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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



April 2009

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 10 No. 2

### Flexible, Innovative Programs for Agriculture Industry

Nova Scotia farmers will get more support to achieve profitability and incorporate innovation with new programs announced by the federal and Nova Scotia agriculture ministers on, April 6.

The program details come after the signing of the Growing Forward agreement between the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia.

“The Growing Forward programs focus on supporting innovation, commercialization and profitability for our farmers,” said Mark Parent, Minister of Agriculture. “The Department of Agriculture, in partnership with our agriculture and agri-food industry, will continue to support flexible program development that will meet the unique needs and opportunities of Nova Scotia.”

“Farmers expect all levels of government to work together to drive Canadian agriculture and this agreement is making that happen,” said federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. “Growing Forward delivers stable and bankable programs that work for farmers. The agreement we signed will kick-start the rollout of these essential programs in Nova Scotia.”

Growing Forward is a national agriculture framework to co-ordinate federal and provincial agriculture policy. Federal, provincial, and territorial governments are delivering \$1.3 billion for farm families over five years. The agreement with Nova Scotia will deliver almost \$25 million for agriculture in the province. The funding is cost-shared 60-40 between the federal and provincial governments.

Growing Forward programs are tailored, with input from farmers, to meet Nova Scotia's diverse regional requirements.

For information on Growing Forward, visit [www.gov.ns.ca/agri](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri) or [www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward](http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward).



### Gerald Post Appointed Director

Gerald Post has been appointed Director of the Resource Stewardship Division with the Agriculture Services Branch. Gerald has been acting in the position for the past two years.

Prior to joining the Resource Stewardship Division as acting Director in January 2007, Gerald was CEO of the Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission and Manager and Farm Management Specialist with the Business Development Branch. Gerald worked for Canada Packers for 10 years prior to joining the Department of Agriculture. Gerald is a graduate of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and MacDonald College of McGill University with a BSc in Agriculture

and holds an MBA from St. Mary's University.

As Director, Gerald is responsible for providing leadership and administration for the division's field services, environmental and land protection activities. Gerald brings a wealth of experience in agriculture both at the provincial and national levels to this position, including playing an active role in environmental management and alternative energy opportunities. As Director of Resource Stewardship, Gerald will play a leadership role in overseeing the Department of Agriculture's extension and field service activity. Gerald's office is located in Harlow Institute, NSAC, Bible Hill.



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## Programs and Business Risk Management AgriStability and AgriInvest Update

### 2009 AgriStability Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2008 AgriStability must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2009. To request a New Participant package or for more information, visit the AgriStability web site at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability) or call AgriStability toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

### 2007 AgriInvest Notices and AgriInvest Kickstart Top Up

Producers who elected to participate in AgriInvest 2007 will be receiving AgriInvest notices soon. The notice will include the 2007 AgriInvest account balance and steps to withdraw AgriInvest funds.

For the 2007 program year, producers do not have to make a deposit to receive 2007 AgriInvest benefits. This is a transition measure while the

federal government works toward having accounts held in financial institutions. AgriInvest accounts are currently held by the federal government.

Producers that participated in the AgriInvest Kickstart program will be receiving an AgriInvest Kickstart final benefit. The AgriInvest Kickstart benefit has been increased from 2.63 per cent to 3.25 per cent of Allowable Net Sales (ANS). The top up amount will be placed into AgriInvest accounts held by the federal government. Producers have the option to withdraw the money or leave it in their AgriInvest account.

### AgriInvest and AgriStability Deadline Reminder for 2008

September 30, 2009 is the deadline to submit AgriInvest and/or AgriStability application (s) for the 2008 program year. Forms and guides are available from the Canada

Revenue Agency or on the AgriStability and AgriInvest web sites at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability) or [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest).

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 2009-2010 Information Sessions

A new Farm Investment Fund Program is being launched for 2009. Come to one of the scheduled information sessions below to receive updates on the program for the upcoming year. All sessions will take place in the evening from 7 – 9 p.m., with the exception of Amherst which will be held from 2 – 4 p.m.

Coldbrook	April 14, Wandlyn Inn, 7270 Highway 1, Kentville
Digby	April 15, Digby Curling Club, 27 Shreve St., Digby
Bridgewater	April 16, Days Inn, 50 North St., Bridgewater
Baddeck	April 20, Inverary Inn, 368 Shore Rd., Baddeck
Antigonish	April 21, Greenway Claymore Inn, 137 Church St., Antigonish
Windsor	April 22, Kingsway Garden, Wentworth Rd., Windsor
Truro	April 23, Bestwestern Glengarry, 150 Willow St., Truro
Amherst	April 24 (2 – 4 p.m.), Wandlyn Inn Victoria St., Amherst Salon A

For more information regarding the Farm Investment Fund contact the Programs and Business Risk Management office at (902) 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276 or visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm>.

## April Flavours A Local Feast

**Celebrating Local Food and Wine and the Producers and Chefs Who Bring It To Us  
Old Orchard Inn, Wednesday  
April 29, 6 p.m.**

Presented by the farmers, wine makers, and chefs, the Arthur Irving Academy for the Environment, Gaspereau Vineyards, Friends of Agriculture, Select Nova Scotia, Spirit Nova Scotia, Food Action Committee of the Ecology Action Centre, Kings County Federation of Agriculture, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Organic Council of Nova Scotia, Kings Community Economic Development Agency, Wolfville Farmers Market, and other farm, food, and community organizations.

**Please note that this event is sold out. Plans are being made for Fall Flavours. Please watch for future information regarding this event!**

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# Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

## Production Insurance

### Application Deadlines 2009:

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

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.

**Reminder:** If you are planning to apply for an advance through the Advance Payments Program (APP), please keep the above application deadlines in mind. In many cases, the APP requires participation in Production Insurance as a security for the advance.

**Dairy Producers** – If you are considering insuring your animals against disease or loss of income from milk sales as a result of specific perils, it is not too late to apply for Dairy Insurance. To find out more give the Commission office a call.

**Poultry** – This plan was introduced in October 2007. It offers protection against ILT in broiler, layer and breeder flocks. All producers are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure that they are protected against this risk.

**Weather Plan for Forage** – This plan focuses on crop losses related to weather events. It guarantees 80 per cent of the average long term rainfall (mm) at a designated local weather station over a period of time (May 1 - August 31). An optional Quality Rider is also available for excessive rainfall in the month of June during prime harvest time. Managed pastures and stored forage acreage can be insured.

**Wildlife Compensation** – The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers a Wildlife Compensation Program to Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly specified crops are covered for losses as a result of wildlife damage. There are a

number of other requirements to be eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit our web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci).

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

Canada<sup>••</sup>

  
NOVA SCOTIA

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## Local Direct Marketing Vendors Receive Funding

Nova Scotians will have easier access to fresh food and sellers will be better able to connect with consumers thanks to funding for five food direct-marketing initiatives.

Agriculture Minister Mark Parent announced on March 18, \$1.267 million in funding to help strengthen local food direct marketers' infrastructure and sustainability.

"This investment complements the province's food marketing programs, Select Nova Scotia and Taste of Nova Scotia, by promoting the variety and quality of food Nova Scotia has to offer," said Mr. Parent. "We encourage farmers and other food producers to continue in innovative new business ventures to bring their foods more directly to consumers."

The funding aims to increase consumer access to local products and help agriculture businesses sell more directly to consumers.

Funding will allow:

- Taproot Farms in Port Williams, Kings Co., to launch a community-shared agriculture venture, build a commercial kitchen and roadside stand.
- Halifax Farmers' Market to further its goal of building a bigger, new facility to accommodate the market's growing popularity.
- O'Connell's Family Farm, in Upper Stewiacke, to upgrade its meat-cutting facility, and develop a stable location for the Stewiacke Valley Farmers' Market.
- Cape Breton Farmers' Market, in Sydney River, to renovate to better serve vendors and the public.
- Celtic Country Market, in Bras d'Or, to expand for value-added processing and marketing local products.

"These projects will help accelerate economic potential and development," said Mr. Parent. "They were chosen for their strong business plans and benefits for the agri-food industry in the province."

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# Agricultural Literacy Day

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Last spring marked the start of a new educational initiative of the Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee. Modeled on a highly successful program in the United States, Ag Literacy Day is simply a day when school children are encouraged to celebrate agriculture in our province. On the first day of spring (a great day to think about agriculture), volunteers from agricultural sectors across the province went into schools to read and donate books about farming to school children. The discussions that follow offer opportunities to bridge

the gap that exists in the public mind between food and local agriculture.

This divide is hardly surprising, since only about 7500 people work directly in agriculture in Nova Scotia. This represents only about 1.2 per cent of our population. This is one tenth of the representation in Saskatchewan where 12 per cent work on farms, and half the Canadian national average of 2.4 per cent. In Nova Scotia, most families are two to three generations away from the farm.

Does that matter? We think it does. Informed citizens can make healthier choices about food. Fast food has become such a way of life that one survey in Britain revealed that for people aged 8–14 years, 36 per cent were unable to identify the main ingredient in french fries. We need ways to improve our vision of real food.

As consumers, our personal connection with agriculture can affect our food product selection. Knowledge of local farm communities can help create a population which supports a viable agricultural sector in the province.

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## Despite Rising Retail Prices, Farmers Not Receiving More

### *NS Federation of Agriculture*

Today, Nova Scotians are spending more on groceries than ever before. The increase in price at the retail level has not yet reached farmers in the province. Many commodity prices have shown little increase, while others have actually decreased.

Nova Scotia producers are spending more to produce food and receiving less for their products. At the same time, consumers are experiencing increased prices in their food basket. The gap between retail and farm gate prices continues to widen. Presently, hog farmers are only receiving between 12 per cent and 14 per cent of the grocery store price of pork cuts, apple farmers are not doing any better. As food becomes further processed, farmers are getting less and less share of the food dollar. The farmer who grows potatoes for french fries receives a minuscule eight per cent, while the beef farmer only gets seven per cent of the price of a t-bone.

Richard Melvin, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture says, “Though increasing, Nova Scotians continue to enjoy a reasonably priced food basket in comparison to other regions; farmers are not receiving the same increases in price.” Melvin adds, “the widening gap between retail and farm gate is a serious issue in Nova Scotia, which needs to be addressed. To ensure the future of the industry we must increase the farmer’s share.”

For further information contact:

Richard Melvin, President,  
Nova Scotia Federation of  
Agriculture  
Tel: (902) 582-7939  
or  
Henry Vissers  
Nova Scotia Federation of  
Agriculture  
Tel: (902) 893-2293  
hvissers@nsfa-fane.ca

As well, a spark of interest in farming might cause a young person to consider agriculture as a career choice. The average age of farmers in Nova Scotia is about 55 years. We need new entrants to create a sustainable industry.

In the long run, this project and other agricultural education initiatives in our school system could make a small step toward enhancing the security of agriculture throughout Nova Scotia.

This year we hope to attract more readers to make more connections in the classroom. We also hope for better weather by holding the event during the week of May 4 – 8. If you are interested in participating in Ag Literacy Day or any other Ag Awareness event, please contact:

Judy Grant, Agricultural Awareness  
Coordinator  
Resource Stewardship Division  
(902) 893-6598  
[grantjd@gov.ns.ca](mailto:grantjd@gov.ns.ca)







## Two 4-H Members Win International Travel Awards From the Canadian 4-H Council

Along with nine Canadian delegates, Brianna Shaw from Annapolis County attended the USA National 4-H Conference in Maryland on March 28 – April 2. They spent two days in Ottawa at a program orientation, a Citizenship ceremony at the Ottawa Court House and touring Ottawa. The Canadian delegates traveled to Chevy Chase, Maryland to join approximately 300 U.S. 4-H delegates at the US conference.

Throughout the conference, delegates participated in issue oriented workshops and educational sessions pertaining to the theme Pathways to Progress; Transforming Tomorrow. They had the opportunity to visit points of interest in Washington, including Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institute, Lincoln Memorial and Capitol Hill.

This conference brings together youth, volunteer leaders, state and county extension staff members from across the United States, the U.S. Territories and Canada. Its purpose is to increase their awareness and understanding of specific topics through participation in issue-oriented workshops. In addition, it enhances leadership skills through conference assignments and builds and enhances public awareness of 4-H.

Amanda Lowe, an 18 year old 4-H member from Inverness County, has been awarded the 2009 W. Garfield Weston Foundation 4-H United Kingdom exchange trip from the Canadian 4-H Council and will travel to the UK from June 12 – July 18.

Three Canadian 4-H delegates will spend approximately five weeks in the U.K. as guests of several families. Canadian delegates will attend the Royal Show in Warwickshire and visit the Experimental Farms in Sittingbourne. Each Canadian delegate will host a U.K. delegate for a month when they arrive in Nova Scotia on October 3.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation 4-H United Kingdom Exchange provides the opportunity for

delegates to participate in an educational international travel opportunity and to build on existing leadership skills. Delegates learn about the 4-H/Young Farmers' program, agriculture, food and natural resources in the United Kingdom while being an ambassador for the Canadian 4-H program and rural Canadian youth. Through this program, Canadian 4-H families have the opportunity to broaden their outlook on the world by hosting a young adult from another country and experiencing their culture.

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## 4-H Members to Meet at Atlantic EBI Showcase

Seventy 4-H members from Atlantic Canada will participate in the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 23 – 25, 2009 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

For 19 years, Nova Scotia's 4-H program has partnered with Eastern Breeders Incorporated (EBI) to provide intensive livestock training in the most current livestock techniques for 4-H beef and dairy members from Atlantic Canada. Members who are 14 years of age and have a minimum of two years experience with the 4-H dairy and beef projects can attend this event.

Along with financial assistance, EBI provides the Atlantic event with highly qualified staff to ensure 4-H members learn proper animal management and preparation skills for showing cattle that will prepare them to be better contenders in the show ring and leaders in the agricultural industry. 4-H staff with

the Department of Agriculture partner with EBI to provide organizational skills on behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee.

During the two-day workshop, specialists from Eastern Breeders Incorporated will teach the latest techniques in showmanship, clipping and herd management — all skills that can be used on the family farm.

After two days of training, 4-H members compete for top honours with their calves at the beef and dairy show. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class. The show will be held on Thursday, June 25 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. The public is welcome to attend.



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## **4-H Members to Showcase Communication Skills at Annual 4-H Weekend**

Former 4-H members are often recognized by their strong communication skills and the 4-H program is proud to be able to teach youth exceptional speaking skills at an early age. In the process of this life skill training, 4-H members gain self confidence, develop leadership skills and poise.

On May 8 – 9, 2009, 4-H members from across Nova Scotia will compete in provincial public speaking and demonstration competitions at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill.

The event hosts 250 4-H members and families from across the

province. In addition, 4-H members compete in the woodsman competition and the Nova Scotia Horse Classic. On Saturday, May 9, the NSAC Alumni Theatre will be the venue for 4-H Night in Nova Scotia, a finale that showcases talented 4-H members, presents the top overall communication winners and county entertainment as part of the evenings program. 4-H members and leaders who have won National 4-H Travel Awards, as well as the winners of the provincial competitions will be recognized. The public is welcome to attend the weekend events and view the 4-H members in various competitions.

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## **4-H Rural Employment and Life Skills Program**

4-H staff have developed the REAL Skills 4-H project for 4-H members from the ages of 14 – 21. The Rural Employment and Life Skills Program (REAL Skills) project allows 4-H youth to learn practical farm, leadership and communications skills through a 4-H project which helps prepare them for employment. 4-H staff, working in partnership with organizations and government departments, have included such courses as food safety, WHMIS, Students in Business, tractor safety, and CPR/ First Aid. If you are interested in learning more about this 4-H project, please contact the 4-H Specialist in your area.

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## **4-H Senior Members Conference Trained Tomorrow's Leaders**

Thirty-five youth and six volunteer leaders were able to expand their horizons and enrich their passion for leadership at the 2009 Provincial 4-H Senior Members Conference Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow held February 28 – March 1. 4-H members, aged 14 – 21, learned the skills needed to achieve leadership excellence in all aspects of their life including business, community, agriculture and their 4-H club.

Sessions included several dynamic presenters that encouraged youth to think big, set goals, achieve, contribute to their community, invest

in agriculture, learn business skills, and network with others. The program also included a 100 Mile Meal and a panel of young farmers discussing their passion for their agricultural businesses. Besides the 4-H members, rural and agricultural organizations were invited to attend the Sunday program.

Major sponsors of the conference were the Agri-food Industry Development Fund; Canadian 4-H Council – Agrium 4-H Youth Leadership Initiative Program; Nova Scotia 4-H Council; Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

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## **Camp Rankin Offers Camping and Career Experience To 4-H Members**

Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, will welcome 4-H members, aged 9 – 15, at five camps this summer from July 5 to August 7. There will be four, one- week camps and one, three-day mini camp.

Camp Rankin offers 4-H members opportunities to learn crafts, drama, nature, outdoors, recreation, healthy living, exploring 4-H, canoeing, water safety and to socialize with youth with similar interests. While at this camp, participants are provided with a memorable experience that keeps them coming back each year as campers and as camp staff.

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4-H members are reminded of the May 1 deadline to register for this year's camping season.

Besides providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin provides employment for seven camp counsellors for youth aged 16 or older, a camp director and an assistant director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions where 4-H members carry out their motto "learn to do by doing."

In 1972, Camp Rankin was built by volunteers as a Centennial project of the Richmond County 4-H Leader's Council and is situated on 60 acres of land at Cape George, near St. Peters. The recreational and camp activities for 4-H members at Camp Rankin are administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Richmond County 4-H Leader's Council.

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## **Your 4-H and Rural Organizations Staff**

### **Senior 4-H Program Coordinator**

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

### **4-H Specialists**

#### **Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis Counties:**

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

#### **Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne Counties:**

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

#### **Hants and Kings Counties:**

Beth Trueman - Kentville  
Tel: (902) 679-6027  
Fax: (902) 679-6062  
truemabc@gov.ns.ca

#### **Halifax-East Hants, Colchester and Cumberland Counties:**

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

#### **Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:**

Rachael Cheverie - Pictou/Antigonish  
Tel: (902) 485-7161/ (902) 863-7501  
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cheverrm@gov.ns.ca

#### **Inverness, Victoria, Cape Breton and Richmond Counties:**

Rhonda MacDougall -Mabou  
Tel: (902) 945-2901  
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macdourm@gov.ns.ca

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### **Provincial Agriculture Awareness Coordinator**

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chandlcl@gov.ns.ca



## Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle Sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on the following dates this spring: April 18, May 2, May 16, May 30. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 11 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

## Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

Cattle sale at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds will be held on May 23 at 1:30 p.m.

## Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Spring Social

The annual Spring Social will be held on April 18 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, 78 Alexander Ave., Bridgewater. Please contact a director for tickets and information.

## Hants Co. Farm Women's Day

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day will be held again this year on April 25, at the Three Mile Plains Hall. For more information and to register, please contact Catherine Manning at (902)798-4541 or Laura Davison at: (902)798-0283.

## Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Committee

The Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Committee is not active at the present time. Volunteers are needed to help organize and plan

future events. If you want to become involved and help revive this committee, please contact Ann Palmetter at (902)542-3204 or Eleanor Tree at (902) 538-3379.

## Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. In addition to the many spring jobs that have to be done, be sure to make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family.

Now is a good time to:

- Check fencing around ponds and manure storages.

- Ensure PTO guards are in place.
- Take extra precautions to guard against manure gas in liquid manure storages.
- Check your farm first aid kit(s) to ensure they are fully stocked and ready for use.
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and in place on machinery and in buildings.
- Make sure your slow moving vehicle signs are on equipment and can be seen.

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the Agriculture office.

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## Valley Region 4-H Activities and Announcements

### Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour

Congratulations to Kevin Brown and Colby Joyce, Valley Region 4-H representatives for the first annual Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour. These 4-Hers joined 12 other members from across the province in Cape Breton for the first annual tour in memory of Kevin Lewis Grant.

Kevin Grant attended NSAC in Truro, and during the summers worked as a 4-H summer assistant. He then worked as a 4-H Specialist in Bridgewater before returning to studies at the University of Maine. Upon graduation, he worked for the NS Dept. of Agriculture in many positions, including assistant to the Minister of Agriculture. Kevin Grant was a strong supporter of the

4-H program. He recognized what it had done for him and how it could help many young people in rural and urban areas shape their own lives and gain valuable experiences. They could also accomplish the 4-H motto, "Learn to do by doing" and just as importantly have fun doing it.

It is with this spirit in mind, that Kevin wanted to continue to support 4-H in some way after he was gone. He directed a part of his estate to go towards 4-H to be used in a program which represented many of the opportunities that he wanted to see 4-H members continue to benefit from. So this is how this project was developed.

Kevin Grant was a great friend of 4-H and it is in his honor that members are able to take part in this outstanding opportunity.

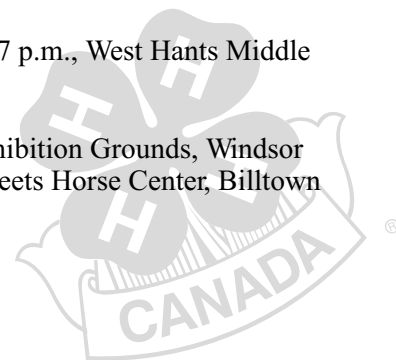
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## 4-H Weekend

This year 4-H weekend will be held May 8 and 9 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. The woodsman competition, horse classic, provincial host and hostess, demonstrations and public speaking are a few of the events taking place. To apply to stay in residence you can find an application online or contact the 4-H office. Members can stay in residence for \$30. Valley Region applications are due April 25 at the Kentville 4-H office.

## Upcoming Meetings

- April 25 Regional Rally L.E. Shaw School, 1 p.m.
- April 25 Valley Region 4-H Weekend Residence applications due
- April 26 Kings County Woodsman Competition, 1 p.m., Harmony Hall
- May 1 Camp Rankin applications due
- May 4 Kings Co. Council meeting (7:30 p.m.), Judges meeting (6:30 p.m.), Joint Achievement. Day meeting (6:45 p.m.) Kentville Agricultural Centre
- May 8-9 4-H Weekend, Truro
- May 11 Hants County Council meeting, 7 p.m., West Hants Middle School
- May 15-17 Fluff-n-Buff, Lawrencetown
- May 20 4-H Judging Day, Hants Co. Exhibition Grounds, Windsor
- May 26 4-H Judging Day, Kings Co. Sweets Horse Center, Billtown



## Do You Have the Proper Drivers Licence?

If you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500 kg you need a Condition 15 Endorsement on your licence to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to both class 5 and class 3 licences. If you are interested in obtaining your Condition 15 Endorsement there is an opportunity for you coming up at the NSAC.

When: May 7 and May 14, 2009

Where: NSAC Farm

Total Cost: \$55.87

How: There is a four step process to obtain your Condition 15 Endorsement.

First, call Michael Kittilsen to register at (902) 893-3645 and book your test time.

Second, purchase a "Road Test Receipt" which costs \$45.48. This receipt can also be purchased at an Access Nova Scotia Center or on-line. <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

Third, upon completion of a successful test you will be given a form by the Driver Enhancement Officer. The form must be then taken back to an Access Nova Scotia Center to be processed (to have the Cond 15 put on your licence). There is a fee of \$10.39.

You must have a valid drivers licence to be eligible for testing.

There is an information session on April 30, 2009 to become familiar with equipment being used on test day. If interested in the session, let Michael know so you can register for that event as well. The equipment being used is a one tonne GMC Sierra (2000) truck and a Featherlite flatdeck trailer with a registered weight of 20,000 kg.

## From Continuing Education at NSAC

### Pesticide Applicator's Certification

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. Participants will write the Pesticide Applicator's Examination on the last day of the course. To obtain your pesticide applicator's license, you must first pass the examination. If you take this course, we administer the exam at no additional fee and forward it to the Department of Environment. The Department of Environment will mail you your exam result, and you may purchase a license through that office. Who should attend? Any individual using commercial class or restricted class pesticides that requires certification in order to apply these products.

#### Course Details

What to bring: calculator, warm clothing and boots

Tuition: \$375.00

Date: April 14-17, 2009

To apply call Continuing Education at (902) 893-6666 or visit our website [nsac.ca/cde](http://nsac.ca/cde)



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## HEHFA News

It has been a long, dreary winter and March came in like a lion, but spring is finally in the air!

In February, the annual curling and potluck was enjoyed by both the Stewiacke and Halifax-East Hants Federations. Thanks to everyone who came out for some mid-winter fun and for those who brought dishes for the potluck. It was delicious and much appreciated!

Before we all hit the fields this summer, the HEHFA is putting on two workshops to promote the importance of safety on the farm. Summer on a farm is so demanding and hectic and accidents do happen. It is our responsibility to prepare ourselves, our children and employees for safe practices.

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### Farm Tractor Youth Safety Course

Location: Shubenacadie Elementary School  
Date: Saturday, April 25  
Cost: \$10 - lunch included  
\*\*All youth are welcome to attend, however, only those 12 and older will be permitted to operate tractors.

### "Safety on the Farm" First Aid Course

Location: St. Bridget's Church, Shubenacadie  
Dates: Tuesday, April 28 and Wednesday April 29  
Time: 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$60

\*\* It is an 8-hour course. Please bring own lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. Space is limited – first come, first serve.

For more information and to register please contact:  
Lindsay or John van de Riet at (902) 758-3874

### New Farmers' Market in Dartmouth

Rene Robichaud is the Coordinator of the new Farmers' Market in Cole Harbour Place in Dartmouth. They are looking for farmers for their next market on Saturday April 25, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A market was held on Saturday, March 28 and the response from the public was great. For more information please contact Rene Robichaud Coordinator, Cole Harbour Farmers' Market, (902) 434-3802, [renerobichaud@eastlink.ca](mailto:renerobichaud@eastlink.ca)

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## Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:  
April 27, May 25, and June 22, at the Farm Loan Boardroom, NSAC campus at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee Meetings:  
April 20, May 11, and June 8, at the Farm Loan Boardroom, NSAC campus at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee Meetings:  
May 5, and June 2, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

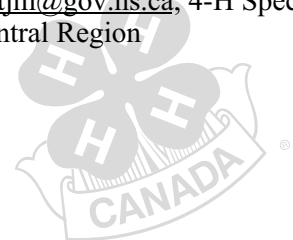
Halifax Regional Municipality 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:  
April 14 (Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit), May 12 (Campbell Hall, Shubenacadie), and June 9 (Hardwoodlands) at 7 p.m.

Public Speaking and Demonstrations Rallies  
Central Regional Rally, April 18, Old Barns Elementary School 4-H Weekend, May 8-9, NSAC

County Judging Days  
Halifax-East Hants: May 19  
Colchester County: May 20  
Cumberland County: May 27 and 28

4-H dog clinic and fun show on May 30-31 at the MacMillian Show Center on the NS Provincial Exhibition grounds. Please contact your 4-H specialist for information.

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](mailto:hoytjm@gov.ns.ca), 4-H Specialist for Central Region



## Pesticide certification Course

ProAgri Consulting is collecting names for anyone interested in attending a Pesticide Certification course in Skye Glen for the early spring. This course is 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

## 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. 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	Frank Fraser	(902) 258-5898
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

## 2009 Community Fairs

The season for Community Fairs and Exhibitions is fast approaching. The following are the fairs scheduled for Cape Breton Island. Now is a good time to reserve the date on your calendar or to plan your entry for the fair.

Fair	Date	Contact	Phone
Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge)	Sept. 12	Florence MacIntyre Gladys Lever Cheryl MacIntyre (Chair)	(902) 562-1056 (902) 562-6310 (902) 562-2089
Christmas Island (C.B. County)	Sept. 12	Kevin MacKenzie	(902) 622-2667
Port Morien (Glace Bay)	Sept. 12	Margie MacQueen	(902) 737-2478
Baddeck (Victoria County)	Sept. 12	Wendell MacPhee	(902)-295-2494
Marion Bridge	Cancelled indefinitely	Norma MacInnis	(902) 727-2764

Community fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun and entertaining day and to show off their talent. Anyone can enter articles from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics). If you have never been to a fair, plan to attend this year.

## 4-H: Strong in Cape Breton

The 4-H program is strong and bright in the Cape Breton region. This region consists of 250 active members, 24 Cloverbuds and 98 volunteer leaders from the four counties this year. Membership is enrolled in 37 different livestock and life skills projects across the region. Ninety-two per cent of the leaders come from rural or farm areas. Eight per cent of our leaders reside in urban areas. Eighty-one per cent of our members come from rural or farm communities with 19 per cent coming from urban areas. This is showing an increase in urban communities, and hopefully a trend to encourage a growing membership base. These are exciting times for regional youth as new clubs and project areas are explored.



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## Upcoming Events

### Regional Rally

4-H members have the opportunity to represent their respective counties across the island and show off their communication skills in public speaking, demonstration, poster contests (hand and computer generated), square dancing as well as host and hostess competitions. A regional rally will be held April 18, at Baddeck Academy 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Winners at this event will proceed to compete at provincial standings at 4-H Weekend.

### 4-H Weekend

4-H Weekend is an annual provincial 4-H event that is held in Truro each May. The focus of this event is the Provincial Public Speaking and Demonstration Competition. Also included is a provincial poster and woodsman competition, a showcase of regional entertainment and the selection of the provincial host and hostess. This year's event will be held on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. Competitors at this event are, for the most part, winners of county or regional competitions. However the program is open to all 4-H leaders and members.

Any registered member or leader can attend this program and stay in residence at NSAC and have their meals at Jenkins Hall. The program begins on Friday evening and concludes Saturday evening. Applications are available in the General Leader Kit and can also be accessed online through the 4-H website. Applications should be returned to the Regional 4-H Specialist by April 20 on Cape Breton Island.

## Junior Camp Scholarship Winners!

4-H members from all over the province attend 4-H Camp Rankin located in Richmond Co. Counties can send deserving junior members to camp, some for the very first time. Scholarship winner to be announced at local council meetings.

## Upcoming Food Handlers Course

Mar. 18	Mike	Marconi Campus
Mar. 25	Carrie	University Saint Anne, St. Joseph-du-Moine
Apr. 15	Mike	Marconi Campus
Apr. 17	Mike	CWL Hall, Arichat
Apr. 21	Carrie	Strait Area NSCC, Theatre Room, Port Hawkesbury
Apr. 29	Doreen	CB Exhibition Grounds
May 12	Carrie	Inverness Center For the Arts
May 13	Mike	Marconi Campus
May 27	Doreen	CB Exhibition Grounds
June 25	Mike	Marconi Campus

If you wish to register, please contact Catherine at the NS Dept. of Agriculture office in Sydney at (902) 563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:  
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>

## 4-H Judging

May is when many 4-H members across the region look at the judging component to the 4-H program.

Members place and give reasons for four items in a project area from best to worst. Oral reasons are given to a judge comparing project standards.

Tips to remember are:

- be confident
- compare not describe
- know project standards
- make good eye contact
- speak clearly and concisely
- know judging format

### **County Judging Dates**

- |                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Richmond Co.    | - May 27 and August 5 (Horse)   |
| Inverness Co.   | - May 28                        |
| Cape Breton Co. | - May 19 - May 20 horse judging |
| Victoria Co.    | - June 1                        |

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## Getting Ready For Achievement Days

4-H members and leaders across the region will soon be gearing up for their 4-H Achievement Day.

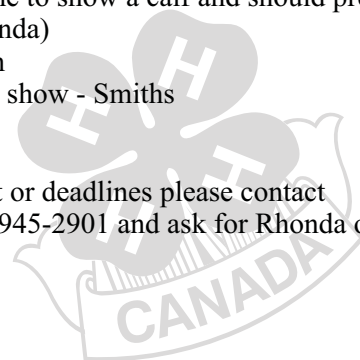
Achievement Day is the opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their project work to their clubs, family and community. It is also a chance to promote 4-H and for members to receive an evaluation on their project articles or work. It is important that 4-H clubs set their Achievement Day date as soon as possible in the 4-H year. This allows 4-H families to plan. It also permits club leaders and members the chance to organize their club, and ensure project work is completed in a timely manner. A club Achievement Day date should be set in conjunction with the 4-H staff and promoted within the community. A number of Achievement Day dates have already been determined for Cape Breton Island Region. Several clubs in the region host a joint Achievement Day with other clubs, while some hold an individual club Achievement Day. Upcoming Achievement Days include:

- Lakeside - May 27
- County Line- June 4
- Grande Mira and Arm of Gold Joint Achievement Day- Aug 15
- Northside - June 29
- Inverness County 4-H Clubs - August 27
- Baddeck Valley - September 10 -12 in conjunction with Baddeck Valley Community Fair.

### More Important Dates to Remember

April 15	Richmond Council meeting - 7 p.m. at Landry's
May 5	Cape Breton Council meeting -7 p.m.
May 15	Livestock registration due in 4-H office
May 23	Baddeck Craft Workshop- Baddeck Forks Hall
June 11-13	Richmond County 4-H show
June 23-25	E.B.I. 4-H Dairy and Beef Showcase
July 12	Regional Rabbit Clinic- tentative
July 25	Eastern NS Holstein Club Picnic, Antigonish (4-H members across CB Island are welcome to show a calf and should pre-register by July 11 with Rhonda)
August 16	22nd Cape Breton Exhibition
August 6	Richmond County Livestock show - Smiths
August 27-29	Inverness County 4-H show

For more information about up coming event or deadlines please contact either 4-H office at (902) 563-2001 or (902) 945-2901 and ask for Rhonda or Marina.



The Pictou/North Colchester semi-annual meeting will be at West River Fire Hall, April 14 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker is Jennifer Scott. A roast pork dinner will be served. Tickets are \$15 each or \$25 per couple. Contact Joe Ebbett at: (902) 657-2122 or Bill Scott at: (902) 925-2057 for tickets.

## 4-H Update - Rachael M. Cheverie, 4-H Specialist, Eastern Region

The 2009 4-H year is well underway. Most projects have been started and most are already thinking about Achievement Day. Our County Public Speaking Rallies have been very successful and our Eastern Region Rally is being hosted this year by the Guysborough County 4-H Council and is scheduled for 6pm, April 14th, at the Goshen Community Centre, Guysborough County. Everyone is invited to come out and cheer on our Regional Rally Competitors. Top place finishers at the regional rally will go on to compete at 4-H Weekend in Truro, May 8 and 9.

A large number of 4-H members in our region entered the 2009 Theme Poster Competition. "4-H 2009, Is the Year to Shine". The top two posters in each category from each county will go on to compete

provincially at 4-H Weekend. Everyone did a fantastic job!

Congratulations to Tyrell Giffin of the Landing 4-H Club who was chosen and recently attended the 2009 National Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa from March 26 to April 2, 2009. The rest of the 2009 National Award Trip winners will be announced at 4-H Night during 4-H Weekend.

The majority of our new 4-H leaders have completed the mandatory screening process. However, if you have not yet sent in your forms, you are encouraged to do so and to complete the online 'training' session if you were not able to make one of the workshops offered in your county.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/screening/infoession.shtml>

Thanks to everyone who supported our annual chocolate bar fund raising campaign. This year's chocolate bars (Cadbury Caramilk Bars - made in Canada!) were a big hit and most clubs sold out early.

There are a number of Junior member workshops coming up in April. Junior members (aged 9-13) in Antigonish and Guysborough Counties are invited to a workshop being held at the St. Andrews Community Hall on Thursday April 16 from 4 - 8 p.m. Junior members in Pictou County are invited to a workshop being held at the West River Fire Hall on Thursday, April 23 from 4 - 8 p.m. This will be an opportunity to meet and have some fun with other Junior members from across the county and learn about judging and communications. Registration is \$5 and includes a pizza party. Please contact Rachael at the 4-H office for more details and to register.

We are in discussions with a couple of communities in the region who are interested in starting new 4-H Clubs... If you are in the Boylston, Guysborough County area or the Merigomish, Pictou County area and would like more information please contact Rachael at the 4-H office as we are currently looking for leader volunteers and members.

### Upcoming dates for Antigonish County:

- April 7 County Awards Committee meeting, 6 p.m.
- April 7 Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 7 Exhibition Committee meeting, 8 p.m.
- April 14 Ant./Guys/Pictou Regional Rally in Goshen, 6 p.m., Goshen Hall
- May 8&9 NS 4-H Weekend, Truro
- May 12 Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- May 19 Ant./Guys Judging Day, 2:30 - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m.

### Upcoming Dates for Pictou County:

- April 14 Regional Rally - Guys. Co to Host, 6 p.m. Goshen Community Hall
- April 18 County Woodsmen Competition, 10 a.m. Eureka Fire Hall
- April 30 4-H Weekend meeting, 6:30 p.m. Northumberland
- April 30 Council meeting, 7 p.m. Northumberland
- April 30 Exhibition Committee meeting, 8 p.m. Northumberland
- May 8&9 4-H Weekend, Truro
- May 27 Skills Day, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., 4-H Barn