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# Agriculture Services NEWSLETTER



February 2002

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

## The Resource Management Section Lots of Activity and Lots to Do!

The Resource Management Section offers front-line service across Nova Scotia. Staff work out of regional offices and include five Agricultural Resource Coordinators, a Resource Specialist, an Agricultural Engineer, and support staff. Through an agreement with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Dr. Rob Gordon, Head of the Engineering Department, also works closely with the section staff on research and development initiatives.

Last year's drought occupied a good deal of our time. In cooperation with numerous industry groups we worked to develop sustainable water management strategies for agriculture. We consulted on agricultural water issues throughout the province, including River Denys; Snide's Lake and with the Valley Watershed Stewardship Association. Staff were involved in numerous media interviews regarding water quality, irrigation water and drought. As well, we answered general public inquiries regarding water quality concerns.

Farm manure management is also a priority. Staff are revising the Manure Management Guidelines, and Guidelines for the Siting and Management of Fur Ranches.

We are working with municipal governments on many issues including:

- advising on appropriate by-laws and set-backs for agricultural activities

- reviewing planning strategies for agricultural land use (eg. Kings County)
- providing expert advise to municipalities wishing to establish designated watersheds in areas of agricultural activity (eg. Shubenacadie area)

*Continued on next page*

### GROWING NOVA SCOTIA 2002 AGRICULTURAL AWARENESS CONFERENCE MARCH 21 - 22, 2002 Howard Johnson's Hotel & Convention Centre (Formerly Keddy's) TRURO, NS

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee would like to welcome you to an exciting Agricultural Awareness initiative. The program is a practical training program designed to give hands on experience to Agricultural Ambassadors across the province.

It is promised to be exciting, innovative and motivational. We are pleased to have speakers with a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record to back their story.

#### Some highlights will include –

- Bob Morrow, Coordinator of National Ag in the Classroom program and former coordinator of Ontario Agri-Food Education. Bob has extensive experience with the education system and

development of agricultural resources and presentations.

- Chet MacPhail, a motivational speaker, will have everyone wanting to share the story of agriculture.
- Tool Box Session – practical hands on activities to share in the classroom and at fairs and exhibits.

These are just a few of the many activities planned. Contact Ruth Grant, at 902-893-6598 for more details. The registration fee is \$40 which includes meals, shared accommodations and the program.

**Display and/or Success Story** – counties and individuals are invited to share a display of their activities or a presentation of a success story.

Continued...

### **Resource Management Section**

To assist municipalities in dealing with agriculture land issues we are working with Service Nova Scotia to develop "Guidelines for Land Use Planning in Rural Areas."

One of our ongoing programs is the provincial Environmental Farm Plan program. Approximately 100 farms are now involved in the program and we are hoping to double or triple that number in the near future.

Staff play a role in regulatory issues by participating in joint investigations of farming activities with SPCA and with the Department of Environment and Labour. We feel that our agricultural expertise and involvement in these cases often provides practical resolution to potential problems. We are also administering the new Farm Practices Act which is intended to protect farmers from nuisance law suits. The first application under the Act was recently received.

Our regional offices continue to be the "eyes and ears" of the department and provide that key local contact with industry. Through these offices we:

- provide communication and understanding on various government programs (i.e. Farm Investment Fund, NISA, CFIP)
- work with farmers on crisis control (i.e. army worm control, ergot, general insect damage, drought damage)
- coordinate the development of support groups (i.e. dairy clubs)
- provide liaison between the industry and non-farm organizations such as environmental groups, municipal governments, Ducks Unlimited and individual land owners.

This year we will continue to focus on sustainable water management, both in water quantity and quality. Some of our efforts will be in to assist in programs related to the Government of Canada's recent announcement of \$300,000 to support initiatives that will increase water supply in drought stricken areas of the province.

The Resource Management Section staff look forward to working with all their clients on environmental resource issues. Lets plan and build a sustainable rural economy together!



## **FARM INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAMS**

### **Programs Section**

#### **DEADLINES TO REMEMBER**

**March 1, 2002** is the deadline for the following programs:

- CFIP 2001 Interim Applications
- NISA 2001 Interim withdrawals
- Submission of expenses for Farm Investment Fund participants.

For NISA and CFIP information contact Robin Bremner at 902-893-6374. For Farm Investment Fund inquiries call Chris Curry at 902-893-7516.

#### **SAFETY NET UPDATE**

There are a few remaining information sessions for NISA and CFIP. They are:

##### **For Farmers:**

- 1:30 p.m. February 18, Skye Glen Community Hall, Cape Breton
- 7 p.m. February 18, Point Edward Resource Centre, Cape Breton
- 7 p.m. February 21, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Research Station

The final program applications for CFIP will be available soon.

#### **For Accountants/Form preparers:**

10 a.m. February 19, Point Edward Resource Centre

10 a.m. February 21, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Research Station

Considering NISA for the first time? Call Robin at **902-893-6374** or phone NISA at **1-800-665-6472**.

#### **PRESCRIBED DROUGHT REGION TAX DEFERRAL**

If you farm in a **prescribed drought region (PDR)** and have reduced your **Breeding Herd** by at least 15 per cent due to drought conditions, you may be eligible to defer part of the income from those sales to the first year in which your area is no longer designated as a PDR. Eligible producers will be able to request this deferral when filing their 2001 income tax returns. For more information on this deferral contact **Canada Customs and Revenue Tax Services at 902-426-5300** or toll free at **1-800-959-5525**.



# Livestock Access to Natural Water Bodies

Dennis Moerman P.Ag., Agricultural Resource Coordinator

Over the past number of years people have become more aware of the impact that livestock operations can have on the natural environment. Complaints over cattle having access to, or standing in, streams and rivers across the province have become more frequent. While there is no law that specifically says “you shall not allow your cattle to enter a natural water body,” there are several laws which address this in other ways. The key ones among these are:

- *The Fisheries Act - 35 (2)* which states that no person shall alter fish habitat without approval and *36. (1) (3)* which states that “no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish” or where the substance may enter water frequented by fish.
- *The Environment Act (Nova Scotia)- 67 (1), 67 (2), 68(1) and 68(2)* states that no one can release (knowingly or not) into the environment a substance that causes or may cause a significant adverse effect.

Why are these laws significant? The bacteria and nutrients from the feces and urine of cattle qualify as deleterious substances that may cause a significant adverse effect, and almost all our waters are frequented by fish or flow into areas frequented by fish. Also the uncontrolled trampling of cattle on the banks of streams and on stream bottoms can disturb soil and stream sediments leading to siltation. Silt is also deemed a deleterious substance under the Fisheries Act.

Are these laws being enforced? Yes. In Prince Edward Island the Provincial and Federal governments have set a firm date of three years within which 100 per cent of farmers must restrict livestock access to streams or face charges.

If you are a livestock producer and your cattle currently have access to a natural water body (stream, river, brook, lake, natural pond, or natural wetland) then there are a few steps you should take.

- Restrict cattle access to the natural water body using some form of fencing
- Invest in an alternative watering system for your cattle.
- If your cattle must cross a natural water body to get from one field to another, you should construct a properly designed and permitted stream crossing (licensed by the NS Dept. of Environment and Labour and approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans). The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a useful brochure on their website at [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/Law\\_Req/english/index\\_e.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/Law_Req/english/index_e.htm) entitled “Fish Habitat Conservation and Protection - What The Law Requires” which explains *section 35 (2)* of the *Fisheries Act* on habitat alterations and approvals.

In previous years several financial assistance programs have been available to help livestock producers with fencing and provision of alternative water supply systems. These were:

- The Farm Investment Fund - NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - under this program assistance was available for the provision of alternative water supplies and the construction of stream crossings. Information on the fund is available from your local Agricultural Resource Coordinator or the Department web site at <http://www.gov.ns/nsaf/prm/programs/fifguide.htm>
- The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Riparian Management Project (2001) provided assistance to livestock producers for wetland and some stream side fencing to keep cattle out of the water’s edge, alternative/controlled watering systems for livestock, and permanent stream crossings. Information on the fund is available from Mr. Reg, Newell, Stewardship Coordinator, Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, ph: 902-679-6145.

Programs for the 2002 fiscal year have not yet been announced so it is not yet clear what the programs will be, but keep posted and we will let you know.

For additional information on livestock access to natural water bodies contact Dennis Moerman at 902-837-5162, e-mail: [moermade@gov.ns.ca](mailto:moermade@gov.ns.ca) or your local Agricultural Resource Coordinator.

# Aleutian Disease Task Force Recommendations

## Approved by Nova Scotia Mink Breeders

The Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association was held in Truro on January 18 and 19. As part of the meeting, breeders received the report of the Aleutian Disease Task Force and voted on the recommendations. Following discussion, the task force recommendations were passed by a significant majority (26 in favor/ 2 opposed). This is a significant move to controlling Aleutian Disease (AD) in Nova Scotia.

### Synopsis of the Task Force Report

The Nova Scotia Mink Breeders Association formed the Aleutian Disease Task Force in December 2001. The mandate of the task force was to provide specific recommendations to the mink industry on how to get control of (short-term) and eventually eradicate (long-term) AD from the provincial mink population.

After researching the results of AD control and eradication in other areas of the world, the task force determined that the AD problem in Nova Scotia could be controlled and eradicated over time. The task force focused on the long-term objective first. The recommendation of the task force is:

*“The mink industry in this province must work towards the long-term eradication of AD by implementing a Nova Scotia version of the successful Danish control program.”*



The task force then concentrated on developing short-term objectives that are focused on controlling AD, more so than the eradication of the disease, to be put in place farm-by-farm while the larger program is being implemented. The four cornerstones of a short-term AD control program were determined by the task force to be:

- Farm bio-security
- Animal husbandry and management
- Blood testing
- Education

A detailed series of recommended practices for AD control were developed under each of the three first cornerstones, and an education program is to be developed.

Copies of the “Aleutian Disease Task Force Report and Recommendations” are available from:

**Nova Scotia Department  
of Agriculture and Fisheries**  
P.O. Box 309  
Weymouth, NS, B0W 3T0  
Ph: 902-837-5161

## STAFF CHANGES

**George Burris** has recently been named General Manager of the Nova Scotia Natural Products Marketing Council, Agriculture Services Branch. He has been carrying out this responsibility for almost a year. The position is responsible for the day-to-day operation of Council, which oversees 11 marketing boards for milk, chicken, eggs, grains, greenhouse vegetables, processing peas and beans, pork, potatoes, tobacco, turkey and wool. Council also has the direct responsibility of regulating the dairy industry beyond the farm gate. The position assures that all issues involving legislation, regulation and Federal/Provincial relations, as well as industry and consumer concerns respecting these commodities, are addressed in a timely and effective way. George is also the current Registrar of Farms and an important part of Senior Management of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. George was formerly Manager of Programs and Risk Management with the department.

**Mike Johnson** has been named Manager, Programs and Risk Management, Agriculture Services Branch. He has been carrying out this responsibility since April 2001. The position is responsible for programs and policy intended to stimulate growth and economic development in the agriculture and food industry. Public investment in risk management, industry development, and on farm investment programming are key responsibilities within the Senior Management team. Industry communication is an important function in the development of department policy and programming. Mike is playing a lead role in the development of the next Canadian Agriculture Policy Framework. Before taking this position, Mike was Program Coordinator of the Programs and Risk Management Section, and prior to that, Fur Specialist with the department.



# User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion (URMULE) Program Registrations for 2001



*L. Crozier, P. Ag.*

The following is a list of products registered under the URMULE program in 2001. For application rates and information on use contact the appropriate crop specialist at ADI. Label information is also available on the Pest Management Regulatory Agency website under Applicants and Registrants, <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/english/appregis/appregis-e.html>

## **BERRY CROPS**

- Agri-Mek 1.9%EC (abamectin) for postharvest control of mites on caneberries.
- Dual Magnum (S-Metolachlor) for weed control on newly planted strawberry.
- Dual II Magnum (S-Metolachlor/ benoxacor) for weed control on newly planted strawberry.
- Goal 2XL (oxyflorfen) for weed control on strawberry.
- Ridomil Gold 480EC (metalaxyl-m) for root rot on highbush blueberry

## **VEGETABLES**

- Afolan F (linuron) as tank mix with Atrazine and Metolochlor for weed control in sweet corn.
- Alliette WDG (fosyetyl-al) for control of downy mildew on Broccoli and Bok choy.
- Dipel 2XDF (Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki) for control of leafrollers on ginseng.

- Dual II Magnum (S-Metolachlor/benoxacor) for control of weeds in sweet corn.
- Kocide 101 (copper) for bacterial spot control on seedling tomatoes and peppers for transplant.
- Post Ultra (sethoxydim) for weed control in spinach
- Pursuit (imazethapyr) for weed control in white, cranberry, Dutch brown, adzuki, black and yellow eye beans.
- Pursuit (imazethapyr) in tank mix with trifluran for weeds in white beans.
- Ridomil Gold M (metalaxyl-m/mancozeb) for control of Phytophthora in endives.

Select EC (clethodim) for weed control on dry beans - red, pink, navy.

- Topas 250E (propiconazole) for control of rust on asparagus.
- Venture L (fluazifop-P-butyl) for control of grasses in ginseng.

## **TREE FRUITS**

- Agri-Mek 1.9 EC (abamectin) for control of Spotted tentiform leafminer on apples.
- Pyramite (pyridaben) for control of pear psylla on pear.

## **GREENHOUSE**

- Avid (abamectin) for control of leafminer on tomato and cucumber.
- Citation 57WP (cyromazine) for control of shore flies in greenhouse ornamentals.
- Confirm 240F (tebufenozide) for control of cabbage looper on lettuce, peppers and tomatoes.

- Impower 60WP (imidacloprid) on greenhouse cucumber, pre-harvest interval reduced to 1 day.
- Ptomain (benzyl adenine +gibberellins) for reduction of leaf yellowing and bud abortion in lilies (Oriental, Asiatic, Easter).
- Sanmite (pyridaben) for control of twospotted spider mite on tomatoes.

## **ORNAMENTALS**

- Banner 130 EC (propiconazol) for control of diseases on ornamentals.
- Banner 130 EC (propiconazol) for control of black spot on roses.
- Eagle WSP (myclobutanil) for control of diseases on turf grass.
- Nova 40W (myclobutanil) for control of diseases on ornamentals.

## **FIELD CROPS**

- Banvel II (dicamba) for control of fleabane in field corn.
- Dipel 2XDF (Bacillus thuringiensis) for control of European corn borer in field corn.
- FirstRate (cloransulam-methyl) for control of Canada fleabane and for suppression of horse-nettle in soybeans.

# Crop Insurance

The Crop Insurance Program has been in place since 1969 when it first offered coverage on Spring Grain. In 2002 there are 14 crop insurance plans covering 35 crops and one livestock plan.

Crop Insurance provides protection against crop losses due to uncontrollable natural hazards. Perils covered include: excessive moisture, drought, frost, hail, wind, wildlife, insect infestations, plant diseases, winter injury and unavoidable pollination failure.

## Special Features include:

- No Administration Fees – all administration costs are shared by governments
- Credit Protection – you can assign your right to indemnity to another party
- Premium Discounts – premiums are discounted for good experience in the program
- Income Tax Deductible – all premium payments are tax deductible
- NISA Eligible – indemnities paid on Crop Insurance are deemed eligible sales under the NISA program
- Continuous Contract – Crop Insurance contracts are automatically renewed each year (except forage establishment)
- Quality Adjustments for Tree Fruit – Tree fruit yields are protected from quantity and quality losses
- Individualized Insurance Coverage – coverage based on producer's yield history, producer chooses level of coverage and value of coverage

## Insurable Plans

Corn	Blueberries	Forage Production	Forage Establishment
Pea/Bean	Potato	Soybean	Spring Grain
Raspberries	Strawberries	Tree Fruit	Vegetables
Winter Grain	Tree Endorsement		

## Important Dates for Spring/Summer Planted Crops

Plan	Crop Year	Application Date	Cancellation
Corn	May 1-Nov 15	May 1	Mar 15
Peas	April 15-Sept 15	May 1	Mar 15
Beans	April 15-Sept 15	May 1	Mar 15
Potatoes	May 1- Oct 24	May 1	Mar 15
Soybeans	May 20-Nov 1	May 1	Mar 15
Spring Grain	Mar 15-Sept 30	May 1	Mar 15
Vegetables	Mar 15-Nov 15	Mar 14	Mar 14

Additional information on any of the insurance plans can be obtained from Crop Insurance Offices in Truro and Kentville. Telephone -Toll Free 1-800-565-6371; Truro: 893-6370; Kentville: 902-679-6015/6028



THE CANADIAN  
FEDERATION  
OF AGRICULTURE

LA FÉDÉRATION  
CANADIENNE  
DE L'AGRICULTURE

## Canadian Federation of Agriculture Holds 66th Annual Meeting in Halifax

Delegates representing some 200,000 producers and farm families from across Canada will gather in the Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax from February 26 to March 1, 2002 for the 66th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA).

The Annual Meeting attracts farmers as well as key players in the national and international agricultural arena.

The theme of the year 2002 meeting is "*Cultivating the Future of Agriculture*". Canadian farmers feel it is time to move beyond crisis management to real long-term thinking. This past year a road map for the future of agriculture was plotted and work began with federal and provincial governments to

develop a plan of action. The ground has been prepared, the time has come to start cultivating for the future.

The annual meeting will include presentations on trade negotiations, as well as the shifting importance of "new" issues such as the environment, food safety, animal welfare and competition.

CFA delegates will also examine a number of policy statements on trade, safety nets, the environment and rural issues.

For more information contact Laurence Nason at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture office: 902-893-2293.

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## Noxious Weeds

*Rick Hoeg, NSDAF*

The Weed Control Act is in place to preserve the quality of agricultural land from noxious weeds by preventing their spread to neighbouring properties through destroying the weeds. There are also restrictions on the movement of materials containing noxious weeds or seeds, and machinery exiting areas which are infested.

Worldwide, about 8,000 species are considered to be invasive plants in agriculture and of these about 200-250 are recognized as major problems, any of which could act as noxious weeds in Nova Scotia.

These weeds can be superior competitors, limit crop rotations, cause loss of crop quality, be toxic, act as vectors for other pests, interfere with harvesting, necessitate additional cleaning or processing, reduce land value, increase pesticides use, and develop resistance.

There are a number of ways weeds arrive in Nova Scotia. It can be from crop seed and imported feeds, receiving plant materials ordered from a catalogue, birdseed in a backyard feeder, and so on. Generally, they will be contaminants in products we purchase, however introductions can be more deliberate. Once here they can become established and spread in harvested crops, machinery, clothing, animals, wind, etc. There is a constant threat of exotic invasive weeds showing up in a variety of situations. Be aware of our noxious weeds and others which exhibit an aggressive nature.

For further information contact Rick Hoeg at 902-893-6549, email [hoegr1@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoegr1@gov.ns.ca), or visit: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rir/weeds/>

## Update from Marketing Division

### Niche Market Strategies

“Niche Markets” – two words that commonly enter into a conversation when there is a discussion about marketing, or market strategy. Like most clichés, it is overused and commonly misunderstood. It is critical to evaluate one's complete marketing program and evaluate whether a niche market strategy could, or should, be a part of it. To do this, one must have an understanding of the niche market concept, how it would fit into your marketing environment and understand the opportunities it may offer.

The Marketing Services Division, in cooperation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Market and Industry Services Branch, is developing a two-day Niche Strategies Marketing Program in February 2002. The program will cover basic marketing, niche environments, niche opportunities and implementation of niche market strategies through a series of discussions and actual case studies of niche markets.

The instructor, Tom Funk, is a professor of Marketing at the University of Guelph. He has been a member of the faculty of the Ontario Agricultural College since 1971.

At the University of Guelph, Professor Funk teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in marketing management and marketing research. He also developed and participates in two of the University's most popular Open Learning courses, Principles of Agri-Marketing and Strategy Planning.

These courses have been attended by over 2,000 agri-business managers from Canada and the United States in the past 25 years.

For further information, contact Peter Swinkels, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 902-893-6570 or Shelly Manning, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 902-426-2137.

### Research Notes

#### Maple Syrup Research

A research study to encourage further development of the maple industry is now in the development stage. The study will explore new market and product opportunities and the importance of industry cooperation in developing new opportunities. The research is expected to be completed by March 31, 2002.

#### Progress North

Thirteen Nova Scotia agri-business companies went to Toronto in January 2002 to participate in the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association's annual conference, tour, trade show and workshop. "Progress North" has seven topic tracks, including rural tourism, advanced markets and farmers' markets. Participants will provide a conference evaluation and a six-month follow-up to see if new ideas and techniques have been implemented. Progress North is billed as “a marketplace of innovative ideas providing farmers the opportunity to learn, meet with major industry suppliers, network with fellow growers and participate in fun activities.”

*Continued on next page...*



## Organic Update

The organic sector in Nova Scotia continues to show growth and promise in niche markets. The Nova Scotia Organic Growers Association (NSOGA) certified 37 producers (23 certified/14 transitional) for the year 2000, an increase of 60 per cent over 1999. A preliminary survey of mainstream retailers indicates that organic sales are small (likely less than the one per cent national average) but are a growing segment. Both Atlantic Wholesalers (Superstores) and Co-op Atlantic have launched organic brands and advertising. A benchmark report of the organic industry in Nova Scotia will be available early in the new year.

## Organic and Natural Pork Research Study

The pork industry in Nova Scotia has been interested in differentiating and branding its product to reduce the impact of the price sensitive traditional market. A potential market opportunity that has interested the Nova Scotia industry is branded natural and organic pork. To pursue this opportunity, the Marketing Services Division commissioned Gardner Pinfold to complete a study with the objectives of: 1) evaluating the opportunity for organic and natural products; and 2) examining the economic feasibility from a Nova Scotia perspective.

The draft report from Gardner Pinfold has been submitted. Preliminary conclusions indicate that

opportunities may exist for natural pork in New England with specialty chains such as Wild Oats and Whole Foods. At this time organic was not seen to offer an opportunity because of the lack of organic grain inputs necessary for production and also the small market demand.

The study steering committee decided that more economic analysis is required to better understand margins and the break-even situation. Once this information has been incorporated into the report the committee will make a recommendation to either go forward with Phase II – production implementation – or end the research.

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## AGRI-TOURISM

*Claire Hanlon-Smith*

### Fields, Farms, & Vineyards... New Adventures in the Land of Evangeline

The Evangeline Trail Tourism Association, in partnership with the agriculture industry and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, established a program to showcase agriculture-related tourism opportunities in western Nova Scotia. The project assisted producers to develop creative ideas for on-farm experiences, including tours, accommodations, and other activities, and developed a foundation for a continued, successful program and partnerships.

Using the agri-tourism model from *The Great Hants County Countryside Adventure* from 2000, this year's program ran seven days a week, from September 15 to November 15, and offered visitors an agricultural experience along The Evangeline Trail. Activities included opening farms up for visitors, involving instructive, interpretative, or observational tours of the premises, wine tasting, accommodations, festivals, exhibitions, and other agricultural attractions and events. Guests were provided with the chance to experience first-hand the operations and components of the agricultural businesses they visited.

Initial evaluation of this program indicates an increase in visitation and sales between two - 15 per cent. Meetings will be held over the winter to determine a strategy for 2002 and the coming years.



### International Business Development: Japan Market Development Project

An International Business Development (IBD) funded program to develop value added product opportunities in Japan is now underway. The cooperative venture between the four Atlantic provinces will be delivered by contracting marketing companies who are experienced in the Japanese marketplace to work with individual Atlantic Canadian companies. The prime focus of the program is to assist companies in developing a new range of fish and agri-food products specially adapted for the Japanese market. The market development project will take place over the next 16 months.

...Marketing Update continued

## ApEx 2002

The ApEx food service trade show for retailers, food services, and wholesale buyers will be held in Halifax at

Exhibition Park, March 24 – 26, 2002. This is the largest food service trade show east of Montreal and provides an excellent opportunity for many companies to showcase new and innovative food products.

The department will feature six agriculture and seafood companies at the trade show. After ApEx 2001, companies who participated with the department reported they generated \$240,000 in sales in the nine months following the show and established 51 new customer accounts. Two companies increased production and created new job opportunities. Many of you may wish to visit the show and can register free on-line. If you register prior to March 8, 2002, a badge will be sent to you in the mail.

Contact Ellen O'Reilly, Planning and Development Officer at 902-424-0332.

This trade show is open to industry personnel only. Persons under 19 are not admitted. To visit the website and register on-line, go to <http://www.apextradeshow.com>



## NAPPAN SPRING BULL SALE

### Maritime Beef Test Station

The 29th Annual Bull Sale will be held at the Maritime Beef Test Station in Nappan on April 6, 2001. The sale will consist of approximately 70 bulls and 25 heifers. There will be a variety of bulls available to meet any farmers breeding strategy and price range. The heifers will consist of open and bred commercial crosses.

With the 2001/2002 winter test over half completed, the bulls and heifers are performing extremely well. After 56 days the bulls are gaining 3.96 and the heifers 2.15 lbs/day. Everyone is welcome to attend the sale. A canteen is being offered by the 4-H and the United Church is presenting a roast beef dinner.

If you have any questions, please feel free to drop in or contact the office at 902-661-2855 or cell 902-694-0348. A herdsman will be available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days a week. Monthly reports are published and available to the public. If you would like a report please call the office and we will be glad to add your name to the mailing list.

The Annual General Meeting for the Maritime Beef Testing Society will be held on March 2 at the Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion. Everyone is welcome to attend. A membership to the society will be required to vote on issues relating to business. These memberships can be purchased in advance or at the meeting.

## Scotia Water Management Conference

### Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook, March 26-27, 2002

There are many measures available to producers to assist in managing drought. This is the first seminar that really analyses the management practices, looks at water conservation and cropping options, and provides an overview of all government regulations.

Topics to be covered include:

#### March 26 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Climate Change and Agriculture
- Water and the Plant
- Water and Produce Quality
- Water in the Cropping System
- The Rural Water Development Program
- Environmental Issues and the Whole Farm

#### March 27 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Irrigation Systems and Scheduling
- Irrigation Water, Sources and Storage
- Water Licensing Requirement and Controls
- Water in the Cropping System
- How Farmers Manage Water to Survive Drought

Pre-registration is preferred to allow for programme planning. Lunch is provided. To register, please contact the Agricultural Development Institute (ADI) Resource Contact Centre at 902-896-2345 or [info@adil.ca](mailto:info@adil.ca) For further information, please contact Viliam Zvalo, ADI, or Weldon Smith, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.



# Scholarships Available for 4-H Members

Young people can gain more than confidence, technical skills and friendship from the 4-H program. 4-H members who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H members for at least two years can apply to win one of six university entrance scholarships.

## 4-H NEWS

Cheryl Chandler, P. Ag.

### 4-H MEMBERS TO LEARN VALUABLE SKILLS

Wanted – motivated youth leaders! Each year the 4-H program offers members several opportunities to fine tune their leadership and technical skills. This winter and spring two workshops are planned for 4-H members in different areas of the province.

The **2002 Chat-A-Rama** is designed specifically for 4-H members in the Western Region who are 14 to 18 years of age, would like to learn, share their skills and have fun. It will be held at Camp Hilles, Annapolis County on March 22 and 23.

The theme for Chat-A-Rama is *Taking the Lead – The Power of Youth*. The program will include sessions on communicating effectively, team challenges, the importance of agricultural awareness and building a personal portfolio.

4-H members in the Cape Breton, Eastern and Central Regions of the province will have the opportunity to sharpen their livestock showmanship

Presently, 4-H members can apply for the Co-operators, IVOMECE, Farm Credit, Harvest Trust, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships. Deadlines for these scholarships vary — February 28 for Farm Credit Corporation, May

15 for IVOMECE, and April 15 for the others. Each scholarship has specific requirements and all scholarship applicants are required to submit an essay or a plan with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality, interpretation of research as well as spelling and grammar. Prize money ranges from \$500 to \$1,000.

Members are encouraged to speak to their General 4-H Leader or their 4-H Specialist to make sure they get a copy of the applications and meet the deadlines required.

### Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Awarded

Economic Development Minister Gordon Balsler presented awards and scholarships to five young entrepreneurs from across Nova Scotia. The young business owners were recognized for operating student-run businesses last summer. They all received the help of the provincial government's Youth Entrepreneurial Skills program.

The winners are Amelia Dauphney and Jenessa MacInnis of Englishtown, Joe Fraser of Canning, Scott Van der Linden of Brierly Brook and Paul MacInnis of Indian Harbour. Economic Development Minister Gordon Balsler says entrepreneurship is a great way to keep the province's brightest and best at home.

Detailed information is available at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/>



and judging skills with hands on instruction during the workshops planned for May 4.

The workshops will focus on the dairy, beef, sheep, poultry and waterfowl projects and will be taught by qualified individuals who are familiar with the show ring. Members will be asked to bring their 4-H animals to the exhibition grounds in Middle Musquodoboit, Pictou and Antigonish.

Throughout the day-long workshop, members will improve their decision making and speaking skills with judging workshops. The judging portion will also focus on technical skills, part identification and conformation scoring. The showmanship portion will assist the members in training their project animals and improving their skills in the show ring.

For more information about either event, please contact your Regional 4-H Specialist.

## Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

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

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

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

**Arthur Pick** –  
Tel: (902) 893-7314 (Mon./Wed./Fri.)  
pickaa@gov.ns.ca

### Pictou, Antigonish, & Guysborough counties:

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

### Cape Breton Island:

**Bill MacLeod** –  
Tel: (902) 563-2000  
Fax: 563-3435  
macleobj@gov.ns.ca

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

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

## Coming Events

### Atlantic Canada

Mar. 6 – 8 **ACORN Organic Conference & Trade Show** – Delta Beauséjour Hotel, Moncton New Brunswick. Contact – ACORN: 1-866-32-ACORN, or <http://www.acornorganic.org>

### Provincial

Feb. 23 **Pasture Species: Identification & Evaluation** – Cox Institute, NSAC Room 257 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Registration at 9:30 a.m., Cost \$25. An opportunity to touch and see forage and weed species at various growth stages. Talks on feeding value, breeding, management, and weeds in pasture systems. Contact Bill Thomas at 902-896-2345.

Feb. 26 – Mar. 1 **Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting** – Nova Scotian Westin, Halifax. Contact – CFA: 1-613-236-3633, or [cfafca@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:cfafca@fox.nstn.ca)

Feb. 27 – Mar. 1 **Creating Momentum – Thinking Through Ideas** – Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Contact ADI: 902-896-2345

Mar. 1 **Chicken Producers of NS Annual Meeting** – Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook, 1 – 6 p.m. Contact 902-582-7400 for info.

Mar. 9 – 17 March Break at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax. The theme for this program is “**The A-MAZE-ING World of Agriculture – It’s A Jungle Out There,**” put on by the NS Agricultural Awareness Committee. Contact Ruth Grant at 902-893-6598 for more information

Mar. 21 – 22 **Growing Nova Scotia 2002** Agricultural Awareness Conference Howard Johnson’s Hotel & Convention Centre (Formerly Keddy’s) Truro, NS. This training program is open to anyone interested in doing Ag Awareness or Ag in the Classroom work. Contact Ruth Grant at 902-893-6598 for more information

Mar. 24 – 26 **The ApEx Food Service Trade Show** for retailers, food services, and wholesale buyers will be held in Halifax at Exhibition Park. Contact Ellen O’Reilly, Planning and Development Officer at 902-424-0332.

Mar. 26 – 27 **Scotia Water Management Conference 2002**, Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook — Registration fee of \$20. Pre-registration is preferred to allow for programme planning. Lunch is provided. To register, please contact the Agricultural Development Institute Resource Contact Centre at 902-896-2345 or [info@adil.ca](mailto:info@adil.ca)

Apr. 3 – 4 **Dairy Focus 2002** – Holiday Inn, Dartmouth. Contact Phil Stead, 902-895-3031, Alana Croft, 902-897-4141, fax 902-897-9768.

### National

Apr. 3 – 6 **Growing For the Future 2002** Victoria, BC National Agri-Food Awareness Conference. Contact Ruth Grant for more information at 902-893-6598

## NSAC Continuing Education Courses Winter / Spring 2002

### February 21, 2002

Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers

*Licensed pesticide applicators can obtain five PRCP’s by taking this course. By obtaining sufficient PRCP’s individuals no longer need to rewrite the pesticide applicator’s exam every five years. Please note that the Department of the Environment has stipulated that a maximum of five PRCP’s can be accumulated in one calendar year.*

### March 20 – 21, 2002

Landscape Plant Identification Training for the CCHT & ISA Exams

### March 11 – 14, 2002

Repair & Maintenance of Hydraulic Systems

### April 2 – 18, 2002

Tues & Thurs Evenings  
Basic Farm Welding

### April 15 – 18, 2002

Pesticide Certification

### April 16 – 17, 2002

Know & Grow: The Planting & Culture of Landscape Plants

### April 18, 2002

Know & Grow Plus! Water Gardening

### April 22 – 25, 2002

Bovine Artificial Insemination

### April 22 – May 3, 2002

Tree Worker

### May 6 – 7, 2002

Arboriculture

For further information, please contact:

**The Centre for Continuing & Distance Education, NSAC**

Tel: 902-893-6666

Fax: 902-895-5528

Email: [cde@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ns.ca)



## Blueberry Producers Meeting

Blueberry producers are invited to an information meeting being held at two locations on Cape Breton. The program is for producers and those who are thinking about developing land for blueberry production. Presenters will include Dale MacIssac, Blueberry Specialist. Topics to be discussed include pests and diseases to watch out for; marketing outlook; planning for drought; erosion in your fields and handling harvest labour.

These programs will be held on March 16 (storm date March 23) at the following locations: Point Edward Agriculture Office 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. and the Skye Glen Community Centre 7 – 9 p.m. For more information contact the agriculture office.

## Strawberry Production Workshop

The Agricultural Development Institute will be holding a workshop for Strawberry producers on April 24, 2002 from 1 – 4:30 p.m. at the Point Edward Agricultural Office. The program is as follows:

Insect Identification and Management – Dick Rogers

Disease Identification and Management – Rick Delbridge

Weed Identification and Management and Fertility Management – John Lewis

For more information contact the Agricultural Resource Co-ordinator at 902-563-2000.

## Vegetable Production Workshop

The Agricultural Development Institute will be hosting a workshop for Vegetable Producers in Cape Breton. The program will focus on Best Management of crops grown in the area with particular emphasis on cole crops. The program will be held on March 14, 2002 at 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date.

## Pesticide Certification and Re-certification

A reminder that if you intend to attend one of these programs you must register by calling Bill at 902-563-2000 or 902-945-2900 or Traci at 902-798-2114.

Re-certification Training (for points) will be held on April 2, 2002 at the Point Edward Agriculture Office from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. This session provides five points toward the 15-point requirement for applicators with a valid certificate.

Certification Training will be held on April 3 – 4 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the Baddeck Prov. Bldg. Boardroom. The applicators exam will be written on the second day. The cost for the course is \$140 (includes manual and HST). Lunch is on your own.

Alternate date for Certification – Anyone not able to attend the Certification in Baddeck may be interested in the course being offered at the NSDAF office in Antigonish on February 13-14, 2002, same times apply.

## Organic Agriculture Session Rescheduled

Due to the weather the program with Ralph Martin of the Organic Agriculture Center of Canada was cancelled on January 22 and has been rescheduled for February 27, 2002 at 7 p.m. in the Point Edward Agriculture Office. Dr. Martin will be discussing the new OACC based at the NSAC, the potential for on farm research, opportunities in organic agriculture and educational resources available.

## NISA/CFIP Information Programs

Information programs for producers with questions on the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) and the Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP) will be held on February 18 at the following locations: Skye Glen Community Hall 1:30 p.m. and the

Point Edward Agricultural Office 7 p.m.

## Stand Up, Speak Up Workshop

4-H members and leaders on Cape Breton Island are invited to learn more about public speaking and demonstrations at an upcoming workshop. The event will be held on March 1, 2002, at the Skye Glen Hall in Inverness County, beginning at 1 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn the rules and regulations of this 4-H competition, as well as the basics of this important life skill.

## Rally Dates

4-H members from across Cape Breton Island will be showing off their public speaking and demonstration skills at County and Regional competitions throughout April. The agricultural community, and the general public is invited to attend these events.

### Saturday, April 6

- CB Co. Rally, 9 a.m. T.B.A.
- Richmond Co. Rally 2 p.m. Lakeside Hall
- Victoria Co. Rally 1 p.m. Baddeck Hall

### Saturday, April 13

- Inverness Co. Rally 1 p.m. Skye Glen Hall

### Saturday, April 20

- Regional Rally 10 a.m. Baddeck Academy

## Judging Workshop

Cape Breton County 4-H members will be learning the basics of 4-H judging, as well as the finer points of judging crafts, sewing, foods, first aid, rabbit and woodworking at a March Break Workshop. The event will allow members to practice judging skills while participating in a fun day in the afternoon. March 13 at Two Rivers Wildlife Park is the date and location for this program. Judging sessions begin at 10 a.m.

## Publications Available

We have a supply of the following publications published by the APASCC:

- 2002 Forage Guide to Variety & Mixture Selection, Publ. No. 100A
- 2002 Cereal Guide To Cultivar & Pesticide Selection, Publ. No. 100B
- 2002 Corn Guide to Hybrid & Herbicide Selection, Publ. No. 100C

Any producer who wants a copy of one of these publications can call our office at 902-837-5161.

## Sessions We Will Arrange In Your Area

If there is sufficient interest in an area we will arrange sessions on the following topics:

- Succession Planning
  - Value-Adding at the Farm Gate
- Call the office at 902-837-5161 and let us know before March 8.

## Western Region 4-H

For more information on 4-H events, please call the 4-H office in Lawrencetown at 902-584-2231.

Feb. 20 and March 20

**Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings** – 7:30 p.m., 55 Starr's Rd., Yarmouth

Feb. 21 and March 21

**Digby 4-H Leaders Council Meetings** – 7 p.m., Digby Fire Hall

Feb. 28

**Deadline for applications for FCC 4-H Scholarships**

Mar. 13

**Annapolis 4-H Leaders Council Meeting** – 7 p.m., Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown.

## Events

- Feb. 19 – 20 **Pesticide Certification** – Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth  
Contact Traci Curry, Pro-Agri Consulting, 902-798-2542
- Feb. 25 **Interpretation of Tissue Analysis Reports and Determining Fertilizer Rates** – 1 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre – Contact Bill Craig, 902-678-7722 (ADI).
- Feb. 28 **Pesticide Licence Testing** – 1 – 4:30 p.m., Agricultural Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown – Contact Dennis Moerman, 902-837-5162 or Annette Belliveau, 902-837-5161 to register.
- Mar. 6 **Annapolis Soil & Crop Forage Day** – 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Agricultural Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown  
Contact Andy Bishop, 902-532-2782
- Mar. 6 **Review of Integrated Fruit Production Manual** – 1 – 4 p.m. and 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, NOTE: March 7 is storm day. Contact Bill Craig, 902-678-7722 (ADI).
- Mar. 12 **Cattlemen's Information Session** – 7 – 10 p.m., Weymouth Library, Weymouth – Contact Dennis Moerman, 902-837-5162
- Mar. 18 – 19 **Pesticide Certification** – Bridgetown Motor Inn, Bridgetown – Contact Traci Curry, Pro-Agri Consulting, 902-798-2542
- Mar. 21 **Highbush Blueberry Production Workshop** – 1:30 p.m. Site TBA, Yarmouth – Contact John Lewis, ADI, 902-678-7722 (in cooperation with the South West Shore Development Authority)
- Mar. 26-27 **Drought Management Seminar** – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Location TBA. – Contact Viliam Zvalo, 902-678-7722, Teresa Caldwell, 902-896-0277 or Weldon Smith, NSDAF, 902-679-6006.
- Mar. 27 **Manure Management** – 1 – 3 p.m., Agricultural Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown – Contact Laurie Cochrane, 902-893-6568 – sponsored by the Annapolis Dairy Management Club
- Apr. 2 **Organic Farming Information Day** – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Kespuwick Training Centre, Clementsport – Contact Dennis Moerman, 902-837-5162
- Apr. 4 **First Aid On The Farm** – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., (St. John Ambulance First Aid Training), Weymouth Library, Weymouth, Digby County – Contact Dennis Moerman, 902-837-5162 or Annette Belliveau, 902-837-5161 to register (Cost \$50) enrollment limited.
- Apr. 11 **Strawberry Spring Tune-up** – 1:15 – 4:30 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, – Strawberry fertility management, weed identification and management, new cultivars, insect and disease integrated pest management, plasticulture. – Contact John Lewis, 902-678-7722 (ADI).

## EVENTS

- Feb. 21 **Accountant/Tax Preparer Information Session on CFIP/NISA** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 10 a.m. Contact Robin Bremner, 902-893-6374.
- Feb. 21 **NISA/CFIP Help Session for Farmers** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7 p.m. Contact Robin Bremner, 902-893-6374.
- Feb. 25 **Interpretation of Tissue Analysis Reports & Determining Fertilizer Rates** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 1 p.m. Contact Bill Craig, 902-678-7722.
- Mar. 2 **Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture Dinner and Dance** – Brooklyn Fire Hall; Social 6:30 – 7 p.m., Dinner 7 – 8:30 p.m., Dance 9 p.m. Dinner – Pork BBQ (Jim Lamb), entertainment – Denny Myles Show. Dinner/Dance tickets \$15 per person in advance. Dance tickets \$7 after 9 p.m. at door. Contact Federation Directors for tickets.
- Mar. 2 **First Aid Refresher Course** – Suite 109, Gateway Plaza. Contact David Young to register, 902-543-8748.
- Mar. 6 **Review of Integrated Fruit Production Manual** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 1 – 4 pm. and 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. NOTE: March 7 is storm day. Contact Bill Craig, 902-678-7722.
- Mar. 11 **NISA & CFIP for Farmers** – O'Brien Building, Windsor. Speakers: Robin Bremner, and Beef FMAP with Dean Cole. Contact Robin Bremner, 902-893-6374.
- Mar. 14–15 **Pesticide Certification** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114, to register.
- Mar. 18-19 **Pesticide Certification** – Bridgetown Motor Inn. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114, to register.
- Mar. 19 **Hants Co. Forage Day** – O'Brien Building, Windsor, 10 a.m. Forage samples should be forwarded to Federation Directors by Feb. 22. Contact Sean Firth or Jack van Roestel, 902-678-7722 for program.
- Mar. 20 **Livestock Day, “Making the Land Work for You”** – Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater, 9:45 a.m. Contact Sean Firth or Jack van Roestel, 902-678-7722.
- Mar. 21 **Highbush Blueberry Production/Management Workshop** – Southwest Shore Regional Development Authority Boardroom, 368 Main St., Yarmouth, 1:30 – 5 p.m. Highbush blueberry fertility and weed management, varieties, pruning and field demos. Contact John Lewis, 902-678-7722.
- Mar. 26–27 **Drought Management Seminar** – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Location TBA. Contact Viliam Zvalo, 678-7722, Treasa Caldwell, 902-896-0277 or Weldon Smith, NSDAF, 902-679-6006.
- Mar. 27 **Farm Succession Planning** – O'Brien Building, Windsor, 7:30 p.m. Follow up to session 1. Bev Connell and Paul Hughes will be speakers. Contact Dean Manning, 902-798-4541 for info.
- Mar. 28 **Pesticide Recertification**, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 902-798-2114, to register.
- Apr. 11 **Strawberry Spring Tune-up** – Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 1:15 – 4:30 p.m. Strawberry fertility management, weed identification and mgmt., new cultivars, insect & disease integrated pest management, plasticulture. Contact John Lewis, 902-678-7722.
- Apr. 26 **Lunenburg/Queens Federation of Agriculture Spring Social** – Hebbleville Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m. Lise LeBlanc will talk about nutrient management plans for farms. Contact Directors for tickets.
- May **Spring Cattle Sale** – Exhibition Grounds. Date and information will be available at a later date.
- WHMIS Training** – If you are interested in training, Hants Co. Federation of Agr. will be sponsoring training. Cost will be approx. \$30 per person. Please contact Cheryl Theriau, 902-679-6021 and leave your name and number. You will be contacted when arrangements have been made.

The winter season is a great time to get plans for the upcoming growing season ready. Construction, changes to crop rotation and many other decisions of this type must be done when the pressures of cropping are not staring you in the face. If you are in need of resources, give us a call and we will try to send you in the right direction.

Again this year there are lots of winter meetings where some of your questions may be answered or helpful tips and techniques gathered that will help your farm. Attending these meetings is also a great chance to visit with fellow farmers and see how things are on their farms.

## 4-H EVENTS

- Feb. 22 **Hants Co. 4-H Royalty Night** – Three-Mile Plains Community Centre, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 4 **Kings Co. Council Meeting** – Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 11–Apr. 10  
**NS Chocolate Almond Campaign**
- Mar. 18 **Hants Co. Council Meeting** – Hants West Rural High School, Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar. 22–23 **Chat-a-Rama** – Camp Hilles, Paradise, Anna. Co.
- Apr. 3 **Kings Co. Joint Achievement Day Meeting** – Kentville Agricultural Centre, 6:45 p.m.
- Apr. 3 **Kings Co. Council Meeting** – Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6 **Kings Co. Rally** – Woodville Community Centre
- Apr. 6 **Hants Co. Woodsmen Competition** – West Gore Fire Hall
- Apr. 8 **Hants Co. Council Meeting** – Hants West Rural High School, 7:30 p.m.

## CHAT-A-RAMA

Chat-a-Rama is open to all members aged 14 – 18 from all counties in Western Nova Scotia. It will be held at **Camp Hilles, Paradise, Annapolis County on Friday and Saturday, March 22-23**. The theme of this year's event is *“Taking the Lead – The Power of Youth.”* This is a fantastic event which includes members from Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Kings and Hants Counties. This is a chance for you to meet members from across this part of the province, learn new skills, and have fun! Application forms have been mailed directly to eligible members and the **deadline to apply is February 28**. Get your applications in right away.



## Annexation, Does it Concern Farmers?

The Federation of Agriculture is exploring the pros and cons of the annexation of county land by the Town of Antigonish.

Paul Corsten, President and John Oostvogels, Director of Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture are co-chairing a committee to review the proposal. The committee was formed at a meeting held February 11 with local federation members. Several issues were discussed and background information will now be collected on these to develop a position paper on behalf of the federation.

Some of these issues include:

- commercial tax rate, will my farm be taxed more in the town than county farmers?
- land use and planning, how will my farm be zoned agriculture, commercial or residential?
- what town by-laws will effect me – noise or manure spreading, etc.
- will my farm receive services – water, sewer, and power?
- will it affect the value of my land, increase my tax assessment, decrease my options for the future, limit how land can be developed?

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 7 **Cape Breton Vegetable Production Workshop** – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sydney (site TBA) Contact Viliam Zvalo, 902-678-7722 or Treasa Caldwell, 902-896-0277.

Apr. 17 **Strawberry Spring Tune-up** – 1:15 – 4:30 p.m., NSDAF Office, Point Edward – Contact John Lewis, 902-678-7722

## 4-H Dates

- Feb. 24 **Pictou County Cosmic Bowling** – 2 – 4 p.m., Our Place Bowling Alley, \$3 per person
- Mar. 1 **Market Steer, Market Turkey and Poultry project application deadline**
- Mar. 5 **Antigonish 4-H Leaders Council Meeting** – 7 p.m., 190 Beech Hill Rd., Antigonish
- Mar. 6 **Pictou County Senior Members Club Meeting** – 7:30 – 9 p.m., West Pictou High
- Mar. 13 **Antigonish County Skating** – 1 – 2 p.m., Antigonish Arena
- Mar. 15 **Camp Rankin Summer Job deadline for Councillors and Councillors in Training**
- Mar. 20 **Pictou Leaders Council Meeting** – 7 p.m., Stellarton High School
- Apr. 6 **Antigonish County Rally** – 9 a.m., Dr. John Hugh Gillis High School, Antigonish
- Apr. 13 **Pictou County Rally** – 9 a.m., West Pictou High School
- Apr. 17 **Regional Rally** – 6:30 p.m., Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School, Pictou County
- Apr. 27 **Pictou County Woodsmen Competition** – Eureka Fire Hall
- Apr. 30 **Ant/Guys 4-H Exhibition Meeting** – 7 p.m., 190 Beech Hill Road
- May 6 **Pictou Leaders Council & 4-H Weekend Meeting** 7 p.m., West Pictou
- May 7 **Antigonish/Guysborough 4-H Weekend Meeting** 7 p.m., 190 Beech Hill Road
- May 10–11 **4-H Weekend** – NSAC Campus, Bible Hill, Truro
- May 13 **Ant/Guys Judging Day** – 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. and 6 – 8 p.m., 4-H Barn, Antigonish
- May 14 **Antigonish Leaders Council Meeting** – 7 p.m., 190 Beech Hill Rd.
- May 18 **Official Opening of new 4-H Barn Floor** – 4-H Barn, Antigonish

## Food Safety –

*Herb Murray*

The Food Safety Section of the NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has designed an information session for volunteer groups to encourage the safe preparation of foods and the role of the volunteer in this process.

For further information on participating in a course, please call the Antigonish Office at 902-863-4705.

## 4-H Members Learn Valuable Public Speaking Skills

Through the 4-H program members gain valuable public speaking skills. One of the ways they gain speaking skills is by participating in public speaking competitions, better known as rallies, at the club, county, regional and provincial levels. Each member is encouraged to make a verbal presentation of either a prepared speech or demonstration. The topic of presentation may be anything of interest to the member.

A speech is simply three to five minutes for juniors and longer for seniors. There are three age categories: Junior – ages 9–11; Intermediate – ages 12–14; Senior – ages 15–21.

Demonstrations usually take 10 to 15 minutes. Demonstrations show how to do or how to make something and can be done by a single member or a team. There are two categories for demonstrations: Junior – ages 9–13 and Senior – ages 14–21.

In surveys of 4-H Alumni, public speaking was one of the main skills that individuals attributed the 4-H Program and was the most important life-long skills they obtained. By participating in public speaking you are improving skills that will benefit you now and in the future. One of the major objectives of the 4-H program is to foster leadership in young people. The ability to speak clearly and confidently is essential to leadership. Demonstration and public speaking tips are available from the local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries office.

The winter season is a great time to get plans for the upcoming growing season ready. Construction, changes to crop rotation and many other decisions of this type must be done when the pressures of cropping are not staring you in the face. If you need resources, give me a call and I will try to send you in the right direction.

Again this year there are lots of winter meetings where some of your questions may be answered or helpful tips and techniques gathered that will help your farm. Attending these meetings is also a great chance to visit with fellow farmers and see how things are on their farms.

## EVENTS

- Feb. 19     **Environmental Farm Plans & Manure Management Workshop** – St. Bridget's Catholic Church Hall, Shubenacadie, 1 – 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture.
- Feb. 22     **Halifax-East Hants/South Colchester Curling Night** – Brookfield Curling Rink, 8 p.m. To register call Maxine Gourley, 902-639-2709 or Carol Versteeg, 902-758-3530.
- Mar. 26–27 **Drought Management Seminar** – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Location TBA. Contact Viliam Zvalo, 902-678-7722, Treasa Caldwell, 902-896-0277 or Weldon Smith, NSDAF, 902-679-6006.
- Apr. 17     **Strawberry Spring Tune-up** – Classroom #6, 1:15 – 4:30 p.m. AgriTech Park, Truro, Strawberry fertility management, weed identification and management, new cultivars, insect & disease integrated pest management, plasticulture. Contact John Lewis, 902-678-7722.

## Central Region 4-H Update

Colchester County leaders have began planning for their annual scholarship fund raiser. Three years ago the leaders decided to increase the amount of money they presented to 4-H members going on to post secondary institutions. The county council decided to hold an auction where they auctioned off items which were donated by local businesses. Through donations of cash and actual items the group has increased their annual presentation from \$400 to \$2,000. 4-H members, leaders and parents are now in the process of approaching local businesses for their support. In the past these businesses have always been very generous and the 2002 auction is shaping up to be the best ever!

Come on out **April 27, 2002** starting at 1:30 p.m. for your chance to buy most anything from fence posts to a block of cheese!

### 4-H Events

- Feb. 25     **Colchester County Council Meeting** – 6:30 p.m., Farm Loan Board Room, Truro
- Mar. 5       **Cumberland County Council Meeting** – 8 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall
- Mar. 18     **Halifax East Hants Council Meeting**, 7:30 p.m., Milford United Church Hall
- Mar. 23     **Halifax East Hants Rally** – 9 a.m., Bicentennial Theater, Middle Musquodoboit
- Mar. 23     **Cumberland County Rally** – 9 a.m., Pugwash District High School
- Apr. 6       **Colchester County Rally** – 9 a.m., Location: To Be Announced.