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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER

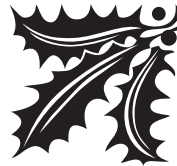


December 2007 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 8 No. 5

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Production Insurance

Nova Scotia Offers Insurance Protection to Poultry Producers



The Province of Nova Scotia, through the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission, recently announced the introduction of a new insurance product that will enable poultry producers to better manage disease risks on their farms.

The new Poultry Insurance Plan, developed with industry consultation, provides coverage in the event of an outbreak of a disease called Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT). This disease, while having a relatively low occurrence rate, is devastating to producers who have infected flocks since the entire flock must be destroyed.

The Poultry Insurance Plan is now available to pullet producers and breeders, egg producers, and broiler producers and breeders. Insurance coverage varies depending on the class of poultry being insured and its value at the time destruction of the flock is ordered, or in the case of broilers, based on the contracted price. In all cases, the payouts are based on 90 per cent of the specified value net of any other sources of compensation.

Applications are now available by contacting the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 or by email at nscllc@gov.ns.ca.

Advanced Payments Program

Any producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program (APP), formerly known as the Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP), in 2008 are reminded that many of the organizations administering this credit program may require you to have crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer who is considering taking advantage of this interest free loan should

contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

If crop insurance is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan, we advise all producers to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop insurance. In order to obtain coverage for 2008, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

In previous years, crops covered under the APP included most spring grains, corn, soybeans, a wide variety of vegetables, small fruits, apples and potatoes.

For more details on APP, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the APP program, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web site at www.agr.gc.ca.

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for 2008:

Spring Grain – March 14
Vegetable – March 14
Potato – April 19
Corn, Soybean – April 30
Weather Plan – April 30

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 beginning of the crop year. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season. Anyone considering applying for crop insurance for the first time must make their application on or before the dates noted above.

For information on this or any of our insurance plans, contact The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 or 902- 893-6370 - Truro, or 902-679-6015/6028 - Kentville.

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

AgriStability News

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture have agreed on a new suite of business risk management programs.

AgriStability is a margin-based program that replaces the CAIS program. The AgriStability program covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a producer's average income from past years which was previously covered under the Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) program.

More information on the new business risk management programs, which also include AgriInvest, AgriInsurance and AgriRecovery is available on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website <http://www.agr.gc.ca/>.

CAIS participants

If you participated in the CAIS program in 2006 you will automatically be enrolled for AgriStability and will be receiving an AgriStability Enrollment Notice and Fee.

You must return the Enrollment Notice and the fee to the administration by **December 31, 2007** or 30 days after the issue date. If you miss this date you have up to April 30, 2008 to pay the fee, however, a 20 per cent penalty fee will be applied. You will be ineligible for the 2007 program year if you do not pay the fee by April 30, 2008.

If you participated in CAIS in previous years but not in 2006 contact the administration toll free at 1-866-367-8506 so that they can make arrangements to mail you an Enrollment Notice.

New Entrants for AgriStability 2007

If you have not participated in the CAIS program before and are interested in participating for the 2007 program year you will need to request a 2007 AgriStability new participant application. To request an application, please contact the administration at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the web site at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/>.

If you already requested a CAIS new participants application you will automatically be sent an AgriStability new participant package.

The deadline request for new participant applications is **December 31, 2007**.

Deadline to file 2006 CAIS information

If you missed the September 30th filing deadline, you can still submit CAIS information until December 31, 2007. However, your benefit will be reduced by \$500 for each month (or each part of the month) that your form is submitted late.

If your form is not received by December 31, 2007 you will not be eligible for a benefit. If the penalty amount is greater than your payment amount, your CAIS payment will be reduced to zero. The remainder of the reduction will not be applied to any other program year.

To make sure all your information has been received, contact the CAIS office at 1-866-367-8506.

Calculation of Benefits for CAIS 2006

If you have already submitted your CAIS information, you may have received your Calculation Of

Benefits (COB) for 2006 or are waiting for it. If you have received it, make sure you review the calculation and ensure that the information you submitted is correct. You have 90 days from the issue date to adjust or appeal the calculation.

If you are waiting for your calculation you may check on the status of your file by calling the CAIS contact center at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability (CAIS) 2007 interim applications are available

The Interim Application is for producers who would like to apply for 2007 program year assistance earlier than normally available. As a program participant, you cannot receive your full 2007 CAIS payment until your 2007 program year is complete. However, by using the Interim Application, you can estimate your 2007 income and receive a portion of this payment early.

To request an interim package, please contact CAIS at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the web site at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram/>.

For more information on any of the above points contact Steve Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at 902-893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Farm Investment Fund

The **Farm Investment Fund** and the **Agri-food Industry Development Fund** closed on December 7, 2007. The programs received a strong volume of applications. Now it is time to complete the activities

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applied for and provide a claim (with invoices and proof of payment) to the Programs and Business Risk Management office between now and March 1, 2008. Claim early and avoid the rush!

The winter months are a great time to start planning the on-farm projects that you may wish to access funding for during the 2008-09 Farm Investment Fund Program year. Contact the office at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276 with any questions that arise as you map out the activities you are thinking of undertaking next year.

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

New Agri-Food Innovation Award Announced

A new Agri-Food Innovation Award encourages Nova Scotia farm entrepreneurs to creatively address business challenges on the farm.

Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor announced the new award on Nov. 29.

“This is a new initiative for the Department of Agriculture to assist producers who are looking at innovative and unique ways to diversify or expand their operation,” said Mr. Taylor. “The award is one way we can invest in an entrepreneur who needs some assistance to move their proposal forward.”

Valued at up to \$10,000, the award can be used to plan and develop the applicant's proposal, or it can be put towards a number of programs and services such as consultants, investigative travel, personal

development or business development opportunities.

“We have a well developed agriculture industry in Nova Scotia, but there are certainly more opportunities for the sector to grow,” said Mr. Taylor. “This is one way we are encouraging producers to look at new ways of doing business and developing it.”

The application form and a written description of the project idea must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2008 to the Department of Agriculture. All registered farms in Nova Scotia are eligible. Apply today! More information is available at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/bde or 902-893-6580.

This project is funded through the renewal chapter of the Canada-Nova Scotia Agricultural Policy Framework Agreement.

Environmental Farm Plan Update

The Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is an environmental stewardship program that began in 1999. It is a voluntary program that helps farmers to identify and assess environmental risk on their property and to provide practical solutions to minimize risk. The EFP Program in Nova Scotia has reached a milestone this year with more than 1000 participants in the program. The large number of farms that are participating and continuing to get involved clearly demonstrates producers' commitment to environmentally sustainable agriculture in Nova Scotia.

The EFP program currently has six

staff members delivering the program. Paul Brenton, Tom van Oirschot, Kathryn Bremner and Trevor Davison all work one-on-one with farm managers through the process of developing an individual farm action plan. Laurie Cochrane, an Agricultural Engineer with the Department of Agriculture, joins the farm owner and coordinator for the on-farm review component. In addition to providing equipment calibration services to farmers, Rick Hoeg is involved in numerous projects such as water quality monitoring and more recently biodiversity and riparian assessments. Lynda Weatherby has been hired as the EFP information



Coordinator to replace Erica Versteeg during her maternity leave. Lynda is a graduate of the NSAC's Agricultural Environmental Science program and is currently completing a Master's Degree in Agri-biology at the NSAC. She has a keen interest in agriculture and is knowledgeable in soil science and nutrient management.

This winter the coordinators are busy with initial visits with new farms and follow-up assessments

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with farms that had an EFP more than five years ago. The follow-up process provides an opportunity for the EFP Coordinator and the farm owner/manager to assess and update the initial action plan and discuss any new environmental concerns and goals. For those farmers who have not taken part in the program, it is important to note that there is no cost to participate and any findings are kept confidential. If you are interested in an on-farm environmental review, please contact the NSFA office in Truro at 902-893-2293.

Food Safety and Holiday Turkey

A fresh turkey should be purchased 1-2 days before cooking. When purchasing a turkey select it last and keep it separated from other foods to prevent its juices from cross-contaminating other foods. Proper hand washing should be practiced before and after handling raw turkey.

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

1. In the refrigerator - it takes approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of turkey.
2. Submerged in cold water - change the water every 30 minutes to ensure it stays cold. It takes approximately 30 minutes per pound to thaw.
3. In a microwave - the turkey should be cooked immediately after thawing and not held to be cooked at a later time.

Approximate Cooking Times

Unstuffed - 325 F

8-12 lb	2¾ - 3 hours
12-14 lb	3 - 3¾ hours
14 - 18 lb	3¾ - 4¼ hours
18-20 lb	4¼ - 4½ hours

Stuffed - 325 F

8-12 lb	3 - 3½ hours
12-14 lb	3½ - 4 hours
14 - 18 lb	4 - 4¼ hours
18-20 lb	4¼-4¾ hours

Marketing Caravan

The times they are a-changing. Over the years web sites have become a primary marketing tool for farm marketers, as well as a primary tool for consumers looking for products, services and information.

Are you looking to:

- increase sales?
- drive traffic to your agri-business?
- reduce telephone enquiry time?
- automate booking procedures?
- offer on-line shopping?

Did you know?

- Most visitors spend less than 60 seconds on a homepage.
- Most web site owners do not adjust their sites according to traffic statistics.
- Having no web site is better than having a poor web site.

To assist you in your web development, we have partnered with the Canadian Farm Business Management Council to offer a one-day workshop on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The cost is \$75 per person.

Susan Sweeney, internet guru and author of *Internet Marketing For Your Tourism Business*, and Brad Kostyniuk, web site developer, are coming together to offer you a web site workshop customized for agri-business.



Check out their web sites at:
www.susansweeney.com and
www.rockpaperinternet.com

Web site evaluations are incorporated into the workshop and may be used as examples of good practices. Be sure to register early so your web site can be reviewed by Susan and Brad.

Registration deadline is **January 16, 2008. Space is limited - first come, first served.**

For more information contact:
Claire Hanlon Smith
Marketing Services Division, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Tel: 902-893-4491 • E-mail:
hanlonca@gov.ns.ca

Growing Opportunities – “Realizing the Benefits from the Local Food Economy”

Listen to a panel of experienced presenters. Learn from your colleagues. Link your ideas with others in the value chain. Sell Local. Join us on March 25 and 26, 2008 for a business development conference that will explore the many opportunities available to sell more of your goods within Nova Scotia.

Register today as space is limited. Cost is \$125 (includes meals).

For more information or to register for this event visit us online
www.gov.ns.ca/agri/bde/ or call 902-893-6580.

NSAC Research: Conserve Energy, Save Money: Opportunities for Nova Scotia farms

Erin MacPherson, Research and Graduate Studies, NSAC

Julie Bailey hopes to keep Atlantic Canadian farms competitive by identifying energy saving opportunities which will reduce energy costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on Nova Scotia farms.

A Farm Energy Specialist at NSAC in Truro and Professional Engineer, Julie recently completed her Master of Science thesis in which she researched Nova Scotia farmers' perceptions and considerations in implementing energy conservation measures. With this information, she plans to make recommendations for the delivery of a future energy conservation program for farms and update current energy baseline data. Currently, there is no province-wide energy conservation program targeted specifically at Nova Scotia farmers.

To understand perceptions on energy conservation opportunities, Julie conducted a survey of all farm commodities in Nova Scotia with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. With nearly 700 surveys mailed to 16 commodity groups, a good return of 32 per cent of farms responded.

Findings from the research showed a demand for energy conservation measures on farms. A particular challenge was dairy and hog/poultry farms, which reported double and triple the average annual energy bill of farms, respectively. For all farms, over half of the energy bill came from petroleum product use, such as diesel fuel.

A majority of farmers reported an interest in using energy conservation strategies, with many of them already doing so, including modifying their own behaviour, adding insulation and improving lighting practices. Large farm operations and those concerned for the environment showed the most interest in these strategies, even though very few farmers appeared to be using renewable energy technologies.

Cost savings were of particular interest to farmers and those interested in energy efficient options wanted a three to five year payback on their investment. Longer paybacks were more acceptable for renewable energy options.

Julie says, "Opportunities exist that match NS farmers' financial expectations, for example; heat recovery equipment and vacuum pump variable speed drives for dairy farms, efficient fans for hog or poultry, and biogas for very large hog, poultry or dairy operations."

Julie's research also involved on-farm energy audits for several farm types in the province. The purpose was to identify where energy is used and identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption.

Her research and similar studies in Ontario showed that dairy or hog farms could potentially save one per cent on electrical expenses. This would be equivalent to \$1560 annually or 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per farm for hog, poultry and dairy operations in this province.

Julie says the results of her study shows an interest, opportunity and need for energy conservation on Nova Scotia farms. Consideration should be given to developing an energy conservation program for farms in this province.

She also noted benefits from the EcoEnergy Retrofit Program (EnerGuide) for farm houses. On average, this program has seen reduced energy consumption of 28 per cent and a reduction of GHG emissions by 4.1 tonnes annually per house that has undertaken energy saving renovations.

"I encourage all homeowners to consider participating in the EcoEnergy Retrofit Program. There are significant savings opportunities for home energy bills and the rebates can cover part or all of the cost of the upgrades. There are significant savings opportunities on-farm as well, and there is a need for a program to promote and educate farmers on these opportunities."

(Julie's research was funded by a Canada Graduate Scholarship, supported through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). She was supervised by Dr. Robert Gordon, Canada Research Chair in Agricultural Resource Management, at NSAC.)

AG Day in Canada, January 23, 2008

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) will host the first ever Ag Day in Canada on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 in 100 communities across the country to celebrate with those who live and breathe agriculture.

It is a day full of thought provoking information and production forecasts to help producers plan for the upcoming 2008 year.

FCC will explore the issues that affect the bottom line in agriculture, like alternative fuels, commodity marketing, land values and farm safety. Those in agriculture do not want to miss this exciting learning opportunity.

To attend an event near you or to RSVP visit www.AgDayinCanada.ca or call your local FCC office at 1-800-387-3232.

Nova Scotia events:

Kentville
Wandlyn Inn
3230 Highway
1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Truro
NSAC Alumni Theatre
62 Cumming Drive
1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Canada

Agricultural Co-op Development Initiative (Ag-CDI)

The Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA) and le Conseil Canadien de la Coopération (CCC) are pleased to announce the start-up of the renewed Agricultural Co-op Development Initiative (Ag-CDI), with thanks to Agricultural and Agri-Food Canada and the Co-operatives Secretariat.

Ag-CDI is now accepting applications from producer groups involved in developing biofuel and other value-added agricultural co-operatives. For a program overview, see the application guidelines and application form at this link: <http://www.coopscanada.coop/ag-CDI>.

La version française des documents ci-haut est disponible à l'adresse internet suivante: <http://www.ccc.coop/IDC-agri/>.

The Ag-CDI program is scheduled to operate from November 2007 to March 31, 2009 and will accept applications on the following deadlines:

- January 30, 2008
- April 2, 2008
- September 8, 2008

NSAC Continuing & Distance Education courses beginning January 2008:

Grow your own Organics!

Online courses in organic agriculture:

- Organic Field Crop Management
- Organic Livestock Production

We are also pleased to offer a NEW online course:

- Issues in Agricultural Health and Safety

On-Campus Horticulture Courses:

- Landscape Maintenance
- Residential Landscape Design and Construction

Our on-campus Landscape Installation Workshops will begin on Friday, January 4. A new topic will be offered every Friday until the end of March 2008.

Skills Training and Professional Development:

- Agricultural Equipment Technician Apprenticeship, Feb 4- March 7
- Introductory Welding, February 18-20
- Integrated Pest Management for Farmers, February 21

For more information contact Continuing & Distance Education, NSAC

Phone: 902-893-6666;

E-mail: cde@nsac.ca

Fax: 902- 895-5528;

Web: nsac.ca/cde/



2008 Rural Leaders Conference will Create Partners - Build Communities

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is pleased to invite all leaders in agriculture and rural communities to a dynamic conference – the 2008 Rural Leaders Conference - Creating Partners - Building Communities.

Key note speakers will be:

- Michelle Payn Knoper, Cause Matters Corporation (www.michellepaynknoper.com) - Celebrating Agriculture and Creating Community Networks
- Kevin Stewart AG Vision INC. - What is the Cost of Doing Nothing?

Both speakers recently presented at the 2007 National Agriculture Awareness in London, Ontario and received rave reviews!

Anyone involved in agriculture organizations working towards the

betterment of rural Nova Scotia should attend, including 4-H leaders, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, agriculture awareness committee members, farmers, industry groups, agriculture awareness teachers and other rural organizations. It is an excellent opportunity to network with other community leaders and learn new things to strengthen your role in your community organization.

The program will include sessions on *Agriculture in the Classroom*, meeting management, effective communications, leading teams; emerging issues and opportunities in agriculture, panel success stories, speakers on working together for rural Nova Scotia and an entertaining evening at Hatfield Farms.

Mark your calendars for February 7 - 9, 2008 for the 2008 Rural Leaders

Conference at the Holiday Inn Select in Halifax, which will celebrate agriculture, create valuable partnerships and build stronger rural communities.

The final registration date is January 4, 2008! Money will not be refunded after January 4, 2008.

For more information and to receive a registration form please contact:

Ruth Grant, 902-893-6585
E-mail: grantra@gov.ns.ca
Valorie Oickle, 902-543-0616
E-mail: oicklevh@gov.ns.ca
Judy Grant, 902- 893-6598
E-mail: grantjd@gov.ns.ca
Jennifer MacLaren, 902-679-6027
E-mail: robinsjc@gov.ns.ca
Cheryl Chandler, 902- 945-2902
E-mail: chandlcl@gov.ns.ca

Colchester County 4-H Member Receives \$2000 TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarship

In November, Nicole Lennerton, a 17 year old member from the Clifton 4-H Club, was one of ten 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2000 scholarship from the TD Bank. For 52 years the TD bank has been a generous supporter of the Canadian 4-H Council and provided financial support to future generations of agricultural leaders who are attending a Canadian college or university for agriculture-related or agri-business studies.

Applicants with the highest academic average in their province are selected as recipients. Nicole is a Grade 12 student at CEC and plans to go to the NSAC next year to study Animal Science.

“The agri-business is a challenging

one and TD is pleased to be able to help these outstanding students gain the education they'll need to be successful in their future endeavors,” said Matthew Holden, Senior Product Manager, Agriculture Services, TD Canada Trust. “As 4-H members, these students have already made strong contributions to agriculture in Canada and we're pleased to recognize their accomplishments as they strive for even greater achievements.”

All active 4-H members over the age of 16 can apply for the TD 4-H agriculture scholarships. Applications are available in June and more information is found in the General Leader Kit or is available from the 4-H Specialist.

Pictou County 4-H Clubs Host Launch of National 4-H Month

On November 1, over 125 4-H members, leaders, families met in the West River Firehall in Pictou County in support of the 4-H program and to be part of the official launch of National 4-H Month in Nova Scotia. Special guests in attendance were the Hon. Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia 4-H Hostess Melody Sanford and Host Matthew Bryson MC'd the event. Greetings were given by Nova Scotia 4-H Council President George MacNeil and Minister Taylor. Premier MacDonald recognized the achievements of the 4-H program, then proclaimed

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November to be 4-H Month in Nova Scotia. Following a signing ceremony, a large 4-H cake was cut and a reception featuring members' project work concluded the event.

Nova Scotia's 4-H program provides young people between the ages of 9 and 21 and volunteer adult leaders with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, sportsmanship skills, technical skills, responsibility and social skills, while having fun in a structured family oriented atmosphere. There are more than 2,400 members in 85 clubs in Nova Scotia. In 2006, 4-H members completed 4,520 individual projects with the support of 875 leaders. Nova Scotia has the largest 4-H membership east of Ontario and the third largest membership in Canada on a per capita basis.

More information about the Nova Scotia 4-H program is available at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h.

The Maritime Dairy Industry Awards

Various partners of the maritime dairy industry have established the Maritime Dairy Industry Awards in order to support the academic efforts of students committed to secure the future of a successful dairy industry. Two \$2000 scholarships will be awarded.

The criteria for applicants is as follows:

- Resident of either N.S. or N.B. or P.E.I (minimum of 24 months prior to post-secondary studies).
- Currently attending a post-secondary education institution within Canada.
- Completed at least two years of post-secondary education and currently enrolled in a program that has application to the dairy industry.
- Applicant must show professional and academic promise and a commitment and interest in the dairy industry.
- Applicant must complete the application form, include an updated resume, a one-page letter stating their commitment and interest in the dairy industry, an official transcript of marks for two

completed years in post-secondary education and have three reference letters (at least one from a professor) sent to the Scholarship Committee.

Completed applications must be received by the Maritime Dairy Industry Scholarship Committee in care of Dairy Farmers of Canada no later than January 31, 2008.

Scholarship applications may be downloaded at www.dairygoodness.ca or are available from your Regional 4-H Specialist.

Please note that past recipients are ineligible to apply. Cash awards will be issued to successful candidates in September, 2008

Your 4-H Specialists

Senior 4-H Program Coordinator:

Ruth Grant - Truro
Tel:(902) 893-6584 / Fax: (902) 893-2757
grantra@gov.ns.ca

Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis Counties:

Jean Ward - Lawrencetown
Tel: (902) 584-2081 / (902) 584-2080
Fax: (902) 584-3069
wardje@gov.ns.ca

Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne Counties:

Valorie Oickle - Bridgewater
Tel: (902) 543-0616 / Fax: (902) 543-0618
oickleva@gov.ns.ca

Hants and Kings Counties:

Jennifer MacLaren - Kentville
Tel: (902) 679-6027 / Fax: (902) 679-6062
robinsjc@gov.ns.ca

Halifax-East Hants, Colchester and Cumberland Counties:

Jacqueline Hoyt - Truro
Tel: (902) 893-6586 / Fax: (902) 893-2757
hoytjm@gov.ns.ca

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:

Dawn Barrington-Hodgson - Pictou/Antigonish
Tel: (902) 485-7161 / (902) 863-7501
Fax: (902) 485-4014 / (902) 863-7342
barrind@gov.ns.ca

Inverness, Victoria, Cape Breton and Richmond Counties:

Rhonda MacDougall -Mabou
Tel: (902) 945-2901 / Fax: (902) 945-2858
maccourm@gov.ns.ca

Marina Gillis - Sydney
Tel:(902) 563-2001 / Fax:(902) 563-3435
gillisma@gov.ns.ca

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

Andrew Cameron – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-7314 | Fax: (902) 893-0244

Kings, West Hants, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

Brian MacCulloch –
Tel: (902) 679-6006 | Fax: (902) 679-6062
macculbc@gov.ns.ca

Cumberland, Colchester, East Hants, & Halifax Regional Municipality:

Michael Kittilsen –
Tel: (902) 893-3645 | Fax: (902) 893-0244
kittilma@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

May the peace and good will of this Christmas Season gently fill your home with joy that lasts throughout 2008. Everyone at the agricultural office extends best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday on your farm. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

Pesticide Certification Courses

Pesticide Certification is designed for those individuals who do not have a licence, who's licence expired, or is about to expire. This course covers a broad range of pesticide safety topics for land applicators. It is designed to assist in preparation to write the NS Department of Environment and Labour pesticide certification exam, as ongoing training, and as a refresher course on the basics of pesticide safety. Cost of this course is \$185 (includes manual and tax).

Recertification is a great opportunity for licence holders to improve their pesticide safety knowledge, keep current with changes to legislation and avoid having to write another pesticide exam. This course is designed for those individuals who have a current licence and would like to accumulate recertification points towards their licence. Cost for this course is \$75.

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. is once again offering Pesticide Certification and Recertification courses in the area. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, contact ProAgri Consulting Ltd. at 902-798-2114.



The dates for certification courses are as follows:

January 23-24 –
Kentville Agricultural Centre
March 26-27 –
Kentville Agricultural Centre

The dates for recertification courses are as follows:

January 16 –
Kentville Agricultural Centre
March 28 –
Kentville Agricultural Centre
February 6 –
Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps



The Agriculture office in Kentville still has a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids.

Valley Region 4-H News

2008 Provincial Show, September 26 - 28, 2008

Kings County will be hosting Pro Show 2008 in Windsor. This commitment requires numerous volunteers with lots of behind the scenes work. Kings County Council invites any leaders, parents or 4-H friends to come out and help in the planning. Those interested in being part of this provincial event please contact the 4-H office (902-679-6027)

Kings County 4-H Calendars

Kings County Council is selling calendars to raise funds for Provincial Show 2008. Members and leaders are encouraged to sell as many calendars as possible. Calendars are being sold for \$10. Contact your General Leader or the 4-H office (679-6027) for more information.

National 4-H Awards

Lisa Parker from Newport 4-H Club attended the National Members Conference while Crystal Sheffield from Eastern Kings 4-H Club attended the Volunteer Leaders Conference, both held in Toronto this past November. Janet Maxner from Avon 4-H Club in Hants County was the Nova Scotia delegate selected to attend the National 4-H Skills Employment Conference in Manitoba. All in attendance had a wonderful experience and left the conference with inspiration and great memories.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Hants County Skating Party, December 27, 7–8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Arena
Kings County New Leaders Information Session, January 7, 6:30 p.m.,
Kentville Agricultural Centre, Cornwallis Room.
Kings County Council Meeting, January 7 at 7:30 p.m.,
Kentville Agricultural Centre, Cornwallis Room.
Hants County New Leaders Information Session, January 14, 6 p.m.,
Room 122, West Hants Middle School
Hants County Council Meeting, January 14, 7 p.m.,
Room 122, West Hants Middle School

Pesticide Certification and Recertification Course Schedule 2008

The following dates have been set up for producers interested in pesticide certification or recertification by ProAgri Consulting:

Recertification:
February 13, 2008
Heather Hotel, Stellarton
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$ 75 (incl. tax)

March 5, 2008
AgriTech Park, Truro
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$ 75 (incl. tax)

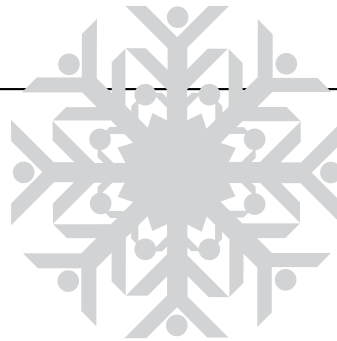
Certification:
March 6-7, 2008
Nappan Pavilion, Amherst
Research Station
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$185 (incl. tax + manual)

Please call 902-798-2114 to register

NOTE: Dates for certification and recertification are also available in Kentville. For more information please call Sarah or Traci at 902-798-2114, or Michael Kittilsen at 902-893-3645.

If you are applying for a pesticide licence for the first time, or your current licence is due to expire and you have not collected any recertification points, then you should take a certification course or alternately arrange to write the pesticide application exam at a Department of Environment office.

Recertification sessions provide five points of the 15 required before your licence expires to recertify without writing an exam.



Holiday Greetings

The staff of the Cape Breton regional agriculture office would like to extend a Merry Christmas and good 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.



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 please call their main office in Sydney at 902-564-4189.

Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton agriculture office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2007-08 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list, please call our office at 902-563-2000.

Pesticide Recertification and Certification Courses

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a Pesticide Recertification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on April 9, 2007. This five-hour course provides five recertification points to current holders of a pesticide applicator's licence.

ProAgri Consulting will also present a Pesticide Certification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on April 10 and 11, 2007 for anyone wishing to

prepare and write the test for the pesticide applicator's licence.

For more information or to register, contact the NSDA office at 902-563-2000 or ProAgri Consulting at 902-798-2114.

Please Note: Presentation of these courses are subject to cancellation based on producer participation.

4-H 2008: 4-H A Step to the Future

The 2008 4-H year is starting out with a bang, with lots of local, regional and provincial events to keep 4-Her's on their toes. Many clubs are preparing for a full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new club to our Cape Breton region. Verna Johnson will be the general

leader of a new club in Glace Bay with membership taking first aid, horse, cake decorating and Exploring 4-H. On behalf of the 4-H community, we would like to welcome you and look forward to seeing your club at our local and regional events. Here are a few things on the go for our 4-H communities.

4-H Web Site - Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H web site for all sorts of great information. Our provincial web site has loads of information on general questions about starting a 4-H club, 4-H around the province, leader and member resources including project newsletters, provincial workshops and much, much, more! You can find the provincial 4-H web site at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/. Our national web site, through Canadian 4-H council, offers various resource materials, national scholarship, program grants, funding and links to all that is 4-H on a national level. This site has something for everyone, especially our senior members. You can visit the site at www.4-h-canada.ca/.

Chocolate Campaign 2008 - Provincial Fund Raiser

As decided at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, Nova Scotia 4-Her's are once again holding a chocolate fund raiser. This year we will be selling World's Finest Chocolate Variety Pack: Chocolate

Collection (variety case of 25 bars contains the almond bar, caramel bar, crisp bar and the milk bar). The campaign will run from March 3 - 31, 2008. The County deadline to have your orders and delivery instructions to your 4-H specialist is January 31, 2008 by noon or earlier if possible. The bars sell for \$2 each.