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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



February 2005 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Volume 6 No. 1

### Programs and Business Risk Management Division

#### Programs Update

#### Nova Scotia Ruminant Income Support Program (RISP)

On December 3, 2004 Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont announced the new RISP program to provide assistance to ruminant producers in meeting financial challenges resulting from the negative market conditions due to BSE.

#### RISP Authorization/Application Form Submission Deadline – March 1, 2005

Program Activities – January 31, 2005	
No. of Forms Mailed to Producers	1,590
No. of Program Forms Returned	848
No. of Forms Processed	652
No. of Forms in Progress	196
Total Value of Payments Processed	\$4,734,685

#### Farm Investment Fund

**March 1, 2005** – Claiming Deadline – late claims will not be processed. Information required for claiming:

- Signed copy of the *Letter of Agreement*;
- Submission of an “Agricultural Claim Form” based on the amount of the original approval or the actual activity costs, whichever is less;
- Copies of paid invoices with receipts or cancelled cheques to support completed, approved project activities. Payments will be made based on date of eligible project activity, which must be after the date of receipt of completed application in the Programs office.

#### Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

Information sessions are planned to provide producers with an update on the Farm Investment Fund program activities, along with the proposed enhancements for the upcoming program year.

Location	Date	Time
Weymouth – St. Mary’s Bay Academy Cafeteria	February 15	7 – 9 p.m.
Windsor – O’Brien Building	February 16	1 – 4 p.m.
Kentville – Agricultural Centre	February 17	7 – 9 p.m.
Baddeck – Knox Church Hall	February 22	7 – 9 p.m.
Antigonish – St. Ninian’s Place (Room 21)	February 23	7:30 – 9:30
Truro – NSAC, Cox Institute (Room 24)	February 24	7 – 9 p.m.

#### Agri-Food Industry Development Fund

**March 15, 2005** – Claiming Deadline – late claims will not be processed.

Information required for claiming:

- Signed copy of the *Letter of Agreement*;
- Submission of a completed *Agri-Food Industry Development Fund Claim Form* based on the amount of the original approval or the actual project costs, whichever is less;
- Copies of paid invoices with receipts or cancelled cheques to support completed project work. Payments will be made based on date of eligible

*Continued on next page...*

Programs continued...

project activity, which must be after the date of receipt of completed application in the Programs office;

- Project Report **MUST be included for final payment.**

For more information on the programs above, please contact the Programs and Business Risk Management office at (902) 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

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## Canadian Agricultural Income Support Program (CAIS)

### Deadlines:

Activity	Date – 2005
<b>2003 and 2004 Deposit Deadline</b> Producer's 1/3 deposits are due based on the most recent deposit notice received from the CAIS Administration.	<b>March 31</b>
<b>2004 CAIS Interim Advance Application</b>	<b>March 1</b>
<b>2004 CAIS Special Advance Application</b>	<b>March 1</b>
<b>2005 Program Year Protection Level Selection Deadline</b> Producers must select a protection level for the 2005 program year. For producers participating in the CAIS program they will receive an Options Notice in the mail. The Options Notices are to be mailed to producers in mid February.	<b>March 31</b>

Other program information for producers:

- 2004 CAIS Supplementary forms are to be available in early March 2005
- 2005 CAIS Interim application forms are now available

For more information, contact the CAIS toll-free information line at 1-866-367-8506, or visit the CAIS website at [www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/).

## Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association (NSBA) Annual Meeting

The Nova Scotia Beekeepers Annual General Meeting will be held Friday, February 25 and Saturday, February 26, 2005 at the Kentville Agricultural Centre. There will be a Commercial Beekeepers meeting starting at 1:30 p.m. on the Friday (all welcome). Registration is 6:30 Friday evening with the business meeting starting at 7 p.m. Registration Saturday is at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting starting at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. John Gruszka, Provincial Apiculturist from Saskatchewan.

In 2005, an identified goal for the NSBA is to reach out to more beekeepers through expanded membership and activities. At the annual meeting in February there will be a draw for a \$400 gift certificate for bee supplies. This draw will be open to all 2005 NSBA members. Contact the NSBA by phone at (902) 538-3248 or email [nsba@glinx.com](mailto:nsba@glinx.com) for information.



## Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

### Production Insurance

#### 2005 Application Deadlines:

- Vegetable – March 15
- Potato – April 20
- Corn, Soybean, Spring Grain – May 1

All producers who insured spring crops in 2004 will receive a Coverage Quote form(s) before the beginning of the crop year. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season.

For information on any of our insurance plans, contact us at 1-800-565-6371 – Truro, or (902) 679-6015 (6028) – Kentville.

# Tree Fruit BioProducts Research Initiative at NSAC

*Dr. V. Rupasinghe, NSAC*

The Nova Scotia apple industry has recognized the importance of nutraceuticals and other bio-products in finding alternative markets. To explore the potential new opportunities of these new sectors to the apple industry, the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA), with support from the federal government and Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (NSDAF), established a ***Tree Fruit BioProducts Research Chair*** position at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe was hired to fill this new position located within the Department of Environmental Sciences, NSAC in October 2003. Dr. Rupasinghe's academic background in fruit biochemistry and past experience as a research scientist at the Guelph Center for Functional Foods in Ontario make him ideally suited for this position.

Dr. Rupasinghe's research program aims to enhance the economic value of apples and to assure the sustainability of the Nova Scotia apple industry through the innovation of novel apple-based bio-products as alternative agricultural commodities. Scientific evidence has begun to accumulate showing that a group of phytochemicals known as flavonoids (these belong to the family of polyphenolics) has the

potential to act as new therapeutic agents that may play important roles in alleviating chronic health-related dysfunctions in mammalian species, including humans. Tree fruits such as apples are highly concentrated with flavonoids, and the potential exists to explore the ability of apple-derived specific phytochemicals to play a significant role in human health.

New infrastructure, valued at \$560,000, has been acquired through funding provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust (NSRIT), and NSFGA to establish a new natural product chemistry laboratory at NSAC to support this program. In addition to the new equipment at NSAC, the program will also be assisted by the pilot plant facilities of the Food Technology Center at Charlottetown, PEI. Research under this program is also looking at the development of technologies for production of value-captured food ingredients and phenolic extracts from apple skin. Not only are the peels of apples high in phenolics and dietary fiber, but they are also one of the major food processing by-products in Nova Scotia accounting for 4 million pounds each year. Research is also investigating novel ways of extending the shelf life of sliced apples so that the products can be shipped to distant markets. With

consumer demand for healthier and more convenient foods on the increase, the market potential of value-added fresh-cut apples is now being realized. Funding for the above studies is provided by NSDAF through the Technology Development Program, NSFGA and Scotian Gold Cooperative Limited, Kentville.

The research program is multi-disciplinary in nature and consists of market analysis, germplasm assessments, processing and product development, natural products chemistry, biological activity studies of tree fruit constituents. Market studies are being conducted in collaboration with the Industry Development and Business Services Branch of NSDAF and Department of Business and Social Sciences, NSAC. A preliminary investigation on market potential for apple-based bio-products was completed and a two-year, collaborative project to conduct economic analysis on competitiveness, opportunity assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to bio-products development was approved to receive \$150,000 through NSDAF to hire a research economist in December 2004.

For more information about the research program, please contact Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe at (902) 893-6623 or [vrupasinghe@nsac.ns.ca](mailto:vrupasinghe@nsac.ns.ca).



## 4-H Members To Attend the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar

Eight 4-H members from Nova Scotia will be gaining a better understanding of the political process in Canada while attending the 34th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, April 8 –14. They will join approximately 55 4-H members from across the country to examine their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

The theme of this year's seminar is "*Borders of Opportunities*". Delegates will learn how youth can influence the political process and become familiar with the political parties that make up the Canadian government. 4-H members will gain an understanding of current issues that the government is working with in relation to immigration and conduct a simulated House of Commons debate on the topic "*Immigration – Rights and Responsibilities*".

The delegates attending from Nova Scotia are Kathleen Bonnar, Cape Breton County; Amanda MacLellan, Pictou County; Jessica Earl, Cumberland County; Anthony Walters, Lunenburg County; Ashley Charlton, Annapolis County; Katie Knowles, Hants County; Laura Berkvens, Antigonish County; and Nicole Sinclair from Guysborough County.

Throughout the seminar, delegates will hear from guest speakers, participate in discussion groups, visit the Supreme Court of Canada, Parliament Hill, view Question Period and participate in a ceremony of new Canadians at citizenship court. They will also participate in social activities and tours, and attend a luncheon with their MP on Parliament Hill.

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## 4-H Members Can Attend PEI 4-H Senior Members Conference

Attention members age 15 to 21! This is a leadership conference for members from the Atlantic provinces. This is a unique conference that includes a ROPE (Rite of Passage Experience) course with the PEI Adventure Group. The ROPE program will provide members with an opportunity to problem-solve and take risks in a fun and stimulating atmosphere. This will be done through activities such as climbing up a tree, standing on a cable suspended 26 feet above the ground, walking 40 feet across to touch the other tree and then being lowered to the ground; or scaling an

8-foot or 14 foot wall. Such activities will provide challenges that promote confidence, self-esteem, communication skills and leadership development. The Ropes Course is located on 25 acres of forest. Transportation will be provided from Truro to the conference.

An application form can be found at [www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/). Sign it, enclose your fee of \$40 payable to the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, and return by February 15, to your 4-H Specialist, at any one of the 4-H offices.

## Nova Scotia Open Farm Day September 25, 2005

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to announce they will be hosting the fourth annual **Open Farm Day on Sunday, September 25, 2005**. This is an Atlantic region event and a tremendous opportunity for you to showcase your farm.

**Open Farm Day 2004** was a tremendous success with more than 8000 consumers visiting the 46 farms that were open in Nova Scotia and more than 22,000 visitors across the Atlantic region. Through this event consumers learn firsthand about the high quality, diverse food supply 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, worthwhile activity. We will provide all 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 off" to the public "*The Amazing World of Agriculture*".

If you are interested, please contact Ruth Grant, P. Ag., Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator, NS 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](mailto:grantra@gov.ns.ca) by **Friday, June 24, 2005**.

## Camp Rankin Offers Opportunities for Summer Jobs

Summer Days. When you hear those words some people think about vacations on the beach, others think of summer jobs. Over the years some young people have found that there is no better way to spend that favorite time of the year than surrounded by enthusiastic 4-H members as a camp counselor at Camp Rankin.

Several jobs are available 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 counselors. The camp runs for five weeks from July 3 to August 6. The counselor positions include canoeing; water safety; drama and

arts; crafts; recreation and nature study, as well as Assistant Camp Director.

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members to have a great summer job. You will meet new friends and create many fond memories. 4-H members who are 16 or older can also apply for the counselor in training positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one of the camping weeks. The deadline for applications is **March 15**.

Contact the provincial 4-H office at (902) 893-6585 if you are interested in any of these jobs or check with your General Leader for an application.

## Scholarships Available for 4-H Members

Young people can gain more than confidence, technical skills and friendship from the 4-H program. 4-H members who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H member for at least two years can apply to win six university entrance scholarships.

Presently, 4-H members can apply for the Co-operators, IVOMECE, Farm Credit, Harvest Trust, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council scholarships. Deadlines for these scholarships vary from April 1 for Farm Credit Corporation, May 15 for IVOMECE to April 15 for the others. Each scholarship has specific requirements and all scholarship applicants are required to submit an essay or a plan with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality, and interpretation of research, as well as spelling and grammar. Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$1500.

Members are encouraged to speak to their General 4-H Leader or their 4-H Specialist to make sure they get a copy of the applications and meet the deadlines.



*More than you ever imagined!*

### 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

## 4-H Members Set To Fund Raise

This spring, if a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar it is for a good cause. Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in their provincial fund raising campaign. They will be selling *Hershey Variety Packs* to raise money for local and provincial programs.

This year the campaign runs from March 7 to April 4. Consumers can choose from chocolate bars with almonds, chocolate covered almonds or milk chocolate bars. All bars are \$2 each.

Proceeds from this sale will be divided among the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties selling bars. The provincial council uses the money raised to support provincial events such as the EBI Showcase; National Travel Opportunity registrations; Camp Rankin and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships, as well as provincial programs such as 4-H Weekend, Annual Meeting and 4-H Show.

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## AgraPoint Strawberry Integrated Pest Management Workshop

March 29 – 30, 2005  
Best Western Glengarry, Truro, NS

This two-day workshop will focus on all aspects of IPM in strawberry production, including scouting techniques; thresholds; pest identification and understanding management strategies. Topics will cover the benefits and constraints of an IPM system. These will be considered from environmental and economic perspectives, as well as when looking at sustainable cropping systems.

The keynote speaker will be Doug Doohan, Associate Professor and Weed Ecologist, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science OARDC/Ohio State University. This former Nova Scotia government weed specialist will talk about ongoing innovations in strawberry pest research. He will also headline our evening “Bull Pit” session on day one by talking about refocusing IPM in the Nova Scotia strawberry industry.

Each attendee will receive an updated version of the Nova Scotia Strawberry IPM guide, a hand lens, a Weeds of Quebec ID book, five Pesticide Applicator Re-certification Points - PRCP, speaker notes and fact sheets.

Workshop Registration: \$150 + HST per person.

Contact AgraPoint’s Resource Contact Center, Phone (902) 896-2345, Toll Free 1-866-222-6609  
Email: info@agrapoint.ca

Accommodation Booking: Rooms are being held for the workshop at the Best Western Glengarry until February 27. Single room \$95, Double room \$105 (double occupancy) Phone (902) 893-4311.

Register early! Space is limited to the first 60 participants.

## Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, NSAC Schedule and Fees – Winter 2005

### Landscape Installation Workshops

Deck and Step Construction  
Friday, March 4, 2005  
Tuition: \$100

Landscape Irrigation  
Friday, March 11, 2005  
Tuition: \$100

Landscape Lighting  
Friday, March 18, 2005  
Tuition: \$100

Water Feature Construction  
Friday, April 8, 2005  
Tuition: \$100

### Pesticide Applicator’s Certification

April 18 – 21, 2005  
Monday – Thursday  
Tuition: \$350  
Decision Deadline: April 1, 2005

### Introduction to Tree Work

April 25 – May 6, 2005  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Tuition: \$1000  
Decision Deadline: April 1, 2005

### Introductory Floral Design

May 29 – June 3, 2005  
Tuition: \$750  
Decision Deadline: April 29, 2005

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 in taking a course, please apply and pay as early as possible.

For more information, contact:  
Centre for Continuing and Distance Education  
Phone: (902) 893-6666  
Email: cde@nsac.ns.ca

## Pesticide Certification and Re-certification Courses

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

Certification Course: March 3 and 4, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Day One: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Day Two: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

This 1½ day program costs \$140, price includes HST and manual.

Re-certification Course: March 24, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre.

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cost of course is \$65 + HST.

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

## Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day

There will be a Farm and Rural Women's Day in Kings Co. on April 20 at the Greenwich Fire Hall from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This will be a full day, with information on how to organize your house, set up a business, eat healthy, plus some entertainment and fellowship.

If interested in attending, please send registration fee of \$15 by April 8 to:

Ann Palmeter

661 East Long Island Road

North Grand Pre, NS B0P 1M0

For more information and/or a registration form contact Leta Ells, (902) 582-7298 or Ann Palmeter, (902) 542-3204.

## 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.

## Valley Region 4-H Dates and Activities

- Hants County 4-H Royalty Night: Friday, February 18 at the West Hants Middle School
- Hants County Executive Team Workshop: February 21, 7 p.m., Windsor Superstore Community Room
- Kings County 4-H Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.
- Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: Monday, March 7, 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School.
- Chat-A-Rama: Camp Hilles, Paradise, Annapolis County on March 11 and 12

## Regional and Provincial 4-H Dates and Activities

Due date for Market Steer project forms: **March 1, 2005** – provincial 4-H office in Truro.

**March 7 to April 4, 2005:** 4-H provincial chocolate fund raiser campaign. Members and leaders from across the province will be busy selling chocolate to fund various 4-H events, activities and programs, including provincial show, 4-H weekend, Camp Rankin, national trips and much, much more!!

**Chat-a-Rama: March 11 to 12,** Camp Hillies, Paradise (open to all 4-H members 14 to 18 from the Valley, Western and South Shore Regions). The theme for 2005 is Finding Your Future. The program will include sessions on choosing the career options that are best for you, learning about programs available at university or college, how to start your own business, team challenges, and of course, social time and recreation. Deadline is February 21 to apply.

Due date for the Farm Credit Corporation scholarship: **April 1, 2005.**

Due date for the following scholarships: N.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries, Harvest Trust, The Co-operators and the N.S. 4-H Council: April 15, 2005



# The South Shore is a Great Place to Be if You are a 4-H Member

The South Shore continues to see increasing enrollment of 4-H'ers in the program, in part due to the hard work volunteers put into organizing great events like the Lunenburg County Winter Carnival. Winter Carnival will be held Saturday, February 19 at the West Northfield Elementary School. There will be games, winter activities, woodsmen competition, 4-H royalty and Tug-of-War!! The Carnival will be a great opportunity for members, leaders and parents to get out and get active during the Winter Season.

Coming in March there is a leaders opportunity available to those who put so much effort into the 4-H program. The 2005 Leaders Retreat is being planned for March 4 and 5 in Coldbrook. The conference title Building Blocks of Balance, hints at the theme of this year's event and it is open to Western Nova Scotian Leaders.

Rally time is here again in the South Shore. As 4-H members begin writing and planning speeches and demonstrations, they will work their way through Club, County and Regional Rallies. The County Rally for Lunenburg is on April 2 at the Forties Community Centre.

Shelburne is holding their rally on April 9, while April 18 is featuring the silver tongued Queens county members participating in County Public Speaking and Demonstrations.

Remember during these winter months to stay active and have some fun by introducing 100 of your closest friends to the 4-H program!

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## Coming Events

- February 15 **Farm Investment Fund Information Meeting**, Cafeteria, St. Mary's Bay Academy, Weymouth, 7-10 p.m.
- February 16 **Farm Investment Fund Information Meeting**, O'Brien Building, Windsor, 1-4 p.m.
- February 17 **Farm Investment Fund Information Meeting**, Agricultural Centre, Kentville, 7-10 p.m.
- February 23 **NS Cattle Producers Update and Zone Meeting**, Zone 5 (W. Hants, Kings, Annapolis Counties), Aylesford Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- February 26 **NS Cattle Producers Update and Zone Meeting**, Zone 6 (Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg Counties), Shelburne Fire Hall/Community Center, 1:30 p.m.
- March 3 - 4 **Pesticide Certification Course**, Agricultural Centre, Kentville. Contact ProAgri Consulting, (902) 798-2114 to register
- March 19 **First Annual Meeting of the NS Cattle Producers**, Howard Johnson Motel, Truro
- March 24 **Re-certification Course**, Agricultural Centre, Kentville. Contact ProAgri Consulting, (902) 798-2114 to register.
- April 20 **Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day**, Greenwich Fire Hall. Contact Leta Ells, (902) 582 7298 or Ann Palmetter, (902) 542-3204 for more information.
- April 23 **Hants Co. Rural Women's Day**, O'Brien Building, Windsor. Contact Mary Ann Dufour, (902) 798-5866, or Catherine Manning, (902) 798-4541 for more information.

## Farm Mechanization Show

The Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show will be held March 3–5, 2005 at the Moncton Coliseum. The Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture is organizing a one-day bus tour to the show for its members. The tour will be held on Thursday, March 3. The bus will pick up at the Milford Church (Exit 9) at 8 a.m.

and will return by approximately 9 p.m. The cost for this trip will be \$20 per person or \$35 per family farm (to be paid on the bus). For more information and to reserve a seat, please call Amy Grant at (902) 758-4180.

## Farm Equipment Calibration Clinics

Gerard MacDonald will be offering Calibration Clinics providing the basics on farm equipment calibration. This program will focus on sprayer calibration, but will also highlight fertilizer and manure spreader calibration. The first clinic will be held on Thursday, April 7 from 1–3 p.m. It will be held at the Banting (Engineering) Building, Room 47, NSAC, Truro.

The second clinic will take place on Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. –12:00 noon. It will be held at the Nappan Experimental Farm.

For more information, contact the agricultural office.

## Pesticide Applicators Courses

ProAgri Consulting has scheduled a pesticide certification course for Central Nova Scotia on March 21–22, 2005. The cost for this program is \$140 which includes a manual. The program will take place at AgriTECH Park in Bible Hill. A minimum of 10 people are required to hold this course. If you are interested, you must pre-register by calling Bill MacLeod at (902) 893-3645.

ProAgri Consulting are not planning any formal programs this year for pesticide re-certification. However, if there is enough interest expressed in an area, a course may be put on. If you are interested in this training and wish to sign up, please contact Bill MacLeod at (902) 893-3645.

## Curling

The Annual Stewiacke District – Halifax East Hants Curling Night is being planned for Friday, February 11, 2005 at the Brookfield Curling Club. Curling will get underway at 8 p.m. with a pot luck social (chili and pie) following. For more information, contact Amy Grant at (902) 758-4180 or Maxine Gourley at (902) 639-2709.

## Deadlines

**March 1, 2005** is an important deadline for the following programs:

- N.S. Farm Investment Fund – all claims must be submitted by this date.
- Applications to the N.S. Ruminant Income Support Program (NSRISP) must be submitted.
- Deadline for applications to Tier 2 and 3 of the Canada Nova Scotia Water Supply Expansion Program. For more information, contact Wendy Hurst at (902) 896-0332.

**March 15, 2005** is the deadline for approved applicants to submit their final claim forms for the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund.

**March 31, 2005** is an important deadline for the following:

- CAIS 2003 deposit deadline.
- CAIS 2004 deposit deadline.
- Deadline for selection of your CAIS protection level for 2005.

## Upcoming Meetings, etc.

- February 22 Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Zone 4 (S. Colchester, E. Hants, Halifax Counties) producer meeting. To be held at the Stewiacke Community Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- February 24–27 Annual ACORN Conference for Organic Growers. Theme: Meeting the Challenge - Securing your Future. To be held in Fredericton, NB. For more information, visit [www.acornorganic.org](http://www.acornorganic.org)
- February 24 Update on Farm Assistance Programs, Cox Institute, Room 24, NSAC, Truro, 7 – 9 p.m. (please use banking machine entrance).
- March 3–5 Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show, Moncton Coliseum. For information, visit [www.farmmechshow.com](http://www.farmmechshow.com) or call (506) 856-9898.
- March 19 First Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Association, Howard Johnson Motel, Truro.
- March 21–22 ProAgri Consulting Pesticide Certification course, AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill
- April 7 Farm Equipment Calibration Clinic, 1–3 p.m., Room 47, Banting Building (Engineering), NSAC, Truro.
- April 9 Farm Equipment Calibration Clinic, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, Machine Shop, Nappan Experimental Station.

## 4-H

We are into the second month of 2005 already, and the 4-H program on Cape Breton Island is off to a great start! Many of the projects have begun, and plans are underway for winter parties, workshops and public speaking competitions. New leader training was completed in January and a huge welcome goes out to those who have joined as leaders for 2005. We thank you for your decision to work with the youth of Cape Breton Island.

February will also be a busy month with workshops planned for club executives and an Intermediate member conference scheduled in Truro. This promises to be a fun-packed weekend with tours, speakers

and lots of activities to foster enthusiasm and self esteem in youths aged 13 to 15.

Watch out for 4-H'ers in March as we kick off the annual chocolate almond campaign!! Support your local 4-H club, as well as the Provincial 4-H council while feeding your sweet tooth with a choice of chocolate bars, chocolate bars with almonds or chocolate covered almonds. All at a great price of \$2 and guaranteed to satisfy.

Watch for weekly 4-H updates and information in your local papers or on Farmer's Forum, Saturday at 12:45 on CJFX radio.

**The Cape Breton Island Abattoir Feasibility Study has been completed, and copies of the final project can be obtained by calling the agricultural office at (902) 563-2000.**

**ProAgri Consulting** will be offering a **Pesticide Applicators Re-certification Course** on April 14, 2005 at the agricultural office in Pt. Edward. The cost for re-certification is \$65 + HST, this course will provide five points toward re-certification.

A **Pesticide Certification** course will also be offered for those wishing to write the pesticide applicators exam. This course is for individuals who are not yet certified pesticide applicators or wish to renew their current license by writing the exam. The course consists of one day of training and a manual to prepare students to write the Department of Environment Pesticide Certification Exam, which will be offered on day two.

This program will take place April 15 and 16, 2004, cost of this course \$140, including HST 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.

## 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 invited to attend.

Sydney – May 18, 2005

Location: TBD

Port Hawkesbury – June 1, 2005

Location: TBD

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

### REMINDERS:

**ZONE 1 – Cattle Producers Meeting** – Knox Church Hall in Baddeck, February 15, 2005, 7 p.m.

**Programs and Risk Management Workshop** – Knox Church Hall in Baddeck, February 22, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Sessions and Meetings

### Program Information Sessions:

- February 15 7 – 10 p.m.  
Weymouth, St. Mary's Bay  
Academy, Cafeteria
- February 16 1 – 4 p.m.  
Windsor, O'Brien Building,
- February 17 7 – 10 p.m.  
Kentville, Agricultural Centre
- February 26 1:30 p.m.  
Nova Scotia Cattle Producers  
(NSCP) commodity board  
Zone 6 Meeting — (Digby,  
Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens  
and Lunenburg counties) –  
Shelburne Fire  
Hall/Community Center

## Western Region 4-H Update

- Annapolis 4-H Leaders Council Meetings – February 9, March 9, April 13 – NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries Office, Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown – 7 p.m.
- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings – February 16, March 16, April 20 – NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries Office, 3–101 Lovitt St., Yarmouth, 7:30 p.m.
- Digby 4-H Leaders Council Meetings – February 17, March 17, April 21 – Digby Fire Hall boardroom, 7 p.m.
- 4-H Leaders Retreat – March 4-5, Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook
- Chat-a-Rama – Finding Your Future – March 11–12, Camp Hilles, Paradise – 4-H members age 14–18 from the Western, South Shore, and Valley regions are eligible to attend. Applications are due February 21.
- 4-H chocolate fund raiser, March 7 to April 4 – Support your local 4-H clubs during our annual provincial fund raiser!
- Public Speaking Rallies:  
Annapolis 4-H County Rally – Saturday, April 2  
Yarmouth 4-H County Rally – Saturday, April 2  
Digby 4-H County Rally – TBA  
Western Regional Rally – Saturday, April 23
- Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend – May 6–7, NSAC, Truro

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

### **Annapolis County Soils and Crops Annual Information Day**

Lawrencetown, Demonstration Building  
March 2, 2005 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Topics: Alternative Crops and Quality Controls for Grains Production  
Alternative crops include information sessions on sunflowers,  
canola, and research projects at NSAC

There will also be a producer profile on crops and crop rotation.  
Dale Riddell, Ottawa, a consultant on farm food safety, will make a  
presentation on quality controls for growing grains.  
Hay Competition with prizes.

Bring a flake of your best legume or mixed grasses for the competition.  
Lunch will be available. Registration fee \$10

Call Andy at (902) 532-0474 or Jean at (902) 665-2567 to register.  
This program is open to all producers in Kings, Annapolis and  
Western Nova Scotia

Please confirm by email or questions by calling (902) 824-0426

## Reminder of Upcoming Meetings

- Nova Scotia Cattle Producers - Zone 2 meeting - Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Pictou Middle School in Sutherlands River.
- Farm Investment Fund information meeting - Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 in Room 21 of St. Ninian's Place, Antigonish. (*see body of newsletter for more information*)



St. John Ambulance Canada

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

Farming is one of Canada's most hazardous occupations. Dealing with heavy machinery, unpredictable animals, dangerous chemicals and farm activities increases the likelihood of injuries occurring. First Aid On the Farm, taught by St. John Ambulance personnel, will cover topics such as farm hazards; shock; burns and poisoning; heart attack and stroke and much more. Many of you have taken this course in the past and you should check your cards for expiry dates.

A one-day course has been planned for Tuesday, March 22, 2005 and will be held in our boardroom from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact our office at (902) 863-4705 by March 8 if you are interested in taking the course. A minimum of 10 participants is required at a cost of \$50 per person.

## Pesticide Certification/Re-certification

Once again ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will provide pesticide certification and re-certification training in the spring. Please contact our office at (902) 863-4705 or Traci Curry of ProAgri Consulting Ltd. to discuss your pesticide safety needs.

**Pesticide Certification** is designed for those individuals who do not have a license or whose license has or is about to expire. This course covers a broad range of pesticide safety topics for land applicators and is designed to assist in preparation to write the NSDEL pesticide certification exam, as ongoing training, as well as a refresher course on the basics of pesticide safety. Cost of this course is \$140 (HST and manual included). The exam will be on day two from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Pesticide Re-certification** is designed for those individuals who have a current license and would like to accumulate re-certification points towards their new license. 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 of 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 NSDEL Pesticide Certification card before making a final decision to earn re-certification points. (Example: if your license expires in 2005 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 is \$70 including HST. Please register by calling us at (902) 863-4705 or ProAgri at (902)798-2114.

### Re-certification

Thursday, April 7, 2005

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries

### Certification

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12

and 13 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and

9 a.m. – 12 noon

NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries

### Deadlines for CAIS

- March 31, 2005 is the deadline for making your deposit for 2003–04.

## Upcoming 4-H Dates – Antigonish/Guysborough Counties

Pro Show Committee Meeting Antigonish office	March 1, 7:30 p.m.
Council Meeting	March 8, 7 p.m.
Easter Basket Tickets due to office	March 22
Antigonish Co. Rally – Antigonish Education Center	April 2 (April 9 storm date)
Executive Meeting	April 12, 7 p.m.
Regional Rally, Northumberland School, Alma	April 16 (April 23 storm date)
Exhibition Committee Meeting	April 19, 7 p.m.
NS 4-H Weekend, Truro	May 6 – 7

## Upcoming 4-H Dates – Pictou County

Pictou Co. Bowling, New Glasgow	February 18, 7 p.m.
Pictou Co. Committee Meetings	February 24, 7 p.m.
Pictou Co. Rally Committee	February 24, 8 p.m.
Pictou Co. Exec. Council Meeting	February 24, 8 p.m.
Note: Feb. 24 meetings will all be held at the New Glasgow Superstore – Community Room.	
Pro Show Committee Meeting Antigonish office	March 1, 7:30 p.m.
Pictou Co. Swim – Pictou Fisheries Pool	March 12, 6-7:30 p.m.
Pictou Co. Council Meeting – Pictou Library	March 23, 7:30 p.m.
Pictou Co. George Fox Concert – DeCoste Centre	March 31
Pictou Co. Rally – Northumberland School	April 2, 9:00 a.m. (storm date April 3)
Regional Rally, Northumberland School, Alma	April 16 (storm date April 23)
Pictou Co. Exec. Meeting – Sobeys Aberdeen	April 18, 7:30 p.m.
Pictou Co. Woodsmen Competition – Eureka	April 23, 10 a.m.
NS 4-H Weekend, Truro	May 6 – 7

## 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.

### President:

Rob MacGregor (902) 923-2912

### Vice-president:

Mark Dykstra (902) 485-5777

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Nancy Levo (902) 396-4590

### Board Members:

Alex MacLeod (902) 485-8276

Ron McMillan (902) 657-3433

Bill Scott (902) 925-2057

Joe Ebbett (902) 657-2122

Dale Johnston (902) 923-2574

The Federation would like to hear from people who would be interested in being a 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 through the year on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in director's 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.