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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



December 2002 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Volume 3 No. 5

\$4 Million Loan Support for Hog Producers

Four million dollars in provincial government loan support will be made available to Nova Scotia pork producers. The program will help the industry through a difficult time of declining market prices. Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Ernest Fage made the announcement on November 27.

"This loan-support program is a way we can provide funding to the hog industry to help them get through this rough time," said Mr. Fage. "We did not make this decision lightly: there has been considerable consultation on how best to help the industry."

Market prices for hogs have been steadily declining to the point where the cost of production is more than the price the farmer is able to get at market. The market price per hog has gone from over \$150 in the summer, to as low as \$93 this fall. The industry has identified over \$3.5 million in potential losses due to declining market prices this year.

Safety-net programs established to assist the industry with low-income years are currently coming in place and this loan-support program will

provide additional help to those farmers who need immediate working capital.

The program will be available to individual producers and will be based on the market prices until they exceed \$145 per market hog and/or the \$4 million loan capital is used.

The department is discussing with industry and its federal and provincial counterparts how to build on existing business risk management programs.

Nova Scotia's hog industry is made up of about 80 producers who raise more than 200,000 market hogs for processing in plants in Berwick, Kingston and Antigonish.

The hog industry in Nova Scotia employs over 1,500 people and contributes \$100 million to the Nova Scotia economy.

Additional information regarding the loan-support program is available by calling the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board at (902) 893-6506.



WATER ONE YEAR LATER

It has been one year since the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries formed a task group to deal with water related issues in the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

One year later, the group has completed a number of activities outlined in its Strategic Action Plan for 2002, and some projects are still in progress. A plan for 2003 is in development.

The focus of the 2002 strategy was to build on existing activities and through partnerships to raise the profile of water issues in the sectors. Examples include:

- Scotia Water Conference (March 2002) with NSFA, PFRA, NSDEL, DFO and ADI
- Rural Water Quality Project and factsheets with WINS
- conducted assessments of Habitat and Pereaux watersheds with PFRA
- the Environmental Farm Plans program is well underway with NSFA
- Pilot watershed clubs are being established with NSFA

For more a more comprehensive listing of activities and available information, check the website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/environment/watertask/


NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

Back Issues of this newsletter are available on-line at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/fs/arcs/>



Programs & Risk Management Update

Susan Simpson

Farm Investment Fund

This program is designed to support sustainable growth in Nova Scotia farm businesses by providing investment for projects that enhance economic viability, farm and food safety and promote environmental stewardship.

Program Objectives:

- 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
- develop marketing and value added opportunities

Program Update

The program opened in May 2002, accepting applications until November 1, 2002. At this time the program is closed to new applicants as the funding has been allocated. Producer response to this program continues to grow as there was a 3.7 per cent increase in applications over the previous year. This year there were 586 approved applications containing 1,326 on-farm projects.

Water continues to be a priority for Nova Scotia producers. Project numbers within the Water Management section have doubled from last year and almost 40 per cent of this year's approved funding is directed to on-farm water initiatives. Project numbers and funding commitments under the agro-environmental section also continue to be strong.

The Programs and Risk Management office has sent out an evaluation survey to all applicants of the Farm Investment Fund program. We would appreciate your comments to assist us in looking at the future direction of this program. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to our office by January 15, 2003. Additional copies of the survey are available.

A reminder to producers that all project work must be completed in this fiscal year and all claims with supporting documentation must be received by the programs office by March 1, 2003 for reimbursement.

Technology Development 2000 Program

Program Update

We are in the process of finalizing our negotiations with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) regarding funding arrangements under the new Agricultural Policy Framework. The Technology Development 2000 program is presently cost shared with AAFC and our ability to fund research at the current level will be influenced by the outcome of these discussions. These negotiations with AAFC have also delayed the January 2003 call for letters of intent. For updates on program status and the next call for letters of intent, please check our website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm.

For more information regarding these programs or any of our development programs, please visit our website or contact Susan Simpson, Program Coordinator at (902) 893-6378.

Put NISA on the Top of Your To-do List

NISA administration tells us that the number one mistake new applicants make is not opening an account at their bank. If you are a new participant or re-entering the program, don't forget these very important steps before December 31, 2002:

- 1 Fill out a NISA application using your 2001 Statement of Farming Activities (your farm tax return)
- 2 Mail the application to the Winnipeg Tax Centre (envelope included) postmarked before December 31, 2002
- 3 Visit your financial institution and tell them you wish to open a NISA account.

For more information contact NISA administration at 1-800-665-6472 or call Robin Bremner at Programs and Risk Management (902) 893-6374. Printed information is available at www.agr.gc.ca/nisa and on our website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm.

Note: In late January or early February 2003 Robin Bremner and Susan Simpson will be making presentations to producers across the province on the Business Development and Risk Management programs delivered through the Programs and Risk Management division. Specific dates and locations to follow.

Advance Payments Program

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) is administrating the Advance Payments Program (APP) for the 2002 crop year. The program offers a loan that facilitates access to credit for producers at or after harvest. Producers can receive a cash advance on their stored crops soon after harvest, allowing them to meet their short-term financial obligations.

The Federal Government will pay the interest on the first \$50,000 of an advance made under the program. For advances over \$50,000, the interest will be prime rate minus

0.25%. The amount of the advance is based on half (50%) of the value of the producer's crop. The value of the crops is a rate that we have negotiated with the Federal Government. The values, based on 50% levels are: wheat - \$100, rye - \$68, hay - \$62, barley - \$85, oats - \$70, corn - \$105, soybeans - \$150 and sunflowers - \$110. The maximum amount allowable for the advance is \$250,000. Producers must repay the administrators as the crop is sold or used. Wheat, rye, hay, barley and oats loans must be paid back by July 31, 2003. Corn, soybean and sunflower loans must be paid back by September 30, 2003.

In order to complete the applications, producers must allow a credit check and a storage check to be done. SCIANS will deduct a one per cent hold back from all advances to cover itself in the event of a default. This will be returned to the producer when the advance has been paid back in full. A fee of \$500 will be charged to each producer for the administration of the program. For more information contact Carol Versteeg at (902) 758-3530. Fax: (902) 758-2974 or email: carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca



Nutrient Management Workshops



A number of Nutrient Management Workshops are being planned at various locations throughout the province. The workshops are being conducted by Lise LeBlanc. The workshops are sponsored by the NS Federation of Agriculture and funded by Agri-Futures. The dates and locations are as follows. Actual meeting sites are yet to be determined. Contact Lise LeBlanc for details.

January 15 – Windsor
January 16 – Kentville
January 30 – Sydney
January 31 – Mabou
February 12 – Truro
February 13 – Amherst
February 19 – Shubenacadie/Stewiacke
February 26 – Lawrencetown
February 27 – Yarmouth
February 28 – Bridgewater
March 13 – Pictou
March 14 – Antigonish

The workshops will include hands-on activities in the afternoon. County soil maps will be available so that you can determine your soil types. You are asked to bring your soil and/or manure analysis so that the workshop will have more meaning for your farm. You will also receive the NM manual. The workshop will cover the following areas:

- Introduction to Nutrient Management Planning (updated info on what is happening in other areas, discussion of NSDAF funding program)
- Basic Soil Fertility (N, P, K nutrient cycles, what affects their availability and loss)
- Micro-nutrients, environmentally sensitive sites, CEC and Base Saturation Rates, lime, pH, soil types and how all these factors affect nutrient movement, plant uptake and loss on their farms, etc.)

- Testing for Nutrients (how to soil and manure test, how to read the lab reports, what those numbers mean to their farm)
- Manure as a nutrient source (advantages, disadvantages, field priority, what affects availability and loss, calibrating a manure spreader, determining the amount of nutrients from the farm manure-practice from a manure lab test)
- Legumes as a nutrient source
- Commercial fertilizers
- Nutrient Management in specific crops
- Developing a NM Plan.

For further information contact Lise LeBlanc at (902) 757-0172

Agricultural Development Institute becomes AgraPoint™ International

In early November the Agricultural Development Institute officially changed its name to AgraPoint International Inc.

The change is the result of a request from the ADI Group of Companies that the Institute stop using the acronym ADI, claiming it imposed on its trademark and was causing confusion among its clients and the public.

“Even though we work in a very different industry than the ADI Group of Companies, we recognize that using ‘ADI’ was creating some confusion as our public profile increased,” said Peter Clarke, chairman of AgraPoint’s Board of Directors. “The Board and team are excited about the change and see it as an opportunity to differentiate ourselves and adopt a name that better reflects what we are: the first point of contact for agricultural expertise and information.”

As part of the change, the company launched a new corporate website – www.agrapoint.ca. The group will continue with its successful partnership in www.Agri-ville.com, Canada’s #1 interactive agricultural website. All team member e-mails will now end in [.agrapoint.ca](mailto:info@agrapoint.ca)

“For clients and people who need to contact us, we have put systems in place that should make the transition to the new name as seamless as possible,” said Clarke.

If you wish to receive an information package on AgraPoint, please contact AgraPoint’s Resource Contact Centre, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at (902) 896-2345 or info@agrapoint.ca

AgraPoint Events Schedule

Rhubarb Production Workshop December 18, 2002

Location: Knol Farms,
Collingwood NS

Sponsors: Knol Farms, AgraPoint
and Hort NS

Contacts: Treasa Pauley, AgraPoint
at (902) 896-0277/
t.pauley@agrapoint.ca or Kim Best at
(902) 670-4397

Mink Ranch Bio-Security & Management Workshop

January 30, 2003,

Location: NSDAF Offices,
Weymouth, NS

Sponsors: AgraPoint, NS Mink
Breeders Association & NSDAF
Contacts: Alex Oderkirk, AgraPoint
at (902) 896-0277/
a.oderkirk@agrapoint.ca or

Dennis Moerman, NSDAF at (902)
837-5161/ moermade@gov.ns.ca

Atlantic Poultry Conference, 2003 February 13-14, 2003

Location: Delta Beausejour,
Moncton, NB

Contact: Alex Oderkirk, AgraPoint
at (902) 896-0277/
a.oderkirk@agrapoint.ca

Raspberry Production Short Course

March 27 and 28, 2003

Location: AgriTECH Park, Truro
Two-day program; registration and
program details to follow.

Contact: John Lewis, AgraPoint at
(902) 678-7722/
j.lewis@agrapoint.ca

Agreement Signed between Provincial and Federal Governments

The system that protects our food in Nova Scotia will become more effective as a result of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was signed November 28, 2002 by the federal and provincial governments.

The MOU establishes a framework which will see the two levels of government working more closely to improve inspection coverage and information sharing with respect to food safety, animal and plant health activities in Nova Scotia

The agreement was signed by Ernest Fage, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Health Minister Jamie Muir and Richard Fadden, president of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, on behalf of Lyle Vanclief, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

Although no changes will be realized immediately, consumers and industry will benefit by minimizing duplication of services, bridging potential gaps, and building on the strengths of each of the parties.

The agreement reinforces the work of the Agricultural Policy Framework, which will assist Nova Scotia farmers build on their reputation as producers of safe, high-quality food.

Similar partnerships have already been signed with Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Alberta, Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan.

Beef Development Loans - New Market Opportunity Program



From the Beef Loan Newsletter

The Beef Development Loan under the New Market Opportunity Program of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board continues to meet demands from Nova Scotia's cattle sector. This loan was originally introduced two years ago in response to the cattle industry's request for more funding to purchase beef cattle.

The loan provides funding for the purchase of feeder cattle or for the purchase of bred beef heifers and beef cows. The rationale was to help producers build up livestock on their farms to access new opportunity markets such as the Atlantic Tender Beef Classic initiative of Co-op Atlantic.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board will lend 80 per cent of the funding required to purchase beef cattle if the cattle are the only source of security

or 90 per cent if additional security is provided. Loans up to \$150,000 per individual producer or in the case of partnerships or corporations up to \$150,000 per partner or shareholder to a maximum of \$450,000 per farm are available.

Beef Development Loans on bred beef heifers and beef cows are to be paid back within eight years maximum. Loans on feeder cattle are to be paid back within a year.

There are two repayment options for bred heifers and cows. The first option has equal annual payments over the life of the loan consisting of principal, interest and life insurance.

The second repayment option for bred heifers and cows has annual payments consisting of five per cent of the original loan principal, interest and life insurance plus a Market Premium. The Market Premium is an

additional payment based on the market price for beef cattle as determined by the average price of feeder cattle sold at the Maritime Cattle Market. The Market Premium can be as high as an additional nine per cent of the original loan (if the price of feeder cattle is over \$120 per hundred weight) or it can be zero (if the price of feeder cattle is under \$85 per hundred weight). Therefore, if the market for beef cattle is up there will be a higher payment required that year. Conversely, if the market is down the Farm Loan Board will require a lower payment. Thus, the repayment schedule is structured to follow the market price. All loans are expected to be paid out on the maturity date.

For further details on the Beef Development Loans contact the NS Farm Loan Board in Truro at (902) 893-6506, or in Kentville at (902) 679-6009.

Nappan Breeding Stock Sale

April 5, 2003

The Winter Evaluation period at the Maritime Beef Cattle Test Station in Nappan is well underway. After a very busy Fall, which featured many successful breed sales, our staff were busy preparing for the entry of cattle for Winter Test. This Fall 151 bull calves entered the facilities along with 48 heifer calves.

These heifer calves are housed within the original barn and evaluated on a ration composed of round bale silage, barley and selenium salt blocks. The average starting weight was 674 lbs. These calves are fed to gain approximately two lbs. per day. They are a tremendous group of crossbred female and are from some of the top calf producing herds within the Maritimes. They will be bred at the

appropriate time by using semen from easy-calving bulls. A selected group of these top quality bred heifers will be offered at our Spring Sale. The selected group will be hand picked by our selection committee who are experienced cattle personnel.

Our bull calves represents all the major beef breeds being utilized within our Maritime cattle programs. They are a great group of role genetics with an average start weight of 869 lbs. They will be evaluated for performance utilizing a TMR. These animals are housed within the two large outdoor yards and are consigned from some of the top Purebred herds within the region. Approximately 80 of the top bulls will be selected on their individual

merit, merit being based on performance, physical makeup, correctness, reproduction and carcass data. This group will be chosen by our selection committee based on their usefulness for commercial calf production.

Mark your calendar for the premiere Maritime Breeding Stock Sale held within the region on April 5, 2003. Our team is available to answer any questions pertaining to cattle on our program at (902) 661-2855.

Remember our office is now located at the Nappan facility and viewing animals on test is available seven days a week. Arrangements can be made to receive a copy of our data reports by contacting us.



Queens Medals Awarded at Annual 4-H Meeting

Sixty delegates from across the province who attended the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia 4-H Council in November were privy to several presentations of the Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These medals are being awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada.

The medals for Nova Scotia

- ★ Dick Huggard Honorary Member (2001)
- ★ John E. Redden Canadian 4-H Council President (1981) and Honorary Member (1990)
- ★ Joy Palmer Honorary Member (1998)
- ★ Edna Foster Nova Scotia 4-H Council President 2002
- ★ Daisy Ward Kings County 4-H Leader
- ★ Don Canning Canadian 4-H Council President (1990)
- ★ Mary Magee Canadian 4-H Council President (1995)
- ★ Elizabeth Crouse Canadian 4-H Council President (2002)

Five 4-H members will be receiving medals as designated by Premier John Hamm. Sharon MacDonald, Antigonish County; Ben Floyd, Lunenburg County; Sara Vickers, Cape Breton County; Cornelia Van den Hoek, Colchester County and Sara Levy from Hants County will be awarded their medals from the Premier's Office at a later date.

4-H Council Elects a New Slate of Officers

Several new officers were elected to the 2003 executive at the 4-H Leaders Council Annual Meeting on November 15 – 16.

- President:** Glen Graham
1st Vice-President: Cheryl Burbidge
2nd Vice-President: George MacNeil
Past President: Edna Foster
Secretary: Vicki Malcolm
Treasurer: Elizabeth Crouse

Regional directors:

- Cape Breton:** Nelson Peterson (one-year term)
South Shore: Mary Lowe
Eastern: Bruce Sinclair
Western: Holly Stillwell
Central: Helena Cole
Valley: Janet Herbin

90 Years of 4-H in Canada Competition

In 2003, 4-H will celebrate its 90th anniversary in Canada! The Nova Scotia 4-H Council is sponsoring a provincial competition to salute this accomplishment.

Help us celebrate this special occasion creating a visual presentation about where our food comes from. Select any food item found in the supermarket and through the use of visual presentation document the production of the food item back to its original source.

Presentations will be either video recorded on VHS tapes or computer based presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint or Corel Presentations.

Prizes:

- Video Presentation:
1st place: \$50
2nd place: \$25
3rd place: \$15

- Computer Presentation:
1st place: \$50
2nd place: \$25
3rd place: \$15

Guidelines:

This provincial competition is open to all Junior and Senior 4-H members. A member can submit one entry only. Length of presentation is not to exceed seven minutes. The closing date for the competition is September 1, 2003. Video entries must be submitted on a VHS tape. Computer entries, using either PowerPoint or Corel programs must be IBM compatible and submitted on a CD-Rom.

All entries should be clearly labeled with name, club and county and submitted to your 4-H Specialist by the closing date. Entries will be judged and winners will be announced at the 2003 provincial 4-H Show.

Use your imagination, be creative and have fun!!

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education Program, NSAC Schedule & Fees ~ Winter/Spring 2003

Landscape Installation Workshops
January 10 – April 4
Fridays, excluding February 14, 21, &
March 28 (9 am – 4 pm)
\$100 per day; 10 Workshops
Registration deadlines: two weeks
prior to date of workshop

Turfgrass Establishment
January 20 – 24
Mon – Fri (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$350
Registration deadline: January 3

Farm Equipment Mechanic
Apprenticeship
February 3 – March 7
Mon – Fri (9 am – 4 pm)
\$1800
Registration deadline: January 10

Responsible Horse Owner II
February 5 – March 26
Wed (6:30 – 9 pm) (No class on
February 19)
\$140
Registration deadline: January 22

Introductory Welding
February 17 – 19
Mon – Wed
(8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$300
Registration deadline: January 31

Bovine Artificial Insemination
February 17 – 20
Mon – Thurs (8:30 am – 5 pm)
\$600

Registration deadline: January 24
Weed ID & Management in
Agricultural Systems *
February 17 – 19
Mon – Wed (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$300 see note in box below
Registration deadline: January 31

Pesticide Application Technology for
Farmers *
February 20
Thurs (9 am – 3 pm)
\$70 see note in box below
Registration deadline: January 31

* Combined tuition for Weed ID &
Management in Agricultural Systems
and Pesticide Application Technology
for Farmers is \$335

Pesticide Application Technology for
Landscapers
February 27
Thurs (9 am – 3 pm)
\$70
Registration deadline: February 13

Landscape Plant Identification
March 19 – 20
Wed. – Thurs. (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$200
Registration deadline: March 5

Pesticide Certification
April 14 – 17
Mon & Tues (8:30 am – 4:30 pm);
evening sessions 6:30 – 9:30 pm
optional)
Wed & Thurs (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$250
Registration deadline: March 28

Know & Grow: The Planting &
Culture of Landscape Plants
April 16 – 17
Wed – Thurs (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$200
Registration deadline: March 31

Tree Worker
April 21 – May 2
Mon – Fri (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
\$700
Registration deadline: March 31

Introductory Floral Design
May 25 – 30
Sun (7 – 9 pm)
Mon – Thurs (9 am – 5 pm)
Fri (9 am – 12 pm)
\$ 600
Registration deadline: May 2

Please note: To assist in planning
effective programs, courses have
registration deadlines which may be as
much as three weeks prior to the first
day of a course. If you are planning on
attending a course please apply by the
registration deadline.

For more information please contact:

Centre for Continuing and Distance
Education
Nova Scotia Agricultural College

PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E3
Tel (902) 893-6904
Fax (902) 895-5528
Email cde@nsac.ns.ca

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

**West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg,
& Queens counties:**

Arthur Pick –
Tel: (902) 679-6005 (*Tues./Thurs.*)
Tel: (902) 893-7314 (*Mon./Wed./Fri.*)
Fax: (902) 893-0244
pickaa@gov.ns.ca

Weldon Smith –
Tel: (902) 679-6006
Fax: 679-6062
smithwe@gov.ns.ca

**East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester,
& Halifax counties:**

Bill MacLeod –
Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: (902) 893-0244
macleobj@gov.ns.ca

**Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness &
Guysborough counties:**

Kevin Bekkers –
Tel: (902) 863-4705
Fax: (902) 863-7342
bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca

**Cape Breton, Victoria and
Richmond counties:**

Gary Koziel –
Tel: (902) 563-2000
Fax: (902) 563-3435
kozielgj@gov.ns.ca

**Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, &
Shelburne counties:**

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

Merry Christmas!

As the holiday season fast approaches it is my sincere hope that each and everyone of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. I join everyone at the agricultural office in extending best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday on your farm.

The New Year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we've experienced during 2002 and to look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. May the peace of the season be with you and may you enjoy a prosperous and Happy New Year!

An update on Weldon Smith – Weldon is feeling much better but will not be returning to work until February 17.

Farm Safety

During the holidays more than ever it is important to consciously practice safe working practices on your farm. As farm routines change, remember to keep the safety of you and your family in mind. Don't let what should be a happy and joyful time of the year become a tragic one. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Use caution around icy/slippery areas in farmyards and on machinery
- Check and maintain any machinery guards and covers
- Make sure covers are in place and secure around manure pits and tanks
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in buildings and on machinery
- If not already done, tidy up your pesticide storage area
- Where necessary, mark lane ways for snow removal this winter
- Check all first aid kits and replace any used or outdated supplies
- Check fire extinguishers
- Clean your chimney(s)
- For some light reading, review the Farm Safety Standards of Practice and complete the checklist for your farm

Census Information

If you are looking for information on the latest census you can download a number of items free of charge from the Statistics Canada website at: <http://www.statcan.ca>

For the census of agriculture click on Canadian Statistics and Census of Agriculture. There is also a new "Studies by Stats Can" section where you can obtain information bulletins in the Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis bulletin under "Agriculture Section".

Open Farm Day a Success!

A big thank you goes out to the farms in the region who opened their operations to the public during the 2002 Open Farm Day. As the first year for such an event in Nova Scotia, the response from both producers and the general public was great. Feedback on the program has also been positive.

Regional Meeting for Beef Producers

There will be a meeting of all beef producers in Hants, Kings, Digby, Annapolis, Lunenburg Counties and surrounding areas on **Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m. sharp** in the **Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre**. The keynote speaker will be John Colwill representing the Co-op Branded Beef Management Board. He will be leading an information session regarding the present status of the new killing plant and how producers can get involved. Robin Bremner, NSDAF, will also be making a short presentation on NISA and how it is going to help you. The Annapolis Valley Beef Producers will hold a short business meeting following the information meeting.

Pesticide Applicator Training

ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Recertification and Certification courses in the area this winter.

Recertification Courses – January 23 or March 28, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre

Recertification Courses – January 31, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Wandlyn, Bridgewater

The cost for recertification is \$70, taxes included.

Two certification courses will also be offered. This 1 ½ day program costs \$140, includes taxes and the manual. The courses will take place in the Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 9 a.m., January 9 & 10 or March 13 & 14.

To register for these courses contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114.

On Farm Food Safety

This program is available to vegetable and berry crop producers. ProAgri Consulting will provide training in this area for interested groups. For more information contact Traci at 902-798-2114.

West Hants Planning Advisory Committee Public Meeting

The West Hants Planning Advisory Committee invites members of the agricultural community of West Hants to attend a public meeting as part of the Plan Review Process. We want to hear your thoughts and concerns about the future of farming in West Hants and whether our planning documents need to be changed to accommodate your needs. The meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m.** in the **West Hants Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 76 Morison Drive, Windsor-West Hants Industrial Park.** For more information, contact Lynn Davis, Director of Planning, Windsor-West Hants Planning Dept., 902-798-6900.

Hants County Federation of Agriculture:

Any producers in Hants County interested in a WHMIS or First Aid Course, please contact a Director by December 27. Courses will be arranged as the need arises.

Valley Region 4-H News

4-H members in Hants County attended their annual Awards Night on Friday, November 22, 2002 at the Uniacke District School. Some of the highlight awards were as follows:

- Champion Barn Display for the 2002 Hants Exhibition – Newport 4-H Club
- Champion Indoor Display for the 2002 Hants Exhibition
 - Border Riders 4-H Club
- The Don Newcombe Memorial for the Dairy Member Showing the Most Improvement – Chelsey Dixon, Cobequid 4-H Club
- Grand Champion Livestock showman for the 2002 Hants Exhibition
 - Sarah Levy, Avon 4-H Club
- The Gert Lawrence Memorial Award for Top Community Service Project
 - Cobequid 4-H Club
- The Top Achievement Day of the Year – Border Riders 4-H Club,
- Top Overall Junior Member (tie) – Zachary Wilbur-Knight,
Uniacke Globetrotters 4-H Club & Lindsay Greenough, Newport 4-H Club
- Top Overall Senior Member – Luke McLellan, Cobequid 4-H Club
- The Most Outstanding Member – Jeff Sanford, Newport 4-H Club
- Overall Top Club at the 2002 Hants Exhibition Award
 - Uniacke Globetrotters 4-H Club.

Hants County 4-H was also pleased to make a very special presentation to Mary Ann Dufour for her outstanding contribution and dedication to the 4-H Program in Hants County. Mary Ann is past Hants County 4-H member and was the Valley Region 4-H Specialist for five years. Mary Ann is no longer working for the 4-H program, but she will always be involved with the program, in particular in Hants County for the years to come. A big thank you to Mary Ann Dufour from all past and present 4-H'ers, for her work and dedication to the 4-H program.

Upcoming 4-H Dates

Kings County 4-H Council meeting:
January 6, 2003, 7:30 p.m.,
Kentville Agricultural Centre

Hants County 4-H Council meeting:
January 13, 2003, 7:30 p.m.,
Hants West District High School

4-H Intermediate Conference (The Best Case Scenario) in Truro:
February 1 – 2, 2003
(Applications due January 3)

Kings County 4-H Council meeting:
February 3, 2003, 7:30 p.m.,
Kentville Agricultural Centre

Hants County 4-H Council meeting:
February 10, 2003, 7:30 p.m.,
Hants West District High School

NISA Deadline

December 31, 2002

Have You Applied?



Merry Christmas!

As the holiday season fast approaches it is my sincere hope that each and everyone of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. I join everyone at the agricultural office in extending best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday on your farm.

The New Year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we've experienced during 2002 and to look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. May the peace of the season be with you and may you enjoy a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Farm Safety

During the holidays more than ever it is important to consciously practice safe working practices on your farm. As farm routines change, remember to keep the safety of you and your family in mind. Don't let what should be a happy and joyful time of the year become a tragic one. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Use caution around icy/slippery areas in farmyards and on machinery
- Check and maintain any machinery guards and covers
- Make sure covers are in place and secure around manure pits and tanks
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in buildings and on machinery
- If not already done, tidy up your pesticide storage area
- Where necessary, mark lane ways for snow removal this winter
- Check all first aid kits and replace any used or outdated supplies
- Check fire extinguishers
- Clean your chimney(s)
- For some light reading, review the Farm Safety Standards of Practice and complete the checklist for your farm

Census Information

If you are looking for information on the latest census you can download a number of items free of charge from the Statistics Canada website at:

For the census of agriculture click on Canadian Statistics and Census of Agriculture. There is also a new "Studies by Stats Can" section where you can obtain information bulletins in the Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis bulletin under "Agriculture Section".

Golden Jubilee Medals Awarded

Recently several members of the agriculture community in the Central region were honored with the Golden Jubilee Medal commemorating the 50th Anniversary of her Majesty's reign. This medal is awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their communities and to their country. Congratulations to those receiving this honor: From Cumberland - Roger Bacon, Nappan; from Colchester- Ivan Boyd, Bass River; Gordon Crowe, Stewiacke; Ed Lorraine, Upper Onslow and Cornelia VandenHoek, Upper Economy.

In The News

Congratulations to Jim and Tricia Lorraine from Upper Onslow, Colchester County, who were recently awarded honors as Atlantic Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2002. The Lorraine's just returned from Toronto where they represented the Atlantic Region at the National Competitions held in conjunction with the Royal Winter Fair.

Congratulations to the 4-H members from the Central Region who represented the province at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Participating in the Scotiabank Hays Classic Dairy Show were:

Stewart Yuill - Colchester
John Edward Eikelenboom &
Lindsay Dowling - East Hants
Craig Carter - Cumberland
Stewart, John Edward and Lindsay finished in the top 25 per cent of the final calf classes this year.

Participating in the Royal Beef Heifer Show was a strong contingent from Central Nova Scotia including:
Lauren Johnson, Sara Meekins and Jennifer Chestnut of Colchester
Nathan Greeno, Bonnie Lynn Cameron and Chris Pettigrew of Cumberland



Open Farm Day A Success!

A big thank you goes out to the nine farms in the Central Region who opened their operations to the public during the 2002 Open Farm Day. As the first year for such an event in Nova Scotia the response from both producers and the general public was great. Feedback on the program has also been positive.

In this region the following farms participated in the Agriculture Awareness Initiative: Holdance Farms and Straitside Holsteins of Cumberland County; Sugar Moon Farm, Belcher Holsteins Ltd., Charles Hill & Son, Sandmoor Farm, Bidoloy Farms Ltd. and Clover Crest Farm Ltd. in Colchester County; Scothorn Farms Ltd. in Halifax-East Hants.

John VandeRiet of East Hants also opened his farm for a "Live at 5" remote promoting Open Farm Day.

Upcoming Courses

ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Recertification and Certification courses in Central Nova Scotia this winter.

Recertification Course – February 25, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – AgriTech Park, Truro

Recertification Course – February 26, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – Pavillion, Nappan
The cost for recertification is \$70 and includes the taxes.

A **Certification Course** will also be offered. This 1 ½ day program costs \$140, includes taxes and the manual.

The course will take place March 10 – 11, 2003 – 9 a.m. At AgriTech Park, Truro and on February 27 – 28, 2003 in Nappan.

Please note ProAgri requires a minimum of 10 people to hold these sessions. For more information or to register contact Traci at 798-2114.

Rhubarb Production Workshop sponsored by Hort N.S. and AgraPoint will be held at Knol Farms, Collingwood, N.S. on Wednesday, December 18, 2002 beginning at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Treasa Pauley, 896-0277.

On Farm Food Safety

This program is available to vegetable and berry crop producers. ProAgri Consulting will provide training in this area for interested groups. For more information contact Traci at 798-2114.

NISA Deadline

December 31, 2002

Have You Applied?

Nutrient Management Workshop

Lise LeBlanc will be offering Nutrient Management Workshops across the province in 2003. These one-day programs will include both theory and hands-on activities. Participants will also receive a Nutrient Management manual.

See page 3 for more details.

Attention Rhubarb Growers

Horticulture Nova Scotia, in conjunction with AgraPoint International Inc. will be sponsoring a Rhubarb Production Workshop, hosted by Henry Knol on December 18, 2002 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. at Knol Farms, Collingwood, Nova Scotia. For further information contact Treasa Pauley at 902-896-0277 or Kim Best at 670-4397.

ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Applicators Recertification Course on April 1, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., NSDAF Point Edward. The cost for recertification is \$70 and includes taxes.

A half-day certification course will also be offered for those writing the pesticide applicators exam. This

program will take place April 2, 2003 (9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and April 3, 2003 (9 a.m. – noon), cost of this course \$140, includes taxes and the manual.

*Please note a minimum of 10 people are required to hold these sessions. For more info or to register, contact Traci Curry at 798-2114 or Gary Koziel at 563-2000.

New Leader Training – New Leader Training Sessions are a mandatory component of the 4-H Volunteer Screening Process. All new 4-H leaders on Cape Breton Island must attend this session. Information covered includes leading a 4-H project, leader responsibilities and duties and an explanation of the various events during the 4-H year. The dates for info sessions are as follows:

- Richmond Co. – January 20, 7 p.m. – Location TBA
- Victoria Co. – January 28, 7 p.m. – MacMullins, Baddeck
- Inverness Co. – January 30, 7 p.m. – 4-H Office, Mabou

Senior Member Conference – Senior 4-H members are invited to participate in the 2003 Multiregion Workshop “Rendez Vous”. It will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2003 at St. F.X.’s Coady Institute. Applications have been sent directly to 4-H families and are due back by January 10, 2003. Program highlights include keynote speaker Chet McPhail; Portfolio Building; Fisheries Trivia; Entrepreneurship and of course, lots of social activities. Space is limited and on a first come first serve basis.

Raspberry Shortcourse

– There will be a Raspberry Production Short Course offered in Truro on March 27 & 28, 2003. Location and agenda to be finalized at a later date. For more information or to register for this course please contact John Lewis at 678-7722 or email j.lewis@agrapoint.ca

Interested in Organic Production?

– An information session and application workshop will be presented at the Point Edward office in January 2003, for growers interested in getting started in organic production. Representatives from the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, and from various certifying agencies will be in attendance to provide information and answer questions. For further information on times and dates, please call Gary Koziel at the Point Edward office 563-2000.

Dairy Producers – A Dairy Producers information session will be presented in early January 2003, at the Point Edward office. Representatives of the department will be present to provide valuable and timely information for the New Year. For further information contact Gary Koziel at 563-2000.

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the staff at the Point Edward Resource Center I would like to extend the very best of wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!

Occupational Health and Safety on The Farm

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* applies to all Nova Scotia farmers regardless of the number of people employed on the farm. The act specifically states the duties of an employer and a self-employed person. The Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee has assembled the “Standards of Practice for Farms in Nova Scotia and Risk Management Tool” to assist farmers in understanding their duties under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The package includes a Farm Safety Standards of Practice manual, a copy of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and Regulations, a series of Farm Safety Checklists, and a clipboard. To obtain a copy drop in to the Weymouth office, or give us a call at (902) 837-5161 and we will mail it out to you.

Winter Meetings

Winter is now upon us and planning is in full swing for winter meetings. In order to assist with that planning we need to know what types of topics you would like to see covered in educational sessions. Are you looking for information about herd health, succession planning, environmental issues, farm safety, business planning, government programs, pesticide certification, first aid, other issues? Contact me and I will work with your local federation or commodity association, AgraPoint, department staff and others to try to address your need.

Dennis Moerman, P.Ag.
PO Box 361
Weymouth, N.S.
B0W 3T0

Tel: (902) 837-5162
Fax: (902) 837-7696
Email: moermade@gov.ns.ca

Upcoming Sessions

Mink Rancher Workshop on Controlling Aleutian Disease

When: January 30, 2003
2:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Where: Weymouth, NS

For more information contact:

Alex Oderkirk, AgraPoint

Tel: (902) 896-0277

or (902) 896-2345

Fax: (902) 896-7299

Email: a.oderkirk@agrapoint.ca

Or

AgraPoint Resource Contact
Centre

Tel: (902) 896-2345

Email: info@agrapoint.ca

Pesticide Recertification Training Courses

ProAgri Consulting
(five recertification points)

When: January 31
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Bridgewater – Wandlyn

Registration Fee: \$70

When: February 11
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Yarmouth – Rodd Grand
Hotel

Registration Fee: \$70

When: February 12
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Lawrencetown –
Agricultural Demonstration
Building – Exhibition Grounds

Registration Fee: \$70

For more information contact:

ProAgri Consulting

Tel: 902-798-2114

Email: proagri@ns.sympatico.ca



Pesticide Certification/Recertification

Once again ProAgri Consulting Limited will provide pesticide certification and recertification training in the new year. Please contact Traci Curry of ProAgri Consulting Ltd. to discuss your pesticide safety needs.

Pesticide Certification is designed for those individuals who do not have a license, who's license expired or is about to expire. This course covers a broad range of pesticide safety topics for land applicators and is designed to assist in preparation to write the NSDOEL pesticide certification exam, as ongoing training, and as a refresher course on the basics of pesticide safety. Cost of this course is \$140 (includes HST and manual). Exam will be offered on the second day from 9 a.m. to noon.

Pesticide Recertification is designed for those individuals who have a current license and would like to accumulate recertification points toward their new license. Individuals complete five hours of pesticide safety course topics and are issued certification points — one point for each hour of training. These recertification points (maximum five per year) are accumulated over a number of years through training courses and this process takes three to five years to complete. Please check the expiry date on you NSDOEL Pesticide Certification Card before making a final decision to earn recertification points. (Example: if your license expires in 2003 and you have not collected any points to date then you would be unable to collect all the points needed by the expiry date. Cost is \$70 includes HST. **Please register by calling ProAgri at (902) 798-2114.**

Recertification

February 18 Heather Hotel, Stellarton
April 1 Point Edward agriculture office

Certification

February 19 & 20 Heather Hotel, Stellarton
April 2 & 3 Innverary Inn, Baddeck

St. F.X. University Students Looking to Collaborate with Farmers

Service Learning is a program implemented by the university promoting three levels of learning — academic, personal and social. Students are specifically matched with host community organizations or individuals who offer experiences that address the academic learning goals. The goal of the program is for students to learn at all three levels of learning while contributing to the community.

Third and fourth year accounting majors are available to contribute about 40 hours and can do a variety of projects such as preparing for auditors, trend analysis, training others to do basic accounting procedures, designing a new system, reviewing an existing system for efficiencies and making recommendations for improvements, researching a new idea/equipment for cost-benefit, etc. They are open for ideas. If this is something you would consider please give me a call.

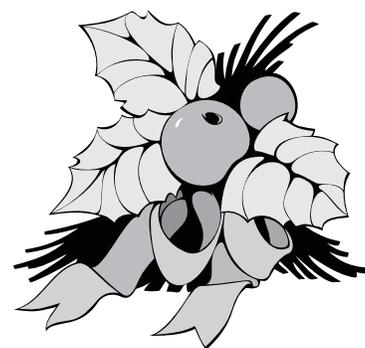
Eastern Region 4-H Events

New Leader Training Sessions are a mandatory component of the 4-H Volunteer Screening Process. All new 4-H leaders must attend this session. Information covered includes leading a 4-H project, leader responsibilities and duties and an explanation of the various events during the 4-H year. Training workshops run from 1 to 3:30 p.m. or 7 to 9:30 p.m. A session is scheduled on January 28, 2003 for Antigonish and Guysborough Counties and January 23, 2003 for Pictou County.

Senior Members Conference

Senior 4-H members are invited to participate in the 2003 Multi-region Workshop "Rendez/Vous." It will be held February 8 at St. F.X.U.'s Coady International Institute. Applications are being sent directly to 4-H families and are due back by January 10. Program highlights include keynote speaker Chet McPhail; portfolio building; fisheries trivia; entrepreneurship and lots of social activities. Space is limited and on a first-come first-serve basis.

Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas Season!



Food Safety & Holiday Turkey

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

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

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

Approximate Cooking Times at 325°F*

Unstuffed		Stuffed	
8 – 12 lbs.	2¾ – 3 hours	8 – 12 lbs.	3 – 3½ hours
12 – 14 lbs.	3 – 3¾ hours	12 – 14 lbs.	3½ – 4 hours
14 – 18 lbs.	3¾ – 4¼ hours	14 – 18 lbs.	4 – 4¼ hours
18 – 20 lbs.	4¼ – 4½ hours	18 – 20 lbs.	4¼ – 4¾ hours

*A meat thermometer should be used to check the internal temperature of the turkey to ensure it is done. The temperature in the thigh should reach 82°C (180°F) or 74°C (165°F) in the stuffing.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Antigonish County

- December 27 – 4-H Family Skate, 1 – 2 p.m., Antigonish Arena
- January 14 – Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- January 19 – Bowling at Pins Bowling Center, 11 a.m. – 12 noon
- January 28 – New Leaders Workshop, 1 – 3:30 p.m. & 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Pictou County

- December 27 – 4-H Family Skate
- January 23 – New Leader Workshop, 1 – 3:30 p.m. & 7 – 9:30 p.m.
- January 30 – Leaders Council Meeting