

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #'s	Acrobat Reader Page #
Main Newsletter <i>(for all regions)</i>		
Farm Registration	1	2
Agrifest 2006.....	1	2
NS Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission	1	3
Programs and Business Risk Management Division.....	2	3
Changes to Pesticide Applicator's Certification	3	4
Pesticide Applicator's Certification - Course	3	4
Farmers get a chance to tell their story	4	5
NSAC Creates Greenhouse Gas Kits	4	5
Community Pasture.....	5	6
Canada's Bi-Monthly Farm Management Newsletter.....	5	6
Renewable Energy on the Farm 2006	6	7
Canadian Agriculture Safety Week	7	8
4-H News:		
4-H Members to Attend the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar	8	9
Scholarships Available for 4-H Members.....	8	9
Become a Camp Rankin Counselor	8	9
4-H Members Set to Fund Raise	9	10
Dairy Focus 'focuses' on Skills to Help Farmers Succeed	9	10
Maritime Marketing Caravan 2006	9	10
Custom Newsletter Pages <i>(for individual regions)</i>		
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties	10	11
East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties.....	10	13
Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond counties	10	15
Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness and Guysborough counties	10	17
Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties.....	10	18

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2006 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Volume 7 No. 1

Farm Registration 2006-2007 Coming Soon...

Service Nova Scotia administers the Farm Registration System on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Renewal notices will be issued by late February. One change is that there will no longer be any refunds of registration dollars.

Section 5 of the Farm Registration form provides an opportunity for you to support the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture through your farm registration. If you do not wish to be a member of the federation, the information you provide will not be forwarded to the NSFA.

For further information on NSFA membership and benefits, please contact:
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
339 Willow Street
Truro, N.S. B2N 5A6
Phone: (902) 893-2293
Fax: (902) 893-7063
Email: nsfa@eastlink.ca

Second Agrifest Taking Place August 10-13 2006

Agrifest, the popular outdoor festival celebrating agriculture and food in the region, is happening again! Agrifest 2006 will be taking place August 10-13 in Canning, Nova Scotia on the original event's 50-acre site. The event programming is being developed now and will include plot tours, seminars, field and machinery demos, exhibitors, theme gardens, food demos and marketplace, entertainment and interactive learning in the Family

Pavilion. Enhancements include wider site roads and site transportation, a central information and welcome centre, one evening event and a livestock component. Watch for more information. Get exhibitor and sponsorship information at www.agrifest.com



Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines 2006

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

All producers who hold an active contract of insurance in one or more of the above plans will receive a Coverage Quote form(s) before the start of the crop year. This will give producers an opportunity to choose their price

option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season.

Dairy Livestock Insurance

This program provides insurance against a loss of livestock from insurable diseases and a benefit for loss of income from milk production. Call us for more information.

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

NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

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

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

PROGRAMS AND BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program

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

You may be eligible for more 2004 CAIS benefits.....

When you file your tax information for the CAIS program, the numbers are adjusted for inventory changes that you report on the Supplementary form. The numbers supplied on inventory schedules (Part 2 and 3 of Supp. form) can have a significant impact on your CAIS benefits. Producers in Nova Scotia may be able to receive more funds. When filling out the 2003 Supplementary forms, some producers did not report crop inventory for perishable crops or forage used for feeding their own livestock. In fact, producers should

report the production of all crops, including forage (hay, silage, etc.). If you did not supply this information in 2003, CAIS has you recorded as an ending inventory of zero for 2003. Therefore, when you report a starting inventory of crops in 2004 that does not match the amount supplied as ending inventory for 2003 (zero), they will not accept your 2004 starting inventory. Once you receive the COB, you can appeal to have your **actual** 2004 starting inventory used. Depending on the amount of forage produced, the amount your CAIS benefits were reduced could be significant.

2005 CAIS Harmonized Forms Available

The 2005 CAIS Harmonized form combines the Statement of Farming Activities (T1163) with the Supplementary Form to provide one package (T1273) with **one** submission deadline. With this simplification comes the ability for most producers to EFILE all

information in one step. There is still an option to EFILE the tax portion and then paper file the supplementary information, as in past years. **HOWEVER**, both portions must be received by the Harmonized Form (T1273) deadline of June 15/06 for individuals and June 30/06 for corporations.

The 2005 CAIS Harmonized Forms were mailed out the last week of January to CAIS participants. If you need instant access to the forms, they are available on the CAIS website.

2005 CAIS Interim

Did the 2005 program year not turn out as well as you expected? You can access 50% of your final CAIS benefits in an Interim payment. It also allows quick access to funds as the Interim processing standard is 30 days. CAIS has been very effective in processing the Interim applications within the allowed standard. **The deadline for a 2005 Interim is March 1, 2006.**

CAIS 2006 Program Year Underway

There are some significant changes proposed for the CAIS program in the 2006 program year. With a new federal government forming, we await final decisions on things such as the deposit, inventory valuation, and further program simplification. It is important to keep "tuned-in" to publications and direct mailings that will bring you the most recent updates as they become available.

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 (NSDAF) at (902) 893-6374 or call the toll free line at 1-866-844-4276.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

The following information sessions will provide producers with a general overview of the Farm Investment Fund (FIF) program. The focus will be on the federal environmental category activities or Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Locations for FIF Meetings

March 1/06 - Yarmouth, Meadowfields School cafeteria, 7 p.m.
March 2/06 - Berwick, Lions Club, 7 p.m.
March 3/06 - Windsor, Kingsway Gardens, 7 p.m.
March 6/06 - Antigonish, St. Ninians Place, 7 p.m.
March 7/06 - Baddeck, Knox Church Hall, 7 p.m.
March 8/06 - Amherst, Wandlyn Inn, 7 p.m.
March 9/06 - Truro, Howard Johnson's Inn, 7 p.m.

For more information contact Darlene McCallum (NSDAF) at (902) 893-7076 or call the toll free line at 1-866-844-4276.

Changes to Pesticide Applicators Certification

(Lynda Rankin, NSDEL)

Nova Scotians needing a pesticide application certificate have until April 30, 2006 to write the current exam. After that date, new training materials and exams will be used. The exam process will also change.

The Department of Environment and Labour coordinates the exams to ensure that pesticides are used safely without any adverse effect on people and the environment.

Currently, an open book exam is required to receive a pesticide application certificate. After April 30, no books, notes or electronic devices will be permitted in the exam room. The department will supply a calculator.

Exams written after April 30 will be based on the new training materials. The materials will be available free of charge from the Department of Environment and Labour's website at www.gov.ns.ca/enla/pests/applicator.asp. Some materials are also available for purchase from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College bookstore.

The exam can be written at any time by calling the nearest Environment and Labour office to make arrangements.

Applicants still have the option of obtaining the necessary materials for self-study and then writing the exam, or taking courses. The department recommends taking courses for people new to the field.

A certificate is good for five years. It must be renewed by re-writing the exam or collecting 15 continuing education credits.

Approved re-certification training courses worth credits are offered by industry associations, government extension specialists, community colleges, trainers in private industry, or through conferences and industry events.

For more information, contact the nearest Environment and Labour office:

Kentville	(902) 679-6086
Bedford	(902) 424-7773
Amherst	(902) 667-6205
Sydney	(902) 563-2100

Pesticide Applicator's Certification

This course, provided by NSAC professor Glen Sampson, teaches farmers the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. It is excellent preparation for those writing the Department of Environment and Labour's Pesticide Applicator's Examination. Course content ranges from integrated pest management principles to performing your own calibration and calculations. Information is presented about ground application of pesticides and does not include aerial spraying.

The course is being offered at the NSAC on the following dates and times:

Monday, April 10 – Wednesday, April 12	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 13	8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Optional sessions on Monday, April 10 and Tuesday, April 11 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Registration deadline is March 24, 2006.

To obtain your pesticide applicator's license, you must pass a pesticide applicator's examination. If you take this course, we administer the exam at no additional fee and forward it to the Department of the Environment and Labour. Your exam result will be mailed to you and you may purchase a license through that office. For more information, contact your local agency.

NSAC is offering a one-day Pesticide Application Technology course for farmers on Tuesday, February 21 for those already certified and who require five PRCP points. For more information on this course or others offered, please contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education, Nova Scotia Agricultural College
Tel: (902) 893-6666
Fax: (902) 895- 5528
Email: cde@nsac.ca
Website: www.nsac.ca/cde

Farmers get a chance to tell their story

(Statistics Canada)

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

The farmer of the 21st century works in an industry that is becoming more and more complex. Farmers wear many hats to operate a successful business: accountant, mechanic, carpenter, heavy equipment operator, and environmentalist. In addition to farming, an operator may also work off the farm. In short, farmers are busy people working in a dynamic and challenging industry.

The profile of Canada's farmers is different than the general working population. Census information tells us that farm operators have a higher median age than the comparable labour force population of self-employed workers — 49 and 44 respectively. Moreover, farmers under 35 years old poised to fill their boots is shrinking rapidly, representing only 12 per cent of all farmers. Nearly 20 per cent of self-employed workers in the general labour force are under 35. In the entire labour force, 40 per cent of all workers are less than 35 years old.

Then there's technology. Advances in irrigation systems, breeding, biotechnology, disease control and soil conservation have made the farm more productive and efficient than ever before. Yet farmers in Canada are always looking for new opportunities because prices for most traditional farm commodities are in a long-term decline and, as analysis of census data indicates, many farmers are struggling to make a profit. New crops or new uses for existing crops may offer interesting new markets

for many farmers. The biotechnology industry is just one of the exciting areas that is seeing many interesting developments for agriculture — corn to make into ethanol for gasoline and canola to make diesel fuel more engine-friendly, are just two examples. Agriculture is continually changing. The Census of Agriculture provides information on the many sides of this vital industry — from crop area to manure management to farm-related injuries. The data “snapshot” captured by the Census of Agriculture every five years highlights trends and new developments in agriculture. Although farms have been decreasing in number overall, down almost 11 per cent since 1996, farms have been getting bigger in size. The average farm in 2001 was 676 acres, compared with 608 acres in 1996. Those with gross receipts of \$250,000 or more accounted for 13.8 per cent of all farms in 2001, compared with 9.4 per cent in 1996 (at 2000 prices). The 2006 Census of Agriculture will give us more information on how, or if, this is changing.

The farm industry as a whole benefits from census data in many ways. For example, agricultural producer groups are guided by data from the census when informing their membership about industry trends and developments; putting operators' viewpoints before legislators and the Canadian public; and defending their interests in international trade negotiations. Governments use them to make decisions about crop insurance, agricultural credit policies, transportation, market services and international trade. Census information also helps other businesses market their products and services to farm operators and it is a valuable tool when making production and investment decisions.

Statistics Canada is legally required to conduct a census every five years. By the same law, Statistics Canada is required to protect the information provided on census of agriculture forms — privacy is a fundamental component of the census.

On May 16, 2006, tell your story by counting yourself in as part of Canada's farm community!

NSAC Creates Greenhouse Gas Kits

A faculty member in the NSAC Environmental Sciences department has developed an effective tool to help farmers determine greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A Soil Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Kit, developed by Dr. David Burton of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, is part of a national Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Program. The kit has been provided to seven provinces.

Four types of kits were created under the program. The main funding groups were the Soil Conservation Council of Canada, Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Researchers wanted to know if changing certain soil and livestock management practices actually reduced GHG emissions. They needed a way of measuring emissions. With the kit, technicians

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can go to a farm to take samples of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, which are sent away for analysis.

Researchers have been conducting fertilizer trials to determine if productivity can be maintained at lower levels of nitrogen fertilizer application. If farmers can be shown that they can save money by using less fertilizer, nitrous oxide emissions will be reduced as well. This benefits the environment, the economy and, ultimately, the consumer.

Manchester Community Pasture

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board is looking for an individual or group of persons interested in re-establishing and operating the Manchester Cooperative Community Pasture in Manchester, Guysborough County. This property contains 105 acres total land area, of which approximately 95 per cent is cleared. The community pasture will provide grazing and other related pasturing services to farmers who do not have sufficient grazing capacity at home.

Information on the Manchester property is available, including location map, aerial photograph, photographs taken of the property in 2005 and a standard community pasture lease. Viewing of the lands can be arranged.

Interested persons are asked to contact one of the following:
Kevin Bekkers, P.Eng., Agricultural Resource Coordinator, Antigonish (902) 863-7500
Maria McCurdy, P.Ag., Senior Loans Officer, Truro (902) 893-6505
James Neary, P.Ag., Loans Officer, Truro (902) 893-8178

Canada's Bi-Monthly Farm Management Newsletter

*Submitted by Maria McCurdy,
Senior Loans Officer, Nova Scotia
Farm Loan Board*

Canadian Farm Manager is published by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council and is free on farmcentre.com and through subscription.

The following excerpt is taken from the December - January 2006 newsletter and has been reprinted courtesy of the Canadian Farm Business Management Council.

Seeking Success – Seeking to Soar
Agriculture has a little secret that it seems few want to talk about in public: Some farmers make pretty good money. And not just in good times. Even in crisis periods; even when others are saying it's impossible to make a living, some farm managers are doing a lot more than just getting by.

"It's kind of astounding for some people when they see a farmer making half a million bucks a year – they don't think that's possible," says Alberta farm management consultant Gary Pike. "But it is, even in today's environment."

Pike has put together a group of western Canadian grain and cattle farmers who believe profitable farming is pretty simple – if you adopt the best practices that have been used by successful farm managers the world over.

One of the gurus of the best-practices movement is Danny Klinefelter, a Texas ag economist

who made a groundbreaking discovery while working for a major U.S. farm lender during the farm crisis of the mid 1980s. He saw the income statements and balance sheets of hundreds of farmers and was fascinated to see that some made money while others – seemingly identical in terms of production, debt, size, and other key factors – were losing their shirts.

"Not surprisingly, these farmers never talked about the fact they were making money," recalls Klinefelter. "Because everybody was suffering so much, they were very reluctant to talk about their success. They kept their heads down and didn't say much."

Upon his return to the academic world, the Texas A&M professor used the lender's data to study in-depth what was going on.

"I asked: Are they lower-cost producers? Do they get more out of the dollars they have invested in fixed capital? Are they better marketers? Are they better producers?"

"And what I found is the answer is yes. Yes, but just by a little bit. In other words, they weren't generally at the top in any of these categories, they were just a little better – right across the board."

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board, I'd like to encourage everyone to visit farmcentre.com and take advantage of a vast collection of farm management information and resources.



Renewable Energy on the Farm 2006

February 27, 2006 Old Orchard Inn
February 28, 2006 Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre

The Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture in cooperation with NSFA, Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is pleased to present two, one-day conferences focusing on energy conservation, alternative sources of energy and new technologies with an agricultural application. We hope to provide practical information that producers can start applying right away to make a difference on their farm operations. Guest speakers will cover various topics relating to energy including:

- ✓ Energy conservation
- ✓ Biogas/Co-digestion
- ✓ Wind power
- ✓ Solar power
- ✓ Biomass combustion

Schedule of Presentations

9:30–10:00	Registration, meet and greet.
10:00–10:15	Introductions and Opening Remarks from NSFA Representatives
10:15–11:15	Energy Conservancy on the Farm - Ron MacDonald P.Eng., Agviro Inc.
11:15–12:15	Bio-mass Opportunities - Bruce MacCallum, Canadian Bio-Energy
12:15–1:00	Lunch/Networking
1:00–2:00	Wind Opportunities - Carl Brothers, Frontier Energy - Barry Walker, Nova Scotia Power
2:00–2:50	Solar opportunities - TBA
2:50–3:10	Break/networking
3:10–4:30	Bio-gas, Co-digestion - Bruce Bowman, Research Scientist, AAFC



Registration Form

Please check preferred Location and Date

- Monday, February 27, 2006 – Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, N.S. @ 9 a.m.
 Tuesday, February 28, 2006 – Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre @ 9 a.m.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Registration #: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax#: _____

Email: _____

- Fees: # \$20.00 / person* Registered Farms
 \$30.00 / person* Other

* Registration fee includes meal

Deadline to register** is February 23, 2006

** You may register by fax, email or phone at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture office.

Cheques may be made payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

More information available on the federation website at www.nsfawanda.ca

339 Willow Street, Truro, NS B2N 5A6
Telephone: (902) 893-2293
Fax: (902) 893-7063
Email: nsfawanda@eastlink.ca
Our office is located in the Colchester Co-Operative Services Building

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

March 8 – 14, 2006

“**Farm Safety is MY Business**” is the theme of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. This year’s campaign emphasizes the personal and professional responsibilities of farm managers for their own safety, their families and their employees. This risk management theme focuses on youth aged 15 – 29 who make up a significant portion of new farm workers.

On average 115 people are killed and another 1,500 seriously injured each year in farming related incidents in Canada, and countless minor injuries are never reported. Improved occupational health and safety means fewer and less severe injuries, better trained and informed employers and workers, improved morale among workers and better efficiency and reduced costs for your farm.

One method of achieving this is through a hazard management method called S.A.F.E. Minimizing risk is achieved by **seeing** the hazard, **assessing** the risk from the hazard, **fixing** the hazard and then **evaluating** the results.

See the hazards

Farm managers need a simple procedure for routinely identifying hazards in the workplace. This can most effectively be achieved by involving farm workers who are often aware of any problems that exist. By involving workers in developing safety solutions, they will be more committed to making it work. Both farm managers and workers should regularly inspect the workplace and machinery to identify the hazards.

Assess the risk from the hazard

Risk is a measure of probability that an incident will occur and the severity of the injuries. The measure of risk can be rated as high, medium

or low. Once risks have been assessed, you can use the risk rating to prioritize the hazards that need immediate action from those that can be monitored and fixed later. This regular assessment can also help farm managers to budget time and resources toward repairs and maintenance.

Fix the hazard

Once the risk has been prioritized, managers and workers must develop appropriate controls to help minimize the risk. Risk controls should be considered in a specific order that addresses hazards at their source and include the following:

Elimination: Stop doing a high risk task, or stop using high risk equipment.

Substitution: Use a less toxic chemical or a less noisy piece of equipment.

Engineering: Fit guards to a hazardous piece of machinery

Administration: Post warning signs, write safe work procedures (especially important for younger/new workers) or change the timing of a task.

Personal Protective Equipment: Provide those working on the farm with PPE, such as ear plugs, safety glasses.

In reality, many controls are a combination of two or more control types - once controls are in place the next step is to evaluate their effectiveness.

Evaluate the Results

After the appropriate control measures have been taken, monitor the situation and inspect it regularly to make sure that the actions taken are working and not creating any additional risks.

“With the new cropping season just around the corner, it is important to keep safety top of mind,” says Bob Friesen, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. “See, assess, fix and evaluate are words to live by.”

Nova Scotia farmers, their families and employees must be involved in maintaining a S.A.F.E. workplace because “**Farm Safety is MY Business.**”

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:
Arthur Pick – Truro, pickaa@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 893-7314 • Fax: (902) 893-0244

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:
Brian MacCulloch – macculbc@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 679-6006 • Fax: (902) 679-6062

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:
Bill MacLeod – macleobj@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 893-3645 • Fax: (902) 893-0244

Pictou, Antigonish & Guysborough counties:
Kevin Bekkers – bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 863-4705 • Fax: (902) 863-7342

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness & Richmond counties:
Gary Koziel – kozielgj@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 563-2000 • Fax: (902) 563-3435

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:
Dennis Moerman – moermade@gov.ns.ca
Tel: (902) 837-5161 • Fax: (902) 837-7696



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

Seven 4-H members from Nova Scotia will gain a better understanding of Canada's political process while attending the 35th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, March 31 – April 8, 2006. They will join approximately 55 4-H members from across the country to examine their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

The theme of this year's seminar is “**Your Place in Canada**”. Delegates at the conference will become aware

of how youth can influence the political process and familiar with the political parties that make up the Canadian government. 4-H members will gain an understanding of current issues that the government is working on in relation to federal-provincial equalization transfer program.

Nova Scotia delegates attending are Kelsey MacNeil and Joe Thomson, Cape Breton County; Miles Cloutier, Annapolis County; Joan Cole, Halifax -East Hants; Jessica Clark,

Hants County; Jenny Mason, Lunenburg County and Rebecca Melvin, Kings County.

Throughout the seminar the delegates will hear guest speakers, participate in discussion groups, visit the Supreme Court of Canada, Parliament Hill, view Question Period and will participate in a Canadian Citizenship ceremony, social activities and tours, and have lunch with their MP on Parliament Hill.

Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

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

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

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

Become a Camp Rankin Counselor!

Are you creative? Do you like hiking, canoeing, swimming and playing games? Are you outgoing and enjoy kids? Do you enjoy nature and being outdoors? Do you want to have the best summer of your life? Apply for a camp counselor position at Camp Rankin! Positions available are director, assistant director, canoeing counselor, drama counselor, nature counselor, recreation counselor, water safety counselor, 4-H counselor.

Camp Rankin is a beautiful residential camp located on the shores of Cape Breton's Bras d'Or Lakes. 4-H members aged 9 to 15 from across Nova Scotia will be attending camp for one week at a time. The program runs for five weeks beginning in July. The camp offers lots of fun activities for all members.

If you are 16 years of age or older, have two years of significant camping experience; have grade 12 (university experience would be an asset); have a First Aid certificate; 4-H background and/ or knowledge of 4-H program;

good moral character, integrity and emotional maturity; have the ability to work with and instruct others and enjoy the outdoors — fill out an application! The canoeing counselor must have a valid canoeing course certificate. The water safety counselor must have valid lifeguard certification.

Counselors are generally responsible for following camp rules and setting a good example for campers; looking after a cabin of campers; being creative with stories; sleep in the cabin with campers for their safety; prepare your own sessions; camper supervision on hikes and group activities; conduct a camp fire session; and make sure you have the best summer yet!!

Counselor in training positions are also available. These volunteer positions are for one of the camping weeks.

The application deadline is March 15. Contact your local 4-H office if you are interested in any of these summer jobs or check with your General Leader for an application.

4-H Members Set To Fund Raise

This spring if a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar it's for a good cause. Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in a provincial fund raising campaign. The campaign runs from March 6 - April 3, 2006. Chocolate bars with almonds, chocolate covered almonds or milk chocolate bars are available for sale \$2 each.

Sale proceeds are split between the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties selling bars. The provincial council uses the money to support provincial events and programs such as the EBI Showcase; National Travel Opportunity registrations; Camp Rankin, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships; 4-H Weekend, Annual Meeting and 4-H Show.

Dairy Focus 'focuses' on Skills to Help Farmers Succeed

AgraPoint International

The skills needed to succeed in farming range from innovative production practices to effectively managing staff. This year's Dairy Focus has recognized that and responded. 'Taking it to the Next Level – the Skills to Help You Succeed' is the theme of the 2006 Dairy Focus being held March 29 and 30 2006 at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, Nova Scotia. This biannual conference, hosted by Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, is introducing concurrent sessions to increase topics covered and has added a number of management sessions related to time, life balance and human resources.

The agenda includes Dr. Neil Anderson from OMAF (Cozying Up to Cow Comfort) sponsored by Shur-Gain; Dr. Stephen Leblanc from the University of Guelph (Why Isn't She Bred?) sponsored by Pfizer; Dr. Ewen Ferguson of Ferguson Vet Services (Who to Keep and Who to Cull: Is there a right answer?); Dr. Randy Shaver from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Managing Forages as Part of the Feeding System) sponsored by AgraPoint; and Dr. Bob Milligan from Cornell University and Dairy Strategies LLC (Successful Personnel Management: Leading and Coaching for Superior Productivity and Extraordinary Job Satisfaction) sponsored by CIBC.

Other topics to be covered include conflict resolution, how to farm and have a life, negotiation tips and a producer panel. A short lameness workshop will also be offered and there will be a trade show. Other sponsors include vanOostrum's Farm Equipment, Diamond V, Co-op Atlantic, Scotsburn, Canadian Farm Business Management Council, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

For sponsorship information, to register and to learn more about the agenda, visit www.agrapoint.ca/dairyfocus2006.html or call Lynne at (902) 678-7722.

Maritime Marketing Caravan 2006 New Brunswick - Country Charms Conference

Sponsored by the Canadian Farm Management Council and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
March 15 – 16, 2006, at the Memramcook Learning and Vacation Resort, New Brunswick

Speakers will address strategic subjects, including maximizing on-farm sales; marketing on a small budget; agri-tourism: a business opportunity?; choosing a distribution network; enhancing local products; and testimonies from business

Value-added activities will include how does your product fare? get feedback from participants; come do business with participating businesses and interested buyers.

You can register for the conference by telephone at 1-866-601-1389 or download the form at www.farmcentre.com and fax to

(613) 232-0120, or mail with payment to:

ConferSense Planners Inc.
251 Bank Street, Suite 401
Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

For assistance or more information, call 1-866-601-1389.

Accommodations

Memramcook Learning and Vacation Resort
488 Centrale Street
Memramcook, New Brunswick
E4K 3S6

To reserve a room, please call 1-800-568-2511 and mention the Marketing Caravan.



Pesticide Certification Courses

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

Certification Courses

February 23-24 - AgriTech Park, Bible Hill
March 23-24 - Kentville Agricultural Centre
April 12-13 - Kentville Agricultural Centre

Re-certification Courses

February 24 - AgriTech Park, Bible Hill
March 31 - Kentville Agricultural Centre

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

Pesticide Re-certification is designed for those individuals who have a current license and would like to accumulate re-certification points towards their new license. Individuals will complete five hours of pesticide safety course topics and are issued certification points - one point for each hour of training. These re-certification points (maximum of five per year) are accumulated over a number of years through training courses and it takes three to five years to complete. Please check the expiry date on your NSDEL Pesticide Certification card before making a final decision to earn re-certification points.

Valley Region 4-H Events and Activities

- February 24 Hants County 4-H Royalty Night, Brooklyn Fire Hall
- February 25 Kings County Annual Light Horse Meeting, 1 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre
- March 6 Kings County 4-H Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre
- March 20 Hants County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School

Kings County Farm and Rural Women's Day

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

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

For more information and/or a registration form contact Eleanor Tree, (902) 538-3379 or Ann Palmeter, (902) 542-3204.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Livestock Sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition grounds will begin soon. 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 dates for upcoming sales: March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20.

South Shore Region 4-H Events and Activities

- February 18 Lunenburg County 4-H Winter Carnival and Sprout Day, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., West Northfield
 March 7 – Lunenburg County 4-H Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall
- March 8 2006 NS 4-H Committee Meeting, 8 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall
- March 15 Shelburne 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Enterprise Centre, Shelburne
- March 16 Lunenburg County 4-H Exhibition Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Provincial Building, Bridgewater
- March 28 Queens County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., North Queens High School
- April 4 Lunenburg County 4-H Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall
- April 8 Shelburne County 4-H Rally, Lower Ohio Hall
- April 8 Lunenburg County 4-H Rally, Location TBA
- April 12 2006 NS 4-H Committee Meeting, 8 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall
- April 19 Shelburne 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Enterprise Centre, Shelburne
- April 20 Lunenburg County 4-H Exhibition Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Provincial Building, Bridgewater
- April 22 South Shore Region 4-H Regional Rally, Lunenburg County, Location TBA

Coming Events

- February 23-24 Pesticide Certification Course, AgriTech Park, Bible Hill
- February 24 Pesticide Re-certification Course, AgriTech Park, Bible Hill
- February 27 Renewable Energy on the Farm, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, 10 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- March 2 Farm Investment Fund Information Session, Berwick Lion Club, 7 p.m.
- March 3 Farm Investment Fund Information Session, Kingsway Gardens, Windsor, 7 p.m.
- March 23-24 Pesticide Certification Course, Kentville Agricultural Centre
- March 25 Livestock Sale, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds
- March 28-29 Value Chains Conference, Dartmouth
- April 8 Livestock Sale, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds
- April 12-13 Pesticide Certification Course, Kentville Agricultural Centre
- April 20 Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day, Greenwich Fire Hall
- April 22 Livestock Sale, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds

Regional and Provincial 4-H Dates and Activities

Due date for Market Steer project forms is **March 1, 2006** - Provincial 4-H office in Truro.

March 6 to April 3, 2006: 4-H Provincial Chocolate Fundraiser campaign. Members and leaders from across the province will be busy selling chocolate to fund various 4-H events, activities and programs, including Provincial Show, 4-H Weekend, Camp Rankin, national trips and much, much more!!

Chat-a-Rama: March 10 to 11, Camp Hillies, Paradise (open to all 4-H members 14 to 18 from the Valley, Western and South Shore Regions). The theme for 2006 is "The Power of You". The program will include sessions on career choices and planning, learning about you and your unique personality, building portfolios and team challenges. **The deadline to apply is February 20**

Due date for the Farm Credit Corporation scholarship is **April 1, 2006**

EBI Showcase application deadline is **April 1, 2006**

Due date for the following scholarships: N.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries, Harvest Trust, The Co-Operators and the N.S. 4-H Council is **April 15, 2006**

Pesticide Certification and Changes

Producers who require re-certification of their pesticide license have until April 30, 2006 to receive this training using the existing course material and testing. Currently, this includes an open book exam. After April 30, the new

course will include a closed book exam and only calculators supplied by the instructors. For those who re-certify with the pesticide points program there are no changes to this program.

In the Central Region the following courses are being provided for those who require pesticide certification or re-certification. Pesticide applicators can also write the exam by making arrangements with the Dept. of Environment and Labour office.

Course	Date	Location	Time	Organizer	Contact
Re-certification points for farmers	Feb. 21	NSAC Haley Inst.	9 a.m.	NSAC, Truro	(902) 893-6666
Re-certification points for Landscapers	Feb. 23	NSAC, Haley Inst.,	9 a.m.	NSAC, Truro	(902) 893-6666
Certification	Feb. 23-24	AgriTech Park, Bible Hill	9 a.m.	ProAgri Consulting	(902) 798-2114
Re-Certification	Feb. 24	AgriTech Park, Bible Hill	9 a.m.	ProAgri Consulting	(902) 798-2114
Certification	March 2-3	Nappan Pavillion, Nappan	9 a.m.	ProAgri Consulting	(902) 798-2114



St. John Ambulance Canada

First Aid Training

A reminder to farmers in Colchester County that the Colchester County Federation of Agriculture is offering a one day Emergency First Aid course for their members. The cost of the course is only \$30 (½ of the regular price). Two courses are being planned, one in the Great Village at the fire hall and one in Brookfield at the new fire hall. Time is getting short so if you, your family or employees are interested, register with Maxine Gourley at (902) 639-2709.

Farm Safety Week

National Farm Safety Week runs from March 8 - 14, 2006. Across the country this is an opportunity to highlight and promote farm safety on our farms. This year's theme is "Farm Safety is MY Business" and the focus is on risk management in agriculture with a special emphasis on young workers aged 15 - 29. The message "Farm Safety is MY Business" encourages farm owners, their families and their employees to make risk assessment and workplace safety a priority in all aspects of their business. Lets all work to making our farms safe.

Livestock Tags

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) has advised that as of January 1, 2006 all tag distributors must carry RFID (radio frequency identification) tags **only and to return any unsold inventory of their bar code tags for refund.**

If producers want to register their calves in the age verification program through CCIA they must use the new RFID tags on these animals. The old bar code tags will continue to be accepted until September 1, 2006 on cattle leaving their farm of origin and up until December 31, 2007 on all other cattle.

For more information contact Gord Duke at CFIA, (902) 426-1742.

Curling

Once again the Halifax East Hants and Stewiacke District Federations of Agriculture will be hosting their fun curling night. This popular activity will take place on Friday March 3, 2006 at the Don Henderson Sportsplex in Brookfield. The evening gets underway at 8:00pm and will be followed by a potluck chili and pie lunch. Please call Barb McDonald (758-3583) or Maxine Gourley (639-2709) to preregister for the lunch.

Community Pastures

Minudie

The Minudie Community Pasture will be operating again this summer to provide grazing services to cattle producers. Over the past number of years the pasture has been able to upgrade fences, water supplies and roads with some assistance from government and private sources. There is room to accommodate more cattle, and with more use, the pasture will only get better. For more information on this community pasture contact, Vaughn Hunter, (902) 597-2443 - Leamington; or Bill Thompson, (902) 447-3155 - Thompson Station.

Livestock Transport

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has recently amended their policy on the transportation of compromised animals. This policy affects transportation of animals from the farm to federal, provincial or unlicensed farm gate slaughter facilities. For more details see the "Do Not Transport" list and information below or contact your provincial meat inspector or the CFIA at (902) 893-6863 (Dr. Al MacAulay).

Workshops

February 21 – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Introduction to Woodland Management 2006
N.S. Community College, Truro, Forrester Hall Rm #136. Cost \$10
Preregistration is required by calling 1-866-226-7577

February 28 – 8 - 4:30 –
Fundamentals of Poultry Production, a workshop for non-commercial producers – Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, N.S. Cost \$28.75 includes HST. For more information and to register call 1-866-606-4636.

March 16 – 17 – Farmers Taking Charge – Improving Farm Income and Mitigating Greenhouse Gasses. Cost before March 3 – \$30/day or \$50 for both days. After March 3 – \$40/day or \$60 for both days. For more information call Rob at (902) 896-7092.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Policy on Transport of Compromised Animals

This policy affects transportation of animals from the farm to federal, provincial, or unlicensed farm gate slaughter facilities.

DO NOT TRANSPORT LIST

- Animals unable to stand or move without being dragged or carried. This includes animals that, after "splitting", cannot walk, or suffer severe pain when walking. These are non ambulatory animals
- Animals with fractured limbs, fractures to the pelvis, or any other fractures that considerably hamper mobility or are likely to cause severe pain when the animal is manipulated for loading or when it is being transported
- Animals with body condition score indicating emaciation and weakness
- Dehydration
- Exhaustion
- Shock, dying
- Suspected or confirmed nervous system disorder
- Fever
- Uterine prolapse
- Hernia that meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - Impedes movement
 - is painful on palpitation
 - touches the ground when the animal is standing in its natural position
 - has an open skin wound, ulceration, or obvious infection

These restrictions do not apply to animals destined for treatment at a veterinary clinic or for the diagnosis at a veterinary laboratory.

Farm Safety Recall

STIHL Inc. Has issued a recall of the STIHL MS 192 T chain saw with the serial numbers within the range of 264371702-266087005. The manufacturer advises that if you own one of these chain saws that you **DISCONTINUE USING THE UNIT IMMEDIATELY**. This recall is due to fuel system leaks and problems with the clutch assembly.

For more information contact STIHL at 1-800-610-6677 or visit their website at www.stihlusa.com

Courses and Workshops

Introduction to Woodland Management

Coxheath	Tuesday, February 15 DNR Office - 300 Mountain Road
Whycocomagh	Thursday, February 16 DNR Office - 9733 Provincial Park Road
Truro	Tuesday, February 21 Truro Campus of the NSCC- Forrester Hall, Rm 136

These workshops are designed to help manage your land. The evening will overview the Woodlot Management Home Study Series and provide some activities and tools that you can implement today. The evening will end with a presentation from a local woodlot owner sharing personal experiences.

Courses run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - \$10/per course, pre-registration required
To register call 1-866-226-7577, visit the local DNR office, or visit DNR's website: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/extension/woodlot/>

CAIS Workshop: Focusing on the 2005 Harmonized Form

There will be a CAIS Program Workshop at **Knox Church Hall, Baddeck, February 17 starting at 1 p.m.**

In an attempt to simplify the CAIS program, the tax form (T1163) and the Supplementary form have been "harmonized" into one document to provide "one-stop shopping" with respect to CAIS requirements. Federal CAIS representatives will be presenting the Harmonized form (T1273), including new e-file capabilities. For further information, call the Sydney office at **(902) 563-2000** or Christine Moore at (902) 893-6374.

Farm Investment Fund (FIF) Information Session/Workshop

There will be a FIF Workshop at **Knox Church Hall, Baddeck, March 7 starting at 7 p.m.**

The information session will provide producers with a general overview of the Farm Investment Fund program. The focus will be on the federal environmental category activities or Best Management Practices (BMPs).

For more information, contact the Sydney office at (902) 563-2000 or Programs at (902) 896-7076.

Succession Planning Information Session

The Cape Breton Agriculture office will be holding an information session on succession planning on **April 5 at the Wagmatcook Culture and Heritage Centre from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

This information session is a must for anyone involved in agriculture no matter what age or activity. We hope to provide you with information to help you make the right decisions for farm succession and estate planning. The future of your farm and family is very important. Having the right information can prepare you for any challenge.

*There is no charge for this session
Lunch will be served.*

*** You must pre-register for this session.***

Contact: (902) 563-2000; Fax (902) 563-3435

Pesticide Applicators Certification/Re-certification

ProAgri Consulting Limited will be holding a **Pesticide Re-Certification Course in Cape Breton on April 19 at the Civic Centre, 320 Esplanade, Sydney and a Certification Course on April 20-21** at the same location. For more information or to register for one of these courses, please contact:

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. at (902) 798-2114; **Fax** (902) 798-2542 or
emai: Proagri@eastlink.ca



St. John Ambulance Canada

FIRST AID TRAINING

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

Item of interest

Two Rivers Wildlife Park can provide a charitable donation receipt for animal carcasses donated to the Park as a food source. An official receipt can be issued for income tax deductions. For more information, contact Marilyn Zisserman at (902) 578-9110

4-H: What's New?

As the 4-H season gets started for a new year, we would like to welcome leaders and members, new and old alike. The 4-H slogan is "Join the Mix in 2006". Joining the 4-H staff for the Cape Breton region is Marina Gillis. She will be working with current 4-H staff in both the Sydney and Mabou Agriculture offices. Marina graduated from St. FX with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Nutrition and Consumer studies. Mrs. Gillis has been involved in the 4-H program for 13 years as a member, a 4-H Summer Assistant, Regional Home Economist and current 4-H Aboriginal Project Manager.

Marina will be working part time with the current 4-H Specialist, Rhonda MacDougall. They will be meeting with the various 4-H councils, leaders and members to help coordinate activities and promote 4-H in rural and urban communities across the Island. With the busy calendar ahead, 4-H promises to mix learning, leadership and fun for another great year!

4-H Rally

Every year 4-H members get an opportunity to work on their public speaking skills. Members pick topics of interest or demonstrate a project in front of peers and a panel of judges. This component of the 4-H program promotes life long communication skills and builds confidence. 4-H members compete at club, county, regional and provincial levels. All members are encouraged to participate at club level.

Dates to keep in mind:
Richmond County Rally
April 8, 2006
Victoria County Rally
TBA
Cape Breton Rally
April 8, 2006
Inverness County Rally
April 8, 2006

Winners from county rallies go on to compete at the Cape Breton Regional Rally scheduled for April 22, 10 a.m. at Baddeck Academy. The public is welcome. See how 4-H prepares our youth to be leaders of tomorrow!

Junior Workshops

Junior workshops titled "Small Steps, Big Differences" will be held on both sides of the Island this year. Applications are coming in and it looks to be an exciting program for our junior members.

Dates to keep in mind:
Junior Workshop (Port Hawkesbury)
– March 4
Junior Workshop (North Sydney)
– March 25

Please feel free to contact the 4-H office if there are any questions about the 4-H program or if there is interest in joining an existing club or setting up a club in your community. Contact 4-H staff by calling your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at (902) 563-2000 (Sydney) or (902) 945-2901 (Mabou).

Pesticide Certification/Recertification

Once again ProAgri Consulting Limited will provide Pesticide Certification and Recertification training on February 17 at the Heather Hotel in New Glasgow. Contact Tracey Curry of ProAgri Consulting Limited at (902) 798-2114.

Also, the Northeastern Christmas Tree Association will offer a course on March 4, 2006 at the St. Andrew's Community Center, Antigonish. For more information contact Donnie MacMillan at (902) 783-2020.

Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture

The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture has picked their new executive for 2006.

President	Jack Thomson	
Secretary	Laughlin MacDonald	
Directors	Terrance Boyle	Allister Brow
	Lynn MacDonald	John Mattie
	David Kennedy	Margaret Cornect

Antigonish Farmers Market Association

Anyone in the Eastern region who is interested in being a vendor at the Antigonish Farmers Market or joining the Association can contact Jim Connors at 386-2544 or Margaret Cornet at 833-2747, AFM Association.



St. John Ambulance Canada

FIRST AID COURSE

Anyone interested in attending a First Aid course should phone the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Antigonish to register at (902) 863-4705. All will be notified when the course is booked.

2006 All Canada Sheep Classic

The 2006 All Canada Sheep Classic, Canada's Elite Ram and Ewe Show and Sale will be held at the Agridome in Bible Hill on June 16-17, 2006. If you would like to participate, contact Lauren or Lois at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Antigonish at (902) 863-4705.

**Reminder.... CAIS
Information Session
Greenway Claymore Inn -
February 16/06**

Farm Investment Fund Information Session

The following information session will provide producers with a general overview of the FIF program. The focus will be on the federal environmental category activities or Best Management Practices (BMP's)

**March 6 - St. Ninians Place,
Antigonish**

Upcoming 4-H Events:

Antigonish County

Council Meeting	March 7	7 p.m.
Antigonish County Rally	April 8	9 a.m.
Exhibition Committee Meeting	April 18	7 p.m.
Ant./Guys./Pictou Regional Rally	April 22	10 a.m.
STORM DATE	April 29	10 a.m.

Pictou County

Council Exec. Meeting	February 23	Pictou Library 7:30 p.m.
Swimming	March 11	Pictou Fisheries Pool 6:00-7:30
Co. Council Meeting	March 22	Superstore 7:30 p.m.
County Rally	April 8	Northumberland School 9:00 a.m.
	April 9	STORM DATE
Council Exec. Meeting	April 20	Pictou Library 7:30 p.m.
Regional Rally	April 22	Antigonish
	April 29	STORM DATE

Upcoming Events

Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

The following information sessions will provide producers with a general overview of the Farm Investment Fund (FIF) program. The focus will be on the federal environmental category activities or Best Management Practices (BMPs).

March 1 – Yarmouth, Meadowfields School cafeteria, 7 p.m.

March 2 – Berwick, Lions Club, 7 p.m.

For more information contact
Darlene McCallum

Other Sessions

February 27, 2006 – Renewable Energy on the Farm – 2006 Kentville Old Orchard Inn:

The Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture in cooperation with NSFA, Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture is pleased to present two one-day conferences, focusing on energy conservation, alternative sources of energy and new technologies with an agricultural application. We hope to provide practical information that

Farm marketing, management or production clubs are groups of farmers who get together to explore farming issues of mutual interest. This may include producers from a single commodity looking to enhance their skills and knowledge, or producers from a range of commodities who share a mutual need (i.e. new entrants). The main reason producers form these clubs are to:

producers can apply right away to make a difference in their farm operations. Guest speakers will cover various topics including energy conservation, biogas/co-digestion, wind power, solar power, biomass combustion

February 28 – The Fundamentals of Poultry Production, Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, N.S. For information or to register contact AgraPoint at 1-866-606-4636

Farm Marketing, Management and Production Clubs

- obtain information to improve marketing or production skills and knowledge;
- access local knowledge through the expertise of other producers;
- social interaction with other producers.

The main benefits reported by producers who participate in these clubs are:

- increased access to information;
- the formation of information and business networks;
- open discussion between producers;
- social interaction with other producers.

The staff of the Western Regional office are willing to assist groups of producers who would like to explore the formation of such clubs. If you are interested in such a club forming in your area please contact the office. When sufficient people in an area or commodity have expressed an interest we will start the process of setting up the club.