

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #'s	Acrobat Reader Page #
Main Newsletter <i>(for all regions)</i>		
Brook Taylor Appointed as Minister of Agriculture	1	2
Province Signs National Response Plan for Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak . .	1	2
Loan Program Extended to Farmers	2	3
Regulations Provide Better Insurance Coverage for Farmers.	2	3
Canada's New Government Commits \$550 Million Program to Help Lower Income Families	2	3
Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services.	3	4
Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS).	3	4
Nova Scotia Open Farm Day.	3	4
Pesticide Applicator Recertification Home Studies	4	5
The Canadian Radio Frequency Identification (CFIFD) Reader Program	4	5
Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program	4	5
CAIS continued.	5	6
Step Up to the Plate and take the WI Buy Local Challenge	6	7
NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Production Insurance	6	7
Green Energy 2006 – Welcomes Event Partners.	7	8
Atlantic BioVenture Centre.	7	8
New Amendments to Improve Road Safety, Support Farm Community	8	9
4-H News.	9	10
Custom Newsletter Pages <i>(for individual regions)</i>		
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties	10	11
Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties	10	12
Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness and Guysborough counties	10	14

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



August 2006

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 7 No. 3

Brook Taylor Appointed as Minister of Agriculture

The Honorable Brooke Taylor has been chosen as Minister of Agriculture in the new cabinet.

Before entering politics Mr. Taylor owned and operated a trucking business for many years.

Mr Taylor was elected as Halifax County councillor in 1991. He was elected member for Colchester-Musquodoboit in a 1993 byelection. Re-elected in 1998, 1999, August 2003 and June 2006. He has been Minister of Natural Resources, vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and a member of the Standing Committee on Human Resources.

Mr. Taylor has also been involved in his community as a member of the Musquodoboit River Association, Musquodoboit Recreation Association, Halifax County Truckers Association, Musquodoboit Valley and Area Business Association, and Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 147.

He has been married since 1971 to Norma Taylor and has two children and one grandchild.

Mr. Taylor is also Minister responsible for the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act and is the MLA for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

Province Signs National Response Plan for Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak

Nova Scotia is better prepared to respond to a foreign animal disease outbreak, such as avian influenza, with the signing of a national response plan said Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture on July 12.

"We are extremely pleased to have developed a plan with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that will look at prevention, provide for early detection and deliver a quick response to any foreign animal disease outbreak in Nova Scotia," said Mr. Taylor.

Following the outbreak of avian influenza in British Columbia in 2004, significant work was carried out on precautionary control measures to prevent the introduction of the disease. The result is the Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support (FADES) plan, which was developed through federal, provincial and stakeholder consultations.

Many agricultural producers in Nova Scotia are working on their own emergency response plans that will be linked to the FADES plan. Regular review, updates and exercises have been proposed to ensure that the contents remain pertinent and up to date.

"We are extremely pleased this agreement has been signed, especially since our poultry emergency response plan is complementary to the government one," said Alex Oderkirk, chair of the Nova Scotia poultry emergency response planning committee. "This ensures that both levels of government and industry are communicating and ready with an emergency plan if one is needed."

"Having an effective emergency plan in place prior to a foreign animal disease outbreak is critical to its control and eradication," said Mr. Taylor. "Advance knowledge and understanding of the steps to be carried out to deal with an outbreak will allow for rapid response."

Any foreign animal disease outbreak, even when responded to effectively, could cause major social and economic losses. Depending on the issue the response plan calls for such actions as quarantine, eradication practices, surveillance testing and depopulation. In Nova Scotia, the signatories of the FADES plan are the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the provincial Department of Agriculture.

Loan Program Extended to Farmers

The Department of Agriculture will help ease the financial burden of beef farmers by extending the interest free component of the Nova Scotia Ruminant Loan Support Program for another year.

The department will offset the interest payments for current and new clients of the Nova Scotia Ruminant Loan Support Program administered by the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board.

Announced in December 2004, the Nova Scotia Ruminant Loan Support Program provides more than \$10 million in loans to producers to help them with the financial challenges resulting from continued depressed market conditions as a result of BSE. The loan support program remains open to all ruminant livestock producers. The interest grant is in its second year. This will give some producers a total of three years interest free. Information on the Ruminant Support Loan Program is available through the Farm Loan Board office, 902-893-6506.

Regulations Provide Better Insurance Coverage for Farmers

Nova Scotia farmers will have access to better insurance coverage for forage under new crop insurance regulations announced on July 25, by Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor.

Although crop insurance has been offered in Nova Scotia since 1969, the insurance plan for forage production did not serve the needs of farmers. The new weather plan compensates farmers for poor product quality because of excessive or insufficient rainfall.

Canada's New Government Commits \$550 Million Program to Help Lower Income Farm Families

On July 31, 2006 - following up on commitments made in Budget 2006, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board announced the implementation of the Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options), an innovative new program to help lower-income farm families.

The Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options) is a federal program open to farm families or individual farmers who have a total income of less than \$25,000 or less than \$15,000 respectively, in all provinces and territories.

To be eligible for this year, farmers must have gross farm revenues of at least \$50,000 (before expenses) and must have filed farm income with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for 2005 and be farming in 2006.

“The new plan provides superior insurance coverage for farmers and will be more cost effective to administer,” said Mr. Taylor. “We will continue to support Nova Scotia farmers by ensuring they have access to income stabilization programs.”

Other regulatory changes give the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission the ability to extend seeding deadlines and react more quickly to changes in the market. For information on the programs available see the website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/ci/.

For farm families operating corporate farms to be eligible, the family or individual farmer must hold at least 20 per cent of the corporation's outstanding common shares (voting and non-voting).

Status Indians farming on reserves who do not file returns for income tax purposes are eligible to participate providing they can supply the equivalent income information for farm and other income sources.

To participate in the program, farm families need to apply to the Options program to receive a payment and they must commit to completing one of the following within two years of their application to Options: A Farm Business Assessment offered by the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS) or an equivalent OR If they choose, an Individual Learning Plan and skills training through the Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) or an equivalent.

Application forms are available on the Options program Web site at www.agr.gc.ca/options.

Applicants will receive payments based on their gross farm income and total income from all sources.

The Options payment will bring the total income of a farm family up to a maximum of \$25,000 or \$15,000 for individual farmers each year. For example, if a farm family has a total income of \$17,000, the calculated benefit is \$8,000.

For more information on the Options program, CFBAS or CASS please call toll free 1-866-367-8506.

Canadian Farm Business Advisory Services (CFBAS)

The Canadian Farm Business Advisory Service (CFBAS) provides a range of advisory services to help producers set goals for their business and develop plans to meet their goals. CFBAS is cost-shared between the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

The first step for producers is a one-on-one discussion with a CFBAS officer to identify what their needs are. This will include a review of the producers' past records and current situation, and discussion of objectives to determine options for improving their business prospects.

Producers will then have the opportunity to participate in the Farm Business Assessment (FBA) program. This component of CFBAS provides eligible producers with up to five days of consultation services, including a Farm Financial Assessment and Action Plan.

The cost of CFBAS will be covered for producers who receive a payment under the Canadian Farm Families Options Program (Options).

For more information on CFBAS or other renewal initiatives go to the Website at www.agr.gc.ca/renewal or call 1-866-452-5558.

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

Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS)

The Canadian Agricultural Skills Service (CASS) is an existing program that provides funding and practical assistance so that farmers and their spouses can participate in learning programs. These programs can improve opportunities to increase business profitability and open up choices for alternate sources of income. CASS is cost-shared between the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

CASS involves: An assessment to help producers identify their strengths and skills.

- If producers choose, the development of an Individual Learning Plan in which producers can identify courses in areas such as farm business management, accounting, finance and human resources management, or courses that will prepare them for other

types of employment. A consultant will help them decide which courses or workshops would be the most helpful based on their goals.

- Funding to support formal training such as college programs and informal learning activities such as workshops and short courses. The funding covers tuition and fees, course materials, and, if needed, certain other costs associated with the training.
- A consultant available to producers for ongoing advice and support while they carry out their learning plan.

For more information on CASS, or to apply visit www.agr.gc.ca/cass or www.servicecanada.gc.ca or call toll free at 1-800 O Canada.

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day Sunday, September 24, 2006

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee in partnership with Sobeys are pleased to present Open Farm Day 2006. Farms across Nova Scotia will open their doors to the public. Plan to come out on September 24, 2006 and discover how your food is produced.

For information contact:

Ruth Grant, Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator,
Dept. of Agriculture
Phone: 902-893-6598
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca

Pesticide Applicator Recertification Home Study Series

Three-to-four times a year a two to three page fact sheet, which deals with some aspect of pest management, will be placed on the AgraPoint website. Included with this information will be a short exam. The exam will need to be completed by the producer and sent to AgraPoint's Resource Contact Centre in Truro at the address located on the exam. If the producer makes the passing grade of 75 per cent they will receive one-half a pesticide recertification point. If a producer successfully completes every exam over the five-year span of their pesticide license, they will achieve over half of their re-certification requirements with the home-study series.

To access this home-study training, a producer can print the fact sheet and exam directly from the website or by calling Resource Contact Centre toll-free at 1-866-606-4636 to have a copy mailed, e-mailed or faxed to them.

Each home-study exam will only be accessible for two months. Notification of new exams along with deadlines will be posted on AgraPoint's website, advertised in Farm Focus, and forwarded to commodity associations for communicating to their members.

For more information contact
AgraPoint: Peter Burgess, IPM
Coordinator (902) 896-0277 or,
p.burgess@agrapoint.ca, or
Resource Contact Centre:
info@agrapoint.ca

The Canadian Radio Frequency Identification (CRFID) Reader Program

A number of inquiries have been received regarding this program. The CRFID Reader Program is an investment of \$1.8 million which will facilitate the implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) reader reimbursement program aimed at eligible cattle facility operators.

The Canadian Radio Frequency Identification (CRFID) Reader Program managed under the Canadian Food Safety and Quality Program will improve the tracking and tracing of cattle beyond the farm gate using Radio frequency identification (RFID) reader technology. This initiative is an important component of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) tracing and tracking strategy.

RFID readers will provide a more effective method of receiving information stored on the RFID tag. RFID readers will enable facility operators to receive and then upload RFID tag information to computer-based equipment. Facility Operators can then upload the information directly to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency's (CCIA) or Agri - Tra abilit Qu bec's (ATQ) databases.

To obtain additional information about the Canadian Radio Frequency Identification (CRFID) Reader program, contact us at:
Telephone: 1-800-667-8567

Details are available at
http://www.agr.gc.ca/fd_al/crfidplirf/index_e.php .

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

2005 CAIS Payments and Processing
Some producers have received a 2005 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. You have 90 days from the date on the COB to make adjustments and appeals.

The deadline for submission of 2005 CAIS applications has been extended to SEPTEMBER 30, 2006.

Individuals and Corporations - Send forms to Winnipeg Tax Centre (CRA)
2005 CAIS Harmonized Form (T1273) and/or Harmonized Statement A which includes the following items:

- Statement of Farming Activities - income / expenses
- Crop / Livestock Production and Inventory Schedules
- Purchased Inputs
- Accounts Payable / Accounts Receivable

Did you e-file your 2005 CAIS Harmonized Form?

Those who e-filed the 2005 CAIS Harmonized Form must submit paper copies of Schedules 1,2,7,8,9 to CRA for processing. There are no problems with the transmission of the tax data (income and expenses), however the CAIS “supplementary” information was not transferred correctly.

CAIS Deposit Replaced by FEE

The federal-provincial-territorial ministers have officially removed the CAIS deposit requirement from the program. The deposits for the 2003, 2004, and 2005 program years have been waived. 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 September. The deadline to pay the fee amount is December 31, 2006 for the 2006 CAIS program year.

What is the CITI Program ?

The CITI (CAIS Inventory Transition Initiative) is a federal companion program that will provide more funds to eligible producers based on a change in method of inventory valuation. The new “hybrid” method will value market inventory based on a price at the beginning of the year and a price at the end of the year. Productive assets such as breeding herds will continue to be valued with a year end price only. This change in inventory valuation is forecast to add four million dollars to what was already received through CAIS in Nova Scotia.

Under the CITI program, CAIS benefits will be recalculated with this new “hybrid” method. Producers who trigger an additional payment through this new method of inventory valuation, will receive a cheque and/or have a reduction in their CAIS overpayment. If a producer was to receive less under this initiative - there will be no further action. CITI payments will initially go out at a pro-rated level of 50 per cent for the 2003 and 2004 program years. The 2005 payment rate will be determined once the 2003 and 2004 payments have been issued. These payment are scheduled to begin in the fall.

Regional CAIS Sessions

There will be regional CAIS information sessions August 21 - September 11, 2006. The sessions will be in two parts. Staff will be available in your area for one-on-one sessions to help with forms, questions, or COB's. This will be appointment only. Please call the Programs office (numbers listed below) to make an appointment (do not call your regional office). The evening group sessions will focus on updating you on the changes to the CAIS program.

Daytime Sessions (by appointment)

August 21 - Mabou 4-H office
August 28 - Nappan
August 29 - Weymouth regional office
August 30 - Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds
August 31 - Kentville regional office
September 11 - Antigonish regional office

Evening Sessions (all at 7 p.m.)

August 21 - Inverary Inn, Baddeck
August 28 - Wandlyn Inn, Amherst
August 29 - Coastal Kingfisher, Digby
August 30 - Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville
August 31 - Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater
September 7 - Best Western Glengarry, Truro
September 11 - Green Way Claymore Inn, Antigonish

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

CAIS 2006 Program Year Signup

The deadline for new CAIS participant sign-up for new participants and selection of coverage level has been extended to September 30, 2006.

Programs Update

Both the **Farm Investment Fund** and the **Agri-Food Industry Development Fund** for 2006–2007 are open and the flow of applications is steady. The **Technology Development 2000** program was released on July 18, 2006. The two scheduled calls for Letters of Intent are August 15, 2006 and January 15, 2007.

The guidelines and application forms for all three programs may be accessed at the following web site: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm.
Questions? Contact Programs & Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

'Step Up To The Plate' and take the WI Buy Local Challenge!

The Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce the start of our new project, The WI Buy Local Challenge. This project is being supported by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia.

The idea behind the project is to encourage more people to buy local food products when grocery shopping. Women's Institutes believe in supporting our local farmers and producers. We also believe that by promoting this project we can help to support our producers while enjoying the benefits of fresh, local food products.

The term 'local' can be misleading in the marketplace. What does 'local' really mean? Does it mean foods produced within a certain number of kilometers of where you live? Does it mean foods produced in Nova Scotia or in the Maritimes? Some food retailers consider any food items that can be shipped to their store within a 24 hour period to be 'local'. This could mean that food products in-store may have traveled thousands of miles the day before, being labeled as 'local'. This information is viewed by many as misleading to the consumer.

While developing this project, Women's Institutes had to decide upon what they consider to be the definition of 'local' food products. Here is the definition that has been adopted by the Women's Institutes:

When purchasing local food products - first look for food products produced in your community. If you cannot find products from your community, then

look to products produced in your county and then province. Remember - Community, County, Province.

To gauge the buying habits and opinions of consumers, we have developed a survey in conjunction with the Rural Research Center at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. It is our goal to have as many surveys completed this summer and fall as possible. Later in the fall, the surveys will be tabulated and a formal report presented to the WI membership, retailers, producers, commodity groups and government.

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia will be having displays at various exhibitions, markets and fairs this summer and fall to promote the WI Buy Local Challenge.

The WI Buy Local Challenge requirements will ask the participants to do the following:

- To eat at least one homecooked meal per week, using mainly local ingredients.
- To incorporate at least one never-before-tried local ingredient into their diet.
- To 'brown-bag' at least one meal per week that is primarily made of local ingredients.
- To talk to at least one food retailer and one food producer about local food choices.
- To complete the WI Buy Local Challenge survey.
- To choose local food products whenever possible.

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia is a well respected organization and the public does take notice of the projects and programs we support. We hope that this project will help to educate and encourage the public, our membership, producers, restaurant owners and retailers to think local and make educated decisions when purchasing their food products.

www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi/

NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Production Insurance

Applications Deadlines

Winter Grain - September 1

Forage Establishment -
October 15

Raspberries - November 1

If you were unable to plant spring crops this year due to the wet conditions, perhaps you are thinking about planting winter grain. The application deadline is fast approaching - **September 1!**

The deadline for planting is September 30 in the Annapolis, Kings and Hants West counties, and September 20 for all other areas.

The deadline to apply for Forage Establishment is October 15. Fields of legumes and legumegrass mixes seeded by July 1, as well as, grass seeded by September 1, are eligible for coverage.

For further information on these or any of our other insurance plans, please call Kentville (902) 679-6028/6015 or Truro 1-800-565-6371.

Green Energy 2006 Welcomes Event Partners

The latest in renewable energy technologies, products and services will be showcased September 20, 2006 in Halifax, NS. Green Energy is designed for small, medium or large businesses and municipalities interested in renewable energy alternatives for their energy needs.

Green Energy welcomes the following event partners, the Renewable Energy Industry Assoc. of NS, Atlantic Canada Sustainable Energy Coalition, the Ecology Action Centre, as we bring together the supply and service sector of the renewable energy industry. Attendees will have the opportunity to exhibit and network directly with businesses and commercial power consumers from across Atlantic Canada as they seek alternative energy sources.

Green Energy will include exhibits and presentations throughout the day-long industry event. Presentations on wind turbines for small to medium sized applications and other renewable energy products. Installations including, geothermal, biomass, and solar power will also be featured during the agenda at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront Hotel.

Expected attendees at the conference will include business owners, managers, engineers, senior personnel responsible for energy,

electrical, municipal planning, real estate development, project management, government departments, agencies and related energy consultants.

Green Energy is providing businesses, municipalities, and commercial developers the opportunity to see the latest in renewable energy products, as well as, network face-to-face with the suppliers, installers, designers and manufacturers! A new matchmaking service entitled RENEWUS for companies seeking representatives or suppliers is also being offered to interested companies.

In today's businesses, the appeal of renewable energy goes beyond the obvious environmental benefits as it reduces greenhouse gas emissions. It can offer reliability and increased cost savings for businesses, municipalities or large residential developers.

With over an anticipated \$2 billion in renewable energy expenditures in the next five years, the timing for business opportunities in Atlantic Canada's renewable energy sector is promising.

For further information see <http://www.energyconsultant.ca/greenenergy2006.php> or, call directly at (902) 462-4824. Green Energy 2006

Atlantic BioVenture Centre

(K. Laurie Sandeson, Managing Director, AgriTECH Park Inc.)

The Atlantic BioVenture Centre was established in 2005 as a collaborative initiative of the Nova Scotia Departments of Agriculture and Office of Economic Development. It offers assistance to Atlantic Canada's agri-food and aqua-food producers and processors to develop value-added and non-traditional products. The organization provides "development requiring research" services, offering technical and engineering assistance to companies seeking to value-add their food and bioscience products.

The Atlantic BioVenture Centre will:

- work with primary /processing sector on "bioresource value-chain" developments and technology transfer
- support the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) in its shifting role to assist Atlantic bioeconomy training and development
- link NSAC closely with Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (Kentville) for "development requiring research" applied to bioresource sectors

The Centre's focus is on the transformation of Atlantic primary bioresources into high value products - specifically nutraceuticals, functional ingredients, bio-products, bioactives and advanced foods.

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For example, in a recent Atlantic Innovation Fund award from ACOA, the Centre will bring together the strengths and resources of three technology-based corporations. It will link them with a range of Atlantic regional bioresource companies to generate new products for the rapidly growing global natural product's market.

The project seeks to systematically advance the current products associated with traditional bioresources such as, barley grain, *Furcellaria* seaweed, cultivated blue mussels, saponaria (soap wort) and Atlantic dogfish.

With barley grain, the objective is to efficiently extract the oil content for utilization in human nutraceutical products. Barley oil contains tocotrienols (highly effective antioxidants). The barley protein isolate can be further extracted and used in aquaculture feed and as a potential human cosmeceutical agent (i.e. hair treatment).

The Atlantic BioVenture Centre is headquartered at AgriTECH Park in Truro. AgriTECH Park is NSAC's commercialization wing and provides the fertile environment necessary to grow and develop real economic opportunities for the agri-food sector.

For further information contact:
Dr. Richard Ablett, CEO, Atlantic BioVenture Centre, 90 Research Drive, AgriTECH Park, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 6Z4
Ph: 902-893-4152,
Fax: 902-896-7276,
Email: rablett@nsac.ca

New Amendments to Improve Road Safety, Support Farm Community

New legislation for farm vehicles driving on highways was introduced in the legislature on June 30, 2006.

The amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act strive to ease the transportation burden on farmers, recognize technological changes to equipment, and ensure public safety.

"The amendments bring the rules for transporting farm equipment up to date," said Angus MacIsaac, Minister of Transportation and Public Works. "This legislation provides safe and clear rules for highway use in relation to farming operations."

The changes pertain to Sections 2, 117 and 181 of Chapter 293 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

One amendment concerns new definitions for farm equipment. Another sets a 40-km/h speed limit, when using a "slow-moving" vehicle sign, and would also apply to operators of backhoes and loaders.

The third amendment lifts the requirement for brakes on towed farm vehicles -- provided the operator displays a slow moving sign and follows the 40-km/h speed limit. However, 20km/h becomes the speed limit if the combination of farm vehicles cannot stop within 10 metres when travelling 20km/h. Farmers would no longer have to install brakes on towed vehicles that are not designed with them. The new speed restrictions would ensure safe operations.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture had asked the provincial government for a new legal framework that would allow farmers to operate their equipment efficiently and safely. Staff representatives from the Department of Transportation and Public Works, the Department of Agriculture, and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations worked with the federation to develop the new legislation.

Back issues of this newsletter are available on-line at http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/fs/arcs/
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Nova Scotia 4-H Show to Be Held in Bridgewater

4-H members are busy making preparations for the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show, September 29 - October 1 at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds in Bridgewater. This three-day event is an opportunity for 4-H families and volunteers to work together to showcase the 4-H members' projects to the public.

The show has grown from humble beginnings to exhibiting over 40 different livestock and nonlivestock projects such as dog, rabbit, foods, photography, sheep, computer, goat and crafts. The 4-H program has something of interest to everyone and develops a variety of life skills in youth.

"We are very pleased to be able to hold this show in Bridgewater. Each fall the 4-H Show travels to a different part of the province offering 4-H members a chance to see new places and meet new people", said Arthur Pick, Acting Manager, 4-H and Rural Organizations. "The hosting committee has been working diligently to ensure that this weekend will be a memorable experience."

This year the Lunenburg 4-H Council has the responsibility of hosting the 4-H Show. Their responsibilities include everything from making site arrangements, to providing security and fund raising. Competitions begin Friday, September 29 and continue until noon on Sunday, October 1. The public is welcome to attend this family event and the admission is free.

4-H Members to Compete in Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

4-H members have the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for the agriculture industry at the provincial 4-H Nova Scotia Young Speakers for Agriculture. This competition will be held on Friday September 29, 2006 at 7 p.m. during the Nova Scotia 4-H Provincial Show at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds in Bridgewater. All senior 4-H members and 4-H Alumni that are 16 - 24 years of age as of the competition date can enter either the provincial competition or the national contest at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November.

The competitors have five agriculturally related topics from which they can choose to speak:

- The Art of Farming: A Learned or Inherited Skill?
- The 2000's Farmer: Diverse, Innovative and Multi-Skilled
- Getting the Message Out: The Role of Media in Agriculture
- What's in a Name? The Value of Branding Products in Canadian Agriculture
- Choosing a Career in Agriculture: Go Big or Stay Home?

Along with project work 4-H members are taught public speaking skills during the year and each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold

communications competitions. Many young people often identify the communications training and the confidence that it has given them as their most memorable experience in 4-H.

The Nova Scotia 4-H Council will sponsor the Nova Scotia winner to take part in the Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto on Saturday, November 4, 2006. For more information please contact the nearest 4-H office.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.: Andrew Cameron – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-7314, Fax: (902) 893-0244

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

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 the remainder of the year: Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11, Nov. 25 and Dec. 9.

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture Monthly Meetings

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture holds their monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 7- 9 p.m. at the Agricultural Centre in Kentville. All are welcome.

Local Community Fairs and Exhibitions

Don't forgot about the local community fairs and exhibitions being held in our region.

Dalhousie Community Fair -
August 26

Western Kings Fair, Tremont -
September 2

Hants Co. Exhibition, Windsor -
September 15-17 and September 22-
24

Queens Co. Exhibition, Caledonia
- September 19-23

NS 4-H Show, Bridgewater -
September 29 - October 1



Valley Region 4-H Activities and Announcements

Achievement Days in Hants County and Kings County Joint Achievement Days are over. Thank you to all the clubs, leaders, members and parents that helped to make the summer programs such a success!

The Hants County 4-H Exhibition is fast approaching with the end of summer drawing near. 4-H days are September 16 -19 at the Exhibition Grounds in Windsor. 4-H Exhibition Days mark the end of the 4-H year and allow members to display their achievements to the public.

Meagan Sanford was the recipient of an Inter Provincial Award this year. July 7 through 15 she stayed with a host family in Landenberg, Saskatchewan and will host the Saskatchewan delegate August 10 to 19.

Kings County 4-H members will be hosting Vegreville 4-H members as part of the 4-H Exchanges Canada Program. Vegreville 4-H members will be in Nova Scotia between August 9 and 21.

Upcoming Local 4-H Events

September 6 - Kings County Joint Achievement Days Wrap-up Meeting and Council Meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Kentville Agricultural Centre

September 12 - Hants County Exhibition and Council Meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., at Hants West Rural High School in Brooklyn

September 16 to 18 - Hants County 4-H Exhibition, Windsor

September 30 to October 2 - Nova Scotia 4-H Provincial Show, Truro

2006 CAPE BRETON COMMUNITY FAIRS

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT	PHONE
MIRA FERRY	Sept. 9th	GLADYS LEVER CHERYL MACINTYRE	(902) 562-6310 (902) 562-2089
CHRISTMAS ISLAND	Sept. 16th	KEVIN MACKENZIE	(902) 622-2667
PORT MORIEN	Sept. 16th	MARGIE MACQUEEN	(902) 737-2478
MARION BRIDGE	cancelled 2006	NORMA MACINNIS	(902) 727-2764
BADDECK	Sept. 9th	ANGUS NICHOLSON	(902) 295-3139

Support your local community fair by spreading the word or getting involved. Community Fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun, entertaining day, and to show off some of their talent. Anyone can enter articles from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics). If you have never been to a fair, why not plan to attend this year.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture offices in Sydney and Mabou still have a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage, sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours or for more info contact (902) 563-2000.

FIRST AID TRAINING

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

ATTENTION: RECYCLING USED PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

1. Allow the formulation to drain from the container into the sprayer tank for at least 30 seconds.
2. Add at least 20 per cent of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
3. Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds.
4. Repeat the above procedure twice more.

5. Render container s unuseable by puncturing.

6. Leave label on the container.

Containers that have been handled in this way are technically suitable for disposal.

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling.

You can drop off containers at the CO-OP COUNTRY STORE for recycling.

HAY FOR SALE?

The Cape Breton Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2006-07 season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Leo Cox for receiving the Life-Long Contribution to Farming and Rural Life in Inverness County 2006 Award presented by Cape Breton University and AgraPoint for his many years of dedication and service to the community and agriculture industry in Inverness.



4-H News

The Victoria County Show is soon approaching. The Show is going to be held September 7 - 9, 2006. Non-livestock projects should be dropped off at Baddeck Forks Hall from 4 - 6 p.m. on the 7th. Photography competition at 5:30 p.m., First aid skit at 6 p.m. and Bake off/cake decorating competition starts at 6:15 p.m. on the 7th. Everyone is welcome to enter their items in the Baddeck Valley Show as well.

The River Bourgeois Club is soon celebrating their 25th Anniversary on Sunday, September 10 at the Community Centre. Contact Lorraine Gates for more information.

Congratulations to Melissa Nicholson who travelled to Saskatchewan on Inter Provincial Exchange Program this summer and who hosted a 4-H member on the Island in August.

There will be an Inverness Pro Show meeting September 14, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the BrookVillage Hall. All those moving on to compete at Pro Show must attend. For Pro Show entries and dates or more information, contact Marina Gillis at (902) 563-2001 or Rhonda MacDougall at (902) 945-2901.

Want to join or start a new club? Clubs are re-organized and start each fall. We would love to have new members, leaders and clubs. Contact one of the 4-H offices for more information. Sydney office - (902) 563-2000 (Marina) or Mabou office - (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda).

The Antigonish Farmers Market

The Antigonish Farmers Market is open every Saturday morning beginning at 9 a.m., the Market goes until October 28. A Wednesday market will be held in July and August at the Save Easy store in Antigonish from 4-7 p.m. If anyone is interested in participating as a vendor, please contact Jim at (902) 386-2544 or Margaret at (902) 833-2747, they'd love to hear from you!

Open Farm Day 2006

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee in partnership with Sobeys are pleased to present Open Farm Day 2006. Farms across Nova Scotia will open their doors to the public. Plan to come out on September 24, 2006 and discover how your food is produced. It's sure to be an educational, fun-filled day and we'd love to see you there!

In Antigonish, be sure to visit;

Black Avon Farms

Type: Dairy

Hosts: Fred and Jim Berkvens

Civic Address: 2362 Black Avon Rd., Heatherton

Directions: East of Antigonish, turn right at exit 36 (off Highway 104) into Heatherton, right at church, left after Canada Post, travel one and a half km, keep right after pavement ends, first farm on left, on hill.

Hours: 12 noon - 3 p.m.

Activities: Barn tours, hay ride, face painting, learn how to milk a cow, equipment display.

West River Holsteins

Type: Dairy

Hosts: Jack Thomson, Rhonda MacDougall and family

Civic Address: 1543 Harbour Centre

Directions: From Main St., Antigonish, travel east past hospital on Highway 337 for eight km. Farm is on left hand side of the road, green barn, four tower silos.

Hours: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Activities: Guided tour of purebred Holstein operation, static displays, children's activities and door prizes.

Brook Ridge Farm

Type: Operating sheep farm with purebred and commercial ewes and rams, along with donkeys, horses, goats, cats, rabbits and chickens! Situated on 200 acres five miles from Antigonish town.

Hosts: Ian and Rhonda McCarron

Civic Address: 1997, Highway 4, Brierly Brook

Directions: Exit 31A off Highway 104 at Brierly Brook, travel four km. Farm is located on right side of Highway 4.

Hours: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Activities: Display of sheep breeds. Children's activities. Get an early start on Christmas shopping.... 100 per cent virgin wool blankets and throws for sale. Market lamb orders taken. Come for the hospitality and stay for the view! No admission fee, non-perishable donations to the Antigonish Food Bank appreciated. Come, rain or shine; we have new expanded facilities.

In Pictou County, be sure to visit;

AlpacaStation.Com

Type: Alpaca Breeder

Hosts: Richard and Marie-Mai MacKinnon

Civic Address: 113 MacLeod Road, Scotsburn

Directions: Past Scotsburn going west, take a right on Heathbell Road, take a left on Second Division Road, take a left on MacLeod Road, we are the first

farm on your left.

Hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Activities: Learn about the gentle natured alpaca from South America. We have 145 alpacas, including 40 babies. Alpaca fleece and products for sale. Please leave your dogs at home!

Lismore Sheep Farm

Type: Sheep farm and wool shop.

Hosts: John and Gillian Crawford

Civic Address: 1389 Louisville Rd., River John

Directions: Just west of River John, on the Louisville Rd., just off Highway 6, Sunrise Trail. Watch for sheep signs.

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Activities: Sheep and Highland Cows to see. Interpretive displays in barn about sheep and wool. Wool shop with sheepskins, sheepskin products, wool blankets, woolen yarn and hand knit items.

Beach Lane Lavender Farm

Type: Lavender

Hosts: Carlson family

Civic Address: 147 Carlson Lane, Marshville

Directions: three miles west of River John on Highway 6

Hours: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Activities: Field tour. Lavender interpretive display. Food samples. Product demonstrations. 50+ lavender products for sale.

Upcoming Events:

2006 NB Beef Expo: "Bringing the Beef Industry Together"

September 23 and 24, 2006, Princess Louise Park Show Center, Sussex, NB

The NB Beef Expo is the largest beef show in the province and this year's event is expected to draw over 35 breeders from the Maritimes and surrounding area. This year's highlights include: Hereford Mark of Excellence Show, Hereford Futurity, Angus Gold Show and many other events.

For more information, please call:
Duncan Fraser @ (506) 856-2277
David Fontaine @ (506) 453-2457
Kim Mac Donald @ (506) 362-1254

Upcoming 4-H Events:

Antigonish County

4-H Day at ENSE	Aug. 30	ENSE
4-H Show Mtg for exhibiting members and parents	Sept. 12	6:30-8 p.m. Ant. Ed. Ctr.
Council Mtg - Resolutions due	Sept. 12	8 -9:30 p.m. Ant. Ed. Ctr.
NS 4-H Show	Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Bridgewater

Pictou County

Barn Clean-up Day	Aug. 19	Pictou Exhibition Grounds - 9 a.m.
4-H Day at PNCE (tentative Pictou)	Sept. 6	Exhibition Grounds TBA
4-H Pro Show Mtg	Sept. 20	Northumberland School 6:30-7:30 p.m.
County 4-H Council Mtg	Sept. 20	Northumberland School 8 p.m.
NS 4-H Pro Show	Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Exhibition Grounds Bridgewater

Farm Succession Planning Seminars

CIBC Wood Gundy will be offering two informative presentations on Farm Succession Planning open to agricultural producers and agricultural professionals. Topics will be: Tax Considerations, Estate Planning, Business Structure, and Investment Planning. The Presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

Date: October 11, 2006
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Port Hawkesbury

Date: October 18, 2006
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Truro

Please RSVP by calling (902) 893-0300 before October 4, 2006

For more information, please call (902) 893-0300