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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



December 2003 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 4 No. 5



Business Risk Management Update

Attention Beef Producers

The Government of Nova Scotia is delivering programs to assist farmers who have been affected by BSE.

Beef farmers can receive \$100 per breeding cow and early access to funds delivered by the new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program.

To access the payments, producers must fill out our one-page provincial form and the federal application for Producer Assistance (this is the early delivery CAIS funds). The \$100 per cow application will be processed in Truro immediately and the Producer Assistance applications are forwarded to Winnipeg for processing. If 2003 projected income falls more than 15 per cent below the average for that producer, a payment is made from the Producer Assistance program. Averages are determined using the producer's NISA data or Statement of Farming Activities (tax info) from 1998-2002.

Both applications need to be submitted in order to receive payments.

The \$100 per cow is paid regardless of whether or not a Producer Assistance payment is made. Nova Scotia has also committed to participating in the Cull Animal program announced by the federal government and an extension of the BSE recovery program for finished (slaughter) animals. As details are finalized, producers will be made aware of the deadlines, available funds and the eligibility requirements of these programs.

For All Nova Scotia Producers

The Producer Assistance 2003 program is available to all farmers and is an advance on funds from the CAIS program. Applications require a projection of 2003 commodity production in order to determine 2003 projected income.

This is compared against an average of previous years to determine whether the Producer has had a loss of more than 15%. For previous years information, NISA data is used. Producers who are not in NISA will have to supply copies of their Statement of Farming Activities (as reported for tax) from 1998-2002. Producers who receive payments from this program will be required to join

the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program by March 31, 2004. Information on joining CAIS, including Options Notices will be sent out soon.

Producers who do not participate in Producer Assistance 2003, as well as producers who were not in NISA, will still be able to join the CAIS program.

Risk Management Funding

All producers are still able to receive payments from the federal and provincial government, based on Eligible Net Sales. Producers in the NISA program have their data calculated automatically and cheques from the Province and Government of Canada are mailed directly to them. Producers who are not in the NISA program can complete a federal application before December 31, 2003 to receive this funding. They will also receive the provincial portion.

CAIS Information

There will be another round of information sessions this winter for the Canadian Agricultural Stabilization (CAIS) program. The

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

For BRM information
call toll-free
1-866-844-4BRM

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

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tentative dates are set for January 19 through 29, 2004. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Contacts for more information:

CAIS: 1-866-367-8506

Producer Assistance:

1-866-367-8506

NISA: 1-800-665-6472

BSE related programming (including Producer Assistance applications)

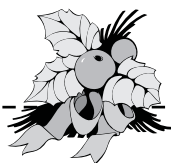
Truro: 902-893-6510

toll free: 1-866-844-4276

Websites for more information:

<http://gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm/>

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst/brm/>



Holiday Eggnog

6	eggs	6
½ cup	sugar	125 mL
4 cups	milk	1 L
2 tsp.	vanilla extract	10 mL
½ cup	brandy (optional)	125 mL
2 cups	whipping cream	500 mL
	Ground nutmeg	

In a large heavy saucepan, beat eggs and sugar until well blended. Gradually stir in milk. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until mixture is thick enough to coat a spoon, about 25 minutes. Pour custard into a large bowl. Stir in vanilla and brandy. Chill bowl in ice water for a few minutes, stirring occasionally. Cover and refrigerate at least three hours or overnight.

To serve, beat whipping cream until soft peaks form. Gently fold whipped cream into custard. Sprinkle lightly with nutmeg. Either keep eggnog refrigerated or place bowl on a bed of ice. Serve within 2 hours. Makes 16 - 1/2 cup (125 mL) servings.

Courtesy of: Canadian Egg Marketing Agency

Beneficial Agricultural Practices in Soil, Manure And Nutrient Management

An educational opportunity for those who have a vested interest in mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

On December 11 representatives from New Brunswick Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Quebec will be coordinating a conference on agriculture practices in soil, manure and nutrient management. The conference will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Conference topics include:

Climate Extremes

- Gary Lines—Climate Change Meteorologist, Environment Canada

Impact of Climate Change on Crop Selection and Production

- Gilles B langer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ste-Foy, Qu bec

Beneficial Management Practices to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Philippe Rochette, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ste-Foy, Qu bec

What are the impacts of Manure Storage Management and /or Treatment Practices on GHG?

- Rob Gordon, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Joe Van Vulpen, Hog Producer, NS

Production of Electricity and Heat from Manure

- Don Hilborn, Engineer, By-Products, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Beneficial Tillage Systems

- Chairperson: Ron DeHaan, Soil Conservation Engineer, PEIDAF PEI Research Initiatives with Tillage on Potatoes

No-till System

- Jocelyn Michon, La Presentation, QC

Residue Management Practices in a Potato Production System

- Steve Watts, Farm Manager, Eric C. Robinson Inc.

Minimum Tillage for Pasture Improvement

- Richard Van Oord, Springfield, NB

Experience with Nutrient Management - Panel Discussion

- Chairperson: Lise A Leblanc, Importance and Benefits of a NMP

Simultaneous Translation will be available for each session.

Special rates have been arranged for delegates. In the area you will also find numerous restaurants and shopping. Each delegate is responsible for making their own reservations.

Conference funding is made possible through the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program for agriculture. This program is being administered by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada through the provincial Taking Charge Teams, the Canadian Cattleman Association, the Canadian Pork Council and the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Registration Fee: \$20 (HST inc)

Accommodations:

Howard Johnson Hotel
1055 Main Street, Moncton NB
1-866-854-4656 (Toll Free)
(506) 854-6340

Guestrooms: \$89 + HST,
Please quote code CC2

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Conference Registration includes admittance to all sessions, lunch and nutrition breaks.

Registration:

NB Soil and Crop Improvement Association
16 Gilks Rd.
Maugerville, NB E3A 8N4
or Fax: (506) 472-4718

Contact:

Karen Richard (506) 451-2236 or
e-mail: karenr@nbnnet.nb.ca



Production Insurance

Under the new Agricultural Policy Framework program, Crop Insurance has been renamed Production Insurance (PI). The core programs for each crop will stay the same with more choices being offered to include additional coverage and great choice in types of programs, as well as extension of coverage to more commodities.

What's new?

- Cost Sharing is now 60% government, 40% producer
- **90% coverage will soon be available for comprehensive coverage**

Available Within Next Two Years:

Weather derivatives, spot loss, non-yield based programs, risk splitting features, more crops, livestock, and whole farm offsetting feature.

SPEAK UP FOR AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Awareness Conference

February 5 – 6, 2004

Howard Johnson Hotel & Convention Centre
Truro, Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to present **“Speak Up for Agriculture.”** The conference will include the following speakers:

Brent Fynamore, Peak Adventures International Inc.

Brent Fynamore motivates and educates audiences throughout Canada and the United States with his high-energy seminars and power presentations. Brent's intensity and presence in front of his audiences is unforgettable, creating an experience that is gripping, informative and entertaining all at once. Since 1993, Brent has shared his life-changing ideas and insights with more than 250,000 people across Canada.

Crystal Mackay, P.Ag., is the Communications Specialist for Ontario Pork, where she specializes in media relations and public relations. She spearheaded the “Speak Up” team concept in 1998, training farmers to be agricultural ambassadors and media spokes people in Ontario. Crystal has offered this training program across the country and in 1997 she started her own company, Crystal Clear Communications, in response to requests for her expertise in agricultural awareness and education.

It is critical that we develop good communications skills to get our message across. The **“Speak Up for Agriculture”** program will help us work towards achieving this goal.

If you are interested in attending this conference please complete the following and return by **Friday January 9th, 2004** to:

Ruth Grant, P. Ag.
Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Tel: 902 893-6598 Fax: 902 893-2757
E-mail: grantra@gov.ns.ca

Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Registration Fee: \$40 (includes meals, accommodations and conference)

4-H Members to Speak Up for Agriculture at Provincial Conference

The Nova Scotia 4-H Program will host a conference entitled, "Speaking Up for Agriculture" to teach teens how to get the agriculture message out to the media and the general public. The Nova Scotia 4-H Intermediate Conference, will be held Feb. 7-8, 2004 at the AgriTECH Park in Bible Hill.

The keynote speaker for the conference is Crystal MacKay. Ms. MacKay works with Ontario Pork in Marketing and Communications. She led an extremely successful marketing campaign with Ontario Pork and worked in cooperation with Ontario Cattlemen's Association during the Walkerton tragedy.

"We all have a responsibility to tell the agricultural story correctly to consumers. Whether we live on a farm or not, we all have a connection to agriculture. Over 14,000 people are employed in the agriculture

industry whether in primary or spin off businesses," said Liz Crouse, Manager for the 4-H and Rural Organizations Section. "It is critical that we develop good communication skills at a young age to get our message across. Through this conference we will work towards achieving that goal."

Throughout the weekend, 4-H delegates will participate in educational sessions, team challenges

and social activities. They will also participate in a session conducted by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to learn about the future of careers in the agri-food industry.

Sponsors of the conference are the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Agri-Food Industry Development Fund, and Canadian 4-H Council - Renewal Opportunities Program.

Planters Barbecues Beef As a Gesture of Support

On October 18, Planters Equipment Group fed 300 people at a beef barbecue that was held to promote awareness of the Nova Scotia beef industry and to raise money for the Nova Scotia 4-H program. This initiative originated with the purchase of a market steer at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in September

by Planters Equipment in Steam Mill, P&A Equipment in Middleton and Myers Equipment in Dartmouth. The steer was used at the barbecue and raised over \$1000 from burger and beef sales. Proceeds were donated to the Nova Scotia 4-H Council at their annual meeting in November.

4-H - Is More Than You've Ever Imagined

Results from a national survey of current 4-H members conducted by the Canadian 4-H Council and Ipsos-Reid indicate 90 per cent of 4-H members say 4-H is 'fun', and 88 per cent would recommend the program to other young people. The survey aimed to determine the members' attitudes towards and impact of the 4-H program, as well as awareness and attitudes towards the program among parents and potential 4-H members.

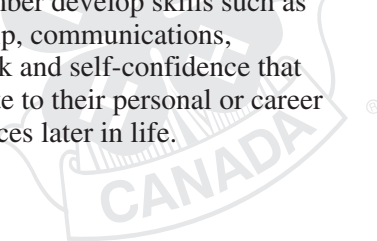
Overall, a vast majority of current members feel 4-H has been quite useful in developing a sense of personal responsibility, learning teamwork skills, developing personal pride in their achievements, learning communication skills, including

listening and speaking skills, developing self-esteem, self-confidence, learning leadership as well as developing and working towards their personal goals. In fact, 66 per cent of current 4-H members said their 4-H experiences are quite useful in helping them achieve their future goals.

A survey conducted in 2002 revealed that 4-H alumni were ahead of the rest of the Canadian population in that age group, with 31 per cent of 4-H alumni having completed a university degree, certificate or diploma, compared to the 16 per cent nation-wide. In addition, 59 per cent had a household income over \$50,000, compared to 45 per cent nation-wide and 40 per cent are

employed in the agriculture industry, with 63 per cent of this group growing or producing agricultural products.

Surveyed parents felt that 4-H helped their children learn necessary life skills, such as communication, responsibility, teamwork and much more. The majority surveyed indicated that 4-H is fun and a great way to socialize and meet new friends. Overall, the survey concluded, there is a high degree of value, trust and relevancy in the 4-H program. In addition, it revealed that 4-H member develop skills such as leadership, communications, teamwork and self-confidence that contribute to their personal or career experiences later in life.



Minor Use Registration Discussion to Be Held at the Scotia Horticultural Congress 2004

Horticulture Nova Scotia is pleased to announce that the Scotia Horticultural Congress will be held January 15 – 16 at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, Kings County.

Dr. Imme Gerke, Minor Use Advisor with Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), will be speaking in the afternoon session on January 15. She will be providing an update on the minor use and risk reduction initiatives in the last 12 months, as well as the link between these two Initiatives. In addition, she will cover the roles of growers and how growers can make the Minor Use Registration system work for them.

Growers from any horticultural commodity are welcome and encouraged to attend. Conference fees will be waived for growers wishing to attend the Minor Use Session only.

Details of the Scotia Horticultural Congress 2004 can be viewed on the Horticulture Nova Scotia web site: <http://www.hortns.com/conferences.html>

For further information please contact Horticulture Nova Scotia at (902) 678-9335 or e-mail hortns@ns.sympatico.ca



Crop Insurance Premiums Rebated

Rebate cheques on crop insurance premiums are being mailed this week to Nova Scotia farmers who are enrolled in crop insurance plans.

Farmers will receive a 20 per cent reduction on crop insurance premiums as a result of the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) agreement Nova Scotia signed with the federal government in September.

The agreement introduces a number of changes to the crop insurance program, including a new cost-sharing structure for premiums. The federal and provincial governments will pay 36 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. This results in a 20 per cent direct cost savings to producers.

“This money represents the first step in the evolution of crop insurance to the production insurance system envisioned in the APF,” said Chris d’Entremont, Minister of Nova Scotia Agriculture and Fisheries. “As the production insurance model

evolves, Nova Scotia's agricultural producers will see more commodities insured, benefits enhanced and a greater range of choices in program designs.”

This change is retroactive to April 1, 2003, and therefore affects 2003 crop insurance premiums. The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission has begun rebating producer portions of premiums paid for the current crop year.

More than \$78,000 of producer premiums are being rebated to 450 producers as per the new cost sharing arrangements under the APF Implementation Agreement.

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission is responsible for making programs available to Nova Scotia farmers to assist in years of reduced yields, lower revenue, and losses due to insurable perils. The commission administers 14 crop insurance plans and one livestock plan. For more information call 1-800-565-6371 or visit the website at <http://gov.ns.ca/nsaf/ci/>.

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

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

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

Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness & Guysborough counties:

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

Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties:

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

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

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

Merry Christmas

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

The New Year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we've experienced during 2003 as we look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. May the peace of the season be with you and may you enjoy a Prosperous and Happy New Year!



Valley Region 4-H News

This year marks the 90th anniversary of 4-H in Canada with 4-H clubs all across Canada celebrating National 4-H week. Over the past nine decades, 4-H has enriched the lives of young people in both small and large communities from coast to coast. Through learning and fun 4-H members will become the agricultural, business, government and civic leaders of the future.

4-H members in Hants County attended their annual Awards Night on October 23, 2003 at the Noel Firehall. Some of the highlight awards were as follows:

- Champion Barn Display for the 2003 Hants Exhibition-Newport 4-H Club
- Champion Indoor Display for the 2003 Hants Exhibition-Newport 4-H Club
- The Don Newcombe Award for the Dairy Member Showing the Most Improvement
- Maggen Rideout, Newport 4-H Club
- Grand Champion Livestock Showman for the 2003 Hants Exhibition (tie)
- Sarah Levy, Avon 4-H Club
- Jeff Sanford, Newport 4-H Club
- The Gert Lawrence Memorial Award for Top Community Service Project -Border Riders 4-H Club
- The Top Achievement Day of the Year- 3-Cornered 4-H Club
- Top Overall Junior Member- Jennie Pick, Rawdon 2-Way 4-H Club
- Top Overall Senior Member- Andrea Crowe, Cobequid 4-H Club
- The Most Outstanding Member- Katie Greenough, Newport 4-H Club
- Overall Top Club at the 2003 Hants Exhibition Award- Border Riders 4-H Club

Hants County 4-H was also pleased to make a very special presentation to Charlie Levy of Three Mile Plains for his outstanding contribution and dedication to the 4-H program in Hants County, especially being the 2002 4-H Provincial Show Hosting Committee Chairperson. He worked tirelessly to organize this event and in the end the show was extremely successful. A big thank you to Charlie for all your work on this event!!

Pesticide Applicator Training

ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Re-certification and Certification courses in the area this winter.

Re-certification Courses –
January 21 or March 26,
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Cornwallis
Room, Kentville Agricultural
Centre

Re-certification Course –
January 30, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.,
Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater
The cost for re-certification is
\$70, taxes included.

Two certification courses will also be offered. This 1½ day program costs \$140, includes taxes and manual. The courses will take place in the Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre, January 15 and 16 or March 24 and 25. Course starts at 9 a.m.

To register for these courses contact ProAgri Consulting at (902) 798-2114.

Events

South Shore Region 4-H

- December 13** **Anna. Co. Federation Livestock Sale**, Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown, Livestock selling begins at 1 p.m.
- January 15-16** **Pesticide Certification Course**, Kentville Agricultural Centre. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register
- January 21** **Pesticide Recertification Course**, Kentville Agricultural Centre Contact ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register
- January 30** **Pesticide Recertification Course**, Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register
- March 24-25** **Pesticide Certification Course**, Kentville Agricultural Centre. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register
- March 26** **Pesticide Recertification Course**, Kentville Agricultural Centre. Contact ProAgri Consulting, 798-2114 to register

Valley Region 4-H

- January 5** **Kings County 4-H Council meeting**, 7:30 p.m.
Kentville Agricultural Centre
- January 12** **Hants County 4-H Council meeting**, 7 p.m.
Hants West Middle School
- February 7-8** **4-H Intermediate Conference** (*Speak Up for Agriculture*), AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill, Truro
- February 2** **Kings County 4-H Council meeting**, 7:30 p.m.
Kentville Agricultural Centre
- February 9** **Hants County 4-H Council meeting**, 7 p.m.
Hants West District High School