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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



October 2002    Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries    Volume 3 No. 4

### \$2.5 Million for Transition into National Program

Nova Scotia farmers will soon see an additional \$2.5 million as part of the province's commitment to the national agriculture program, the Agriculture Policy Framework.

“When Nova Scotia signed onto the national program earlier this year, we committed to working with farmers to see them through a transition period until the newer generation risk management programs are finalized,” said Ernest Fage.

The Agriculture Policy Framework agreement is meant to prepare the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector as it moves into the 21st century. The provinces, territories and the federal government pledged to jointly develop a framework made up of five elements: food safety and food quality; environment; science and innovation; renewal and, business risk management.

On October 4, the federal government announced that farmers across Canada will see a boost in their Net Income Stabilization Accounts (NISA) with the first \$600 million of a \$1.2 billion federal investment in agriculture.

The \$2.5 million in provincial money will be in addition to the \$3.5 million of the federal money already announced for Nova Scotia. To receive the transitional funding Nova Scotia farmers must have a NISA account. Farmers without an account can enroll in the program by filing a NISA application before December 31, 2002 and opening an account at a participating financial institution where their NISA funds will be held.

Programs such as NISA give farmers income stability and allow them to make an investment in their future.

The province is basing payments on eligible net sales and funds are expected to begin flowing into producers' accounts prior to year end.

Program participants will be notified through the Deposit/Withdrawal Options Notice (DWON) of their withdrawal entitlements. If producers are entitled to withdraw from the account the NISA Administration will respond within 30 days to the producer's request for the funds.

Any questions regarding this funding through the NISA program can be directed to the department's Programs and Risk Management Division at (902) 893-6374 or to NISA directly at 1-800-665-6472.

### N.S. Farm Loan Board

On October 1, 2002 interest rates for lending from the Farm Loan Board were:

6.30% for 1 – 14 years  
6.85% for 15 – 19 years  
7.30% for 20 – 24 years

These rates will be in effect until December 31, 2002.

The New Entrants Program is also available through the Farm Loan Board for new entrants who are purchasing a farm for the first time. New entrants must be 19 years or older.

Working capital in the form of an operating loan is considered an eligible loan.

New applicants must have 25 per cent share ownership in a farm business to qualify.

Program benefits equal the actual interest repaid on eligible loans to a maximum of \$10,000 per year over two years.

A business plan is required as part of the application process.

For further inquiries regarding the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board please call our office at (902) 893-6506 in Truro or (902) 679-6009 in Kentville. Also, check out our website at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/farmlb/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/loanboards/farmlb/)



## BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

### KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

## Resource Stewardship Regional Staff Changes

We are pleased to announce changes in our regional offices, so that we can serve our clients more effectively.

Please join us in welcoming Gary Koziel as Agricultural Resource Coordinator for Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond Counties. He is working out of the Point Edward office in Sydney. Gary has several years experience working in the agricultural industry in Cape Breton, having worked for the department as a District Weed Inspector from 1995 to 2000. Most recently he worked for Horticulture Nova Scotia and with growers in Cape Breton.

Bill MacLeod, who has been working the Agricultural Resource Coordinator in Cape Breton, is now working from Truro for the Central Region.

Kevin Bekkers, Agricultural Resource Coordinator for the Eastern Region will provide services to Inverness County.

Arthur Pick, Agricultural Resource Coordinator for the Valley Region will now also manage all the regional agricultural offices.

#### NISA 2001

Producers who are not yet enrolled in the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) for 2001 should get their applications in as soon as possible to take advantage of the transition funding offered by the federal government this year (\$600 million nationally). The deadline for 2001 NISA applications is December 31, 2002.

#### Options for 2002

For producers predicting losses in 2002, there is timely help available. The **Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP)**, which provides disaster assistance funding, has an interim application for 2002. Producers enter projected income and expense information and can receive 50 per cent of their payment within 30 days. The interim application deadline is March 1, 2003.

Corporations with a non-calendar year end are able to complete their final CFIP 2002 application early this year. Forms and guides can be downloaded at [www.agr.gc.ca/cfip](http://www.agr.gc.ca/cfip) and will be available soon in Truro and regional offices. The deadline for final CFIP 2002 applications is **October 1, 2003**.

For **NISA** participants, there is the 2002 Interim Withdrawal process. An applicant receives a worksheet to project income and expense information and estimate their trigger amount for 2002. Any amount up to this trigger can be requested. Interim withdrawals can be taken more than once and at any time before March 1, 2003. To request an application, contact **NISA** at **1-800-665-6472**.

Get more information on all Business Risk Management programs by contacting Robin Bremner at (902) 893-6374.

#### Crop Insurance

Fall and Winter deadlines for Crop Insurance applications are as follows:

- October 31: Raspberries
- November 15: Blueberries, Strawberries
- December 01: Tree fruit, Tree Insurance

Contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission 1-800-565-6371 for applications and more information.

## Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Positions Available

If you are involved in agricultural production, here is your opportunity to help shape and guide the future of agricultural insurance programs.

Two positions on the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission will become available in April 2003. Qualifications for the Commission positions are: a strong background in current agricultural production practices, an under-

standing of agricultural risk factors, and the ability to judge fairly and impartially.

There is also a vacant position on the Crop Insurance Arbitration Board. Qualifications for the Arbitration Board are: a proven ability to judge fairly and impartially, a high degree of integrity, the ability to deal with confidential information, past experience in community-related organizations. The following would

be considered assets: arbitration or mediation experience and experience or familiarity with modern agriculture production.

Anyone interested may apply by forwarding a resume as soon as possible indicating qualifications and interest in serving on which board to Executive Council, Box 2125, Halifax, NS, B3J 3B7. A fax will also be accepted 902-424-0667.

## Conference at NSAC

The Atlantic Agricultural Science and Technology Workshop will explore "A Framework for Tomorrow... Priorities for Agriculture."

This workshop brings together a range of Agri-food professionals to focus on broad issues and information of current interest. It will explore current issues in the science and technology of agriculture and food, while providing an overview of the social and economic issues that affect these industries. Plan now to attend a forum for dialogue on new information and issues affecting the research, extension, infrastructure and private industry initiatives in our Atlantic agricultural and agri-food systems.

Researchers, farm leaders, educators, extensionists, agri-food firms and services, and students will participate in this two-day workshop. Sessions will be held November 14 – 15, 2002 on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill, Nova Scotia.

In addition to three plenary sessions, there will be a number of specialized sessions and workshops. There will also be a poster session for reports on new research findings and work in progress.

The registration fee is \$70 including HST, \$35 for students. Registration forms and information are available at <http://www.nsac.ns.ca/conferences/aastw2002/>

Contact: Jill Rogers  
Research & Graduate Studies, NSAC  
P.O. Box 550, 62 Cumming Drive  
Truro, NS B2N 5E3  
Tel: (902) 893-6360  
Fax: (902) 893-3430



## Farm Safety Presentations

A series of presentations are being organized across the province on behalf of the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee. The goal of these sessions is to promote the use of the "Standards of Practice For Farms in Nova Scotia" handbook and provide Nova Scotia's farmers with practical ways to maintain a safe workplace.

If any county Federation of Agriculture associations or commodity groups would like to include this presentation in an upcoming meeting, please contact Carla Marshall at (902) 923-2409 for scheduling or further information.

## C-TPAT

C-TPAT may be an awkward acronym, but for Canadian companies exporting to the USA, it will increasingly become part of their vocabulary.

C-TPAT stands for **Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism**. It is a new initiative launched by the US Customs Service and is part of the Canada/US FAST Program (Free and Secure Trade).

FAST features greater integrity in supply chain management processes by offering expedited clearance processes to carriers and importers who have enrolled in the U.S. C-TPAT or Canada's Partners in Protection (PIP). These are similar programs that call for clients' use of business processes that minimize exposure to criminal elements.

C-TPAT is a joint initiative between government and business designed to protect the security of cargo entering the United States while improving the flow of trade. C-TPAT requires importers into the USA to take steps to assess, evolve and communicate new practices that ensure tighter security of cargo and enhanced security throughout the entire supply chain. In return, their goods and conveyances will receive expedited processing into the United States.

Through C-TPAT, US Customs is asking businesses to ensure the integrity of their security practices and communicate their security guidelines to business partners throughout the supply chain.

By participating in C-TPAT, companies will ensure a more secure supply chain for their employees, suppliers and customers. Besides giving their cargo faster processing at the US border, US Customs will offer additional potential benefits to C-TPAT members, including:

- Dedicated commercial lanes where infrastructure permits
- Assigned Customs point of contact (account manager)
- Eligibility for account-based processes (bimonthly/monthly payments)
- Reduced inspections

For a fact sheet on C-TPAT, visit: [www.customs.gov/enforcem/tpat\\_fact.htm](http://www.customs.gov/enforcem/tpat_fact.htm)

For further information on C-TPAT, visit: [www.customs.gov/enforcem/tpat.htm](http://www.customs.gov/enforcem/tpat.htm)

For information on exporting to the USA: [www.customs.ustreas.gov/impoexpo/impoexpo.htm](http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/impoexpo/impoexpo.htm)

For information from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, visit: [www.ccra.gc.ca](http://www.ccra.gc.ca)

# New Forest Management Association Agreement Signed

Don Cameron, Department of Natural Resources

Recently the Department of Natural Resources signed an agreement with a forestry group to look after the implementation of a silviculture program that has been established for private woodlots in the province. There is a total of \$500,000 available to be invested in silviculture over the next 11 months and may be of interest to farmers who also have woodlots.

The organization, called the Association for Sustainable Forestry, is a partnership of woodlot owners and industry associations working together to conduct qualified silviculture treatments. The Association is composed of the Nova Scotia Federation of Woodlot Owners, the Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association, the Forest Council of Western Nova Scotia and the Forest products Association of Nova Scotia. Last year this group successfully funded silviculture treatments on woodlots throughout the province during a 14 month pilot project.

The objective of the agreement is to provide silviculture treatments such as tree planting, weeding, and thinning to areas where the demand is not being met by existing silviculture programs that are now legislated by provincial sustainable forestry regulations and funded by the forest industry.

The science of silviculture is widely recognized as a scientifically based system of increasing the available wood supply. By planting and thinning young trees, the total volume, quality, value and age at which trees become commercially mature (trees growing larger faster) is greatly improved. By intensively managing some forest land it means that not only future wood supplies will increase, but a side benefit is

that it will enable more land to be used for other uses, such as protected wilderness area, than when less land was intensively managed.

The Association is based out of the Forest Products Association office in Hilden. Dave Sutherland is the program coordinator, and can be reached at (902) 895-1179 for more information.



Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia  
*The nature of our business is growing.*

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## Pesticide Re-Certification Credit Point Program (PRCP)

*(Reprinted from Dec 2001 Issue)* Lorne Crozier, NSDAF

All users of commercial class or restricted class pesticides in Nova Scotia must be certified by the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour. A pesticide applicator certificate is valid for five years. The pesticide applicator must then re-certify.

The Pesticide Re-certification Credit Point program acknowledges applicators who, through private training or various industry associations, keep abreast of new development and changing technology in pest management. You may re-certify by acquiring 15 Pesticide Re-certification Credit Points during the five-year period that your certificate is valid, or by writing an exam at the end of the five-year period.

Credit points are earned at the rate of one point for each hour of approved training.

Approved training is offered by industry associations, extension specialists, community colleges, NSAC, trainers in private industry or on-line training providers. It may also be offered in conjunction with conference programs or grower field days.

You are responsible for keeping a record of your own training. When your certification is ready to expire, you must contact the nearest Department of Environment and Labour office. You are required to provide a record of your acquired points, along with payment of the \$50 license fee.

Only five points per calendar year are eligible to be credited toward re-certification. No more than five points can come from training on any one topic.

A total of 10 points must come from training in Pest Management, Application Technology and/or Human Health Effects and Pesticide Safety. The remaining five points can come from these topics: Pesticide Regulations, Labeling, Environment Fate and Impact, Emergency Response and Professionalism.

# Pesticide Certification & Re-Certification Training at NSAC

For many years the NSAC has offered a variety of pesticide training courses to meet the needs of industry. The Centre for Continuing and Distance Education has long been known for its excellent record in preparing people for the pesticide exam. We also offer training sessions for farmers interested in obtaining further training in pesticide safety and use, while also accumulating re-certification points.

## **Pesticide Management Update for Farmers**

November 7, 2002. Tuition \$70.  
Registration deadline October 24.

Using an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, this training session for farmers will focus on pesticide safety practices, pesticide performance and the effect of water quality, developing an IPM strategy, new products and technologies. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points in the Nova Scotia Pesticide Re-certification Program.

## **Pesticide Certification**

November 18 – 21, 2002  
or April 14 – 17, 2003. Tuition \$250.  
Registration deadlines: November 1 for Fall course or March 28 for Spring course.

This course teaches the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. It is excellent preparation for those writing the Pesticide Applicator's Examination. Course content ranges from integrated pest management principles to doing your own calibration and calculations. Information is presented about the ground application of pesticides and does not include aerial spraying. Participants write the Pesticide Applicator's Examination on the last day of the course.

## **Topics Include**

- Types of pests and the pesticides that control them
- Safety considerations and procedures
- Integrated Pest Management Strategies
- Legislation requirements and procedures
- Control strategies
- Calibration and application
- Disposal of surplus product
- Pesticide toxicology

## **Weed ID and Management in Agricultural Systems**

February 17 – 19, 2003.  
Tuition \$300 – \*see note below.  
Registration deadline January 31.

This is a practical course for farmers who wish to update their knowledge and understanding about this constantly evolving topic. It is also a refresher course for extension workers. Come and study with us in our greenhouse and learn how to identify young growing weeds at different stages of maturity. Learn how to plan an effective weed management strategy for your farm operation as you study chemical, non-chemical and biological control of weeds. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points.

## **Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers**

February 20, 2003. Tuition \$70 – \*see note. Registration deadline January 31.

Improve your knowledge and skill in the application of pesticides. With an emphasis on the equipment and chemicals used in agriculture, this course will cover in detail calculations and calibration procedures. Application and calibration techniques with

agricultural equipment will be demonstrated in the afternoon. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points.

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

For more information please contact:  
Centre for Continuing and Distance Education  
PO Box 550, Truro NS B2N 5E3  
Tel: (902) 893-6666  
Fax: (902) 895-5528  
Email: [cde@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ns.ca)

## **Visit to Hungary**

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College is organizing a trip to Hungary for a group of 15 farmers from Atlantic Canada for a period of 10-12 days. The trip will take place during the last week of November and the first week of December 2002. During this time, the farmers will visit the main cooperative farms and agricultural sites and will be able to exchange information on the agricultural production in the country.

The trip will include visits to major cultural and historical sites as well as a four-day visit to Budapest, and a few days in Slovakia.

The approximate cost of this trip is \$1,700 which includes air and ground transportation, food and accommodation. If you are interested please contact:

Dr. Nabil Rifai  
Engineering Department  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
PO Box 550  
Truro, NS B2N 5E3  
Tel: (902) 893 6714  
Fax: (902) 893 1859  
Email: [nrifai@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:nrifai@nsac.ns.ca)



## Join the 4-H Team

During National 4-H Week, November 4 – 10, 2002, 4-H members across Nova Scotia will be celebrating all the great things that 4-H represents.

Members pledge their **H**eads to clearer thinking, their **H**earts to greater loyalty, their **H**ands to larger service and their **H**ealth to better living. These are the guiding principles of 4-H.

A fifth "H" could represent "history." 4-H has been helping young people in Nova Scotia since 1922. Today provincial programs like 4-H Show, 4-H Weekend and Camp Rankin provide an educational and fun filled experience for all involved.

Members also live by the motto... Learn to Do by Doing ... as they explore the world around them and find their own way in it, gaining new skills, knowledge and building strength of character.

At 4-H, children can still learn about agriculture and raising a calf but there is no shortage of other interesting choices. They can choose what's right for them from more than 40 exciting and challenging projects — photography, sewing, livestock, crafts and computers just to name a few — or create your very own 4-H project. Where else could you learn to create your own web site, keep a 300+ kilogram calf in line, search your family tree or sew your own prom gown, grow your own garden or tie a fishing fly?

4-H is a program for the whole family. Parents can work with 4-H leaders in all aspects of the program — do a craft, work in a canteen, decorate a booth, volunteer your time — and watch their children learn! There is something for everyone in 4-H. 4-H parents and leaders can learn too at workshops, camps and club meetings.

4-H has even more to offer, such as camping, rallies and social and recreational events like toboggan parties, tours and workshops. Senior 4-H members can apply for opportunities such as out of province and international trips and exchanges, leadership training and conferences, many scholarship programs and much more.

There is something for everyone in 4-H. So join the 4-H team as a leader, member or supporter and celebrate with us. For more information contact the 4-H Specialist at the nearest Department of Agriculture and Fisheries office, call the provincial 4-H office at (902) 893-6585 or surf our web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/).

## Atlantic Farm Challenges 2002

*November 21–23*

**Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**

# IT'S YOUR MOVE!



<http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/afc2002/afc2002.php3>

There are a limited number of spaces still available. For further information contact:

Lori Kittilsen  
(902) 893-6582  
Email: [kittilld@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kittilld@gov.ns.ca)

or  
Tracey Mitchell  
(902) 893-6580  
Email: [mitchetd@gov.ns.ca](mailto:mitchetd@gov.ns.ca)

# Centre for Continuing & Distance Education, NSAC

## Courses for Fall, 2002 and Early Winter 2003

### 2002

#### **Pesticide Management Update for Landscapers**

Tuesday, November 5  
(9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) – \$70

*Registration deadline: October 22*

#### **Pesticide Management Update for Farmers**

Thursday, November 7  
(9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) – \$70

*Registration deadline: October 24*

#### **Introductory Welding**

November 12 – 28

Tuesdays and Thursdays

(6:30 – 10 p.m.) – \$300

*Registration deadline: October 29*

#### **Sheep Enterprise Management**

November 15 – 17

Friday (1 – 4 p.m., 6:30 – 9 p.m.)

Saturday and Sunday

(9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) – \$200

*Registration deadline: October 25*

#### **Pesticide Certification**

November 18 – 21

Monday and Tuesday

(8:30 am – 4:30 pm; evening

sessions 6:30 – 9:30 pm optional)

Wednesday and Thursday

(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) – \$250

*Registration deadline: November 1*

#### **Understanding Equine Behaviour for Positive Training, Development & Partnership**

Saturday, December 7

(10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) – \$60

*Registration deadline: November 22*

#### **Landscape Design Process**

December 9 – 13

Monday to Friday

(9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) – \$400

*Registration deadline: November 22*

### 2003

#### **\*Organic Field Crop Management (Distance Delivery)**

January 6 – April 18

\$430

*Registration deadline: December 18*

#### **\*Organic Livestock Production (Distance Delivery)**

January 6 – April 18

\$430

*Registration deadline: December 18*

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

#### **Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor's Training**

*Preparation for the Atlantic*

*Certified Crop Advisor's Exam*

January 7 – 8

Tuesday – Wednesday

(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) – \$200

*Registration deadline: December 13*

#### **Landscape Installation Workshops**

January 10 – April 4

Fridays, excluding February 14, 21,

and March 28 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

\$100 per day; 10 Workshops

*Registration deadlines: two weeks prior to date of workshop*

#### **Turfgrass Establishment**

January 20 – 24

Monday – Friday (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) – \$350

*Registration deadline: January 3*

#### **Farm Equipment Mechanic Apprenticeship**

February 3 – March 7

Monday – Friday (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

\$1,800

*Registration deadline: January 10*

For more information please contact:  
Centre for Continuing and Distance

Education, NSAC

P.O. Box 550

Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Tel (902) 893-6666

Fax (902) 895-5528

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

### Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

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

**Arthur Pick –**

Tel: (902) 679-6005 (*Tues./Thurs.*)

Tel: (902) 893-7314 (*Mon./Wed./Fri.*)

Fax: (902) 893-0244

[pickaa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:pickaa@gov.ns.ca)

**Weldon Smith –**

Tel: (902) 679-6006

Fax: 679-6062

[smithwe@gov.ns.ca](mailto:smithwe@gov.ns.ca)

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

**Bill MacLeod –**

Tel: (902) 893-3645

Fax: (902) 893-0244

[macleobj@gov.ns.ca](mailto:macleobj@gov.ns.ca)

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

**Kevin Bekkers –**

Tel: (902) 863-4705

Fax: (902) 863-7342

[bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca)

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

**Gary Koziel –**

Tel: (902) 563-2000

Fax: (902) 563-3435

[kozielgj@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kozielgj@gov.ns.ca)

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

**Dennis Moerman –**

Tel: (902) 837-5161

Fax: (902) 837-7696

[moermade@gov.ns.ca](mailto:moermade@gov.ns.ca)



As many of you probably have heard, Weldon Smith suffered a heart attack on September 23. The good news is that he is recovering well at home. He will not be back to work for a few weeks. As always, please call if you require our assistance. Arthur's normal schedule is in the Truro office (893-7314) on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; and in the Kentville office (679-6005) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you call and Arthur is not in, please leave a message and he will get back to you!

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## New Fact Sheets

Please note the following new fact sheets available through the agricultural office:

**Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Planning (EFP)** – A detailed fact sheet on the EFP process and what a producer can expect from completing the plan.

**Hog Mortality Management Through an Above Ground Biofilter** – Practical information for hog producers interested in managing farm mortality through on-farm composting. Please note a similar fact sheet exists for Poultry Mortality Management.

**What you Should Know About Irrigation Water Quality Safety** – Addresses issues affecting water quality in irrigation water and methods to address contamination.

**Soil Moisture Conservation** – This fact sheet looks at methods of conserving soil moisture to better withstand drought.

**Tensiometers and their use in Irrigation Scheduling** – Provides information on this instrument as a tool to better utilize irrigation equipment and water.

**Well Water Concerns in Nova Scotia Related to Water Quality** – Produced by the Women's Institute, this fact sheet covers various factors that can affect drinking water and provides suggestions for treatment.

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## Water Clubs

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has contracted Yvonne Thyssen-Post to coordinate the establishment of local water clubs to address water related concerns in specific areas where this resource is an issue for farmers. It is anticipated that initially at least one club will be started in the central region. These clubs will allow producers to access expertise and to discuss common concerns and issues related to water quality and/or quantity.

Along with the water club concept, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA) is expected to have an engineer in the province this fall to work on pilot projects in selected regions of the province. It is anticipated a project will be undertaken in the central region. Any groups that might be interested in partnering on one of these projects can contact my office.

## Water Resource Information

Any producers interested in information on water, water use or water quality may be interested in a series of booklets and fact sheets provided by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA). This resource covers a wide range of topics from wells and well construction, to farm ponds, watering livestock and water quality. If you would like to find out more or to obtain additional information on these topics, please call the Kentville office.

## Programs to Watch For

Agriculture and Fisheries is planning a series of workshops at the farm level that may be of interest to producers in the region. These include manure spreader calibration and sprayer calibration workshops. Both will assist producers in improving the environmental and nutrient management planning. Watch for more information on these programs which are anticipated this coming winter and spring.

## Coming Events

November 9, 23 & December 7  
Kings County Federation of  
Agriculture Annual Meeting

November 2  
Fall Cattle Sale, Bridgewater  
Exhibition Grounds

November 16  
Kings Co. Federation of  
Agriculture Fall Dinner and  
Dance, 6 p.m. – Berwick  
Lions Club

Since mid September I have assumed responsibilities as Agricultural Resource Coordinator for the Central Region. This includes the counties of Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax East - Hants. My office is located in Harlow Institute (1st Floor) at the NSAC and I can be reached at (902) 893-3645 or fax (902) 893-0244.

Having previously worked in much of this area, I am looking forward to working with producers in the region once again. With such a large area, however, there are many people I have yet to meet and so this may take some time. I want to encourage any producers in the region to contact me if there is anyway I can assist.

## Federation Annual Meeting

The fall is once again upon us and with it are the start up of Federation meetings and annual meetings. Watch for notices.

Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting – Tuesday, November 5, 2002, 8 p.m., Carroll's Corner Community Hall. Special Presentation "Improving the Consumer's Knowledge of Agriculture"

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## Water Resource Information

Any producers interested in information on water, water use or water quality may be interested in a series of booklets and fact sheets provided by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA). This resource covers a wide range of topics from wells and well construction, to farm ponds, watering livestock and water quality. If you would like to find out more or to obtain additional information on these topics, please give my office a call.

## Water Clubs

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has contracted Yvonne Thyssen-Post to coordinate the establishment of local water clubs to address water related concerns in specific areas where this is an issue for farmers. It is anticipated that initially at least one club will be started in the Central Region. These clubs will allow producers to access expertise and discuss common concerns and issues related to water quality and/or quantity.

Along with the water club concept, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency (PFRA) is expected to have an engineer in the province this fall to work on pilot projects in selected regions of the province. It is anticipated a project will be undertaken in the Central Region. Any groups that might be interested in partnering on one of these projects can contact my office.

## Soil Testing

### "Have you had your soils tested lately?"

Up-to-date soil tests are the corner stone to developing profitable nutrient management plans that minimizes risk.

Fall is the ideal time for taking soil samples – after the crop has been removed and in preparation for the coming spring. It is important that soils be tested at least every three years to provide accurate

information for fertilizer and lime applications, and to assess the health of your soils.

Information on taking samples, soil sample boxes and soil information sheets can be picked up at an Agriculture and Fisheries office or call Point Edward at (902) 563-2000 or Mabou at (902) 945-2999.

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## Cape Breton Grain Growers Association

A good growing season contributed to normal grain yields this year in Cape Breton. Combining operations went smoothly with winter wheat, spring wheat and barley, the main crops harvested.

There is a well established market for grains and straw in this area, and growers are encouraged to consider using cereal crops in their rotation. A well planned crop rotation will help with insect, weed and disease control and will aid in maintaining or improving soil structure and organic matter levels.

Equipment is available for rent to assist in seeding and land preparation through the Bras d'Or District Farmers. Combining operations are carried out by the Federation of Agriculture.

Anyone interested in growing grains next season should contact Gary Koziel at (902) 563-2000 for further information.

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## MEETING NOTICE

There will be a general meeting of the Cape Breton Federation of Agriculture at the Exhibition Grounds in North Sydney on November 12 at 7:30 pm. All members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

## Endangered Species List Expanded

On September 26, 2002, the Department of Natural Resources issued a press release that four new species had been added to the endangered species list. One of these, the Atlantic whitefish, is “a species that breeds nowhere in the world but Nova Scotia, is found in the Petite Riviere watershed and possibly the Tusket watershed.”

What does this mean for agricultural producers living in the watersheds of these Rivers? The Endangered Species Act <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statutes/endspec.htm> states:

13 (1) No person shall

(a) kill, injure, possess, disturb, take or interfere with or attempt to kill, injure, possess, disturb, take or interfere with an endangered or threatened species or any part or product thereof;

(b) possess for sale, offer for sale, sell, buy, trade or barter an endangered or threatened species or any part or product thereof;

(c) destroy, disturb or interfere with or attempt to destroy, disturb or interfere with the specific dwelling place or area occupied or habitually occupied by one or more individuals or populations of an endangered or threatened species, including the nest, nest shelter, hibernaculum or den of an endangered or threatened species;

So farmers living in these watersheds need to continue to practice “due diligence” in their farming practices to prevent water contamination.

As part of due diligence, I would recommend that all producers in these watersheds have an Environmental Farm Plan done on their farm.

For more information on the Environmental Farm Plan please call the Environmental Farm Plan Program Coordinator at the NSFA office: (902) 893-2293, E-mail: [nsfa@tru.eastlin.ca](mailto:nsfa@tru.eastlin.ca), Website: [www.nsfa-fane.ca](http://www.nsfa-fane.ca) or contact my office for a brochure.

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## Fall and Winter Meetings

Winter is fast approaching and it is time to start planning fall and 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 or other issues? Contact me and I will work with your local federation or commodity association, the Agricultural Development Institute, departmental staff and others to try to address your needs.

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## Upcoming Sessions

### Mink Rancher Workshop on Controlling Aleutian Disease

January 30, 2003, 1 – 8 p.m.

Weymouth, NS

Registration Fee: \$30

Contact: Alex Oderkirk, ADIL

Tel: (902) 896-0277 or 896-2345

Fax: (902) 896-7299

E-mail: [a.oderkirk@adil.ca](mailto:a.oderkirk@adil.ca)

OR: Dennis Moerman, NSDAF

Tel: (902) 837-5162

Fax: (902) 837-7696

E-mail: [moermade@gov.ns.ca](mailto:moermade@gov.ns.ca)

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## Annual Meetings

November 7 – 8 p.m. – Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture, Agricultural Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown

November 14 – 7:30 p.m. – South West Nova Cattlemen’s Association, Weymouth Library

Well summer has come and gone. We are now in our fall season whether we're ready or not. We hope that everyone enjoyed a successful cropping season.

Congratulations to John and Thelma Rovers, Paul and Patti Corsten, Bruce and Dianne Sinclair, Anthony and Lillian VanBerkel, David, Denise, Tony and Mary Bekkers, Jack Thomson and Rhonda MacDougall, Ian and Rhoda McCarron, Frazer and Angela Hunter, Darin, Scott and Brad Thomsen, Robert, Carla, Carl, Robert, William and Ellen Marshall, Don and Jeff Gunn, John and Gillian Crawford, and John and Leah Pembridge on a successful Nova Scotia Open Farm Day October 6th. Thank you to all who participated and we're sure the many visitors went home with a great appreciation of what farm businesses contribute to Nova Scotia. Well done!

## Service Learning - St. Francis Xavier University

I have recently met with the coordinators of Service Learning at St. F.X. University. Service Learning is a program implemented by the university. It's program promotes three levels of learning — academic, personal and social. Through Service Learning, the students apply a key course concept, theory or skill in the community setting. 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.

Service Learning students are available for any number of projects. They have conducted community surveys, assisted with seniors, provided community computer support as well as many other community projects. They would also like to assist in the farming community in any way they can. Some possibilities may be business students organizing an accounting based program, putting on a farm safety day for children, 4-H workshop on cooking, nutrition, etc. They are open for ideas and would like to hear of any you may have. Please give me a call with your ideas.

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Your local federations are now in the planning process for fall and winter programs. We are open to any new ideas in the form of tours, training, etc. Please pass on any ideas you may have.

### Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture

*President:* Paul Corsten 863-5372

*Vice President:*

Alan MacDonald 863-5810

*Secretary/Treasurer:*

Laughlin MacDonald 863-3246

### Pictou-North Colchester Federation of Agriculture

*President:*

William (Bill) Scott 925-2057

*Vice President:*

Jeff Gunn 485-1474

*Secretary/Treasurer:*

Claudia Burns 485-5928

## Food Safety

Keep the following principles of food safety in mind to help keep you and your families healthy.

- Wash hands with warm water and soap before preparing food, after handling raw meat or poultry, after handling pets, and after using the washroom.
- Wash cutting boards, utensils, and counter tops with hot soapy water after preparing foods, especially raw meat and poultry. Periodically rinse cutting boards and utensils with a chlorine solution — mix 1 tbsp. liquid bleach per litre of water.
- Keep raw meat or poultry separate from cooked or ready-to-eat foods like salads to avoid cross contamination.