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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



April 2005

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 6 No. 2

Board Vacancies

In Nova Scotia, there are over 30 provincial adjudicative Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs). These ABCs serve various roles and diverse interests. Adjudicative boards have quasi-judicial functions; these boards take evidence, make findings of fact and law, and make decisions affecting a person's liberty, security, or legal rights. Board members need to apply legal principles, as well as sound professional and technical principles for the decisions under their consideration.

Applicants should have demonstrated the following in their work, volunteer, or other life experiences:

- Respect for the essential dignity of all persons, regardless of their circumstances and commitment to diversity and employment equity.
- Ability to apply a broad perspective on issues, and work with a team to listen to others, constructively solve problems, make objective and fair decisions, and reach consensus in a timely manner.

- Ability to deal professionally with confidential and sensitive information.
- Ability to communicate effectively and write clear and concise board reports.
- Peer/community recognition of high ethical standards and integrity in professional and personal interactions.

Preference will be given to applicants with previous involvement/experience in matters related to the respective board's

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ALTERNATE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR FARM REGISTRATION

George D. Burris, NSDAF

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations have developed a partnership for the delivery of farm registration. Beginning with the 2005-06 year, the **Nova Scotia Business Registry (NSBR)** is issuing farm registration cards on behalf of the Registrar of Farms. NSBR is a common licensing and registration system developed by the Province in partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency. It provides a "one stop" window for more than 45 licences and permits.

Objectives

- Improved farmer access and service.
- Increased NSDAF focus on delivery of programs to farmers and agribusinesses.
- Maintenance of legislative responsibility for Farm Registration under NSDAF.
- Maintenance of current data access by users (including NSFA).

What has changed?

- NSBR performs the following functions on behalf of the

Registrar of Farms:

- issue renewals
- process applications and fees
- issue cards to registered farms
- make payments to NS Federation of Agriculture.
- Farmer access increases: internet, fax, mail, ten Access Centres or NSDAF offices.
- Payment options increase: credit card, cheque, money order, bank draft. Please note that no cash payments can be accepted. **Credit cards** may be used on line or by providing card information on a mailed or faxed form.

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Board Vacancies continued...

function. In addition to the above criteria, any head or chair of an adjudicative board should have a proven ability, preferably as a board or meeting chairperson, in leading groups to constructively solve problems and bring about fair and consensus-based decisions.

The following positions are available for the Crop and Livestock Insurance Arbitration Board, Farm Practices Board, and Natural Products Marketing Council.

Crop and Livestock Insurance Arbitration Board – 1 member
Farm Practices Board – 2 members
Natural Products Marketing Council – 1 member

If interested in making a valuable contribution to the province, please submit a resume and/or application clearly outlining your qualifications and relevant experience to:

Executive Council Office
One Government Place
6th Floor, 1700 Granville Street
PO Box 2125, Halifax, NS B3J 3B7
Fax: (902) 424-0667
Email: execounc@gov.ns.ca

All applications will be kept on file for two years.

Closing Date: April 29, 2005

For further information about each board, position and an application form, visit Executive Council web-site at

www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/
or contact us by telephone at (902) 424-4877
or toll free 1-866-206-6844.

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to affirmative action to promote equitable participation of aboriginal persons, women, persons with disabilities, and members of racially visible groups where they are under-represented.

Applicants who wish to self-identify as potential affirmative action candidates for appointment are encouraged to do so.

Farm Registration continued...

• **Business Number** – The farm registration number (formerly a Dept. of Finance vendor code - subject to change) is now a joint NS/Canada “Business Number” permanently assigned. Approximately 45 per cent of registered farms already have business numbers. Additional information on the Business Number follows this article.

What has not changed?

- Legislative responsibility and the Registrar of Farms remain with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Registrar is responsible for the overall operation and delivery of service to industry and will continue to determine farm eligibility.
- Registration fees are unchanged, but are now listed next to the farm income ranges on the registration form for ease of reference.

- Fee refunds are still available by contacting the N.S. Federation of Agriculture at (902) 893-2293.
- Users of the NSDAF website for checking farm registrations will see little or no difference.
- Farm cards of NSFA members display both NSDAF and NSFA logos.

Renewals

- Renewal notices were mailed by NSBR to registered farms on **March 7, 2005**. An insert with the forms described the change, renewal and payment options, the Business Number, and provided contact information.

Questions?

Contact: George D. Burris,
Registrar of Farms (902) 893-6511
burrisgd@gov.ns.ca

NEW PAYMENT LOCATIONS and OPTIONS

All cheques, money orders and bank drafts should be made payable to the **Minister of Finance**. We accept **Visa** or **MasterCard**.

In person – Business Registration Unit, 1505 Barrington St., Maritime Centre – 9th Floor (payment by cash, debit, cheque, bank draft or credit card)

Drop off – Any Access Nova Scotia Centre or Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (payment by cheque, money order, bank draft or credit card)

Mail – Business Registration Unit, 1505 Barrington St. P.O. Box 1529, Halifax, NS B3J 2Y4 (payment by cheque, money order, bank draft or credit card)

Fax – Business Registration Unit - (902) 424-0602 (payment by credit card only)

Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Receive Funding

Nova Scotia beef and dairy farmers are getting help from the provincial government as they work to ensure a solid future for their industry.

The provincial cattle industry will receive \$500,000 to use towards planning its long-term sustainability, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries announced on April 7.

“We are pleased to help the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers with initiatives that will strengthen the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the dairy and beef industries,” said Chris d’Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers was formed in September 2004 and has elected its first board of directors. It replaces the Nova Scotia Cattlemens Association as the sole funded body representing the beef industry and will also represent dairy farmers. Funding for the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers will be generated through a \$2 per head levy applied on all cattle sales.

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers will receive funding to help offset costs associated with start up and implementation of its marketing plan and regulations. The funds will be used to support the industry’s future growth and development through marketing, research and production technology.

“The board will take into consideration the interests of all

stakeholders — including cow/calf operations, processors, feed lot operators and dairy producers — to promote and develop the industry,” said Mr. d’Entremont.

For further information contact:
Jim Bremner, President
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers
(902) 893-7455

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

2005 Application Deadlines:

Corn – May 1

Soybean – May 1

Spring Grains – May 1

Farmers may want to consider the Forage Establishment Plan, which covers newly seeded legume and

legume-grass mixes against drought, winter damage and other perils. Forage is insured from the time of seeding until May 31 of the following year. For more information on any insurance plans, contact us at 1-800-565-6371 (Truro) or 1-902-679-6015/6028 (Kentville).



Appointments to Natural Products Marketing Council

George Burris NSDAF

There were three appointments to the Natural Products Marketing Council, effective March 31, 2005.

Carol Versteeg – comes from a dairy farming background and is a former owner of Barneybrook Farms in Hardwoodlands. She holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from MacDonald College, McGill University. Carol provides leadership in several industry-related organizations, including the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board and Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture. In addition, Carol volunteers in Agriculture awareness, 4-H and community organizations.

Lester Palmer – has a family farm in Morristown, near Berwick, Kings Co., raising hogs, crops and tree fruit. He holds a diploma in agriculture from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Lester has served on several boards and Commissions, including the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission, the Nova Scotia Grain Marketing Board (Chair), the Nova Scotia Processing Pea and Bean Growers’ Marketing Board, Pork Nova Scotia (Chair) and, currently, the Executive of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Rollie Hayman – has been re-appointed as Chairperson of the Council. Rollie is a former Director of Extension and Executive Director of Agricultural Services with the Department of Agriculture and Marketing. He holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from MacDonald College and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph. Rollie is active as Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists, Trustee of the Canadian 4-H Foundation and Chief of the Onslow-Belmont Volunteer Fire Brigade, among other things.

Appointments to NPMC continued...

Leaving the Council are Jeanne Cruikshank and Michael Scothorn. The contributions to the Council by these talented and dedicated individuals have been significant. Their experience, judgement and standing in the agriculture and food industry have been of great value in helping the Council carry out its mandate.

The other Council members are: Laurie Hennigar, Sheffield Mills; Dave Davies, Kentville; Roger Bennett, Centreville and Ken Peacock, Bedford.

The Business Number – NS Business Registry

The Business Number (BN) is used by the Government of Nova Scotia as a primary identifier for licences, permits and registrations (examples: Farm Registration, Fuel Tax Rebate, Registry of Joint Stock Companies, Fuel Safety Licences, Elevating Device Licences).

The BN can be used by the recipient to link to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and to the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB). However, it does not obligate the recipient of a BN to those agencies.

A person or business being assigned a BN is not automatically registered

for any CRA or WCB programs. If a person/business wishes to register for HST or payroll accounts for WCB, then the BN can be used to help reduce duplication of information. They must pro-actively register for these other programs.

CRA does not pre-register sole proprietorships or partnerships for anything based on receiving a request for a BN from the Province of Nova Scotia.

At the time of incorporation for businesses, CRA does set up a corporate account to ensure filing of corporate tax returns. Incorporation takes place through the Registry of Joint Stock Companies (provincial) or Industry Canada for federal incorporations. Therefore, all farm corporations would already be using a BN.

The common identifier was established to make it easier to do business with government. In the past, businesses registering for government programs had to visit several offices, complete a variety of forms during “regular” business hours and provide the same basic business information several times. The Nova Scotia Business Registry with its common identifier (the BN) was established to streamline these requirements.

The Nova Scotia Business Registry allows businesses to register online for programs of partnering departments and agencies. The online service seamlessly links business programs through the business number. While the partners’ programs are delivered to businesses together, partner organizations maintain separate data storage and autonomy for program policy and administration.

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

Christine Moore, NSDAF

Programs Update

Nova Scotia Ruminant Income Support Program (RISP)

This program was well received by industry, as indicated by the high level of producer participation. Initial program payments were issued at 70 per cent of the calculated total payment amount, as indicated in the program guidelines. With the high level of program participation, the second and final payments were calculated at 4.5 per cent. The second and final payments started being processed the week of March 27, 2005.

Program Activities – April 1, 2005

# of Forms Mailed to Producers	1590
# of Program Forms Returned	1246
Total Value Initial 70% Payments	\$ 7,748,937.00
Total Value of Top-Up Payments	\$ 351,063.00
Total Value of Payments Processed	\$ 7,640,798.00

Payment Breakdown by Eligible Livestock

Eligible Livestock	# of Animals	Total Payments
Beef Cows	25792	\$ 4,513,600.00
Beef Feeders and Heifers	29554	\$ 2,172,219.00
Dairy Cow Replacements	18754	\$ 656,390.00
Breeding Female Sheep	8981	\$ 377,202.00
Breeding Female Goats	703	\$ 29,526.00

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Farm Investment Fund

Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

Seven producer information sessions were held across the province with over 330 producers attending. These sessions provided information on the 2004–05 program year activities and introduced the new federal environmental funding programs that will be incorporated into the Farm Investment Fund for the 2005–06 program year. This new federal funding will enhance the existing provincial program and provide additional assistance to producers for on-farm environmental and water sourcing activities. Further details on the new federal funding will be available in April.

Contact Info:

Programs and Business Risk
Management office at (902) 893-
6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.
www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm/

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

DEPOSITS DEADLINE POSTPONED

As the deadline for deposits approached, producers were anxious and hopeful that the deadline for 2003–04 program year would be delayed or eliminated. The announcement came on March 23, 2005. Producers were poised to make their required deposit to ensure participation in the program, when the deadline was changed to March 31, 2006. The postponement has enabled the CAIS working group time to prepare alternatives to the deposit that will be presented at the Ministers meeting in July 2005.

REVISED DEADLINES

ACTIVITY – CAIS	REVISED DEADLINE
2003–04 Program Year Deposit	March 31, 2006
2005 Program Year Deposit	March 31, 2006
New Participant Sign-up	May 31, 2005
Select Coverage for 2005 Program Year	May 31, 2005

Also new is the option to draw down from your CAIS account balance to the 1/3 of full deposit. A request for withdrawal from your CAIS account can only be done through the CAIS administration. There is currently work being done to allow a full draw down to a zero balance. This option could be in place by summer.

Other CAIS program information for producers:

- CAIS payment/processing statistics are now available on the CAIS website
- 2004 CAIS Supplementary forms/guides are now available
- 2005 Interim application forms/guides are now available

These forms and guides are available online. The 2004 Supplementary forms have been mailed to producers. If you do not receive one, please contact the CAIS administration.

CAIS 2004 Program Year Forms	Deadline
T4069 – Farming Income and the CAIS Program	June 15, 2005 (Individuals) June 30, 2005 (Corporations) (CRA - Winnipeg Tax Centre)
T1163 – Statement A (CAIS Account Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Individuals) T1164 – Statement B (if you have more than one farming operation) Statement A (CAIS Account Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Special Individuals)	June 15, 2005 (CRA - Winnipeg Tax Centre)
Statement A (CAIS Account Information and Statement of Farming Activities for Corporations/Cooperatives) Statement B (if you have more than one farming operation)	June 30, 2005 (CRA - Winnipeg Tax Centre)
CAIS Supplementary Form	September 30, 2005 (CAIS Administration)

For more information, contact the CAIS toll-free information line at 1-866-367-8506, visit the CAIS website at www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/, or contact the Programs and Business Risk Management office (NSDAF) at (902) 893-6510 or toll-free 1-866-844-4276.



"SHARPS" CONTAINER PROJECT

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture



The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) initiated a "Sharps" Container Project this year. An approved "Sharps" container will be made available to all livestock farms in the province free of charge. An information sheet provided by the NSDAF Pathology will accompany each container to provide advice on the proper handling of needles, blades, etc. The need for better techniques in handling sharp objects was identified in many Environmental Farm Plans.

The Federation received funding from the new ACAAF program (Agri-Futures) to assist with the costs, while the Federation is picking up the remainder of the tab. The NSDAF Agricultural Resource Coordinators and the Environmental Farm Plan Program Coordinators are handling the distribution of the containers to livestock farms around the province. A limited supply of the containers is available from the NSFA office in Truro. Farmers are advised to drop into the NSDAF office near to them to receive their

containers if a coordinator does not deliver one directly to the farm.

The Federation believes in buying local, whenever possible. All materials used in this project, except for the Biohazard labels, were purchased from Nova Scotia suppliers. The Colchester Community Workshop provided the legwork for assembling and shipping. It was a pleasure to coordinate this project, with all the groups involved committed to making it a success!

Canadian Minor Use Pesticide Priority Setting Workshop

Lorne Crozier, NSDAF

The third annual Minor Use Priority Setting Meeting, hosted by Agriculture Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), was held in Ottawa on March 21 to 23, 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to determine which minor use projects will be undertaken by AAFC for 2006.

About 150 individuals attended the meeting. There were representatives from provincial grower organizations, national grower organizations, crop specialists, researchers, pesticide companies, Provincial Minor Use Coordinators, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and AAFC representatives.

Nova Scotia was represented by Henry VanOostrum (NS Fruit Growers Association); Gary Brown (Wild Blueberry Growers Association of NS); Dr. Viliam Zvalo (Horticulture NS); and Matthew Wright (Christmas Tree Council of NS) and Lorne Crozier (Minor Use Coordinator).

The national priority list is compiled in three sections: Weeds/Growth regulators, Entomology and Pathology. One full day was dedicated to each section. For each section, 25 projects are selected (Priority B) and from these, 10 projects (Priority A) are selected, for a total of 30 projects to be worked on in 2006. One additional regional upgrade is allowed (five regions) to give a total of 35 projects to be worked on in 2006. This year one additional project was allowed for an organic product. Organic approved products are eligible for any of the other projects as well.

Three on weed and growth regulator (projects) were number one priorities for Nova Scotia and they received Priority A ranking. Four additional projects that were number one priorities for Nova Scotia received Priority B ratings. The Priority A projects included control of broadleaf weeds in highbush and wild blueberry, control of broadleaf weeds in cranberry and control of

liverwort, pearlwort, groundsel, Oxalis, bittercress, willowherb for outdoor ornamentals.

Three insecticide projects that were priority one projects for Nova Scotia growers received Priority A status. One of the A Priorities was a number two priority for Nova Scotia growers. They include a control for plum curculio, European apple sawfly, and apple maggot on apples, cucumber beetle on squash, potato stem borer on rhubarb, and cyclamen mite control on strawberry. Four other projects that were ranked highly by Nova Scotia growers received Priority B status.

One project that was a number one priority for Nova Scotia growers received Priority A ranking. Another project that was ranked number two priority for Nova Scotia received Priority A ranking. They include control of powdery mildew on gooseberry and currants, as well as, powdery mildew control on strawberry.

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*Canadian Minor Use Pesticide
Priority Setting Workshop continued...*

Three projects that were high priorities for NS growers received Priority B ratings.

It was agreed that broadleaf weeds in summer savory would be the choice for the regional upgrade for Atlantic Canada. This has been a number one priority for Nova Scotia for three years. It was also supported by P.E.I. and Newfoundland.

The Priority A projects listed above are scheduled for the 2006 growing season, and will be coordinated by the AAFC Pest Management Centre in Ottawa. Projects that did not receive Priority A status are not precluded from being submitted to the PMRA by grower groups or other interested organizations.

This was the third priority setting workshop which has proven to be very successful. There has been a surprising amount of cooperation nationally among a very diverse group of participants. The AAFC Pest Management Centre should be commended for organizing and running this workshop.

For complete details of the projects selected, contact Lorne Crozier at (902) 893-6548 or crozielm@gov.ns.ca

Pesticide Expertise at Nova Scotia Agricultural College

NSAC Continuing Education

One of the most impressive assets at NSAC is our staff, and Glen Sampson is no exception to this rule. Glen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at NSAC specializing in Weed Science, Plant Pathology and Pest Management. Glen has a Bachelor of Science (Agr.) in Plant Protection and a Master of Science in Agronomy. His teaching responsibilities at NSAC have included Pest Management and Weed Science at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Glen has also delivered courses to farmers, landscapers, industry and the general public in the areas of pesticide use and pest management.

Glen shares his knowledge with the community through a variety of courses, including Pest Management Update classes. It was offered separately for farmers and landscapers in the fall of 2005. He also taught Pest Management Application Technology in the winter of 2006 through Continuing Education at NSAC.

He has served on numerous committees, including the Pest Management Advisory Committee to the N.S. Minister of the Environment; the N.S. Weed Advisory Committee; Atlantic Advisory Committee on Pest Management; P.E.I. Pesticide Continuing Education Steering Committee and the Pest Management Advisory Council.

Glen's research has specialized in ecologically-based weed management in the context of integrated pest management. His research has always addressed current issues faced by the agricultural industry in Atlantic Canada. He is a leader in the area of biological weed control utilizing fungi and insects in the Atlantic Region. He has also served nationally on biological control-related committees. His current research is concentrated in the area of berry crop production.

A Pesticide Applicator's Certification Course is taught in the spring of 2005 (April 18 – 21) and the fall of 2005. This course is designed to teach students the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. It is excellent preparation for participants wishing to write the Pesticide Applicator's Exam, which is available on the last day of the course.

For more information on these and other courses offered by Continuing Education at NSAC, contact us at (902) 893-6666 or e-mail cde@nsac.ns.ca.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ABATTOIR

Cape Breton beef producers are seeking major shareholders to work with them in the provision of abattoir services for Cape Breton Island and Eastern Nova Scotia. Potential partners will have experience in slaughtering and processing various types of animals and developing value added products. Besides supervising the operations of the abattoir, partners will be expected to develop local markets for the products of the abattoir.

Interested parties will be expected to invest in the project in partnership with local beef producers to work toward a Cape Breton branded product that will be available to local consumers.

Serious inquiries only should write to:
Abattoir Project
2737 Point Edward Hwy
Point Edward, Nova Scotia
B2A 4P9

NSDAF STAFF UPDATE

Nadine Sinclair

Nadine Sinclair has joined the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as the Database Administrator and Business Systems Analyst for the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission.

Nadine holds a B.Sc. from Saint Mary's University (SMU), as well as a Certificate in Business from SMU, and a Technology Diploma from A.I.T. She has experience in the private sector software consulting arena and has spent the past four years with the Department of Community Services. She led the updating of the Commission's data management and service delivery

capabilities, working out of the Truro office. She can be reached at (902) 893-7614.

Christine Moore

Christine Moore has joined the Programs and Business Risk Management Division as the Promotion and Education Coordinator.

Christine graduated from the University of New Brunswick in 1994, receiving her Bachelor of Science in Forestry Resources. Since that time Christine has gained valuable experience, both here and in British Columbia, in areas of staff training, research, and project management in her capacity as a

natural resource consultant. This provides the background needed in carrying out the duties of her new position.

As Promotion and Education Coordinator, Christine's primary responsibilities will be communication, extension and education of industry stakeholders with regard to business risk management and development programming offered through the division.

Christine's office is located on the main floor of Harlow Institute, NSAC campus in Truro. She can be reached at (902) 893-6374 or 1-866-844-4276.

4-H News



4-H Weekend – Something to Celebrate

On May 6 – 7, 2005, 300 4-H members will attend the 4-H Weekend at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to participate in provincial communications competitions. Members will also compete in the woodsman and square dancing competitions and socialize with friends.

On Friday night, 4-H families are invited to reminisce about their 4-H memories of Gail Keddy, Susan Horne and Weldon Smith at a retirement celebration in their honour. The social will be held at the Jenkins Hall Lounge from 8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop by to say hello to these three special people who have contributed so much to the 4-H program.

4-H members are encouraged to drop by the C.A. Douglas Room in Cumming Hall on Saturday, May 7 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. to participate in the Weekend Challenge to test their knowledge in farm safety, agricultural awareness and 4-H. All participants will be eligible to enter their name in a prize draw.

Also plan to attend the Nova Scotia Horse Classic during 4-H weekend to watch 4-H teams enrolled in the light horse, draft horse or non-horse project compete in a variety of events, such as the horse bowl, the marketing competition, horse judging, identification stations, or the horse quiz.

The finale of 4-H Night in Nova Scotia will be held Saturday night at the Cobequid Educational Centre in Truro. Several awards will be presented to the competition winners and to over 25 4-H members and leaders who have won national 4-H travel opportunities sponsored by the Canadian 4-H Council. Other highlights include presentation of the Friends of 4-H awards and the selection of the Provincial 4-H Host and Hostess, the official youth representatives for Nova Scotia 4-H program. Everyone is welcome to attend the weekend events. For more information check out the website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsdaf/4h/

4-H Members to Travel On Royal Bank Interprovincial Exchange Program

In July, the Nova Scotia 4-H program will send five of its top members to participate in the 44th annual Royal Bank of Canada Interprovincial Exchange Program. 4-H members 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.

To qualify for this travel award, Nova Scotia delegates were interviewed and submitted an application outlining their contributions to the 4-H program and community involvement. Travelling to Ontario is Megan Sanford from Hants County. Sarah Haughn from

Lunenburg County is being hosted in Alberta. Monica Firminger from Pictou won the travel award to Manitoba. Kristy Waalderboos from Cumberland County will be travelling to Saskatchewan and Sarah Lees from Pictou County will head to British Columbia.

The Atlantic 4-H delegates travelling to the various parts of Canada will celebrate their achievement at a send-off banquet hosted by the Royal Bank. Nova Scotia 4-H members will host their billets from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan in August.

Camp Rankin Offers Camping and Career Experience To 4-H Members

On July 3, Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, will begin welcoming 240 4-H members aged 9 – 15 at five summer camps. Campers will learn skills training, leadership, and healthy living while building lasting friendships in a scenic setting on the Bras d'Or Lakes.

Camp Rankin offers 4-H members opportunities to learn drama, art, nature, first aid, hike, swim, canoe, and socialize with youth who have similar interests. This camp provides participants with a memorable experience that keeps them coming back each year as campers and camp staff. 4-H members are reminded of the May 1 deadline to register for the 2005 camping season.

Besides providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin employs seven counsellors aged 16 or older, a camp director and an assistant director. Trained counsellors lead 4-H members in traditional camp activities and educational sessions that follow the motto "learn to do by doing."

Camp Rankin was built by volunteers in 1972 as a Centennial project of the Richmond County 4-H Leader's Council. It is situated on 60 acres of land at Cape George, near St. Peters, Richmond County. The recreational and camp activities for 4-H members at Camp Rankin are administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in conjunction with the Richmond County 4-H Leader's Council.

4-H Members Learn Livestock Skills at Atlantic EBI Showcase

Specialists from Eastern Breeders Incorporated (EBI) will provide 70 Atlantic 4-H members with the most current techniques in technical livestock and showmanship skills at the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 26 – 28, 2005 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro.

EBI has sponsored the training event for the past 15 years, which provides intensive training for 4-H beef and dairy members from Atlantic Canada. The training 4-H members receive in proper animal management and preparation skills for showing cattle prepares them to be better contenders in the show ring and leaders in the agricultural industry. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 4-H staff partner with EBI to provide organizational skills on behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee.

Over two days, 4-H members learn the finer points of show preparation. They then prepare their own cattle for the beef and dairy show at 10 a.m. on June 28 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class. The public is welcome to attend the cattle show to see the skills these young people have learned.



More than you ever imagined!

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day

September 25, 2005



The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is hosting the 4th annual *Open Farm Day* on *Sunday, September 25, 2005*. This is an Atlantic region event and a tremendous opportunity to showcase your farm.

Open Farm Day 2004 was a tremendous success, with more than 8000 consumers visiting 46 Nova Scotia farms and more than 22,000 visitors across the Atlantic region. Through this event, consumers learn firsthand about the high quality, diverse foods produced locally in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is inviting you to participate in *Open Farm Day 2005*. We hope you will see this as a positive and worthwhile activity. We will provide participants with training and promotional materials. There is no charge to participate in this event.

Let's work together to make *Nova Scotia Open Farm Day 2005* an outstanding success. It is a great opportunity to show the public "*The Amazing World of Agriculture*".

If interested, please complete the attached registration form and return by fax or mail by *Friday, June 24, 2005*. We will contact you with additional details and information regarding the program.

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

✂

Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Type of Farm: _____

Can we use last year's farm information Yes No
Please include any changes you would like made.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

Arthur Pick – Kentville – Truro
Tel: (902) 679-6005 (*Tues./Thurs.*)
Tel: (902) 893-7314 (*Mon./Wed./Fri.*)
Fax: (902) 893-0244
pickaa@gov.ns.ca

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

Brian MacCulloch –
Tel: (902) 679-6006
Fax: (902) 679-6062
macculbc@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 & Guysborough counties:

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

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness & 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

Managing Waste on the Farm

The following information was obtained from Valley Waste Resource Management, (902) 679-1325, (toll free) 1-877-927-8300, email: info@vwrn.com.

Materials Exchange

The NS Materials Exchange is an on-line marketplace where you can buy, sell, trade or donate useable materials. Check out the Exchange at www.nsmaterials.com.

Management Centres

The waste management facilities in Kentville and Lawrencetown are open to the public. They accept many types of waste, including paint, batteries, recyclables, construction debris, metals and regular garbage. The fees vary depending on the type of waste, garbage being the most expensive to dispose of at \$0.098/kg. As an example, 250 lbs. of non-recyclable plastic wrap would cost about \$11 to dispose of.

Spring Clean-up

Spring cleanup begins in April in some areas. It is an opportunity to put out extra waste and large items that would not normally be collected from roadside. Each household and business can put out up to 20 garbage items. Please remember to bundle loose items. For more information consult the 2005 waste management calendar or contact Valley Waste.

Burning

Although burning garbage was not uncommon in the past, these days we know more about the risks. Burning garbage, in particular plastics, can be very harmful to human health and the environment. In open burning the temperatures do not get high enough to effectively break down the materials, so the smoke that leaves the pile is toxic. These pollutants can trigger respiratory illnesses, angina, headaches, as well as eye and skin irritations. For these reasons burning garbage is against the law in Nova Scotia.

Needles

Between November 2004 and February 2005, there were two cases of recycling workers being pricked by needles. Any type of medical waste on a sorting line is disturbing for recycling workers, but needles pose a serious health risk. If you use needles on your farm, ensure that they are properly managed. Needles are never recyclable. They should be enclosed in a rigid plastic container and clearly labeled. **All regional NSDAF offices now have plastic containers that you may pick up from our office for this use.** You can dispose of these containers FREE OF CHARGE at the Management Centres.

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day

Hants Co. will be hosting a Rural Women's Day on **April 23** in the **O'Brien Building**, Windsor. For further information or to register, please contact Mary Ann Dufour, (902) 798-5866 or Catherine Manning, (902) 798-4541.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Livestock Sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition grounds are under way again. Miscellaneous items must be registered by 10:45 a.m.; selling begins at 11 a.m. Livestock selling begins at 1 p.m. sharp. The following are the dates for 2005: April 30; May 14, 28; June 11; September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 5, 19; December 3.

Valley Region 4-H Dates and Activities

Valley Regional Rally: April 23, LE Shaw School 1 p.m.

Kings County Woodsman Competition: April 24, Harmony Hall 2 – 4 p.m.

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

Hants County 4-H Judging Day: May 25, Exhibition Grounds, Windsor

Kings County 4-H Judging Day: May 31, Sweets Horse Center, Billtown

Regional and Provincial 4-H Dates and Activities

4-H Weekend

This year 4-H weekend will be held May 6 and 7 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. Square Dancing, Woodsman Competition, Demonstrations and Public Speaking are a few of the events taking place. To apply to stay in residence, you can find an application on-line or contact the 4-H office. Members can stay in residence for \$25. Applications are due April 26 at the Kentville 4-H office for Valley Region members only.

Camp Rankin

Located on Cape Breton Island, bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. Members between the ages of 9 and 15 can spend six action packed days with other 4-Hers from across the province. Applications are due **May 1** in Truro. You can find applications on-line <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/> or from your General Leader.

Action on the South Shore 4-H Scene

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| April 18 | Queens County Public Speaking and Demonstration Rally |
| April 21 | Lunenburg County Exhibition Committee Meeting at 7:30 at the Provincial Building. |
| April 23 | Regional 4-H Rally hosted in Shelburne at the Lower Ohio Hall |
| April 26 | Provincial Show 2006 Meeting at the Provincial Building |
| April 30 | Rabbit, Poultry and Waterfowl Workshop |
| May 1 | Camp Rankin application forms due to provincial 4-H office, Truro |
| | 4-H club Provincial Exchange deadline |
| May 3 | Lunenburg County Council meeting, hosted by Ocean Breeze |
| May 4 | Shelburne Judging Workshop, Lower Ohio Hall at 7 p.m. |
| May 7-8 | Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend, NSAC, Truro |
| May 7 | Dine-A-Nite Fundraiser at Blockhouse Fire Hall |
| May 9 | Happy Mother's Day! |
| May 13 | Youth Rabbit Show, Annapolis Royal Fire Hall \$3 per entry |
| May 14 | Lunenburg County Judging Clinic at the Exhibition Grounds |
| May 15 | 4-H Club Livestock Registration Sheets due to the Bridgewater 4-H office (sample sheets can be found in the General Leaders Kit, on the provincial website and at the 4-H office). |
| May 15 | Following Applications Due: IVOMEC and 4-H Youth Scholarships, Dairy Conference Chaperone, and Scotiabank Classic Application |
| May 18 | Shelburne County Judging Day, 3:30 – 7 p.m., Lower Ohio Hall. Council meeting to follow at the Lower Ohio Hall |
| May 19 | Lunenburg County Exhibition Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds |
| May 20-22 | Fluff 'n'Buff, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Pre-registration required |
| May 23 | Victoria Day Holiday |
| May 25 | Lunenburg County 4-H Judging Day 3 – 8 p.m. Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds. Check your schedule for time and location of each project. |

Upcoming Events

- April 19 Soil and Crop Information Session, Shinimicas Fire Hall,
7 – 9:30 p.m. Specialists from AgraPoint will be presenting on
various soil and crop topics.
- April 22 Agriculture Awareness Program at Stewiacke Elementary School.

Livestock Producers

The Metro Food Bank in Halifax is looking for producers who may be interested in feeding their waste organics to livestock. This would include vegetables, bread, flour, etc, but not meat products. They currently generate approximately one to two tonnes of this material per week and would be interested in a partnership with a producer to take this product. Their preference would be for someone within a one hour radius of the metro area. If you are interested in looking into this opportunity, contact Paul Eyking, Metro Food Bank directly at (902) 457-1900.

Farm Sharps Containers Available

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is making available containers for disposal of used farm sharps (syringes, needles, etc.). These containers are currently available to livestock producers at the Regional Agricultural office in Truro. Any producer who would like to receive a container, can drop into the office (Harlow Institute, N.S. Agricultural College Campus) or the N.S. Federation of Agriculture office on Willow Street, Truro.

Pesticide Re-certification Course

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a Pesticide Re-certification Course (for points) in the Parrsboro area on April 21, 2005. The five-hour course provides current holders of a pesticide licence with up to five points for re-certification of their licence. For more information or to register, contact the NSDAF office at (902) 893-3645.

Food Handler's Certification Program

The purpose of the course is for you to understand the fundamentals of sanitation and safety with regard to the service of food to the public. Included in this workshop are the laws, rules, and procedures related to healthy food service and operations. Contaminated food, eaten by your customers, could cause serious illness or even death. This could be financially disastrous to your operation.

What Can You Do to Protect Your Reputation?

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 HACCP Safe Food System.

Protect your customers from food-born illness. Register now!

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

COMMUNITY PASTURES

Community Pastures will be starting up for this pasture season. Most pastures can always use additional cattle numbers to help keep the pastures viable operations. As the summer continues, you may find you need extra feed or pasture so consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pasture contacts for Cape Breton.

Cape Mabou	Georgina MacKenzie	(902) 622-2552
Mira	John MacPhee	(902) 727-2542
Maplebrook	John P. MacDonald	(902) 756-2671
Little Harbor (L'Ardoise)	Arthur Sampson	(902) 587-2276
Cheticamp Island	Eli Joe Chaisson	(902) 224-2417

CANADIAN NUTRITION LABELING WORKSHOP

This workshop will provide an introduction to the new nutrition labeling requirements of the Food and Drug Act and Regulations. This came into effect on December 12, 2002. All food manufactures and importers that sell product in Canada are urged to attend.

Sydney – May 18, 2005

Location: To be determined

Port Hawkesbury – June 1, 2005

Location: To be determined

For more information contact: Sharon Noel (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) at (902) 426-5307



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.

THINK SAFETY

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. In addition to the many spring jobs, be sure to make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family. Now is a good time to:

1. Check fencing around ponds and manure storages.
2. Ensure PTO guards are in place.
3. Take extra precautions to guard against manure gas in liquid manure storages.
4. Check your farm first aid kit(s) to ensure they are fully stocked and ready for use.
5. Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and in place on machinery and in buildings.
6. Make sure your slow moving vehicle signs are on equipment and can be seen.

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the NSDAF office.

More on next page...

DISPOSAL OF USED FARM SHARPS

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.

Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Sharps containers specifically designed for this purpose should be used and should have a bio-hazard label to avoid accidental discarding. To reduce personal risk, used needles should not be recapped but placed directly into containers. Thin-walled containers, pop cans and glass bottles are not acceptable.

Farm sharps containers are available and can be picked up at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries offices in Mabou and Point Edward.

4-H

Jolene MacEachern, Acting 4-H Specialist, Cape Breton Region

Spring is in the air, 4-H members are buzzing as the snow melts and Cape Breton comes to life for another season. Chicks are hatching, calves and lambs are taking their first steps, and seeds are going into the ground as this year's projects begin to take shape.

Spring is a busy time in the 4-H program which makes it that much more enjoyable! Chocolate sales are now complete and preparations for 4-H Weekend are underway. Public speaking rallies are being held throughout the region as members compete for the opportunity to display their talent at Provincial 4-H Weekend. This includes demonstrations, the host and hostess competition, as well as poster competitions. If you had the chance to attend a rally in your area, you are well aware of the talent.

4-H Weekend is the perfect opportunity to showcase some of that talent. This year's event will take place May 6 and 7 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro. Along with the competitions included in the local rallies, 4-H members can participate in the modern square dance competition, the woodsmen competition and the skill-a-thon.

New to the 2005 program is the Nova Scotia Horse Classic. This event was created to increase horse knowledge, horsemanship, and to give members the opportunity to meet other members from across the province. Teams of four are invited to compete in a variety of horse-related events. Members must be enrolled in either light horse, draft horse or the non-horse project. Competitions will include a Horse Bowl, a marketing competition, Horse Classic quiz, judging and identification stations. All quiz questions will come from leader manuals. There will be overall winners, individual competition winners and team winners.

Concluding 4-H Week-end is the annual 4-H Night in Nova Scotia. Champions of the weekend, National Travel Award winners and those who have made significant contributions to the program will be honoured. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Cobequid Education Centre auditorium on Saturday night. Feel free to attend and see what 4-H has to offer!

Good luck to all as spring work creeps up on us. Thank you in advance to those who will be helping out in the 4-H program through the summer months. I look forward to working with you!

GROWER MEETINGS

AgraPoint and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are pleased to host a grower meeting on April 20, Skye Glen Hall, Cape Breton, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Topics and speakers include:

Getting More Out of Your Forages for Your Dairy Cow
Daniel Scothorn – Ruminant Specialist, AgraPoint

Stretching Your Fertilizer Dollar and Benefits of Nutrient Management Planning
Jack vanRoestel – Field Crops Specialist, AgraPoint

Crop Updates, including, "How to Ensure Better Forage Establishment and Does it Pay to Process Corn Silage"
Bill Thomas – Forage Specialist, AgraPoint

Federal/Provincial Crop and Livestock Programs
Gary Koziel, NSDAF

NSFA Sharps Containers Western Region 4-H Update

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, injure workers and family members, increase the risk of infection spread, put waste handlers at risk, and pollute the environment.

In response to this issue, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has initiated a "Sharps" project. Proper disposal containers for sharps are being provided free of charge to livestock producers in Nova Scotia.

The sharps containers for the NSFA "Sharps" project are now available for pick up at the Weymouth office. Arrangements are in the works to also have these containers available at the Yarmouth and Lawrencetown offices. Please call the Weymouth office to determine when the containers will be available in these areas.

- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings – April 20, May 18, June 15 - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries office, 3-101 Lovitt St., Yarmouth, 7:30 p.m.
- Digby 4-H Leaders Council Meetings – April 21, May 19, June 16 – Digby Fire Hall boardroom, 7 p.m.
- Western Region Public Speaking Rally – Saturday, April 23 – NSCC Annapolis Campus, Lawrencetown, 1 p.m.
- Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend – Friday-Saturday, May 6–7, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro
- Annapolis 4-H Judging Clinic – Tuesday, May 17 – Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Fluff-n-Buff Livestock Clinic for Beef, Dairy, Sheep, and Goat members – May 20-22 – Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis 4-H Judging Day – Tuesday, May 31 – Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis 4-H Light Horse Clinic and Judging Day – June 4, and Annapolis Light Horse Point Show #1 – June 5 – Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Yarmouth 4-H Judging Day – Tuesday, June 7

For further information please contact Teresa VanOostrum, Western Region 4-H Specialist, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, P.O. Box 69, Lawrencetown, NS, B0S 1M0
ph: (902) 584-2081, fax: (902) 584-3069, vanoostp@gov.ns.ca

Sharps Container Project

We have received the sharps containers at our office. We have received enough containers to give one to each producer in our area. Kevin will be passing them out along with an information sheet at upcoming meetings. Please contact our office if you need one right away.



St. John Ambulance Canada

St. John Ambulance – First Aid on the Farm – Emergency First Aid

A one-day course was held Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at St. Ninian's Place. It was a great success with approximately 20 people in attendance. Anyone who has not completed or renewed their first aid training can contact our office at (902) 863-4705 and leave their name. We will be holding another course in the spring, so anyone wishing to pre-register can do so.

Cape John Community Pasture:

The Cape John Community Pasture will open soon. Anyone interested in putting cattle on the pasture should phone (902) 759-0609.

The fee schedule is as follows:

cows	60¢ per day
calves 0-200 lbs. @ entry	\$25 per season
calves 200-400 lbs. @ entry	\$35 per season
calves 400-600 lbs. @ entry	40¢ per day
600 lbs. +	60¢ per day
Breeding fees	\$20 per animal
calf born on pasture	\$10 calving fee

Other services offered include:

- Blackleg vaccination at cost, if required
- Note: minimum grazing charge 90 days of pasture fee
- H.S.T. will be charged on all fees.
- First payment June 15, 2005 calculated for 90 days
- Balance paid when cattle leave pasture.

All cattle must have CCIA approved tags

Pictou North-Colchester Federation of Agriculture

The Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture held their annual meeting in November and elected a new slate of officers in December.

Rob MacGregor, President	(902) 923-2912
Mark Dykstra, Vice-president	(902) 485-5777
Nancy Levo, Secretary/Treasurer	(902) 396-4590

Board Members:

Alex MacLeod (902) 485-8276	Joe Ebbett (902) 657-2122
Ron McMillan (902) 657-3433	Dale Johnston (902) 923-2574
Bill Scott (902) 925-2057	

The Federation would like to hear from people who would be interested in being director. While it can be serious business being a director, they always have a bit of fun and food. The Board of Directors meets regularly throughout the year on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in directors' homes to discuss business and plan educational sessions. They

also hold a summer barbecue. Tentative schedule for 2005 is January 31, March 21, April 11 (semi-annual meeting), July – barbecue (date to be announced), September 20, October 18, November 22 (annual meeting), December 13 (holiday social). Members with concerns to be addressed should contact Robbie or Nancy before a meeting.

Deadlines for CAIS

The deadline for making your deposit for 2003–04 has been extended to March 31, 2006



Upcoming 4-H Dates

Antigonish/Guysborough Counties

- Exhibition Committee Meeting
April 19, 7 p.m.
- NS 4-H Weekend
May 6–7, Truro
- Council Meeting
May 10, 7 p.m.
- Ant/Guys Judging Day
May 17, 2:30–4:30 p.m. and 6–8 p.m.
- C.A.C.L. – Collection Evening
May 24 and/or during the week of May 26

Pictou County

- Pictou Co. Exec. Meeting
April 18, 7:30 p.m.,
Sobeys Aberdeen
- Pictou Co. Woodsmen Competition
April 23, 10 a.m., Eureka
- NS 4-H Weekend
May 6–7, Truro