

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2007

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 8 No. 1

Farm Investment Fund - Program Review - Survey

Brian Smith

The Department of Agriculture has engaged the Internal Audit and Risk Management Centre of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance and KPMG, a business advisory firm, to conduct a review of the Agriculture Farm Investment Fund (FIF) program.

As a part of this review, we would like producers' to tell us what is working well, what is not working well with the current program, the concerns they may have, and opportunities for improvement. The review includes a survey, two focus group sessions with farmers, interviews with commodity associations and the Federation's Council of Leaders.

In the latter part of February, a survey will be mailed to registered Nova Scotia farm operations, both users and non-users of FIF. The survey will include questions regarding the program objectives, guidelines, eligibility, access to funding, funding percentages, overall perceived value, and the user friendliness of the process. We ask you to complete the survey and welcome your input and assistance.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Operation Clean Sweep - Waste Pesticide Collection and Disposal

Until February 28, 2007, you can bring your waste pesticides to a designated agri-chemical dealer for safe disposal.

Due to a partnership of producers, industry and government, this program is offered free of charge to all NS farmers. By working together we show our commitment to a safe and healthy environment. Contact your nearest collection site for information on eligible wastes and safe transport.

Participating Collection Sites

Amherst Co-op	Amherst
Antigonish Farm and Garden Co-op	Antigonish
Bragg Lumber Co.	Collingwood
Bridgewater Farmers Co-op	Bridgewater
Cavendish Agri Services	Middleton
Cavendish Agri Services	Kentville
Cavendish Agri Services	Truro
Corridor Co-op	Shubenacadie
Halifax Seed Co.	Halifax
Scotian Gold Co-op	Coldbrook
Truro Agromart	Truro
United Farmers Co-op	Sydney

Department of Agriculture Moving Halifax Office

Effective, Jan. 29, 2007, the Halifax office of the Department Agriculture will be located at 1741 Brunswick St., third floor, Halifax NS, B3J 3X8.

All phone, fax numbers and P.O. Box 2223, will remain the same.

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia Needs You!

Farmers' Markets throughout Nova Scotia are looking for new agricultural vendors. Because Farmers' Markets are gaining more and more customers, we need to contact Nova Scotia agricultural producers who could benefit from direct marketing through our system. Depending on the product, our producers are gaining significant income with relatively little cost in time or overhead.

Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia have prepared a handbook for producers that describes our



marketing program and how it can be used to grow a small farm business or diversify a larger operation. We would be glad to send a copy to any Nova Scotia producer. You can also find Producer Information and contacts for all participating Farmers' Markets on our web site at nsfarmersmarkets.ca

Please contact Don Black at (902) 425-9776 or by e-mail to dblack@chebucto.ca, for further information.

Canada's New Government Takes New Steps to Protect the Environment with Biofuels

On December 20, 2006, Canada's New Government announced it would regulate the use of renewable fuels in Canada and deliver \$345 million to assist farmers and rural communities seize new market opportunities in the agricultural bioproducts sector.

The government announced it would regulate an annual average renewable content of five per cent in gasoline by 2010. The government intends to regulate a two per cent requirement for renewable content in diesel fuel and heating oil by 2012.

Honourable Rona Ambrose, former Minister of the Environment stated "Our Government understands Canadians' concerns around the quality of the air we breathe. We know that cleaner fuel means less pollution. Requiring the use of

renewable fuels fulfills a commitment by our government. Through these regulations, we are keeping with our approach toward meaningful action, and we will ensure that our objectives are met."

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, announced two agriculture programs that will help bolster the development of biofuels and other bioproducts. The Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program and the Capital Formation Assistance Program for Renewable Fuels Production are designed to create new market opportunities for Canada's agricultural producers.

Of the \$345 million:
- \$200 million through the Capital Formation Assistance Program for Renewable Fuels Production will provide producers with incentives for participation in new renewable fuels production capacity; and

- \$145 million through the Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program will provide support for cross-sector research networks conducting scientific research and development related to the advancement of a Canadian bio-based economy.

Biofuels are a renewable energy source produced from organic materials. Bioproducts are manufactured from renewable resources such as agricultural crops and organic residual matter. They include products such as biofuels, biofibres and biopharmaceuticals.

Additional information about these Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada programs and how to apply is available at www.agr.gc.ca.

Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines 2007

Vegetable - March 14

Potato - April 19

Corn, Soybean - April 30

Spring Grain - March 14

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.

Weather Plan

This plan focuses on crop losses related to weather events rather than crop yield. Insurance will be provided against a loss related to weather. Forage acres intended for storage or pasture are eligible.

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

Marketing Caravan Rolls into Town

Nova Scotia is hosting a Marketing Caravan, sponsored by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council. This exciting one-day event will be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre in Debert, on March 23.

Two excellent presenters, Charlie Touchette and Brent Warner, will give an overview of the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA) conference. Charlie and Brent will take all the highlights of the sessions, tours and workshops and collapse it into a fast-paced day, giving an overview of the latest in direct marketing and agri-tourism.

The agenda features:

Lessons Learned on the Road:

Bits and pieces from Touchette's and Warner's travels, including Cuba, Hawaii, New England, Wisconsin. The majority of the presentation is a review of the best lessons learned among all three Grow West tours offered in Alberta.

Words of Wisdom from the

Workshop: Engaging Retail Experiences, Innovative Marketing Made Easy, Pricing for Profit, Margins and Controls, Irresistible Agri-tourism Experiences

Cluster Development and Signage

Tips: A summary of the nuts and bolts of cluster development (partnering of tourism and related businesses in a geographic area). This is a two-part session looks at how a business, area or province develops the proper tourism signage.

Grow Across Canada: This session highlights the take home messages of the NAFDMA Grow West conference sessions. It is a flowing multimedia collage, focusing on the take home messages presented by over 50 presenters in Calgary. It is a fast paced learning experience, boiling down 45 hours of session contact time into the most powerful 45-minute farm direct marketing and agri-tourism consultation available in North America.

The cost of this event is \$50, which includes lunch and snacks. Please register by March 1. Contact Claire Hanlon Smith (902) 893-4491 hanlonca@gov.ns.ca; or Ginger Stoddard (902) 893-6580 stoddadg@gov.ns.ca

Carrot Production in Silico

Stephanie Rogers

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) is pleased to announce the creation of a new project in Agroinformatics. The project, being led by Dr. Raj Lada with the Department of Plant and Animal Sciences, intends to develop a computer modeling system for the carrot industry. This is a four-year initiative that is supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) councils and sponsored by Oxford Frozen Foods Limited. Alberta, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and ACAAf councils, are funding this initiative.

The project proposes to develop a computer-based modeling and decision making tool that can project the greatest economic return for carrot production, optimizing production and processing systems while delivering high quality carrots on an environmentally sustainable basis. The model will take into account the economic, production, environmental and food safety variables that can influence the value of a carrot crop, both pre-harvest and post-harvest.

"This program is the first of its kind to integrate crop production, processing, physiological biology, computational biology and software engineering," said Dr. Lada, Project Director. "Both ACAAf and Oxford Frozen Foods Limited recognize the benefits of this research as being vital to the future growth of the processing carrot industry."

Oxford Frozen Foods Limited is a major supplier of processed carrot products to the North American food industry. The company indicates that the results of the research promise to provide improved management capabilities, such as field planning, auditing, budgeting, production management, on-farm food safety and market planning.

"This research represents another example of how NSAC's state-of-the-art research pushes the limits of innovation and practicality to benefit the agricultural industry," said NSAC President Dr. T. Philip Hicks. "I am proud of all of our cutting-edge faculty members who compete successfully with the best in the world for the means to advance knowledge."

For more information contact
Stephanie Rogers at (902) 893-7247
or by e-mail at srogers@nsac.ca

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program Payments and Processing

The 2005 processing is 77 per cent complete and 2006 processing is underway. Files are processed on a first in-first out basis. By submitting your 2006 CAIS Harmonized Statement of Farming Activities now, you will be at the front of the line for the 2006 program year. Please remember it is EXTREMELY important to look over your Calculation of Benefits (COB) for errors when you receive it. You have 90 days from the date on the COB to make adjustments and appeals to the CAIS Administration. If you require assistance, please call the Programs and Business Risk Management number below.

CAIS FEE Deadline - APRIL 30, 2007

The deadline to pay the fee amount was December 31, 2006 for the 2006 CAIS program year. If you have not yet paid the fee, you may still participate. Participants have until April 30, 2007 to pay with penalty (FEE + 20 per cent). The fee is now owing if you did not officially opt out of the 2006 CAIS program year by September 30, 2006.

Programs Update:

The Nova Scotia Margin Enhancement (NSME)

program is one element of a three-point funding initiative announced by Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor in December 2006. It will assist the agricultural industry impacted by declining incomes and rising debt loads.

Payments are based on a 10 per cent increase of the reference margin used to calculate the 2003 Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program payments. Eligibility is restricted to non-supply managed sectors.

If you are a producer of a non-supply managed commodity, are currently actively farming and received a CAIS payment in 2003 you should have been contacted by the Programs and Business Risk Management office regarding your NSME payment eligibility. If you have not been contacted, please call the Programs office at (902) 893-6510 or toll free at 1-866-844-4276 for further information.

Farm Investment Fund

claiming deadline is March 1, 2007 for the 2006-07 program year. Although currently closed, the Farm Investment Fund is expected to re-open to applications in May of this year.

Agri-food Industry

Development Fund claiming deadline is March 15, 2007 for the 2006-07 program year. Although currently closed, the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund is expected to re-open to applications in May of this year.

Position Announcements:

Effective January 31, 2007, Steven Tattrie joined the Programs and Business Risk Management Division as the Promotion and Education Coordinator.

Steven graduated from the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in 2000, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy and successfully completed his Master of Science in Agriculture through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Dalhousie University in 2006. Steven has worked with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture in various capacities over the past five years, including as a research associate and more recently as the Canadian Environment Assessment Act Coordinator. While carrying out his responsibilities in these roles Steven gained valuable experience in research, project management, communications and extension. Combined with his family farming background, Steven is in a great position to be successful as the Promotion and Education Coordinator.

Steven's primary responsibilities will be the communication, extension and education of industry stakeholders with regard to business risk management and development programming offered through the Programs and Business Risk Management Division.

Steven replaces Christine Moore, who is now the Division's Program Coordinator. She is responsible for the development, delivery, monitoring, evaluation, and revision of existing and new programs that support the sustainable development of provinces agriculture and agri-food industry.

Steven and Christine are located on the main floor of Harlow Institute, Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus in Truro and can be reached at (902) 893-6374 and (902) 893-6378, respectively or by calling 1-866-844-4276.

For additional information on the programs offered visit our web site: www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm. Questions? Contact Programs and Business Risk Management office at (902) 893-6510 or toll-free at 1-866-844-4276.

Cais Producer and Accountant Sessions - Federal CAIS Administration

The federal CAIS representatives will be presenting 2006 program information in the evening sessions. They will be available to answer individual questions on a one-on-one basis in regional locations. Please register for individual appointment only by phoning the Programs and Business Risk Management office (902) 893-6510 or 1-866-844-4BRM (4276)

Day Sessions (one-on-one by appointment)	Evening Sessions (open to everyone)
Feb. 21 - Mabou 4H Office	Feb. 20 - Baddeck - Knox Pres. Church
Feb. 23 - Antigonish NSDA Office	Feb. 22 - Antigonish - Charles Keating Millennium Centre
Feb. 26 - Bridgewater - Wandlyn Inn	Feb. 26 - Bridgewater - Wandlyn Inn
Feb. 27 - Yarmouth - Rodd Colony Harbour Inn	Feb. 27 - Yarmouth - Rodd Colony Harbour Inn
Feb. 28 - Weymouth NSDA Office	Mar. 1 - Wolfville - Old Orchard Inn
Mar. 1 - Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds	Mar. 5 - Truro Best Western Glengarry
Mar. 5 - Kentville Agriculture Centre	Mar. 6 - Amherst - Wandlyn Inn
Mar. 6 - Truro, NSDA - Programs Office (Harlow Inst.)	
Mar. 7 - Amherst - Wandlyn Inn	

Accountant Sessions

Feb. 22 - Antigonish - Charles Keating Millennium Centre
Mar. 2 - Wolfville - Old Orchard Inn

For more information, contact the CAIS toll-free line at 1-866-367-8506

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

2007 CAIS Sign up Deadline Is Rapidly Approaching

The 2007 CAIS program year is unique in that sign up will occur before the crop year begins. Those who previously participated will be enrolled automatically. The deadline to sign-up and pay the fee for participating in the 2007 year is April 30, 2007. Those who do not wish to participate in the 2007 program year must let the CAIS Administration know by April 30, 2007, or it will be assumed you wish to participate and the fee will be charged.

Note: The deadline to pay the fee for both the 2006 and 2007 program year is April 30, 2007.

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

Research at NSAC

Laura Jones, Communications Assistant, NSERC-Atlantic

It's a good thing that Andy Vanderzaag has a sense of humour, because his research tends to get a bit messy. Working with waste water is not always pleasant, but for Andy's research it's all part of a day's work. Andy collects waste water (liquid manure) from farms and runoff from fields. High levels of nutrients and pathogens found in agricultural waste water has the potential to cause water quality issues. For example, excess nutrients can lead to algal blooms that can make the water unsuitable for drinking or recreational activities.

Andy and his supervisor are looking at the possibility of using wetlands as filters for farm waste water and runoff. They have built test wetlands that will help the plants, soil plus energy from the sun work together to trap and kill the pathogens and filter out nutrients. Andy describes the two types of wetlands they have created, to act as giant filters: one has soil and cattails

as a base, while the other has a gravel base. These two standard types of wetlands are used in any treatment experiment. These small-scale wetlands are built in greenhouses to control and monitor air flow. With specialized equipment, Andy is able to analyze the concentration of greenhouse gases more frequently than in previous studies. Greenhouse gases are being monitored for six wetlands (three soil-based and three gravel-based) as often as every four seconds for an entire year. This gives him the advantage of closely monitoring the two types of wetlands and looking at the variability within each. Andy is hoping to see which type of wetland is more efficient at treating waste water and if the two systems produce different amounts of greenhouse gases. With the answers to both of these questions, it will be clear as to which system has a better 'overall' environmental effect.

The benefits of Andy's research could potentially reach a very large audience. Ideally, he wants to remove contaminants from the water while releasing as few greenhouse gases as possible. The agricultural benefits of treating waste water could help to eventually mitigate greenhouse gases and help reduce the impact of climate change.

Equipment Calibration Services Provided Through EFP

Rick Hoeg

The goal of the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program is to assist farmers in identifying potential areas of environmental risk and provide practical solutions to minimize these risks. The utilization of farm chemicals and manure in production systems can increase on-farm environmental risk. Therefore, part of the EFP Program over the past few years has been to provide assistance to farmers in calibrating application equipment (i.e. pesticide sprayer, fertilizer and manure spreaders).

A few important issues regarding the calibration of farm equipment include:

Pesticide Sprayer Calibration

1. Pesticide application equipment should be calibrated annually. Growers using large quantities of wettable powders should re-calibrate sprayers more frequently as these products can cause extreme wear to the sprayer nozzles.

2. It is essential to know the size of fields being sprayed to prevent excess chemical mixture remaining in the sprayer. This may pose a problem with disposal of the chemical.

Manure Spreader Calibration

1. Manure spreader calibration takes only a couple of hours and is an essential component of completing a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

2. An accurate NMP requires collecting a manure sample for analysis. It is important that liquid storages are completely agitated in order to get a representative manure sample. With solid manure storages, samples should be taken from various areas of the storage and then mixed together. A sample of this composite mixture should be analyzed.

3. Manure samples should be taken and analyzed at least once every three years or more frequently if a change occurs in: i) feed ration, ii) method of storing the manure, or iii) type of bedding and/or waste feed added to the manure.

4. Analyzing manure and having the spreader accurately calibrated will result in better nutrient utilization and may reduce chemical fertilizer requirements.

Fertilizer Spreader Calibration

1. When spreading fertilizer, it is very important to operate the tractor at the correct PTO speed and operate the spreader at the correct height above the crop as suggested by the manufacture.

2. Spreader components must be kept in good condition. Worn or damaged parts can result in the fracture of the fertilizer particles and an uneven spread pattern. This will result in heavy and light areas of application from each pass.

Again this year the EFP Program will be providing assistance with calibrating application equipment. With spring approaching, farmers should consider accessing this service by contacting Rick Hoeg at (902) 893-6577 (office) or (902) 890-1894 (cell).



NSAC Continuing and Distance Education: New Year, New Courses

Continuing and Distance Education (CDE) at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) strives to meet the growing needs of the industry. In achieving this goal, we work to develop new courses that are relevant to industry demand, to upgrade professional skills and increase knowledge and abilities among agricultural employees.

In addition to our diverse learning opportunities for customized training, credit and non-credit courses, certificate programs, short courses and workshops, we have added Industry Specific Short Courses.

Retail Garden Centre Training

This two-day classroom based course, offered on campus at NSAC, is designed to increase the level of knowledge and customer service in your retail garden centre to maximize your sales and profits. Owners and operators can choose to send any number of employees with various levels of experience.

Dates:

March 27 and 28, 2007

April 24 and 25, 2007

Time: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Continued on page 8



RR No 1, Milford Station, Nova Scotia B0N 1Y0
 Tel: (902) 758-3530 • Fax: (902) 758-2974

Ways to Improve Fertilizer and Feeding Efficiency on Your Farm

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia, along with Agra Point, is holding four workshops throughout the province. Our guest speaker is Virginia Ishler - Dairy Unit Manager at Penn State University. She will be speaking on how to adjust silage based rations to improve nutrient efficiency. Other topics to be discussed are impact of manure on N, P and K fertilizer decisions, silage wide swath wilting, bunker silo techniques, variety testing, new grass herbicide and feeding dry cows and heifers.

March 27, 2007	Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Cost \$10*
March 28, 2007	Civic Center, Port Hawkesbury	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Cost \$10*
March 28, 2007	Fire Hall, Scotsburn	7:30 - 10 p.m.	Cost \$5
March 29, 2007	St. Bridget's Church Hall, Shubenacadie	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Cost \$10*

* Lunch will be provided. For more information contact: Carol Versteeg (902) 758-3530

NSAC Continuing and Distance Education: New Year, New Courses

Customized Training:

Our mission is to build partnerships and provide innovative training solutions that foster success in the applied science industries in Atlantic Canada.

We offer customized training to businesses, not-for-profit organizations and government clients. NSAC Program Managers will work in partnership with you to develop custom training to meet the needs of your industry.

Customized training programs can be offered on campus, your workplace, or online. Contact us for more

information on past projects, or to discuss what we can develop to help your business succeed!

Pesticide Vendor Certification

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour requires that all businesses that sell commercial or restricted class pesticides, or sell the service of applying these pesticides require a Business Operator Certification. All employees of the business who use or sell commercial or restricted class pesticides must also be certified.

This new course will cover the

basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. Course content ranges from integrated pest management principles to calibrations and calculations. Aerial spraying techniques are not covered. Course material will prepare participants to write the pesticide applicator exam, which is scheduled on the last day of the course.

Date: April 17 - 20, 2007.
 Time: 8:30am-5:30pm Tues-
 Thurs. 8:30am-1:00pm Friday
 (Exam)

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

Environmental Stewardship

This course will focus on exploring the fundamentals of environmental stewardship as it relates to integrated pest management.

- Expand your knowledge and application of Integrated Pest Management strategies.
- Gain PCRPs and CEUs.

Date: Saturday May 12, 2007.
Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Centre for Continuing Education can help develop and expand your expertise and applied knowledge in agriculture, environmental and animal sciences, horticulture and more. Visit us online at nsac.ca/cde
Or call (902) 893-6666



**Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College**

**Continuing and
Distance Education**

4-H News



Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

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

Presently 4-H members may apply for scholarships from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the TD Bank. Each scholarship has specific requirements and the two Nova Scotia scholarships require an essay to be submitted 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 \$2000.

Members are encouraged to speak to their General 4-H Leader or their 4-H Specialist to make sure they get a copy of the application forms. Deadlines are April 15, 2007 for the two Nova Scotia scholarships and October for the TD 4-H Scholarship. Ask your 4-H Specialist for more information about the TD scholarship in June.

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

Seven 4-H members from Nova Scotia will be attending the 36th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, April 13 - April 19, 2007 to gain a better

understanding of the political process in Canada. 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 Welcome to Canada. Sessions will allow delegates to learn about Canadian government, get an understanding of current government issues, debate the issue of immigration settlement and gain an appreciation of what it is to be a Canadian citizen.

The delegates attending from Nova Scotia are David Siddall, Cumberland County; Mary Forsyth and Laura Peill, Kings County; Ashley Clark, Hants County; Samantha Haley, Antigonish County; Mary Elizabeth Turner, Cape Breton County; and Chrissy Pace, Richmond 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 participate in a ceremony of new Canadians at citizenship court. Delegates will participate in social activities, tours to national museums and have lunch with their MP on Parliament Hill.

Become a Camp Rankin Counsellor!

Do you like being creative? Do you like hiking, canoeing, swimming and playing games? Are you outgoing and like kids? Are you crafty? Do you enjoy nature and being outdoors? Do you want to have the best summer of your life? Apply for a Camp Counselor Position! Positions available are Canoeing Counselor, Drama Counselor, Nature Counselor, Recreation Counselor, Water Safety Counselor, 4-H Counselor.

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

If you are at least 16 years of age; have two years significant camping experience; 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 children and peers 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 life guard certification.

Counselors are generally responsible for: Following camp rules through their actions and setting a good example for campers; supervising a group of campers during the night in individual cabins; providing storytelling experiences at various times during the week; preparing your own workshop sessions; supervising campers on hikes and during group activities; conducting a camp fire session; and making sure they have the best summer yet!!

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members to have a great summer job where you will meet new friends and create many fond memories. 4-H members who are 16 or older can also apply for the counselor in training positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one camping week.

Deadlines to have the applications to the 4-H office in Truro 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.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

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

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

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

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

Bill MacLeod –
Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: (902) 893-0244
macleojb@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

Pesticide Certification and Recertification Courses

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will be offering Certification and Recertification Courses in 2007. The cost for the Certification Course is \$185 (tax and manual included) and the Recertification Course is \$75 (tax included). To register for any of these courses, please contact Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114.

Certification Courses

March 1-2, 2007 - Agricultural Centre, Kentville, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
April 4-5, 2007 - Agricultural Centre, Kentville, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Recertification Courses

March 8, 2007 - AgriTech Park, Truro, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
March 30, 2007 - Agricultural Centre, Kentville, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Operation Clean Sweep

Reminder to everyone about the waste pesticide collection and disposal continuing until February 28. Bring your waste pesticides to a designated agri-chemical dealer for safe disposal. Participating collection sites in our area include Bridgewater Farmers Co-op; Cavendish Agri Services in Middleton, Kentville and Truro; Scotian Gold Co-Op, Coldbrook; Corridor Co-op in Shubenacadie; Truro Agromart.

Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day

Watch for further information about the Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day being held in April.

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture

The Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture has been working on getting locally produced food into Annapolis Valley schools; land use issues; agricultural strategic planning for the future; biofuels and renewable energy. Please look forward to a general meeting in April!

Lunenburg Queens Co. Federation of Agriculture Spring Social

The annual Spring Social for the Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture will be held on April 27 at the Newcombville Fire Hall.

Valley Region 4-H Update

4-H Chocolate Fundraiser Campaign:

March 5 to April 2, 2007: 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 9 and 10, Camp Hilles, Paradise: The 2007 Chat-A-Rama is designed specifically for 4-H members who are 14 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2007, eager to learn new things, meet new friends, and have fun. The theme for the 2007 Chat-A-Rama is "Healthy Impressions, Healthy Living". The program will include sessions on healthy food choices from a nutritionist, stretch yourself, Active Living, Virtues/Inspired Living, Spotlight on Agriculture and more! There

will also be teamwork activities, meal planning and, of course, social and recreation time. The registration fee is \$30, which includes workshop fees, meals and accommodation. This weekend event is open to members from the Valley, South Shore and Western Regions. The deadline for registration is Friday, February 23, 2007.

Kings County Camp Rankin Scholarship: Kings County junior 4-H members (9 - 12 years of age as of January 1, 2007) can apply for the Camp Rankin Scholarship. The scholarship covers the total cost of registration for the camper. All junior members can apply even if they have attended Camp Rankin previously. However, members who have received the scholarship in the past are not eligible. To apply members must fill out the Kings County 4-H Camp Rankin Scholarship Application and Camp Rankin 2007 Registration Form, available from your general leader or 4-H office (902) 679-6027. Applications are due March 15 .

4-H Bowling Fundraiser

In support of the 2007 Provincial Show being held in Windsor: Members and leaders in Hants County 4-H Clubs will be participating in a bowling fundraiser on Feb 24 in Windsor. Each bowling team must raise \$100 and all profits will go towards the 2007 Provincial Show. Anyone interested in sponsoring at team please contact the 4-H office (902) 679-6027.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Kings County 4-H Council Meetings: Monday, March 5 and April 2 , 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County 4-H Council Meetings: Wednesday, March 7 and April 11 , 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School

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

SEARS Young Futures 4 - H Club Grant Program Enables Lunenburg County Senior Members to be Better Judges!

The 4-H motto is particularly applicable to judging - the only way to learn to judge is by doing it! The way to improve is to practice. The more often a member judges, the better he or she will become. Even members who are experienced in judging can benefit from a practice session, either by sharpening their skills in their project or trying a class in another project.

The Lunenburg 4 - H Council is offering a series of four workshops to 25 of it's senior members. All workshops will focus on judging. From the basics of why we judge, to hearing from a professional livestock judge on what merits a good set of oral reasons, members will have an excellent opportunity to improve their skills. Two of the workshop sessions will focus on specific Live Skill Projects and Livestock Projects, with experienced judges sharing their skills. Participants will judge and give oral reasons at each session. The final session will include a working session where member teams will prepare presentations which they will present to junior members in their respective clubs. This workshop is made possible with generous funding of Sears Canada, just one of the 30 grants given by Sears to 4 - H clubs across Canada. For more information contact the 4-H office at (902) 543-0616.



Tax Breaks?

Producers who have done or are planning to do on-farm research may be able to benefit from this work on their income tax. More information is available from the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) using Form T661 available at the following link www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t661. There is also a Nova Scotia Tax incentive for research and development. For more information please visit www.gov.ns.ca/finance/taxpolicy/taxcredits/rd.asp.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 20 APF Next Generation Public Consultation
9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Best Western Glengarry, Truro
Register at www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen
- Feb 19-21 Introductory Welding - \$400
NSAC, Truro
Call (902) 893-6666 for more information
- Feb 21 Value Chain Workshop
8:30 a.m. Best Western Glengarry, Truro
To register call (902) 893-6580
- Mar 8-10 Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show, Moncton
- Mar 23 Nova Scotia Marketing Caravan
8:30 a.m. Debert Hospitality Center
To register call (902) 893-4491

Federation News:

The Halifax East Hants Federation and Stewiacke District Federation of Agriculture will be holding their Annual Fun Curling Night on Saturday March 3, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. The curling will take place at the Sportsplex in Brookfield, with a chili and pie potluck lunch to follow. For more information contact Barb McDonald at (902) 758-3583 or Maxine Gourley (902) 639-2709.

Halifax East Hants Federation of Agriculture is organizing a bus to the Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show in Moncton, March 8-10. The bus will leave from the Milford church parking lot, exit 9, at 8 a.m. sharp on Thursday, March 8. (Storm date is Friday March 9) A stop will be made at Tim Hortons parking lot in Stewiacke at approximately 8:20 a.m. The bus will be returning to Milford at approximately 9 p.m. The cost for the bus is \$20 per person or \$35 per family. For more information and to register a space on the bus, please contact Barb McDonald at (902) 758-3583.

Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia Workshop:

March 29, 2007 St. Bridget's Church Hall, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cost \$10*
 Shubenacadie

* Lunch will be provided. For more information contact: Carol Versteeg (902) 758-3530

Pesticide Certification Courses:

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

Certification:	February 21-22	Truro	AgriTech Park	9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	\$185.00
Recertification:	March 8	Truro	AgriTech Park	9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	\$ 75.00
Recertification:	March 9	Nappan	Nappan Pavilion	9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	\$ 75.00

Note: 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.

Pesticide Training Technology for Farmers:

Recertification: February 20 - NSAC, Truro. For more information call (902) 893-6666.

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers:

February 22 - NSAC, Truro. For more information call (902) 893-6666.

Up Coming Events

Canadian Nutrition Labeling Workshops

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association and Taste of Nova Scotia Quality Food Program are delivering two different workshops on Canadian Nutrition Labelling.

The introductory workshop to Canadian Nutrition Labelling is intended for those food producers, importers, and retailers that sell products within Canada. Persons involved in creating labels are also invited to attend. It will cover the following topics: Transition period for compliance, exemptions to nutrition facts labelling, components of a nutrition facts table (core information and nutrients), nutrient claims, diet related health claims, biological role claims, available display surface, and how to select an appropriate nutrition facts table using the hierarchy of tables.

The Canadian Nutrition Labelling Claims workshop is intended to provide information on claims that are now permitted on foods, and will build on the information

covered in the Introductory Nutrition Labelling workshop (nutrient content claims, quantitative claims, biological role claims and diet related health claims). Requirements for making these claims, including the conditions that the food has to meet, the conditions that need to be met in order to make written claims in advertising, will be discussed.

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

The workshop will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

Thursday, April 5, 2007
Introductory Nutrition
Labelling Workshop
Sydney, Nova Scotia

Thursday, April 12, 2007
Nutrition Claims Workshop
Sydney, Nova Scotia
Location: 1080 Upper Prince
St. (CFIA office)

For more information or to register please call Sharon Noel at (902) 426-5307 or the Agriculture office at (902) 563-2000.

Pesticide Recertification Training, ProAgri Consulting Ltd.

Friday April 13, 2007
Civic Center (320 Esplanade)
Community Room
Sydney, Nova Scotia
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

This course is eligible for five points under the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour pesticide re-certification program.

Pesticide recertification is a great opportunity for license holders to improve on 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 license and would like to accumulate recertification points towards their license. Individuals complete five hours of pesticide safety course topics and are issued recertification points, one point for each hour of training. These recertification points (maximum five per year) are accumulated over a number of years through training courses and this process 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 recertification points. Example: if your license expires in 2009 and

you have not collected any points to date then you would be unable to collect all the points needed by the expiry date)

The cost for the course is \$75 including HST (pay on the day). Participants are asked to bring a calculator, pencil/pen and their current pesticide license. Pre-registration is required by calling Sarah or Traci at ProAgri Consulting 902-798-2114. This is going to be a great course, hope to see you there.

First Aid for Farm Families

Farming is a hazardous occupation. Dealing with heavy equipment and unpredictable animals while situated in a remote location increases the likelihood of injury and can present unique challenges to a rescuer who is first on the scene.

ActiveLife Adventure and Training, in conjunction with the Canadian Red Cross, is offering Emergency First Aid training customized for farm families.

The course provides excellent training for individuals who reside/ work in farming or rural communities. Offered in one day (approx. 8 hrs), it covers basic first aid skills and addresses hazards unique to farming.

Course Content

- ▶ How to get help in farm related emergency situations
- ▶ Practical hands-on training dealing with farm related emergencies
- ▶ Check, Call, Care
- ▶ Airway and breathing emergencies (asthma, severe allergic reaction, obstructed airway)
- ▶ New CPR guidelines now in effect
- ▶ Recognize and give first aid for heart attack and stroke
- ▶ Control bleeding
- ▶ Recognize and deal with shock.

The course focus will be hands-on practical training – we learn by doing. Successful completion of the course will certify the participant in Canadian Red Cross Emergency First Aid and CPR. The certification is recognized in the workplace by the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.

Wednesday March 28, 2007

Skye Glen Hall

Thursday March 29, 2007

Millville Hall

You must pre-register for this course by March 1, 2007. Please call the Agriculture office to register at (902) 563-2000, cost of this course is \$75 per person.

CAIS Session

There will be a CAIS information session on;

Tuesday February 20, 2007
7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Knox Pres. Church Hall
Grant St., Baddeck, NS

Wednesday, February 21,
2007

One-on-One Session
NSDA office
Mabou, NS

For more information or to book an appointment, please contact the Agriculture office at (902) 563-2000.

4-H : Lasting Impressions

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

4-H junior members from all over Cape Breton will be having a workshop at the North Sydney Exhibition grounds on Friday, Feb 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This workshop will leave a “lasting impression” on our junior members that will help them through the 4-H year. The workshop will focus on decision making, communication, cooperation, leadership and judging skills. The workshop is open to 9-13 year olds. In case of storm, cancellations will be aired on C.J.F.X. or C.B.C. radio.

Chocolate Campaign 2007

It is that time of year again when the provincial fund raising campaign gears up. This year 4-H will be selling World's Finest Chocolate Variety Pack consisting of a variety case of 25 bars, including the almond bar, caramel bar, crisp bar and the milk bar. The bars sell for \$2 each. All money/prizes tickets, etc. must be in from the clubs and counties to regional representatives by April 13, 2007. Over the past few years the provincial share of the fund raising has been used for many different projects:

- ▶ Support the EBI 4-H Showcase
- ▶ 18 Camp Rankin Scholarships (one per county)
- ▶ assistance with general expenses of the Nova Scotia 4-H show and 4-H Weekend
- ▶ Increasing the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship to \$1000
- ▶ Supporting Canadian 4-H Council fund raising on behalf of clubs in Nova Scotia
- ▶ Nova Scotia 4-H Council pays for the registration costs of members and leaders to National 4-H programs
- ▶ Payroll for a part-time NS 4-H Council Secretary
- ▶ Canadian 4-H Council Leaders Conference Support
- ▶ Support of Nova Scotia Members and Leaders workshops
- ▶ Support our member delegate to Madison Dairy Conference
- ▶ Travel costs for the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair Young Speaker for Agriculture member
- ▶ Prizes for the chocolate campaign
- ▶ Support the development of new project resources
- ▶ Nova Scotia 4-H show Hosting costs

We encourage the 4-H and agricultural communities to support this and other fund raising drives so that these worthwhile programs can be continue for years to come.

Finishing Touches-Senior Members and Leaders Workshop

Looking to learn more about completing and displaying 4-H projects in the most appealing manner possible? Wonder exactly what the judges are looking for and considering in making their placing? Want to learn more about exhibiting projects and about making displays and posters? Then plan to attend a "Finishing Touches" session on March 3 at the Evergreen Club, Port Hawksbury from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Additional topics include recreation ideas, building stronger clubs, dealing with personalities and individuals in a volunteer setting. There will be project breakaway sessions for sewing, foods, woodworking, scrap booking and garden/floriculture. Contact your local 4-H office for application information.

4-H Website - Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H websites for all sorts of great information. Our provincial website has loads of information such as: 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 website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/.

Our national website, through Canadian 4-H council, offers various resource materials, national scholarship, program grants and funding, as well as 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/.

Dates to Mark on the Calendar

February 23	Junior Members Workshop	North Sydney Exhibition Grounds	9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
March 3	Finishing Touches-Leader/ Senior Member Workshop	Port Hawksbury	10 a.m - 3:30 p.m.
March 5	Victoria Co. Council Meeting	at(Peterson's)	7 p.m.
March 6 and April 3	Cape Breton Co. Council Meeting	Civic Center	7:30 p.m.
March 31	Victoria Co. Rally	Baddeck Forks Hall	1 p.m.
April 14	Cape Breton Co. Rally	Hosted by Arm of Gold Club	10 a.m.
April 14	Inverness Co. Rally	St. Peter's Parish Hall, Port Hood	10 a.m.
April 21	Cape Breton Regional Rally	Baddeck Academy	10 a.m.
May 4-5	4-H Weekend	Truro	

Feel free to contact your local 4-H offices if you have any concerns or questions. Your 4-H Specialists can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2000 (Marina).

**Pesticide
Certification/Recertification**

Once again ProAgri Consulting Limited will provide Pesticide Recertification training on February 23 at the Heather Hotel in New Glasgow. Pesticide Certification will be offered February 21 and 22 at the AgriTech Park in Truro. Please contact Tracey or Sarah of ProAgri Consulting Limited at (902) 798-2114 .

Also, the **North Eastern Christmas Tree Association** will be offering a course at their IPM Workshop, on March 3 , 2007 at the St. Andrew’s Community Center, Antigonish Nova Scotia. The course is worth five points. The cost is \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members. For more information and to register, please contact Donnie Mac Millan at (902) 783-2444.

First Aid Course

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

**Antigonish/Guysborough
Federation of Agriculture**

The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture has picked their new Executive for 2007.

President	Jack Thomson
Vice President	Mary McCarron
Secretary	
Directors	Lynn MacDonald David Kennedy John Mattie Margaret Cornect Francis Overmars Ronnie Mac Donald John Oostvogels

Soil & Crop - “Ways To Improve Fertilizer and Feeding Efficiencies on Your Farm”

March 28, 2007	Civic Center, Port Hawkesbury	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	\$10
March 28,2007	Fire Hall, Scotsburn	7:30 - 10 p.m.	\$10

Lunch will be provided. For more information contact: Carol Versteeg 902-758-3530

Upcoming 4-H Events:

Antigonish County

Swimming, Oland Centre	Feb 11	3 - 4 p.m.
Council Meeting	Mar 6	7 p.m.
Ant. County Rally	Mar 31 (storm date April 14)	9 a.m.
Council Meeting	April 10	7 p.m.
Ant/Guys/Pictou Regional Rally	April 24 (storm date April 28)	5 p.m.
Exhibition Committee Meeting	April 17	7 p.m.

Pictou County

Bowling, New Glasgow	Feb 16 (\$5 per person)	7-9 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting	Feb 28 4-H office	7 p.m.
Swimming Pictou Fisheries Pool	March 10 Free	6-7:30 p.m.
Council Meeting	March 28 (Location TBA)	7 p.m.
County Rally	March 31 (Location TBA)	TBA
Woodsman Competition Day	April 14	10 a.m.
Regional Rally Antigonish	April 24	6 p.m.



Up Coming Events

Ways to Improve Fertilizer and Feeding Efficiency on Your Farm

The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia along with Agra Point, is holding workshops throughout the province. (See main newsletter for details)

March 27, 2007 Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cost \$10.00*

* Lunch will be provided. For more information contact: Carol Versteeg (902) 758-3530

ACORN Organic Conference and Trade Show and One Day Organic Dairy Symposium March 1-3, 2007

Where: Howard Johnson's Dutch Inn, Cornwall, PE

When: Thursday, March 1 to Saturday, March 3, 2007

Time: TBA

- Informative, practical workshops on organics, soil, grains, horticultural and field crops, livestock, marketing, CSA's

- Prominent speakers from the Maritimes, Canada and US

- Trade show with more than 30 exhibitors

For more information,

Phone: 1-866-32-ACORN

<http://www.acornorganic.org/events.html>

4-H in Western Nova Scotia

4-H Clubs in Western Nova Scotia have reorganized for the 2007 year and many activities are taking place. The Leaders Workshop was held in Annapolis Royal, January 23, 2007. Twenty leaders took part in a three-part program on working together as leaders and then worked with the members involved in the 4-H program. Leaders were recognized for their contribution as a volunteer to the 4-H program.

The following activities are planned for the coming weeks:

4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

February 14, March 14, and April 11, all at 7 p.m. in the 4-H office in Lawrencetown.

Digby 4-H Leaders Council meetings:

February 22, March 22, and April 19, at the Digby fire hall at 7 p.m.

Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

February 21, March 21, April 18, all at 7 p.m. at the 4-H office 101-3 Lovitt St., Yarmouth

Annapolis County 4-H Ski Trip to Martock will be held February 18,

Annapolis County 4-H Craft Workshop is being held March 3, 2007 at the Demonstration Building in Lawrencetown. (Registrations are due February 23, 2007)

Public Speaking and Demonstrations County Rallies:

Annapolis County Rally, Saturday March 31, NSCC, Lawrencetown

Digby County Rally, Saturday March 31, location TBA

Yarmouth County Rally, Saturday March 31, location TBA

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact:

Teressa Vanoostrum, at (902) 584-2081 or vanoostp@gov.ns.ca

Jean Ward at (902) 584-2080 or wardje@gov.ns.ca 4-H Specialists for Western Region