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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



October 2007

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 8 No. 4



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Advance Payments Program

Once again the Soil & Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has applied to the federal government to be administrators for the fall portion of the 2007/08 Advance Payments Program (APP). The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products to eligible producers by extending an advance as a means to improve cash-flow. Any one person or any farm business is limited to an advance of \$100,000 interest free. Producers repay the advance to the Administrator as the agricultural product is sold and at the rate per unit in effect at the time of the repayment. The crops we have asked to be covered under the program this year are wheat, hay, rye, grain, corn, oats, barley and soybeans. Producers must have these crops in storage and allow a crop inspection to be done by an agent appointed by SCIANS. Also producers must agree to allow SCIANS to conduct a credit review. This will be done by an unrelated third party. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged for producers to participate

in the program. Producers who are already involved in the spring portion of the program and would like to continue in the fall portion, will be charged an administration fee of 0.5 per cent of the advance. All advances must be paid back by September 2008. If you are

interested in finding out more about the program or if you would like to add your name to the list to have an application sent to you once they become available, please contact Carol Versteeg (902-758-3530) or email carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca

The Pick of the Crop

A SAMPLING OF NOVA SCOTIA'S
AGRI-TOURISM EXPERIENCES

For family fun this fall or year-round farm experiences, check out a new brochure highlighting fourteen of the province's agri-tourism destinations:

Apple Berry Farm Market, Wiles Lake Farm Market and Bakery, Ross Farm Museum, Noggins Corner Farm, Blueberry Acres U-Pick and Between the Bushes Restaurant, Fox Hill Cheese House, Tangled Garden Herbs, Domaine de Grande Pr , The Udder House Guest House B&B, Sugar Moon Farm, Jost Vineyards, Lismore Sheep Farm Wool Shop, Stonehame Lodge and Chalets and Valley Wine Tours.

In addition, our associate partners are: Taste of Nova Scotia, Winery Association of Nova Scotia, Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia.

What will you discover? Simple delights and profound pleasures. The touch of cold, crisp apples and new corn. The smell of crackling fires and hot-baked goods. See a young lamb's nimble first stroll. Watch

milking cows, curious llamas, and happy hens. Visit a farmers' market! Then when it is time to sample the products of the farm, experience marvelous restaurants featuring fresh, local and seasonal mouth-watering fare and award-winning wine from Nova Scotia's internationally acclaimed wineries.

So get in touch with simple goodness again. Feed your mind. Fuel your senses. Delight your soul. Feast on what Nova Scotia's agri-tourism operators have to offer.

For more information on what's available throughout Nova Scotia, check out our web site at: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/marketing/contact/landsea/ or check your local visitor information centre, participating agri-tourism operator, or farmers' market for a copy of the brochure.

Contact Claire Hanlon Smith, Marketing Services Division, for more information, 902-893-4491 or hanlonca@gov.ns.ca

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

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) 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.

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

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 website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram>.

New Risk Management programs launched for 2007/08

Federal and Provincial Ministers have agreed to a new suite of business risk management programs. The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program (CAIS) will be replaced by the first two programs described below. After final ministerial approval, further details on program design and how to sign up will be available.

AgriInvest is a savings account for producers, supported by governments, which provides coverage for small income declines and allows for investments that help mitigate risks or improve market income.

AgriStability (replaces CAIS) provides support when a producer experiences larger farm income losses. The program covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a producer's average income from previous years.

AgriRecovery is a disaster relief framework which provides a

coordinated process for federal, provincial and territorial governments to respond rapidly when disasters strike, filling gaps not covered by existing programs.

AgriInsurance is an existing program which includes insurance against production losses for specified perils (weather, pests, disease) and is being expanded to include more commodities.

New Entrants for AgriStability (CAIS) 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 (CAIS) New Participant Package. To request a package, please contact CAIS at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram>.

PROGRAMS UPDATE

The Farm Investment Fund (FIF) is still accepting applications, with nearly 700 received to date. There is still time to apply for projects that you wish to undertake this fall. You are encouraged to claim projects as they are completed, which may help you manage cash flow for multiple approved projects. There is no limit to the amount of claims you may submit.

The next scheduled call for Letters of Intent for the Technology Development 2000 Program is January 15, 2008.

The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF)

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program is currently open, with 60 applications to date. These include applications to the new Specified Risk Material (SRM) Handling category and the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) category. Applications are still being accepted for AFIDF program categories A through E.

The guidelines and application forms for FIF, Technology Development 2000 Program and the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund may be accessed at the following web site:

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm.

Questions? Contact Programs & Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Orchard Renewal Funding

Negotiations are currently underway with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in support of an Orchard Renewal program. Although progress is being made, it will likely be late fall before a signed agreement is in place and the method of delivery confirmed. We realize that some producers may want to conduct work in support of orchard renewal prior to this time line. The Farm Investment Fund offers a funding alternative.

The FIF program provides cost-shared assistance on land development projects. Under Category B, there is a 30 per cent assistance level for such things as orchard removal, land clearing, land leveling, and land forming. Other types of land preparation, such as ditching and tile drainage, are cost shared at 50 per cent under Category C (Water Management). Eligibility criteria for this provincial funding are producers must be actively farming, have a current farm registration, and be generating an

annual gross farming income of at least \$10,000. The last criteria may be waived if the applicant is considered a beginning farmer (within the first three years of registration). For more information or to submit a FIF application, please contact Programs & Business Risk Management (NSDA) at 1-866-844-4276.

You should be aware when making the decision to make application to FIF that the assistance offered under the federal Orchard Renewal initiative will likely be higher. The choice whether to do the work now, or wait until details of the federal program are known is obviously an individual management decision.

On Farm Health and Safety — More than PTO and ROP's

Farming is one of the most complex and demanding work environments that anyone can face. As farmers, we often take the farm for granted. However, machinery, livestock, pesticides, confined spaces and hazardous environments all pose totally different challenges for farmers and farm workers. How do you comply with the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act and make your farm the safest that it can be?

It is with this in mind that the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Agriculture College, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Labour, and the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee are working together to review the issue of on farm health and safety. In the coming months it is hoped that a program can be developed that will provide Nova Scotia farmers access to a comprehensive and manageable Farm Health and Safety Program. Experience with the Environmental Farm Plan Program is being drawn on as this process proceeds. One proposal under consideration would see the farm health and safety

program function as a component of the EFP.

Consideration is being given to various initiatives across Canada and in the US. There is a great deal of interest at this time in farm health and safety. Many regions are just bringing agriculture, or have just brought agriculture under their occupational health and safety acts. In Nova Scotia, the Occupational Health and Safety Act applies to all Nova Scotia farmers regardless of the number of people employed on farms. The act specifically states the duties of an employer and a self-employed person. Recognizing this it is important that every farm employer review their responsibilities under the Act. In the next few months we hope to develop a program that will assist farm operators achieve an acceptable level of health and safety on their farms.

Jonathan Wort, Farm Safety Coordinator
Email: jwort@nsac.ca
Phone: 902-893- 6227

Think Safety! Harvest time can be hectic. Fight fatigue by drinking plenty of water, eating regularly, and taking breaks when possible.

Dr. Rob Gordon named Director of Research at NSAC

Dr. Leslie MacLaren, Vice-President Academic, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rob Gordon as Director of Research at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). Dr. Gordon is an Associate professor and recent Canada Research Chair with the Department of Engineering. He has been Interim Director of Research at NSAC for the past year.

The Director of Research is responsible for working with faculty and staff to meet the research goals of the University and its academic departments. In this part-time role, he promotes and actively develops the research effort on campus to help foster research growth and excellence.

Dr. Gordon is a climatologist and leading authority on climate-change issues in the region. His research focuses primarily on the identification of adaptive resource management issues at the farm-level in Atlantic Canada. He teaches several undergraduate and graduate courses and supervises a number of

graduate students. Recently, he was one of six civil servants to receive the Premier's Award of Excellence, an award which recognizes outstanding contributions by Nova Scotia civil servants.

During his time as Interim Director of Research, Dr. Gordon has seen increased research funding, an increase in services offered by the Research Office and the hiring of several new research chairs. Dr. Gordon is easily recognized by his sheer energy! His ability and willingness to make time for students, faculty and staff is well-known.

"We are happy to be able to continue to benefit from Dr. Gordon's knowledge and expertise in this position," said Dr. MacLaren. "We look forward to his dedication, continued enthusiasm and to the promotion and development of research at NSAC."

The Director of Research position is a renewable three-year term position.



Board Members Appointed

Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor has appointed a new board of directors and interim CEO of AgraPoint International Inc.

AgraPoint provides services to the agriculture industry in horticulture, livestock and poultry, field crops, pest management and food safety.

The new AgraPoint board members are Ken Mounce (chair), John Moloney, Dr. Leslie MacLaren, Greg Sheffer, Dr. Robert Gordon, Richard Melvin, Linda MacDonald, Herman Berfelo, G. Brian Smith and Susan Payne.

George Smith has been appointed CEO for a one-year term.

AgraPoint is a Crown corporation with offices in Kentville, Truro and Cape Breton.

Integrated Approaches to Weed Management for Lowbush Blueberry

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) is pleased to announce the initiation of a major project in alternative weed management technologies. The project, being led by Dr. Nathan Boyd, Vegetation Management Research Chair with the Department of Environmental Sciences, intends to develop integrated approaches to weed management for lowbush blueberry. This is a three-year initiative which is being supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Oxford Frozen

Foods Ltd., Bragg Lumber Company Ltd. and the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WPBANS).

The wild blueberry is one of the most important fruit crops of Quebec and the four Atlantic provinces. Weeds are the major yield-limiting factor in blueberry fields and current weed management practices in lowbush blueberry rely predominately on applications of a limited number of herbicides. Effective weed management must be balanced with

the desire to market blueberries as a wild, healthy and low-input product. In order to address these growing issues, the largest grower and processor within the industry have set a goal to reduce agrochemical use by 40 per cent. In order for this goal to be achieved, alternative technologies or herbicides with different modes of action need to be evaluated for potential use alone or in conjunction with current practices.

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Management of a diverse weed population, with reduced agrochemical inputs, will require an integration of several management strategies. These strategies include increased herbicide use efficiency, replacement of old technology with new reduced risk and lower input agrochemicals, substitution of herbicides with other weed management techniques, site specific application of agrochemicals or, finally, redesign of the cropping system to reduce the need for herbicides.

“The two primary objectives of this research initiative are to determine the impact of site specific applications of herbicides and fertilizers on weed patch and population dynamics,” says Dr. Boyd. “We will also be developing integrated weed management programs for the management of specific weed species.”

This research initiative is part of a multi-disciplinary research effort at NSAC in collaboration with Oxford Frozen Foods and WBPANS. Oxford Frozen Foods Ltd. is an internationally based food company specializing in wild blueberries. WBPANS represents over 1000 blueberry growers in Nova Scotia and serves as the voice of the wild blueberry industry with government and the general public. This collaboration between industry and research was initiated to develop management techniques that improve land stewardship practices, reduce agrochemical inputs, and increase blueberry yields.

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

Upcoming Courses with NSAC's Continuing & Distance Education

Commercial class or restricted class pesticides. Study for certification or gain re-certification points.

Pesticide Re-Certification
For Farmers: Thursday, November 8

Pesticide Applicator Certification: November 19-22

Nutrient Management Planning: Tuesday, November 13 to Friday, November 16

Introductory Welding: November 6-27

Organic Agriculture Courses Beginning January 2008
Organic Field Crop Management
Organic Livestock Production

For more information, contact:
Continuing & Distance Education
Phone: 902-893-6666
E-mail: cde@nsac.ca

Website: nsac.ca/cde



Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College

Continuing and
Distance Education

New Requirements for Transporting Cattle

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

As of July 12, 2007, enhanced animal health safeguards are in place to help eliminate bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, from Canada. Certain cattle tissues, known as specified risk materials (SRM), are banned from all animal feeds, pet foods and fertilizers. As a result, there are new requirements for anyone handling, transporting and disposing of cattle carcasses.

In practical terms, all dead cattle require a permit issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to be transported and received.

Cattle Dying in Transit

As of July 12, 2007, if cattle die during transportation, the carcass is considered to be SRM. Therefore, a permit is required to bring the carcass back to the premises of origin or to a facility in Canada that is permitted by the CFIA to store, process or dispose of SRM.

SRM transportation permits

If a commercial trucking company regularly transports cattle for auction or slaughter and there is a chance of mortalities during transit, the CFIA recommends that the company apply for an annual SRM transportation permit. This allows the company to transport an unlimited number of bovine carcasses under the same

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permit for up to one year. One permit number will be issued for the entire fleet, with each of the vehicles in the fleet listed on the permit itself. To apply for an annual SRM transportation permit, contact the nearest CFIA district office. The permit application form is also available online at www.inspection.gc.ca/bse. All permits for transporting, receiving and disposing of SRM are free of charge.

If a cow dies in transit and the company does not have an annual SRM transportation permit, the driver should call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 and request an emergency SRM permit. The CFIA permit officer on-call will request the following information:

- the transporter's name, address, phone number, e-mail address;
- a description of the conveyance used to transport the SRM (license plate of truck or description of tarp/bucket);
- the SRM permit number of the site that will be receiving the SRM (unless it is the farm of origin of an animal dying in transit);
- the number or carcasses and approximate weight of SRM being transported; and
- CCIA or ATQ tag number(s).

At the conclusion of the call, the inspector will provide the number of a permit, which will be valid for 48 hours or less. An actual copy of the SRM permit will be provided during an ensuing inspection. This copy should be retained for record-keeping purposes.

For more information about SRM handling requirements or the permit application process, contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 or visit www.inspection.gc.ca/bse.

Note: Please note that in Nova Scotia, dead stock haulers have been permitted to haul SRM's. In the central region contact Ted Shearer, 902-662-4009, in the valley region contact David Ells at 902-678-4689.

AgraPoint Welcomes Two New Specialists

AgraPoint is pleased to welcome two new specialists.

Dan Mosley joins AgraPoint as a Dairy Specialist who will also be working in the beef and sheep sectors. Dan has worked in the dairy, livestock and ruminant feed sectors since 1992. He provides professional ruminant nutrition and husbandry advice to farmers, including feed plans, herd health recommendations and support to the dairy industry where his main areas of interest are milking systems, their efficiency for the farm as a whole and the implications on the dairy cow and her subsequent production. He has worked with vets to maximize herd health potential and has a keen interest in young stock and the transition cow. Dan also has a wealth of experience in the beef and sheep sectors and spent seven years working closely with intensive beef producers throughout Eastern England. His work with the feed industry has included providing nutritional advice on-farm and to feed companies. Please feel free to contact Dan and he will be making contact with as many producers as possible in the coming weeks.

Dan can be reached at (902) 896-0277 or d.mosley@agrapoint.ca

Gary Wallace joins the team on a part-time basis as a Livestock Specialist while Amy Sangster completes her Masters degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Gary joins AgraPoint after being Manager of the Beef and Sheep units at the NSAC. He provides comprehensive advice to livestock producers, specializing in small ruminants. He has been active in and works closely with the provincial sheep producer associations. He has served for several years as a PSBANS Director. He has worked on the development of several Sheep Training Programs including "Sheep Enterprise Management" and "The Modern Shepherd". He has also been active in international agriculture and has worked in The Gambia, Ghana and Ethiopia. Please feel free to contact Gary at (902) 896-0277 or g.wallace@agrapoint.ca

For more information on both Dan and Gary, please visit www.agrapoint.ca and click on 'Our People'.



Nova Scotia Fall Beef Extension Meetings

AgraPoint, in partnership with sponsor Schering-Plough, are hosting six beef extension meetings in the next month. All Nova Scotia beef producers are invited to attend a meeting in their area.

Monday, October 29 - Yarmouth (Yarmouth Community)

Tuesday, October 30 - Bridgewater (Wandlyn Inn)

Thursday, November 1 - Kentville (AAFC Agriculture Research Station)

Monday, November 5 - Stewiacke (St. Andrew's United Church)

Tuesday, November 6 - East Pictou (East Pictou Middle School)

Wednesday, November 7 - Wentworth (Wentworth Community Centre)

Thursday, November 8 - Cape Breton (Sky Glen Community Hall)

Topics to be covered are: Introduction of the Modeling Project (Sean Firth, AgraPoint); Review of methods for raising high value feeder calves (S.Firth); Information on the Monitor Farm Program (S.Firth); Lung Protection Therapy (Shawn Maxwell, Schering-Plough); and NSCP Zone Meeting (Patton MacDonald, NSCP)

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. There is no registration fee. However, all participants are asked to please express their intent to attend. This will ensure there is enough coffee and refreshments/that none is wasted or unnecessarily discarded. We want to order as accurately as possible and ask for your help by pre-registering by October 22, 2007 by calling 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free).

Rural Leaders Workshop

“Creating Partners - Building Communities”

February 7-9, 2008
Holiday Inn, Halifax

Calling all rural leaders interested in agriculture and rural communities. Are you looking for the perfect winter getaway? Well mark your calendars for February 7-9 as we are holding a Rural Leaders Conference which will celebrate agriculture and help build communities. This workshop is open to anyone involved in agricultural organizations working towards the betterment of rural Nova Scotia.

Items on the agenda include:

- Celebrating agriculture
- Creative community connections
- What happens if we do nothing — common sense approach to dealing with the media
- Amazing ag race
- Hatfield Farms team-building exercise
- Emerging issue in agriculture-concurrent sessions looking at alternative energy sources, biofuels, small business development, buy local and their impact on rural Nova Scotia
- Concurrent leadership and communication workshop

These are just a few examples of the jam packed program we are preparing. The registration fee for the event will be \$100. This includes your meals, accommodations and the program. Plan now to attend this exciting event and watch your mailboxes for more information. To ensure your name gets on the list please fill in the information below. For more information contact Ruth Grant at 902-893-6584 or email grant@gov.ns.ca

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Return to: Ruth Grant, Senior 4-H Program Coordinator, PO Box 550, Truro, NS, B2N 5E3 by Thursday, November 15, 2007 so we can send you the full registration package.



Nova Scotia 4-H Members To Attend the Royal Winter Fair



Seventeen 4-H members will travel to Toronto to compete in two prestigious cattle shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November. Participants were selected at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in September on the basis of the quality of their calf.

Eight 4-H dairy members will participate in the Scotiabank Dairy Classic in November, where they will compete against 4-H members from across Canada. The Nova Scotia participants attending the 4-H dairy show are Nathan Dickie, Colchester County, Ria van der Linden, Guysborough County; Jamie Grant, Antigonish County; Lindsay

Greenough, Hants County; Nicole and Lauren van Zutphen, Inverness County.

Samantha Gillis, Colchester County, the winner of the Versteeg Memorial Award, will also be traveling to Toronto. This award is presented to a 4-H member based on a 50/ 50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability. The spare is Helen Fraser, Halifax East Hants.

The dedicated work of the Scotiabank Dairy Classic Committee and the Scotiabank Classic Canadian Royal Junior Beef Heifer Show Selections committee results in the 4-H members being able to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the 4-H cattle classes. The Nova Scotia committee members obtain funding sponsorship and organize this event on a provincial and national level. Annual financial

support from major sponsors, producers, individuals and businesses, provide the 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.

The nine members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Scotiabank Classic Canadian Royal Junior Beef Heifer Show are Tyler Fraser and Holly Morton, Colchester County; Rebecca Gilby, Halifax East Hants; Cody Legge and Andrea Horsnell, Kings County; Michelle Wentzell, Lunenburg County; Jessie Dowe and John Calvin Siddall, Cumberland County and Alex Parsons, Annapolis County.

While at the Royal, 4-H members will compete in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes. They will also participate in a provincial display contest and spend a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

4-H Member Wins Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

4-H members had the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for agriculture at the provincial Young Speakers for Agriculture competition during the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Windsor. Robert Heighton of Pictou County won the competition and will represent Nova Scotia 4-H at the Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2007.

The winner of the provincial competition is sponsored by the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and must be 16 to 24 years of age, as of the competition date, to enter the national contest. During the

competition, each contestant will give a 5 to 7 minute prepared speech on one of five selected topics and have to introduce and thank another speaker. Robert's speech was entitled: Buying Local: A Long Term Trend or a Short Term Fad?

4-H members are encouraged to do public speaking and demonstrations along with their project work during the 4-H year. Each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions. In an Ipsos Reid survey, commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, 74 per cent of 4-H alumni said their experiences as a 4-H member

was very beneficial in terms of contributing to personal or career experiences later in life and in particular they indicated that the 4-H program contributed to developing public speaking and presentation skills.



Show Your 4-H Colours and Celebrate National 4-H Month

Show Your 4-H Colours! All 4-H members, volunteer leaders, parents, family, supporters and alumni across Canada are encouraged to wear green on November 1, to celebrate National 4-H Month. The month-long celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the many benefits of the 4-H program, which continues to help thousands of youth in Nova Scotia reach their full potential.

In 4-H the focus is on fun, friends, and learning cool new skills ... like creating crafts, building a website, learning all about animals, building a small engine, or making a prom dress!

“For eighty-five years the Nova Scotia 4-H program has offered leadership, public speaking and life skills training to young people to help develop them into well-rounded, responsible, independent youth with a sense of community consciousness,” said Arthur Pick, Acting Manager, 4-H and Rural Organizations with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

Young people from 9-21 years old can be a member in 4-H. 4-H encourages leadership development, care and responsibility for our resources and builds positive life skills to secure the future of rural communities. Originally the 4-H

clubs consisted mainly of farm children and livestock projects. Today the 4-H program still has an agriculture base but prides itself with moving with the times, developing projects to meet the needs of modern youth.

4-H members can choose from over 40 projects and still learn to do by doing. Projects help develop technical and record keeping skills in youth while teaching them responsibility. They take pride in doing their best, making decisions and seeing projects through to completion. Youth grow up with confidence in their own skills and talents, and the caring and sharing of community spirit. 4-H members also have the opportunity to travel on national and international exchange programs, participate in cutting-edge provincial and national conferences, and apply for more than \$100,000 in national scholarships.

And we have so much to celebrate! A national survey of 4-H alumni conducted by Ispos Reid and commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, found that 88 per cent said the key goals and objectives of 4-H are relevant to today's youth and 85 per cent of former 4-H members would recommend 4-H membership to young people.

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:

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wardje@gov.ns.ca

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Hants and Kings Counties:

Jennifer Robinson - Kentville
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Fax: (902) 679-6062
robinsjc@gov.ns.ca

Halifax-East Hants, Colchester and Cumberland Counties:

- Truro
Tel: (902) 893-6586 / Fax: (902) 893-2757

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:

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Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

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Kings, West Hants, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

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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:

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bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness & Richmond counties:

Gary Koziel –
Tel: (902) 563-2000
Fax: (902) 563-3435
kozielgj@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –
Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: (902) 837-7696
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on the following dates this fall: October 27, November 10 and 24. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 11 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Lunenburg Queen's Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

Cattle sale at the South Shore Exhibition Ground will take place on October 20 at 1:30 p.m. Dean Manning will be the auctioneer. Contact Peter Morine, Dave Moore, Tom Frail or Wayne Silver for booking your cattle.

County Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meetings

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture will hold their Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 8 at the Wandlyn in Bridgewater at 7 p.m.

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, in the Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville at 7 p.m. The Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture is looking for three new directors. If you are interested, contact Ella at 902-678-4043.

Lunenburg Queen's Federation of Agriculture Dance

First dance for the Lunenburg Queen's Federation of Agriculture will be held on Saturday, November 24 at the Newcombville Hall from 9 p.m.- 1 a.m. Rob Ramey is the DJ. Tickets are \$7.50 each.

Valley Region 4-H News

Kings County Joint Achievement Days and Hants County 4-H Exhibition Days allowed Valley Region 4-H to showcase the talented 4-H members in the region. Thank you to all the supporters, volunteers, leaders, parents and members that helped to make these events such great successes!!

Results from the county events:

Kings County

Heidi Daniels Memorial - Outstanding Leadership in the Kings Co. Lt. Horse - Andrea Horsnell, Harmony Nicholsville
Stephanie Curran Memorial - Outstanding Sportsmanship in the Kings Co. Lt. Horse - Sadie Woodworth, Western Kings
Champion Club Reporter - Emily Lamb, Western Kings
Champion Community Project - Western Kings
Contribution Award - Melody Sanford, Western Kings
Top Junior Member - Gillian Tetlow, Cornwallis
Most Outstanding Senior Member - F. Waldo Walsh Award- Brenton Arnold, Western Kings
Jean Ann Mitchell Memorial Award - Trevor Ellis, Eastern Kings
Dairy Member Showing Most Improvement - Janet MacLean Memorial- Emily Lamb, Western Kings
Terrie Spinney Memorial Award - Kelsey Brydon, Western Kings
Daisy Ward Memorial Award - Jillian Robinson, Harmony Nicholsville

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Hants County

Champion Floral Arranging Competition - Samantha White, Newport
Champion Model - Justin Jamieson, Avon
Champion Bake Off Competition - Chantel O'Brien, 3-Cornered
Champion Crafts Competition - Jenna Rippey, Avon
Champion Cake Decorating Competition - Emma Lake, Riverview
Champion Woodworking Competition - Jason Withrow, Rawdon 2 Way
Champion Outdoors Competition - Myles Wilbur, Newport
Champion Photography Competition - Jessica Clark, Newport
Champion Scrapbooking Competition - Ashley Clark, Newport
Beef Clipping Competition - Lindsey Parker and Cody Rondhuis,
Burlington Workers
Dairy Clipping Competition - Andrea Crowe and Luke McLellan, Cobequid
Sheep Clipping Competition - Amanda Morris and Renee Fogarty,
Burlington Workers
Tractor Driving Competition - Jacob Greenough, Talia Greenough and Simon
Greenough, Newport

Upcoming Valley Region 4-H Events

Kings County 4-H Council Meeting, November 5, at 7:30 p.m., Kentville
Agricultural Centre
Hants County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting, November 14, at 7 p.m., West
Hants Middle School, Brooklyn



Kings County Federation of Agriculture

DINNER & DANCE

Waterville Fire Hall
November 17th 2007 6:30pm

- **Pork Roast Dinner**
by Jim Lamb - Meadow Brook Farm
- **Music by Lloyd Smith**
- **Silent Auction**

Tickets \$15 and available at
Meadow Brook Farm, Noggins Corner Farm Market
and Reception Desk at the Agricultural Research Centre, Kentville
Contact Ella at 678-4043 or kingsagr@canada.com

Participate, it's in your best interests

It didn't take long for me to get the message from my new clients when I assumed the position of Agricultural Resource Coordinator. The message was that many farmers were getting tired of their commitments to the Federation and the work that came with it from participating on committees.

Without a doubt, committees are hard work and require commitment. However, federations are important and they have long been a part of the intertwined fabric that we call agriculture in Nova Scotia. They act as the voice of the farming community, actively contribute to the policies that affect industry and act as a social net during difficult times. When it comes to preparing for the future, the Federation provides an opportunity to increase one's knowledge of industry's best practices.

So why should you be involved? Well it's your future, your industry and better that you manage it than outsiders. The NSFA has a mission to ensure farmers become financially viable, ecologically sound and socially responsible. These objectives lead me to believe that becoming more involved with the local federation is in your best interests.

Benefits of being involved are generating and sharing new ideas, building relationships, contributing to a unified and strong voice for agriculture. Being involved not only gives you access to these benefits, but more importantly, gives you the chance to make a difference and have your voice heard.

An Opportunity for Farm Labour

The Department of Community Services has put in place the Harvest Connection Program. This program allows farmers to hire people who are on social assistance for seasonal harvesting of field produced crops such as berries, vegetables, apples and the harvesting of Christmas trees.

To be eligible to participate in the Harvest Connection program a person must have been on social assistance for at least six months. Workers under this program may earn up to a maximum of \$3,000 per fiscal year without having these earnings affect basic income assistance payments.

Also in order to participate in the program the farmer needs to register with the Department of Community Services by phoning 1-877-424-1177. Only farmers registered with the Department of Agriculture are eligible for this program.

If the farmer knows a person on social assistance who is interested in this program that person should talk to their Income Assistance Caseworker or Employment Support Services Caseworker for more information.

Local federation annual General Meetings coming up:

Halifax East Hants, Tuesday
November 6 at 8 p.m., Carrol's
Corner
Guest Speakers: Yvonne Thyssen-
Post, P.Ag., Thyagrissen Consulting
Ltd. Speaking on succession
planning and the steps needed to take
in starting this important process.

Lise A. LeBlanc, M.Sc., P.Ag. LP
Consulting Ltd. Speaking on
alternative soil amendments, in
particular wood ash and the new
N-Viro product

Cumberland County, Monday
November 19 at 8 p.m., Nappan
Pavillion
Guest Speakers to be announced

Colchester County, Wednesday
November 14, 7:30 p.m., Lower
Truro Fire Hall,
Guest Speakers: Lise A. LeBlanc,
M.Sc., P.Ag. LP Consulting Ltd.
Speaking on alternative soil
amendments, in particular wood ash
and the new N-Viro product.

Leo Muise, Executive Director,
Legislation and Compliance, NSDA,
Laboratory Services. (Pathology,
Dairy and Analytical)

Other Guest Speakers TBA

Dairy Innovation Day 2007

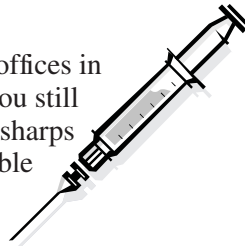
Dairy Innovation Day 2007 will be hosted by MacGregor Dairy Farm and Cinnabar Farms with speakers Bill Thomas of AgraPoint and Daniel Scothorn, a consulting dairy nutritionist. The interactive tour starts at 9:30 a.m. at MacGregor's (near New Glasgow, NS) featuring the recently constructed 250 free-stall sand bedded barn. The tour will continue to Cinnabar Farms near Scotsburn for lunch. This will be followed by a tour of the recently renovated 120 free-stall barn and open concept heifer facility built in 2006. Topics such as corn silage production, reading a fermentation report, byproducts, feeding corn

grain alternatives, using a silage facer and milking Jersey's with Holsteins to increase butter fat content, will be discussed as we tour the facilities. Please bring old issues of Hoards Dairyman to be given to Kenyan dairy producers and donations for Farmers Helping Farmers will be accepted. Confirm your attendance by emailing Daniel at danielscothorn@ns.sympatico.ca or phoning (902) 542-3161. Take Exit 25 off the TCH 104 and go south on Highway 348 for about 2 km, then veer right at the Plymouth Fire Hall and continue for about 4 km.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture offices in Sydney and Mabou still have a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers.

Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours or for more information contact us at 902-563-2000.



St. John Ambulance Canada

First Aid Training

St. John Ambulance offers first aid courses in various locations around Cape Breton several times 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 Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2007-08 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.

Attention: Recycling Used Pesticide Containers

Here's What to Do:

- Allow the formulation to drain into the sprayer, from the container for at least thirty seconds.
- Add at least twenty per cent of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
- Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for thirty seconds.
- Repeat the above procedure twice more.
- Render containers unuseable by puncturing.
- Leave label on the container.

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

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

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

Dairy Innovation Day 2007

Dairy Innovation Day 2007 will be hosted by MacGregor Dairy Farm and Cinnabar Farms with speakers Bill Thomas of AgraPoint and Daniel Scothorn, a consulting dairy nutritionist. The interactive tour starts at 9:30 a.m. at MacGregor's (near New Glasgow, NS) featuring the recently constructed 250 free-stall sand bedded barn. The tour will continue to Cinnabar Farms near Scotsburn for lunch. This will be followed by a tour of the recently renovated 120 free-stall barn and open concept heifer facility built in 2006. Topics such as corn silage production, reading a fermentation report, byproducts, feeding corn grain alternatives, using a silage facer and milking Jersey's with Holsteins to increase butter fat content, will be discussed as we tour the facilities. Please bring old issues of Hoards Dairyman to be given to Kenyan dairy producers and donations for Farmers Helping Farmers will be accepted. Confirm your attendance by emailing Daniel at danielscothorn@ns.sympatico.ca or phoning (902) 542-3161. Take Exit 25 off the TCH 104 and go south on Highway 348 for about 2 km, then veer right at the Plymouth Fire Hall and continue for about 4 km.

Dairy Day - November 6, 2007

Dairy Innovation Day 2007 will be hosted by MacGregor Dairy Farm and Cinnabar Farms with speakers Bill Thomas of AgraPoint and Daniel Scothorn, a consulting dairy nutritionist. The interactive tour starts at 9:30 a.m. at MacGregor's (near New Glasgow, NS) featuring the recently constructed 250 free-stall sand bedded barn. The tour will continue to Cinnabar Farms near Scotsburn for lunch and a tour of the recently renovated 120 free-stall barn and open concept heifer facility built in 2006. Topics such as corn silage production, reading a fermentation report, byproducts, feeding corn grain alternatives, using a silage facer and milking Jersey's with Holsteins to increase butter fat content will be discussed as we tour the facilities. Please bring old issues of Hoards Dairyman to be given to Kenyan dairy producers and donations for Farmers Helping Farmers will be accepted. Confirm your attendance by emailing Daniel at danielscothorn@ns.sympatico.ca or phoning (902) 542-3161. Take Exit 25 off the TCH 104 and go south on Highway 348 for about 2 km, then veer right at the Plymouth Fire Hall and continue for about 4 km.

Food Safety

Food Handler courses will be offered on the following dates:
October 24, Agritech Park, Truro
October 30, Keating Millennium Centre, St. FX, Antigonish
November 21, Agritech Park, Truro
Pre-registration is required for all courses as seating is limited.

The fee for all courses is \$22.75 per person. Lunch is not provided. Applications are available at the Department of Agriculture, Beech Hill Road, Antigonish.

Upcoming 4-H Events:

Antigonish County

Council Meeting	Oct 16/07	7:00 p.m.
County Awards Program	Oct 21/07	2:00 p.m.
National 4-H Month	November	
Review NS Resolutions & Council Mtg/set dates 2008	Nov 6/07	7:00 p.m.
NS 4-H Council Meeting	Nov 16-17/07	Truro
Annual Meeting	Nov 20/07	7:00 p.m.

Pictou County

Council Meeting	Oct 24/07	7:00 p.m.
Celebration of Pictou County	Nov 8/07	7:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting and Council Mtg	Nov 14/07	7:00 p.m.
NS Council Annual Meeting	Nov 16-17/07	Truro
Pictou Church Service	Nov 18/07	
Executive Mtg/set dates 2008	Nov 28/07	7:00 p.m.
Leaders Social	Dec 7/07	

2007 NS 4-H Show Champion and Reserve List - Eastern Region

Champion 4 Showroom Class Rabbit	Laura MacDougall	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Dairy Showman	Tristan Grant	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Novice Dog Obedience	Jessica Overmars	Antigonish
Champion Draft Horse Mane & Tail Braiding	Tyson Thompson	Pictou
Reserve Champion Western Pleasure	Natalie MacLane	Pictou
Reserve Champion English Road Hack	Jennifer Wilson	Antigonish
Champion Dairy Goat	Vanessa MacLean	Pictou
Champion Shorthorn Calf	Randy Angevine	Antigonish
Champion Holstein Calf	Ria vanderLinden	Guysborough
Reserve Champion Holstein Calf	Jaime Grant	Antigonish
Champion Dairy Calf	Ria vanderLinden	Guysborough
Reserve Champion Dairy Calf	Jamie Grant	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Sheep Judge	Chelsey Joudrie	Pictou
Champion Rabbit Judge	Stephan MacDougall	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Goat Judge	Vanessa MacLean	Pictou
Reserve Champion Sewing Judge	Kelsey Boone	Pictou
Champion Cake Decorating Judge	Melanie MacDonald	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Cake Decorating Judge	Kelsey Crawford	Pictou

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Antigonish Guysborough Local Producers Co-op Ltd

Antigonish Guysborough Local Producers Co-op Ltd are proposing to build a store that will be open six days a week and operate year round. The business plan is almost complete. Details on this development will be presented by Karen Blotnicky, owner of the Marketing Clinic, in October.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact:
Viola Baker 863-2664 x2007
skg@stfx.ca
or Frank Mac Master 863-4119
frankmacmaster@ns.sympatico.ca

Reserve Champion Floriculture Judge	Emma Boutilier	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Garden Judge	Andrew Greene	Pictou
Champion Photography Judge	Vanessa MacLean	Pictou
Reserve Champion 1st Aid Judge	Josh Sharpe	Pictou
Champion Welding Judge	Jason VanKessel	Pictou
Champion Draft Horse Judge	Tyson Thompson	Pictou
Champion Sr. Foods Article	Tessa Lambourne	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Junior Scrapbooking Article	Megan MacDougall	Antigonish
Champion Sr. Cake Decorating Project	Melanie MacDonald	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Sr. Heritage Project Collection	Emily Grant	Pictou
Reserve Champion Jr. Woodworking Article	Kyle Mikkelson	Antigonish
Champion Sr. Woodworking Article	Nathan Vanderlinden	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Sr. Woodworking Article	Kyle Fraser	Pictou
Champion Jr. Small Engines Article	Robbie Jones	Pictou
Champion Jr. Garden Article	Alannah Sharpe	Pictou
Reserve Champion Jr. Garden Article	Alannah Sharpe	Pictou
Reserve Champion Sr. Floriculture Project	Katie Munroe	Pictou
Champion Sr. Photography Item	Monica Firminger	Pictou
Champion Exploring 4-H Project	Andrew Mikkelson	Antigonish
Champion Sr. Welding Project	Tyrell Giffin	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Sr. Welding Project	Kristy Waaldbos	Pictou
Reserve Champion Sr. Computer Project	Jason VanKessel	Pictou
Reserve Champion Jr. 4-H Showcase	Alannah Sharpe	Pictou
Reserve Champion Sr. 4-H Showcase	Matt Lees	Pictou
Reserve Champion Poultry Trio	Vanessa MacLean	Pictou
Champion Beef Showman	Megan Robertson	Pictou
Champion Draft Horse Showman	Tyson Thompson	Pictou
Reserve Champion Sheep Showman	Hailey Scotland	Pictou
Reserve Champion Waterfowl Showman	Bryden Tate	Antigonish
Champion Goat Showman	Vanessa MacLean	Pictou
Champion Tug-of-War Team		Antigonish
Reserve Champion Tug-of-War		Pictou
Champion Overall Judge	Tyson Thompson	Pictou
Reserve Champion Overall Judge	Jason VanKessell	Pictou
Champion Vegetable Preparation Competition Sr.	Joshua Sharpe	Pictou
Reserve Champion Floral Arranging Competition Jr.	Emma Boutilier	Antigonish
Champion Fashion Show Competition Senior	Laura Duggan	Antigonish
Reserve Champion Cake Decorating Competition Sr.	Melanie MacDonald	Antigonish
Champion Craft Competition Junior	Alannah Sharpe	Pictou
Champion Woodworking Competition Junior	Ben Lambourne	Antigonish
Champion Outdoorsman Competition Junior	Johnathan Kennedy	Antigonish
Champion Outdoorsman Competition Senior	Joshua Sharpe	Pictou
Reserve Champion Wool Competition Senior	Carley Mullally	Pictou
Champion Recyclable Competition Senior	Kristy Waalderbos	Pictou
Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition	Robert Heighton	Pictou
Scotiabank Dairy Classic	Ria vanderLinden	Guysborough
	Jamie Grant	Antigonish
Reginald & Donald Scothorn Dairy Clipping Competition		
2nd place team: Tristan Grant and Daniel MacDonald		Antigonish
Sheep Clipping Competition		
1st place team: Samantha and Nicole Sinclair	Guysborough	
Top Overall County	1st Place	Pictou
	2nd Place	Guysborough
	3rd Place	Antigonish