not assume that they know their costs. They are not afraid to compare their information to that of industry targets. This process of "benchmarking" provides managers with the opportunity to make improvements to their operation to reach or surpass benchmarks.

The Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP) provides individual farm businesses with a comprehensive report for their farm. Each FMAP participant receives a detailed individual report combining the financial and production information for their farm. Each year, producers can compare the progress and development of their farm business.

Most information required to participate in the FMAP is readily available — farm income statement and balance sheet, production information and year end inventory information. A one- to two-hour appointment will be arranged with you for a staff member to collect your farm information. A computer program analysis your farm information, and a report will be sent to you within a couple of weeks. All individual information is treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

In addition to providing farm managers with a valuable decision making tool, the FMAP provides commodity groups with important industry information. Individual farm information is compiled and averaged to produce an aggregate report for each commodity. Six commodities are represented in the current FMAP programs (dairy, hog, tree fruit, mink, beef and blueberry) with plans for a new FMAP pilot project in the aquaculture sector.

What tools do you use to make management decisions on your farm? Make sure that you have good information with which to base your business decisions. The Farm Management Analysis Project is a good place to start. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the Farm Management Analysis Project, contact the Business Management office at (902) 679-6011 or (902) 893-6580.

Manure Analysis ~ Balancing Benefits with Risk

Livestock manure is a readily available resource with the nutrients and minerals essential for good crop growth. Along with its fertilizer value, manure is also recognized for improving soil physical properties by increasing the organic matter content. Although the nutrients are beneficial for crop production, it may also pose a potential environmental and health hazard to ground water and streams. A sound knowledge of the nutrients in manure is essential to meet the demands of the crop nutrient requirements and eliminate water contamination.

Nutrient Variability

The nutrient content of manure varies considerably from farm to farm and even in the same storage facility. Liquid manure storage facilities sampled in Nova Scotia showed appreciable differences in manure nutrient content for various depths of the manure. Mixing manure in storage helps to reduce the problem of variability in nutrient content throughout the facility.

How to Take a Manure Sample

A representative manure sample should, ideally, be taken at the time of spreading. For liquid manure, a sample can be scooped out of several tanker loads and mixed together in a bucket. A wide mouth plastic jar with a volume of one litre should be filled from the bucket.

When sampling solid or semi-solid manure at the time of spreading, take a shovel full from a number of loads and place on a sheet of plywood. Using the shovel, chop the manure and mix thoroughly, then spread out the sample and divide into quarters. Discard three quarters, mix the remainder and again divide into quarters and discard three. Continue until the remaining quarter is about ½ litre in volume and place in a wide mouth plastic jar.

The problem with sampling at the time of spreading is that the analysis of the manure will not be complete until after the spreading is completed. To have an analysis of manure done prior to spreading, a sample must be taken from the manure storage facility.

Liquid manure in storage should be thoroughly mixed before sampling and several dippers full taken from different sections of the storage and mixed in a bucket. A one litre sample should be taken from the bucket.

When sampling semi-solid and solid manure in storage, use a shovel or dutch auger to sample from various parts and depths of the pile. Try not to sample from the surface of the pile. Mix up and divide the manure until the remaining quarter is about ½ litre in volume. Place the sample in a wide mouth plastic jar.

It would be beneficial to freeze the sample before shipping, if at all possible.

The Laboratory Services Section of the Quality Evaluation Division will conduct an analysis of your manure to let you know what your nutrient value is for a cost per sample of \$36.80 (includes HST). Registered Farmers are given a discount of 50 per cent.

For more information: Laboratory Services, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3, Tel: (902) 893-7444, Fax: (902) 893-4193, E-mail: larusima@gov.ns.ca, or website: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/



A Seasonal Prognosis ~ After the Cold Winter

by L. Crozier and R. Gordon

It is always difficult and possibly risky to attempt to predict the weather conditions we will experience throughout the growing season. However, it is worthwhile to consider the present conditions and identify the possibilities.

The past winter has been unusual with enough snow cover for almost the entire period of December through March. Similar conditions have not been experienced over the past two decades. Temperatures throughout the winter were relatively constant with few fluctuations to extremely cold or extremely warm temperatures. Furthermore, as a result of the snow cover early in the winter, there was little frost in the ground. This, coupled with the gradual snow melting has allowed most of the water to percolate into the ground. In view of all of these factors the following conditions may be anticipated:

- Winter damage to perennial plants is expected to be minimal, especially to root systems.
- There is the potential for soils to warm up quite rapidly, once the snow cover is removed.
- Soil erosion losses should be reduced as runoff has been minimal.
- Survivability of insect pests and disease organisms should also be good. Some examples are certain cutworms, the cereal leaf beetle, root weevils, white grubs and wireworms.
- On the positive side, predators, parasites, and wild pollinators should also have good survival.

Overall the present conditions, throughout the province, are quite favorable for the start to a successful growing season.



East Coast Commodities Spring Credit Advance Program

East Coast Commodities is administering a Spring Credit Advance program for grain and forage commodities. Applications are available for up to \$50,000 in interest free loans to grain and forage producers. The Government of Canada is offering this program for a second year to assist producers in financing cropping input costs. To be eligible, producers must:

- Participate in a crop insurance program and pay the premiums to protect the loan in case of crop failure
- Provide East Coast Commodities with an assignment of the crop insurance policy

For more information: Tel: (902) 678-5512,
Toll-free: 1-888-678-4367

Note to Laboratory Services Clients

In order to provide efficient laboratory services to Nova Scotians, we ask our clients to submit their samples from Monday - Wednesday. This will ensure that regional offices in Antigonish, Kentville, Sydney, and Weymouth can deliver samples to Truro and the Laboratory Services staff may facilitate receiving and processing samples before weekends. Please note, this applies to soil, feeds, tissue, water, manure, mink feeds and greenhouse samples.

Water samples for bacteria must be received by the laboratory no later than Thursdays by 4 p.m. to be analyzed by Friday. Our preference is to conduct all testing during the regular work week. The laboratory must be contacted in advance to schedule Friday or weekend analysis (on bacteria samples only). If it is essential that your water be tested for bacteria on the weekend, there is a \$50 surcharge to offset some of the costs associated with weekend work.

Payment must accompany the samples for those who do not have a farm registration number or do not possess a valid account with the laboratory.

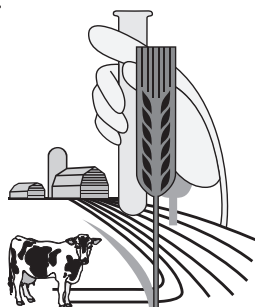
Did you know?

Samples can be sent directly to the laboratory in Truro. Samples that are heat sensitive should be cooled using ice packs and coolers as needed.

For more information:

Tel: (902) 893-7444
(Laboratory Services)

Tel: (902) 893-6534
(Laboratory Manager)



Agriculture Services ~ Staffing Changes

- **Gabriel Comeau** has been seconded to the new Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia as its General Manager for a two-year term. Tel: (902) 893-6379
- **George Burris** now oversees the General Manager responsibilities of the Natural Products Marketing Council on a full-time basis. Tel: (902) 893-6511
- **Dave Livingstone** (902) 893-6306, Operations Supervisor, and **Lynn Faulkner** (902) 893-5943, Administrative Support, are also welcomed support to the Natural Products Marketing Council
- **Mike Johnson** moves to Acting Manager of Programs and Risk Management. Tel: (902) 893-7534
- **Dave Sangster** will be taking on a role in industry relations, regulation and industry development. Tel: (902) 893-6555
- **Kim Harris** will be dividing her administrative support between Dave Sangster, Rick Whitman and Mike Langman, Director of the Resource Stewardship Division. Tel: (902) 893-6555
- **Rick Whitman** will be overseeing regulatory issues, such as contagious diseases of bees, apple maggot control, and noxious weed control. Tel: (902) 679-6039

Around the Province ~ Upcoming Events

May 12	Spring Feeder Cattle Sale , 12:30 p.m., Maritime Cattle Market Sale Barn, Truro, Nova Scotia. (902) 893-9603.
May 23-27	Canadian 4-H Council Annual Meetings , Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. (902) 893-6585.
May 25-26	Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend , Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, Nova Scotia. (902) 893-6585.
May 26	4-H Night in Nova Scotia , Cobequid Education Centre, Truro, Nova Scotia. (902) 893-6585.
June 1-2	Maritime Shorthorn Field Day and Junior Show hosted by the farms of Gordon and Doreen Fraser and John and Charlene Thompson, Pictou, Nova Scotia. (902) 396-4556 or (902) 396-4234.
June 2-3	Maritime Hereford Association Annual Meeting , Lyoming Farms, Upper Stewiacke, Nova Scotia. (506) 392-8863.
June 8-9	Maritime Angus Association Field Day , Bill and Betty Lou Scott's, Mt. Thom, Nova Scotia. (902) 925-2057.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators:

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

Arthur Pick - Tel: (902) 679-6005 (Tues./Thurs.)
Tel: (902) 893-7314 (Mon./Wed.) pickaa@gov.ns.ca
Weldon Smith - Tel: 679-6006 Fax: 679-6062
smithwe@gov.ns.ca

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

Arthur Pick - see info above
Charles Thompson - Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: 895-4460 thompscnc@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:

Marianne Patten - Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: 837-7696 pattenmj@gov.ns.ca

We would like to welcome Weldon Smith as the new Agricultural Resource Coordinator for Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens Counties. Weldon comes to Resource Stewardship after being with the Farm Management Section for a short time. Arthur has taken on some other duties and will be in Truro two days a week. He will be in our region on Tuesday and Thursday and in the central region on Monday and Wednesday. Friday will be a flex day and he will be where needed. Arthur's telephone number in Truro is (902) 893-7314. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact Weldon at (902) 679-6006 or Arthur in Kentville on Tuesday and Thursday at (902) 679-6005.

We would like to remind everyone at this time of year to be conscientious about best management practices. We need to demonstrate to the public that the agricultural industry is taking responsibility with manure and Integrated Fly Management. It is essential to keep fly levels to a minimum through good management of manure piles and spreading.

Agriculture Services newsletters can now be found on the department's intranet site - <http://iweb.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/news/>

Events

- May 15-18 **Master Composter Training Program.** Registration deadline May 10th. Early registration cost before April 15 is \$625, plus HST; after April 15 cost is \$675, plus HST. For information contact Amaranth & Associates with Amaranth Co-operative Enterprises Ltd., Box 448, Wolfville B0P 1X0; (902) 542-1430; jcline@glinx.com.
- May 5, 19 - June 2 **Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales,** Lawrencetown. There is a small change in the format of the sale - small breathing animals, i.e. poultry, rabbits, etc. will be sold first at 11 a.m. Hardware to be sold until 1 p.m. when the livestock will be sold. Any hardware items not sold by 1 p.m. will be sold after all livestock has been auctioned off, as has been the practice in the past.
- May 17 **Kings County Farm Women Spring 2001 Tour.** Come join us on the scenic dykelands of the Grand Pre and Wolfville. Contact Ann Palmeter at (902) 542-3204 for information and registration.
- May 14/15 **Farm Investment Fund Program Information Sessions** - See the following dates, times, and locations to find out more information from your Agriculture Resource Coordinator about the assistance programs and any general issues as well.
- May 14 ~ 10 am - noon, 1 - 3 pm, Heating Plan Classroom, Agricultural Centre, Kentville
May 15 ~ 1 - 3 pm, Agriculture and Fisheries Office, Bridgewater

REMINDER:

A reminder that tagging of cattle came into effect on January 1, 2001. There will be no monetary penalty for non-compliance until July 1, 2002. Any cattle leaving the farm for sale or slaughter must have an ear tag. For more information, call the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency at 1-877-909-BEEF (Beef) or 1-877-771-NLID (Dairy) or the NS Cattlemen's Association at (902) 893-7455.

CAPE MABOU PASTURE UP & RUNNING

The Cape Mabou Pasture will be in operation again this year. The pasture will be operated by the directors of the Cape Mabou Pasture Co-operative Ltd. Applications have been mailed to all those who were patrons last year. To receive an application to place cattle on the pasture you can pick one up at the Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries offices in Point Edward (563-2000) or Mabou (945-2999) or from a director of the Co-op (listed below).

The fee structure for 2001 is as follows:

Cows & Yearlings	.60¢./day
Calves 0-200 lbs. at entry	\$25./season
Calves 200-400 lbs. at entry	\$35./season
Calves 400 lbs. to yearling	.40¢/day
Breeding Fees	\$35. per animal
Calves born on pasture	\$10. per calf

The Pasture Co-op directors are:

Martin Rooyakkers	(902) 625-2131
Georgina MacKenzie	(902) 622-2552
John MacLellan	(902) 248-2642
Delia MacIntyre	(902) 736-6679

Events

May 5 & 19 **Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales.** Dates for the rest of the year are: June 2, September 15 & 29, October 13 & 27, November 10 & 24 and December 8.

All livestock and articles offered for sale are the property of the seller until sold at which time they become property of the buyer. Commission of 4% will be charged. For articles \$75 and under there will be a \$3 charge. Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Beef Producers will make a check-off of 50¢ per calf, \$1/animal 450 lbs. and under and \$1.50/animal over 450 lbs. All vendors who sell on premises will pay a \$10 charge at the office.

If any sale is canceled, it will be aired on Valley Radio or phone (902) 584-7142.

The sale staff have the right to reject any sick or unfit animals. The Livestock sale will not accept calves less than 2 days old.

This year will mark the beginning of the MANDATORY ear tagging system that affects cattle in all of Canada that are to be sold or shipped.

The tagging of cattle was to start January 1, but has been delayed until July 1, 2001 which means cattle sold at the sale must be tagged when the sales start up in September. The directors are looking into the possibility of the Cattle Sales to be a tagging station for those who only have a few head to sell.

The committee will keep everyone informed as they hear more.

A small change in the format of the sale: small breathing animals (poultry, rabbits etc.) will be sold first at 11 am; hardware to be sold until 1 pm; livestock will be sold at 1 pm. Any hardware items not sold by 1 pm will be sold after all livestock has been auctioned off, as has been the practice in the past.

The directors would like some feedback on whether or not there should be a Machinery Sale. The Machinery Sale dictates a lot of work for not much more than a break even day, therefore, please let us know if you have something to sell.

The same friendly staff will be around to help you again this year and with cattle prices remaining strong, the directors look forward to another successful season. If you have any concerns please contact one of the directors. They are Danny Bruce, Danny Phinney, Gary Cole, Anthony Van Oostrum and Jack Pearle, Chairman. Sale Manager is Jim Foster and Auctioneer is Dean Manning.

June 22 - **Annapolis County Farm Womens Tour to Brier Island** - A chance to see rare and one of kind plants on the island. Carol Goodwin, Plant Science Department Nova Scotia Agricultural College will lead the tour of the plants. The tour will meet at the Irving Big Stop, Digby at 8:30 a.m. to car pool. Costs are: \$2.00 per car for the ferry and \$7.00 for lunch. Call Jean 902-665-2567 or Janice 902-665- 2796 by June 18th if interested. The group will be returning to the Bridgetown area by 4:30 p. m.

July 14 - **West Nova Holstein Club Field Day**, . It will be hosted in Annapolis County (location TBA). This is always a club highlight so circle the date on your calendar. There will be showmanship and confirmation classes. Contact club executive for more details.

September 7 - **West Nova Holstein Club Bluenose Sale**, Valley Farms (Robert and Cindy Noble's Wilmot). The directors have started working on the sale. This year the Board is Managing the sale. If you have possible consignments please contact the executive.

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

We have just made some staffing changes to improve on service to our clients in the Central and Western Regions.

Arthur Pick, formerly the Agricultural Resource Coordinator, working out of the Kentville office is now also working in our area. Arthur will coordinate a front-line team approach with Charles Thompson in Truro and Weldon Smith in Kentville.

Arthur will be working out of the Truro office on Monday and Wednesday, and in Kentville on Tuesday and Thursday, with Friday as a flex day (he will be where needed most).

We hope clients will continue to work with us and take advantage of our new team approach. Charles' phone number is (902) 893-3645 and Arthur Pick can be reached in Truro at (902) 893-7314 or in Kentville at (902) 679-6005, email: pickaa@gov.ns.ca

We remind everyone at this time of year to be conscientious about best management practices. We need to demonstrate to the public that the agricultural industry is taking responsibility with manure management.

A reminder that tagging of cattle came into effect on January 1, 2001. There will be no monetary penalty for non-compliance until July 1, 2002. Any cattle leaving the farm for sale or slaughter must have an ear tag. For more information, call the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency at 1-877-909-BEEF (Beef) or 1-877-771-NLID (Dairy) or the N.S. Cattlemen's Association at (902) 893-7455.

Agricultural Services Newsletters can now be found on the NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries intranet site: <http://iweb.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/news/>

Events

Farm Investment Fund Program Information Sessions - See the following dates, times, and locations to find out more information from your Agriculture Resource Coordinator about the assistance programs and any general issues as well.

- May 14 10 am - 3 pm, St. Bridget's Church Hall, Shubenacadie, sponsored by the Halifax/East Hants Federation of Agriculture
- May 18 10 am - 1 pm, Pavillion, Nappan Experimental Farm
- May 22 10 am - 1 pm, Harlow Boardroom, NSAC, Bible Hill

- Sept. 8 - **Annual Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture Plowing Match.** This will also feature a new field technology demonstration, sponsored in conjunction with the Central Nova Soil and Crop Improvement Association and Stewiacke District Federation of Agriculture. To be held in the field just off Exit # 10 on the #102 Highway toward Shubenacadie. For information, please call Carol Versteeg at (902) 758-3530.