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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



December 2006 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 7 No. 5



Ministers Focus on Building a Stronger Future for Agriculture in Canada

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture met on November 14, 2006, in Calgary to discuss the transformation of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector, and to set the stage for cross-Canada consultations on the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy. Ministers agreed on measures to address the pressures farmers are facing in a rapidly evolving world, announcing changes in how governments support farmers in managing the business risks of farming.

Given that Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry is an integral part of the Canadian economy and an important contributor to Canada's social fabric, ministers also launched consultations for the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy. They were united in their commitment to work with the sector on new policies that will enable industry to seize new opportunities and remain competitive in a challenging global environment.

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


NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture

Supporting Producers in Managing the Business Risks of Farming

Over the past ten months significant progress has been made on a new suite of business risk management (BRM) programs to address concerns identified by producers. Vast improvements have been built into what is becoming a new margin-based income stabilization program. In principle and subject to the appropriate authorities, agreement has been reached on a separate disaster relief framework, as well as on options for considering the extension of coverage under production insurance to livestock and additional horticulture crops.

Ministers acknowledge that more work still needs to be done to identify and address gaps and make improvements in the business risk management suite within the context of affordability. They have tasked officials to continue consultations with the sector, starting in January, in conjunction with the next generation policy development process.

Ministers, with industry representatives and government officials, have worked intensely on re-engineering the support

governments provide to help producers manage the business risks of farming. The changes tackle many of the needs expressed by industry representatives on behalf of farmers. They include significant delivery and design improvements such as:

- More accurate assessment of losses by improving the way inventory is valued;
- Better protection through expanded negative margin coverage;
- Easier participation requirements, based on a small fee rather than a deposit;
- Targeted advances to provide faster payments during a disaster;
- The availability of interim payments across the country so producers can access some of their estimated payment early;
- Simpler sign up and less paperwork, with most provinces having automatic sign-up for producers who previously participated;
- More flexible deadlines for applying;
- More accurate online calculators to estimate payments available in some provinces;
- Secure electronic filing in most provinces;
- Common service standards across the country for processing applications; and

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- More informative statements for producers.

In principle, and subject to securing appropriate authorities, ministers agreed to the following:

- Establishing a new agriculture disaster relief framework that enables agricultural disaster relief programming and have instructed officials to provide options on how best to apply it; and
- Options for considering the extension of coverage under Production Insurance to livestock and additional horticulture crops.

In addition, consistent with recommendations from industry, they agreed to maintain linkages between income stabilization programming and production insurance, to monitor these linkages going forward, and to make any necessary adjustments in the future to ensure they continue to work as intended. They further directed officials to review overall affordability and interrelationships in the BRM program suite within the context of consultations for the next generation policy.

OBSOLETE PESTICIDE CLEANUP

There will be an obsolete pesticide cleanup program this winter. Contact your local agricultural chemical dealer to see if they are a drop off sight. This is a great opportunity to get rid of old, unwanted pesticides. This cleanup is sponsored by Crop Life Canada and the Nova Scotia government.

Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy

At the recent meeting of federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers in Calgary, ministers held a significant discussion on forward policy directions for agriculture in Canada with respect to the long-term transformation of the sector. Over the past several decades, there have been substantial changes to the face of agriculture and agri-food in Canada, as well as substantial new and emerging competitive challenges. Together with governments, the sector must seek out new opportunities to ensure its future success and profitability.

Ministers formally launched consultations for the development of the next generation of policy. They challenged the sector and those interested in it to focus their energy and enthusiasm on bringing innovative ideas and solutions to bear on the challenges the sector faces. Representatives from across the value chain will have an opportunity to provide input early in

the process to help shape the discussion moving forward.

Ministers released an overarching discussion paper that examines the economic situation of the sector and sets out a proposed vision, as well as a principles paper that sets out proposed guidelines for the policy development process. This will be followed in the coming weeks by the release of a series of thematic papers that present possible policy options in the areas of environment (including an evaluation of ecological goods and services); food safety and quality; innovation and science; renewal; markets and trade, and a number of economic background papers, including business risk management. Ministers stressed that the documents are intended to guide discussions for the consultations and that governments remain open to new ideas from the sector. The documents can be found at www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen.

Advance Payments Program (APP)

Carol Versteeg (SCIANS)

The APP is a federal loan guarantee program that facilitates access to credit for producers at or after harvest. The intended benefit of the program is to provide producers with a cash advance on their stored crops at or soon after harvest, allowing them to meet their short term financial obligations. As the crop is sold or fed on farm, producers repay the advance. The federal government will pay the interest on loans up to \$50,000 under the program.

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) is administering the program for the fall of 2006. The

values to be used in this year's advances are: wheat - \$97/tonne; rye - \$43/tonne; barley - \$68/tonne; oats - \$53/tonne; corn - \$85/tonne; soybeans - \$107/tonne; and hay - \$60/tonne. To complete an application, producers must allow a credit check and a storage (of crops) check to be done. SCIANS will deduct a one per cent holdback from all advances to cover itself in the event of a default. This will be returned to the producers when the advance has been payed back in full. A fee of 1.5 per cent of the advance will be charged to each producer for the administration of the program. For more information contact Carol Versteeg - Phone: (902) 758-3530, Fax: (902) 758-2974, or e-mail: carol.versteeg@sympatico.ca.

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 for errors when you receive it. You have **90 days** from the date on the COB to make adjustments and appeal to the CAIS Administration. If you require assistance, please call the Programs and Business Risk Management office.

CAIS Late Filing Provision

The late filing provision is a new feature introduced this year that will allow those who missed the deadline to continue to participate. If you missed the September 30, 2006 deadline for filing your 2005 CAIS forms, you can still submit your forms until **December 31, 2006**. There will be a \$500/month penalty for late filing, however it will provide you with an opportunity to participate in the 2005 program year.

CAIS FEE Reminder

As you know, the CAIS deposit was replaced by the **CAIS Fee** for the 2006 program year. Most producers have received notification of their total **CAIS Fee** amount. If you have not yet received your fee amount, please contact the CAIS administration. The deadline to pay the fee amount is **December 31, 2006** for the 2006 CAIS program year. If you do not pay the fee by the above deadline, you may still participate. Participants have from January 1, 2007 and April 30, 2007 to pay with penalty (**FEE + 20 per cent**).

CAIS PRODUCER/ ACCOUNTANT SESSIONS

The Federal CAIS Administration will be coming to Nova Scotia in late

February for sessions throughout the province. Please watch for notification of dates and locations in the new year.

CITI Program Payments

The CITI (CAIS Inventory Transition Initiative) is a federal companion program that will provide more funds to eligible CAIS participants 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. 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. 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. Most 2003 payments/ notifications have been sent, with 2004 being recalculated in December/January.

For more information on any of the above points, contact the 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.

Programs Update

Both the **Farm Investment Fund and the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund for 2006–2007 closed December 8, 2006. The Technology Development 2000 program was released on July 18, 2006. The next scheduled call for Letters of Intent is 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.

Nova Scotia Margin Enhancement (NSME)

The NSME program is a provincial initiative that will provide an additional \$2 million in income support to farmers. Using the 2003 CAIS program year data, reference margins of CAIS participants will be increased by 10 per cent.

The 2003 CAIS program year was selected because it holds a higher number of participants, a higher frequency of payments, higher reference margins, and is the most recent year with complete participant information. This will allow for

quicker processing and eliminate the need for an application process.

NSME payments will be paid out of a fixed funding envelope of \$2 million and may be prorated to stay within the budget allotted.

Who is eligible to participate?

Non-supply managed producers who participated in the 2003 CAIS program year and are currently actively farming are eligible for support.

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What do producers have to do to access these funds?

There will be no requirement to submit an application. All non-supply managed 2003 CAIS program year participants will automatically have their claims processed.

If I produce both supply managed and non-supply managed commodities am I eligible for a payment?

If 51 per cent or more of your sales are derived from supply managed production you will not be eligible for a NSME payment.

Will all eligible producers be receiving payments?

While all eligible producers will have their reference margins increased for 2003, not all will trigger additional funds. It is estimated that approximately 60 per cent of the 2003 CAIS program participants will receive payment under this program.

How will this help the commodities in a financial need?

Like the original 2003 CAIS payments, the bulk of the funds delivered through the NSME will be received by commodities such as beef, hog, and horticultural sectors who have demonstrated the greatest income loss.

How will producers know if they qualify for a payment?

All 2003 CAIS participants that are entitled to additional payments will receive information via mail from the Programs and Business Risk Management Division.

When will payments be made?

Program calculations for eligible 2003 CAIS participants will be

completed as quickly as possible with payments expected to flow in January.

How will the NSME program impact those that currently have CAIS overpayments?

Additional benefits resulting from this program will not be applied to CAIS overpayments.

Can you show me an example of how the program will work?

Original 2003 CAIS reference margin	\$100,000
10 per cent increase of 2003 Reference Margin +	\$10,000
NSME Adjusted Reference Margin =	\$110,000

The NSME adjusted reference margin would then be compared to the 2003 claim year margin to determine if an additional payment is warranted.

**For further information contact the Programs and Business Risk Management office at:
1-902-893-6510 or toll free at
1-888-844-4276**

Value Chain Workshop Delivers Hands-on Advice for Producers

Invest one day of your time for advice on getting out of the commodity trap at a special Value Chain Management workshop. The workshop is being offered at no charge to producers as part of a new partnership between the Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC) and the George Morris Centre, with support from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

The workshop provides hands-on, interactive ways for producers to learn to create and manage value chains to benefit their business. Producers will gain practical tools to analyze opportunities and strengthen the competitiveness of their operations. Workshops are led by value chain expert Martin Gooch, research associate with the George Morris Centre.

“Successful value chains are rela-

tively rare in agriculture compared to other industries,” says Martin Gooch. “I want to change that with these workshops through helping more producers understand and take advantage of the commercial opportunities that value chain strategies offer.”

Applying value chain principles to agricultural production means evolving to a demand-driven mentality from the supply-driven focus with commodities. Participating in a value chain means thinking and acting differently, and being able to respond to market demands with the bonus of improved profit.

The workshop will be held at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro, Nova Scotia on **February 21, 2007** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today by contacting the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture at (902) 893-6580 or bme@gov.ns.ca.

Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia Chick Vendor Program

In the spring of this year, Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia (CFNS) launched a Chick Vendor program across the province designed to locate and track production from small backyard flocks. This is a result of increased awareness and concern over the threat of Avian Influenza (AI) and other poultry diseases. Under this program all establishments and/or persons that sell meat-type chicks (broilers) are required to have a Vendor License. This program is mandated by our regulations, which are supported by the *Nova Scotia Natural Products Act*.

Listed below are the responsibilities of all chick vendors and unlicensed individuals that wish to sell or purchase chicks in Nova Scotia.

Responsibilities of a Chick Vendor:

- Obtain a chick vendor license through CFNS free of charge.
- Sell up to a maximum of 49 chicks to an unlicensed individual (a person who does not hold a producer license or a special license for free range chicken).
- Collect from an unlicensed individual a fee of \$0.10 per chick sold.
- Collect personal information (name, address and phone number) from each unlicensed individual who purchases chicks on the Chick Sales Report (a copy of the CFNS Privacy Policy, which outlines how personal information is collected, remitted and used by CFNS will be provided to each licensed Chick Vendor).

- Remit on a monthly basis the fee of \$0.10 per chick sold and a completed Chick Sales Report to CFNS.

Responsibilities of an unlicensed individual:

- Purchase up to a maximum of 49 chicks for personal consumption.
- Pay the fee of \$0.10 per chick purchased.
- Provide their name and contact information to be remitted to CFNS.
- Do not sell the chicken, as doing so without a valid license is an offence under the *Natural Products Act* and Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia Regulations.

For more information about the Chick Vendor program or other licenses available from Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia, please contact Carlee Brydon at:

Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia
448 Main Street, Kentville, NS
B4N 1K8, Ph: (902) 681-7400,
Fax: (902) 681-7401
chicken@nschicken.com



Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Now Offering

Sunflower and Canola Production Insurance –

Producers wishing to insure these crops must apply for insurance before May 1, 2007. Make us part of your risk management plan - protect your crops against drought, frost, hail, wind, excessive moisture, insects, plant disease and wildlife. Coverage levels of 70, 80, 85 or 90 per cent are available.

For more details on any of the insurance plans contact us at 1-800-565-6371 (Truro) or (902) 679-6015/ 6028 (Kentville).

Canada

NOVA SCOTIA

Scotia Horticultural Congress

Bigger and Better Than Ever

Horticulture Nova Scotia has expanded the compass of their Scotia Hort Congress, held on January 29 and 30, 2007 at the Old Orchard Inn, just outside Wolfville.

Oxford Frozen Foods will hold "Carrot Day" for their producers as one of four concurrent sessions on January 30. Added to the regular vegetable and berry production sessions will be an IPM workshop, developed in cooperation with AgraPoint IPM specialist Peter Burgess. Participants will be able to gain up to 4.5 pesticide points at the IPM sessions. Pesticide points will also be available for other sessions throughout the Congress.

The theme "Back to Basics" reflects the emphasis on production, soil, environment, food safety, and other basic wholesome principles of farming. The keynote speaker on January 30, Graham Young of Barfoots of Botley, vegetable producers from West Sussex, England, represents a creative and very successful marketing strategy, built on a farming system that is environmentally and socially acceptable.

Also on January 30, we are pleased to provide a mini workshop "Unraveling the Mysteries of the On Farm Food Safety Program. Major retailers are demanding that their suppliers have a food safety program in place based on the CHC manuals, which are under development. This will provide a background for understanding.

At the annual meeting of Horticulture Nova Scotia, held during the Congress, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada will explain the new advance payment loan program that assists with cash flow. Hort NS administers this program for vegetable and potato

producers. Non-members and members are welcome to attend.

On the fun side of things, a banquet will be held on the evening of January 29, and the RBC innovator of the year award will be presented. Come and try our local sweet potatoes! The guest speaker is the very entertaining motivational speaker from Cape Breton, Charlie MacDonald.

When not attending sessions, participants can mingle at the trade show, find out about new products and services and enjoy the free lunch and nutrition breaks.

Canadian Nutrition Labelling Workshops

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, NS Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association and Taste of Nova Scotia Quality Food Program, are delivering two different workshops on Canadian Nutrition Labelling. Changes to regulations amending the Food and Drugs Regulations (Nutrition Labelling, Nutrient Content Claims and Health Claims) and their impact on the Canadian food industry will be discussed.

In addition to the Introductory Nutrition Labelling workshops, a new Claims workshop is being offered. This workshop is intended to build on information provided on claims and to give examples of permitted claims under the new Nutrition Labelling Regulations. Requirements for making claims and advertising will be discussed.

**SCOTIA
HORTICULTURAL
CONGRESS 2007**

**TRADE SHOW
&
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

"Back to Basics"

**January 29 & 30, 2007
Old Orchard Inn
Wolfville, NS**

Information is available at www.hortns.com or call Donna at (902) 678-9335 for a program.

We welcome producers and others interested in the horticultural industry to attend, network, learn and enjoy!

To obtain the maximum benefit from the workshops, it is strongly suggested you take the Introductory workshop before taking the Claims workshop.

All food manufacturers, importers, retailers and others who are involved in selling food products or creating labels for foods in Canada are invited to attend any session.

Introductory Nutrition Labelling Workshops

January 4, 2007, Dartmouth, CFIA office 1992 Agency Dr.
February 7, 2007, Kentville, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Research Station
March 21, 2007, Truro, Agri-TECH Center, 90 Research Dr
April 5, 2007, Sydney, To Be Determined
April 19, 2007, Yarmouth, To be Determined

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Nutrition Claims Workshop

January 11, 2007, Dartmouth, CFIA office, 1992 Agency Dr.
February 14, 2007, Kentville, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Research Station
March 28, 2007, Truro, Agri-TECH Center, 90 Research Dr
April 12, 2007, Sydney, To Be Determined
April 26, 2007, Yarmouth, To be Determined

Workshops will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

For further details and registration phone: Taste of Nova Scotia at (902) 492-9291, or 1-800-281-5507, or contact us by e-mail: taste@tasteofnovascotia.com

4-H News



4-H Members Invited to WISE UP!

All 4-H members ages 14 to 18 can sign up for WISE UP!, a weekend interactive escape for Senior 4-H members February 3 - 4, 2007 at Agri-Tech Park, Bible Hill, N.S. During the weekend, 4-H members will explore how to reach personal goals with interactive sessions, hear great speakers, tour the NSAC, and lots more!! There are opportunities for 4-H members to socialize with old or new friends, have a fabulous time while developing personal and leadership skills and expanding their horizons in agricultural careers.

Applications are available from the Regional 4-H Specialist. The deadline for applications is December 20, 2006. Applications can be returned to the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture 4-H office nearest you. Enclose your registration fee of \$45, payable to the Nova Scotia 4-H Council.

On Saturday, February 3, 2007, 4-H members will hear Tyler Hayden (everyone's favourite!) in the morning. He will motivate everyone with a presentation and the Gladiator Olympics. Then they will travel to Sugar Moon Farm - a maple syrup/sugar operation that includes making sugar on snow, a farm tour and a sleigh ride! Supper will be at the camp. Delicious pancakes, maple syrup, sausages and beans are on the menu. Saturday evening the delegates will go cosmic bowling, and have a pool and pizza party.

On Sunday, February 4, 2007 4-H members will board buses to the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to tour several aspects of the NSAC program. Then athletes from the Esteem Team will speak on how they have worked hard to reach personal goals. The Esteem Team received rave reviews at a previous 4-H conference. After lunch, everyone will head for home .

Sponsors of the conference are Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; Agri-food Industry Development Fund and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council.

4-H Members Sign 4-H Month Proclamation

A delegation representing Nova Scotia 4-H including Elise MacDonald, the 4-H Hostess; Brendan Cousins, the 4-H Host; Carmelita Cousins, a leader from the Northside 4-H Club; Glen Graham, Nova Scotia Representative to the Canadian 4-H Council; Cheryl Burbidge, immediate Past-President of the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and Cheryl Chandler, 4-H Communications Coordinator attended a proclamation signing for 4-H Month at Province House in Halifax.

The 4-H delegation toured the legislature then met with Premier Rodney MacDonald, Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture, and several other ministers for photos and the proclamation signing. The Premier commented that as a teacher he was always impressed with the

confidence and poise a 4-H member exhibits, especially when speaking in public and that 4-H members always stood out from other students in his class.

Later that day the delegation was escorted to and seated in the Speakers Gallery. When the legislature opened, introductions were made, the proclamation was read and 4-H received a standing ovation. In total three 4-H related resolutions were read in the House.

It was an excellent opportunity for the Nova Scotia 4-H program to be recognized provincially and for 4-H members to learn more about the legislature. The delegation met many MLA's and ministers, who all had very positive comments about the quality of the Nova Scotia 4-H program.

Nova Scotia 4-H Team Does Well at The Royal

Seventeen 4-H members represented Nova Scotia in two prestigious 4-H cattle shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in November. As well, Nova Scotia 4-H sent a delegate to the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture national public speaking competition.

The nine member 4-H dairy team who participated in the Scotiabank Dairy Classic were Patrick Thompson, Elise MacDonald, Daniel MacDonald, Brendan and Tristen Grant, from Antigonish County; Daniel Angus, Cumberland County; Brendan Lamb, Kings County; Andrea Crowe, Hants County; and Bridget Wilson, Inverness County.

In Showmanship Junior, Patrick Thomson placed 20th in a class of 113 and Bridget Wilson, placed 22nd in a class of 113. In Showmanship-Intermediate, Tristan Grant placed 14th in a class of 137.

In Conformation, Patrick Thomson placed ninth in a class of 82 with his Intermediate Holstein. Daniel MacDonald, placed seventh in a class of 95 in Senior Holstein. In Summer Yearling Holstein, Andrea Crowe placed sixth in a class of 71. Tristan Grant placed seventh in a class of 71 in Summer Yearling Holstein and Daniel Angus was eighth in a class of 13 Ayrshire Calves.

The eight members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Scotiabank Classic Canadian Royal Junior Beef Heifer Show were Nathan Greenough and Andrea Carter, Cumberland County; Carolyn Van den Heuvel, Antigonish County; Jane Ogilvie, Kenna Rousseau, Andre Horsnell from Kings County; Megan Robertson, Pictou County and Rebecca Gilby, Halifax East Hants.

The Nova Scotia Royal Junior Beef Heifer Team placed second overall in herdsmanship, while Megan Robertson and Andrea Carter advanced to the second round in showmanship.

In their respective classes Megan Robertson, Keera Rousseau and Rebecca Gilby placed second; Andrea Carter and Carolyn van den Heuvel placed third; Nathan Greeno placed fourth; Jane Ogilvie placed seventh and Andrea Horsnell placed eighth.

Nova Scotia 4-H also sent a representative to compete in the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture national public speaking competition. Meagan Sanford from Hants County placed second in this national competition.

Thanks to the committee members of the Scotiabank Dairy Classic Committee and the Scotiabank Classic Canadian Royal Junior Beef Heifer Show Selections Committee for their dedication and organizational skills that provide Nova Scotia 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.

UPCOMING COURSES AT THE NSAC OFFERED THROUGH CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION

Distance Education Courses Beginning January 3, 2007

Organic Agriculture
Organic Field Crop Management
Organic Livestock Production

Potato Production

Master Gardener Training Program
Next Intake Jan 1, 2007.

On Campus Courses Beginning in January 2007

Landscape Maintenance
Residential Landscape Design

Industry Immersion Short Courses

Landscape Installation Workshop Series (Jan, 5 - Mar. 2, 2007)
Atlantic Certified Crop Advisor Tutorial (Jan. 2007)
Agricultural Equipment Technician Apprenticeship (Feb. 5 - Mar. 9, 2007)

For more information contact:
Julia Lindsay, Program Manager
Continuing & Distance Education,
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
(902) 893-6238
jalindsay@nsac.ca

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

Happy Holidays

As the holiday season fast approaches it is our sincere hope that each and everyone of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. Everyone at the Kentville Agricultural office extends best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday on your farm!

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we have experienced during 2006 as we look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. May the peace and good will of this Christmas season gently fill your home. May you enjoy a prosperous and happy new year!

We look forward to working with you in the new year.

Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

We are once again trying to update our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and do not wish to receive it any longer or if your address is incorrect, please notify Cheryl by phone, (902) 679-6021, or e-mail: ctheriau@gov.ns.ca.

We are also trying to cut costs and would ask if you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify Cheryl and it will be sent out to you that way.

Farm Registration and Farm Vehicle Registration

Producers are reminded that farm registration can no longer be completed at the Kentville or Truro

offices. All registration must go through Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in Halifax. Therefore, please plan your vehicle registration around this. Give yourself plenty of time to get your farm registration completed before the end of December when farm plate registration is due.

Pesticide Recertification Courses

January 19, 2007 - Agricultural Centre, Kentville

January 26, 2007 - Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will be offering Recertification and Certification Courses in 2007. The cost for the Recertification Course is \$75, tax included. Please see Farm Focus for a complete listing or contact the ProAgri office at (902) 798-2114.

Valley Region 4-H Update

Young Speakers For Agriculture

Meagan Sanford from Newport 4-H Club in Hants County attended the National Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto as the Nova Scotia 4-H representative. Megan placed second in this national speaking competition! Meagan's topic was The Art of Farming: A Learned or Inherited Skill?. The competition is held annually at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. It provides the opportunity for young speakers to become more involved with agriculture, express their concerns in agriculture and to present their public speaking skills at a national level. This competition is open for participation from across the country.

National 4-H Award

Jennie Pick from Rawdon 2-Way 4-H Club and Jillian Robinson from Harmony Nicholasville 4-H Club attended the National Members Conference, while Eleanor Tree from Western Kings 4-H Club, Kings County attended the Volunteer



Leaders Conference in Toronto this November. All in attendance had a wonderful experience, leaving the conference with inspiration and great memories. Members and leaders listened to innovative speakers, attended workshops, tours, including a trip to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Winter Time in 4-H

4-H clubs in this region are busy planning skating parties, fundraising activities and participating in community involvement. Clubs are encouraged to get involved in their community and volunteer at community events. Some clubs do caroling/visiting a local senior citizens home, volunteer at food banks or at a local animal shelter. All of the 4-H Staff wish the 4-H families a wonderful holiday season! Hants County is having their Christmas Skating Party December 28 from 7-8 p.m. at the Newport and District Rink.

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Chat-A- Rama

Chat-A-Rama is designed specifically for 4-H members who are 14 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2007, who are eager to learn new things, meet new friends, and have fun. It will be held at Camp Hilles, Paradise, Annapolis County, Friday, March 9 to Saturday, March 10, 2007. The program for the 2007 Chat-A-Rama will focus on healthy living. The weekend will include sessions on healthy food choices, stress relievers, physical activity ideas, inspired living and local food production. All members who are interested, please contact the regional 4-H Specialist.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Hants County Skating Party – December 28, 7 - 8 p.m., at the Brooklyn Arena
Kings County New Leaders Information Session – January 3 at 6:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre, Cornwallis Room.
Kings County Council Meeting – January 3 at 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre, Cornwallis Room.
Hants County New Leaders Information Session – January 8, West Hants Middle School, 6 p.m., Room 122
Hants County Council Meeting – January 8, West Hants Middle School, 7 p.m., Room 122

If you're looking for more information on the 4-H program, check out our Nova Scotia 4-H web site, <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/>.

Happy Holidays

The staff of the Cape Breton Regional office of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture would like to extend a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a new year of happiness. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. We remind our farm owners and operators to keep SAFETY a top priority while they are enjoying the five F's of Christmas: Faith, Family, Friends, Food and Fun. May the new year refresh your spirit and bring you renewed inspiration and prosperity.

Canadian Nutrition Labeling Workshop

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, NS Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association and Taste of Nova Scotia Quality Food Program are delivering two different workshops on Canadian Nutrition Labelling. All food manufacturers, importers, retailers and others who are involved in selling food products or creating labels for foods in Canada are invited to attend any session.

(For more details see the notice in the main body of this newsletter.)

The Introductory workshop to Canadian Nutrition Labelling will be held Thursday, April 5, 2007 in Sydney; location to be determined.

The Canadian Nutrition Labelling Claims workshop will be held Thursday, April 12, 2007 in Sydney; location to be determined.

For more information contact: Taste of Nova Scotia at (902) 492-9291, or 1-800-281-5507, or by e-mail: taste@tasteofnovascotia.com

Upcoming Events from the Cape Breton Agriculture office for 2007

Presentation of a "Rural Energy Action Conference and Trade Show" for spring 2007. Inverness Victoria Federation, Strait Highlands RDA, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture.

Food Safety and HACCP Information Session for Farmers - Background on requirements and regulations from the "field to the fork".

Pesticide certification/re-certification course for points and licencing - Spring 2007.

Operation Spraycheck- Sprayer calibration and information session. This will provide points for re-certification as well - Spring 2007.
Ongoing production information sessions with AgraPoint staff.

For more information on any of these items please contact the agriculture office in Sydney at (902)563-2000.



St. John Ambulance Canada FIRST AID TRAINING

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



4-H: Lasting Impressions

The 2007 4-H year is starting out with a bang with lots of local, regional and provincial events to keep 4-Hers' on their toes. My clubs are preparing for a full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun. Here are a few things on the go for our 4-H families.

WISE UP! - SENIOR MEMBERS WORKSHOP

Take note, all 4-H senior members ages 14 to 18! WISE UP- Weekend Interactive Senior Escape held Feb 3-4 2007 at Agri-Tech Park will explore how to reach personal goals with interactive sessions, great speakers, a tour of the NSAC, and lots more!!

Contact your regional 4-H Specialist at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for more application information.

GENERAL LEADER KIT

General club leaders will receive a binder in January from the Provincial 4-H office. This binder includes information and forms pertinent to all 4-H members, such as scholarship forms, applications to Camp Rankin and 4-H weekend, a video list, rules and regulations for various competitions, etc. This information is also available on the 4-H website at: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/

NEW LEADER TRAINING

“Welcome to the 4-H Team” is a workshop that introduces 4-H to our new leaders. As part of the volunteer screening process, all new leaders must attend a training session. Four sessions will be offered in 2007. Leaders are free to attend any session. During these sessions you will be given information regarding the 4-H program, the leader screening process and what resources and support systems are available to leaders. This session is compulsory and is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you have regarding the program.

The dates for the New Leader Training Sessions are included.

Inverness County	4-H office - Mabou	Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007 at 7 p.m.
Richmond County	TBA	Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007 at 6 p.m.
Cape Breton County	Board Room 1st Floor 320 Esplanade	Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007 at 6 p.m.
Victoria County	Nicholson's home	Tuesday, Jan. 22 2007 at 6 p.m.

DATES TO MARK ON THE CALENDAR

- Senior member conference deadline, December 20, 2006
- Christmas Skating Party, Wednesday, December 27, 2006, 1-3 p.m. at Mabou Rink. All 4-H families are invited.
- Cape Breton Co. meeting, January 2, 2007, Community Rm. (Civic Center)
- Inverness Co. Council meeting, January 10, 2007, 7 p.m. at the 4-H office.
- Victoria Co. meeting, January 22, 2007, 7 p.m., Nicholson's
- Nova Scotia 4-H Council meeting, January 20, 2007
- Skating Party-Sunday, January 28, 2007, 2-3 p.m., Richmond Arena
- Richmond Co. Council meeting, January 31, 2007, 7 p.m., Landry's

Feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or questions you would like to address. We can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2000 (Marina).

**HAVE SAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

As the year winds down, producers should plan some events for early in the new year. CAIS participants should accurately access inventory so that completion of the supplement forms will be easier in the spring.

Business Planning:

If your farm is having increased difficulties with cash flow, then perhaps consider the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Service, CFBAS. This will allow you to have a consultant for \$2000 with an out of pocket expense of \$100 and allow you to explore your farm situation.

FIF review and information sessions will be held early in the winter. Producers should start thinking about projects in the spring, especially the projects which require planning. Water course activities may require an alteration permit from Department of Environment, they may be for ditching, rocking, erosion protection, cattle watering access improvements, etc. Manure storages require plans and environment assessment, often easier to do in the winter to see the actual conditions. Riparian projects may require ordering trees, recommendations, etc. It never hurts to have your homework done early.

To all the farmers and their families, have a Merry Christmas from the Agriculture office in Antigonish.

Kevin, Laureen, Lois

Seasons Greetings

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is my sincere hope that each and every one of you find the joy and happiness that this time of year offers.

As we look back on our accomplishments over the past year and look forward to the new challenges and opportunities of the new year, I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the warmth of friends and family. Everyone at the Agricultural office wishes you and yours a very safe, happy holiday season on your farm.

Farm Registration and Farm Vehicle Registration

All producers are reminded that you must have a valid farm registration in order to obtain farm plates. Since farm registration is now processed in Halifax at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, be sure to give yourself enough time so that you can get a current farm registration to obtain farm plate renewals at the end of December.

Important Dates in Early 2007

January 17-18	Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia Annual Meeting (Old Orchard Inn)
January 26-27	NS Mink Breeders Annual Meeting
January 29-30	Scotia Hort Congress (Old Orchard Inn)
January 30-31	NS Fruit Growers' Association Annual Meeting (Old Orchard Inn)
March 8 -	NS Turkey Producers' Marketing Board Annual Meeting (Canning)
March 8-10 -	Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show
March 14-20	Farm Safety Week

Be sure to Farm Safely this Holiday Season

As we approach the holiday season, farmers and their families are reminded to take a moment to practice farm safety. Here are some things that will help ensure that you and your family have a safe, happy, holiday season.

- Snow and ice will soon be here. Use extra care and be prepared for slippery surfaces, whether they are in barns, around the farmyard, or on the highways.
- Now is a good time to ensure equipment used during the winter months is given a maintenance check to ensure it is working properly and safely. Be sure all safety guards are in place.
- If you haven't already done so, make sure your flue is cleaned.
- At home, use extra care with extension cords and lights, as well as candles, to avoid electrical or fire hazards.
- If you have one, check your generator and perform any necessary maintenance.

Season's Greetings

As the holiday season fast approaches it is our sincere hope that each and everyone of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. Everyone at the Agriculture office extends best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season on your farm!

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we've experienced during 2006 as we look forward to the many opportunities the coming year will bring. May the peace of the season be with you and may you enjoy a prosperous and happy new year.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

Dennis Moerman P.Ag.

Annette Belliveau



Western Region 4-H Leaders Attend National and International Conferences

November was 4-H month in Nova Scotia and across Canada. This month long celebration provided an opportunity to showcase the many benefits of the 4-H program. Three 4-H Leaders from the Western Region of Nova Scotia were recognized for their leadership in the 4-H program and represented the area at the National 4-H Leaders Conference held in Toronto on November 1-5, 2006. They also accompanied the Maritime Delegation of 4-H members to the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

Ricky Churchill, who has been a Leader of the Prince Charles 4-H Club in Yarmouth County for over 20 years, accompanied the 4-H members from the Maritimes to the World Dairy Expo. At this conference, dairy 4-H members from the USA and Canada met for a time of learning through seminars, fun activities, and information sessions. Ricky has also been President of the Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council.

Leslie Harris, a Leader with the Bear River 4-H Club, the Bear River Trail Blazers, secretary of the Digby County 4-H Leaders Council, attended the National 4-Leaders Conference. For Leslie it was an experience of a lifetime to represent the leaders of the province, the 4-H program, participate in activities and presentations by noted speakers, as well as attend the Royal Winter Fair.

For Sharon Shaw, a Foods Leader from the Clarence 4-H Club, the National 4-H Leaders Conference gave her a new appreciation for the people who volunteer their time and effort to the local 4-H program. Sharon returned with a new commitment to the 4-H program, refreshed and ready with new ideas.

Applications for the Leaders Travel Awards Program for 2007 are found in the General Leaders' Kit. Applications must be submitted by December 15, 2006. All leaders are encouraged to apply.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

4-H Leader Council Meetings:

Annapolis: January 10, 2007
Yarmouth: January 17, 2007
Digby: January 18, 2007

Leaders Workshops:

Annapolis Royal: January 22, 2007
Bridgewater: January 31, 2007

Chat-a-rama:

Camp Hilles: March 9-10, 2007

Call the 4-H office at (902) 584-2081 or (902) 584-2080 for information on any of these events or programs

Understanding Farm Income Taxes

Tuesday, January 16 at 7 p.m. at NSCC Burrigde - room #B150. This session will provide an overview of Farm Income Taxes and provide an opportunity to ask specific questions of the speaker, Mr Marcel Godbout, CA, Partner, Tax, with Grant Thornton LLP in Kentville, Nova Scotia.

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Marcel has been in public practice since 1993 and is a Tax Partner in the Kentville office. His responsibilities include provision of taxation and management consulting services in various industries. Marcel has been involved with and/or supervised engagements in agricultural, charitable, fishing, municipal, and manufacturing operations. His main client base is in the agricultural, manufacturing and processing sectors.

Marcel has represented clients in Agriculture/Agri Food processing in all areas of business and tax planning. The Southwest Nova Scotia cluster of offices has a significant agriculture client base which has been growing consistently over the last number of years. Accordingly, Marcel has experience in substantially all commodities in regards to tax planning and risk management program preparation. In addition, Marcel has been

involved with and has supervised numerous tax reorganizations, sole proprietorships – corporation and partnerships. These engagements included a detailed review of the filing practices for NISA, tax and accounting regarding inventories, prepaids and other cash vs. accrual issues.

Registration for this session is free, but you are asked to pre-register by calling (902) 837-5161.