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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2003 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Volume 4 No. 1

Water Management Clubs – A Pilot Project

Yvonne Thyssen-Post, P.Ag

The drought of recent years has made all of us more aware of water as a valuable resource. For the last several years, government funding has been used to conduct research studies, and now there is a pilot project underway to have a direct impact at the farm level. In October 2002 the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries initiated a project to establish water management clubs in Nova Scotia. Yvonne Thyssen-Post, of Thyagrissen Consulting Limited, has been contracted to coordinate the project for six months.

Three strategic locations were selected by an advisory committee to pilot the water club concept. Clubs involved in the pilot project have been established in the following areas: Pereaux Watershed, Annapolis Valley; Stewiacke area of central Nova Scotia; and Boulardarie Island in Cape Breton.

The clubs are comprised of both livestock and crop farmers, using land within a relatively small radius, who are interested in collectively managing water as a sustainable resource. Club membership varies from five to 12 farmers depending on the location. The Agricultural Resource Coordinator (ARC) in each

area is a resource person assisting the clubs and the project coordinator.

Members have collectively identified and prioritized issues, established goals and objectives. They are now in the process of developing work plans to improve their ability to manage water quantity and quality. Involvement of other stakeholders, technical experts, and government personnel will evolve as work plans progress.

The establishment of the initial three water clubs is a pilot project. The success of these clubs will be evaluated following the six-month term, and future direction regarding additional water clubs will be assessed. If you are interested in forming a local club or want information, please contact your local ARC or Yvonne at (902) 895-1414.

Farmers' Concerns Addressed at National Level

As we look forward to the April 1, 2003 signing of Canada's Agricultural Policy Framework, Nova Scotia farmers should be assured that efforts are being made to allow for a smooth transition to new business risk management programs.

Gordon Balsler, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, recently met with federal and provincial agriculture ministers. He brought forward concerns expressed by the Nova Scotia industry and came away from the meeting knowing that the programs will be affordable and effective for producers.

The business risk management design includes an expanded National Income Stabilization Account (NISA), which offers protection against both smaller losses and disasters.

The programs would also provide flexibility for farmers' individual situations since a producer could commit early in the year to a particular level of coverage. The new programs will also meet trade obligations and provide equity for all Canadian farmers.

The programs being delivered for the 2002 stabilization year, will not be affected by changes under the Agricultural Policy Framework. Producers will continue to have access to all funds in their current NISA, including the government-funded portion.

"It's time to move forward. We want a good business risk management program and look at the long-term growth of the industry," said Mr. Balsler after his meetings in Ottawa.



Agriculture and Fisheries

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

New Agricultural Events Calendar Now On-Line

Dennis Moerman, DAF

In response to requests from producer organizations to provide more notice of agricultural events, and to assist in planning, the department has added **Agricultural Events Calendar** to its website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/calendar/>.

We hope to post events from all agricultural organizations including federations of agriculture, commodity organizations, government agencies and private consultants, and well as educational events from other groups aimed at an agricultural audience.

If your organization is planning an event that you wish to include in the calendar please send an email to bellivam@gov.ns.ca, call us at (902) 837-5161 or send a fax notice to (902) 837-7696.

The link to the Agricultural Events Calendar can also be found on the Events Calendar page of the department's website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/elibrary/events.htm> and is designed to compliment the other existing events listings found there including:

- 2003 Nova Scotia Exhibition and County Fair Dates
- 4-H Dates to Remember
- Trade Shows and Conferences:
 - Aquaculture Conferences
 - Seafood Related Trade Shows
 - Fisheries Technology Related Trade Shows
- NSAC Continuing Education Course Schedule

For further information on the Agricultural Events Calendar please call Dennis Moerman at (902) 837-5162 or email moermade@gov.ns.ca.



Programs & Risk Management Update

Robin Bremner

- This winter's information sessions are going very well. We've had impressive turnouts at all venues and hope to have the same participation at future events. Topics at these sessions included Nova Scotia development programs (Farm Investment Fund etc.) as well as the direction of Safety Net Programs under the new Agricultural Policy Framework.
- There has been a 38 per cent response rate from producers on the Farm Investment Fund survey. Overall, the comments about the program and its delivery have been favourable. We want to thank all of the producers who responded to the survey as your

comments and suggestions will be helpful for future program planning.

- A reminder to mark March 1, 2003 on your calendars as the deadline for claiming your Farm Investment Fund expenses as well as the interim deadline for 2002 NISA and CFIP.
- March 15, 2003 is the claiming deadline for the Agri-food Industry Development Fund. For updates on the Technology Development 2000 Program please refer to our website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm

Please call us at (902) 893-6510 with any questions and concerns.

Farm Smarter SEMINARS

On-farm Diversification

When: March 12, Kentville Research Station
March 13, AgriTECH Park, Truro
Sessions: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Guest Presenters: Jeff Gunn, Dairy Farmer & Stonehame Chalets
John Crawford, Sheep Farmer & gift shop operator
Andrea Palmer, Nova Agri Associates
Quita Gray, Sugar Moon Farm & Pancake House
Peter Elderkin, Elderkin's Farm Market
Linda MacDonald, Agriculture and Fisheries

**There is a \$5 registration fee at the door
Door prizes from Taste of Nova Scotia, Refreshments will be served.**

Sponsored by
NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries ACOA
NS Department of Economic Development Kings CED Agency

Please call to pre-register:
For Kentville seminars call Robin Marshall at 902-678-2298
For Truro seminars call Laurie Sandeson at 902-896-7270

New Course in Nutrient Management Planning

Ron Laking, NSAC

Nutrient management planning is a key component of the economic and environmental management of agricultural operations. Recent efforts to introduce environmental farm planning initiatives across the country have further highlighted the need for nutrient management planning, and provided an incentive for the development of formal nutrient management frameworks and standardized training of nutrient management planners. The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), working with the Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre (ECSWCC), has developed a standardized training and testing program for nutrient management planners in Atlantic Canada. This project is a joint initiative of the Atlantic Agricultural Coordinating Council (AACC).

The course has been designed for the Atlantic region and will teach the basic general concepts of Nutrient Management Planning in a lecture format, but will also include local applications and issues, drawing on the strong regional expertise within each of the sponsoring institutions. The course has been prepared by faculty and staff of the NSAC and specialists at the ECSWCC. External consultants will provide information on the adoption and delivery of nutrient management plans in the region.

The content of the course has been developed with the expectation that participants will have a B.Sc. or equivalent, so that the concepts of nutrient cycling, soil and manure analysis, crop response and economics of fertilizer use can be mastered.

Nutrient management systems, ranging from those that use manure

and/or biosolids as the primary nutrient source, to those based solely on the use of chemical fertilizers, will be considered. Course components will include soil sampling methods, the use of soil reports and the construction of a sample nutrient management plan based on case studies that will be provided. Approximately one quarter of the course consists of "hands-on" instruction. Although nutrient management software will be discussed, it will not be used in the "hands-on" component of the course.

All course participants will receive a study guide to supplement the lectures. It will also serve as a resource for the nutrient management planner following the completion of their program. The study guide contains formulae, conversion tables and links to other resources that support nutrient management planning.

An examination will be administered at the end of the course. The sample nutrient management plan generated by each participant will be submitted and graded as part of the testing process. Course participants who successfully complete the course, examination and nutrient management plan will be awarded a

Certificate of Completion from the NSAC and its course partner, ECSWCC. The exam is open to others who wish to write it for a fee of \$100.

The first course will be offered, in English, at the NSAC, Bible Hill, from March 31 – April 4, 2003, instructed by Dr. David Burton with assistance from Dr. Gordon Fairchild. The exam will be on April 4, 2003. The next course will be offered in New Brunswick, in French, by Dr. Gordon Fairchild and Jérôme Damboise, assisted by Dr. David Burton. (Dates and location to be announced). Further offerings of the course are planned. It is expected that it will be offered in the Fall of 2003.

Tuition for the course, the exam fee and the study guide is \$200.

For further information please contact:

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, NSAC
Phone: (902) 893-6666
Fax: (902) 895-5528
Email: cde@nsac.ns.ca



**Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College**



**Eastern Canada
Soil and Water
Conservation Centre**

What is the DAF Internal Water Task Group About?

Andy Cameron, DAF

As many of you know, in the Fall of 2001 the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries established the Internal Water Task Group to address several water-related issues in Nova Scotia.

The two main objectives of the task group are: to provide a centralized, coordinated, focused internal approach to water-related issues within the agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and to increase awareness for the need to balance resource development and environmental stewardship.

The task group sees communications, education, demonstration, cooperation and partnerships with key groups as activities that will help to increase awareness.

To date, we have had many opportunities to hear from the agricultural community and are attempting to meet your information needs related to water, with articles such as this one.

Since the task group was established, there has been:

- one-on-one meetings with farmers
- presentations, conferences and seminars on water resources
- public announcements of research activities with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA)
- educational materials
- funding for piloting watershed clubs through Agriculture Water Resource Development (AWARD) program

Cooperation and partnerships are critical to successful water resource management. Farmers need to cooperate with other stakeholders within their watershed, specialist groups, government and their community. As well, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries can take part in the delivery of water-related solutions when it cooperates with other agencies too. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Labour, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation

Administration, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, federal counterparts, and others help with this mandate.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Internal Water Task Group can be your source of water-related information from the department, NSAC and other interested parties. We will do our best to keep you informed. Please check out our webpage at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/environment/watertask/>

Roof Snow Loads on Agricultural Buildings

Gary Koziel, DAF

How much weight can most roofs take? Snow loads for agricultural buildings are generally around 20 lbs. per square foot. This does not include the weight of the wood that makes up the truss or rafters, a ceiling if one is added to the lower cord of a truss, any equipment hung from the trusses or rafters, or wind loads. Many roofs for livestock barns and machine sheds are designed for a total load of 25 to 30 lbs. per square foot. Roofs should be able to handle this load if the building was properly designed by a registered professional engineer and constructed by a qualified builder who followed the design.

What is a safe amount of snow to have on your roof over an extended period of time? A good estimate would be about half of the 20 lbs. per square foot design load, or about two feet of snow, or approximately one inch of ice and one foot of snow.

What do you do if you have too much snow on your roof? The simple answer is to remove it as

soon as possible. Generally, there is some amount of time between a large snowfall and possible structural failure. One good way to remove snow from a roof is to physically get on the roof and push the snow off with a shovel or broom. Use ladders, safety ropes, and take necessary precautions, as walking on a roof can be dangerous. Snow rakes can also be used, but be very careful when handling a snow rake near overhead electrical power lines. Also avoid excessive scraping or chipping of ice because this can damage the roof and lead to leaks.

There is a chance that the weather will get warm enough this winter for the existing ice and snow on roofs to melt or slide off. But if we continue to receive average or above-average snowfalls, monitor the snow-load situation on your agricultural buildings and be prepared to take appropriate action. Check high risks areas and please be extremely careful if you need to remove snow or ice.

New Entrants to Fur Farming

Dennis Moerman, DAF

Fur farming is a growing part of the agricultural landscape of Nova Scotia. A licence is required to house fur-bearers for commercial production under the *Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing Act*. If you are planning to start a new fur farm there is a process that you must follow to obtain your licence.

- Contact your local Agricultural Resource Coordinator (ARC) to obtain the necessary information package and arrange for an initial site visit.
- Your proposed site will be visited by the ARC and the information package reviewed, any questions you have will be answered

- If your site is deemed suitable for fur farming a licence application will be provided.
- Construct your fur farming facility to conform to the codes of practice and guidelines provided during the initial visit.
- Purchase your animals and bring them to your site. **In the case of mink they must be tested (at the department's lab in Truro) and be free of Aleutian Disease prior to being brought to your site.**

To arrange a testing date for blood samples please call (902) 837-5161 and indicate that you are a new entrant to the mink industry.

- Submit your licence application along with applicable fees and in the case of mink blood test results to your local ARC.
- The ARC will conduct a final inspection of your fur-farming facility. On completion of a successful inspection the ARC will then submit your paperwork along with an inspection report to the Truro office for issuance of the fur farming licence for your site.

Should you have any questions regarding this process please call your ARC or Dennis Moerman at (902) 837-5162.

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) in Poultry

Dr. Gordon Finley, DAF

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) is an infectious disease of poultry, including pheasants, guinea and pea fowl, caused by a herpes virus. It is not contagious to people or animals although they can spread the virus. Birds with acute disease have difficulty breathing and often die. Many surviving birds carry the virus for long periods of time.

ILT is a named disease under the *Nova Scotia Animal Health and Protection Act*. In order to prevent spread of ILT, the Act allows for the destruction of infected birds followed by strict cleaning and disinfection protocols.

The commercial poultry industry is so concerned with this disease that it maintains a fund to pay compensation to owners when it is found in backyard flocks.

Occasionally, ILT has been carried into commercial flocks with serious consequences. There is no compensation program for commercial flocks that must be destroyed. At the present time commercial owners rely on bio-security to keep the disease out and vaccination is not recommended.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries maintains a vaccination program for show birds during the spring of each year to reduce the overall risk from this disease. All flock owners wishing to go to shows will receive a visit from an agent. General bird health will be assessed, a live ILT vaccine given (eye-drop) and a blue wing-band applied. Birds will not be accepted by exhibitions without being vaccinated and banded.

It is important to understand that the vaccine is live, can be shed soon after vaccination and is also capable of causing clinical disease. For this reason, vaccinated birds are under a 30-day quarantine, after which they are not expected to shed the vaccine virus. It is critical that owners of vaccinated show flocks observe the 30-day quarantine period to prevent the spread of ILT to unvaccinated flocks. Individuals caught breaking the quarantine requirements risk having birds destroyed or being prevented from showing.

For further information contact:

Dr. Gordon Finley, Program Veterinarian, DAF at (902) 893-3491



NS Youth Benefit from 4-H Membership

The Nova Scotia 4-H program has done it again. Each year members and leaders have opportunities to fine tune their leadership, communication and technical skills. This winter several workshops have been planned for 4-H members and leaders throughout the province. Some events have already taken place while others are yet to come.

Coming up is Chat-A-Rama with the theme of *Blazing a Path, Preparing For Your Career*. This workshop is specifically for 4-H members in the Western region will be held at Camp Hilles, Annapolis County on March 14 and 15.

In March 4-H clubs will begin their local communications rallies which continue into April with county and regional competitions. Winners from the regional rally move on to the provincial rally, at the 4-H Weekend on May 9 – 10 at the Agricultural College in Bible Hill. 4-H Night in Nova Scotia is on Saturday night and showcases talented 4-H members. Winners of all competitions receive awards and the National Travel Awards and the Friend of 4-H Award are also presented.

Check with your local 4-H Specialist to find out more.

Camp Rankin Summer Jobs

Once again, several senior 4-H members (16 or older by July) will be hired as counsellors at Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp on the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton.

The camp runs for five weeks from June 30 to August 3. There are positions related to canoeing, water safety, drama, crafts, recreation and nature studies, just to name a few.

4-H members who are 16 or older by July can also apply for the counsellor-in-training positions. These volunteers are at the camp for one week while the camp is open. Deadlines for applications is March 15.

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members. For more information please contact the provincial 4-H office at (902) 893-6585.

4-H Staff Changes

- Dianne Cox, 4-H Specialist for the Eastern Region is taking a one-year leave of absence.
- Dawn Barrington, 4-H Specialist, will be leaving South Shore region to cover Antigonish, Pictou and Guysborough counties for the next year. She will be working in the Pictou and Antigonish offices.
- The South Shore welcomes Acting 4-H Specialist, Kate Bishop, who will be in the Bridgewater office. Kate lived on a dairy farm outside of Annapolis Royal, was a 4-H member for 10 years, and has a BSc. in Agriculture from NSAC and the University of Alberta.
- Rhonda MacDougall will be going on maternity leave in March for one year. Ryan McCarron will be stepping in as 4-H Specialist for the Cape Breton region. Ryan was a 4-H member in Antigonish for 10 years, has a BSc. in Agriculture from NSAC, and experience with livestock and youth education.

4-H Members Set to Fund Raise

If a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar this spring, remember, it's for a good cause. Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in their provincial fund raising campaign to raise money for local and provincial 4-H programs.

Proceeds from this sale will be split between the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties selling bars.

This year the campaign runs from March 10 – April 11. A variety of chocolate delights will be sold for \$2 each.

4-H Member Awarded TD Scholarship

Laura Coulter from the Bay Vista Cons Mills 4-H Club was awarded a \$1,000 TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarship.

This national scholarship program recognizes 10 Canadian students who will attend a college or university for agriculture related or agri-business studies. This scholarship is sponsored by TD Bank Financial Group. The TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarships are open to all active 4-H members over the age of 16. Applicants with the highest academic average in their province are selected as recipients.

Congratulations Laura!

NOTICE OF MEETING

What will pork production in Nova Scotia look like 10 years from now? How can this business renew itself to take further advantage of new market opportunities and remain profitable for the next generation of producers?

Pork Nova Scotia has some ideas, but your input is needed. Please attend one of the following meetings to hear more about group sow ownership and give us your thoughts on how it might fit into your future.

Contact us toll-free for more meeting details:

(888) 535-5619

Clarence Froese, DGH Engineering Ltd.

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

Monday, February 24:

Pearson Peacekeeping Centre
121 Tribal Street, Cornwallis Park
Clementsport, NS

Wednesday, February 26:

Best Western Glengarry
150 Willow Street
Truro, NS

Tuesday, February 25:

Old Orchard Inn
Highway 101, Exit 11
Kentville, NS

March Break

at the Museum

March 8 – 16, 2003

Ruth Grant, DAF

Over the past number of years it has been really interesting to bring together “city kids” and things related to agriculture. This year should be just as exciting.

For the fifth consecutive year the Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee will be at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax for March Break (March 8 – 16). The museum’s theme will be “Adventure Africa.” The committee has chosen the theme “Ag Zone.”

4-H will be participating and the exhibit will include baby animals, daily commodity exhibits, chicks hatching and a variety of other hands-on activities. We expect to see 30,000 kids, parents and others who want to learn more about the world around us. Everyone is welcome.

Pesticide Applicator's Certification

Ron Laking, NSAC

This course, provided by NSAC professor Glen Sampson, teaches farmers the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. It is excellent preparation for those writing the Department of Environment and Labour’s 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.

Courses offered at NSAC:

Monday & Tuesday

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(evening sessions

6:30 – 9:30 p.m. optional)

Wednesday & Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration deadline is March 28, 2003.

To obtain your pesticide applicator’s license, you must first pass a pesticide applicator’s examination. If you take this course, we administer the exam at no additional fee and forward it to the Department of

Environment and Labour (DEL).

Your exam result will be mailed to you and you may purchase a licence through the DEL office. For more information please contact your regional Department of Environment and Labour office.

For more information contact:

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education

Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Phone: (902) 893-6666

Fax: (902) 895-5528

Email: cde@nsac.ns.ca

Please indicate on your application if you wish to write the examination and for which province.

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

Landscape Installation Workshops

(10 different topics)
January 10 – April 4
Fridays, excluding February 14, 21,
& March 28 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
\$100 per day; 10 workshops
Registration deadline: two weeks
prior to date of workshop

Landscape Plant Identification

March 19 – 20
Wednesday – Thursday
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) — \$200
Registration deadline: March 5

Nutrient Management Planning

March 31 – April 3 — \$200
Registration Deadline: March 24

Pesticide Certification

April 14 – 17
Monday & Tuesday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(evening sessions 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
optional)
Wednesday & Thursday
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) — \$250
Registration deadline: March 28

Know & Grow: The Planting & Culture of Landscape Plants

April 16 – 17
Wednesday – Thursday
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) — \$200
Registration deadline: March 31

Tree Worker

April 21 – May 2
Monday – Friday
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) — \$700
Registration deadline: March 31

Introductory Floral Design

May 25 – 30, Sunday (7 – 9 p.m.)
Monday – Thursday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Friday (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) — \$600
Registration deadline: May 2
Please note: To assist in planning
effective programs, courses have
registration deadlines which may be
as much as three weeks prior to the
first day of a course. If you are
planning on attending a course
please apply by the registration
deadline.

For more information please contact:
Centre for Continuing and Distance
Education
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
P.O. Box 550
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E3
Tel: (902) 893-6904
Fax: (902) 895-5528
Email: cde@nsac.ns.ca

The National Agricultural Awareness Conference

is being held
in Charlottetown, PEI
May 28 – 31, 2003.
The theme is "Agriculture...
Keeping Good Things Growing"

For more information contact Ruth Grant at 902-893-6598
or grantra@gov.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

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

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

Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties:

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

Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness & Guysborough counties:

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

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

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

Pesticide Applicator Training

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

Recertification Courses – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

February 12, Demonstration Building, Ex. Grounds, Lawrencetown

March 28, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre

The cost for the re-certification course is \$70, taxes included.

Certification Courses – Day 1: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Day 2: 9 a.m. – noon

March 13 & 14, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre

March 25 & 26, Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook

This 1½ day program costs \$140, includes taxes and the manual.

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

Hants Co. Forage Day

The format will change for this year's Hants Co. Forage Day. There will be several afternoon or evening on-farm sessions instead of a one-day program.

Watch your Hants County Federation of Agriculture newsletter for more information or contact a federation director.

Events

- February 25 **Dairy Information Meeting**, O'Brien Building, Windsor 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sponsored by the East Kings/Hants Dairy Club. Topics to include transition cow feeding (Daniel Scothorn, AgraPoint) and how soil fertility levels affect forage quality (Jack vanRoestel, AgraPoint). Lunch will be available for a minimal charge.
- March 1 **Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture Dinner & Dance**, Brooklyn Fire Hall. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. social, 7 – 8:30 p.m. dinner, and 9 p.m. dance. Advance tickets for dinner available until February 16 from a federation director.
- April 24 **Kings Co. Farm & Rural Women's Day**, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Berwick, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. This will be an informative day with speakers on safety and gardening. Various entrepreneurs will be on hand to talk about, demonstrate and sell their products. Registration fee (includes lunch) before April 1 is \$12; after April 1 is \$15. Please send registration fee with name, address and phone number to Ann Palmeto, 661 East Long Island, North Grand Pré, NS B0P 1M0. For further info contact Ann Palmeto at (902) 542-3204 or Leta Ells at (902) 582-7298.

Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP)

It's that time of year again! Data collection for the Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP) for the 2002 data year will begin soon. FMAP is designed to assist Nova Scotia farm managers develop their business management knowledge and skills.

Currently, FMAP is available to producers involved in tree fruit, mink, swine, dairy, beef and blueberry. Regardless of whether you are involved in the early stages of developing your farm business, or you are planning for the next generation, FMAP will provide you with an integrated financial and production management report. The report is an excellent tool for farm planning, bench marking and comparison.

This is a **FREE** service provided by the department's Business Management and Economics Section. For more information regarding FMAP or to participate in the project, please contact Lisa Bekkers, Business Management Coordinator at (902) 679-6011.

South Shore Region 4-H Dates

Lunenburg 4-H Winter Carnival: February 22, West Northfield Elementary School starting at 8:45 a.m. County Host/Hostess and Prince/Princess will be selected at the pageant and clubs in Lunenburg are invited to attend the winter carnival events.

The Lunenburg Craft Workshop will be held in March. Details to be announced.

Valley Region 4-H Dates

Hants County 4-H Royalty Night: February 21, Brooklyn Firehall; 7:30 p.m. speeches, 8:30 p.m. winners announced, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. dance for 4-H members.

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting: March 3, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: March 11, 7 p.m., Hants West Rural High School.

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting: April 7, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: April 14, 7 p.m., Hants West Rural High School.

Regional or Provincial 4-H Dates

Due date for Market Steer project: **March 1, 2003** – provincial 4-H office in Truro.

Farm Credit Canada Scholarship applications due: **February 28, 2003** to the Canadian 4-H Council.

March 10 – April 11, 2003: 4-H provincial Chocolate Fund Raiser campaign. Members from across the province will be busy fund raising for various 4-H events, activities and programs by selling chocolate bars in a variety pack.

2003 Chat-A-Rama: March 14 – 15, Camp Hillies, Paradise (open to all 4-H members 14 to 18 yrs.)

Eastern Breeders Inc. 4-H beef and dairy showcase: June 22 – 24th, Truro. The program features calf preparation, showmanship, judging, and educational presentations on a variety of topics. The program concludes with a show for members participating in the event. Applications are available from a general 4-H leader or 4-H office and are due **April 1, 2003**.

Pesticide Applicators Courses

Please note time is running out to pre-register for pesticide applicator training courses. Two types of courses are being offered this year.

Pesticide Applicator **Re-certification courses** are one-day sessions that provide participants with up to five points towards their 15-point total needed to re-certify without re-writing an exam. Please note if your current certificate expired, you cannot renew or re-certify with a course like this one.

If your certificate has expired or if you need more than five points you must take a Pesticide Applicator **Certification course** (one-and-a-half day or four day depending on the provider). This includes a written exam which, if you pass, will allow you to apply for a pesticide applicators licence with the Department of Environment and Labour.

Producers also have the option of writing the applicators exam at an Environment and Labour office. Be sure to contact them before going in, to arrange to write the test.

Courses in this region are as follows:

Pesticide Re-certification (for those collecting points)

Date	Location	Time	Cost	Provider
Feb. 25	AgriTECH Park, Truro	9:30 a.m.	\$65	Pro-Agri Consulting
Feb. 26	Pavillion, Nappan	9:30 a.m.	\$65	Pro-Agri Consulting

Pesticide Certification (Course plus exam)

Date	Location	Time	Cost	Provider
Feb. 27 – 28	Pavillion, Nappan	9 a.m.	\$140	Pro-Agri Consulting
Mar. 10 – 11	AgriTECH Park, Truro	9 a.m.	\$140	Pro-Agri Consulting
Apr. 14 – 17	NSAC, Truro	8:30 a.m.	\$250	NSAC

Please Note: If there is not enough participants registered, these courses will be cancelled, so be sure to call to confirm.

Other Dates to Note

March 1	Feeder Sale, Maritime Cattle Market, Truro
March 6 – 8	Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show, Moncton, N.B.
March 13	On-Farm Diversification Workshop 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Agri-Tech Park, Truro, Contact Laurie Sandeson, (902) 896-7270 Registration Deadline: March 7
March 14 – 15	Organic Agrifood Conference & Trade show The Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax. For details and to register visit www.acornorganic.org or call 1-877-322-2676.
March 27 – 28	Raspberry Production Workshop, AgraPoint, Truro, 896-0277
April 5	Bull Sale, Bull Test Station, Nappan

Bus Tour to Farm Mechanization Show

The Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture are coordinating a bus tour to this year's Farm Mechanization Show in Moncton. The tour will be on Friday, March 7, 2003. The bus will be leaving from the Co-op parking lot in Milford promptly at 8 a.m. and will return at approximately 9 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person or \$35 per family. Anyone planning to attend should contact Amy Grant at (902) 758-4180.

Stewiacke–Halifax East Hants Curling Night

The Stewiacke district and Halifax East Hants Federations of Agriculture will be holding their annual fun curling night on Friday, February 28, 2003 at the Brookfield Curling Club. Curling gets started at 8:00 p.m. and no previous experience is necessary. A pot luck lunch will follow. If you plan to attend contact either Maxine Gourley, (902) 639-2709 or Amy Grant, (902) 758-4180 to pre-register and arrange the pot luck lunch.

DAIRY DAY - Strategies to Reduce Fresh Cow Troubles

A Dairy Information Session will be held at St. Ninian Place in Antigonish on February 27, 2003, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Speakers will be Daniel Scothorn, Non-Ruminants; Jack VanRoestel, Field Crops; and Bill Thomas, Field Crops. Please pre-register by February 21 by contacting the local Agriculture and Fisheries office at (902) 863-4705. There is a fee of \$5 which will cover the cost of the course and lunch.

4-H Information

Regional Rally

Cape Breton Island 4-H'ers will be practicing their communication skills as they compete to represent the region at the Regional 4-H Rally. This year's event will be held on April 12 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Baddeck School. Canteen services will be available.

Craft Co-op Workshop

4-H members, leaders and parents are invited to participate in a craft workshop to be held on April 26 at the Exhibition Grounds in North Sydney, beginning at 9 a.m. Applications will be forwarded to 4-H families in early March.

Toboggan Party

Inverness & Victoria 4-H families are invited to a toboggan party on March 9 at David & Willena Van Zutphen's farm in Port Hood. Bring along your sleighs, a dozen sweets/snacks per family, and dress for the weather.

Food Handler's Certification Program

Contaminated food, eaten by your customers, could cause serious illness or even death. This could be disastrous to your operation.

The Foodhandler's Certification Program course presents the fundamentals of sanitation and safety with regard to the service of food to the public. Included in this workshop are the laws, rules, and procedures related to healthy food service and operations. It provides the theory and practical information needed to ensure your food is prepared, handled, received, stored and served safely, using the HACCP Safe Food System.

These courses are put on periodically throughout the year by the Food Safety Section of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. To get your name on the registration list please call Cheryl at (902) 563-2000.

Pesticide Applicators Re-certification & Certification Courses

Pro-Agri Consulting will be offering a course on April 1, 2003 from 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m., at the DAF Point Edward office. The cost for re-certification is \$70 (includes taxes). This course will provide five points toward re-certification.

A one and one-half day **certification course** will also be offered at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck for those wishing to write the pesticide

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

Note: a minimum of 10 people are required to hold these sessions. For more information or to register, contact Traci Curry at (902) 798-2114 or Gary Koziel at (902) 563-2000.

Upcoming Events

February 26 & 27 **Nutrient Management Workshops**, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.
Feb. 26, 9:45 p.m. – Agricultural Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown
Feb. 27, 9:45 am – Rodd Colony Harbour Inn, Yarmouth

Bring soil and/or manure analysis (if you have them), \$10 for lunch and your questions. For information and to register please call Lise LeBlanc, Nutrient Management Planner, (902) 757-0172 or email lise.leblanc@ns.sympatico.ca

Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP)

It's that time of year again! Data collection for the Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP) for the 2002 data year will begin soon. FMAP is designed to assist Nova Scotia farm managers develop their business management knowledge and skills.

Currently, FMAP is available to producers involved in tree fruit, mink, swine, dairy, beef and blueberry. Regardless of whether you are involved in the early stages of developing your farm business, or you are planning for the next

generation, FMAP will provide you with an integrated financial and production management report. The report is an excellent tool for farm planning, bench marking and comparison.

This is a **FREE** service provided by the department's Business Management and Economics Section. For more information regarding FMAP or to participate in the project, please contact Lisa Bekkers, Business Management Coordinator at (902) 679-6011.

Cancellation Notice

The pesticide re-certification courses that were scheduled for Yarmouth (February 11) and Lawrencetown (February 12) were cancelled due to insufficient registration. If you are interested in a pesticide re-certification course please call the Weymouth office at (902) 837-5161. We will collect the names and locations of all those interested and if there is sufficient interest in an area later in the year we will set up a course.

DAIRY DAY - Strategies to Reduce Fresh Cow Troubles

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Alternative Method of Dead Stock Disposal

The Municipality of the County of Antigonish is working with the Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to develop a dead stock removal and disposal system for the county.

Most farmers in the areas dispose of their dead livestock through burial or by leaving them in their woodlots for scavengers. Due to the difficulty of burial in the winter, as well as increasing bio-security concerns, an alternative system is being developed and will eventually be provided to the farmers at a minimal cost.

Compost has already been proven to be a safe and effective method of livestock disposal. A pilot project on composting livestock will begin this summer at the Municipal Landfill.

An information package on the protocol for handling and contacting the landfill site is also being developed. This information will be supplied to livestock producers in the near future. For more information contact Kevin Bekkers or Paul Corsten.

Nutrient Management Workshops

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will be putting on a series of one-day Nutrient Management Workshops across the province. The workshops are funded by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia and are aimed at educating producers on the basics of nutrient management on their farms. It should identify opportunities to decrease input costs and reducing environmental risk while maintaining crop production.

March 20 – Pictou, Braeside Inn, Front St. 9:45 a.m.

March 21 – Antigonish, Claymore Inn, 9:45 a.m.

Please call Lise Leblanc, Nutrient Management Planner at (902) 757-0172 or email lise.leblanc@ns.sympatico.ca ASAP to register as space is limited. We need to know how many manuals to print as well as prepare for lunch. The sessions will only be held if numbers warrant.

St. John Ambulance – First Aid on the Farm

Farming is one of Canada's most hazardous occupations. Dealing with heavy machinery, unpredictable animals, dangerous chemicals and farm activities increase the likelihood of injury. First Aid on the Farm taught by St. John Ambulance will cover topics such as farm hazards, shock, burns, poisoning, heart attack and stroke.

***Note: The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation and the Pictou North-Colchester Federation will COST SHARE WITH THE MEMBERS WHO PRE-REGISTER. Minimum of 10 participants are required.**

March 6 or March 7, Antigonish DAF office (pre-register by February 24)

March 8, West River Fire Hall, Pictou (pre-register by February 28)