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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2004 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 5 No. 1

Province Continues to Support Local Beef Producers

More than 500 Nova Scotia beef producers affected by the market impact of mad cow disease have benefited from the producer assistance program announced in late November by the provincial government.

Since the program was announced, the province has delivered more than \$1.7 million in funding to help producers who have had to deal with the impact of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease).

“Producer response to this program is going very well,” said Chris d’Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. “We have approved more than 600 applications and are still processing others. The intent is to have a quick turnaround and get money to producers as quickly as possible.”

Under the Nova Scotia Beef Producer Assistance program, the province committed to provide producers with \$100 per breeding cow. To be eligible, producers have to complete an application for advance funding from the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program.

The deadline to register for the provincial program is March 1. For more information call toll-free 1-866-844-4276 or see the website at: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm.

Production Insurance Deadlines

Production insurance contracts will be automatically renewed. Farmers who do not have production insurance and want to apply, should contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission prior to the final application date as indicated below.

Plan	Application Deadline	Cancellation Deadline
Corn	May 1	March 15
Pea and Bean	May 1	March 15
Potatoes	April 20	March 15
Soybeans	May 1	March 15
Spring Grain	May 1	March 15
Vegetable	March 15	March 15
Winter Grain	Sept. 1	Sept. 15

For more information please call the Production Insurance offices toll-free at 1-800-565-6371 or Truro: (902) 893-6370; Kentville: (902) 679-6015/6028.

Premiers Agree On Priorities

Beef farmers were the big winners at the ninth session of the Council of Atlantic Premiers meeting on February 12 in Corner Brook, NL. Atlantic premiers have pledged to increase the local consumption of homegrown food products, such as beef. The four provinces established the Atlantic Canada Action Team, with representatives of government and the appropriate food industries

from the four Atlantic provinces. The mandate of the action team is to promptly consider and recommend policies to promote sales of beef and other Atlantic food products, in a manner consistent with existing internal trade agreements. Individual governments and industry associations are proceeding with branding, promotional and marketing initiatives to encourage increased consumption of Atlantic products.

“The opening of a new, federally inspected meat processing facility on Prince Edward Island later this year will provide beef farmers in Nova Scotia with a great new opportunity to get more of their product in the local marketplace,” said Premier John Hamm. “The Atlantic Action Team will ensure governments do their part to buy more local beef and help farmers and their families.”

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NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

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

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

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Premier Hamm noted the Nova Scotia government will also unveil the Brand Nova Scotia initiative later this year to better identify and promote the province's products, such as beef. The premier said he is pleased Atlantic Canada is speaking with one voice on these and other issues.

New Deputy Minister

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries welcomes Mr. Dan Graham as the new Deputy Minister of the department. Mr. Graham is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick and has worked for the Nova Scotia government for more than 21 years, including the last five years as Deputy Minister of Natural Resources.

Canadian Quality Milk Program Gets Technical Recognition

On December 10, 2003 the Board of Directors of Dairy Farmers of Canada received an official letter from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) stating that the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program “promotes the production of safe food at the farm level and adheres to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles as defined by Codex Alimentarius.”

The program is based on science and follows HACCP principles where applicable and practical on the farm. Cooling and storage of milk, milking equipment sanitation and livestock medicine administration are a few of the areas where producers record their management practices.

In presenting the letter to the Dairy Farmers of Canada, Mr. Warren Smandych, National Coordinator, On-Farm Food Safety and Recognition Program, CFIA, said: “You can be proud of the program you have developed. It shows the positive efforts you are making to assure food safety. CFIA is pleased that you have achieved this goal and we look forward to collaborating with you during the implementation phase.”

“Canadian dairy farmers have been producing safe and high quality milk for years,” said Bruce Saunders, Second Vice-President of Dairy Farmers of Canada. “Dairy farmers

are leaders in the promotion of practices that assure that the food at the farm is produced with safety in mind. Essentially, producers on the program say what they do, do what they say and prove it.”

Bruce Saunders stressed that this technical recognition will give producers the confidence to move forward to implement the program on their farms. The CQM is only the second agricultural program to complete the technical review process.

For further information, please contact:

Thérèse Beaulieu
Assistant Director,
Policy and Communications
Tel (613) 236-9997
Cell (613) 371-5023

Nicole Sillett
National Program Coordinator,
Canadian Quality Milk
Tel (604) 224-8001
Cell (604) 787-9651
www.dairyfarmers.org

Hurricane Juan Salvage Logging Underway

Don Cameron, Registered Professional Forester,
NS Department of Natural Resources

There has been a large amount of forest salvage logging throughout the central part of the province as a result of Hurricane Juan. It is important that if the uprooted or broken trees are to be salvaged for industrial use, that they be harvested over the next several months before the wood dries and becomes infested with bugs.

Woodlot owners should be aware that the Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations (Forests Act) require that a greenbelt buffer be left along watercourses greater than 50 cm wide, during forest harvesting operations. These

regulations also stipulate that wildlife clumps and large woody debris must be left in large harvest areas.

It is important to note that any existing greenbelts left along watercourses that have blown down can be salvaged. The regulations stipulate that one must leave a minimum of 20 square metres basal area of live trees standing. Since the uprooted trees are either dead or dying they can be removed in a careful manner. Forest operators must abide by the regulations by ensuring that they do not cause any

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sedimentation or drive a heavy machine within seven metres of the watercourse. They also are to leave large woody debris on the site. By allowing for this salvage of uprooted trees, the landowner can make use of the trees while eliminating the chance of trees clogging watercourses and possibly causing sedimentation and flooding.

In the case where an entire area has been blown down by the hurricane, it is impossible to leave a wildlife clump of standing trees and therefore, all the uprooted trees can be harvested. For harvest areas larger than three hectares, if there are any standing trees together, they may be used to form the wildlife clumps that are required under the

Regulations. It is important to note that if an existing wildlife clump that was left during a previous harvest operation has blown down, it cannot be cut and removed.

CAIS program information sessions, highlights and FAQ's

A series of information sessions were held across the province during January to help producers learn more about the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program. Many thanks are extended to those who attended. Your questions and comments were very much appreciated.

The presentations covered the basics of the CAIS program, how payments are made, how to participate, the Options Notice and NISA wind down.

Some of the more common questions included:

1. Q: How do I get this Options Notice so I can participate in CAIS?

A1: NISA participants should automatically get an Options Notice. If you did not receive this please call the CAIS program administration 1-866-367-8506. There may be missing information or the notice is still being processed.

A2: If you did not participate in the NISA program, you can call the program administration. They will ask for previous years farming income and expense information to calculate and send an Options Notice to you.

2. Q: I received my Options Notice and my reference margin seems

really small for my operation. What should I do?

A: Reference margins are presently estimates. You may have to have yours adjusted because of expansion or because there are unrelated expenses still included in that margin (for example, your wood income is removed, but your wood expenses may still be included under fuel, salaries, etc). There will be opportunity to make these changes by the final application deadlines (June, 2004). However, as long as you respond to your current Options Notice, open a CAIS account and make a deposit by March 31, 2004 you have followed the rules of the program. Adjustments can be made at a later date and you will be given sufficient time to add to your deposit if necessary. If you wish to pursue the adjustments contact the administration and explain your situation.

3. Q: If my reference margin is negative, should I even respond to my Options Notice?

A: Yes. The situations previously described can cause a negative reference margin. If you have received an Options Notice with a negative reference margin, call the administration office and inquire about this situation. If you have expanded or used inappropriate expense amounts, adjustments can be made. Again, you can still

respond to your current notice and open a CAIS account before March 31, 2004 There will be no deposit required at this time, but after the adjustments are taken into consideration, you will be informed of the deposit amount.

4. Q: How can selecting 'minimum coverage' actually get me back to 100% of my farm's average?

A: When you choose a coverage level, that choice is based on what you will get back if you lose 100% of your reference margin, your own average. If you choose minimum, you will only be brought back to 70% of your average in the event of a complete loss. If you choose maximum, you will come back to 92% of your average if you have a complete loss. The deposit you make is based on this decision. When you have smaller losses, that deposit can be used anywhere in that loss to get the corresponding government dollars. For example, the minimum deposit could be used to secure complete coverage of up to a 40% loss, but that same deposit would only secure 70% coverage for a complete loss.

5. Q: How do I actually apply for a 2003 payment from the CAIS program?

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A: First, you must receive and respond to an Options Notice to be considered a participant. This means you are required to open a CAIS account and make a deposit before March 31. The CAIS application will be available as a joint form with the 2003 tax package and will be called Farming Income and CAIS. These forms appear very similar to a NISA application and can be submitted with your taxes. There will also be a package mailed to you called a CAIS supplementary forms package and these are sent back to the CAIS administration office. The information on these forms and the forms in your tax package determine whether your farm has experienced a loss. This is when payments are calculated and made. All forms will be available soon and the deadline for submitting them is June 15, 2004 for individuals and June 30, 2004 for corporations.

6. Q: How does inventory affect my margin and my potential payment?

A: CAIS values increases or decreases in inventory to better reflect the income or potential income situation for the current year. This does not mean all your cows or commodity values will be added to your income. Only increases from beginning to end are added and decreases are subtracted. If you had 14 feeder cattle on January 1 and 14 on December 31, there is no addition. If you had 14 on January 1 and 19 on December 31, the December 31, 2003 value of 5 feeders would be added. These adjustments are only done for the program year (2003) and are not included when that year becomes a reference year (entering into your farm's average)

7. Q: How do I use my NISA money to make a CAIS deposit?

A: You are required to have a CAIS account. Call the NISA

administration at 1-800-665-6472 and request that the deposit be moved from your NISA Fund 1 to your new CAIS account. NISA will authorize your bank or credit union to move the money from one account to the other. Any amounts moved to a CAIS account from NISA do not have to be matched with withdrawals from NISA Fund 2.

8. Q: How does the NISA wind down work?

A: You will have five years from March 31, 2005 to March 31, 2009 to wind down your NISA account. Withdrawals can be taken before 2005, but 2005 is the deadline for beginning your account wind down. Each year, the Fund 2 (government) portion must be reduced by a 20% increment. A matching amount from your Fund 1 (at your financial institution) is also paid at this time. You can always take more than 20% and withdrawals can be requested at any time, but the maximum length of time for wind down is five years. Any amounts transferred from your Fund 1 to the CAIS

program are additional withdrawals and do not have to be matched with Fund 2 (taxable) amounts.

NISA wind down information is available through the toll-free line 1-800-665-6472 or visit the website at www.agr.gc.ca/nisa. If you have any questions about the CAIS program please call 1-866-367-8506 or visit www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram.

Water Workshop

A Water Workshop will be held at the Kentville Agricultural Centre in the Cornwallis Room from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 7. Four sessions will be held to discuss the following topics (tentative): Water Allocation with the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labor (NSDEL), Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Irrigation Disinfection and Assistance Programs. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact Andrew Cameron at (902) 424-0406.

Soil and Crop Workshops Being Held Across the Province

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia will be sponsoring a workshop series across the province. These workshops will discuss the latest soils and crop issues with producers through presentations. Topics will include: corn and other crop costs, results of a recent silage survey, as well as forage and field crop topics. There will also be an overview of the Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program by Field Coordinator, Gloria Thyssen.

Workshops will be held from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

- March 2 Amherst, Wandlyn Inn, Salon C
- March 3 Truro, Best Western Glengarry, MacDonald Room
- March 4 Port Hawkesbury, NSCC Campus, Board Room
- March 11 Lawrencetown, Exhibition Grounds, Demo Building
- March 12 Windsor, Exhibition Grounds, O'Brien Building

The cost for this program is \$10 per person which includes lunch. For more information please contact Carol Versteeg at (902) 758-3530 or Gloria Thyssen at (902) 893-6577.

Organic Agriculture Courses at NSAC

The organic agriculture industry is expanding rapidly in Canada, with domestic and export markets growing by about 20 per cent yearly. The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) have developed web-based courses to meet the demand for high-level scientific training in this sector. These courses provide valuable support for individuals making the transition to organic production. Growers from various backgrounds will benefit from on-line discussions, current research and hands-on activities that allow them to practice vital skills.

To address the gap in training for organic fruit and vegetable production systems **Principles of Organic Horticulture** will be offered for the first time in September 2004. This course will provide information on soil fertility, organic soil amendments, compost, mulches and crop rotation. Other topics to be covered include plant health, management of diseases and pests, companion planting and produce storage/handling and marketing.

Grower profiles are a key feature of the course. They provide students with essential crop-specific information, production processes and proven grower techniques as well as providing a window on the Canadian organic horticultural sector.

All organic agriculture courses can be taken on a credit or not-for credit basis. As a not-for-credit student, you are not required to meet admission requirements to NSAC. Participation in assignments, examinations and discussion forums is optional. No mark is awarded upon completion of the course.

Students wishing to take the course for academic credit must meet the minimum NSAC admission requirements or take the courses with

the permission of their "home" academic institution. Students who successfully complete four organic agriculture courses for credit will be eligible for a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture from NSAC.

The registration deadline for all fall courses is August 1, 2004. For more information please contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education Nova Scotia Agricultural College at (902) 893 6666 or visit www.nsac.ns.ca/cde/courses/oacc/organicindex.htm.

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, NSAC *Schedule and Fees -- Winter/Spring 2004*

Landscape Plant Identification

March 24 – 25
Wednesday & Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$200
Decision Deadline: March 5

Know & Grow

April 22 & 23
Thursday Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$225
Decision Deadline: April 2

Pesticide Certification

April 19 – 22
Monday Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$275
Decision Deadline: April 2

Note: A minimum number of students is required for each course. The "Decision Deadline" is the date on which courses with insufficient enrolment will be cancelled. If you are interested taking a course, please apply and pay as early as possible.

For more information, contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education at (902) 893-6666 or e-mail: cde@nsac.ns.ca

Pesticide Applicator's Certification

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's Pesticide Applicator's Examination. Course content ranges from integrated pest management principles to doing your own calibration and calculations. Information is presented about ground application of pesticides and does not include aerial spraying.

The course is being offered at the NSAC on the following dates and times:

April 19 – 21 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
April 22 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Optional sessions will be held on Monday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 20 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

The deadline to register is April 2.

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 will forward it to the Department of the Environment. Your exam result will be mailed to you and you may purchase a license through that office. For more information, contact your local Department of Environment and Labour.

For more information on the course, please contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education at (902) 893-6666 or e-mail: cde@nsac.ns.ca



Youth Celebrate Canada at 33rd National 4-H Citizenship Seminar

Six 4-H members from Nova Scotia have won a national 4-H travel award and will be attending the 33rd annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, March 26 - April 1. They will join approximately 55 other 4-H members from across the country to examine their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

The conference focuses on the opportunities of living in Canada, the cultural make-up of the population and issues that will impact on all citizens beyond 2004. Delegates will learn that every Canadian has an equally important role to play in Canada's social fabric and future. A highlight of the conference will be when the delegates attend a Citizenship Court Ceremony where they will re-affirm their citizenship side by side with individuals being sworn in as new Canadians.

The delegates attending from Nova Scotia are: Jessica MacLean from Pictou County, Sarah Lattie from Colchester County; Katie Greenough from Hants County; Ian MacNeil from Cape Breton County; Jamus MacDonald from Antigonish County; and Sarah Mahaney from Shelburne County. Michael Kittilsen, 4-H Specialist, Truro is the National

Director for the 2004 conference. "4-H members that attend the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar always come home with a renewed pride in being Canadian," says Kittilsen. "It was a great experience for me to have attended this conference as a chaperone and I'm looking forward to being involved with the conference from a different perspective. I'm positive that the delegates will learn a great deal about their country and build lasting friendships at this event."

The seminar delegates will have a busy week with guest speakers, discussion groups, a tour of Parliament Hill and the Supreme Court, viewing Question Period and joining the Member of Parliament from their home riding for a formal luncheon. Delegates will experience the political process first-hand by participating in a simulated House of Commons debate.

Camp Rankin Offers Opportunities for Summer Jobs

If you dream of a summer filled with sunny days, fresh air and lots of fun activities. Be a counsellor at Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp at the edge of the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton.

Every year several senior 4-H members (16 or older, by July) are hired to work at the camp as counsellors. The camp runs for five weeks starting July 4 - August 7. There are several positions available including - canoeing, water safety, drama, crafts, recreation and nature studies. This is a great opportunity

for all senior 4-H members to have a great summer job, where you will meet new friends and create many fond memories.

4-H members who are 16 or older by July can also apply for a Counsellor-In-Training positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one of the camping weeks. Deadlines for applications is March 15.

For more information please contact the provincial 4-H office at (902) 893-6585.

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

Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP)

Data collection for the 2003 Farm Management Analysis Project (FMAP) will begin soon. FMAP is designed to assist Nova Scotia farm managers to develop their business management knowledge and skills. Currently, FMAP is available to producers involved in the following commodities: tree fruit, mink, swine, dairy, beef, blueberry and honey. 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 and bench marking purposes. This service is free and will be provided by the Department's Business Development and Economics section. For more information or to participate please contact Lisa Bekkers at (902) 679-601.

Pesticide Applicator Training

ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Re-certification and Certification courses across the province this spring.

Certification course - March 24 and 25, 9 a.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre. This 1 ½ day program costs \$140, includes HST and manual.

Re-certification Course - March 26, 9:30 a.m – 3:30 p.m., Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre. Cost of course is \$65, including HST.

from a general 4-H leader or 4-H office and are due on April 1.

Valley Region 4-H Dates and Activities

Hants County 4-H Royalty Night: Friday, February 27 at Brooklyn Firehall; 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. winner is announced, 8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. dance for 4-H members

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting: Monday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: Monday, March 8, 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School.

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting: Monday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School.

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

Regional/ Provincial 4-H Dates and Activities

Market Steer project forms are due: March 1 at the provincial 4-H office in Truro.

March 8 – April 5: 4-H Provincial Chocolate Fund Raiser campaign. Members and leaders from across the province will be busy fundraising for various 4-H events. These include, provincial show, 4-H weekend, Camp Rankin, National trips and much, much more!!

Chat-a-Rama: March 12 – 13, Camp Hillies, Paradise (open to all 4-H members 14 – 18 in the Valley, Western and South Shore Regions). The theme for 2004 is "Communicating in the Real World." The program will include sessions on communication skills, improving your public speaking, and team challenges. Applications are due February 23.

Applications for the Farm Credit Corporation scholarship are due April 1.

Applications for the following scholarship are due on April 15: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Harvest Trust, The Co-Operators and the N.S. 4-H Council.

Eastern Breeders Inc. 4-H Beef and Dairy Showcase will be held from June 27 – 29 in Bible Hill. The program features calf preparation, showmanship, judging, educational presentations and concludes with a show. Applications are available

South Shore Region 4-H News

The annual meeting for Lunenburg County 4-H Council was held in November 2003 and the following executive have been elected for 2004:

- President: Robert Joudrey
- 1st Vice President (Pro Show Committee): Judy Wile
- 2nd Vice President (Exhibition Committee): Darlene Crouse
- Treasurer: Corrine Zinck
- Secretary: Mary Lowe
- Senior Members: Sarah Wentzell, Tiffany Bohener, Janet Davidson, Colin Hirtle
- South Shore Region Provincial Representative: Mary Lowe

Shelburne County Council Meeting will be held February 18 at the Lower Ohio Hall. A New Leader Training Session will also be held during this time.

The Lunenburg County Exhibition Meeting will be held February 19 at the Bridgewater Provincial Building.

The annual **Lunenburg County Winter Carnival** will be held February 21 at the West Northfield School and the 2004 county host/hostess and prince/princess will be selected at this event. Other activities include indoor games, woodsmen competition and snow sculpturing.

New Leaders Training session will be held from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. on February 23 at the Bridgewater Provincial Building.

Queens County Council Meeting will be held on February 24 at Sharon and David Crooker's residence.

Lunenburg County 4-H Rally will be held on March 27 at the Forties Community Hall near New Ross.

South Shore Regional 4-H Rally will be held on April 17 at the Forties Community Hall near New Ross.

We are trying to update our mailing list. If you get this newsletter and would no longer like to, please contact us to have your named removed. Also, if your mailing address is incorrect, please notify us. Contact Cheryl at (902) 679-6021.

Cape Breton Fur Conference

Friday, February 20, 2004

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Quality Inn, Sydney, N.S. (Former Cape Bretoner Motel)

Canada's fur industry is worth an estimated \$80 million per year with the global demand for mink increasing. The long-term demand outlook for fur appears to be positive.

Cape Breton has all of the attributes necessary for the successful development of a fur and mink industry. Current industry leaders are willing to partner and provide expertise to farmers looking to diversify their farm operations.

To find out more about this exciting opportunity and to develop partnerships with industry

representatives in southwestern Nova Scotia, the Cape Breton/Richmond Federation of Agriculture is sponsoring a one-day fur workshop.

This workshop will provide the basic information required to get producers involved in this exciting and lucrative opportunity.

The registration fee for this workshop is \$10. You must pre-register for this session by contacting the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office at (902) 563-2000 or by faxing (902) 563-3435.

Notice: Online WHMIS Course

The Point Edward Resource Centre [C@P Site](#), (located in the previous Devco farms property), is offering online WHMIS courses. This course is beneficial and important in identification and safe handling of various chemical substances used in the workplace. For more information please call (902) 564-2729.

Pro-Agri Consulting will be offering a Pesticide Applicators Recertification Course on April 7 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Point Edward Resource Centre. The cost for recertification is \$65 (includes taxes). Successful completion of this course will provide five points toward recertification.

A Pesticide Certification course will also be offered for those wishing to write the pesticide applicators exam. This program will take place April 8 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and April 9 from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The cost of this course \$140 (includes taxes and the manual).

*Please 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.



St. John Ambulance Canada

FIRST AID TRAINING

St. John Ambulance offers first aid courses in various locations around Cape Breton several times per month. For more information on First Aid Training near you please call their main office in Sydney at (902) 564-4189.



4-H News

Cape Breton, Richmond and
Victoria Counties

4-H council meetings are held on a regular basis and are open to senior members and leaders. These meetings are a great opportunity to provide input into your local 4-H program and find out about upcoming events. If interested in attending please contact a 4-H leader or call the local 4-H office.

The public is invited to attend a workshop at the Millville Community Centre on February 21. The morning session will focus on proper dietary nutrition, judging foods and giving food demonstrations. The afternoon session will include a sewing project, writing commentaries, modeling and judging. For further details please contact your local 4-H office.

Soil and Crop Workshops

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia will be sponsoring two workshops on field crop issues and the Greenhouse Mitigation Program. The workshops will run from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on March 2 at the Wandlyn Inn, Salon C in Amherst and on March 3 at the Best Western Glengarry, MacDonald Room in Truro. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. For more information please contact Carol Versteeg at (902) 758-3530 or Gloria Thyssen at (902) 893-6577.

Cattlemen's Plebiscite

Information sessions have now been held across the province on the proposed changes to the Nova Scotia Cattlemen's Association. These changes will affect all cattle producers. A plebiscite for all cattle producers is expected to occur during February. All registered cattle producers will be eligible to vote in this plebiscite. Please note you must currently be registered as either a dairy or beef producer with the Nova Scotia Farm Business Registration Program to receive a ballot for this plebiscite.

For information on registering as a farmer please contact the Farm Registration office at (902) 893-6510 or your local Agricultural Resource Coordinator at (902) 893-3645.

For more information on this plebiscite, please contact a Nova Scotia Cattlemen's Association representative (as listed below) or the NSCA's office at (902) 893-7455 or e-mail office@nscattle.ca

Charles MacKenzie	(902) 863-5602
Jim Bremner	(902) 798-8037
Mike Horsnell	(902) 847-3309
Dave Oulton	(902) 798-4923

Pesticide Training

Pro-Agri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Training courses at the following locations:

Re-certification Course

Feb. 23 – Agri-Tech Park, Bible Hill

Certification Course

Feb. 24-25 – Experimental Farm Pavillion, Nappan

Re-certification Course – provides five points to those collecting points and who have a valid pesticide license. The cost is \$65 including HST.

Certification Course – includes a manual and provides one day of training and a half day for writing the pesticide applicators exam. Cost of the course is \$140 and includes HST.

For more information on the courses and to register, call Traci at (902) 798-2114 or your agricultural office.

Curling

The annual curling night for the Stewiacke District and Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture is scheduled for Friday, February 27 at the Brookfield Curling Club at 8 p.m. and will be followed by a potluck lunch. For more details and sign up please call Maxine Gorley at (902) 639-2709 or Amy Grant at (902) 758-4180.

Spring Advance Program

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia is planning to administer the Spring Advance Program for Field Crops. In the past, a number of producers have accessed funds to assist with the costs of seeding crops in the spring. For more information, please contact Carol Versteeg at (902) 759-3530.

Maple Time

Maple season in Nova Scotia is approaching us. The following maple suppers/festivals are planned around the central region:

- March 13 – Wentworth - Recreation Centre, 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Contact Betty Curry (902) 548-2682
- March 20 – Westchester - Fire Hall, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Contact Jean Bentley (902) 548-2973
- March 27 – Earltown – Community Centre, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Call (902) 657-2597 or (902) 657-2346
- March 27 – Fenwick – United Church, noon – 6 p.m.
Contact Donald Ripley (902) 667-3918
- April 3 – Collingwood – Community Hall, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Contact Jane Purdy (902) 686-3775 or
Sarah Duffy (902) 230-2005
- April 3 – Mapleton – United Church, noon - 6 p.m.
Contact Lorne Crowe (902) 546-2844
- April 10 – Dean – Sharon Presbyterian Church Hall, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Contact Gladys Lemmon (902) 568-2615

Central Region 4-H Up Date

Colchester County leaders have begun planning for their annual scholarship fundraiser. Through the generous support of many local businesses the group has increased their contribution from \$400 to approximately \$2000. 4-H members, leaders and parents are presently approaching local businesses for their support for the 2004 auction that will be held on April 24 at 1 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Colchester County Council meeting, February 23 at 7 p.m., Farm Loan Board Room, Truro

Colchester New Leaders Training, February 24 at 7 p.m., Farm Loan Board Room, Truro

Cumberland New Leader Training March 1 at 7 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall

Cumberland County Council meeting, March 2 at 8 p.m., Location: TBA

Halifax East Hants Council meeting, March 19 at 7 p.m., Location: TBA

Halifax East Hants Rally, March 27 at 9 a.m., Mt. Travour Bible Camp, Cooks Brook

Cumberland County Rally, March 27 at 9 a.m., Pugwash District High School

Colchester County Rally, April 3 at 9 a.m., Location: TBA.

I have met with and visited with several farmers during the past few weeks answering many questions on BSE programs and Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) information. I would like to remind everyone that it is important to make sure that your CAIS program information is accurate when you receive your options notice.

Here is an example I will share with you. A 65-cow beef farm received their options notice and were quite discouraged with the reply. Their average reference margin for three of the previous five years was only \$500. In checking with their farming friends, they were surprised to find their reference was considerably lower than other farms. When we reviewed the expense categories, we noticed extremely high salaries were paid in some of the years. After looking at these closely, it was found these were wages paid for cutting pulpwood which are not considered farm expenses under CAIS and should not be subtracted from your income.

Since forestry income no longer qualifies, the difference resulted in a \$500 reference margin moving to approximately \$20 000. The farmer is resubmitting the information and having the information recalculated. ***Please check your information.*** If you have questions, do not hesitate to call me at (902) 863-4705 or Robin Bremner, Programs & Business Risk Management at (902) 893-6374.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Antigonish County

- March 21 Family bowling 11 a.m. – noon at the Pins Bowling Centre
- March 27 Antigonish County Rally, 9 a.m. – AEC (storm date – April 3)
- April 13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m. – 4-H office
- April 17 Regional Rally, 10 a.m. – Antigonish Education Centre
- April 27 Exhibition Committee meeting, 7 p.m.

Pictou County

- February 20 Pictou Co. 4-H family bowling, 7 p.m. – Heather Bowling Lanes – New Glasgow
- March 13 Pictou Co. family swim, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Pictou Fisheries swimming pool – Pictou
- March 24 Pictou Co. Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. – Northumberland School – Alma
- April 3 Pictou County Rally, 9 a.m. – Northumberland School – Alma

Inverness County

- February 19 Council meeting, 7 p.m. Mabou office.
- March 24 Council meeting, 7 p.m. Mabou office

These meetings are open to senior members and leaders. Attendance is encouraged. It is a great opportunity to provide input into the Inverness County program and find out about upcoming events.

Inverness County 4-H members are also invited to attend a workshop at the Millville Community Centre on February 21. The morning session will focus on with nutrition, judging foods and giving food demonstrations. The afternoon session will include a sewing project, highlighting writing commentaries, modeling and judging. For more information please contact your local 4-H office.

Clubs will be holding their Public Speaking competitions followed by the county competition on April 3. This process is a great opportunity to develop communication skills and build confidence.

Pesticide recertification

Once again ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will provide pesticide certification and re-certification training. Please contact Traci Curry of ProAgri Consulting Ltd. to discuss your pesticide safety needs.

On February 18 a pesticide re-certification workshop will be held at the Heather Hotel in Stellarton. This five-hour course is designed for pesticide applicators who hold a valid pesticide applicators license and are looking to earn re-certification points. Individuals will complete five hours of pesticide safety course topics and are issued certification points – one point for each hour of training. These re-certification points (maximum five per year) are accumulated over a number of years through training courses and this process takes three to five years to complete. Please check the expiry date on your Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour pesticide certification card before making a final decision to earn re-certification points. (Example: if your license expires in 2004 and you have not collected any points to date then you would be unable to collect all the points needed by the expiry date.) Cost of the course is \$65 which includes the HST. The course starts at 9:30 a.m. To register please contact your local agriculture office or call Traci at (902) 798-2114.

Pesticide Certification – ProAgri Consulting will also hold a pesticide certification session February 19 and 20 at the Heather Hotel in Stellarton. This course is for individuals who do not have a valid pesticide license and wish to take a course to prepare them to write the Nova Scotia Department of Environment Pesticide Certification Exam. This one and one-half day course will cover the topics required to prepare for the exam. The exam will be written on the morning of day two. Cost is \$140 which includes HST and the pesticide manual. To register call your local agriculture office or Traci at (902) 798-2114

Upcoming Events

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency *Consultation for the Proposed Organic Regulation* will be held on February 17 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Wandlyn Inn and Convention Centre, Cumberland Room in Amherst. Registration forms are available on the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries *Coming Events Calendar* at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/calendar/aafc.htm>

Organic Agri-Food Conference and Trade Show

The 2004 Organic Agri-Food Conference and Trade Show will be held in Cornwall, PEI on March 25 - 28/ For information visit www.acornorganic.org/pages/2004conference.html

Western Region 4-H ~ Upcoming Events

2004 Chat-a-rama - March 12-13 at Camp Hilles, Paradise, Annapolis County. Members aged 14-18 are eligible to attend. Registration forms are due on February 23.

Market Steer applications must be submitted to the the Provincial 4-H Office by March 1.

Annapolis 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - March 10, April 14 - 7:00 p.m. at the Demonstration Building in Lawrencetown.

Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - March 17, April 21 - 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Office , 55 Starr's Rd.

Digby 4-H Leaders Council Meetings - March 18, April 15 - 7:00 p.m. at the Digby Fire Hall boardroom

Applications to be Counselors or Counselors-in-Training at 4-H Camp Rankin are due on March 15.

Annapolis 4-H Craft Workshop - March 20 at the Demonstration Building in Lawrencetown

EBI Beef and Dairy Showcase applications are due on April 1.

Farm Credit Canada Scholarship applications are due on April 1.

Public Speaking County Rallies for Annapolis, Digby, and Yarmouth Counties are scheduled for April 3, 2004. Locations and times to be announced.

The following Scholarship applications are due on April 15, 2004: Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 4-H Scholarships, Harvest Trust 4-H Scholarship, The Co-operators 4-H Scholarship, and Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship. Applications and guidelines are available from your General Leader, the 4-H Office, or by visiting www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/glkit/scholar.htm.

Agricultural Public Session

An agricultural public session will be held the Nova Scotia Community College Burrige Campus in Yarmouth on February 18 at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this session is to educate the public on various upcoming opportunities in the agriculture industry and to provide an opportunity for individuals to voice their ideas on the future development of the agriculture industry in Southwestern Nova Scotia.

To register contact the South West Shore Development Authority at (902) 742-3210, fax (902) 742-3107, or e-mail catwood@swsda.com by February 16.

Managing Today's Broiler

On February 25 AgraPoint and the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute will be hosting the Managing Today's Broiler conference at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville.

All participants must register. The conference costs \$75+HST (\$86.25) or \$80+HST (\$92) at the door.

Registration includes lunch, breaks and workshop material. The following topics will be discussed:

- Nutrition for the Broilers in Your Barn
- Parameters that Effect Carcass Quality
- Avian Influenza Update
- Fine Tuning Broiler Barn Ventilation & Heating
- Waste Handling and Environmental Issues
- Growing Today's Broiler Dr. Scott Gillingham, Aviagen
- Disease, Sanitation, and Bio-Security
- Broiler Uniformity
- Water Management and Sanitation

To register or for more information contact AgraPoint at (902) 896-2345, or email at info@agrapoint.ca