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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



April 2004

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 5 No. 2

POULTRY FARM BIO-SECURITY

Bio-security means protecting the health of poultry by preventing the introduction of infectious agents. There are several different ways to think about bio-security. One approach is to rank the risk factors around the possible introduction of disease. These include disease in other poultry flocks or wild birds in your area, farms located in a high poultry density area, backyard flocks located within 1 kilometre and nearby spreading of litter from other farms. While many of these risk factors are beyond your direct control they all increase the pressure on any farm bio-security system.

Farm gate:

Bio-security needs to begin at the farm gate with posted notices prohibiting any unauthorized entry to the premises. No one should enter the premise without the owner's permission. Remember that improperly cleaned or sanitized vehicles, such as feed and supply trucks, can physically carry diseases as can dirty clothing and equipment. Consider placing a standard pump sprayer at the entrance to your property. CFIA recommends using a solution of equal parts bleach and water. Infectious agents can't be seen but anything which appears dirty is an indication of a problem and should be considered

contaminated. Clean-up is a two step process - washing to clean followed by disinfection. If you have concerns about incoming equipment or trucks spray them with disinfectant. A similar protocol should be followed by service people as they exit your premise.

Barns:

The second and even more important site to implement a bio-security system is at the barn. Think of the barn as being surrounded by an

invisible barrier through which you do not want any infectious agents to pass.

The most obvious risk is at the people entrance to the barn which should be locked. Owners should provide clearly written instructions for people to follow and keep a log book of all traffic. There should be access to a well maintained foot bath and change room so outside street

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Assistance

Applications for the Federal Transitional Industry Support Direct Payment Program are now available on line at www.agr.gc.ca/tisp. Applications will also be mailed directly to registered farms reporting sales from cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats, and sheep. Any producer who is currently not participating in NISA and has not received the non NISA bridge funding are eligible for an additional general payment. To obtain forms and additional information, please contact the agriculture office at 902-893-3645 or toll free at 1-866-844-4276

Second Instalment of Transition Funding Delivered

Nova Scotia farmers will receive the second and final instalment of the provincial portion of risk management transition funding for 2003-04.

“Producers have faced many challenges this past year,” said Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont. “We hope this additional measure, along with our other programs, will help to address the financial pressures Nova Scotia farmers have endured.”

The initial funding was originally announced on Oct. 7, 2003 and was intended to help producers with recent income losses impacted by BSE (mad cow disease). The second instalment is the balance of the original \$2.5 million of the province's commitment to match federal expenditures for transition to

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

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

clothing and foot wear can removed. One then passes through an intermediate zone which divides dirty and clean. The importance of hand washing in this zone should be stressed. Next comes the clean zone where clean clothing, boots and head covers supplied by the owner, are put on. Once work in the barn is completed the same procedures, in reverse, should be followed to exit.

Another important potential source for infectious agents is the moving of equipment into barns. In British Columbia there have been suggestions that catching crews and their equipment have moved the AI virus to new farms. Also, recent information indicates that dirty egg crates may be responsible for moving the AI virus. However, people are still considered the primary way AI virus has been moved from farm to farm in British Columbia.

Backyard flocks:

Backyard flocks continue to be a source of concern to commercial producers. These flocks do represent some risk as their disease status is often unknown. Flocks having access to the outdoors are at increased disease risk as there is no tight bio-security system or barrier against poultry diseases found in local reservoirs. Farm owners or employees should not own backyard flocks. Having these flocks within 1 kilometre of a commercial farm does increase the pressure on any farm bio-security system. In known situations prevention needs to be in place to stop direct traffic into commercial barns. Indirect movement of disease is also a concern. In the USA one case has been reported in which a backyard flock owner was a babysitter for the commercial owner. It was assumed that disease passed mechanically from the babysitter to the owner then into the commercial barn.

Reservoirs:

Other potential sources of the virus are local reservoirs. It is well documented that wild birds such as geese and especially ducks can carry HPAI and often not be ill. In Nova Scotia we have a population of migrating waterfowl of which the AI status is unknown. It would be wise to consider these birds at least potential sources for AI. Remember AI virus is stable in the environment and can survive at least 90 days in feces. A serious outbreak of AI in Holland last year was thought to have originated from the direct tracking of AI infected wild duck feces from an adjacent pond directly into a commercial barn.

Other possible carriers for infectious agents include rodents or wild birds which get into barns. A rodent control program is essential including cutting of a zone of grass around the outside of barns. Screening of ventilators to keep birds out is also important.

Water contaminated by surface runoff is a possible virus source and in-barn water systems need to be on a regular program for cleaning and

sanitation. In-barn chlorination systems are good to stop or reduce the spread of many diseases should they be accidentally introduced to the water system.

Proper dead bird disposal is important. Birds should be quickly removed from the barn area to ensure that they do not serve as a source of disease back to the poultry in barns.

Properly composting of manure essentially destroys common disease pathogens by the heating process but the nearby spreading of fresh manure is a risk. If it is manure from your own barns the risk is less than if it is from other barns of unknown disease status.

All poultry producers are urged to review their farm bio-security system in accordance with the national on-farm food safety assurance programs being implemented by your commodity groups. For more information visit the CFIA web site at www.inspection.gc.ca or contact Dr. Gord Finley, NSDAF Program Veterinarian at 902-893-3491.

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Second Instalment of Transition Funding Delivered

the new Agriculture Policy Framework. Nova Scotia is the only province to participate in the second year of bridge funding initiative. Program participants will begin to receive a payment by cheque by the end of April. Producers are asked to

contact the programs and business risk management division of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries toll-free at 1-866-844-4BRM (1-866-844-4276) for more information.

<p>Note: Article submissions are encouraged and should be forwarded to Lorne Crozier at crozielm@gov.ns.ca. Please note the department reserves the right to edit content submitted for style, audience suitability, and space limitations.</p>

Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture at NSAC

To meet the demand for high-level, scientific training in the organic sector, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) have developed a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture. These five web-based courses provide valuable information for individuals making the transition to organic production. The course will include on-line discussions, current research and hands-on activities that allow students to practice vital skills.

Individuals who successfully complete four organic agriculture credit courses with an overall average of 60 per cent may apply to receive the certificate.

Transition to Organic Agriculture, Basic Composting Skills and Principles of Organic Horticulture will be offered in the fall semester. The registration deadline for fall courses is Aug. 1, 2004.

All organic agriculture courses can also be taken on a not-for-credit basis. As a non-credit student, you are not required to meet NSAC admission requirements. Also, participation in assignments and exams is optional. No mark is awarded upon completion of the course. For more information, contact The Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, Nova Scotia Agricultural College at 902-893-6666.

Buy Local Beef Program Update

Atlantic Canada is standing together for more support for the region's food industry. The ninth session of the Council of Atlantic Premiers concluded on February 12 in Corner Brook, NL, with Premier Hamm urging his Atlantic counterparts to commit to increasing local beef purchases at government-owned facilities. At the meeting, the Council struck an Atlantic Canada Action Team to explore means of promoting sales of local products in Atlantic Canada including beef. This will be done in a manner that is consistent with existing internal trade agreements.

The Atlantic Canada Action Team will provide recommendations for promotion and market access for agri-food products. Individual governments and industry

associations are proceeding with branding, promotional and marketing initiatives to encourage increased consumption of Atlantic products. In addition, the new federally registered beef slaughter/processing facility under construction in Albany, PEI, is due to open in the fall 2004. This plant will help ensure market access to local beef.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries along with the Office of Economic Development are proceeding with initiatives under 'Brand Nova Scotia' and Procurement Supplier Development Programs that will promote local product and address market access issues. After industry consultation, we hope to launch these programs this spring and summer.

Minister Brings Issues Forward at Federal Meeting

Federal and provincial agriculture ministers met in Toronto on April 8, to discuss food safety and quality issues affecting the agriculture industry.

Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont took the opportunity to bring forward provincial concerns to his federal and provincial colleagues. Minister d'Entremont indicated that he was pleased with the discussions and was optimistic that government was moving in the right direction.

Ministers reviewed current challenges and discussed ways to build on the progress created by the Agriculture Policy Framework. They agreed to continue working with producers and industry stakeholders to determine what governments can do to ensure that the framework promotes economic growth for Canadian farmers.

During the meeting, Mr. d'Entremont brought forward provincial concerns regarding an agreement on wine standards. He also expressed concerns about the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and how it is hindering implementation of the framework. He indicated that the framework needs to be recognized across all of Canada and that programs need to be developed to address regional concerns.

The next meeting of federal-provincial and territorial agriculture ministers will be held June 28-30 in Prince Edward Island.

Beef Up The Food Banks

Submitted by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

On March 12, 2004 the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture launched a new program “Beef Up The Food Banks” in Antigonish. Frazer Hunter, first vice-president of the Federation made the first donation of ground beef to the Metro Food Bank Society. Mr. Hunter, a dairy farmer from Merigomish, stated that with such a large number of surplus cattle on Nova Scotia farms this winter it makes sense that we try to provide some of this high quality protein to our neighbours who, by necessity, must use the services of their local Food Bank.

The Antigonish Federation of Agriculture teamed up with Mattie Farms Ltd. in Afton and Vacheresse Meats of Antigonish to butcher and process beef donations to the Food Bank. The beef was turned over to Metro Food Bank representatives, Paul Eyking, director of Food Supply and Brian Kelly a distribution driver for the distribution to food banks around the province. Both were particularly pleased to receive this donation of beef at a time of year when Food Bank use is at a high point.

Also present for the program launch was William Cox, president of the Inverness – Victoria Federation of Agriculture. This regional Federation presented a cheque for \$1,000 to assist with the processing of additional animals for donation to the Food Bank. Next in line to make a donation of beef through this program is the Hants County Federation of Agriculture. They have teamed up with Classic Meat Packers of Upper Rawdon, who have donated the processing service for several cows. It is expected that their beef will be ready for delivery to the Food Bank this week.

The Federation of Agriculture is stressing that Nova Scotians deserve to have access to a safe and secure food supply. The NSFA believes that this can only be accomplished in the long term by maintaining a strong provincial farm base. This program is one example of how local farmers contribute to the well-being of Nova Scotians. By supporting each other we will grow a strong Nova Scotia

economy — and hopefully alleviate the need for so many to rely on food banks.

For more information on this program please contact Donna Langille, operations manager, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture at 902-893-2293 or Paul Eyking director of food supply, Metro Food Bank Society at 902-457-1900.



Assistance Available for Fencing

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture through the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for the 2004 Riparian Management Program. Livestock producers can receive up to \$5,000 in fencing assistance for fencing wetlands, salt marshes and some watercourses, stream crossings and controlled watering systems.

For more information please contact the stewardship coordinator office at the Department of Natural Resources. The deadline for applications is **May 21, 2004**.

Stewardship Coordinator, NS-EHJV
Wildlife Division, NSDNR

136 Exhibition Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia B4N 4E5
Tel:(902) 679-6145 / Fax:(902) 679-6176



North American Waterfowl
Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

Budget News

The Government of Nova Scotia brought forward a balanced budget for the 2004-05 fiscal year. All decisions regarding the department's budget were based on balancing the various needs of our agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries sectors. All programs have been maintained and there were no staff reductions.

The Government continues to be committed to agriculture and fisheries. Despite fiscal challenges, we are able to maintain our level of service to client industries. The department managed to retain funding from 2002-03 sunsetted programming and, thereby, position ourselves to

fully participate in the Agriculture Policy Framework. This participation allows us to attract additional federal funding in support of our agriculture industry.

The department voluntarily supplemented federal funding in both 2002/03 and 2003/04 to allow farmers to transition from the old NISA into the new CAIS program. The new CAIS program is now up and running and the objectives have been achieved. The province remains committed to the needs of the agriculture and fisheries industries not only for their sustainability but also their future growth.



4-H Members Compete at Annual 4-H Weekend

Three hundred 4-H members are preparing to attend the annual 4-H weekend and participate in the provincial communications competitions at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College May 7 – 8. The program begins Friday evening and ends with 4-H Night in Nova Scotia, May 8 at the Cobequid Educational Centre in Truro.

4-H Night in Nova Scotia is the final production that showcases the

winning speeches, demonstrations, square dancing and entertainment by 4-H members. During the evening awards are presented to competition winners and leaders who have won national 4-H Awards to conferences and travel opportunities. Everyone is welcome to attend the weekend events. For more information visit the website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/

Camp Rankin Offers Many Things For 4-H Members

For the 32nd summer Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp will welcome 240 4-H members aged 9 – 15 from across the province for six weeks of outdoor adventure on the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton.

This camp provides a positive experience for youth and offers

employment opportunities for seven as camp counsellors for youth aged 16 or older, a camp director and an assistant director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions where 4-H members carry out their motto “learn to do by doing.”

4-H Members Gather for Atlantic EBI Showcase

Seventy 4-H members from Atlantic Canada will develop their large animal management skills during the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 27 – 29 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. The 4-H members will learn from Eastern Breeders Inc.'s experts about large animal management and show preparation practices for beef and dairy cattle. They will also learn the most current techniques in clipping, showing and herd management.

After two intense days of training, 4-H members compete for top

honours with their own calves at the beef and dairy show. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class at this event. The show is being held at 10 a.m on June 29 at the MacMillan Show Centre on the Exhibition Grounds in Truro. The public is invited to attend.

The event has been sponsored by Eastern Breeders Incorporated for the past 14 years in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 4-H staff.

Royal Bank to Host 4-H Interprovincial Exchange Program

This July, five 4-H members will travel to various parts of Canada to experience the lifestyles of other 4-H members as part of the 42nd annual Royal Bank of Canada 4-H Interprovincial Exchange. Youth will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on agriculture with other rural youth and then host them in their home communities in August. This year British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan will participate in the exchange.

The Nova Scotia delegates winning this 4-H national travel award were selected through an interview process and application based on their 4-H and community involvement. The delegates will celebrate their achievement at a send off banquet hosted by the Royal Bank.



Website Workshop You're Invited

Our current website was launched in May 2001 and it is time for a make over. This invitation is open to industry members, for their input towards our new navigation menu. The purpose of this workshop is to brainstorm and come up with site topics which will help us in determining site navigation. This is your opportunity to provide thoughts and ideas toward the decision making of our menu.

Please review our current website (www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf) and the new design (i.e. Department of Energy (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/energy/>) preceding the workshop. A date and location will be decided based on the response received. We will aim to hold the workshop in early May 2004.

This website is our face to the world. Our department's website has over one million visitors per month and we want to make sure that we have an informative, creative and easy to use site.

To participate, please email Alexa Vodicka (vodickac@gov.ns.ca) with your name and phone number.

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day

September 26, 2004

“WELCOME TO THE AMAZING WORLD OF AGRICULTURE”

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee will host the third annual *Open Farm Day* on September 26. This is an Atlantic region event and a great opportunity for you to showcase your farm. There is no charge to participate in this event.

Open Farm Day 2003 was a huge success despite adverse weather conditions. More than 3500 consumers visited the 52 farms that were open. Through this event consumers learn about the high quality and diverse food supply produced in Nova Scotia.

To register, please complete the attached form by **June 25**. We will contact you with additional details and information regarding the program.

Name: _____
Farm Name: _____
Address: _____ Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____
Type of Farm: _____

For more information contact:
Ruth Grant, *P. Ag., Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator*
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
PO Box 550, Truro
Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Phone: 902-893-6598
Fax: 902-893-2757
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca

Agrifest Offering Farmers and Families Interesting Event

Agrifest is a unique outdoor celebration of innovations in food production for farmers, agri-business, processors, retailers and consumers. Hosted by AgraPoint, Agrifest will be held August 5-8 at Lyndhurst Farms in Canning, Nova Scotia.

The Agrifest team and AgraPoint specialists have created a unique program that offers farmers ideas and information to enhance farming operations and entice the public to learn more about the farming industry.

A number of topics will be discussed that range from Pete Luckett's retailing strategies, ultrasound technology for dairy cattle, to food and barbecue demos. A family pavilion will also be set up to help children learn where food comes from in a fun and interactive way.



For a complete schedule of events visit www.agrifest.com or contact Heather Angell at 902-678-7722.

Position Announcements

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

On Feb. 16, 2004 Darlene McCallum joined the Programs and Business Risk Management Division as program administrator.

Darlene graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) in 1999 receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree with Honours, majoring in business, where she also completed the Agricultural Business Technician program graduating with high honours in 1995.

As program administrator, Darlene will be responsible for the delivery of our developmental programming including the Farm Investment Fund, Agri-Food Industry Development Fund and the Technology Development 2000 programs.

Darlene's office is located on the main floor of Harlow Institute, NSAC campus in Truro. She can be reached at 902-896-7076 or by calling toll-free 1-866-844-4276.

Marketing Services Division

Art Drysdale, Amanda Fulmer, Kim Forsyth, and Elaine Horne have joined the Marketing Services Division.

Art has been with the Department for five years, most recently in the position of Supervisor of Leasing, Licensing and Development in Aquaculture. Art is the new Senior Planning and Development Officer-International.

Amanda Fulmer comes to us from Pier 21 where she was the Supervisor of the Exhibition Hall. Amanda is the new Planning and Development Officer-Food service.

Kim Forsyth worked as a Loans Officer with the Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Loan Board. Now Kim will be the Senior Planning and Development Officer – Market Research & Information.

Elaine Horne had been employed with the department as a receptionist with the Policy Planning and Communications Coordination Branch. Elaine will now be the secretary with the Director of Marketing Services.

**Canadian Forage
and Beef
Information Site
Official Launched**

www.Foragebeef.ca

*Source – CARC News
February 2004 – Volume 50*

Visit www.foragebeef.ca for the latest research information on forage and beef production.

Plowing Match/Demonstration Day

This is an advance notice that the Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture will be hosting their “Annual Plowing Match and Demonstration Day” on Saturday, September 25. The program will be held at the farm of Dave and Dean Cole, located on Highway 357, approximately 5 km south of Middle Musquodoboit.

In addition to the plowing match, there will be static-displays and demonstrations of traditional and non traditional primary tillage. A barbecue will be available. Watch for additional information this fall.

Youth Tractor Safety Day

The Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture will be sponsoring Farm Tractor Safety Day on May 1. The program will be held in Shubenacadie and is open to young people 14 years of age and older. Youth under 14 can participate in the classroom instruction. The instructor will be Andy Vermeulen and the cost for this program is \$5.00 which includes lunch. For more information and to register please call Amy Grant at 902-758-2551.

Halifax East Hants Federation Equipment Rentals

The following equipment is available from the Halifax East Hants Federation. For further details please contact:

- Lime Spreader, Allan Benjamin -
902-758-2427;
- Land Leveler, John Van De Riet -
902-758-3874
- Cow Lift, Corey Fraser -
902-758-2262

Federation Contacts

Halifax East Hants

Andy Bokma, President
902-758-2698
Email: acbokma@ns.sympatico.ca

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902-384-2498

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902-758-3874

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902-758-2342

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902-758-2427

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902-895-0142

Jeff Grant
902-758-1598

Sandra Fisher
902-673-2907

Terry Prescott
902-674-2957

Carol Ann Williams
902-899-6178

Tara Hill
902-896-0072

Maxine Gourley, Secretary/Treasurer
902-639-2709

Cumberland

Roy Wilson, President
902-251-2048 or 902-251-2014

Carl Woodworth, Vice President
902-661-4217

Bruce Moore
902-447-3355 or 902-447-3378

Chris Pettigrew
902-254-3109

Leon Smith
902-661-4101

Malcolm Read
902-661-3357

Kurt Sherman
902-686-3217

Jeff Collins
902-661-1737

Marilyn Carter, Secretary/Treasurer
902-667-3984

2004 Exhibition Dates

Halifax County Exhibition, Middle Musquodoboit	Aug. 18 – 21
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, Truro	Aug. 24 – 28
Cumberland County Exhibition, Oxford	Aug. 31 – Sept. 4
Pictou/North Colchester Exhibition	Sept. 8 – 11
NS 4-H Show, Truro	Oct. 1 – 3
Maritime Fall Fair, Halifax	Oct. 8 – 17

For a complete listing of exhibitions visit www.exhibitionsns.org

Animal Welfare Malnutrition and Starvation

Taken from an article prepared by Dr. Gus Wruck, Veterinary Services Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture Food and Rural Development

In beef cattle the major concerns about the care of animals are usually related to nutrition or simply the lack of adequate feeding by producers.

Poor nutrition and feeding practices are the cause of starvation in cattle. For cattle the issue is basically one of energy. The cow needs energy to meet its bodily needs and to maintain proper body temperature. When the feed given to cattle or any animal is not adequate, the animal becomes energy deficient and begins to use fat stored on the body as a source of energy.

Using stored fat as an energy source is not serious if there is an adequate amount of stored fat and the period of time fat is consumed is not prolonged. Many cows will have a period of time in the winter when they will have an energy deficiency. This is the way nature adapts to endure cold weather. The problem for cattle occurs when the fat stores become depleted and the cow begins to use muscle as a source of energy. The muscles reduce in size as energy is consumed from them and eventually the cow weakens to the point that it becomes recumbent and unable to rise. Death will occur soon after the cow becomes recumbent as it can no longer access water and feed.

For producers the most important thing to do is to be able to recognize starvation and be aware of the signs of poor body condition. Body Condition Scoring is a recognized method of determining body condition and thus the relative amount of body fat an animal has on its body. The most important thing to remember is to feed according to the Body Condition Score. Cattle that are thin should be fed separately from the main herd so that they can consume better quality feed with higher energy. Cattle that are in good condition may be able to get through the winter with less feed.

Mechanics of Starvation

Starvation usually does not happen suddenly. It is a relatively long and slow process that occurs over several weeks or months. Producers often will not see starvation occurring because they see the cattle every day and starvation has a slow and insidious onset. Usually starving animals are the older or very young animals. They may have disease such as foot rot or pneumonia or they may be the less aggressive animals.

The diagnosis of starvation in animals is often very difficult to see and hard for owners and care givers to accept. Animals that are starving will almost always continue to eat.

When starving animals are found on a farm, it is perceived to reflect on the competence and ability of the care giver to properly feed and care for their animals. As a result a starvation diagnosis is often associated with some denial and shifting of blame.

There could be many cases of cattle without adequate feed during this time of year. Producers that are aware of the problems and seek assistance will likely encounter a herd loss, as they will make the required adjustments. Producers that lack information, suffer from emotional stress or refuse to seek advice will be the first ones to encounter problems. For more information on Body Condition Scoring contact Dr. Gordon Finley at 902- 893-3491.

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

Farm Safety

Spring is here and soon field work will begin. It is important to keep safety in mind at all times. The office in Weymouth still has a supply of two publications which may be of interest to you:

- Farm Safety Standards of Practice
- Protecting Yourself From Livestock Injuries

If you would like to receive a copy of these publications please contact Dennis Moerman at 902-837-5161 or email moeremade@gov.ns.ca.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe year.

Western Region 4-H ~ Upcoming Events

- Annapolis 4-H Judging Clinic will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at the Demonstration Building in Lawrencetown.
- Annapolis 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - May 12 and June 9 at 7 p.m. at the Demonstration Building in Lawrencetown.
- Dairy members are reminded that pre-registrations for the Scotiabank Hayes Classic selections are due on May 15.
- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - May 19 and June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Office, 55 Starr's Rd.
- Digby 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - May 20 and June 17 at 7 p.m. at the Digby Fire Hall boardroom
- Fluff'n'Buff Workshop for Beef, Dairy, Sheep, and Goat members will be taking place on May 21 to 23 at the Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown.

Valley Region 4-H News

- May 7 – 8 4-H Weekend, NSAC, Bible Hill
- May 10 Hants County Council 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School
- May 15 Livestock Registration
- May 21 – 23 Fluff ‘n’ Buff, Lawrencetown
- May 25 Hants County Judging Day, Hants County Exhibition Grounds
- May 27 Kings County Judging Day, Sheffield Mills Hall and Evangeline Trail Rides
- June 27 – 29 EBI Showcase, Bible Hill

South Shore Region 4-H Dates and Events

- May 19 Shelburne County Council meeting, 6:30 p.m. Enterprise Square, Shelburne
- May 20, Lunenburg County Exhibition Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Exhibition Grounds

Queens, Shelburne and Lunenburg 4-H judging days will be held in May at various times/locations.

REGIONAL 4-H EVENTS:

- May 29 A Great Outdoors workshop will be held in Lunenburg County and is open to all 4-H Great Outdoors members and leaders from the Valley, Western and South Shore Regions. Sessions include compass work, identification of trees and animals, and wilderness survival tips. Applications available from your local 4-H office.

Coming Events

- May 15 Annapolis Co. Federation Livestock Sale, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Selling begins at 1 p.m.
- May 22 Lunenburg/Queens Co. Federation Cattle Sale, South Shore Exhibition Grounds, Bridgewater. Sale starts at 12:30 p.m.
- June 5 Annapolis Co. Federation Livestock Sale, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Selling begins at 1 p.m.