

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #'s	Acrobat Reader Page #
Main Newsletter (for all regions)		
Pork Producers Receive Funding	1	2
Ron Chisholm Appointed as Minister of Agriculture	1	2
Community Pastures in Nova Scotia – A Brief Look	2	3
NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission	2	3
Provinces and Territories Call on Federal Government to Transform Program ..	2	3
Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program	3	4
Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions	4	5
Research Applied to Agricultural Industry Issues at NSAC	4	5
Census 2006 - Tips on Completing your Questionnaire	5	6
Update from the Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop	6	7
Managing Rising Interest Rates	6	7
4-H News.....	7	8
Nova Scotia Open Farm Day.....	9	10
Custom Newsletter Pages (for individual regions)		
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties	10	11
East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties.	10	13
Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties	10	15
Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness and Guysborough counties	10	16
Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties.....	10	17

Agriculture Services NEWSLETTER



April 2006

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 7 No. 2

Pork Producers Receive Funding

Nova Scotia pork producers will receive \$1.8 million from the provincial government to help them through the challenges of declining market prices, Agriculture Minister Ron Chisholm announced on April 3. The funding will be administered through Pork Nova Scotia.

"The pork industry continues to experience difficulties and this funding will help producers through this tough financial period," said Mr. Chisholm.

Pork prices have been below the cost of production for several years. The commodity board, Pork Nova Scotia, will use the province's non-repayable funding to increase its ability to provide loans to producers.

"Pork Nova Scotia is pleased with this support from the province," said Martin Porskamp, chair of Pork Nova Scotia. "The funding will help producers who are experiencing low market prices and dealing with animal health concerns."

Details regarding the funding are available through Pork Nova Scotia.



Ron Chisholm Appointed as Minister of Agriculture

On February 24, 2006 the Department of Agriculture welcomed Ron Chisholm as minister.

Mr. Chisholm brings many great experiences to the office of minister. First elected in 1988 to the St. Mary's Municipal Council Mr. Chisholm went on to be re-elected in 1991, 1994 and 1997. In 1994, he was elected Warden of the District of St. Mary's. In 1999 he was elected to the House of Assembly as MLA for Guysborough-Port Hawkesbury, now Guysborough - Sheet Harbour, and was re-elected in August 2003. He was appointed chair of the government caucus in 2004, and was chair of the Standing Committee on Human Resources.

His background also includes a decade long career at the Nova Scotia Power Corporation as a machine operator, where he also was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers holding various offices. In 1980 he was elected business manager representing 1,300 union members employed by Nova Scotia Power, the towns of Antigonish and Liverpool, and Nova Scotia construction contractors. From 1985 to 1994, Mr.

Chisholm worked as the area foreman for the Department of Transportation. Between 1994 and 1999, he was self-employed as a machine operator and woods work contractor, and employed by the Guysborough Journal as advertising manager.

Mr. Chisholm is a strong believer in community spirit and volunteerism having participated in minor softball and hockey programs as a player and a coach, a Scout and Beaver leader, and a member of the District Six Volunteer Fire Department. He served on the board of directors for the Goshen Community Fire and Recreation Association, the Guysborough County District School Board, and Guysborough County Community Futures, Guysborough County RDA, the Sable Advisory Committee, and the St. Martha's Regional Hospital Foundation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chisholm is also Minister responsible for Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act

For BRM information
please call
1-866-844-4BRM

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

Community Pastures in Nova Scotia – A Brief Look

Jim Neary

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's involvement in Community Pastures began in the mid 1950s with the acquisition of lands at Minudie (Cumberland County), Cape Mabou (Inverness County) and Cape John (Pictou County). The original purpose of establishing these pastures was to allow farmers to increase livestock numbers and, at the same time, to develop land at home for increased production. In the late 1960s the Cape Mabou lands were transferred to the Department of Natural Resources because the property had significantly more wooded land than cleared land. However, the cleared land continued to be operated as a community pasture following this transfer. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, through its Nova Scotia Community Pasture Board, managed the work of the three remaining pastures until the late 1990s and early 2000s. It was at this time that local Cooperatives were formed to continue the operation of these pastures.

Through the 1960s, properties at Cheticamp Island and Glendale (Inverness County), L'Ardoise

(Richmond County), Manchester (Guysborough County) and Roxville (Digby County) were acquired by the government. Cooperatives were established to operate each of these community pastures.

Each Cooperative has the authority to manage its pasture under the terms of the lease agreement with the province. The Cooperatives are able to set fees, determine stocking rates, determine the grazing season, etc.

All pastures except Manchester operated in 2005. The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board is hoping to find a person or persons interested in carrying on the operation of Manchester as a community pasture. Interested persons are encouraged to contact the Farm Loan Board office in Truro at (902) 893-6506.

George F. MacKenzie, P.Ag., Past Chairman of the NS Community Pasture Board recently prepared an interesting summary entitled "One Half Century of Community Pastures in Nova Scotia – 1956 to 2006". Much of this information was taken from Mr. MacKenzie's report.

Community pastures across the province benefit from increased cattle numbers and membership participation. To locate the community pasture nearest you contact the Agricultural Resource Coordinator in your area.

Provinces and Territories Call on Federal Government to Transform Program

Provincial and territorial agriculture ministers are calling upon the federal government to move forward on their recent unanimous decision to transform the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program rather than replace it.

Ministers recognized the financial crisis facing the agriculture sector across the country and said they look to the federal government for leadership on underlying causes such as trade inequities on international markets.

They agreed during a conference call on Thursday, April 6, that working together to transform the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program, rather than replacing it, would best serve the interests of Canadian producers.

They expressed concern that the federal government is unilaterally calling for a replacement to the nationwide business risk management program, when all parties at a federal-provincial-territorial meeting held only weeks ago agreed to work together to transform the program. At that meeting, ministers asked their departments to work together on

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

2006 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).



Canada

concrete proposals to be presented for decision at their June annual meeting, paving the way for decisions affecting the 2007 crop year.

Specifically, ministers agreed the existing program needs to become simpler as well as more responsive and predictable.

The ministers expressed concern that the program will lose credibility with the country's banking industry at a time when agriculture producers need stable financial support and business risk management backing.

"I have heard from producers of certain issues within the program. We want to enhance its strong points while at the same time fixing the parts that don't work," said Ron Chisholm, Minister of Agriculture. "Nova Scotia is committed to providing an income program that will work for producers."

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program

2004 CAIS Payments and Processing

Some producers have received a 2004 payment and/or a Calculation of Benefits (COB). It is **EXTREMELY** important to look over your COB when you receive it as there may be errors. Once you receive your COB, you only have **90 days** to make appeals and adjustments.

CAIS Submission Deadlines – 2005 Program Year

Individual Tax Filer – *June 15, 2006 – Send to Winnipeg Tax Centre (CRA)*

2005 CAIS Harmonized Form – T1273 (Harmonized Statement A)
✓ Statement of Farming Activities – income / expenses
✓ Crop / Livestock Production and Inventory Schedules
✓ Purchased Inputs
✓ Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable

Corporations – *June 30, 2006 – Send to Winnipeg Tax Centre (CRA)*

2005 CAIS Harmonized Form – (Harmonized Statement A)
✓ Income / expenses
✓ Crop / Livestock Inventory Schedules
✓ Purchased Inputs
✓ Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable

Tips for completing 2005 CAIS Harmonized Form

☒ The Netfile and Efile online versions of the 2005 CAIS Harmonized Form are only capable of accommodating up to eight commodity codes of crop and eight commodity codes of livestock inventory. If you report more than eight commodity codes in Sections 6 or 7, you must either submit a paper version of Form T1273 or file your form electronically through a tax professional.

☒ It is no longer helpful to write notes in the margins of the application form. A CAIS Additional Information and Adjustment Request Form (T1275) is now enclosed in the Harmonized Guide. Complete this form when submitting extra information such as receipts, explanations, and other attachments. These should be sent to the CAIS administration directly (not to CRA).

Have you missed a CAIS deadline in the past?

Under CAIS policy, if you do not meet the full filing requirements of the CAIS program for two consecutive years, you are ineligible to participate for the following two program years. However, an exception has been made for the 2003 and 2004 program years. Therefore, 2006 is a critical year if you have missed a deadline in the 2005 program year. You have one strike against you and must meet all requirements for 2006 to stay in the program.

If you no longer wish to participate in the CAIS program, you must officially notify the CAIS administration. Simply failing to file the forms does not signal an "opt out". You will still be incurring fees with the administration if you do not send in the "CAIS Program Opt Out Request" form.

CAIS DEPOSIT IS ELIMINATED

The federal-provincial-territorial ministers have officially removed the CAIS deposit requirement from the program. The CAIS administration is now working to empty all CAIS accounts that have a fund balance. All accounts will be closed automatically after this is completed. There is no need for producers to contact CAIS or their financial institution. The deposits for the 2003, 2004, and 2005 program years have been waived.

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The deposit will be replaced with a much smaller fee beginning with the 2006 program year. CAIS expects to send details of specific fee amounts for each participant in early May.

CAIS 2006 Program Year Sign-up

The deadline for sign-up (new participants) and selection of coverage level is **June 30, 2006**. There are some significant changes proposed for the CAIS program in the 2006 program year. We await final decisions on things such as inventory valuation, negative margin coverage, and further program simplification. It is important to keep "tuned-in" to publications and direct mailings that will try to bring you the most recent updates as they become available.

For more information on any of the above points, contact CAIS toll free line at 1-866-367-8506, visit the CAIS website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/main.html> or contact Christine Moore, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Research Applied to Agricultural Industry Issues at NSAC

By David Fullerton, Industry Liaison office, NSAC

Researchers at the NSAC have been active in developing research projects that are seeking to improve the productivity and profitability of the Nova Scotia agricultural industry. These projects have been developed in direct collaboration with industry sponsors in order to ensure the basic and applied research at the NSAC is relevant to industry issues.

A scan of the recent funding successes in the Technology Development program of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture shows researchers are working with apples, blueberries, carrots, ornamental plants, poultry, nutrient management, and cropping practices among many other topics. The following is a selection of these successes at the NSAC. For further information or to participate in a research project, contact the NSAC Research office at 902-893-4413.

- *Evaluation of Improved Genetics for Sustainable Cropping Practices* (Dr. Claude Caldwell) - to identify, on a continuing basis, economically, environmentally, and ecologically sustainable genetic inputs to our cropping systems.

- *Health Food Ingredients from Apple Skin* (Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe) - to assess the ability of quercetin glycosides extracts as food antioxidants.
- *Ornamental Plant Development for the Nova Scotia Nursery Trade* (Dr. Kris Pruski) - to develop a reliable method/system for introduction, mass propagation and evaluation of new varieties of native perennials.
- *Ecophysiology, Dynamics and Bulking Modeling in Cut and Peel Carrots* (Dr. Raj Lada) - to understand the root bulking dynamics as influenced by seeding rates, seeding dates and harvesting dates.
- *Wild Blueberry Fruit Ripening Related to Weather Conditions* (Dr. Leonard Eaton) - to identify the indicators of physiological maturity and develop a maturity index for optimum harvest periods in commercial wild blueberry fields based on weather data.
- *Assessing an Alternate Manure Management Option for NS Poultry Farms* (Dr. Rob Gordon) - to identify the quantities of poultry litter that may be available as an alternative fuel for the production of electrical or heat energy in Nova Scotia through incineration.
- *Quantification of Nitrogen Mineralization in Manure-amended Fields* (Dr. David Burton) - to develop a practical means of measuring/estimating the nitrogen mineralization potential of manure-amended soils in Nova Scotia.
- *Vitamin C and its Relationship with Postharvest Quality of Vegetables* (Dr. Wang-Pruski) - to rank cultivars of spinach and potato based on their ascorbate content and elucidate on the role of ascorbate in postharvest quality targeted to produce horticultural products with both improved storage quality and nutritional value.

Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

During the first week of March, seven producer information sessions were held across the province with over 150 producers attending. These sessions supplied information on the 2005–2006 program activities and provided figures on final assistance paid out by the program in claims for 2004–2005. These sessions also provided producers with an opportunity to ask questions one on one. New for the 2006–2007 program year is the addition of an eleventh on-farm (Tier 1) water project called Farm Water Treatment System. Also new for 2006–2007 is a program release date of May 1, 2006.

For information, contact Programs & Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276. www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm/



AGRICULTURE

Tips on Completing your Census of Agriculture Questionnaire

During the first two weeks in May every farm in Canada will receive a Census of Agriculture questionnaire. On May 16, farmers across the country will help create an up-to-date picture of agriculture in Canada by completing and returning their census questionnaire. The following information will help answer questions about this process.

Who should fill in the Census of Agriculture questionnaire? The person(s) responsible for, or knowledgeable about, the day-to-day management decisions of an agricultural operation.

What is an agricultural operation? An agricultural operation produces at least one of the following products intended for sale (It is not necessary to have had sales in the past 12 months).

- **Crops** (hay, field crops, tree fruits or nuts, berries or grapes, vegetables, seed)
- **Livestock** (cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, game animals, other livestock)
- **Poultry** (hens, chickens, turkeys, chicks, game birds, exotic birds, other poultry)
- **Animal products** (milk or cream, eggs, wool, furs, meat)
- **Other agricultural products** (greenhouse or nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, sod, honey, bees, maple syrup products)

How long will it take? It may take about 40 minutes to complete your questionnaire, but the time will depend on the size and type of your operation. The questionnaire contains 34 steps, but most operators only have to complete about a third of them.

What records will be useful in filling out your Census of Agriculture questionnaire? The following records may help save you time:

- property tax statements
- 2005 income tax forms
- crop management and herd management records
- account books or computerized farm accounts
- financial statements prepared for lending institutions.

What's new for the 2006 Census of Agriculture?

- The questions about organic products are more detailed, encouraging operators to report those products which are certified organic, in transition or non-certified organic.
- Fewer details are requested in the section about the total land area of the operation so operators may report the workable, non-workable, and rented land more clearly and easily.
- To better reflect the methods used on operations today more detail has been added to the section on manure use and application.

The law protects what you tell us. The confidentiality of your Census of Agriculture form is protected by law. Only Statistics Canada employees who work with census data and have taken an oath of secrecy see your form.

You can ask to see the information you provide on your 2006 Census of Agriculture after November 2006. To do so, write to the Privacy Coordinator, Statistics Canada, 25th Floor, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Do I have to fill in the Census of Agriculture questionnaire? Yes. Completion of the questionnaire is mandatory under the Statistics Act. A person may be liable to a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for three months, or both, for refusing to answer the questions.

Need help? The Census HELP Line operates between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. from April 27 to May 31. If you have any questions, need assistance in completing your questionnaire, or require extra forms, call 1 877 594-2006.



Update from the Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop

Lorne Crozier, Resource Stewardship Division

The Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop, sponsored by the Pest Management Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) was held on March 27 to 29 in Ottawa. A total of 36 minor use projects were selected to be developed by AAFC for the 2007 season. These were divided among three categories; herbicide and growth regulators, entomology and pathology. Each of the three sessions were attended by 150 or more delegates representing grower groups, provincial and federal agencies, extension personnel, researchers, chemical companies as well as representatives from the USA Minor Use Program (IR-4).

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

Three weed control projects, rated as high priority for Nova Scotia growers, were selected. These included products for red beets, Brassica leafy vegetables and strawberries. Five other projects that were approved will be useful to Nova Scotia growers. These included products for use on potato, green onions, apple, grapes and asparagus.

Four entomology projects that were high priority for Nova Scotia growers were selected. These include products for wireworms in carrot, tarnished plant bug in strawberry, corn borer and corn earworm in sweet corn, as well as, mites on greenhouse ornamentals. Five other projects which were selected will also benefit Nova Scotia growers. These include products for aphid control in field

lettuce, peas, and peaches; tarnished plant bug in greenhouse peppers; and root weevils in the bushberry subgroup, which includes blueberries, currants and gooseberries. Projects for products to control corn borer in field peppers, leafrollers in pear and tarnished plant bug in organic field lettuce were also approved.

One pathology project for control of downy mildew in onions was approved. This was a high priority for Nova Scotia growers. The province of Quebec selected the same product for downy mildew on

green onions. This will allow the entire crop group for bulb vegetables to be added to the label. Seven other projects that will benefit Nova Scotia growers were also selected. These included products for control of leaf spot on cauliflower, Phytopthora root rot on field pepper, Fusarium root rot on greenhouse pepper, Pythium root rot on greenhouse tomato, bacterial canker on cherry, downy mildew on grapes and powdery mildew on outdoor ornamentals.

A complete report on the workshop will be available in the near future.

Managing Rising Interest Rates

*Submitted by Sandy Patterson, PAg.
Loan Officer, Nova Scotia Farm
Loan Board*

Rising interest rates concern us all and at the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board we have recently seen interest rate increases each quarter. The ability of farmers to manage the risk of rising interest rates has to be assessed on an individual basis. With this in mind I would like to draw your attention to a tip sheet published by the American Bankers Association Center for Agriculture and Rural Banking entitled *Working With Your Banker To Manage Rising Interest Rates*.

The article states that farmers can actively manage interest rate risk by making adjustments to personal and business finances. It offers the following advice to help farmers manage their exposure to possible interest rate increases in the future.

Plan for increasing interest rates. You should have a budget and adhere to it. Interest is one of many variable costs.

Eliminate debt. While there are many options to refinance debt, nothing reduces interest rate exposure like paying off debt. Take a critical look at your operation to see if there are opportunities to reduce debt by selling non-productive or non-essential assets.

Examine how your debt is structured. Where are you vulnerable to interest rate increases? How much of your debt is fixed rate and how much is variable rate? If you have an abundance of short-term debt, non-real estate secured debt, chances are the interest rate on these loans could increase. How high could it go? How often can your interest rate be adjusted? Because interest rates have been low for so long, many will need to review their loan agreements to answer these questions.

Beware of Internet mortgage scams. If you are receiving unsolicited e-mails promising you unbelievable refinancing rates, unbelievable

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sums of money and immediate approval, beware. Many of these emails are designed to steal your identity. Check with your local banker before you respond.

Carefully manage credit card and other types of “quick” credit.

Credit cards are an essential business tool, as are other types of “quick” credit from various suppliers. Convenience comes at a cost, and this type of credit was never designed to be permanent working capital. Don’t overlook the prompt payment discounts many suppliers offer.

Look at opportunities for fixed-rate financing. There are a number of opportunities to secure fixed-rate financing for your farm.

If it seems to be too good to be true, it likely is. Be suspicious of companies and/or individuals that promise to get you lower interest rates, or better loan terms from lenders for a fee up front. Often unsuspecting farmers pay for services that their local banker provides for free.

Weigh additional fees carefully.

You shouldn’t have to pay additional fees to buy into an organization or to join a movement to get the financing package you want. Some lenders require you to buy stock or pay fees to become part of a movement before you can borrow money from them. Make sure there are real measurable benefits attached to these requirements before you open your wallet. Oftentimes these additional costs are nothing more than that-additional costs.

Meet with your banker. Work with your banker to secure your financial future. Banks have a wide range of products available to help you weather an interest rate storm. Your

banker can provide you with an analytical review of your farm finances and make recommendations about your options.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board’s mandate is to promote, encourage and support the development of agriculture in rural Nova Scotia. The use of credit and the management of risk is very important to you as an individual as you begin, develop, expand and transfer your farm operation. The management of your farm’s financial position helps shelter and ensure the continued success of your farm business and contributes to the overall health and development of the agricultural

industry. We encourage you to use the resources available to review your financial position and discuss your current and future plans with your financial specialists.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board, through its services and products, looks to provide stability in managing interest rate risk. Staff with the Board are prepared to discuss your needs and plans. Contact the Kentville office at telephone (902) 679-6009 and talk with loan officers Robb MacMillan or Pam Fraser or contact the Truro office at (902) 893-6506 and talk with loan officers Maria McCurdy, John Murray, Jim Neary or Sandy Patterson.

4-H News



4-H Provides Summer Jobs for Youth

Each year the 4-H program hires six summer assistants to work in the six 4-H regions in Nova Scotia. They are based out of the Yarmouth, Kentville, Nappan, Truro, Antigonish and Mabou offices. Summer assistants work with the 4-H specialist to conduct the seasonal program. They are often involved in judging clinics, organizing member tours, judging at Achievement Days, conducting livestock showmanship clinics, planning for exhibitions and County Days in their area, and coordinating the regional program.

The 4-H summer assistants begin work on April 24. The staff are Holly Beaton, Cape Breton Region;

Rosalind Best, Eastern Region; Meggie Smit, Provincial office in Truro; Meagan Sanford, Valley Region; Kaitlyn Kennedy, Western Region and Merilee Yuill in Central Region.

Seven summer jobs are also available with Camp Rankin, the provincial summer camp located in Richmond County. Every year several senior 4-H members (16 or older by July) are hired to work at the camp as counselors. The counselor positions include canoeing, water safety, drama and arts, crafts, recreation and nature study. The camps run for five weeks starting the first week in July and ending the first week of August.

4-H News *continued...*

4-H Members Speak Up at Annual 4-H Weekend

Two hundred and fifty 4-H members are preparing to attend 4-H Weekend at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill from May 5 – 6, 2006. This two-day event is an opportunity for the best 4-H regional public speakers and demonstrators to compete at the provincial level.

As well as communication contests, 4-H members will compete in the woodsman and square dancing competitions. One highlight of the weekend is 4-H Night in Nova Scotia. On Saturday May 6 at 6 p.m.

the Alumni Theatre in Jenkins Hall at the NSAC will be the venue for a finale that showcases the talented 4-H members. Top overall winners will present winning speeches and demonstrations, entertainment, and square dancing. During this time, awards will be presented to the winners of all competitions and to members and leaders who have won a National 4-H Travel Award. The public is welcome to attend the weekend events and to experience this important aspect of the 4-H program.

4-H Members to Meet at Atlantic EBI Showcase

Seventy 4-H members from Atlantic Canada will be selected to participate in the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 23 – 25, 2006 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. Participants will learn the most current techniques in technical livestock and showmanship skills. Eastern Breeders Incorporated has sponsored the training event for the past 16 years. Along with financial assistance, they provide the Atlantic event with highly qualified staff to ensure 4-H members learn proper animal management and preparation skills for showing cattle that will prepare them to be better contenders in the show ring and leaders in the agricultural industry. 4-H staff with the Department of Agriculture partner with EBI to provide organizational skills on behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee.

Royal Bank to Host 4-H Interprovincial Exchange Program



Six Nova Scotia 4-H members will experience customs and lifestyles in other provinces as they travel on the 44th

annual Royal Bank of Canada 4-H Interprovincial Exchange beginning July 5. While on this two-week National 4-H Award Program, 4-H members also have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on agriculture with other rural youth.

The Nova Scotia delegates winning this travel award were selected

through an interview process based on their 4-H and community involvement. The six Atlantic 4-H delegates celebrate their achievement at a banquet hosted by the Royal Bank.

Nova Scotia 4-H members will host a reciprocal two-week exchange with their billets from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan in their home communities beginning August 9.

During the two-day workshop specialists from Eastern Breeders Incorporated will teach the finer points of show preparation to the participants. The members will then prepare their own cattle for the beef and dairy show at 10 a.m on June 25 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class at that event. The public is welcome to attend the cattle show to see the skills these young people have learned.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

Arthur Pick – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-7314
Fax: (902) 893-0244
pickaa@gov.ns.ca

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

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East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

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Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –
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Fax: (902) 837-7696
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day

Sunday, September 24, 2006



The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 5th annual **Open Farm Day** on **Sunday, September 24, 2006**. This Atlantic region event is a great opportunity to showcase your farm.

Open Farm Day 2005 was a tremendous success, with more than 9000 consumers visiting 46 farms across Nova Scotia, and more than 22,000 visitors across the Atlantic region. Consumers learn first hand 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 2006**. We are pleased to have Sobeys back once again as presenting sponsor for this worthwhile event. We will provide all producers with training and promotional materials to handout on your farm. For many consumers this is their only opportunity to visit a farm.



Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

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

Let's work together to make **Nova Scotia Open Farm Day 2006** an outstanding success. It is a great opportunity to "show off" to the public "**The Amazing World of Agriculture**".

If you are interested, please fill in the attached registration form and return by fax or mail by **Friday, June 30, 2006**. 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
PO Box 550, Truro
Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Phone: 902-893-6598
Fax: 902-893-2757
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca



Hants County Rural Women's Day

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day is being held on **April 29** at the **O'Brien Building, Windsor** from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information contact Catherine Manning, (902) 798-4541.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Livestock sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds have begun. 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 upcoming sales: April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3.

Lunenburg and Queens Federation Spring Cattle and Machinery Sale

A spring cattle and machinery sale will be held at the Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds on May 22, starting at 12:30 p.m. Machinery must be consigned by May 19 – call Peter Morine (902) 543-3011 or Wayne Slauenwhite (902) 644-2384.

Lunenburg and Queens Federation of Agriculture Social

The Lunenburg and Queens Federation of Agriculture will be holding a Spring Social on April 21 in the Newcombeville Fire Hall. Social begins at 6 p.m. with roast beef dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Georgina at (902) 685-2699.

Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

The CASS Program may provide funding to beginning and established farmers and their spouses to develop a learning plan and take courses to help them gain the skills they need to reach their goals. CASS will assist farm families acquire on-farm skills, or skills and training to pursue other income options, or both. For more information visit:
http://www.agr.gc.ca/ren/cass-scdca/index_e.php.

Update Mailing List

It is Spring and we are trying to do a “spring cleanup” of our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and no longer wish to or if your address has changed, please call Cheryl at (902) 679-6021 or e-mail her at cheriau@gov.ns.ca to have changes made.

Nova Scotia Nominee Program

Are you interested in receiving \$100,000 non-repayable economic contribution? If so, check out the NS Nominee Program and become a business mentor.

The NS Nominee Program is designed to attract successful newcomers, with previous business ownership or management experience, to Nova Scotia.

If your business would like access to intellectual talent with proven business experience and an understanding of some of the world's best business practices, the NS Nominee Program could be for you. It will give you the chance to explore how your company could take foreign markets, and provide a non-repayable economic contribution of \$100,000.

To find out more and obtain an application form to become a business mentor, visit http://www.ipconnx.com/mentor_ProgramOverview.aspx or <http://www.novascotiaimmigration.com/nsnp/employer/economic.html>

Valley Region

4-H Activities and Announcements

Valley Regional Rally: April 22, O'Brien Building, Windsor, 1 p.m.
Kings County Council Meeting: May 1, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7:30 p.m.

Hants County Council Meeting: May 8, West Hants Middle School, 7 p.m.
Hants County 4-H Judging Day: May 24, Exhibition Grounds, Windsor
Kings County 4-H Judging Day: May 30, Sweets Horse Center, Billtown

Youth Advertising Team

Mary Forsyth from the Cornwallis Club, Kings County, has been selected as one of the 4-H members from across Canada to be on the Youth Advertising Team (YAT) . This team will help create the organization's next national advertising campaign. Mary will travel to Toronto in April and then Calgary in June to help raise awareness of the 4-H program while learning about advertising. Congratulations Mary!

2006 Hants Royalty Night Results

Congratulations to all 4-H members who participated in the 2006 Hants County Royalty Night. The following winners were selected at the event on February 24:

Miss: Hannah Jamieson, Avon
Master: Kevin Brown, Avon
Host: Lindsay Greenough, Newport
Hostess: Janet Maxner, Avon

The new 2006 Host and Hostess will be representing Hants County at the Regional 4-H Rally.

4-H Weekend

This year's 4-H weekend will be held May 5 and 6 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. Square dancing, woodsman competition, demonstrations and public speaking are a few of the events taking place. The application to stay in residence is available online at <http://gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/glkit/weekmem.wpd> or contact the 4-H office. Members can stay in residence for \$25. Valley region applications are due April 25 at the Kentville 4-H office for Valley Region members only.

Fluff-n-Buff 2006

All 4-H beef, dairy, sheep, and goat members from Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis, Kings, Hants, Shelburne, Queens, and Lunenburg Counties are welcome to attend and bring your own animals for this clinic! The clinic will contain sessions on conformation, fitting, showmanship, judging and more. Fluff-n-Buff will be held **May 19–21**. Contact your 4-H Specialist for more information.

Camp Rankin

Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land on Cape Breton Island, bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's. The camp features 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-H'ers from across the province. Applications are due **May 1** in Truro. Applications are available online <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/> or from your general leader.

Tractor Safety Days

The Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture will be holding a Tractor Safety Day for youth on Saturday, April 22, 2006. This program will be held at the Streatch Farm (Granview Farms) in Elderbank and begins at 9 a.m. The cost for this program is \$10 and includes lunch.

All youth are welcome to attend however, only those 12 and older will be permitted to operate tractors.

For more information and to register contact:

R.J. Dillman - (902) 384-2274

Barb Macdonald - (902) 758- 3583

Federation Equipment Rentals

Halifax East Hants

Equipment Cost Contact

Lime Spreader	\$3 /tonne (member)	Alan Benjamin - (902) 758-2427
	\$3.50/tonne (non-member)	
Land Leveler	\$75 /day (member)	Dave Cole - (902) 384-2403
	\$100 /day (non-member)	John vandeRiet- (902) 758-3874

Cow Lift	\$ 10 for 1st day	Corey Fraser - (902) 758-2262
	\$5 / day after (member)	
	\$15 for 1st day	
	\$10 /day after (non-member)	

Stewiacke District:

Lime Spreader	\$2 /tonne	John Crouse - (902) 639-2889
Hoof Trimmer	\$2 /cow	John Crouse - (902) 639-2889
	\$15 /yard	
Land Leveler	\$60/ day	John Crouse - (902) 639-2889
	\$35 1/2 day	
Cow Lifter	\$15 /day	John Crouse - (902) 639-2889
	\$5 each day after	

Community Pasture Information

Cape John Community Pasture 2006 fees:

Cows	\$0.60 /day
Calves (0-200 lbs at entry)	\$25 for season
Calves (200-400lbs at entry)	\$35 for season
Calves (400-600 lbs at entry)	\$0.40 /day
Calves (600lbs +)	\$0.60 /day
Breeding fees	\$20 /animal
Calves born on pasture	\$10 calving fee

The tentative opening dates are May 29 for the breeding pasture and May 30 for the non-breeding pasture.

For more information contact Tony Corsten at (902) 863-4429.

Minimum Wage Increases

Effective April 1, 2006, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour announced an increase in the provinces minimum wage. The minimum wage increased from \$6.80 to \$7.15 per hour. The minimum wage for inexperienced workers also went up from \$6.35 to \$6.70 per hour.

Inexperienced workers are those employees with less than three months experience doing the type of work they are hired to do.

For more information contact the Dept. of Environment and Labour at 1-888-315-0110.

Focus on Forage – Workshop for Producers

April 28–29, 2006 in Room 24, Cox Institute, NSAC, Bible Hill
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. (both days)

The cost is \$25 /day and includes lunch and refreshments.

Speakers to include: Don Undersander (Wisconsin), Duane McCartney (AAFC)

Bruce Coulman (U of Sask), Andy Gordon (U of Guelph)

Topics to include: Choosing, establishing, and managing forage crops for hay, silage and pasture; riparian zone stewardship; and agroforestry.

For more information contact Nancy MacLean at (902) 893-7821 (nmaclean@nsac.ca)

Central Nova Forage Masters Forage Competition

Sponsored by Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture

Classes

Grass-Legume Hay

Grass Hay – not more than 15 per cent legume

Legume Hay – not more than 15 per cent grass

Grass Haylage/Silage – not more than 20 per cent legume

Legume Haylage/Silage

Corn Silage

For Sale

The Clifton Federation of Agriculture is offering for sale a set of four Inner comp wheel scales.

Anyone interested in purchasing these scales can contact Andrew McCurdy at (902) 895-3900

Rules

1. All entrants must be bona fide farmers.
2. Only one entry per class per farm enterprise will be accepted.
3. Entries must be fair and unaltered.
4. Entries will consist of two samples: one for analysis, one for display.
5. A sample will consist of:
 - a Hay: Two 12-cm flakes or equivalent volume. Samples must be boxed. If placed in a plastic bag the sample will mold.
 - b Hay/Silage: The sample should weigh 1–2 kg. Samples should be placed in a 1-kg Zip Lock bag and must be frozen immediately to maintain optimum quality.
6. Entries will be judged on visual and laboratory analysis. Not all samples will be displayed.
7. All samples must be received by August 31, 2006

Judging Criteria

Corn Silage:

Analyses – dry matter, TDN, NDF

Visual – odour, length of chop, grain content

Hay: Analyses – crude protein, ADF, NDF

Visual – stage of development, leafiness, colour, odour, softness

Haylage/Silage:

Analyses – dry matter, digestible protein, crude protein, ADF, NDF

Visual – colour, odour

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place entries.

Cost: Chemical analysis will be performed by the provincial feed testing laboratory. Entrants will be charged the standard forage analysis fee for each entry.

How to Enter: Samples can be taken to R.J Dillman (Elderbank) (902) 384-2274 or Willy Versteeg (Hardwoodlands) (902) 758-2167 and will be forwarded to: Bill Thomas, Truro.

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 that you need extra feed or pasture, consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pasture contacts for Cape Breton.

Cape Mabou	(902) 563-2000
Mira	(902) 727-2542
Maplebrook	(902) 756-2671
Little Harbor (L'Ardoise)	(902) 587-2276
Cheticamp Island	(902) 224-2417

Pesticide Certification Courses

Changes to the NS Pesticide Applicators Certification Program will come into effect April 30, 2006. The exam will no longer be open book. There will also be a new manual. If interested in obtaining certification before changes take place, ProAgri Consulting will be offering Pesticide Certification and Recertification Courses in the area. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, contact ProAgri Consulting Ltd. at (902) 798-2114.

Certification Courses

April 20–21 – Sydney Civic Centre

Re-certification Courses

April 19 – Sydney Civic Centre

Certification is designed for those individuals who do not have a license, whose license has expired 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. It also provides ongoing training, and a refresher course on the basics of pesticide safety. Cost of this course is \$140 (includes manual and HST). The exam will be offered on the second day 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 renewal of their 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 it 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.

Blueberry Information Meeting

Saturday, April 22
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.,
Skye Glen Community Hall

Over one million pounds of lowbush blueberries are produced in Cape Breton in an average year. Cape Breton has potential to see more land developed and to produce a much larger crop. Come hear about this growing industry and how you can develop potential blueberry land into producing land.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- Blueberry industry facts
- Assessing land for potential
- Developing land for lowbush blueberries
- Growing lowbush blueberries in Nova Scotia
- Other production issues
- Marketing
- Wild Blueberry Producers' Association of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Dept. of Agriculture assistance programs

Weather permitting, we will visit an existing field and a field that is being developed.

Producers and Any Interested Persons Welcome

For more information, contact:

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Sydney office – (902) 563-2000

Clarence Calder – (902) 756-3549

The Antigonish/Guysborough Local Producers Co-op Ltd.

The Antigonish/Guysborough Local Producers Co-op Ltd. is a new group consisting of approximately 60 local farmers interested in exploring the idea of creating a venue where locally produced products can be sold directly to consumers in the area.

The AGLP Co-op has made tremendous progress to date. They have completed the first stage which involved a survey to see if there was community support for establishing a venue selling locally produced goods. The initial results show promising support for this project to continue. At an upcoming meeting, local producers will receive a summary of the market analysis and

will be introduced to the consultants who will be carrying out the second phase of the feasibility study. It will begin sometime in May. At the meeting consideration will be given to such things as the size of the store, the amount of land required, economics and sources of financing.

This is an exciting new opportunity for farmers to market produce directly to consumers creating a sustainable place to live. Anyone with questions or comments can contact Viola Baker, Chairperson at (902) 863-2664 or Frankie Mac Master, Vice Chairperson at (902) 863-4119.

Antigonish Regional Development Association

Phase two of the Business Visitation Program (BVP) is focused on the Primary Resource Sector including the agriculture, forestry and fishery industries. It was initiated by the Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA) this past January. Phase two is a continuation of the original BVP that was implemented last summer by Annie Sullivan, a fourth year Co-op student at St. Francis Xavier University.

Surveys were delivered to farmers, forestry operators and fishermen in February and March. Through the survey, the ARDA anticipates revealing issues and concerns of the primary resource sector in Antigonish County. Following the return of the surveys, a report will be written voicing those concerns identified by the primary resource

sector participants. The ARDA intends to use this report as a tool by representative agencies or departments of the primary resource sectors for understanding labour shortages, succession planning, training needs and aspects of the community their members wish to have changed or improved.

A draw for a \$100 gift certificate will be awarded to one participant from each sector in April.

The first phase of the BVP targeted those businesses described as retail, service or hospitality. A report of the summer results can be found on the ARDA website at www.antigonishrda.ns.ca under RDA Initiatives.

The Antigonish Farmers Market

The Antigonish Farmers Market will be celebrating its 10th anniversary when they begin the season at the 4-H Barn on the Exhibition Grounds in Antigonish on June 3. Open every Saturday morning beginning at 9 a.m., the market runs until October 28. A Wednesday market will be held in July and August, the time and location to be announced.

The Market is actively seeking new vendors who sell farm related products, such as vegetables, cheese, eggs, yogurt, fish, etc. If you are a producer of any of these or other products and are interested in joining a vibrant market, that serves at least 800 customers every Saturday morning, please give us a call. Contact Jim at (902) 386-2544 or Margaret at (902) 833-2747. We'd love to hear from you! The Antigonish Farmers Market will be holding their Annual General Meeting, May 16 at the Superstore Community Room at 7 p.m. We look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Antigonish County
NS 4-H Weekend –
May 5 and 6, Truro
Council Meeting – May 9, 7 p.m.
Ant./Guys. Judging Day –
May 16, 2:30-4:30 and 6-8 p.m.
C.A.C.L- Collection – May 23

Pictou County
4-H Weekend Meeting – May 3
Northumberland School, 7 p.m.
Council Meeting – May 3
Northumberland School, 8 p.m.
NS 4-H Weekend – May 5 and 6
NSAC, Bible Hill
Judging Skills Day – May 24
Pictou Exhibition Grounds,
6:30-8 p.m.

Farmers Market in Yarmouth Proposed

The “StaYarmouth” sustainable tourism committee, whose goal is to encourage projects in the Yarmouth Harbour area, and others are researching interest in a farmer's market for Yarmouth and area. At this point they are looking for producers who would be part of a committed group of vendors for a farmers market for a trial period of time.

If you are interested in participating in a farmers market in Yarmouth please contact Linda Coakley and provide the following information; name, contact information (address, e-mail, fax and phone) and the product or products you may like to offer at the market for now.

Linda can be reached by e-mail at Lindamarie@eastlink.ca or by phone at (902) 742-1945 (there is an answering machine always on).

This is an exciting opportunity to access a new market with your products.

Contract Growing of Mink

Contract growing of mink is becoming a common practice in the industry. The office is beginning to receive calls asking for a list of mink producers who may be interested in getting into a contract agreement with a new entrant. If you are an established mink producer and are looking for contract growing opportunities please contact Dennis Moerman to have your name added to the list.

Manure Inventory

The office has been receiving numerous calls and e-mails from producers looking to dispose of manure and others looking to find manure sources. As a result we have begun the process of developing a database of available manure in the region. Enclosed with this newsletter is a **Western Region Manure**

Exchange Survey. If you have manure or compost available or would like to access manure and compost, please complete the survey and return it in the enclosed envelope. We will do our best to match producers who need manure with those who have it.

Upcoming Events

April 18 **Annapolis Dairy Management Club** at the Wandlyn in Coldbrook

Agenda

10 a.m. PURINA'S ruminant specialist, Dr Barry Sutherland, D.V.M. TRANSITION PERIOD – CALVING DAY +/- 15 DAYS.
12 p.m. is a roast beef buffet sponsored by Clarence Farm Services.
1 p.m. Gloria Martin from DFNS, QUALITY MILK PROGRAM. This will be a working session for the QMP to help you get those records started. Please bring along the following completed records:

SOP's for:

- A. Record 1 - Premilking
- B. Record 2 - Milking
- C. Record 3 - Milking Cattle with Abnormal or Treated Milk
- D. Record 4 - Postmilking Cleaning
- E. Record 5 - Treating Cattle
- F. Shipping Cattle
- G. Feeding Medicated Feed

1. List of medicines and chemicals used on livestock as required in Record 9 – remember veterinarian prescriptions are required for any medicine that is used other than according to the directions on the label.

2. Corrective Action Plans as required in Record 16

H. Medicines and Chemicals Used on Livestock

I. Milking Treated Animals

J. Shipping Animals

K. Cooling and Storage of Milk

L. Equipment Sanitation

M. Use of Water for Cleaning of Milk Contact Surfaces

If you do not have something completed, bring it that day and we can help you. It is to your advantage to start your records before April 18 (if you haven't already) so you can bring all your questions you need answered to Gloria.

Western Region Manure Exchange Survey

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Fax: _____

_____ Email: _____

Civic Address: _____

1. Manure available to other farmers: Yes No
 I require additional manure for my farm
If yes to 1, go on to question 2. Otherwise go to question 8).

If you have manure available please answer the following questions:

2. Type of manure available? Solid Semi-solid Liquid Composted
 Cattle Sheep / Goat Swine Poultry
 Mink Horse Other (please specify) _____
3. Time available during year? Spring Summer Fall Year Round
4. Estimated volume available per year? _____ m³
5. Will a charge be applied for the manure?
 Yes (please indicate delivery charge) \$_____/m³ No
6. Conditions for manure availability (check all appropriate):
 Must be picked up (need truck)
 Must be picked up (need truck & loader)
 Will deliver (please indicate delivery charge) \$_____
7. Are you willing to provide (sell) manure or compost to the general public? Yes No

Go to release permission (bottom of survey)

If you require manure please answer the following questions:

8. Type of manure desired? Solid Semi-solid Liquid Composted Any type
9. Time of year required? Spring Summer Fall
10. Estimated volume needed per year? _____ m³
11. Are you willing to pay for the manure? Yes No
12. Do you have the ability to pick up the manure? Yes No

CONFIDENTIALITY: The data collected through this survey will be maintained strictly confidential and will only be used to match producers who have excess manure available with those who require manure. It will not be provided to any second party, but will be maintained at the Western Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture.

Permission to release information : I _____ do hereby give permission for the release of this information to other farmers in order to facilitate manure exchange.

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/_____
(day/month/year)