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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



December 2008 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 9 No. 5

Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame Inducts New Members

Frank Berkelaar of Harmony, Colchester Co., was inducted into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame on October 23, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill, NS.

Mr. Berkelaar immigrated to Canada from Holland in 1953. At age 19, he started working at the Truro Livestock Auction at the Truro Exhibition Grounds, which later became the Maritime Cattle Market.

In 1974, Mr. Berkelaar purchased the Maritime Cattle Market. He expanded services to include sales of all farm animals, machinery, hay and milk quota.

"Mr. Berkelaar is known and respected throughout North America as a businessman who built a successful market," said Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture. "He believes that everyone involved in a sale must have a fair return, and worked hard to ensure this objective."

Mr. Berkelaar was also involved in other businesses, including operating a farm with his brother that produced cattle and crops. He provided auctioneer services to a number of organizations, such as the 4-H program. In April 2001, he became

an honorary member of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologist's for his commitment to the agriculture industry.

"Mr. Berkelaar is a well-respected voice for the livestock industry and has readily shared his knowledge with others," said Mr. Taylor. "He also served on the ministerial task force for the beef industry in the mid-1990's and helped with policy development."

Through the Maritime Cattle Market, Mr. Berkelaar provided credit to buyers during the BSE (also known as mad cow disease) situation, so markets and prices were maintained for local farmers selling cattle.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture nominated Mr. Berkelaar for his lifelong commitment to the agricultural industry.

Other Atlantic provinces' inductees are Ronald Piper of New Brunswick; Eugene Legge of Newfoundland and Labrador; and Donald MacKenzie of Prince Edward Island.

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame honours members of the agricultural community for outstanding contributions to the industry, community and farm organizations.



The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame

Province Invests in Bringing Local Foods to Consumers

New funding will make it easier and more convenient to buy local foods in Nova Scotia.

Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor announced on December 5, that \$2.3 million over three years will support the development of the local food systems, which includes everything from farmers to consumers, and improve access to local foods for consumers throughout the province.

The investment will target strategic infrastructure and development initiatives that will enhance industry competitiveness, market access and direct marketing methods.

"Local food systems are an exciting and rapidly evolving sector," said Mr. Taylor, "This funding will develop the roots between rural and urban food systems, and support marketing initiatives."



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This investment will complement the province's food marketing programs, Select Nova Scotia and Taste of Nova Scotia, in promoting the variety and quality of food Nova Scotia has to offer.

Nova Scotia's agri-food sector contributed an estimated \$904 million to the provincial gross domestic product in 2007, according to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The Department of Agriculture is making the investment in partnership with the Department of Economic Development. The funding comes from the Community Development Trust Fund, a \$34.9 million fund that was established by the federal government to help communities and sectors experiencing economic challenges.

"Creating new local food networks will help sustain and expand our rural economy," said Economic Development Minister Angus MacIsaac. "They encourage farmers and other food producers to become involved in innovative new business ventures to bring their foods more directly to consumers."

The priorities of the trust fund are to enhance sustainable prosperity, diversify economic and trade opportunities, improve productivity, innovation and training, assist communities with transition planning, and help workers facing adjustment challenges. More information on the Community Development Trust Fund in Nova Scotia is at www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust.

Pesticide Use and Pest Management Practices of Canadian Apple Growers

The report, Pesticide Use and Pest Management Practices of Canadian Apple Growers, is now available online. This paper is based on data collected in the Canadian Crop Protection Survey, a survey conducted on behalf of the AAFC Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. The survey was designed to collect baseline data on quantities and types of pesticides used and the integrated

pest management practices employed. The document describes survey methods used, and reports on pest management practices for all Canadian apple production areas during the 2005 growing season.

Complete Report is available at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/21-601-m/21-601-m2008089-eng.htm>

You've got grand plans, but is your heart in it?

One of the great strengths of farmers is they love what they do. No one goes into farming to get rich, and it is the passion for farming that sustains them in the all-too-frequent hard times.

Like almost all other sectors, agriculture is being subjected to tremendous change, and if you're not willing to change, your odds of staying on the farm for the long term are not good.

But change is not easy – and if you're refashioning, expanding or adding onto your farm business only because you have to, you are headed for trouble. That old and simple saying – if your heart's not in it, you're not likely to succeed – is as true today as it ever was.

Successful change requires more than a business plan and spreadsheets. You have to be able to envision what you want, and you have to truly believe in that vision. OK, fine enough, you might say. I like the field work and being in the shop, but now I have to expand and spend much of my time in the office

(or managing employees or running the on-farm market or jumping through the protocol hoops that come with identity preservation). How am I supposed to find a passion for that?

You might want to learn from the example of Ruth Goldbloom.

Ruth is the driving force behind Halifax's Pier 21 national historic site, which has twice been honoured as the country's top tourist attraction. Prior to her success at Pier 21, Ruth was asked to chair the local United Way campaign. She did not want the job because she felt she would not be very good at it. She had no experience working with a large organization. She was not a businesswoman with a large network of corporate contacts, and had no desire to badger people for money – even for a good cause.

But before saying no, Ruth decided to visit each and every one of the 52 agencies supported by the United Way in Halifax. It took her two and a half weeks. She saw firsthand the

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kids in the day care being served a hot lunch that, for many of them, was their only decent meal of the day. Those and other moving stories not only prompted Ruth to say 'yes' to the United Way but fueled her drive as she met with corporate leaders and challenged them to do more and give more.

In a business, you can do something similar.

Before expanding, going into direct marketing or value-added, or some other new enterprise, go out, take a look at businesses that are already doing what you're planning to do, and see if they ignite any sparks within you.

You'll learn lots of useful information from your scouting, but what is critical is what you will learn from your heart. Can you see yourself in the shoes of the person running the business you are scouting? Does that person have a passion for what he or she is doing, or is it just about the money? Could you be passionate about that enterprise?

If you're looking at changing your operation, business plans and spreadsheets will only take you part of the way. There are lots of good businesses out there. The question is: Are they good for you?

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Staff of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board extends best wishes to you for a happy and prosperous New Year!



New Executive Director of Agriculture Services

After 21 years of service in a number of positions, most recently Executive Director of Agricultural Services with the Department of Agriculture, Brian Smith has decided to retire.

Alan Grant is the new Executive Director of Agriculture Services. Alan is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science (Agr) majoring in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development. He also has a Masters

in Public Administration from Dalhousie University.

Alan joined the Department of Agriculture in 1984 as a Farm Business Management Specialist, following a 4-year appointment with Agriculture Canada. He became Manager of the Division in 1990. Most recently, Alan was Manager of Business Development and Economics.

Livestock/Poultry Industry Seminar and Q and A

As part the Atlantic Poultry Conference 2009 taking place this coming February, a special session with Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University has been added as a pre-conference event. As seating will be limited, this session is only open to livestock/poultry industry personnel and stakeholders. The session will take place at 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 18 at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, NS. Dr. Grandin is recognized worldwide for her work on livestock handling facility design. In North America, half the cattle are handled in these systems. Other work has included research on cattle temperament, environmental enrichment for pigs, reducing dark cutters and bruises, bull fertility and effective stunning methods for cattle and pigs in meat plants. She is an animal welfare consultant for a number of fast food firms. Dr. Grandin has authored 300 or more publications, including a number of books on livestock

handling and autism. Her accomplishments have been recognized globally through the media: ABC's PrimeTime Live; Today Show; Larry King Live; 48 Hours; 20/20; Time and People magazines; Forbes; US News and World Report, etc. A number of Dr. Grandin's books will be made available for purchase and autographed if requested. The registration fee is \$15/person if you are not registered for the Atlantic Poultry Conference (APC); if you are registered for APC, admission to the companion session is free. For more information visit www.atlanticpoultryconference.com or contact Lynn Cox at (902) 893-6657.



Programs and Business Risk Management Division

AgriStability and AgriInvest Update

AgriInvest and AgriStability Deadline Reminder For 2007

The September 30, 2008 deadline to submit 2007 AgriInvest and/or AgriStability application (s) has passed. If you missed this deadline, you can still submit the form until December 31, 2008, but a penalty for late filing will be applied. For AgriInvest, the allowable net sales used to calculate your matchable deposit will be reduced by five percent for each month (or each part of the month) your form is submitted late. For AgriStability, your payment will be reduced \$500 for each month (or each part of the month) your form is submitted late.

Forms and Guides are available from the Canada Revenue Agency or on the AgriStability and AgriInvest web sites at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest or contact the AgriStability or AgriInvest administration toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

The 2008 AgriStability Enrolment Fee Deadline

Most producers would have already received their enrolment notice for 2008 AgriStability. The deadline to pay the fee amount was April 30, 2008 or 30 days after the enrolment notice was dated. If you have missed the deadline you may still pay the fee but a late penalty charge of 20 percent will be added to your fee. Participants have until December 31, 2008 to pay the fee with penalty. If you have not received an enrolment notice for 2008 AgriStability and believe you should have, contact the federal administration by calling 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability 2009 Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2008 AgriStability must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2009. To request an AgriStability new participants package or for more information, visit the AgriStability website at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or call AgriStability toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability 2008 Interim Applications Are Available

The Interim Application is available for producers who would like to apply for the 2008 program year assistance earlier than normally available. As a program participant, you cannot receive your full 2008 AgriStability payment until your 2008 program year is complete. By using the Interim Application, you can estimate your 2008 income and expenses and receive a portion of this payment early. The deadline to apply for the interim is March 31, 2009.

To request an interim package, please contact AgriStability at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability

AgriInvest 2007

Details regarding the AgriInvest program for 2007 will be communicated to producers late this fall. If you selected to deposit your AgriInvest Kickstart payment into the federal account you have the option to withdraw this money at anytime by calling the AgriInvest Administration at 1-866-367-4276.

For more information contact Steve Tattie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276

The Farm Investment Fund closed December 5, 2008. Now it is time to send in your claims for work that was completed. If all your projects are not yet completed, you can still send a claim in now for those that are complete. The earlier you send in your claim, the sooner you can receive the funding. February and March see a high volume of claims which results in a longer processing time. Why not send claims in early to avoid the rush? Final deadline for Programs and Business Risk Management to receive FIF claims is March 1, 2009.

The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund closed November 28, 2008. Applications received totaled 92. Final deadline for Programs and Business Risk Management to receive claims is March 1, 2009.

The Orchard and Vineyard Transition

Program (OVTP) has had high uptake thus far. The 2007-08 program year has had 48 applications, while the 2008-09 program year has had 67 applications. For 2007-08 projects, work must be completed and claims must be submitted to the Programs and Business Risk Management office by December 31, 2008. For 2008-09 projects, the work must be completed and claims submitted by the date that is one year from your first pre-inspection. If you are not sure what program year your project falls, or what date your claim is due, please check your Letter of Agreement. You will find this information on page two under condition #11. As with all our programs, you may submit multiple claims as individual projects are completed.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program in Nova Scotia. This program is currently available for wildlife damage to 24 types of crops and/or predation by wildlife on 14 types of livestock. A complete list of eligible crops and livestock is available at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/

Producers who apply for compensation should be aware of the following requirements of this program:

- Farmers must notify the Commission as soon as possible and not later than 72 hours after

the damage has occurred.

- The cause or probable cause of any loss must be confirmed by the Commission.
- You must follow industry production and protection standards to be eligible for a claim, eg: fencing, deterrents, etc.
- For crop damage, you must incur a loss of at least \$250 on two acres.
- For livestock damage, only losses as a result of black bear, fox, coyote, raven or crow, or birds of prey are eligible.

More information including the compensation policy are available on our website or by calling the Commission offices.

Advanced Payments Program

Any producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program (APP), formerly known as the Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP), in 2009, are reminded that many of the organizations administering this credit program may require you to have crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer who is considering taking advantage of this interest free loan should contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

If crop insurance is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan, we advise all producers to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop

insurance. In order to obtain coverage for 2009, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

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

For more details on APP, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the APP program, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1204214137015&lang=e

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for 2009

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

All producers who hold an active contract of insurance in one or more of the above plans will receive a Coverage Quote form(s) before the beginning of the crop year. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season. Anyone considering applying for crop insurance for the first time must make their application on or before the dates noted above.

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

Attention All Potato Growers!

The Nova Scotia Potato Marketing Board reminds you that potatoes are a product regulated by law under the *Natural Products Act of Nova Scotia*.

As a potato producer, whether of fresh market, processing or seed potatoes, you must register with the Potato Marketing Board annually to legally grow more than two acres of potatoes in this province.

If you grade, pack and/or process potatoes in Nova Scotia, you must hold a valid Packer's Licence. Any

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current licence expired on June 30, 2008. The cost of the licence is \$50 + HST annually.

Also, every producer of more than 500 hundred weights (cwt) of potatoes in Nova Scotia, whether fresh market, processing or seed potatoes, must remit a levy of 3¢ per cwt to the Nova Scotia Potato Marketing Board.

For more detailed information or forms contact Donna Crawford at (902) 678-9335 or e-mail horts@ns.sympatico.ca

Marketing Caravan rolls into the Maritimes in 2009

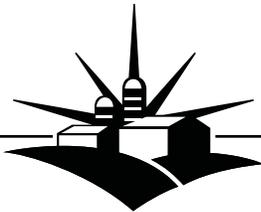
Don't miss this great opportunity to sneak over the border to Memramcook, New Brunswick on February 11 to learn from the best of the best. This year's Marketing Caravan, sponsored by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, features three dynamic speakers (Jane Eckert, Lori Colburne and Brent Warner) who will inform and inspire the agri-marketer in you!

In just one day you'll learn how to make immediate and profitable changes to your farm business enterprise in the areas of: leadership skills, agri-tourism strategies, farm

direct marketing trends, innovative marketing techniques, building partnerships and putting the internet to work for you.

The Marketing Caravan also features the "trading floor" — a place where producers, processors, buyers and suppliers meet to do business.

For more information or to register, log onto www.farmcentre.com or call 1-866-492-1172. You can also contact Claire Hanlon Smith at (902) 893-4491 or hanlonca@gov.ns.ca for more details.



Get Direction! Canadian Farm Business Management Council

Looking for new opportunities to bring more value to your farm business? Attend a two-day Value Plus™ – A Quest for New Farm Value workshop and you will be headed in the right direction. You will take your value-added idea and follow it from conception through the development process to finding a specific niche in the marketplace.

Join us February 17/18 in Truro, NS. Space is limited. Book your seat today. For more information and to register, go to www.farmcentre.com/workshops. If you are unable to register via our website, please call 1-866-492-1172.

Irrigation, drainage system research at NSAC

A low-energy system for combined irrigation and drainage is being developed by the Department of Engineering at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC). This system, funded by the Water Supply and Expansion Program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, is installed on campus in the Boulden pasture. This location easily facilitates class visits so that teaching can occur on the research site.

Engineering professor Dr. Peter Havard leads a team of researchers who partner with the NS Cattle and Sheep Producers Associations. "The exciting thing is the multi-disciplinary approach to improving crops and animal pastures systems," says Dr. Havard.

The combination of irrigation and drainage into one system makes this NSAC project unique. Pipes are placed two to three feet underground throughout the pasture. Excess water in the field is drained through these

pipes to a small hut in the middle of the research field. Computer technology located in the hut measures flow rates and water levels. Low power pumps are used to collect the water into a reservoir so that it can be stored for use in dry periods. To irrigate the field, the process is reversed and water is pumped back through the same pipe system. This allows the irrigation to occur at the root level, not at the surface.

Chris Nelson, an Engineering technician at NSAC, states that the system is now operational and testing is being done to fine-tune the system.

Dr. Havard hopes to develop a complete sensor network so that the drainage, irrigation cycle will be computer regulated and able to run remotely.

The research team, consisting of Drs. Havard, Alan Fredeen, Ali Madani, Alex Martynenko of NSAC, Dr.

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Yousef Papadopoulos and John Duynisveld of AAFC, hope to encourage livestock farmers to grow more forages to decrease reliance on grain. This system is expected to extend the forage growing season by a month in late summer.

Red clover and bluegrass will be grown to test the use of the system. Researchers will be able to evaluate nutrients and water flow from the site to relate to the growth of the animals grazed on the pasture.

NSFA Announces New Executive Director

Truro – The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is pleased to announce the appointment of their new Executive Director, Henry Vissers. Henry will oversee the activities of the NSFA as Laurence Nason steps down from the post to pursue other endeavours.

Speaking on behalf of the NSFA executive, Willy Versteeg, President noted that, “It is important to find an individual with the right mix of experience and enthusiasm to lead our Industry. Henry comes on board

in a time of industry transition and changes. We are confident he will guide us through this era of development and growth.”

Henry has been involved in the agricultural industry for many years and looks forward to working with the various commodity groups and county federations in this position.

Henry can be reached at (902) 893-2293 or via email at hvissers@nsfafane.ca

Update - Veterinary Services, Legislation and Compliance Branch

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Leighann Hartnett to the new Animal Care Veterinary Position with the Legislation and Compliance Branch of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hartnett will be working out of the Hancock Building in Bible Hill. Dr. Hartnett will provide leadership in animal welfare, animal management issues as well as assisting the Program Veterinarian in preparing for, preventing and responding to foreign animal disease incursions. She will provide consultative service to food-animal veterinarians in the private sector, to the livestock industry and to other divisions of the department. Dr. Hartnett will be involved with peers in investigations of animal welfare issues and will coordinate those investigations. In consultation with stakeholders she will develop and promote guidelines for animal welfare to address those issues deemed important and to take appropriate actions when necessary to provide adequate care of farm animals.

The Program Veterinarian position, vacated by Dr. Gord Finley on his retirement, will be filled by Dr. Robert Kerr beginning in the new year. Dr. Kerr will provide leadership in disease surveillance and management of preventative medicine programs for livestock sectors. If necessary, Dr. Kerr would develop vaccination or bio-security programs for specific livestock groups or enterprises. The Program Veterinarian provides consultative service to food-animal veterinarians in the private sector, their livestock clientele, to the livestock industry and to other divisions of the department. He will interact with commodity groups to identify industry needs. Dr. Kerr will be involved with peers in the clinical investigations of unusual disease occurrences on a herd/flock basis. In consultation with industry and the veterinary staff within the department, he will develop and institute a program of disease surveillance to address those issues deemed important to trade and to industry. Dr. Kerr will network with

counterparts in other jurisdictions to ensure that the department is kept abreast of disease developments elsewhere.

The department also has two veterinary pathologists on staff at the Pathology Laboratory: Dr. Lyn Ferns and Dr. Grant Spearman. The primary function of the pathologists is to provide necropsy service on the various animal species in the province. The laboratory also provides services such as milk cultures for mastitis, parasitology, Aleutian disease testing (new entrants), and viral serology tests for poultry.

Information generated from the necropsies can provide direction to the client on disease or parasite management and control, mineral profile status of the animal and herd, and potential zoonotic disease information (ie- salmonellosis, coxiella (Q-fever), chlamydia, toxoplasmosis or rabies). Foreign animal disease diagnosis is one of the mandates of the laboratory.

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Clients of the Pathology Laboratory include livestock and poultry producers, veterinarians, agribusiness, SPCA, RCMP, municipal police services, Department of Natural Resources officers, and the general public.

The contact information for these department veterinarians is:

Dr. Lyn Ferns - (902) 893-6526;
Dr. Grant Spearman - (902) 893-6538; Dr. Leighann Hartnett - (902) 896-2299, and Dr. Rob Kerr - after Jan.2/09 (902) 893-3491.

Let's Celebrate! Our Farms, Our Food, Our Future - a Day for Consumers to Connect to Nova Scotia Food and Farms

The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association in conjunction with Horticulture Nova Scotia this year will again celebrate local food production with a full day program for consumers. It will take place January 28, 2009, in the Blomidon Room of the Old Orchard Inn, near Wolfville, NS.

With the theme, Let's Celebrate! Our Farms, Our Food, Our Future - a Day for Consumers to Connect to Nova Scotia Food and Farms, we hope to help the consumer better

understand our industry while having a great time mixing and mingling. This special event for consumers introduces farmers, chefs, nutritionists, and more. Samples of local products will be available.

There is a small fee to cover cost. Lunch at the Old Orchard Inn is courtesy of Select Nova Scotia.

For more information call Donna at (902) 678-9335 or Helen at (902) 678-1093.

AgraPoint On-line Pesticide Applicators Recertification

AgraPoint's On-line Pesticide Applicators Recertification Points exam #10; Sprayer Technology is now posted on www.extensioncentral.com. By completing the exam with a mark of 75 percent or more, an applicator is eligible for 0.5 recertification points. The deadline to submit this exam to AgraPoint is January 31, 2009. To find more about the exam series or to access or submit an exam use the contact information below.

AgraPoint; c/o Ag Info Centre
PRCP Exam
By Mail: 199 Innovation Drive,
AgriTECH Park, Bible Hill
NS, B6L 2H5
Toll free fax: 1-866-222-6609
E-mail: Info@agrapoint.ca
Web: www.extensioncentral.com
All phone inquiries: 1-866-606-4636

Food for Thought to be Revamped

Food For Thought: a buyers guide to local and seasonal Nova Scotia agri-food products – a directory that has been published by the Department of Agriculture for close to 20 years – is getting a new look. Food for Thought was originally published as a directory listing suppliers to wholesale, retail and foodservice. The new directory, *The Local Dish: A Chef Guide to Buying Direct*, is going to focus on direct sales to restaurants. It will assist chefs and foodservice managers to source Nova Scotia agriculture and seafood products available directly from the producer/processor or through a distributor. These changes will provide new opportunities for smaller producers who want to sell quality Nova Scotia products directly to a foodservice establishment.

Watch for a notice and registration form in the mail.

If you wish to receive a notice/registration form directly, please contact Beth Hingley at (902) 893-6386 or hingleba@gov.ns.ca or fax (902) 895-4464. Deadline for entry into the new directory is January 31, 2009.

AgCot Discovery Center – an Agricultural Education Opportunity

How do you reach the urban population of Halifax and surrounding area with agricultural education? The AgCot Center at the Maritime Fall Fair continues to be a great venue.

Over the course of the 10 day fair, over 37,000 people passed through the gates.

2009 Exhibit structure: As in the past, the AgCot exhibit offered booths for agricultural producer groups as well as food safety, farm safety and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The synergy of this ring of informative and interesting groups was appreciated by fair visitors. Some commented that they always look forward to the fair to find new ways to enjoy our local food products.

The center of the AgCot exhibit highlighted environmentally sound farm practices with a brand new display built around the components of the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program - protecting soil, water, air and biodiversity. EFP staff were generous with their time, both in creating the display and providing expert staff to meet the public.

School Program: Almost 2000 students, teachers and chaperones visited the AgCot center over three days of programming. Schools were guided through an educational challenge game which took them throughout the display. Feedback indicates that the teachers value the program.

Stage Program: Two weekends of stage programming provided a chance to feature agricultural experts from the NSAC as well as the ever popular cooking stage with Chef Hans Wicki. Geared to appeal to adults, these programs are an excellent way to deliver key messages to an interested audience.

The Future of AgCot: An exit survey conducted by the Maritime Fall Fair indicates that their customer base may be changing. Preliminary results suggest that more

clients are looking for a true agricultural experience at the fair. Some “non-farm” fair events (like the midway) were rated very low this year. It appears that the public does have a thirst for agricultural information and AgCot will continue to deliver.

For information on AgCot and other agricultural education opportunities contact:

Judy Grant, Agricultural Awareness Coordinator (902) 893-6598
grantjd@gov.ns.ca

Ag Literacy Day in Nova Scotia



As winter gains a grip on Nova Scotia fields and farms, many people are tempted to stay inside with a good book! The NS Agricultural Awareness Committee wants you to think about books and farms and consider volunteering your time to help school children gain a little understanding of the life you lead.

Next spring, we will be hosting our second annual Ag Literacy Day. Last year, we supplied 21 readers with story books and resource materials on agriculture in Nova Scotia and connected them with kids in grade two and three classrooms. This year, we want to build on this success and you can help!

If you are interested in this project, contact the Agricultural Awareness office to register.

We will contact a local school and provide you with the book and resource materials for you to donate to the school. The program will run in late April or early May, but the actual visit date is flexible to fit with your schedule and that of the school.

Help bring agriculture back into the minds of young Nova Scotians and have a little fun a well!

Contact the Agricultural Awareness office at 902-893-6598 or
grantjd@gov.ns.ca

Farmers Honoured with Harvest Highway Designation

Highway 101, was designated Harvest Highway on December 7, to recognize the important contributions of the farming community in Nova Scotia for centuries. The highway runs from Halifax, through the Annapolis Valley, to Yarmouth.

“Nova Scotia farmers are an important part of our rural communities,” said Natural Resources Minister David Morse, on behalf of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister Murray Scott. “The naming of this highway calls special and deserved attention to the many farmers throughout the province and their many contributions to the landscape of the province.”

Agriculture production and food processing contribute more than \$900 million annually to Nova Scotia's economy. The most recent figures show, that agriculture in Nova Scotia employed 2,300 people full time and 700 part time, with food processing employing more than 13,000.

“The naming of Harvest Highway serves as a reminder of the province's efforts to encourage people to support local farmers and purchase locally grown products,” said Mark Parent, Minister of Environment, on behalf of Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture.

Richard Melvin, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and area farmer is pleased with the designation.

“Nova Scotia farmers are an important element of our rural infrastructure and having signs and recognition reminds travellers to think local first.”

Harvest Highway joins other highway designations including Miners Memorial Highway, Peacekeepers Way, and Veterans Memorial Highway. In the interest of safety, the highway will continue be referred to as Highway 101 by emergency personnel.

Fall and Winter AAFC Advanced Payment Program

Fall and winter AAFC Advanced Payment Program loans are still available on storage crops for vegetable growers, potato growers, and new season plantings for greenhouse vegetable growers through Horticulture Nova Scotia. The vegetable crops covered for the storage season are onions, parsnips, carrots, rhubarb, strawberry plants, winter squash, rutabaga, cabbage, brussels sprouts, dry beans, beets, sweet potatoes and potatoes. At present only greenhouse tomatoes are covered, but amendments may be made to cover other greenhouse crops.

The purpose of this program is to provide a cash flow to allow for orderly marketing. Loans are based on the amount of crop you have in storage, or for greenhouse growers the amount you are planting. Loans of up to \$100,000 are interest free. Loans over \$100,000 and under \$400,000 are at 3/4 of a percent under prime. There is an additional administration fee. Repayment is as the product is sold. Contact Donna Crawford at (902) 678-9335 for more details.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Sr. Agricultural Resource Coord.:
Andrew Cameron – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-7314 | Fax: (902) 893-0244

Kings, West Hants, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

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

Cumberland, Colchester, East Hants, & Halifax Regional Municipality:
Michael Kittilsen –
Tel: (902) 893-3645 | Fax: (902) 893-0244
kittilma@gov.ns.ca

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

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

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

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

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we have experienced during 2008 as we look forward to the opportunities the coming year will bring. May the peace and good will of this Christmas season gently fill your home and may you enjoy a prosperous and happy New Year!

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

Agriculture Transition Officer

Welcome to Vimy Glass, a new face in the department. Vimy is based out of our Kentville office and is the new Agriculture Transition Officer. Within this role, she will be providing project specific support to industry stakeholders. Vimy is originally from Truro and has attended Acadia University, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and the University of Guelph. Her

educational background has encompassed a variety of disciplines including agricultural water treatment, climate change, gaseous emissions, soil-plant relations, and micrometeorology. Vimy is currently serving as President of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists. If you are in the area, please drop in to say hello to Vimy.

Pesticide Certification Courses

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

Recertification is a great opportunity for license holders to improve their pesticide safety knowledge, keep current with changes to legislation and avoid having to write another pesticide exam. This course is designed for those individuals who have a current license and would like

to accumulate recertification points towards their license. The cost for this course is \$75 (tax included).

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. is once again offering pesticide certification and recertification courses in the area. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, contact ProAgri Consulting Ltd. at (902) 798-2114.

The dates for certification courses are:

January 21-22, Kentville Agricultural Centre

March 4-5, AgriTech Park, Truro

The dates for recertification courses are:

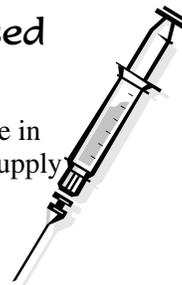
January 28, Kentville Agricultural Centre

March 3, AgriTech Park, Truro

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture office in Kentville still has a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers.

Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids.



Be Sure to Farm Safely this Holiday Season

As we approach the holiday season, farmers and their families are reminded to think about farm safety. This will help ensure you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

Here are a few things to consider:

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

...continued on next page

- A lot of livestock will be coming in, or have recently come back in the barn. Use extra caution when working with animals. Use safe handling practices while both you and the animals adjust to this change.



Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour

This is the first year for this new provincial award to be offered to 4-H youth 14 -16 years of age. The tour will be held in different locations across Nova Scotia each year during the school March break. The tour will allow 4-H members to learn more about a specific region of the province: the community, the rural community leaders, the local area resource-based businesses and rural employers. The participants will meet these leaders, tour and understand their business and their role in the community (examples include agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, mining and value added facilities). There is a conference component that will include meeting community group leaders/members and discussing the role of the various rural organizations in the area (examples include Lions, Rotary, Kinsman, Church, Volunteer Fire Departments, Federation of Agriculture and local politicians).

Participants will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with local 4-H members taking part in activities such as bowling, swimming and dances.

Royal Winter Fair

Two 4-H members had the exciting opportunity of travelling to the Toronto to participate at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Cody Legge from Kings County travelled as part of the beef team and Luke McLellan from Hants County was a part of the dairy team. Both did very well in competition. They were enthusiastic about the trip and the many memories made.

Upcoming 4-H Events

Kings County Council Meeting,
January 5 , Kentville Agricultural
Centre, 7:30 p.m.

Hants County Council Meeting,
January 12, West Hants Middle
School, 7 p.m.

It has been a busy fall with meetings and events. Lots of issues are being discussed such as the wet season, NSDA programs and services, farm succession, OH&S concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, N-Viro, and societal pressures. If you have a particular issue you would like addressed, or if you want to organize a meeting for your area, please let me know so that we can discuss it and take appropriate steps.

Staff of the Central Regional Office of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture would like to extend a Merry Christmas and good wishes in the new year. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. We remind our farm owners and operators to make safety a priority while they prepare for the new year.

Pesticide Certification and Recertification Course Schedule 2009

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

Recertification:

Cost \$ 75 (including tax):

Jan. 28, 2009

Kentville Agri. Center, Kentville
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mar. 3, 2009

AgriTech Park, Truro
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Certification:

Cost \$185 (including tax + manual):

Jan. 21-22, 2009

Kentville Agri. Center, Kentville
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mar. 4-5, 2009

AgriTech Park, Truro
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please call: (902) 798-2114 to register

NOTE: Dates for certification and recertification are also available in Kentville. For more information please call Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114.

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 NS Environment office.

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

Wildlife Flushing Bars

edit from Ducks Unlimited newsletter

Nova Scotia boasts a large number of hayfields. While the fields are managed to produce an agricultural crop, they attract a variety of wildlife species, therefore becoming wildlife habitat. All of these wildlife species are vulnerable to being killed by mowing equipment. Farmers who feel they are frequently encountering wildlife during their mowing operations, are often concerned about the ability of this wildlife to escape. A wildlife flushing bar could be a viable solution.

The flushing bar is an aluminum bar attached to the front of a tractor with pull type hay cutting equipment (modifications available for self propelled). Chains are attached to the aluminum bar that drag through the hay. The movement and noise causes wildlife to flush away from the cutting surfaces of the mower. The bar is light enough to be

mounted by one person and can be pulled in against the tractor when moving from field to field or when mowing close to trees. While the flushing bar will not save nests from being destroyed, it will save the nesting birds, which can then re-nest. In the case of fawn deer and other wildlife, the bar is successful in flushing them out of the path of the mower.

In past years Ducks Unlimited and the Department of Agriculture have jointly funded this conservation tool through the Department of Agriculture's Farm Investment Fund. Interested farmers should review the 2009 - 2010 Farm Investment Fund information when it is released to see if funding is available and if they qualify.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
CANADA'S CONSERVATION COMPANY

Coming Events



28th Annual Guelph Organic Conference, January 22–25, 2009, “O” is for Opportunity. For details: <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca/>

9th Annual ACORN Organic Conference and Trade Show, February 26–28, 2009, Organics: Good for You, Good for the Planet. For details: <http://www.acornorganic.org/conference.html>

Value Plus™ – A Quest for New Value, February 17 and 18, 2009, A Quest For New Farm Value Workshop, Discover a new crop of opportunities. For details <http://www.farmcentre.com/>

Respite Workshops for Family Caregivers, February 21, 2009. The Nova Scotia Partnership on Respite, Family Health and Wellness is holding workshops free of charge, with funding available for respite care and transportation. Workshop: New Glasgow. For details or to register, call the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women at 1-800-565-8662 or e-mail women@gov.ns.ca

Canadian Angus annual meeting, May 7, 2009, Harrison Hot Springs, BC. For details, phone Betty Lou Scott, (902) 925-2057.

World Angus Forum, July 17-21, 2009, Calgary, AB. For details, phone Betty Lou Scott, (902) 925-2057.

The Canadian Junior Angus Association National Show "Showdown 2009". July 23-25, 2009, Dundas, PE, for details Contact Belinda Wagner, (306) 757-6133.

Upcoming Central Region 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: January 26 and February 23 at the Farm Loan board room NSAC at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee Meetings: January 12 and February 9 at the Farm Loan board room, NSAC at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee meetings: January 6, and February 3 at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: January 13, Forestry Complex and February 10, Campbell Hall at 7 p.m.

As well, final 4-H registrations are due January 15.

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact: Jacqueline Hoyt, 4-H Specialist for Central Region at (902) 893-6586 or hoytjm@gov.ns.ca



Farm Safety

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we have experienced during 2008 and to look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. During the holidays, more than ever, it is important to consciously practice safe working practices on your farm. As farm routines change, remember to keep the safety of you and your family in mind. Do not let what should be a happy and joyful time of the year become a tragic one. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Use caution around icy/slippery areas in farmyards and on machinery.
- Check and maintain any machinery guards and covers.

- Make sure covers are in place and secure around manure pits and tanks.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in buildings and on machinery.
- If not already done, tidy up your pesticide storage area.
- Where necessary, mark lane ways for snow removal this winter.
- Check all first aid kits and replace any used or outdated supplies.
- Check fire extinguishers.
- Clean your chimney(s).

For some light reading, review the Farm Safety Standards of Practice and complete the checklist for your farm.

Upcoming Events from the Cape Breton Agriculture Office for 2009

- Succession Planning and Marketing Workshop - spring 2009
- Pesticide certification/re-certification course for points and licencing - Spring 2009.
- Operation Spraycheck- sprayer calibration and information session. This will provide points for recertification as well - Spring 2009.
- Ongoing production information sessions with AgraPoint staff.

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

Succession Planning

Farm succession planning, the process by which the ownership and management of the family business is transferred to the next generation, is one of the most critical and inevitable issues in the life of any farm family. Many postpone acting upon a plan for succession as it can be somewhat intimidating in its complexity and magnitude. However, broken down into manageable steps a methodology can be developed for understanding the issues and preparing a succession plan 'project' for execution.

One of the keys is to start early. Broaching the subject with family

members, knowing the interests and aspirations of the succeeding generation, understanding what you need to about the business and personal issues of succession and retirement - these things are the result of a life experience that usually takes years to accomplish.

The Cape Breton Agriculture office is developing workshops to address the issue of succession planning for presentation in January. If you are interested and have specific requests for information please contact our offices so that we may make your input a part of our workshop.

Happy Holidays

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



4-H 2009: Is the year to shine

The 2009 4-H year is starting out with a bang, with lots of local, regional and provincial events to keep 4-Her's on their toes. Many clubs are preparing for a full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and old members alike to the Cape Breton Regional Program. On behalf of staff, we would like to welcome you and look forward to seeing your clubs at our local and regional events. Here are a few things on the go for our 4-H communities.

4-H Website - Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H website for all sorts of great information. Our provincial website has information on general questions on 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 <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/> Our national website through Canadian 4-H council offers various resources materials, national scholarship, program grants and funding and links to all that is 4-H on a national level. This site has something for everyone, especially our senior members. You can visit the site at www.4-h-canada.ca/.

General Leader Kit

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

Chocolate Campaign 2009 – Provincial Fund Raiser

The Nova Scotia 4-H Council, Nova Scotia 4-Her's are once again holding a chocolate fund raiser. This year we will be selling Sun Sweet Fundraiser Chocolates. We will also have Cadbury caramel bars to sell this year. The campaign will run from March 1 to March 31, 2009. The county deadline to have your orders and delivery instructions to your 4-H Specialist is January 30, 2009 by noon or earlier if possible. The bars sell for \$2 each. All money/prize tickets, etc. must be in from clubs and counties to regional representatives by April 10, 2009.

Senior Member Conference

This conference will be held February 28-March 1, 2009 in Debert. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is pleased to invite our senior members to this dynamic conference. It is an excellent opportunity to have a winter get away while networking with other members and

learning new things to strengthen your role in your club and community. Contact your regional 4-H Specialist at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for more application information.

New Leader Training

“Welcome to the 4-H Team” is a workshop that introduces 4-H to our new leaders. As part of the volunteer screening process, all new leaders must attend a training session. Sessions were completed in late 2008 and continue in early 2009. Leaders are free to attend any session. During these sessions you will be given information regarding the 4-H program, the leader screening process, and what resources and support systems are available to leaders. This session is compulsory and is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you have regarding the program. Contact your regional 4-H Specialist at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for more application information.

Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour 2009

The Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Memorial Youth Leadership Tour will be hosted for this year in the Cape Breton region. Kevin Grant, a long time 4-H participant, government public servant, and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H Program, has provided a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. This tour will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of March break. Ten 4-H members from across the province, between the ages of 14 to 16, will be selected to participate each year. The tour will allow 4-H members to learn more about a highlighted region in the province: the community, the rural community leaders, the local

area resource based businesses and rural employers. The participants will meet these leaders, tour and understand their business and their part in the community (examples include agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, mining, value added facilities). There is a conference component that will include meeting community group leaders/members and discussing roles of the various rural organizations in the area. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with local 4-H members. Please contact the 4-H office if you have interest in making this tour our local success story. Applications for 4-H member attendance will be reviewed in mid January.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2008/2009

The 4-H office encourages all of our leaders and senior members to participate in a food safety course for certification. We would like to welcome on board our newest food safety staff member Doreen Mackley, who was a past 4-H member in the program. Please note the below dates for upcoming sessions.

- Jan. 7 Mike Gardiner Glace Bay Town House
Jan. 14 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147
Jan. 28 Doreen Mackley CB Exhibition Grounds, 105 Reagent St., North Sydney
Feb. 11 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147
Mar. 4 Doreen Mackley CB Exhibition Grounds, 105 Reagent St., North Sydney
Mar. 18 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147
Apr. 15 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147
Apr. 29 Doreen Mackley CB Exhibition Grounds, 105 Reagent St., North Sydney
May 12 Carrie Fraser Inverness County Centre for the Arts
May 13 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147
May 27 Doreen Mackley CB Exhibition Grounds, 105 Reagent St., North Sydney
Jun. 17 Mike Gardiner Marconi Campus, Room A147

In order to attend one of the above courses, please pre-register by contacting Catherine at the NS Dept. of Agriculture office in Sydney at (902) 563-2000. Pre-payment holds a seat in the course. Payments may be made by cheque or money order, made out to the "Minister of Finance" in the amount of \$23.18. NO CASH please. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>

4-H Christmas Greeting

It's the time of year for greetings, carols, and good cheer
T'is the season for reflecting and for welcoming a new year.

Learn to do by doing the way of 4-H since 1922,
pledging head, heart, hands and health - for that's what 4-Hers do.

They've learned to tack a horse, wash a duck, and to decorate a cake;
to prep an onion, clip a calf, to model, to judge and to bake.

They've learned to speak in public, can make a motion, and can adjourn;
sanding, staining, welding and showing, by doing, they have learned.

They've learned to be a leader, and to be part of the team,
learned to set a goal, to work hard, and to realize a dream.

They've had the help of leaders, of 4-H staff, sponsors, and parents too;
for all that they have learned - it was because of you!

For having time and patience, and always a hand to lend,
for acting as a parent, a teacher, a mentor and a friend.

Christmas wishes are sent your way for a season of peace and joy;
may you always know you've made a difference to a 4-H girl or boy!

*from Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture,
Resource, 4-H, and Food Safety Staff - Cape Breton Region*

Dates to Mark on the Calendar

- Jan. 6 Cape Breton Co. Mtg., 7 p.m., Community Room, Civic Center
Jan. 10 Homemaking Workshop, Evergreen Senior Club, Port Hawksbury
Jan. 20 Victoria Co. Mtg., 7 p.m., Peterson's
Jan. 24-25 NS Council Strategic Planning Session
Jan. 28 Inverness Co. 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H office
Feb. 2 (*tentative*) Inverness/Richmond Jr. Workshop, West Bay Hall
Feb. 27 (*In-service day*) Cape Breton Jr. Member Workshop, North Sydney Exhibition
Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Provincial Senior Member Conference
Mar. 16-18 Kevin Lewis Grant Tour
Apr. 4 or 11 (*tentative*) Cape Breton Co. Rally
Apr. 18 Regional Rally, Baddeck Academy
April/May (*TBA*) Regional Dog Clinic
May 8-9 Provincial 4-H Weekend
May 19-20 Cape Breton Judging Days, all projects except horse (May 19) horse judging (May 20)
June 4-6 Richmond County 4-H Show
Oct. 2-4 Nova Scotia 4-H ProShow, Bridgewater
- Feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or questions you would like to address. We can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2001 (Marina). Our email addresses are:
gillisma@gov.ns.ca or
macdourm@gov.ns.ca

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

REMINDER

The deadline for submitting claims under this years Farm Investment Fund program is **March 1, 2009**.

Antigonish/Gusyborough Federation of Agriculture 2008/2009 Board of Directors

Anthony VanBerkel – President Ronnie MacDonald – Vice President
Directors: John Oostvogels, Robert Overmars, Margaret Cornect, Dianne
Sinclair, David Kennedy, Neil Doiron, Mike Penny and Mary McCarron

Pictou North-Colchester Federation of Agriculture 2008/2009 Board of Directors

Joe Ebbett – President Jim Fraser – Vice President
Lorenda Ebett – Secretary/Treasurer
Directors: Kenny Parker, Bill Scott, Malcolm Campbel, Ralph Daling, and
Rose MacDonald-MacKenzie

Think Local This Holiday Season

Choose local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often. Try to buy directly from the growers –cutting out the middleman means that more of your food dollar goes to the people who grow your food. Farmers' markets are a good place to start. Ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.

**Best Wishes for a Happy
Christmas Season from the
staff of the Antigonish office!**

4-H Update

Rachael Cheverie is the new 4-H Specialist for the Eastern Region. She will be filling in for Dawn Barrington-Hodgson during her maternity leave. Rachael is from Prince Edward Island, where she was working for the PEI Department of Agriculture for the past 10 years as their Integrated Pest Management Specialist and most recently the Potato Industry Coordinator for the province. Rachael has a strong family background of involvement in 4-H in Eastern PEI and is excited to be involved with this great organization once again. Rachael will be working out of the Antigonish Office (190 Beech Hill Rd.) four days a week and the Pictou office one day a week. The answering machines at both offices are updated on Monday mornings with her current week's schedule but she will be in the Pictou office on Thursday of most weeks.

The Pictou County Leaders Council held their Annual Meeting on Nov. 13. The Executive for the 2009 4-H year are: Michael Hollis, President; Penny MacLeod, Vice President; Bonnie Allan, Secretary and John VanKessel, Treasurer.

The Antigonish County Leaders Council held their Annual Meeting on November 18. The Executive for the 2009 4-H Year are: Angela MacNeil, President; Betsy Delorey, Treasurer; and Scott Butler, Secretary.

The Provincial 4-H office would like to thank all of the outgoing members of each of the councils for their hard work and dedication to the 4-H program over the past number of years.

As a part of the celebration of 4-H Month, all three counties in the Eastern Region (Antigonish, Guysborough, and Pictou) held their awards ceremonies in November. Congratulations go out to all members and leaders for making 2008 a very successful 4-H year in the region.

Registration for the 2009 4-H year is currently underway but if anyone is interested in finding out more about the 4-H program and how to join the club nearest you (or in starting a new club), please contact the 4-H Specialist for more information. Interviews will be held in early December for senior members in all three counties who have applied for National Award trips in 2009.



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Upcoming dates for Antigonish County:

- Dec 23, 2008 Christmas skating, noon–1:30 p.m., Antigonish Arena
- Jan. 11, 2009 Bowling, 2 p.m., Pins Bowling Center
- Jan. 13, 2009 Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8, 2009 Swimming, Oland Centre, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 10, 2009 Council meeting, 7 p.m. - Beech Hill
- Feb. 10, 2009 New leader workshop, noon–1 p.m. OR 6–7 p.m. (4-H office - Beech Hill)
- Feb. 28–Mar. 1, 2009 Senior members conference, Debert Conference Centre



Upcoming Dates for Pictou County:

- Jan. 15, 2009 Executive workshop for members, 7 p.m., Northumberland
- Jan. 22, 2009 New leader training workshop, noon–1 p.m. OR 6–7 p.m., 4-H office
- Jan. 22, 2009 Council meeting and committee meetings, 7 p.m., 4-H office
- Feb. 2009 Bowling, 8 – 10 p.m., Heather Bowling Lanes, New Glasgow (mid-Feb. date TBA)
- Feb. 25, 2009 New leader training workshop, 6–7 p.m., Northumberland
- Feb. 25, 2009 Council meeting, 7 p.m., Northumberland
- Feb. 28–Mar. 1, 2009 Senior members conference, Debert Conference Centre