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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2008 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 9 No. 1

Transition to Growing Forward: A New Agreement in Support of Agriculture

The *Agricultural Policy Framework* (APF) was the first time in Canada that an integrated, comprehensive and forward-looking agricultural policy was created.

Introduced in 2003, the APF reflected an agreement among FPT Ministers that the agriculture and agri-food sector needed a more sustainable and long-term approach to minimize the demands for ad hoc funding. The goal was to brand Canada as a world leader in food safety, innovation and environmentally-responsible production. Governments agreed on an action plan composed of five elements: food safety and quality, environment, science and innovation, renewal, and business risk management (BRM). Programs under these elements were cost-shared or cost-matched 60:40 across federal, provincial and territorial governments.

The APF is set to expire on March 31, 2008. FPT governments began working on a new framework to replace the APF, with extensive public consultations forming a key component. To date, these consultations have provided a wealth of ideas for the next policy framework, and engaged industry and other stakeholders as partners in policy development.

In June 2007, FPT Ministers of Agriculture received authority to negotiate *Growing Forward* – a framework which builds on the APF’s successes. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are now negotiating the policy architecture and program objectives for new programs to support the policy objectives outlined in *Growing Forward*. The plan outlined in June aimed for a multilateral framework agreement in the fall, to be followed by bilateral agreements and implementation on April 1, 2008.

BRM program implementation is on track for full implementation in the 2008 program year. FPT ministers have approved a new BRM suite set to launch April 1, 2008.

It is now clear that while negotiations on the policy and broad non-BRM program design can be completed by March 31, 2008, full program implementation will have to follow in 2008-09. It is critical that programs be prudently developed and the industry broadly consulted to ensure that the new framework can advance the outcomes agreed to by FPT ministers in *Growing Forward*.

Ministers have agreed to support funding for up to one year for

existing cost-shared non-BRM activities to ensure continuity for farmers and others in the sector who rely upon these programs. During this transition year, new programs will be designed to address the *Growing Forward* policy objectives. As this architecture is implemented, the continuity programming will be replaced with *Growing Forward* programming.

New Provincial Organic Agricultural Council

An organic agricultural council is being formed in Nova Scotia. It is tentatively called the Nova Scotia Organic Council and will work with the Organic Federation of Canada/ Fédération biologique du Canada, a not-for-profit organization that was formed by the federal government, to address issues in the industry on standards and regulations.

A steering committee was formed to set up the Nova Scotia Organic Council at a January 22 meeting of organic agricultural industry leaders, hosted in Bible Hill by the Industry Development and Business Services Branch of the Department of Agriculture.



Agriculture

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

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Agriculture Minister Brooke Taylor commended the organic sector in Nova Scotia for showing leadership by working together to create this new organization.

“Organic agriculture is an important component of the future growth of agriculture in the province.”

The Organic Federation of Canada has secured federal funding of \$27,000 for the development of the provincial council.

Angela Patterson, a certified organic grower from Canning, Kings Co., is a member of a steering committee that will oversee the development of the new council. Ms. Patterson is also president of the Nova Scotia Organic Growers Association, the certifying body that was instrumental in the development of the new council.

Ms. Patterson said, “This new group will represent the entire organic sector - producers, handlers, processors, input manufacturers, importers, exporters, retailers, certification bodies, provincial government - as required by the Organic Federation of Canada/Fédération biologique du Canada.”

Ms. Patterson expressed appreciation for the Department of Agriculture’s solid support and continued partnership in the development of the Nova Scotia Organic Council.

Agricultural Companies Receive Infrastructure Funding

Four agricultural companies have been approved for a total of \$750,000 in funding to help strengthen their infrastructure and sustainability.

“These projects will assist the producers and processors accelerate their economic potential and development,” said Brooke Taylor, Minister of Agriculture.

Funding has been approved for:

- Van Meekeren Farms Limited, to upgrade its apple processing equipment and expand its warehouse.
- Scotian Gold Cooperative Limited, to improve processing technology and assist with plant modernization.
- West Nova Agro Commodities Limited, to establish an organic grains processing facility.

- Knoydart Farms Limited, to upgrade equipment to process organic milk into specialty cheese.

These businesses applied under the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund. This is the first year of the \$6 million, four-year fund.

“The Department of Agriculture continues to help producers and the agriculture industry,” said Mr. Taylor. “These projects were chosen for their strong business plans and benefits for the industry as a whole. This fund promotes creativity and partnerships in our industry. We support winning opportunities for industry and our communities.”

For more information on the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund visit www.gov.ns/agri.

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

March 25 – 26, 2008 • Holiday Inn Harbourview Dartmouth, NS

Do you want to sell more goods within the local market? Are you frustrated with the status quo? Do you have questions and can’t find the answers? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you have to attend this conference!

Listen to a panel of experienced presenters. Learn from your colleagues. Link your ideas with others in the value chain. Sell Local. Join us on March 25 and 26, 2008 for a business development

conference that will explore the many opportunities available to sell more of your goods within Nova Scotia.

Register today as space is limited and the deadline is fast approaching. Cost is \$125 (includes meals).

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



Beyond Basic Nutrition: Healthy Functional Food Ingredients, Snacks, and Beverages from Nova Scotia Apples

Erin MacPherson, NSAC

Eating an apple is a great way to get Vitamin C and other nutrients, but soon consumers may have new apple-based snack and beverage products to choose from. New research at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) hopes to capture the health benefits of fruits and introduce new healthy and convenient value-added food choices to the consumer. This project recently received \$1.9 million from the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency's, Atlantic Innovation Fund.

Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe, an Assistant Professor at NSAC, is leading this innovative project. The project will develop new ways to extract and preserve selected natural antioxidants from apples and apple processing waste. These products will be used to create enhanced healthy food products and ingredients.

Rupasinghe says these natural bioactive compounds are now known to be the principal components in fruits and vegetables that provide benefits beyond basic nutrition, for example, specific health benefits such as prevention of various cancers and other chronic human disorders. Rupasinghe believes that introduction of healthy, but convenient foods, is one remedy for managing good health.

"Right now, over 10 million pounds of apple processing by-products go into the waste as land fill in Nova Scotia," says Rupasinghe. "We want to turn this unique and valuable bio-resource into healthy food and various bio-products". For example, the new antioxidant-enriched apple-based functional beverages not only quench your thirst but also provide

you with a balance of vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, and natural antioxidants.

Rupasinghe is Chair of the Tree Fruit BioProduct Research Program at NSAC, an established cooperative and industry-led research program. It is supported by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association (NSFGA) and four Annapolis Valley companies, Apple Valley Foods Ltd, Grand Pre Wines Ltd., J.W. Mason and Sons, and Noggins Corner Farm Ltd., who plan to commercialize the resulting new value-added product manufacturing technologies from this research.

In addition to creating new food products, the spin-off benefits from this research include enhancing the economic value of Nova Scotia produced apples and increased employment for the rural-based tree fruit industry. Dela Erith, Executive Director with the NSFGA, says that

this R and D initiative is unique; its design is based on carefully conducted market and business development research. "Dr. Rupasinghe has put together an excellent multi-disciplinary team of agri-businesses and research collaborators," says Erith.

Creating innovative products is nothing new to Rupasinghe. In 2005, he and his team of researchers received the Agri-food Innovation Award for introducing pre-packaged apple slices to the marketplace in Ontario. Introduced to the marketplace by McDonald's Food Chain, this product is the result of a collaborative project co-ordinated by Dr. Rupasinghe when he was at the University of Guelph.

Dr. Rupasinghe's research further solidifies NSAC's position as a leader in the innovative agricultural and life sciences research.

Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines 2008:

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

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

option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season.

Weather Plan for Forage

This plan provides insurance against a loss in crops as a result of designated perils related to weather. Forage acres intended for storage or pasture are eligible.

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



Programs and Business Risk Management Division

2006 Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program

Not all payments and processing for 2006 CAIS are complete. If you have received your 2006 CAIS Calculation of Benefits (COB), remember that you have 90 days from the date on the COB to make adjustments and appeals to the CAIS administration. If you are still waiting for your calculation of benefits you should contact the CAIS administration toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability Program for 2007

The AgriStability FEE Deadline - April 30, 2008

Most producers have already received their enrolment notice for 2007 AgriStability. The deadline to pay the fee amount was December 31, 2007 or 30 days after the enrolment notice was dated. If you have not yet paid the fee you may still participate, however, a late penalty charge of 20 per cent will be added to the fee. Participants have until April 30, 2008 to pay the fee with penalty.

AgriInvest KickStart

The federal government is delivering \$600 million to kick start the new AgriInvest Program. Most producers will have automatically received a letter with information on how to access these funds. Others have to apply.

If you received a letter, it is very important to respond to the letter by tearing off and mailing in the information at the bottom. You have the choice to withdraw the money or leave it in a government fund. If you

want to withdraw the money, respond to the letter and a cheque will be sent within 30 to 60 days. You do not need to make a deposit or open an account at a bank, credit union or financial institution.

The deadline to respond to the letter is June 30, 2008.

If you did not receive a letter and would like to apply, applications are available on the AgriInvest website at www.agr.gc.ca/agriinvest under Publications and forms, or by calling 1-866-367-8506. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2008.

AgriStability and AgriInvest – Producer and Accountant Sessions

Information sessions on the new suite of business risk management programs, including AgriInvest and

AgriStability are coming soon to a community near you. Topics important to your farm business will be covered, including how the new programs can work for you and tips for completing the 2007 harmonized form.

Representatives will also be available to meet individually with you to discuss completing your 2007 harmonized form, to check over your 2007 harmonized form prior to submission, provide tips and answer questions on any general program information you may have.

Appointments are limited and will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis. To schedule an appointment, please call Steve Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at 902-893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Information Sessions

Truro	Glengarry Hotel	25-Feb-08	7 - 9 p.m.
Antigonish	Maritime Inn	27-Feb-08	7 - 9 p.m.
Baddeck	St. Michael's Parish	28-Feb-08	7 - 9 p.m.
Bridgewater	Auberge Wandlyn Inn	03-Mar-08	7 - 9 p.m.
Yarmouth	Rodd Colony Harbour Inn	04-Mar-08	6 - 8 p.m.
Kentville	Auberge Wandlyn Inn	06-Mar-08	7 - 9 p.m.
Amherst	Auberge Wandlyn Inn	10-Mar-08	7 - 9 p.m.

One-on-One Appointments

Truro	Ag. office Harlow	25-26-Feb-08	8:30 - 4:30
Antigonish	Charles Keating Millenium Centre	27-Feb-08	8:30 - 4:30
Mabou	Mabou Fire Hall	28-Feb-08	8:30 - 4:30
Bridgewater	Auberge Wandlyn Inn	03-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30
Yarmouth	Rodd Colony Harbour Inn	04-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30
Weymouth	Ag. office	05-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30
Lawrencetown	Annapolis Valley Exhibition	06-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30
Kentville	Ag. office	07-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30
Amherst	Auberge Wandlyn Inn	10-Mar-08	8:30 - 4:30

For more information on any of the above, contact the AgriStability or AgriInvest toll free line at 1-866-367-8506, or contact Steven Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at 902-893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

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Programs Update:

Farm Investment Fund (FIF)

project claiming deadline is March 1, 2008 for the 2007-08 program year. Although currently closed, the Farm Investment Fund is expected to re-open to applications in late spring of this year. Keep your eye open for dates and locations of FIF presentations in your area this spring. These sessions will highlight the program changes for the upcoming program year.

Agri-Food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF) claiming deadline is March 1, 2008 for the 2007-08 program year. **Please note: This claiming deadline has changed from last year.**

The Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) will be a category within the AFIDF Program again next year. Plan and prepare your proposals now, in preparation for the upcoming program opening. The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund is expected to re-open to applications in late spring.

Additional information on the programs offered can be accessed at our web site: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/. Questions? Contact Programs and Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

NSAC Continuing and Distance Education

Take a look at the upcoming courses at NSAC through Continuing and Distance Education.

Introductory Welding Course

February 18–20, 2008

This course is for beginners or welders who would like more hands-on practice. This course covers the theory, techniques and shop practice of arc-welding from project start to finish.

Garden Centre Training

March 18–19, 2008 or March 25–26, 2008

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

Integrated Pest Management for Landscapers

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

This training session for landscapers will focus on sustainable landscape practices, the elements of an integrated weed management approach, pesticide safety practices, pesticide performance and water quality, new products and technologies. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points in the Nova Scotia Pesticide Re-certification Program.

Integrated Pest Management for Farmers

Thursday, February 21, 2008

This training session for farmers will focus on pesticide safety practices, pesticide performance and the effect of water quality, developing an IPM strategy, new products and technologies. Eligible course participants will be awarded five re-certification points in the Nova Scotia Pesticide Re-certification Program.

Pesticide Applicator Certification

April 14–17, 2008

This course teaches you the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. It is excellent preparation for those writing the Pesticide Applicator's Examination. Course content ranges from integrated pest management principles to doing your own calibration and calculations.

For more information on courses or programs, please contact: NSAC through Continuing and Distance Education, web: nsac.ca/cde phone : 902-893-6666 e-mail: cde@nsac.ca



**Nova Scotia
Agricultural
College**

*Continuing &
Distance Education*

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

AgraPoint Events

Feed Mill Workshop at NSAC February 20th

This workshop, done in partnership with AgraPoint, the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, is tailored to anyone whose daily work involves commercial and on-farm feed manufacturing or mixing, supplying feed ingredients, grain handling and/or the sale of feeds and rations. The workshop is taking place February 20 at the NSAC. Registration is \$100 + HST. Speakers and topics include: Alan Bell from Superior Agri-Systems with sessions on Planning for a Feed Mill Expansion, Trouble shooting and New Feed Mill Technologies; Victor Melio of SGS on the Feed Assure Program; Alex Oderkirk of

AgraPoint on Feed Mill Bio-Security; Brent Murray of AV Software on Computerized Feed Mills; and Ruurd Zijlstra from the University of Alberta on Using Bio-fuel Bi-Products in Feed. For a complete agenda and how to register visit www.extensioncentral.com to speak to someone about the workshop, please contact Alex Oderkirk at 902-896-0277 or a.oderkirk@agrapoint.ca. A portion of the funding of this workshop was provided by the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund. Sponsors include, Co-op Atlantic; Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Shurgain - Nutreco Canada; DLC Inc. and Philbro.

Transition Cow Two-Hour Session in Port Hawksbury

AgraPoint is pleased to host a two-hour dairy nutrition session February 13 at the Port Hawksbury Civic Centre (Main Floor) from 12-2 p.m. Lead by Dan Mosley, AgraPoint's Dairy Nutritionist, this session will provide some simple ways farmers can overcome potential upsets during the four weeks immediately before calving which can have an impact

long into lactation. There is no charge (a light lunch will be provided) but please let us know of your intention to attend, so we can ensure accurate numbers for lunch, by contacting Amy Melmock, AgraPoint (Cape Breton) 902-625-1140 or a.melmock@agrapoint.ca. Please visit www.extensioncentral.com for updates and any further information.

Orchard/Vineyard Sprayer Calibration Workshop

AgraPoint and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture are hosting this hands-on session February 26 in the Cornwallis Room at the Kentville Agricultural Centre. The session will provide tree fruit and grape growers with practical information on sprayer calibration; familiarity with where it fits in relation the OFFS program for trees and vines; new sprayer technologies; and calibration of the spray pattern. Guest speaker is Dr. Andrew Landers, a pesticide application technology specialist at Cornell

University, where he directs the pesticide application technology program and researches the use of engineering solutions to provide safer spraying.

We are anticipating having two sessions – a **morning session** from 8 a.m. to noon and an **afternoon session** from 1 to 5 p.m. There is limited seating for each session. Registration is \$20 (taxes included). For more information or to register, call 902-678-7722.

Seventh PRCP On-Line Exam Available

AgraPoint has just posted the seventh in its series of home study exams made available on-line so producers have access to earning points at home. This exam is on Record Keeping and is available at www.extensioncentral.com. You will need to complete the exam and send it to AgraPoint's Agriculture Information Centre in Truro at the address located on the exam. If you make the passing grade of 75 per cent you will receive one-half a pesticide re-certification point. If you successfully complete every exam over the five-year span of your pesticide license, you will achieve over half of your re-certification requirements with the home-study series. For more information, contact the information centre toll-free at 1-866-606-4636 or info@agrapoint.ca.

"Telling Our Stories" Marketing Workshop Coming in April

A workshop geared toward small-scale producers who are currently involved in or are contemplating becoming involved in direct sales, will want to attend the "Telling Our Stories" Marketing Workshop taking place April 2 at the Crown Jewel Resort in Big Baddeck, Cape Breton. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Details are still being worked out for the program but interactive sessions focusing on how to add marketing value that reflects your business philosophy; ideas from producers already successfully direct marketing; and overviews of government buy local and other programs to assist producers are expected to be included. Producers are asked to express their interest in attending by contacting Amy Melmock, AgraPoint (Cape Breton) at 902-625-1140 or a.melmock@agrapoint.ca.

NSAC Announces New International Business Degree

NSAC is partnering with Dronten University of Applied Sciences of The Netherlands to offer Dronten's new Bachelor of Administration degree in International Food Business. Years one and three are offered on the NSAC campus, with year two offered in The Netherlands, and year four available at either campus. This is an Honours degree offering two work terms, one in North America and one in Europe. This four year degree begins with a ten day orientation in Iceland where students explore the Icelandic food industry. It is a unique program which will appeal to the student who enjoys studying independently, has an interest in business and likes to travel. If you know of an above-average academic student who is looking for adventure and recognizes the importance of a global education encourage them to contact NSAC for more details on this limited enrollment program.

Dronten University of Applied Sciences is situated in Flevoland, in the centre of The Netherlands, with 1,200 students specializing in programs in Business Administration and Agribusiness, Rural Development, Animal Production and Management, Horticulture and Arable Production. You can visit the university's website at: www.cah.nl/dpau

For more information on this degree, please contact: Heather-Anne Grant, M.Sc., P.Ag.
Coordinator, International Food Business Programme Department of Business and Social Sciences, NSAC
PO Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3
Canada
Email: hgrant@nsac.ca
Tel: 902-896-2232
Fax: 902-897-0038

Cereal and Soybean Growers Tune-up Sessions

- March 4 Pt.Hawkesbury Civic Centre (1- 4 p.m., cereals only)
March 4 Scotsburn Fire Hall (7 - 9:30 p.m., cereals only)
March 6 Truro Glengarry Best Western Hotel (10 - 4 p.m., joint session with Truro Agromart Ltd.)
March 6 Amherst Wandlyn Inn (7- 9:30 p.m., cereal and soybean session)
March 7 Wolfville Old Orchard Inn (10 - 4 p.m joint session with Cavendish Agri Services Ltd.)

Speakers: Dr. Claude Caldwell, NSAC; Doug MacDonald, NS Crop Development Institute; Pierre Lanoie, Monsanto Canada; Bill Thomas and Jack van Roestel, AgraPoint

Topics:

- Field selection (relating to cereal species, tillage and seedbed prep)
- Cereal species (six row versus two row, straw yields, varieties)
- Seeding (planting dates, methods, depth of planting, seeding rates)
- Cereal development (how the crop grows)
- Fertility (how much and timing)
- Weed control and pest management
- Disease and fungicide treatments
- Harvest, storage, marketing (feed mill perspective, DON levels, grading, drying)
- Soybean inoculation, seeding and management

Workshop Agricultural Riparian Health and Management Strategy for Atlantic Canada

**March 5 and 6, 2008
Future Inns, Moncton**

Working towards a Riparian Health Strategy for Atlantic Canada. The primary workshop objectives are:

- to develop a Riparian Health Management Strategy for Atlantic Canada and to increase the level of adoption of Beneficial Riparian Management Practices
- to improve Riparian Health Management, and
- to better assess future programming needs under the Growing Forward generation of programs.

The registration form is available online at: www.ccse-swcc.nb.ca/

For more information, contact:
Yvette Cyr, Eastern Canada Soils and Water Conservation Centre
Phone: 506-475-4040



Pesticide Certification Courses

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: March 26 –27 – Kentville Agricultural Centre

The dates for recertification courses are: March 28 – Kentville Agricultural Centre; April 2 – Kentville Agricultural Centre

Hants Co. Farm Women's Day

Hants Co. Farm Women's Day will be held on April 26 at the Three Mill Plains Community Hall. For more information and to register, contact Catherine Manning at 902-798-4541.

Wetland Information Session

The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (NSDEL) Kentville office will be hosting a wetland information session at the Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook on Tuesday, February 19, at 1 p.m.

The session will touch briefly on wetland identification and habitats that are under the jurisdiction of NSDEL. The process of altering wetlands in the province will also be discussed.

Should you have any further questions, you may contact the local Kentville District office at 902-679-6086. An RSVP is appreciated, but not necessary.

Local contractors, agriculture community, qualified persons/installers, surveyors, municipality representatives, realtors and other stakeholders from Kings and Annapolis counties are invited to attend the session.



Valley Region 4-H News

Hants County Royalty Night

Hants County Royalty Night will be held February 22 at the West Hants Middle School. Royalty candidates interviews will start at 6 p.m., while members, leaders, family and friends can play board games. Families are asked to bring your board games and a plate of sandwiches or sweets. The storm date for Royalty Night is February 29.

Council Meetings

Kings County Council Meetings are held at the Kentville Agricultural Center at 7:30 p.m.; Hants Council Meetings are held at West Hants Middle School in Brooklyn at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Hants County: Wednesday, March 5; Monday, April 14; Monday, May 12

Kings County: Tuesday, March 4; Monday, April 7; Monday May 5

Chat-A-Rama

The 2008 Chat-A-Rama is designed specifically for 4-H members who are 14 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2008, eager to learn new things, meet new friends, and have fun. Chat-A-Rama will be held at the MARC in Dayspring, outside of Bridgewater, Lunenburg County, on March 10–11. The registration fee is \$30 and includes your workshop fee, meals and accommodations. The theme for the 2008 Chat-A-Rama is

“A Step to the Future”. There have been lots of changes to the program and location for the 2008 event! The new program will have a local tour that will include Apple Berry Farm Market. There will be sessions on; career choices, panel discussions on future choices and more!! There will also be teamwork activities and competitions, outdoor skating and other fun activities! The deadline for registration is February 29, 2008.

Kings County Camp Rankin

Scholarship: Kings County junior 4-H members (9 - 12 years of age as of January 1, 2008) can apply for the Camp Rankin Scholarship. The scholarship covers the total cost of

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registration for the camper. All junior members can apply, even if they have attended Camp Rankin previously, however, members who have received the scholarship in the past are not eligible. To apply, members must fill out the Kings County 4-H Camp Rankin Scholarship Application and Camp Rankin 2008 Registration Form available from your general leader or 4-H office (902-679-6027). Applications are due March 15.

March Break Members'

Workshop: 4-H members are invited to the Exploring Projects Member Workshop that will be held March 12, 2008, in Lawrencetown. It will

be a fun filled day with hands on project experience and lots of opportunity to meet other members. Members will have the opportunity to gain project specific skills in rabbit, cake decorating, photography and communications to help with public speaking, and demonstrations. The fee is \$5 for the day, which includes your lunch. The deadline to apply is February 29, 2008.

March Break Leaders' Craft

Workshop: 4-H Leaders are invited to a craft workshop on March 13, 2008 in Bridgewater. The workshop will include a full day on knitting or combine primitive painting, wooden stump snowman, porcupine quill art

and scrapbooking. The fee is \$18 for the day and a contribution to our potluck lunch. Contact you local 4-H office for an application (Note the deadline is February 25).

March Break Leaders' Judging

Workshop: Leaders in the Valley, Western and South Shore Regions are invited to a day workshop on March 14, 2008 at the Kentville Agricultural Centre that will focus on judging, project exhibiting, clerking and biosecurity. The fee is \$5 for the day, which includes your lunch. Contact your local 4-H office for an application (Deadline to apply is February 29).

Tractor Safety Training

The Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Training Program will be held March 29 and 30, 2008 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia.

This course is targeted, but not limited to, youth aged 14-16. Topics such as safety, highway regulations, pre-operation checks, safe starts and stops and connecting and hauling various implements will be covered. Any current tractor operator who holds a class 8 license or higher, and has at least 10 hours tractor driving experience is welcome to attend.

At the end of the course, written and driving skills tests will be completed. Participants who obtain 70 per cent on both the written and skills will receive a certificate of achievement from NSAC.

Instructors Jeff Kay and Scott Read bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. Their skills include tractor and farm machinery operation; tractor and farm machinery repair; welding; hydraulic and pneumatic systems; and more.

A special thanks to the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee for partially covering tuition costs for the second pilot delivery of the NS

Tractor Safety Training Program!

To register contact Continuing and Distance Education Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Phone 902-893-6666, Fax 902-895-5528, e-mail cde@nsac.ca

Space is limited, register early!
 Deadline to apply is Friday, March 7, 2008

Tuition - \$110

Business Risk Management Programs

AgriInvest and AgriStability Information Sessions on the new suite of business risk management programs are coming to the Truro Glengarry Hotel February 25, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Topics important to your farm business will be covered, including how the new programs can work for you; tips on how to complete the 2007 Harmonized form.

For more information on AgriInvest and AgriStability, call 1-866-367-8506 or visit www.agr.gc.ca/agristability or www.agr.gc.ca/agriinvest

Crop Improvement Events

Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia have several events that may be of interest to producers in the area. While not all of the details are confirmed as yet, there should be lots of information here to peak your interest.

Cereal and Soybean Growers Tune-up – March 4, Port Hawksbury and Scotsburn; March 6 Stewiacke and Amherst; March 7 Wolfville.

Speakers: Dr. Claude Caldwell, NSAC; Doug MacDonald, NSCDI; Pierre Lanoie, Monsanto Canada; Bill Thomas and Jack van Roestel, AgraPoint

Sprayer Information Day for Vegetable, Cereal and Corn Growers – April 8, 2008 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Wilmar Acres, Sheffield Mills

Sprayer Information Day for Blueberry, Cereal and Corn Growers – April 9, 2008 from 10 to 3 p.m. at the Banting Building, NSAC, Truro

Speakers: Ken Lingley, PEI Sprayer Consultant; Peter Burgess, AgraPoint Pest Management Specialist; Rick Hoeg, NSDA Sprayer Calibration Specialist

Topics: What's New in Application Technology?; Reducing drift with air induction nozzles; In cab variable spray rate adjustment technology; Boom levelers, GPS tracking to replace foam markers, nozzle selection etc.; Operator Safety and Sprayer Calibration; Assessing Sprayers Performance; Diagnostic, Trouble-shooting and Maintenance

Organizers: AgraPoint (Jack 678-7722 or Bill 896-0277) SCIANS Manager (Carol Versteeg 758-3530)

Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture Equipment Rental 2008 Prices

Equipment	Cost of Rental	Contact Person(s)
Lime Spreader	\$4/ton (member) \$4.50/ton (non-member)	Allan Benjamin 902-758-2427
Land Leveler	\$100/day (member) \$125/day (non-member)	Dave Cole, 902-384-2403 or John van de Riet 902-758-3874
Cow Lift	\$10 1st day + \$5 every day after (member) \$15 1st day + \$10 every day after (non-member)	Corey Fraser 902-758-2262

Upcoming Events

March 6–8, 2008: Seventh Annual ACORN Organic Conference - “Growing More Organic” Memramcook, NB. For more information please visit <http://www.oacc.info/>

March 29, 2008: Nova Scotia Beef Producers annual meeting, tentatively planned for Cox Institute NSAC. Contact Patton MacDonald for more information.

March 7-9, 2008: Farm Nova Scotia, Expo for Small Farming, Exhibition Park, Halifax, N.S. For details phone 1-888-454-7469 or e-mail rsprague@masterpromotions.ca.

April 5, 2008: Maritime Beef Cattle Test Station’s Annual Breeding Stock Sale, 1 p.m., Nappan, N.S. For more information phone Jim McInnis, 902-664-4538, Bernadette Hoeg or Mark Trueman, 902-661-2855.

National 4-H Awards

Two 4-H members from the Central Region were chosen for 4-H National awards. Congratulations goes out to Caitlin Congdon of the Glooscap Trail 4-H Club. Caitlin will attend the very prestigious National 4-H Conference which is held in Washington, DC and will travel from March 27 to April 3. As well, Shelby Cole of the Riverside 4-H Club will attend the National Citizenship Seminar held in Ottawa from March 28 to April 3. The rest of the awards will be announced at 4-H weekend in May. Congratulations goes out to both girls and we wish them the best of luck on their travels.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: February 25, March 31, and April 28 at the Farm Loan Board (board room), NSAC campus at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee Meetings: February 11, March 17, and April 14 at the Farm Loan Board (board room), NSAC campus at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee meetings: February 5, March 4, and April 1, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: March 5 (Hardwoodlands), and April 2 (Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit) at 7 p.m.

Public Speaking and Demonstrations Rallies

Cumberland County Rally – Saturday, March 29, Pugwash District High School
Colchester County Rally – Saturday, April 5, Onslow Junior High School
Halifax County Rally – Saturday, April 5, St. Bridget’s Catholic Church
Central Regional Rally – Saturday, April 19, Old Barns Elementary School

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

Fertilizer Workshop

Lise LeBlanc, Kevin Bekkers and Michael Kittilsen have been working on a workshop for local Ag. producers. A fertilizer purchaser is coming in from Ontario to discuss why fertilizer prices are increasing and what world events impact it. Although details are being finalized, we believe he is going to be in the Antigonish area on Feb. 28 and in the Shubenacadie area on the Feb. 29. Anyone else interested in attending please contact Michael Kittilsen at the agricultural office.

Is Your Fertilizer Program Keeping Up?

St. Bridget’s Church, Shubenacadie

10:30-11:15	Where have all the Nutrients Gone? 61,000 soil samples don’t lie! Lise LeBlanc, LP Consulting
11:15-12:00	What’s with Fertilizer Prices, Anyway! Factors affecting Fertilizer Prices Casper Kaastra, Head Purchaser, Ontario Agronomy Company of Canada
12:00-12:30	Lunch provided
12:30-1:15	Biggest Bang for Your Dollar - \$ into Forage or Feed? Forage Quality and Profitability: A Ration Standpoint Daniel Scothorn, Dairy Nutrition Consultant
1:15-2:00	How can we get the Nutrients Back? Alternative Nutrient Sources, Lise LeBlanc, LP Consulting
2:00	Final Comments Tim Fisher, Truro Agromart

Pesticide Re-Certification and Certification Courses

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a Pesticide Re-Certification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on April 9, 2008. This five-hour course provides five re-certification points to current holders of a pesticide applicators licence.

Notice – Date Change

ProAgri Consulting will also present

a Pesticide Certification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on **May 1 and 2, 2008** for anyone wishing to prepare and write the test for the Pesticide Applicator's Licence.

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

On Farm Food Safety

A Food Safety training session based on the Canadian Horticultural Council "On Farm Food Safety" Manuals will be presented on April 10 at the Civic Centre in Sydney. ProAgri Consulting will be providing information on how to use the manuals and complete the various forms.

For more information or to register for this session please contact Sarah or Traci at ProAgri Consulting at 902-798-2114.

Community Pastures

Community Pastures will be starting up for this pasture season. Most pastures can always use additional cattle numbers to help keep the pastures viable operations. Also, as the summer continues you may find you need extra feed or pasture, consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pasture contacts for Cape Breton.

Cape Mabou	Anne Vandenheuvel	902-945-2039
Mira	John MacPhee	902-727-2542
Maplebrook	John P. MacDonald	902-756-2671
Little Harbor (L'Ardoise)	Arthur Sampson	902-587-2276
Cheticamp Island	Eli Joe Chaisson	902-224-2417

Reminders:

Transition Cow Workshop – Wednesday, February 13, 2008 ; Port Hawksbury Civic Centre (12 – 2 p.m.)
Call Amy Melmock for more information or to register phone: 902-625-1140

AgriInvest and AgriStability Information Sessions – Thursday, February 28, 2008; Baddeck – St. Michael's Parish (7 – 9 p.m.)
Call Steve Tattrie for more information at 902-893-6374

AgriInvest / AgriStability Producer Appointments – Thursday, February 28, 2008; Mabou, Mabou Fire Hall (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
Call Steve Tattrie to book an appointment, 902-893-6374

Cereal Growers Tune-up Sessions – Tuesday, March 4, 2008; Port Hawksbury –Civic Centre (1- 4 p.m.) For more information contact Bill Thomas 902-896-0277 or Jack vanRoestel 902-678-7722

Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2008 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds, if you would like to have your name added to the contact list or you are looking to purchase hay please call our office at 902-563-2000.

A Step to the FUTURE 2008

The 4-H communities are starting another year and are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead. Many programs are looking at helping our members and leaders to grow in the areas of agri-awareness, leadership, first aid, environmental concerns, communications and project skills. These opportunities are making the future a great place for 4-Her's in the Cape Breton region. This year's logo and theme will highlight the efforts of 4-H in the province in 2008.

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

4-H junior members from all over Cape Breton will be having workshop sessions. Our first will be at the North Sydney Exhibition grounds on Friday, Feb 29. Richmond County workshop to be held March 13 and Skye Glen workshop to be held on March 29. These workshops will leave a "lasting impression" on our junior members that will help them through their 4-H year. The workshops will focus on environment, agri-awareness, communication, cooperation, leadership and judging skills. The

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workshops are open to 4-H members 9–13 year olds. In case of bad weather, cancellations will be aired on our local radio stations.

4 -H Emergency First Aid – St. John Ambulance Day Workshop 2008

Senior members and leaders are invited to participate in a St. John Ambulance sponsored emergency first aid course to be held at the Alexander Graham Bell museum on Tuesday, March 11 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for introductory training, updating your current first aid certification and/or for our senior members starting new employment. We will be learning about selected subjects needed to sustain life and management at the scene of an injury. This is open to all registered 4-H leaders and members at no charge. You do not have to be enrolled in the first aid project to participate. Parents are welcome to participate but there will be a discounted fee of \$50. Space is limited – so apply today.

4-H Craft Co-op Workshop – Spring 2008

4-H members, leaders, parents, and friends are invited to participate in the Spring Craft Co-op Workshop. Various craft projects will be offered to give fresh ideas for members and leaders alike. There will be a light lunch break offered for participants. All registration fees must accompany the application. The deadline for submission is March 14. The program will be held April 5 at 9:30 a.m. All applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. Applications can be obtained from your local 4-H office.

Grand Champion Judging Workshop 2008

Looking to learn more about judging and being more competitive at

provincial level? Wonder exactly what the judges are looking for and considering in making their placing? Then plan to attend our Grand Champion Judging Workshop session on Saturday, May 17 in Inverness County. There will be four non-livestock sessions held in the morning followed by four livestock sessions in the afternoon. Applications will be available soon at your local 4-H office.

Rally Time

Public Speaking is one of the most important skills 4-H members can learn. It will serve them well in school, university, interviews, community volunteer organizations and their careers. Throughout March and April, 4-H members across the island will be improving their speaking skills at club, county and regional rallies. Every year 4-H members get an opportunity to work on their public speaking skills. At these events, members will do public speaking, demonstrations, poster competitions and host and hostess competitions. 4-H members are divided into categories based on age. Score sheets and guidelines for participating members are available in the general leader kit or on the NS 4-H website. This component of the 4-H program promotes life-long communication skills and builds confidence. 4-H members compete at club, county, regional and provincial levels. All events are open to the general public

and 4-H families are encouraged to promote these events in their communities. Watch for these dates on your 4-H calendar.

4-H Camp Rankin Spotlight

Bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. This is our 4-H camp that has held many 4-H memories over the years and will into the future. Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. Camp Rankin originated 35 years ago as a Centennial Project of Richmond County 4-H Leaders' Council and is owned and operated by this group. Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada. 4-H members between the ages of 9–15 spend six fun-filled days with fellow 4-H'ers. There are a variety of educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Each day ends with a chapel service by the campfire, sing-song, and lunch. Camp activities include sessions on drama, nature studies, 4-H trivia, canoeing, recreation activities, arts and crafts and much more. Applications are available from your general leader, local 4-H office, or online. Acceptance is on a first-come-first-serve basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week and application deadline is May 1, 2008. Let's keep this 4-H tradition alive and well in Cape Breton!

Dates to Mark on the Calendar

Mar. 4/Apr. 1	Cape Breton Co. Council Meeting – Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
March 15	Camp Rankin Job Opportunity – Deadline for applications
March 31	E.B.I deadline
April 1	Camp Rankin Scholarship – deadline
April 5	Victoria Co. Rally – Baddeck Forks Hall
April 5	Craft Co-op Workshop – WWI building Point Edward, 9:30 p.m.
April 12	Cape Breton Co. Rally – hosted by Rising Sun 4-H Club
April 19	Cape Breton Regional Rally – Baddeck Academy, 10 a.m.
TBA	Inverness Co. Rally – hosted by Scotsville Lakers
May 1	4-H Camp Rankin deadline applications
May 9-10	4-H Weekend – NSAC, Truro – application due April 24
May 15	Scotiabank Dairy Pre-registration forms due (<i>attached to dairy newsletter</i>)
May 17	Grand Champion Judging Workshop – Inverness Co.

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

First Aid Course

The Department of Agriculture in Antigonish will be offering a first aid course for all farmers and farm family members. This course will take place in Antigonish in March. You may also renew your first aid training at this time if you have a card that has expired. Phone the Agricultural office at 902-863-4705 to register.

Pesticide Certification

The pesticide certification course is designed for participants who have never had a valid pesticide safety license or a person whose license has expired. The course is done over two days, with the exam written on the second day. The re-certification course is for members with a valid pesticide license which has not expired. The course will give participants five continuing education points after completing a re-certification form on the day of the course. To register for upcoming courses call Sarah or Traci at 902-798-2114 or your local agricultural office at 902-863-4705.

Upcoming courses:

Re-certification, March 5, 2008 - Truro 9:30-3:30, Agri-Tech Park Cost \$75 (tax included) Please bring a calculator and a pencil.	Certification, March 6-7, 2008 - Amherst 9- 4, Nappan Research Station Cost \$185 (tax and manual included) Please bring a calculator and a pencil.
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Upcoming 4-H Events: Antigonish

March 11	7 p.m.	4-H Council Meeting	4-H office
March 11	6 – 7 p.m.	New Leader Workshop	4-H office
March 29	9 a.m.	Antigonish County Rally	Ant. Education Cen.
April 8	7 p.m.	4-H Council Meeting	4-H office
April 8	8 p.m.	4-H Exhibition Com. Mtg.	4-H office
April 15	6 p.m.	Ant/Guys/Pictou Rally	Northumberland Sch.

Upcoming 4-H Events: Pictou

March 8	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Free Swim	Pictou Fisheries Pool
March 10	9:15 a.m.	Junior Members Workshop	West River Fire Hall
March 18	7 p.m.	Council Meeting	4-H office
March 28	5:30 p.m.	Pictou County Rally	Northumberland Sch.
April 10	7 p.m.	Sr. Mem. Judging Workshop	Northumberland Sch.
April 15	6 p.m.	Regional Rally	Northumberland Sch.

Looking for local markets to sell your produce?

Voices, a local community group working for a sustainable local food system, is organizing a public forum on February 16 from 9:30 – 1:30 p.m. One of purposes of this forum is to talk about the Good Food Box Program that was conducted from October to December 2007 in Antigonish. This pilot program was organized by Voices and a group of volunteers who obtained local produce and packed between 25–38 boxes every two weeks. Overall there was great satisfaction with the produce and program. This meeting on Feb. 16, will discuss expanding the program from June until December. We anticipate a significant number of individuals and families are interested in participating in this program. Voices

would like to invite any producer who might have an interest in participating in this program to this public forum. We will also be discussing the possibility of setting up community gardens. Following this the Feb. 16 forum, Voices would like to set up a meeting with interested producers to discuss supply of local produce. Please contact Voices Co-chairs Colleen Cameron at 902-863-2047; accamero@stfx.ca or Christine Johnson at 902-867 3224; cjohnson@stfx.ca if you are interested in learning more about this initiative or if you would like to come to the forum. Please RSVP for the forum as we will be serving a light lunch.

Leave

I will be having surgery in mid-February and so will be out of the office from February 18, 2008 until April 21, 2008. During this time if you require assistance, please contact Andrew D. Cameron, Manager of Regional Services.
phone: 902-430-6371
e-mail: cameroad@gov.ns.ca

Up Coming Events

- February 19 Wetlands Information Session - Wandlyn Inn Coldbrook
- February 26 Orchard/Vineyard Sprayer Calibration Workshop - Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre
- April 15 High Bush Blueberry Production Information Session - Cafeteria Universite Sainte-Anne, Church Point
- April 15 Grape Production Information Session - Cafeteria Universite Sainte-Anne, Church Point

4-H Dates

February

- 13 County Leaders Council Meeting – Annapolis Awards Committee Meeting – Annapolis
- 17 Ski Trip (storm date Feb. 24) – Annapolis
- 20 Leaders Council Meeting – Yarmouth
- 23 First Aid Course - Annapolis

March

- 1 Craft Workshop – Annapolis
- 10-11 Chat-a-Rama – Western Region
- 11 Food Handlers Course – Annapolis
- 12 County Leaders Council Meeting – Annapolis
- 12 Exploring Projects Workshop – Western Region

- 13 Leaders Craft Workshop (Bridgewater) – Western Region
- 14 Leaders Judging Workshop (Kentville) – Western Region
- 19 Leaders Council Meeting – Yarmouth
- 31 Public Speaking and Demonstrations, Club Results – Yarmouth

April

- 5 County Rally – Annapolis
- 9 County Leaders Council Meeting – Annapolis
- 12 Yarmouth County Rally – Yarmouth
- 16 Leaders Council Meeting – Yarmouth
- 19 Regional Rally – Western Region

May

- 9-10 Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend, Truro – Western Region & Woodmen
- 10 4-H Night In Nova Scotia, Truro – Western Region
- 14 County Leaders Council Meeting – Annapolis
- 13 Judging Clinic – Annapolis
- 16-18 Fluff n' Buff Workshop – Western Region
- 17 Judging Day – beef/dairy/goat/sheep- Annapolis
- 21 Leaders Council Meeting – Yarmouth
- 27 Judging Day – all other projects – Annapolis
- 31 Light Horse Clinic and Judging Day – Annapolis