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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



April 2002

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Nova Scotia Water Initiative~ an Update

On December 7, 2001, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister, Lyle Vanclief announced the availability of \$300,000 for Nova Scotia to address water shortage issues in drought-stricken areas of the province. The funding is intended to be directed at work which will help quantify and qualify the availability of water sources in the water short areas. Initiatives will be co-ordinated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). The project manager for this initiative is Stella Fedeniuk, District Manager for the PFRA District Office in Brandon, Manitoba.

In January 2002, meetings were held with representatives of various federal and provincial departments, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Growers Water Group (representing interests of Horticulture Nova Scotia) to identify key priorities for this funding. Four initiatives were identified:

1. On-farm consultations (pilot)
2. Water Management Symposium (March 26 and 27 in Coldbrook)
3. Watershed assessments for Cornwallis, Habitant and Pereaux river watersheds
4. Provincial well database conversion and groundwater assessments for the Annapolis Valley.

The on-farm consultations pilot consisted of touring three water management and development specialists from PFRA across Nova Scotia for the month of March. These individuals (Barclay Schuba, Rob May and Curtis Snell) met with numerous producers from Yarmouth to Cape Breton to discuss a wide range of drought-related issues and to provide some prairie-style options for addressing them. Topics of discussion included: pasture management in drought situations; well siting and maintenance; water

quality; riparian and manure management; and water impoundments. In addition, topics such as, off-site cattle watering systems and harvesting and storing water during the winter and spring run-periods were well received and generated good discussion. Although the specialists returned to the Prairies at the end of March, PFRA can still be approached for advice on unique water problems.

Continued on next page

Putting Canada First: An Architecture for Agricultural Policy in the 21st Century

The Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments are working with the agriculture and agri-food industry and interested Canadians to develop an architecture for agricultural policy for the 21st century. The objective is for Canada to be the world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally responsible production.

To realize this vision, governments have agreed in principle on an action plan for an agricultural policy framework composed of five elements: Food safety and food quality, environment, science and

innovation, renewal, and business risk management. The framework, which is based on the setting of common goals for each element, entails important benefits for the sector and ultimately the general public.

Accordingly, governments have launched a national dialogue about the policy direction with stakeholders and interested Canadians to develop the proposed policy approach. To obtain additional information and contribute to this dialogue, visit www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst or call 1-800-622-6231.

Continued...

Nova Scotia Water Initiative

Part of the funding was used to offset costs of the Water Management Symposium which was held in Coldbrook on March 26 and 27.

Comprehensive watershed assessments for the Cornwallis, Habitant and Pereaux watershed areas will be undertaken by independent consultants. It is expected that the final reports generated will outline short-term and long-term surface and ground water solutions. Also, they will provide possible infrastructure projects, which will address water shortages and provide a comprehensive understanding of the ability of these areas to sustain agricultural growth.

The final initiative will involve converting the existing electronic well database in the province into a more user-friendly form for data entry, reporting and retrieval purposes. This will then be interpreted with existing geological, hydrogeological and bedrock data for the purposes of measuring the size and shape and water-storing ability of the various aquifers. The pilot testing of the data interpretation work will be undertaken in the Annapolis Valley. Ultimately, this information should assist the province in better understanding the aquifers for allocating and permitting purposes.

The watershed and groundwater assessment work is expected to be completed around the end of September.

Scotia Water Management Conference

More than 120 people involved in the agricultural industry discussed practical water management strategies at the Scotia Water Management Conference March 26 and 27.

On the first day, participants attended sessions on climate change and water as it relates to produce quality, the cropping system, and environmental issues.

The second day provided sessions about irrigation systems, scheduling, sources and storage; water licensing, requirements and controls; and how farmers manage water to survive drought.

The conference was intended to help farmers with developing and managing their own on-farm water projects. They benefited from the opportunity for plenty of informal networking and discussion. Most operators who attended are in horticultural production. They came from Pictou County all the way through to Digby County.

The conference was organized with the cooperation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Division, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Agricultural Development Institute, and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.



FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAMS

Safety Net Update

NISA, CFIP, Crop Insurance

Robin Bremner; NSDAF

It is Income Tax season again and time to start thinking about NISA. Fill out the joint form "NISA and Farming Income" (T1163) to submit your farm tax return and NISA application together.

The full entitlement deadlines for NISA applications are June 15, 2002 for individuals and June 30, 2002 for corporations.

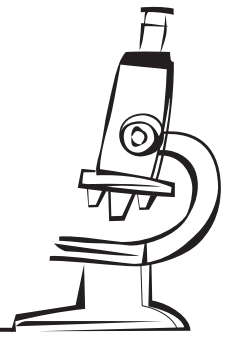
Applications for the 2001 Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP) are now available. The deadline to submit a 2001 final application is October 1, 2002. If you received assistance through the CFIP Interim process, you must submit a final application.

To receive an application package for NISA or CFIP contact Robin Bremner at 902-893-6374. You may also call NISA at 1-800-665-6472 and CFIP at 1-888-343-1064.

For Crop Insurance on new acres of Spring Grain, Soybeans, Peas and Beans, Potatoes and Corn, the application deadline is May 1, 2002. Contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 for more information.



Under the Microscope – Understanding Conflict with Neighbours



Lori Kittilsen
Business Management Resource Library

The potential for conflict is a risk facing many farm businesses today. The agricultural industry has been addressing more and more conflict within their communities in recent years than it has in the past. Do you understand conflict, the risk it presents to your business and how to manage it?

As society's concern for the environment and health have risen, the agri-food industry and its practices have been placed under the microscope. Farmers now find themselves answering to urbanites, lobby groups, governments at all levels, non-farm rural residents and neighbours. Contending with these stakeholders, farmers face environmental, economic, political, social and technological issues and conflicts.

Most of the criticism placed on Canadian farms fall into one of 12 categories: air pollution, water pollution, waste management, chemicals, land degradation, wildlife and fish protection, bio-diversity, resource management, public access, zoning and planning, unkept farmsteads and aesthetic despoilment.

As a result of this close scrutiny, the role of Canadian farmers and the landscape on which you farm has been permanently altered to include addressing risk and community concern.

The risk for conflict can be impacted by change under your control or far beyond your control. These changes, whether they be international, national or regional in nature, can impact your business, community and the agricultural industry.

Conflict begins with a perceived threat, perceived injury, unmet need or frustrated aspiration. It is not uncommon for people to magnify the size and/or severity of a threat and, in no time, a minor issue is magnified as a threat to an entire community.

Avoiding problems in a community begins well before there are any problems, with the establishment of "social equity." Social equity is the goodwill your neighbours feel toward you.

If you view this social equity as equity in a bank account, then in good times you should invest through deposits so that if problems arise you have some good will on which to draw. If you have no equity in your account with the community, on the other hand, problems can escalate quickly.

Being a good neighbour, educating the community about your practices, having a community relations program for your farm and contributing to your community are excellent ways to build your social equity.

It is important that farmers take time to understand their neighbours' potential concerns, find out what constitutes acceptable practices and be aware of the attention agricultural issues are getting on a larger front.

Take steps to minimize the negative impact of your operation and attempt to operate well above minimum standards. Conduct farm audits and adapt quickly to changing regulations and legislation.

Developing a proactive strategy to deal with risks could save you a great deal of time, stress, energy and money. Simply put, farmers who avoid causing concern will lower their risk of encountering conflicts.

Easier said than done? You may see the reality that farming can be dusty, noisy, and often stinky work. On the other hand, farming has been placed under the microscope, like it or not, and business managers must take proactive measures to ensure it remains a vital part of the community.

Should you wish to look closer at this subject the Canadian Farm Business Management council has an excellent resource "Farming with Neighbours," available to assist producers with preventing and resolving community conflicts over farming practices. To borrow this from the Business Management Resource Library, contact the Business Management and Economic Development division at 902-893-6580. To purchase this resource visit www.Farmcentre.com.



Does Farming Have You Stressed?

A personal, confidential, free service for Nova Scotia farm families feeling the stress of working under difficult weather and market conditions.

The Farm Family Support Center
Call 1-877-418-7555 if you need
someone to talk to.

A service provided by the NS Farm Health and Safety Committee and the NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries under the direction of Mirkwood Mediation Services.

Natural Products Marketing Council

Round Table on Marketing & Governance

Dave Livingstone, P.Ag., NSDAF

On February 18, 2002 the Council hosted a Round Table on Marketing and Governance. The event was a success and was well received by Marketing Boards and Council participants.

The meeting brought together all commodity boards under the Natural Products Marketing Act, and the Dairy Industry Act. Representatives of all Boards were in attendance and participated.

Participants heard from Jeanne Cruikshank, Vice-President, Atlantic Region, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors and Rod Stork, Chair, Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission. Ms. Cruikshank's topic was Responding to Marketing Changes. Her presentation focused on issues and opportunities from the distributors perspective. Mr. Stork's topic was Staying Ahead of the Curve in Regulated Marketing. His presentation dealt with ongoing issues in Ontario with respect to marketing system adjustments, marketing board mandates and governance, federal/provincial agreements and producer-buyer relations. All of these issues create constant change in the agricultural industry there, and in Nova Scotia as well.

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to come together to discuss common issues. More round table discussions are envisioned for the future.

New Appointments

George D. Burris, General Manager

Effective March 1, 2002 the Natural Products Marketing Council has a new Chairperson, a new member and a returning member. All are well known to the Nova Scotia agriculture industry.

Rollie Hayman has been appointed as Chair of the Council. Rollie is a former Director of Extension and Executive Director of Agricultural Services with the Department of Agriculture and Marketing.

Jeanne Cruikshank has been appointed as a member of the Council. Jeanne is the current Vice-President (Atlantic Region) of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors.

Michael Scothorn has been reappointed as a member of the Council. Michael is a milk producer and former member of the Nova Scotia Dairy Commission and the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee.

Leaving the Council are Henry Bowers (Chair), Leta Ells and Linda Grant. The contributions of these dedicated individuals to the Council and to orderly marketing in Nova Scotia have been significant over the past five years. In particular we wish to thank Henry for his quiet yet strong leadership during a period of many changes.

Farm Producers Now Offered Greater Access to Investment Tax Credits

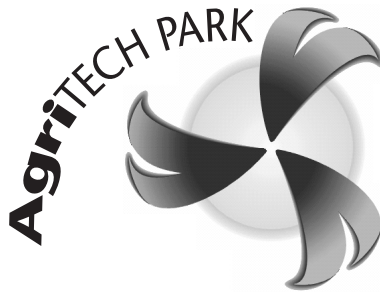
Henry Vissers, Pork Nova Scotia

Canadian agricultural producers who contribute funds for scientific research and experimental development will now receive credit for their investment, the federal government has announced.

Farm producers now have greater access to investment tax credits through the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SRED) Program – through an initiative of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) in association with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Tax credits will be available to farm producers who make financial contributions towards SRED through agricultural organizations of which they are members. In the agriculture industry, investments of this kind are often referred to as check-offs, assessments, or levies to finance research and development.

For more go to:
<http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/news/2002/n20206ae.html>



INCORPORATED

Atlantic Canada's Bio-economy Village

A 21st century biological revolution is underway – traditional agriculture will have a very different face in this century than it did during the industrial revolution of the last century. AgriTECH Park is poised to become a prominent player in the growth and development of this exciting new bio-economy.

The Park, located in Truro, Nova Scotia, is linked to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, where researchers have identified opportunities for new product and technological developments in the life sciences sector. An increasing need for analysis of the environment and social impact of agricultural systems is also driving the research and development initiatives in the region. The long-term vision for AgriTECH Park is to become a centre for education, extension services and innovation with a focus on the bio-economy sectors of agriculture, aquaculture and food. There appears to be a tremendous opportunity in the area of environmental remediation science; however, the transfer of the technology has often stumbled because of a lack of infrastructure support and industry/research community collaboration. The importance of environmental farm planning is also driving the need for commercially available solutions and AgriTECH Park can play a key role in bringing the environmental research community together with the farm community through its incubating commercialization opportunities.

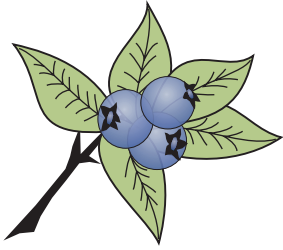
The Park is currently home to the Agricultural Development Institute, a unique industry-led organization that acts as a catalyst for planned change and client empowerment in the agri-food industry. Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, the marketing and lobby group for the province's largest agricultural sector, has offices on site. Other tenants include Azar Agriculture (a research consulting firm), Nova Scotia Co-operative Council, Canadian Executive Services Organization, Nova Mariculture (an aquaculture consulting firm) and Bridco Values (and R & D company focused on water quality research and value-added mineral products).

AgriTECH Park is also home to the Bio-Environmental Engineering Centre (BEEC), a research and demonstration site operated jointly by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Dalhousie University. The BEEC's main building is surrounded by agricultural land used for commercial-scale research plots. Housed within the Centre are a dairy milkhouse pilot plant, a greenhouse, laboratory and an instrumented soil tillage facility. There is a constructed wetland system near the Centre, deadstock composting sites, a meteorological monitoring station, a small-scale peat filter, tile drained experimental fields and water quality research.

AgriTECH Park offers its clients flexible leasing arrangements, conferencing services and an adaptable land-base in a quiet pastoral setting just minutes from the Trans Canada Highway. A section of the Cobequid Trail passes through the Park available for quiet recreation, and an on-site aquatic centre is also accessible to clients and guests.

Within the next several months, AgriTECH Park hopes to welcome new clients, resource-based development agencies, researchers and other stakeholders to its picturesque setting. This co-location of innovative thinkers in the field of biological sciences will result in a vibrant, dynamic bio-economy village. Access to the scientific community, modern laboratories and graduate students at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College will give the Park a competitive edge and lead to increased collaborative initiatives between researchers and industry. There are tremendous opportunities for new product development in the rapidly expanding life sciences economy. Breakthroughs in the fields of genomics, environmental remediation, energy development, nutraceuticals and materials science are changing the face of modern agriculture.

AgriTECH Park, Atlantic Canada's bio-economy village, is open for business.



Ninth North American Blueberry Research and Extension Workers Conference

We invite you to reserve August 18 to 21, 2002, for a conference on blueberries at the Prince George Hotel, in Halifax, Nova Scotia following the 26th ISHS Congress in Toronto.

www.nsac.ns.ca/conferences/nabrew

Tentative Conference Program

Sunday, August 18

Optional pre-conference tour (\$25 including lunch) to wild blueberry fields, Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd., Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Institute; Reception at the Prince George Hotel.

Monday, August 19

Opening special session on Wild Blueberry History, Oral and Poster Presentations at the Prince George Hotel.

Tuesday, August 20

Oral and Poster Presentations, evening banquet at the Prince George Hotel.

Wednesday, August 21

Optional post-conference tour (\$50 including lunch) of highbush and wild blueberry fields and plots, Blueberry Acres, Grand Pre Winery and Rainbow Farms freezing facility.

Registration Fees:

Full fees will include the Sunday reception, Monday and Tuesday lunch and nutrition breaks, Tuesday evening banquet, registration materials, abstract booklet, and proceedings of the conference.

Full Fees (early registration):
\$180, tax included.

Late Registration Fee: (after July 18)
\$200, tax included.

Accommodations

You are encouraged to reserve rooms at the Prince George Hotel where all poster and oral sessions will be held. Participants should make their own reservations by calling 1-800-565-1567 before July 18, 2002. Mention the NABREW conference and dates

to get the reduced room rate of \$159 + 16.5% tax per night for single/double occupancy.

To receive additional information concerning this conference please email Nabrew@nsac.ns.ca or call 902-893-8376.



Country Roads

Claire Hanlon Smith, NSDAF

A new tourism initiative combining agriculture, forestry and the natural beauty of Central Nova Scotia is soon to be launched. "Country Roads" is a brochure featuring 32 businesses in the Central Nova Scotia area (Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou and East Hants counties).

The Country Roads brochure invites locals and visitors to learn about the many unique agricultural, forestry and fisheries related experiences throughout this region.

An easy-to-read map outlines 32 stops along our highways and bi-ways where visitors can take in the beauty and bounty of Central Nova Scotia.

Our spring and summer seasons showcase a number of natural wonders. Enjoy the taste of pure maple syrup, the blossoms of flowers, foliage, the birth of new farm animals, digging for clams, lobster in season, as well as the many farm markets and shops that carry an array of local products.

The creation of this promotional brochure has been a co-operative effort with participation from the agricultural and forestry producers, regional tourist and development associations, industry associations and government departments. Plans are also underway to develop a fall/winter promotional brochure.

The Country Roads brochure will be distributed through Nova Scotia's visitor information centres and the Central Nova and Pictou County Tourist Associations. Watch for a special ad in Saltscapes magazine in May.

For more information on this exciting agri-tourism promotion, contact Claire Hanlon Smith at 902-893-4491, the Central Nova Tourist Association at 1-800-895-1177 or the Pictou County Tourist Association at 1-877-81-OCEAN.

Preventive Weed Control

Rick Hoeg, NSDAF

Integrated weed management utilizes a number of categories of weed control which include preventive, physical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls. Preventive weed control is one aspect of this process which is often overlooked.

Preventive control simply means to keep weeds from invading your land. Weeds may spread by a variety of ways such as wind, water and animals including human activity. The introduction of one or a few plants may not have a significant effect on crop yields, however, once introduced, a weed can spread and persist, increasing the potential for yield loss and cost of control in future years. It makes sense to take steps to prevent the introduction of new weeds and to identify and eliminate small patches of troublesome weeds before they become a big problem.

The components which make up preventive weed control include regulation, seed certification and sanitation.

The Government of Canada, through the *Plant Protection Act* and the *Seeds Act*, regulates the import and export of plant pests and sets standards for weed content and quality of crop seeds. In Nova Scotia the *Weed Control Act* limits the introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the province by requiring landowners to practice sanitary weed control of regulated species.

Weed sanitation involves methods which ensure new weed seeds are not carried onto the farm. Weed sanitation prevents weeds on the farm from going to seed, and prevents the spread of perennial weeds which reproduce vegetatively. Some examples of sanitary methods include:

- planting clean crop seed
- controlling individual plants or small infestations before they reproduce
- cleaning equipment before moving from infested to non-infested areas

- controlling weeds in ditches, banks, right-of-ways and uncropped areas
- not feeding weed screenings to livestock

Preventing weeds from becoming established is often the most practical means of control. Start by knowing what weed pressures you have. Producers should scout their farm regularly and accurately identify which weeds they have present and develop a management plan. Recently the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries published the manual, *Seven Steps to Managing Your Weeds*, which could be helpful in this process. It is available as a download or by mail order at <http://www.weeds.bc.ca>.

Pesticide Certificate Changes

It has been five years since mandatory certification for all applicators of commercial pesticides came into effect. The certificates were valid for a five-year period and thus a large number are expiring this year, most of which are becoming recertified.

The Department of Environment and Labour is in the process of changing to a new data management system. All of the department's certification data is being entered into the new system, after which applicators will be issued new wallet cards. Those currently becoming re-certified will receive their cards first, once the database transfer is complete.

In the interim, the department has issued Temporary Certificates to those who have been re-certified or newly certified. The Temporary Certificates will remain valid (regardless of the expiry on the Temporary Certificate) until the new wallet cards are issued. Anyone purchasing commercial pesticide should be able to produce either a valid wallet card or a Temporary Certificate issued since January 2002.

All vendors of commercial pesticides have a list of recently re-certified applicators, supplied by the Department of Environment and Labour.

Livestock Workshop

4-H members in Central, Eastern and Cape Breton Island Regions are invited to participate in a series of livestock workshops scheduled for May 4, 2002. These workshops will be hands-on, intensive sessions, with instructors working with small groups of members according to their experience level. The focus for each project will be judging and showmanship, with approximately two hours dedicated to each topic. Leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the sessions. All workshops will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. More information and application forms can be obtained from your general leader!

Location	Date	Projects Offered
Antigonish Exhibition Grounds	Saturday May 4	Dairy Poultry Waterfowl
Pictou Exhibition Grounds	Saturday May 4	Beef Sheep



4-H News

4-H Members Compete at Annual Weekend

Three hundred 4-H members are preparing to attend 4-H Weekend at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, from May 10 –11, 2002. This two-day event is a opportunity for the best 4-H regional public speakers and demonstrators to compete at the provincial level.

As well as communication contests, 4-H members will compete in the woodsman and square dancing competitions. One highlight of the weekend is the selection of the Provincial 4-H Host and Hostess, the official youth representatives for the 4-H program in Nova Scotia. This year represents the 30th anniversary of the Host and Hostess competition and former winners will be invited to attend 4-H Night in Nova Scotia.

4-H Night in Nova Scotia, on Saturday night, is the finale that showcases the talented 4-H members. Top overall winners present their winning speeches and demonstrations, entertainment, and square dancing. During this time, awards are presented to the winners of all competitions and to members and leaders who have won a National 4-H Travel Award. The public is welcome to attend the weekend events and to experience this important aspect of the 4-H program.

Camp Rankin to Open for the 30th Season

Nova Scotia's provincial 4-H camp will open its doors for the 30th summer on June 30, 2002. Camp Rankin, located on the Bras d'Or Lakes, gives youths an unparalleled experience of fun, skills, friendship and beautiful surroundings.

4-H Members Gather for Atlantic Eastern Breeders Incorporated Showcase

Seventy 4-H members from Atlantic Canada will be selected to participate in the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 23–25, 2002 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. The members will learn about large animal management and show preparation practices from leaders in the industry.

Eastern Breeders Incorporated has sponsored the training event for the past 13 years. Along with financial assistance, it provides the Atlantic event with highly qualified staff to ensure 4-H members learn the most current techniques in clipping, showing, and herd management. The intensive training 4-H beef and dairy members from Atlantic Canada will receive prepares them to be better contenders in the show ring and leaders in the agricultural industry.

4-H staff with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provide organizational skills on behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee to help make the showcase possible. While at this event 4-H members will tour the facilities at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to see and hear about learning opportunities available to them.

During the workshop, experienced show people will teach the finer points of show preparation to the participants. 4-H members will then work on their own animals to prepare their cattle to participate in the beef and dairy show at 10 a.m on June 25 at the MacMillan Show Centre at the Exhibition Grounds in Truro. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class at that event. The public is welcome to attend the cattle show to see first hand the skills of these young leaders in agriculture.



Royal Bank to Host 4-H Interprovincial Exchange Program

Five Nova Scotia 4-H members will experience customs and lifestyles in other provinces as they travel on the 40th annual Royal Bank of Canada 4-H Interprovincial Exchange begins July 2, 2002. While on this two-week National 4-H Award Program, 4-H members also have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on agriculture with other rural youth.

The Nova Scotia delegates winning this travel award were selected through an interview process which was based on their 4-H and community involvement. The Atlantic 4-H delegates travelling to the various parts of Canada celebrate their achievement at a send off banquet hosted by the Royal Bank.

Events

PROVINCIAL

- May 10–11 **4-H Weekend** –
Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro
- June 23–25 **Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase** –
Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro
- August 18–21 **Ninth North American Blueberry Research and
Extension Workers Conference**, Halifax

NSAC Continuing Education Courses Spring 2002

- April 22 – 25
Bovine Artificial Insemination
- April 22 – May 3
Tree Worker
- May 6 – 17
Arboriculture
- May 25
Weeds in Lawns & Gardens:
ID & Management
- May 26 – 31
Introductory Floral Design
- June 1
Weed Management Workshop for
Landscapers
- Licensed pesticide applicators can
obtain five Pesticide Re-certification
Program (PRCP's) points by taking
the Weed Management course. By
obtaining sufficient points individuals
no longer need to rewrite the pesticide
applicator's exam every five years.
Please note that the Nova Scotia
Department of the Environment and
Labour has stipulated that a maximum
of five PRCP's can be accumulated in
one calendar year.

For 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

4-H Events

EASTERN REGION

- May 4 **Multi Region Livestock Workshop** – Eastern Nova Scotia
Exhibition Grounds, Dairy, Poultry Waterfowl, 10 a.m.
- June 1 **Pictou County 4-H Skills Day** – Pictou 4-H Barn

SOUTHWESTERN REGION

- April 20 **Western Regional Rally** – NSCC, Lawrencetown
- May 21 **Annapolis 4-H Judging Clinic** – Exhibition Grounds,
Lawrencetown
- May 24–26 **Fluff'n'Buff Beef/Dairy/Sheep/Goat Workshop** –
Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- May 26 & 28 **Annapolis 4-H Judging Days** – Exhibition Grounds,
Lawrencetown
- June 1 **Annapolis Light Horse Clinic** – Exhibition Grounds,
Lawrencetown
- June 2 **Annapolis Light Horse Point Show #1** – Exhibition
Grounds, Lawrencetown
- June 4 & 11 **Yarmouth 4-H Judging Days**

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
macleoib@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –
Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: 837-7696
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Spring time has arrived and the busy time on most farms is here. We would encourage all to take those few extra minutes to check safety items before beginning your work. For machinery that will be traveling on the road, make sure slow moving vehicle signs are in place and use flashing lights when possible to alert those on the roadways with you. Be very careful when you have larger and very wide pieces of equipment on the highway as they are difficult to handle on some of the narrow roads.

If it's a long day, take a break from time to time just to keep yourself alert on the job. Please discourage children who want to ride with you on the tractor as there is no seat for them. Please work safely for your family's benefit.

Events

- April 26 **Lunenburg/Queens Federation of Agriculture Spring Social** – Hebbville Fire Hall, 7 p.m. for meet and greet; 7:30 p.m. supper. Contact Directors for tickets.
- May 11 **Spring Cattle Sale** – Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds. Sponsored by Lunenburg-Queens Co. Federation of Agriculture

4-H Events

- April 20 **Valley Regional Rally** – O'Brien Building, Windsor Exhibition Grounds, 1–5 p.m.
- April 20 **South Shore Regional Rally** – 10 a.m., Lower Ohio Hall, Shelburne Co.
- April 28 **Kings Co. Woodsmen Competition** – Horton Community Centre, 2 p.m.
- May 4 **Hants Co. Livestock & Non-livestock Judging Clinic & Bowling Party** – Judging 10 a.m.– 12 noon, Windsor Exhibition Grounds
- May 4 **Lunenburg Co. Showmanship Clinic** – Waterloo
- May 4 **Lunenburg Co. Dine a Nite** – Bridgewater Legion. Dinner at 7 p.m., dance to follow. Tickets \$20.00/person available from 4-H leaders or at the 4-H office
- May 5 **Border Riders 4-H Club's Open House** – Mount Denson Community Hall, 2–4 p.m.
- May 20 **Food & Sewing Workshop** – Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Food Workshop – 9 a.m.– 12 noon; Sewing Workshop – 1-4 p.m. Contact 4-H office to register.
- May 25 **Rawdon 2-Way 4-H Club 30 Year Reunion** – Kennetcook Fire Hall, 1-7 p.m.
- June 4 **Hants Co. Judging Day** – Windsor Exhibition Grounds
- June 6 **Kings Co. Judging Day** – Sheffield Mills
- June 26 **Border Riders Achievement Day**
- June 27 **Burlington Workers Achievement Day**

Agricultural Awareness

Kings County Federation of Agriculture had a booth at the recent Home Show in Kentville. It was a good promotional item for the organization and provided a good opportunity to tell the public what the agricultural industry in Kings County is all about.

For members of the Federation of Agriculture in Kings County, the Federation have hats and t-shirts for sale. Help promote your organization. See a Director to purchase these items.

Lunenburg-Queens Federation of Agriculture are working on a special display of photographs of agriculture in their region. This will be presented at the South Shore Exhibition in 2002. The photos look at commodities produced in the region and show statistics of their value.

Hants County Forage Day Results

Corn Silage

- 1st – Bovidae Farm, Wilson's, Falmouth
2nd – Bethron Farm, Densmore's, Noel

Grass Haylage

- 1st – Dykene Farm, Don Wilson, Falmouth
2nd – Grand Elm Farm, Harvey's, Newport

Legume Haylage

- 1st – Bovidae Farm - Wilson's, Falmouth
2nd – Levi D. Friesen, Northfield

Grass Hay

- 1st – Dykene Farm, Don Wilson, Falmouth
2nd – Lellavan Farm, McLellan's, Noel

Legume Hay

- 1st – Bovidae Farm, Wilson's Falmouth
2nd – Dykene Farm, Don Wilson, Falmouth

The overall top exhibit was the corn silage entry of Bovidae Farm, Bob Wilson and family, of Falmouth. Those attending also judged the exhibits and this year Beth Taylor and Howard Harvey tied for top spot. Thanks to the Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture for putting together the competition as part of the Annual Forage Day Program.

Pasture Co-Op Planning Big Year

The Cape Mabou Pasture Co-Op is once again planning for a busy pasture season. After assuming the operation of the pasture from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, last year, the directors of the Co-Op have worked diligently to ensure its success. During 2001 there were 297 head of cattle on the pasture from June 12 to October 17. The cattle came off in very good condition and had an average daily gain for the group of 2.34 lbs. per day. To make the pasture a sustainable operation the number of cattle have to be increased. To date, the response for the coming season has been excellent with a number of new patrons already confirmed. For anyone thinking of sending their cattle to the Cape, some of the benefits include daily supervision, very good gains, breeding services, and reduced pressure on your home pastures.

Following the Co-Op's first annual meeting on April 8, 2002, the directors will be finalizing the pasture regulations. Applications will be sent to all previous patrons and to the pasture members. Anyone interested in receiving either a membership application (a one-time \$25 fee) or an application to send cattle to the pasture can do so by calling Georgina MacKenzie, 902-622-2552 or the Agriculture office in Mabou, 902-945-2999.

Events

- April 20 **Cape Breton Island Regional Rally** – Baddeck Academy
- April 20 **Cape Breton Island 4-H Craft Co-op Workshop** – North Sydney Exhibition Grounds
- June 1 **Richmond County 4-H Show** – Camp Rankin
- June 1 **Kids and Safety Day Camp** – Brook Village Hall

Farm Safety Day

The Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture will be sponsoring a Farm Safety Day on June 1. The program will take place at the Brook Village Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program is being offered to youth between the ages of eight to twelve. The day will focus on what to do if you are lost in the woods, the 911 system and first responders, small and large farm equipment safety, and fire safety and use of fire extinguishers. Registration information is available by contacting the agriculture office in Mabou. The deadline for registering is May 15, 2002.

Strawberry Workshop

Strawberry producers should mark April 24 on their calendars for a workshop with specialists from the Agricultural Development Institute (ADI). The workshop runs from 1– 4:30 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NSDAF) office in Pt. Edward. For more information contact John Lewis at ADI, 902-896-2345 or the NSDAF office, 902-563-2000.

Employment Opportunities

Both the Cape Mabou Pasture Co-Op and the Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture are anticipating receiving funding to hire workers this summer. An Agriculture background would be preferred for both with cattle handling experience essential for the Co-Op position. If you or someone you know would like to get the jump on a summer job you can send your resume in advance to either:

Cape Mabou Pasture Co-Op
P.O. Box 70
Mabou, NS B0E 1X0

OR

Inverness/Victoria Federation of Agriculture
P.O. Box 22
Mabou, NS B0E 1X0

4-H News

Richmond County 4-H Show

Richmond County 4-Hers will be exhibiting their project work and competition skills at their county 4-H show on June 1 at Camp Rankin. The event will highlight the county's non livestock and homemaking projects. The event will be run throughout the morning with vegetable preparation, woodworking and craft competitions, the Bakeoff, displays and awards.

Craft Co-Op Workshop

Senior 4-H members and leaders from across Cape Breton Island will participate in a spring craft workshop on April 27, at the exhibition grounds in North Sydney. Workshops include Quilted Table Runners, Stenciled Floor Mats, and Paper Tole.

For more information contact the 4-H office in Pt Edward.

Spring time has arrived and the busy time on most farms is here. We would encourage all to take those few extra minutes to check safety items before beginning your work. For machinery that will be traveling on the road, make sure slow moving vehicle signs are in place and use flashing lights when possible to alert those on the roadways with you. Be very careful when you have larger and very wide pieces of equipment on the highway as they are difficult to handle on some of the narrow roads.

If it's a long day, take a break from time to time just to keep yourself alert on the job. Please discourage children who want to ride with you on the tractor as there is no seat for them. Please work safely for your family's benefit.

Events

- April 20 **Central Regional Rally** – Valley Elementary School, 9 a.m.
- April 27 **Colchester Scholarship Auction** –
Bible Hill Junior High, 12:30 p.m.
- May 4 **Multi Region Workshop** – Pictou & Antigonish, 10 a.m.
- May 6 **Colchester Exhibition Committee meeting** –
Farm Loan Board Room, 7:30 p.m.
- May 7 **Cumberland Co. Council** – Shinimicas 8 p.m.
- May 13 **Halifax E. Hants Council** – 7:30 p.m.
Cooks Brook
- May 23 **Cumberland Judging Competition** – in the evening Nappan
Research Center
- May 25 **Halifax E. Hants Dairy Workshop** – Musquodoboit Exhibition
Grounds
- May 27 **Halifax E. Hants Judging Competition** – Musquodoboit
Exhibition Grounds
- May 29 **Colchester Judging competition** – Exhibition Grounds, Truro
- June 7 **Colchester Co. 4-H Dance** – Old Barns School, 8 – 11 p.m.

Colchester County Auction

Preparations are well underway for the Colchester County Scholarship auction fund raiser. In the past two years this event has increased the revenue generated. The County would like to continue this trend at the April 27 auction. Please come out and show your support at the 2002 auction. Saturday, April 27, 12:30 p.m. at the Bible Hill Junior High School.

2002 Central Region 4-H Summer Assistant

This year's summer assistant is Eleanor Gillis, a third-year NSAC student taking the Agriculture Environmental Studies Degree. Eleanor was a 4-H member in Inverness County, held executive positions and participated in a national exchange. She brings with her strong skills and abilities needed to fulfill the role of the summer assistant position. I know all 4-H leaders and members will appreciate working with her this summer.