

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #'s	Acrobat Reader Page #
Main Newsletter <i>(for all regions)</i>		
BSE Task Force Meets with Producers	1	2
Hurricane Juan Expanded Disaster Financial Assistance Program.	1	2
Business Risk Management Update	2	3
Transition Funding to be Delivered to Producers	3	4
Scholarships Awarded to Agriculture Students	3	4
Application Forms for Disaster Financial Assistance	4	5
Disposal of Used Farm Sharps	4	5
Agricultural Hall of Fame to Induct New Members	5	6
NS Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission Deadlines	5	6
National 4-H Week	6	7
Fall Course in Nutrient Management Planning	7	8
57th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Weed Science Society	8	9
SCIANS Advance Payments Program.	8	9
Custom Newsletter Pages <i>(for individual regions)</i>		
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties	9	10
Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties	10	10
East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties.	11	10
Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness and Guysborough counties	13	10
Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties	--	-

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



Fall 2003

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 4 No. 4

BSE Task Force Meets with Producers

With the help of the task force government will continue to work together with industry to address the impacts of BSE on farmers, said the minister.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Task force on BSE members include:

- Brooke Taylor (chair), MLA Colchester Musquodoboit Valley;
- Anthony Van Oostrum, past president Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture;
- Leo Cox, chair Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board;
- Stephen McNeil, MLA;
- George Archibald, former minister of Agriculture;
- Larry Weatherby, producer;
- Kurt Sherman, producer;
- Don Cox, first vice-president Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

"I am pleased with the high level of expertise and commitment that members bring to the table," said Mr. d'Entremont. "In pursuing this initiative we are giving industry the opportunity for direct input and I look forward to their findings."

The task force's objectives are to determine the impacts of the BSE crisis on the Nova Scotia agriculture industry and to determine the capacity of existing federal, provincial and other industry programs to address these impacts.

The task force meetings were held from October 17-21 in Wentworth, Antigonish, Brookfield, and Kentville.

During the meetings, stakeholders gave presentations that addressed how the BSE crisis affected their farming operations and whether or not the current programs will assist them in dealing with the impacts from BSE. A report on the task force findings will be available in the near future.

Hurricane Juan Expanded Disaster Financial Assistance Program Emergency Measures Organization

The province is making sure commercial farmers, fishers and small commercial woodlot owners, whose livelihoods have been jeopardized by Hurricane Juan, are getting the help they need. The eligibility criteria for the province's current disaster financial assistance arrangement (DFAA) is being expanded to better assist the resource sectors.

"Agriculture, fishing and forestry -- these sectors have been a major economic driver and an important

piece of our traditional way of life for hundreds of years," Ernest Fage, Minister responsible for the Emergency Measures Organization, said on October 20. "We recognize that people in these resource sectors have had their livelihoods placed in jeopardy as a result of the hurricane so we have changed the current program to make assistance available to a greater number of people."

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

For BRM information
please call
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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Enhancements to the program include the following changes:

In the agricultural sector:

- the province will expand the level of assistance to include eligible losses on all lands that are used in a commercial agricultural business to earn income, regardless of who owns them;
- where insurance coverage is generally available but has been capped or otherwise limited by the insurance industry and the damage incurred to agricultural buildings exceeds the insurable coverage limitations, the province will provide additional assistance of up to \$200,000 depending on the amount of uninsured damages.

In the fisheries sector:

- financial assistance for repairs and reconstruction of wharves that are considered essential to commercial fishing or other commercial ventures will be expanded to apply even if the fishermen/business owners do not own the wharf, as long as they have a legal right to use it;
- the current verification process has been streamlined to provide financial assistance on the basis of documentation attesting to the loss, so that those who require money to repair wharves or replace their gear can be ready for the coming fishing season;
- where necessary, additional assistance of up to \$50,000 will be provided so that wharves can be repaired or reconstructed to meet today's building code and/or environmental standards.

In the forestry sector:

- small commercial woodlot owners who would not otherwise be eligible will now have a degree of financial assistance to remove damaged wood in order to prepare the site for natural regeneration or replanting.

Applications for assistance can be made at any of the designated municipal and provincial locations already assisting with the application process. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

If an individual has already submitted a DFAA application, there is no need to re-apply. All applications will be reviewed using the new criteria.

Although estimates of the total financial impact of Hurricane Juan are still being established, it is expected that the province's share of the DFAA program, including the

new expanded eligibility criteria, will be included in government's commitment of up to \$10,000,000.

Individuals with inquiries related to the disaster financial assistance program, or those wanting to know the designated sites for applications, can call the province's public information line at 1-800-670-4357 (902-424-5200 in the Halifax Regional Municipality).

For more information contact Sheliah Tulloch, Emergency Measures Organization at 902-424-0284 or e-mail [tullocsa@gov.ns.ca](mailto:tulloca@gov.ns.ca)

Business Risk Management Update: Current and Upcoming Programs

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have invested in several income stabilization programs designed to assist producers who have experienced a drop in income as a result of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The following are current and upcoming programs designed to help address income losses on your farm:

Advance Payments: Producer Assistance Program 2003

Nova Scotia Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) participants will be receiving a letter from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada advising them of their ability to access funding through the Producer Assistance Program. The Producer Assistance Program provides disaster assistance to eligible producers and is a transition measure until new business risk management programming for 2003 is fully implemented across Canada. It will offer significant relief to producers who suffer a drop in margin as a result of production or market conditions that are beyond their control. You may qualify for a Producer Assistance 2003 payment if

your income for 2003 has dropped by 15 per cent or more, relative to your reference margin. Producer Assistance 2003 payments will equal 50 per cent of the government contribution portion of 2003 benefits, for the maximum protection level. You will have until March 1, 2004 to request a Producer Assistance 2003 payment. If you are not a NISA participant, you must submit information to the administration to have your Reference Margin calculated (average of three or five years). Contact the administration at **1-866-367-8506**.

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Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) Interim Withdrawals 2003

Deposit withdrawal options notices (DWON) are required to be eligible for an interim withdrawal. If you did not receive a 2003 Interim Withdrawal Application, you may contact NISA at **1-800-665-6472** to request one. The application includes information about your account. Use the application forms to project a withdrawal trigger for 2003 by filling out projected income and projected expenses and request all, or a portion, of this amount.

Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) 2002

NISA will accept 2002 applications and deposit/withdrawal requests until December 31, 2003. By making a 2002 deposit, you receive matching contributions that will increase the funds available to you in an Interim 2003 request or the account wind-down process.

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAIS)

When the CAIS Program officially begins, producers will choose their coverage level and place one third of the required deposit in their CAIS Program account by March 31, 2004. Final application/claim forms will be submitted no later than June 15 for individuals or June 30 for corporations. After final 2003 figures are submitted, the producer will be notified of any payment eligibility. If you are eligible to receive a CAIS Program payment, the remaining two-thirds of your deposit will have to be placed in your account before payment can be made.

For more information please visit www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst and follow the "Business Risk

Transition Funding to be Delivered to Producers

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont announced that \$2.5 million, the second installment of \$5 million in provincial bridge funding, will be delivered directly to Nova Scotia farmers this fall.

This initiative will also meet the province's commitment to match federal expenditures on a 60:40 ratio for bridge or transition funding for the 2002 and 2003 years to continue to help the industry with its immediate needs while in transition to new Agriculture Policy Framework (APF).

Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont said direct payment is the approach requested by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and he added that it fulfils the province's commitment to provide bridge funding. He added that Nova Scotia is one of the few provinces to do so.

"Farmers across the province constantly face a range of pressures," said Mr. d'Entremont. "This funding will help ease the effects of BSE the province has experienced."

Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) program participants will receive a direct payment by cheque. Producers who are not in the NISA program can apply for these funds by calling toll free 1-866-844-4BRM (4276).

Program Contacts are:

CFIP : 1-888-343-1064

www.agr.gc.ca/cfip

NISA : 1-800-665-6472

www.agr.gc.ca/nisa

CAIS : 1-800-665-6472

www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst

Scholarships Awarded to Agriculture Students

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries awarded scholarships worth between \$300 and \$2,000 each to 95 agriculture students at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) annual autumn assembly on October 22.

The scholarship program was established to provide financial assistance to Nova Scotia Agricultural College students in undergraduate and technical programs. The program also guarantees entrance scholarship for all Nova Scotia high school students graduating with 80 per cent averages.

"Our scholarship program ensures that strong students are encouraged to pursue post-secondary studies in agri-science," said Chris d'Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. "By contributing to this scholarship program we are ensuring that the future of agriculture remains optimistic with a strong supply of trained staff to meet Nova Scotia's agri-food industry's needs."

The department is a long-standing scholarship sponsor at NSAC. For more information see the Web site at <http://www.nsac.ns.ca> .

Application Forms for Disaster Financial Assistance

Individuals and small businesses who suffered uninsurable damage as a result of Hurricane Juan will have help determining if they are eligible for disaster financial assistance.

Beginning Tuesday, October 14, representatives will be available at designated municipal and provincial locations to assist with the application process. The deadline for claim submissions is Friday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

“In past situations where we have used the disaster financial assistance arrangement, applications were given out and the individual was left to determine for themselves if they were eligible and what information they needed to provide,” said Ernest Fage, Minister responsible for the Emergency Measures Act. “We are trying to improve this process by having a customer service representative meet with the individual to help them with the application process.”

Since the program is for uninsurable losses, it is essential individuals first contact their insurance company to confirm and request written proof that the loss was not insurable.

Individuals with inquiries related to the disaster financial assistance program, can call the province's public inquiries line at 1-800-670-4357 (902-424-5200 in the Halifax Regional Municipality). This line is staffed on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays to Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The following is a list of sites where representatives and applications will be available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

Antigonish Access Nova Scotia
20 St. Andrews St.

Bridgewater Access Nova Scotia
77 Dufferin St.

Dartmouth Access Nova Scotia
Superstore Mall, 650 Portland St.

Halifax Access Nova Scotia
West End Mall, 6950 Mumford Rd.

Dept. of Natural Resources
Middle Musquodoboit Area Office
12086 Highway 224

Mahone Bay Town Hall
493 Main St.

Milford Recreation Hall
2288 Highway 2

New Glasgow Town Municipal Office
111 Provost St.

Nova Scotia Fire School, Waverley
48 Powder Mill Rd.

Tatamagouche Fire Hall
202 Main St.

Truro Access Nova Scotia
35 Commercial St.

Wentworth Recreation Centre
13752 Highway 4

DISPOSAL OF USED FARM SHARPS

Dr. Gord Finley, Program Veterinarian

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Truro, N.S.

Livestock producers generate medical waste on a regular basis. These wastes include sharps such as syringes, needles, broken glass tubes, lancets and scalpel blades. If not disposed of properly they can injure livestock, family members, increase risk of infection spread, pollute the environment and put waste handlers at risk.

Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. One of the regional solid waste management committees has recently brought this problem, originating from farms, to our attention.

Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with screw on or tightly secured lids. Sharps containers, specifically designed for this purpose, should be used if possible. Otherwise, be sure that containers are thick walled with a tight lid. These containers should be clearly labeled to avoid accidental discarding. Thin-walled containers, pop cans and glass bottles are not acceptable.

Once the proper container is full, the sharps are still considered infectious and bio-hazardous. Contents should be disinfected using any of several common products routinely used around farms. For example, chemical decontamination can be done with sodium hypochlorite (household bleach). Full strength can be used (usually 5.25%) or freshly diluted 1:10. A contact time of several hours will kill common infectious agents ensuring that the contents are not bio-hazardous. A label indication that decontamination has been completed would be appropriate such as “WASTE SHARPS – NON-INFECTIOUS” or “WASTE SHARPS – DISINFECTED”. Tightly seal the lid using duct or packing tape before disposal.

It is not safe to dispose of sharps in regular garbage in HRM. Check with your local municipal disposal site to see if they have any special process in place that accept sharps.

Agricultural Hall of Fame To Induct New Members

The late Donald Newcombe of Port Williams is Nova Scotia's 2003 inductee in the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

"The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame recognizes members of the agricultural community for their outstanding contributions to the industry, community and farm organizations," said Chris d'Entremont, Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. "Mr. Newcombe was a strong supporter of the agriculture industry and the agriculture industry is much stronger as a result of his many contributions."

Donald Clayton Newcombe was born on Dec. 23, 1926, in Port Williams. He graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1946. In 1947, he joined A.C.A Cooperative, retiring in 1991 as vice president of agricultural production.

Don was nominated by the Nova Scotia Egg Producers in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the agricultural industry. Of special note are his contributions to the provincial and national egg industry in the early years of supply management.

He was a longtime member of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture, acting as president of that group from 1966-68. He was a board member of the Nova Scotia Chicken Marketing Board from 1966-74, vice president and president of Co-op Atlantic from 1972-81, board member of the Nova

Scotia Egg and Pullet Producers Marketing Board from 1974-91, chairman of the Nova Scotia Egg and Pullet Producers Marketing Board from 1976-78 and director of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency from 1978-91. Don served several terms as the elected vice chair of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency during the years when the chair was a government appointment. At the time of his death, Jan. 21, 2000, Don was serving as a member of the Nova Scotia Natural Products Marketing Council.

Don was married to Marion Woolavar. They had three children; Janet Anderson, Mount Denson; Karen Lewis, Fall River and Kevin Newcombe, Falmouth.

Induction ceremonies were held on Wednesday, October 22 in the Alumni Theatre, Cumming Hall on the Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus.

The 2003 inductees from the other Atlantic provinces include the late C. Dale Howse, Newfoundland and Labrador, Armand Lavoie, New Brunswick, and Elmer Waugh, Prince Edward Island.

For more information on the hall of fame see the Web site at www.nsac.ns.ca/halloffame/
Contact: Jim Goit
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
902-893-7950
E-mail: Jgoit@nsac.ns.ca



Crop Insurance Application Deadlines 2003

Forage Production – October 31
Raspberry – October 31
Blueberry – November 15
Strawberry – November 15
Tree Fruit – November 30
Tree Endorsement – November 30

National 4-H Week



This year marks the 90th anniversary of 4-H in Canada with 4-H clubs all across Canada celebrating Nov. 3 - 9, 2003. Over the past nine decades, 4-H has enriched the lives millions of young people in both small and large communities from coast to coast. Through learning, fun and lasting friendships, today's 4-H members will become the agricultural, business, government and civic leaders of the future. Watch for events during this week with 4-H clubs in your area.

Nova Scotia To Be Well Represented at National 4-H Conferences

Ten 4-H members and eight 4-H leaders from Nova Scotia have been selected to attend two prestigious 4-H Conferences in Toronto. Nova Scotia selects and sponsors a group of 4-H members and leaders annually to attend the conferences, hosted by the Canadian 4-H Council. From November 5 – 9 these delegates will attend the National 4-H Members and the National 4-H Leaders conferences.

“For 90 years 4-H in Canada has been developing young people into responsible, productive citizens and working with volunteer adults. National travel awards are one aspect of the 4-H program that contribute to their personal success,” said Elizabeth Crouse, Manager, 4-H and Rural Organizations. “This is a wonderful opportunity for these 4-H members and leaders to experience another part of Canada and tell others about Nova Scotia’s strong 4-H program.”

Sixty-two delegates from across Canada, including three from the United Kingdom will attend the National 4-H Member Conference. The theme for the conference is *The Changing Face of Agriculture: Science, Technology and Innovation in Canadian Agriculture*. Throughout the week, members will participate in educational sessions focusing on agriculture and the food continuum from the farm gate to the plate.

Through presentations, workshops, and interaction with industry leaders, delegates will learn about the integrated complex food chain that includes primary agriculture and inputs, processing, distribution, food safety, transportation, wholesale and retail of food and other products derived from agriculture.

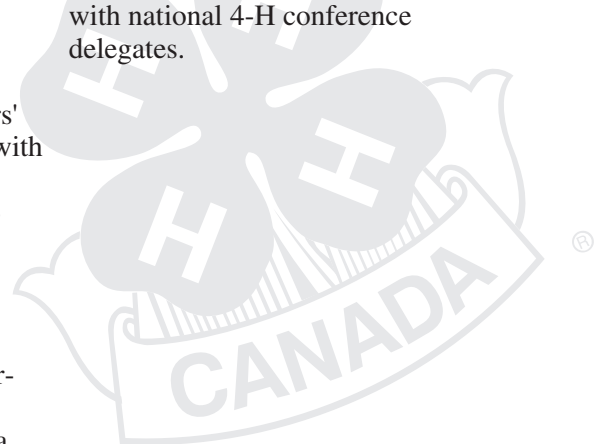
The Nova Scotia members who won travel awards are: Marcie Russell, Barass Corner, Lunenburg County; Nicole MacHattie, Middleton, Annapolis County; Stephanie Trueman, Canning, Kings County; Tyson Thompson, River John, Pictou County; Cory Smith, Port Howe, Cumberland County; Melissa Tattrie, Tatamagouche and Lauren Johnson, of Brookfield, Colchester County; Christine Saunders, Scotsville and Genna Chisholm, of Port Hood, Inverness County.

The National 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Conference, will run concurrently with the 4-H member conference. The theme of this year's leaders' conference is *Member — The Future of Tomorrow, Leaders – Teachers of Today!*

Nova Scotians attending this conference are: Christine McLean, North Brookfield, Queens County; Cecilia Waalderboos, Amherst Cumberland County; Bev Kirk, Albert Bridge, and Carmelita Cousins, Sydney Mines of Cape Breton County, Betty Lou Scott, Salt Springs, and Debbie Balodis,

Hopewell of Pictou County; Tanya Robinson, Aylesford, Kings County; and Lynn Chisholm, Port Hood, Inverness County.

A strong 4-H program depends on informed, up-to-date, enthusiastic leaders so this conference aims to strengthen their leadership skills and provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas. Forty - seven outstanding 4-H leaders from across Canada will work toward this important goal. Conference sessions for 4-H leader will concentrate on communication, working with committees, team building, maintaining 4-H membership, planning for success, networking and motivation. Volunteer leaders will participate in a number of joint sessions with national 4-H conference delegates.



Fall Course in Nutrient Management Planning

November 24 - 27, 2003

Ron Laking, Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, 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. This has also provided an incentive for the development of nutrient management frameworks and training of nutrient management planners. The Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre have developed a nutrient management planning course intended for agricultural professionals in Atlantic Canada.

The concepts of Nutrient Management Planning will be taught in a lecture format. Case studies and issues that draw on expertise within each regional institution will also be included. The course has been designed for this region using examples specifically from Atlantic Canada.

Participants require a Bachelor of Science or equivalent. Eligible Certified Crop Advisors will receive continuing education units (CEUs) for attendance.

A wide range of nutrient management systems will be discussed. Participants will complete exercises relating to soil, manure and plant tissue testing. The course will also examine calculations required for the completion of nutrient management

plans. Nutrient management software will be discussed but not used as part of the course.

All course participants will receive a study guide to supplement the lectures. Participants will be expected to have read sections of the study guide prior to the course. The study guide contains formulae, conversion tables and links to other resources that support nutrient management planning.

An examination consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions will be administered on the final afternoon of the course. Participants who successfully complete the examination will be awarded a Certificate of Completion from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Course topics include:

- Introduction - Why Nutrient Management Planning?
- Environmental Impacts of Nutrient Use
- Legislative Framework
- Fundamentals of Nutrient Cycling in Agro-ecosystems
- Soil, Manure and Plant Tissue Testing and Their Interpretation
- Tools for Nutrient Management
- Elements of a Nutrient Management Plan
- Nutrient Management and the Economics of Crop Production
- Emerging Technologies for Nutrient Management

The course will be offered, in English at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College from Nov. 24 – 27, 2003. The course will be instructed by Dr. David Burton with assistance from Dr. Gordon Fairchild. The final exam will be on Nov. 27, 2003.

The course will be offered in French in Moncton during November by Dr. Gordon Fairchild and J r me Damboise, assisted by Dr. David Burton. It will be offered next in the Fall of 2004.

Tuition, exam fee, and the study guide are \$200. The exam is open to others who wish to write it for a fee of \$100.

For further information please contact:
Centre for Continuing and Distance Education
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
P.O. Box 550
Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Phone: 902-893-6666
Fax: 902-895-5528
E-mail: cde@nsac.ns.ca



**Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College**



**Eastern Canada
Soil and Water
Conservation Centre**

57th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Weed Science Society

Joe R. Calder, P.Ag., NSDAF

The 57th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Weed Science Society will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian in Halifax Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, 2003. The theme of this year's Conference is "Weed Management in Transition". Topics to be covered include: Invasive Weeds in Canada, Weed Control in Organic Systems, Market Demand for "Green Products", Producer Strategy in Weed Management, Biological Herbicides in the Future, Reduced Risk Products from Industry, and Weed Research at the Crossroads. The conference will feature graduate student presentations, poster and commercial displays. For more information please contact Glen Sampson, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College at 902-893-6608, E-mail gsampson@nsac.ns.ca or visit the website of the Canadian Weed Science Society at www.cwss-scm.ca



Advance Payments Program



Soil & Crop

Improvement Association of Nova Scotia

Carol Versteeg

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) is one of the administrators for the Advanced Payments Program (APP). The program consists of a loan option that facilitates access to credit for producers during or after harvest season. Producers can receive a cash advance on their stored crops following harvest that will allow them to meet their short-term financial obligations.

The federal government will pay the interest on loans up to \$50,000 of an advance made under the program. The amount of the advance is based on half the value of the producer's crop. The value of the crop is a rate that we have negotiated with the federal government. The values, based on 50 per cent levels are: wheat - \$77/tonne, rye - \$47/tonne, barley - \$67/tonne, oats - \$54/tonne, corn - \$80/tonne, soybeans - \$115/tonne, sunflowers - \$90/tonne and hay - \$60/tonne.

Producers must repay the advance as the crop is sold or used for feed. Advances for wheat, rye, barley, oats and hay, must be paid back by Aug. 31, 2004. Advances for corn, soybeans and sunflower, must be repaid by Sept. 31, 2004. In order to complete an application, producers must allow a credit check and a storage check to be done. SCIANS will deduct a one per cent hold back from all advances to cover itself in the event of a default. This will be returned to the producer when the advance has been paid back in full. A fee of 1.25 per cent in advance plus HST will be charged to each producer for the administration of the program. For more information on the program contact Carol Versteeg at: 902-758-3530 or e-mail: carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.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

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

Events

- November 1, 15, 29 Annapolis Co. Federation Livestock Sale, Exhibition
December 13 Grounds
- October 29 Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting,
7:30 p.m., O'Brien Building, Windsor.
- November 17 Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting,
7 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and would no longer like to, please contact us to have your named removed. If your mailing address is incorrect, please notify us. Contact Cheryl Theriau at 902-679-6021.

Valley Region 4-H News

Kings County Joint Achievement Days, Hants County 4-H Exhibition Days and the Nova Scotia Provincial Show results are as follows:

Kings County

- Champion Beef Clipping Team: Keera Rousseau and Andrea Horsnell,
Harmony-Nicholsville 4-H Club
- Champion Dairy Clipping Team: G.W. Forsyth and Emily Biggs, Cornwallis
4-H Club
- Champion Sheep Clipping Team: Holly Woodworth and Gillian Benjamin,
Cornwallis 4-H Club
- Dairy Member Showing Most Improvement (Jean MacLean Memorial): G.W.
Forsyth, Cornwallis 4-H Club
- Horse Member Showing Most Improvement (Jean MacLean Memorial):
Trinda Dunlop, Harmony-Nicholsville 4-H Club
- Champion Club Reporter: Brendan Lamb, Western Kings 4-H Club
- Champion Community Project Award: Cornwallis 4-H Club
- Contribution Award: Stephanie Trueman, Cornwallis 4-H Club
- Top Junior Member: Macall Robinson, Harmony-Nicholsville 4-H Club
- Most Outstanding Senior Member (F. Waldo Walsh Award): Adam Daniels,
Western Kings
- Jean Ann Mitchell Memorial Award: Mark Robinson, Harmony-Nicholsville
4-H Club
- Top Inside and Outside Displays: Eastern Kings 4-H Club
- Grand Champion Livestock Showman: Mark Robinson, Harmony-
Nicholsville 4-H Club

Hants County

- Champion Dairy Clipping Team: Elizabeth Crowe and Caitlyn Dixon,
Cobequid 4-H Club
- Champion Sheep Clipping Team: Emily Manning and Whitney Morash,
Burlington Workers 4-H Club
- Top Barn and Inside Displays: Newport 4-H Club
- Grand Champion Livestock Showman: TIE - Jeff Sanford, Newport 4-H Club
and Sarah Levy, Border Riders 4-H Club

Upcoming Valley Region

4-H Events

- Kings County 4-H Council Meeting, November 3, at 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre
- Hants County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting, November 10, at 7 p.m., Hants West Middle School, Brooklyn
- Nova Scotia 4-H Council Annual Meeting, Truro, November 14 to 15
- Kings County 4-H Council Nomination and Board of Directors Meetings, December 1, at 7 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre

South Shore Region

4-H News

- Lunenburg County
- The Lunenburg County's promotional committee is busy getting ready for National 4-H Week this November. Radio broadcasts, mall displays and school presentations will run until November.
 - Lunenburg 4-H members participated in the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Lawrencetown in September. Approximately 150 show entries were from Lunenburg County. Special thanks to our Market Turkey buyers from Bridgewater - Bridgewater Farmers Co-op and South Shore Veterinary Services and Market Lamb buyer - Bridgewater Shur-Gain Division.

Shelburne County

- IPE delegate from Alberta visited a 4-H host family for 10 days and had a great time.
- Members from the county ordered sweatshirts for members to wear at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show, made possible from various fund raising activities held throughout the year.
- The Cloverbud program is beginning this year in the Rosway River 4-H Club, as the club re-organizes for the 2004 year.
- Shelburne County members had approximately 65 Nova Scotia 4-H show entries this year in Lawrencetown.

Attention Farmers and Food Processors of Cape Breton Island

The Cape Breton Food Producers and Processors Association in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Federation of Agriculture work to promote and enhance the growth of the agricultural industry in Cape Breton. The association is currently seeking interested new membership as

they work toward the development of a five year strategy for agriculture on Cape Breton Island. The goal is to increase awareness and promote our industry based on the farmers needs, in combination with various recommendations of the Enterprise of Cape Breton Corporation (ECBC)

Agriculture Value-Added Study of May 2003.

Interested parties should contact Gary Koziel at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 902-563-2000. Early applications are appreciated.

4-H Cape Breton Region

In late fall the Cape Breton Craft Co-op will be holding a fall workshop. For details please contact the local 4-H office towards the end of October. These workshops are always an excellent opportunity for members and leaders to develop new skills.

October will feature several council meetings dealing with resolutions and election of new officers. We will also be planning annual banquets and socials for the upcoming year. These council meetings are open to all senior members and leaders. If you are interested please contact your 4-H office to find out the specifics for your county.

Food Handler's Certification Program

This course provides an understanding of sanitation and safety with regard to serving food to the public. This workshop includes the laws, rules, and procedures related to healthy food service and operations. Contaminated food eaten by your customers can cause serious illnesses or even death which could be financially disastrous to your operation.

The Foodhandler's Certification Program course provides the theory and practical information needed to

ensure your food is prepared, handled, received, stored and served safely, using the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) safe food system.

These courses are put on periodically throughout the year by the Quality Evaluation Division, Food Safety Section of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. To register please call Cheryl Gillis at 902-563-2000.

SOIL TESTING – “Have you had your soils tested lately?”

Up-to-date soil tests are the cornerstone to developing profitable nutrient management plans that minimize 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 your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries office or by calling Point Edward at 902-563-2000. Samples can also be dropped off at local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries offices.

Farm Safety After Hurricane Juan

During the height of Hurricane Juan, the safety of farm families and their farms was a high priority for many in the agricultural industry in Central Nova Scotia. Now that the task of clean up and trying to get back to business is well in hand, it is important to keep safety in mind. Loose footing, damaged buildings, equipment and other hazardous situations can and are present. Take a moment to ensure that while cleaning up and repairing your farm that you do it as safely as possible.

- Be sure to check for electrical hazards and if necessary, have an electrician check circuits for “hidden” damage to wiring.
- Be extra cautious in woodlots. In addition to wind damaged trees, many are under tension and can be unpredictable when cut during clean up.
- Use caution on roofs and other structures, ensure you have adequate fall protection equipment and that ladders and/or staging are safely positioned and secured.
- With power on for most people, anyone who had and used a generator should take a moment to thank it, by giving this important piece of equipment a maintenance check up.

SUCCESSION AND ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP

A Farm Succession and Estate Planning Workshop is being planned for the central region this fall. Representatives from the accounting, banking, financial planning and legal fields will provide information in their area of expertise and how it relates to succession and estate planning. The following two workshops will be offered:

Wednesday, November 19 - Milford United Church

Thursday, November 20 - Best Western Glengarry, Truro

Both sessions will run from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and are free to attend. A lunch will also be provided. For more information and to pre-register, please call Tricia at 893-1150.

Upcoming Meetings, etc.

November 3 –

Halifax East Hants Federation of
Agriculture Annual Meeting,
7:30 p.m., Carroll’s Corner
Community Hall

Exhibition, Fairs

November 7-16 –

Royal Winter Fair, Toronto

We are in the process of updating our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and would no longer like to, please contact us to have your named removed. If your mailing address is incorrect, please notify us. Contact Carolyn Rushton at 902-893-6597.

Lauren Hunter and Maureen Nartey are two volunteer participants in Antigonish from the Canada World Youth Antigonish-Ghana exchange. Lauren is from Peterborough, Ontario, a small city an hour north east of Toronto and Maureen is from Accra, Ghana which is the capital city of the West African nation. The girls are joined in Antigonish by a team of eight other Canadians and eight other Ghanaians, who are living and volunteering in and around Antigonish. The team will spend three months in Nova Scotia and then depart in early December for Ghana, where they will live in the northern community of Bolgatanga for three months.

Lauren and Maureen are currently working one day a week with the department. Their main project has been gathering information for the development of an interactive website that will highlight the history of agriculture in the Antigonish and Guysborough counties and resources available to local farmers.

Pictou County Federation of Agriculture will hold their Annual Meeting Wednesday, November 12 at 7 p.m. at the Scotsburn Fire Hall

Congratulations to Antigonish County on placing Top Overall County at this years Provincial Show.

UPCOMING 4-H EVENTS

Antigonish/Guysborough

November 3-9 – National 4-H Week

November 4 – Annual Council Meeting - 7 p.m., Antigonish Education Centre – Review of NS Resolutions

November 5 – Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., St. Ninians Place, Antigonish.

November 14-15-NS 4-H Council Meeting, Truro

Inverness County - *Ryan McCarron*

October 27 – Inverness County sign up night, 6 p.m. at the Brook Village Hall.

December 18 – Open house in the Mabou office

Pictou County

November 2 – Pictou Co 4-H Church service - 9:45 a.m., St. David's Presbyterian Church in Toney River

November 5 – Pictou Co. Celebration of 4-H, 7 p.m. at MacLeod School

November 12 – Pictou County Council Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., New Glasgow Superstore.

November 26 – Pictou County Executive Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. Northumberland School