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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



August 2002

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

### Vanclief Announces Formula to Deliver \$600 Million in Farm Funding

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief announced that this year's \$600 million in risk management funding will be delivered this fall based on farmers' eligible net sales (ENS).

Farmers will receive a payment into their Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) equal to 4.25 per cent of their ENS based on their five-year average.

The NISA Administration already exists with 150,000 Canadian farmers on the books. The federal agriculture minister said NISA is considered to be a quick and cost-

effective way to get the \$600 million to farmers. Producers who do not have accounts can apply for NISA up until December 31, 2002. See page 4 under Business Risk Management for details about how to apply in Nova Scotia.

The \$600 million is risk management funding to help farmers manage challenges, such as the current drought, and make the transition to a new generation of risk management programming under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF). Next year, another \$600 million to implement new risk management programming under the

APF will be included in the negotiations between federal and provincial governments. Both amounts were announced in June as part of a \$5.2-billion investment over six years to help the sector move forward with the APF.

The APF is looking at new approaches to risk management that would protect farmers against traditional and emerging risks while encouraging the use of new practices and strategies to reduce risk in the future. The APF aims to make Canada the world leader in food safety and quality, environmentally responsible production and innovation.

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### Farmers East Respond to Hay West

The community of agriculture extends far beyond municipal and provincial borders, recently demonstrated by the overwhelming response of Canadian farmers for drought-stricken livestock farmers in western Canada.

Nova Scotia farmers are being commended for their commitment of thousands of tonnes of hay for their western counterparts in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The hay west campaign resulted in five rail cars picking up Nova Scotia hay in

Truro and Amherst. Donations could fill many more times that. As of the printing date of this newsletter, the federal government has agreed to pay transportation costs for another 187 rail cars, however, the details of where they will pick up hay was not yet available.

Thanks to the coordination efforts of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, western producers are benefitting from the "small" community of agriculture, 4,000 miles away.

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### Aboiteau Drainage

*Hank Kolstee, P.Ag*

During the summer months natural weather conditions prevent aboiteaux from working at peak efficiency at all times. Farmers may notice ditches on the dykelands partially filled with water or silt laden water in the ditches immediately above the aboiteau.

In order to stay open aboiteaux require some water to flow through them to keep silt on the tide side of the structure flushed out. If inadequate rainfall occurs, the outlet channels start to fill up with silt, not letting all the fresh water to flow out. A number of factors determine whether an aboiteau will silt up.

- (1) The length of the channel from

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...continued

## Aboiteau Drainage

the gate to the channel in the bay or river. The location of the main channels in the bay or river may vary from month-to-month or year-to-year, or sometimes change only over many years. (2) The amount and consistency of fresh water flowing to the aboiteau. An aboiteau that has consistent flow to it is less likely to silt up, e.g. fed by springs or continuous flowing brook.

During prolonged dry spells, silt can build up very rapidly. For example, last year nine feet of silt built up in 11 weeks at one location. At the same time a large rainfall could remove this in a matter of days. Sometimes to prevent an aboiteau from silting up completely, a spacer is put in the aboiteau gate to keep it open a small amount. This lets silt laden water flow back through the aboiteau when the tide is high. If the proper size spacer is used, this will normally keep the aboiteau open, but it deposits silt into the ditches. Normally a large rainfall event will flush this silt out again.

Recently in an area where a build up of a silt bar has caused aboiteau outlet problems, it was observed that over a period of two weeks a 15-foot high silt bar eroded back as much as 90 feet. Along a 2,000-foot distance measured a total of 90,000 cubic yards of material was moved. This amounts to more than one 12 cubic yard tandem truckload every three minutes for the two-week period or a three-foot depth over an area of 18.5 acres.

Aboiteaux are like farm crops, they like to have close to an inch of rain each week to keep them functioning properly.

## Noxious Weed Control

By: Rick Hoeg

The Weed Control Act was initiated by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and came into effect July 1, 1967. The intent of the Act is to preserve the quality of agricultural land, and provide protection from weeds which can inflict ill health on humans and livestock. The term noxious refers only to those weeds which are designated under the Act.

*A noxious weed is a plant which has a direct or indirect detrimental effect to the management of agricultural or non-agricultural ecosystems. These weeds may be highly destructive, invasive, competitive, difficult to control, of limited distribution, and/or be toxic.*

What are the responsibilities of landowners? Essentially the Act requires landowners to destroy noxious weeds to prevent their spread. There are restrictions on the movement of materials containing noxious weeds or seeds, and machinery exiting areas which are infested.

The regulation of weed species is not uncommon. Nine provinces have a weed control regulation, and in the US all states have either weed control or seed regulation along with an extensive list of federal noxious weeds. In Canada the Canadian Food Inspection Agency administers the Seeds Act, and they are in the process of developing weed control regulation under the Plant Protection Act.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries program is evolving to provide a pro-active approach to noxious weed control. It utilizes risk assessments and strategic surveys to identify and monitor invasive and noxious weeds. In addition, educating stakeholders and ensuring landowners control noxious weeds will be paramount in preventing the spread of serious weeds. Four goals we will strive to achieve are:

- Effective management strategies for all noxious weeds.
- Educate and motivate property owners to control noxious weeds on their land.
- To prevent the introduction and establishment of new weeds with noxious characteristics.
- To prevent spread of noxious weeds already established in the province from infested land to non-infested land.

In recent years the Act has been administered under a prioritized weed list which has focussed on yellow nut sedge, wild chervil, milkweed, leafy spurge, tansy ragwort and hedge nettle.

For a complete list of noxious weeds visit our web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rir/weeds/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rir/weeds/) or contact Rick Hoeg at (902) 893-6549, email [hoegr1@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoegr1@gov.ns.ca)

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# STATUS REPORT

## Water Related Projects

*Andrew D. Cameron*

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries recognizes the importance of addressing the many water related issues that affect Nova Scotia agriculture. Staff have been working aggressively on a variety of programs since last fall.

Through the Agricultural Water and Resource Development (AWARD) program, several water evaluations in Kings County have been carried out. These include:

- 1) Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research – East Flowing Rivers Baseline Water Quality Survey
- 2) AGRA Earth & Environmental – Water Resources Needs of the Agricultural Industry in the Annapolis Valley
- 3) C.T. Harris – Canard River Irrigation Water Enhancement
- 4) AMEC Earth and Environment Ltd – Groundwater Resources of the Cornwallis Soils in Kings County.

In December 2001 the federal government announced at the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) that \$300,000 would be allocated to address water issues in Nova Scotia. The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) was designated as the implementation agency.

In January 2002, PFRA staff visited Nova Scotia and discussed programing with representatives of the farming industry, provincial and federal agencies. PFRA outreach staff met with Nova Scotia farmers throughout March to better understand their issues.

On March 27 and 28 PFRA, NSFA, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NSDAF) and the Agriculture Development Institute (ADI) jointly hosted the Scotia Water Workshop in Coldbrook, Kings County. Over 120 people attended the two-day event, of which 90 were primary producers. Topics included irrigation requirements, practices and methods along with government regulations, water quality issues and plant physiology.

In April PFRA contracted with CBCL consultants of Halifax, to carry out water resource assessments on the Habitat and Pereaux watersheds of Kings County.

NSDAF, in conjunction with NSFA and the Growers Water Group of Horticulture Nova Scotia, will receive AWARD funding to assist with the identification and initial operation of watershed clubs for Nova Scotia. One of these clubs will be established in the Annapolis Valley Pilot Project area. It is expected that the club will address water management issues. As of mid July, NSFA was in the process of engaging a coordinator to identify and establish clubs throughout the province.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College continues to support research into cropping processes and water management issues that will benefit the agricultural industry.

NSDAF is in the process of ramping up the joint program with NSFA for Environmental Farm Plans. Environmental Farm Plans contain a segment for water management including water quality and water use (drought) issues. A number of Environmental Farm Plans including one for the NSAC farm were completed by early July.

# Programs and Risk Management Update

## DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

All developmental programs are still open. The following is an overview of programs from the 2001–02 year.

The **Technology Development Fund** was designed to support the development and adaptation of new agricultural technologies and knowledge that will enhance the competitive position of Nova Scotia agriculture. In 2001–02, 56 projects were approved, totalling \$1.9 million in funding. This included work by 45 researchers and eight chair positions within the NSAC on a wide range of initiatives including new cash crops for Nova Scotia, environmental technology for manure storage, enhanced wetland treatment systems and biological and integrated pest management. **The deadline for letters of Intent for the Technology Development Fund is September 16, 2002.**

Water resource management is a priority in Nova Scotia and the **AWARD 2000** program targets the identification of solutions to short- and long-term water and soil moisture issues including quality and quantity. A component of the Technology Development Program, AWARD 2000 is aimed at field testing, design and demonstration at an applied level. Examples of projects are water quality surveys and development of resource material on soil water management.

The **Agri-Food Industry Development Fund** is open to agri-business and agricultural industry associations to encourage entrepreneurial and market-driven growth. In 2001–02, 61 programs

received funding totalling \$507,000. These projects included agricultural awareness initiatives, product and market development research as well as staff training.

The **Farm Investment Fund**, for primary producers, is designed to foster growth through on-farm developments that enhance economic viability, farm and food safety and promote environmental stewardship. In 2001–02, 564 projects received a total of \$3.3 million. As of July 31, 642 applications for this year have been received.

Contact Susan Simpson, Program Coordinator at (902) 893-6378 for more information or call our Truro office at (902) 893-6510.



## BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

### NISA, CFIP, Crop Insurance

The **Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA)** has over 1,100 participants in Nova Scotia. There is still room for growth. If you haven't looked at NISA in awhile you may want to look again. Enhancements such as Mixed Farm NISA, the Red Meat Pilot Project, as well as the increased flexibility offered by Deeming and Interim withdrawals, make NISA an attractive program to all producers. An even stronger incentive to get a NISA account is this year's \$600 million in Risk Management Funding. **The payments will be calculated and delivered through NISA accounts. If you do not have a NISA account it's time to get one!** The final deadline for 2001 applications is December 31, 2002. For applications and more information, call NISA toll free at 1-800-665-6472 or contact Robin Bremner,

Programs and Risk Management at (902) 893-6374. Forms and guides can also be downloaded from the NISA website at [www.agr.gc.ca/nisa](http://www.agr.gc.ca/nisa)

The **Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP)** has paid over \$550,000 in disaster assistance to Nova Scotia farmers for the 2001 crop year. This amount represents approximately half of the final applications received to date. The final deadline to apply to CFIP for the 2001 year is October 1, 2002. A reminder to those who submitted an Interim application for 2001 and received funds, you must submit a final application before the October 1 deadline.

If you experienced a sudden and severe loss of farm income in 2001, contact CFIP toll free at 1-888-343-1064 or call Robin Bremner

### New Program Coordinator

On June 12, 2002 Susan Simpson became Program Coordinator for the Programs and Risk Management Division. In this role she will be administering programs such as the Farm Investment Fund, Technology Development and the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund.

Susan worked for the Department as an Agricultural Representative from November 1995 until June of 2000. Since leaving the Department Susan has been with Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Woodstock NB, as a Small Business Representative as well as a Development Officer with Southwest Valley Development Corporation (CBDC)

Susan is located in our Truro office on the first floor of Harlow Institute and can be reached at (902) 893-6378.

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## NISA, CFIP, Crop Insurance ...continued

The **Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission** provided over \$900,000 of income stabilization to Nova Scotia producers for the 2001 crop year. This year has seen increases of 4.5% in acreage and 10% in dollar coverage due to higher price options in blueberries and strawberries as well as increased participation in potato and berry plans. The total dollar coverage for the 2002 crop year is just over \$16 million. Upcoming deadlines for new applications to Crop Insurance are:

October 15 – Winter grain, Forage Establishment

October 31 – Forage Production, Raspberries

November 15 – Strawberries, Blueberries

December 01 – Tree Fruit, Tree Insurance

For more information about insurance plans for your crops and livestock call the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371.



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## Canadian Cattle Identification Agency and Program

The **Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA)** is a non-profit industry agency incorporated to establish a national cattle identification program in Canada.

The federal *Health of Animals Act* was brought into place as of January 1, 2001 with producers given a grace period to adjust to the system.

However, the grace period has ended, so all livestock leaving the farm for sale must have a tag.

Dr Janet McKinlay, CFIA Kentville, stated that “Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors are enforcing all aspects of the CCIA

program. This includes, sales, transportation, abattoirs, tag dealers, tag applicators, etc.”

Today we enjoy a highly rated health status, however if a health or safety issue were to happen in Canada, over half of our production could suddenly be without a market. A National Identification Program will help protect our markets both domestically and internationally.

Livestock identification is happening not only in Canada but also around the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is insisting all

of its members upgrade their diagnostic and surveillance capabilities to reduce risk when animals are imported and exported.

Under this program a national identification ear tag is attached before an animal leaves its herd of origin. The ear tag will contain a visible unique number, bar code and CCIA logo. The numbers are assigned by CCIA to tag manufacturers. The tags are distributed through authorized service centres and distributors. The service centres maintain records of the numbers they distribute. Primary producers are not required to maintain records. At the packing plant the unique number will be maintained up to and including the point of carcass inspection.

In the event of a health or safety issue involving that animal, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will be given access by the CCIA to the record of the herd of origin. The CFIA will use this information to determine possible sources of the problem.

In the vast majority of cases, the ID number will be accessed only when it is entered into the CCIA database, and when it is removed post slaughter. There is no need to track the ID number through change of ownership.

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## Getting Tags and Complying with the Program

Several manufacturers are approved suppliers of tags for the program. Their distributors are located across Canada.

When purchasing tags, producers are required to provide their name, telephone number, address and postal code. Later the producer will receive a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which may be used to speed up tag purchases. No other information is recorded.

CCIA will control access to the information stored in its database. CCIA will provide information to

CFIA in the event of a health or safety concern.

The CCIA Board of Directors has representatives from the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Livestock Marketing Association of Canada, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Dairy Industry, Province of Quebec, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the United States.

Please follow these regulations to protect the livestock industry in Canada.

# News and Views of Maritime Beef

*Staff of the Maritime Beef Testing Society*

After a very energizing Spring Sale, staff are preparing winter evaluation applications and information will be sent out to interested producers during the month of September. The maximum number of bulls accepted will be 150, with an enrollment of 70 heifers. Heifers will have access to the original pen barn and receive a high silage based ration designed to promote proper development. Bulls will receive the normal TMR Ration as used in the past. Should there be a surplus of applications this fall, consideration will be given to consignors who have previously supported Nappan. To be placed on our mailing list, please telephone Bernadette at (902) 661-2855.

The station is closed to cattle for the summer period to prepare for fall entry.

Traditionally we have offered our cattle for sale on the second Saturday of October. In an attempt to maintain this market and tradition along with responding to requests from our industry to offer a source of beef replacements, it has been decided to have a Fall Consignment Sale.

Our sales staff is well equipped to coordinate all the activities needed to organize and conduct such a fall sale. However, we need a source of cattle. We are hoping to attract 60-70 well developed, bred beef replacement heifers to this consignment sale.

Half of this number is already committed. If you have purebred or commercial yearling heifers which you would like to enter in our fall sale, please telephone our office. The appropriate paperwork must accompany purebred cattle. The possibility of incorporating a number of young bulls may also be considered if paperwork is available prior to the sale.

Information packages will be available and can be obtained by calling the Nappan office at (902) 661-2855.

Remember it's not too early to start to prepare for fall marketing. Deciding when and where to market your calves requires careful consideration.

The abundance of top quality forage being harvested at the present should help farmers replenish their supply which has been exhausted over the past several years due to dry conditions. This should also enable the Test Station to have top quality TMR rations for our upcoming Winter Test of 2002-03.

Here are some dates to mark down for your fall buying!

## Nova Scotia Open Farm Day

October 6, 2002

**"Welcome to the Amazing World of Agriculture"**

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to announce an **Open Farm Day on October 6, 2002**. This initiative will be an Atlantic event and a tremendous opportunity for you to showcase your farm while consumers experience agriculture.

**Open Farm Day 2002** is modeled after a successful New Brunswick program in 2000 where 61 farms welcomed 6,000 visitors.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee invites you to participate in **Open Farm Day 2002**. We hope you will see this

as a worthwhile activity. We will provide participants with training and promotions. There is no charge to participate.

Let's make Nova Scotia Open Farm Day 2002 an outstanding success and an opportunity to show the public **"The Amazing World of Agriculture"**.

If interested, please fill in the registration form, on the next page, and return to Ruth Grant by **Friday, August 30, 2002**. We will contact you for more details and information regarding the program.

### **Nappan Fall Sales Schedule, 2002:**

September 21  
Maritime Simmental Association Sale

October 12  
Maritime Testing Society Fall Consignment Sale

October 19  
Maritime Shorthorn Association Sale

October 26  
Maritime Hereford and Maritime Angus Association Sale

October 27  
Maritime Limousin Association Sale



## Celebrating 25 years

At this time of year 4-H members are busy attending exhibitions with their 4-H projects and making preparations for the 25th annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show, **September 27 – 29**. Hosted this year at the Hants County Exhibition grounds in Windsor, the show proves to be a crowd pleaser. It is an opportunity for 4-H families and the public to celebrate the work that 4-H members have done all year.

The show has grown to exhibiting over 40 different livestock and non-livestock projects such as rabbit, heritage, woodworking, computer, beef calf and crafts.

The 4-H Show is open to the public and admission is free. Competitions begin Friday, September 27 and continue until noon on Sunday, September 29.

### Measures of Success — 4-H Survey

In a recently released national survey by the Canadian 4-H Council and Ispos-Reid, 1,097 4-H Alumni were polled for their attitudes towards the 4-H program and its impact on them. Seventy-four per cent of alumni said their experiences as a 4-H member were beneficial in terms of contributing to personal or career experiences later in life. In particular, one thing they pin pointed was acquiring and building teamwork and interpersonal skills.

## 4-H Member Travels to National Dairy Conference

Melissa Van den Heuvel, a 17-year-old 4-H member from the Brook Village 4-H Achievers in Inverness County, won the National 4-H Travel Award to represent Nova Scotia at a 4-H conference and show in Madison, Wisconsin in October.

Melissa is active on her home farm, Pine River Dairy Farm, and knows that after highschool she would like to pursue a career in agriculture.

4-H members are selected for this award based on their club participation and particularly their involvement in the dairy project. Melissa has recently earned another accomplishment from her experience with the 4-H dairy project. She placed first overall at the Eastern Breeders Showcase in Truro in June.



## Nova Scotia Open Farm Day

October 6, 2002

“Welcome to the Amazing World of Agriculture”



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Farm \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact  
Ruth Grant, P. Ag.,  
Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 5E3  
Phone: (902) 893-6598  
Fax: (902) 893-2757  
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca



# Centre for Continuing & Distance Education, NSAC

## Courses for Fall, 2002

**Composting Skills** (Distance Delivery)  
September 5 – December 19  
\$430  
Registration deadline: August 22

**Transition to Organic Agriculture**  
(Distance Delivery)  
September 5 – December 19  
\$430  
Registration deadline: August 22

**Arboriculture**  
September 10 – December 3  
Tuesdays (9:30 am – 5 pm)  
\$700  
Registration deadline: August 23

**Responsible Horse Owner I**  
October 2 – November 13  
Wednesdays (6:30 – 9 pm)  
\$140  
Registration deadline: September 18

**Stable Design and Construction:  
Management of Horses in the Stable  
and Pasture**  
October 5 (10 am – 3 pm)  
\$60  
Registration deadline: September 20

**Optimum Nutrition and  
Conditioning for Performance  
Horses**  
November 2 (10 am – 3 pm)  
\$60  
Registration deadline: October 18

**Pesticide Management Update for  
Landscapers**  
November 5 (9 am – 3 pm)  
\$70  
Registration deadline: October 22

**Pesticide Management Update for  
Farmers**  
November 7 (9 am – 3 pm)  
\$70  
Registration deadline: October 24

**Introductory Welding**  
November 12 – 28  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
(6:30 – 10 pm)  
\$300  
Registration deadline: October 29

**Sheep Enterprise Management**  
November 15 – 17  
Friday (1 – 4 pm, 6:30 – 9 pm)  
Saturday and Sunday (9 am – 5 pm)  
\$200  
Registration deadline: October 25

**Pesticide Certification**  
November 18 – 21  
Monday and Tuesday  
(8:30 am – 4:30 pm;  
evening sessions 6:30 – 9:30 pm  
(optional)  
Wednesday and Thursday  
(8:30 am – 4:30 pm)  
\$250  
Registration deadline: November 1

**Understanding Equine Behaviour  
for Positive Training, Development  
and Partnership**  
December 7 (10 am – 3 pm)  
\$60  
Registration deadline: November 22

**Landscape Design Process**  
December 9 – 13  
Monday – Friday (9 am – 5 pm)  
\$400  
Registration deadline: November 22

For more information visit  
[www.organicagcentre.ca](http://www.organicagcentre.ca)

Please note: If you are planning on  
attending a course please apply by the  
registration deadline.

Centre for Continuing & Distance  
Education  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3  
Tel: (902) 893-6666  
Fax: (902) 0895-5528  
Email: [cde@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ns.ca)

### Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

**West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg,  
& Queens counties:**  
**Arthur Pick** –  
Tel: (902) 679-6005 (*Tues./Thurs.*)  
[pickaa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:pickaa@gov.ns.ca)  
**Weldon Smith** –  
Tel: (902) 679-6006  
Fax: 679-6062  
[smithwe@gov.ns.ca](mailto:smithwe@gov.ns.ca)

**East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester,  
& Halifax counties:**  
**Arthur Pick** –  
Tel: (902) 893-7314 (*Mon./Wed./Fri.*)  
[pickaa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:pickaa@gov.ns.ca)

**Pictou, Antigonish, & Guysborough  
counties:**  
**Kevin Bekkers** –  
Tel: (902) 863-4705  
Fax: 863-7342  
[bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca)

**Cape Breton Island:**  
**Bill MacLeod** –  
Tel: (902) 563-2000  
Fax: 563-3435  
[macleoib@gov.ns.ca](mailto:macleoib@gov.ns.ca)

**Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, &  
Shelburne counties:**  
**Dennis Moerman** –  
Tel: (902) 837-5161  
Fax: 837-7696  
[moermade@gov.ns.ca](mailto:moermade@gov.ns.ca)

The summer season is moving along quickly. Soon that big yellow bus will be coming down the road each morning and fall will be here.

We hope this has been a good production year on the farm. Soils remain dry but we have had lots of cool nights and timely rains for crop growth.

Please take a few moments each morning to review safe work procedures for the day's jobs so you can come home to your family each evening.

Fairs and exhibitions are a great social time for the agriculture community. They are avenues for agricultural promotion as we can show consumers what we do and the different products that are produced.

## Planning Ahead

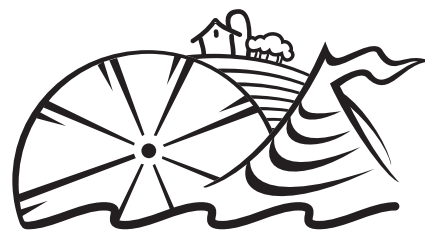
It's never too early to do your planning. Forage testing is best done early so you and your feed supplier can work together to maximize the output from the operation.

There also have been requests for large lots of soil sample boxes. Farmers are getting their fields sampled (before the children go back to school) to plan their crop rotations for next year. Early planning will allow for maximum discounts on fertilizers for early booking and purchases. Now is the time. Fall application of limestone is beneficial as the limestone has the opportunity to work its way into the growth zone for the next growing season.

## Grain Handling Facilities Available

The Grain Center in Steam Mill has reopened for the fall season to handle grain crops from the Valley region. Contact the center if you are interested in using the facility by calling Kevin Spicer at (902) 678-5512 or faxing (902) 678-1215.

West Nova Agro Commodities Ltd. (WNACL), a producer/community owned and operated grains handling facility located on 351 Elliott Road in Lawrencetown is now receiving wheat, barley and later corn. For more information, please call (902) 824-0152.



## Exhibition Dates

### Valley – South Shore:

Dalhousie Fair –  
August 24, Dalhousie

Western Kings Fair –  
August 31, Tremont

Hants Co. Exhibition –  
September 13–15 and 20–22,  
Windsor

Queens Co. Exhibition –  
September 17–21, Caledonia

Nova Scotia 4-H Show –  
September 27–29, Windsor

Maritime Fall Fair –  
October 11–20, Exhibition Park,  
Halifax



## Bio-Security

As fall approaches, consider bio-security around the farm. Being careful with who visits what part of your operation is important. Introduction of unwanted diseases is very costly so please take precautions!

## Blueberry Tour

Blueberry producers and anyone interested in learning more about the industry should mark **Saturday, August 24** on their calendars for a tour in the Inverness area. The tour will begin at Caroline Farms receiving shed in Whycocomagh, and runs from 1 – 4 p.m. In addition to the receiving shed the tour will focus on both producing and sprout fields, blueberry harvesting, blueberry land clearing and early development fields. Dale MacIssac, Blueberry Consultant, is also expected to attend. Caroline Farms blueberry shed is next to the Stewardale Cemetery (first gravel road on left, after taking road to Lake Ainslie/Mabou in Whycocomagh).

## Inverness County 4-H Show

4-H'ers in Inverness will be holding their 4-H Show on **Saturday, August 24** at the Brook Village Hall. The public, local 4-H'ers and agriculture families are invited to attend this annual event. The show starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs into the early afternoon. There will be 4-H displays, livestock shows and competitions for non-livestock projects. Canteen services will be available. The day will also feature Agricultural Awareness displays with farm animals and commodities from Inverness County.

## Victoria County 4-H Show

The Victoria County 4-H Show will be held on **Saturday, September 7** at the Baddeck Forks Hall. The show is held in conjunction with the Victoria County Fair. 4-H events begin at 9 a.m. and run until early afternoon. The general public, local agriculture and 4-H community is invited to stop by and view the non-livestock competitions, project displays and livestock shows.

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## Community Fairs on Cape Breton

The season for Community Fairs and Exhibitions is fast approaching. The following are the fairs scheduled for Cape Breton Island. Now is a good time to reserve the date on your calendar, or to plan your entry for the fair.

September 7	Victoria County Fair Baddeck Forks	Wendel MacPhee 295-2494
September 14	Mira Ferry Fair Albert Bridge	Edna MacKeigan 562-6253
September 14	Port Morien Fair Fire Hall	Margie MacQueen 737-2478
September 21	Marion Bridge Fair Mira Pasture-McKeigan Rd.	Norma MacInnis 727-2764
September 21	Christmas Island Fair Fire Hall	Georgina MacKenzie 622-2552

Community Fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun and entertaining day, and to show off some talent. Anyone can enter articles from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics). If you have never been to a fair, why not plan to attend this year.

## Community Pastures

Community Pastures have all started for this pasture season. Some can use additional cattle numbers to help keep them viable operations. If you need extra feed or pasture, consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are contacts for Cape Breton.

Cape Mabou,  
Georgina MacKenzie – 622-2552

Mira,  
John MacPhee – 727-2542

Maplebrook,  
John P. MacDonald – 756-2671

Little Harbor (L'Ardoise),  
Arthur Sampson – 587-2276

Cheticamp Island,  
Eli Joe Chaisson – 224-2417

## Inverness 4-H Sign-up Night

Youth interested in being a 4-H member in 2003 and returning members, in Inverness County, must attend the Inverness 4-H Sign-up Night.

The event will be held at **7 p.m. on Thursday, October 10**, at the Brook Village Hall. Please note: 4-H members and parents/guardians must attend this information session and registration evening in order to register for the 2003 4-H year.

## Pasture and Corn Tours

Specialists from the Agricultural Development Institute (ADI) will be in Inverness and Cape Breton County at the end of August for several farmer tours. Specialists expected to attend are Bill Thomas, Forage Specialist, and Ruminant Specialists Sean Firth (Beef) and Daniel Scothorn (Dairy). The planned programs are as follows:

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Monday, August 26	Corn Tour	2 p.m.	Peter Wilsons Skye Glen
Monday, August 26	Pasture Tour	7 p.m.	William Cox's Mabou
Tuesday, August 27	Specialists will be available for a few farm calls. To book a visit call the agricultural office		
Tuesday, August 27	Pasture Tour	7 p.m.	Verschurens North Sydney

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The summer season is moving along quickly. Soon that big yellow bus will be coming down the road each morning and fall will be here.

We hope this has been a good production year on the farm. Soils remain dry but we have had lots of cool nights and timely rains for crop growth.

Please take a few moments each morning to review safe work procedures for the day's jobs so you can come home to your family each evening.

Fairs and exhibitions are a great social time for the agriculture community. They are avenues for agricultural promotion as we can show consumers what we do and the different products that are produced.

## Planning Ahead

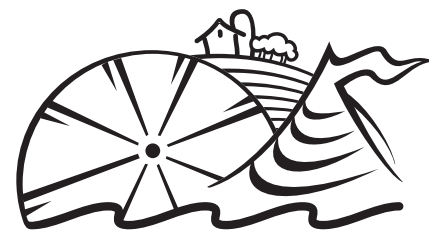
It's never too early to do your planning. Forage testing is best done early so you and your feed supplier can work together to maximize the output from the operation.

There also have been requests for large lots of soil sample boxes. Farmers are getting their fields sampled (before the children go back to school) to plan their crop rotations for next year. Early planning will allow for maximum discounts on fertilizers for early booking and purchases. Now is the time. Fall application of limestone is beneficial as the limestone has the opportunity to work its way into the growth zone for the next growing season.

## Grain Handling Facilities Available

The Grain Center in Steam Mill has reopened for the fall season to handle grain crops from the Valley region. Contact the center if you are interested in using the facility by calling Kevin Spicer at (902) 678-5512 or faxing (902) 678-1215.

West Nova Agro Commodities Ltd. (WNAACL), a producer/community owned and operated grains handling facility located on 351 Elliott Road in Lawrencetown is now receiving wheat, barley and later corn. For more information, please call (902) 824-0152.



## Exhibition Dates

### Central:

Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition – August 20–24, Truro

Cumberland Co. Exhibition – August 27–31, Oxford

Nova Scotia 4-H Show – September 27–29, Windsor

Maritime Fall Fair – October 11–20, Exhibition Park, Halifax



## Bio-Security

As fall approaches, consider bio-security around the farm. Being careful with who visits what part of your operation is important. Introduction of unwanted diseases is very costly so please take precautions!

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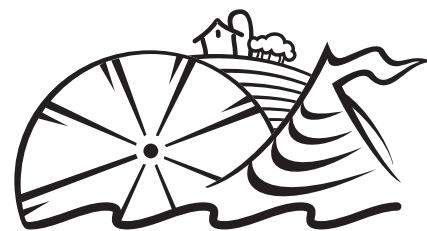
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## Exhibition Dates

### West

Digby Co. Exhibition –  
August 21–24, Bear River

Nova Scotia 4-H Show –  
September 27–29, Windsor

Maritime Fall Fair –  
October 11–20, Exhibition Park,  
Halifax



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## Exhibition Dates

Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition –  
August 28– September 1,  
Antigonish

Pictou/North Colchester  
Exhibition – September 4–7,  
Pictou

Maritime Fall Fair –  
October 11–20, Exhibition Park,  
Halifax



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## Eastern Region 4-H Program

The Eastern Region 4-H program is wrapping up for 2001–02 and beginning for the 2002–03 year. Achievement Days are over and members are busy preparing for exhibitions and 4-H Show. If you have ever wondered what the 4-H program is all about, this is a great time to stop by an exhibition or 4-H Show and see the members accomplishments and the different projects that are available.

Clubs will start reforming for the new 4-H year anytime from September to November. For more information about joining a club contact Dianne Cox 4-H Specialist at (902) 863-7501 or (902) 485-7161.

### Events:

September 5	4-H Day at Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, Pictou	October 27	Antigonish 4-H Awards Program, 2 p.m., St Andrews Community Hall
September 10	Antigonish 4-H Show Meeting, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Tracadie Parish Hall	November 5	Guysborough 4-H Information Night and Awards Night, 7 pm, Goshen Hall
September 10	Antigonish 4-H Leaders Council Meeting, 8 – 9:30 p.m., Tracadie Parish Hall	November 6	Pictou 4-H Council & Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., New Glasgow Market
September 12	Pictou 4-H Show Meeting, 6:30 – 8 p.m., West Pictou High School	November 12	Antigonish 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Antigonish office
September 12	Pictou 4-H Leaders Council Meeting, 8 – 9:30 p.m., West Pictou High School	November 15–16	N.S. 4-H Council Annual Meeting, Truro
September 27–29	N.S. 4-H Show, Hants County Exhibitions Grounds		

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## Hands-on Agriculture Fun at the P.N.C.E. — September 4–7

At the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition you will learn that agriculture in Pictou County isn't just cows and corn! Agriculture Awareness displays at the exhibition have been extended beyond the Dr. Allan MacKay 4-H Barn. This year you will find hands-on activities and interesting agricultural facts in each building throughout the grounds.

Don't forget to pick up your Agriculture Scavenger Hunt card at the main entrance. As you tour around the grounds keep your eyes open for the scavenger hunt answers and drop your completed card off at the 4-H Barn for your chance to win one of the two \$50 prizes.

Throughout the grounds you will find hands on activities for everyone to enjoy. In the dairy barn there will be milking demonstrations and try your hand at making butter. In the beef barn you can see how many

people it takes to equal the weight of one animal, view cow-calf pairs and see displays on many different beef breeds. Visit the Kinsmen building for horticulture activities as well as the horse and poultry barns for even more activities and information.

Be sure to visit the Agriculture Awareness Corner in the 4-H Barn! There you will find interesting displays, demonstrations and hands on crafts, face painting, pumpkin decorating, baby chicks hatching and many other activities for you to enjoy. The Agriculture Awareness Committee and 4-H members will be hosting daily activities for you to enjoy.

Once again this year, the baby animals are back! Stop in here to see the goats being milked daily, view many different breeds of sheep, as

well as see goats, donkeys, kittens and much more! If you have never seen a sheep being sheared, then come and watch the sheep shearing competition on Saturday evening in the main arena.

Friday will be a busy day at the P.N.C.E. as two hundred students from Pictou Elementary, Scotsburn Elementary and West Pictou Consolidated School tour the exhibition grounds and learn first hand about Pictou County Agriculture.

Special thanks goes out to the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, Scotsburn Co-operative Services Limited and the Pictou County 4-H Leaders' Council for their sponsorship of this project.

<b>Special Events &amp; Times</b>		<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Daily	all day	Agriculture Scavenger Hunt	Cards at main entrance, Answers throughout the grounds Card drop off in 4-H Barn
Daily	7 p.m.	Milking demonstrations	Goat in Baby Animal Barn Dairy in Dairy Barn
Wednesday	6 – 7 p.m.	Crafts, face painting	Agriculture Awareness Corner of 4-H Barn
Friday	6 – 8 p.m.	pumpkin decorating,	
Saturday	noon – 6 p.m.	baby chicks hatching	
Saturday	noon – 2 p.m.	Honey extraction	4-H Display Building
Saturday	evening	Sheep Shearing	Main Arena

**Come and join us at the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition and learn about Agriculture!**