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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



December 2009 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 10 No. 5

### Agriculture Services Branch Priorities: A Year in Review

*Alan Grant, Executive Director*

It has been a year since I joined the Agriculture Services Branch and so it seems appropriate to report on the progress made to date on meeting our strategic priorities.

Within the first week of taking on my new duties, the Growing Forward planning team and I met with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials to finalize the Growing Forward agreement. Under the agreement, the federal and provincial governments will contribute \$24.6 million over five years in support of developmental program initiatives in the areas of research and innovation, business development, environment, food safety, and traceability.

Throughout this agreement process, our federal partners recognized the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's level of industry engagement and consultation in the design of Growing Forward programs. We were one of the first provinces to roll out the complete suite of Growing Forward programs and initiatives to stakeholders. Most of our programs were up and running by April 1, 2009.

The successful implementation of Growing Forward programs is attributed to the efforts of Department of Agriculture staff and the positive relationship we have with our industry partners. This effort is an excellent example of the effectiveness of team work.

In addition to the implementation of Growing Forward programming, I have focused the majority of my attention on three strategic priorities for the Agriculture Services Branch over the past 12 months: regional field services, industry transition initiatives, and land stewardship. It is worth mentioning that this work is in addition to the on-going essential work that Agriculture Services Branch staff lead and manage daily.

Over the past several months I have traveled to all areas of the province, meeting with our Regional Field Services staff and the clients they serve. I have been very impressed with the level of commitment shown by staff in the regions, as well as in the progress we are making towards establishing an integrated and enhanced regional field service program.

Our regional field services capacity is being enhanced through the establishment of collaborative teams. This brings together 4-H, Agricultural Resource Coordinators, Agriculture Education and Rural Organizations to more effectively respond to regional issues facing the agriculture industry. Recently, the branch established three new transition officer positions that serve to enhance our service capacity in Antigonish, Cornwallis and Truro.

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### Agricultural Land Review Committee

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced on November 4, the members of the Agricultural Land Review Committee.

The committee will seek public input around the management and long-term future of the province's agricultural lands. Members are:

- Rick Williams, Salt Springs, Pictou Co.
- John Van de Reit, Shubenacadie, Hants Co.
- Bill Swetnam, Centreville, Kings Co.
- Patricia Bishop, Port Williams, Kings Co.
- Lise LeBlanc, Newport, Hants Co.

"The Agricultural Land Review Committee will hold a series of public meetings because we believe Nova Scotians should have a say in how our prime agricultural lands are protected," said Mr. MacDonell.

"The committee will determine if adequate protection for agricultural lands already exist or whether additional steps need to be taken to further protect land."

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**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Agriculture

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

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*A Year in Review continued...*

As well, we have filled a position, Agricultural Education Liaison, which will enhance the branch's capacity in the areas of agricultural education and farm safety.

Another recurring theme that emerged in my meetings with farmers is the need for improved extension services to support industry transition. The Competitive Transition Analysis Group (CTAG) has highlighted the need for improvements to accessing extension services and better cooperation amongst extension service providers. Discussions and efforts have been initiated to investigate and reframe extension delivery in our province, including building on the positive relationship between the Agriculture Services Branch and the production technology specialists at AgraPoint.

I am encouraged by the close alignment of many of the industry needs identified by the Competitive Transition Analysis Group and new initiatives within the branch. The Agriculture Services Branch showed leadership by bringing together department staff to look at ways to improve our clients' ability to access services. The team continues to explore ways to enhance navigation and pathfinding services for clients, enabling them to more readily find programs, funding and solutions to their development needs.

Agriculture Services Branch staff are active on the New Entrants Committee, which is undergoing a needs assessment. When completed, this analysis will provide valuable information that will assist with the development of programs and services to improve our efforts to attract and retain new entrants to the agriculture and agri-food industry in Nova Scotia.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to see first hand the important work that

Agriculture Services Branch staff do in the areas of dykeland maintenance system and land use planning initiatives. The dyke network protects both agricultural lands and other rural infrastructure, in addition to a number of Nova Scotia communities. This work is extremely important. It will ensure that Nova Scotians understand the value of the dykeland service that we provide and it will allow us to explore partnership opportunities for maintaining the dykelands.

Recognizing the challenges we face protecting agricultural land, the Agriculture Services Branch has been instrumental in the launch of two new initiatives over the past 12 months related to land use planning. The Land Use Working Group is working to develop a tool for decision makers to help assess land use planning issues. This committee includes representation from the Departments of Agriculture, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Natural Resources, Environment, and AgraPoint.

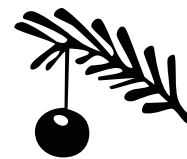
In November 2009, Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced an Agricultural Land Review Committee. This group of five individuals from around the province will seek public input around the management and long-term future of

the province's agricultural lands. Based on what they hear from the public, they will make recommendations to the Minister around protection of agricultural lands.

While emphasis on the three identified strategic priorities will continue over the coming months, the business planning process for the branch is moving forward with an emphasis on reviewing and identifying strategic priorities for 2010-2011. Staff engagement in the business planning process is planned for later in the new year.

In closing, I express my sincere thanks to all staff for your continued dedication to serving the agriculture and food industry in this province. The realization of the strategic goals of the branch and the fulfillment of the branch's mandate is possible only through the efforts of our most valuable resource - our people. Despite the many challenges facing the agricultural industry in this province, your efforts are making a lasting, positive difference.

To all staff, clients, and stakeholders, best wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year.



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*Agricultural Land Review Committee continued...*

A number of issues have been raised as to whether all prime agriculture land should be preserved and how much land is actually needed for food production. Other matters facing the committee include whether agricultural lands should be protected from non-agricultural developments, like private homes, hospitals, or day cares, recreational facilities, and the role society should play in any exercise to preserve land.

"Land use issues continue to be of interest to many people throughout the province, including municipal councils," said Ramona Jennex, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations. "I am pleased to learn that this committee has been struck to get a clearer picture of the views of Nova Scotians."

The committee will hold public sessions early in 2010. A final report is expected in the spring.

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## Programs and Business Risk Management

### **AgriInvest and AgriStability**

AgriInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect their income and manage risks such as drought, flooding, low prices, and increased input costs.

AgriInvest provides farmers with flexible coverage for small income declines, as well as support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income. For 2008, farmers deposit money into an AgriInvest account and receive matching government contributions.

Farmers still have time to participate in 2008 AgriInvest. The deadline to submit a form (which is harmonized with the AgriStability form) is **December 31, 2009**

Farmers can withdraw funds from their account at any time by calling Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and requesting a withdrawal or sending in a withdrawal form by mail or fax.

To contact the AgriInvest administration call 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest).

AgriStability is a margin-based program that provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a farmer's average income from previous years.

To participate in AgriStability, producers have to enroll in the program, pay a fee, and submit an application. The deadline for producers to enroll in 2009 AgriStability was April 30.

The deadline for farmers to submit their 2008 AgriStability form (which is harmonized with the AgriInvest form) without penalty was **September 30, 2009**; however, applications will be accepted until **December 31, 2009** with penalty.

### **AgriStability 2010 Enrolment**

Producers who did not participate in 2009 AgriStability and wish to participate in 2010 must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2010. To request an AgriStability New Participant package or for more information, visit the AgriStability website at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability) or call AgriStability at 1-866-367-8506.

### **AgriStability 2009 Interim Applications Are Available**

The Interim Application is available for producers who would like to apply for an advance for the 2009 program year. As a program participant, you cannot receive your full 2009 AgriStability payment until your 2009 program year is complete. By using the Interim Application, you can estimate your 2009 income and expenses and receive a portion of this payment early. The deadline to apply for the interim is March 31, 2010.

To contact the AgriInvest or AgriStability administration call 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website 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 Steven Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

**Farm Investment Fund (FIF)** has a final claiming deadline of March 1, 2010. Now is the time to send in your claims for work that has been completed. Even if some of your projects are still in progress, you can send in a claim now for projects that are complete. The earlier you send in your claim, the sooner you can receive the funding. February and March see a high volume of claims resulting in a longer processing time. Why not send claims, in early to avoid the rush?

**The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund** has received 104 applications in all categories. Submissions to the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) and the Direct Marketing Community Development Trust (DMCDT) categories have been reviewed and communication of decisions are planned for December. The final deadline for Programs and Business Risk Management to receive claims is March 1, 2010.

**The Innovation Fund** has received 59 applications for all categories to date. Categories B and C have closed and the review committees have initially reviewed proposals for Supporting the Innovation Capacity of Farmers and Innovation and Commercialization of New Opportunities for Agri-Based Products. Category A - Technology Development has a final call for proposals deadline of December 15, 2009 for research-based project activity.

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## **Orchard and Vineyard Transition Program (OVTP)**

Applications are being accepted for the 2009-10 program year. Currently the funding for the OVTP program is fully committed, however, applications are being held in sequence based on the date they were received. Letters of Agreement (LOA) for orchard/vineyard removal will be awarded as funding becomes available. For the 2009-10 program year, an application must be received and an onsite pre-inspection must be conducted before work begins.

For project work approved for the 2008-09 program year, please note the deadline to claim your orchard/vineyard removal project may be approaching. The claim must be received by the Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) office by the date indicated in Condition 11 of your Letter of Agreement (LOA). This date stated in your LOA is one year from the date of your first pre-inspection.

Once the plant material (including stumps and roots) has been removed from the site and destroyed (e.g. burned), a claim can be submitted and post-inspection will follow. A producer can claim individual blocks as they are completed. Multiple claims are convenient and aid in cash flow.

The guidelines and application forms for the Farm Investment Fund, Agri-Food Industry Development Fund, the Orchard and Vineyard Transition program, may be accessed at the following web site [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/). Questions? Contact Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) office at (902) 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

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# Marketing Caravan

*February 17, 2010  
Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich*

*Claire Hanlon Smith, Marketing Services, NSDA, Truro*

Why do some rural businesses struggle while others seem to thrive? In many cases, it is about strategy. Some entrepreneurs are so focused on making their business profitable, they never get around to creating a strong personal connection with potential customers. Others take a different approach. These businesses focus passionately on identifying and meeting the needs of customers in the belief that profits will follow. More often than not, that is exactly what happens.

## **Two engaging speakers, countless big ideas.**

You have a great product, a valuable service or a timely business idea. So far, so good. All you need now are paying customers. How do you find them? Marketing Caravan sees two crucial first steps. First, understand what your potential customers want or need. Second, reach out and tell them you have it.

For 2010, Marketing Caravan brings you two speakers with the knowledge, experience and passion to share what you need to know.

Inside the mind of today's consumer: understanding what they think and why they buy.

Jolene Brown is an Iowa farmer and speaker with a mission to help North American farm families thrive and grow in a fast-changing marketplace. Over the years, Jolene has become

widely known in agricultural conference circles for her light-hearted delivery of razor-sharp marketing and business advice.

## **Show and Tell with Jolene Brown**

Each year, we ask how we can make Marketing Caravan better. You told us you would like more time to network with and learn from your fellow entrepreneurs. This part of the workshop invites you to share news, products or issues from your business with the group. The only catch: you have just two minutes to get your point across! Come prepared and don't be shy!

## **Building productive relationships with local media:**

How to work with reporters to reach your customers.

Annemarie Pedersen is a public relations specialist and a member of the Canadian Farmwriters Association. Annemarie helps clients tell their story, often through the media, to touch customers and stakeholders with powerful, relevant marketing messages.

Pre-registration is required! Cost is \$50, including lunch for this full-day session.

For more information, please contact: Claire Hanlon Smith  
Marketing Services Division  
(902) 893-4491 or [hanlonca@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hanlonca@gov.ns.ca)

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# Clean Nova Scotia Students Survey Provincial Dykelands

Joe Calder, Chief Inspector, Weed Control Act, NSDA

Sondra Brehaut, a UNB Forestry student, and Alexandra Wade, an Environmental Engineering student with Dalhousie University, provided the Departments of Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal with valuable information relating to two troublesome weed pests in the province during the summer of 2009. Clean Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988. The Board of Directors has representation from the realms of business, academics, government, and the community at large. Over the past 20 years the organization has evolved into an effective, high profile institution with a broad mandate to improve the environment of the province. Clean Nova Scotia supported a cooperative project between the Departments of Transportation and Agriculture to hire two students to do an in-depth survey of wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) on provincial dykelands and garlic mustard (*Aliaria petiolata*) recently found to be established in the Grand Pre area.

Wild chervil is a member of the parsley family, resembles wild carrot or Queen Anne's lace, but is much larger and more aggressive. Wild chervil is one of 10 regulated weeds listed under the Nova Scotia *Weed Control Act*. It has a large taproot system (more than 2 m.) and thrives in deep rich soil. Wild chervil has become a particular problem on the majority of the 370 km of man-made dykes in the province, which protect more than 17, 500 hectares of valuable farmland. Although wild chervil is not poisonous to livestock, it out-competes desirable forage and adversely affects forage quality when harvested. Its deep taproot also can destabilize the dyke structure. It also acts as a host for the parsley yellow

fleck virus. It is believed that wild chervil, a non-native weed, was introduced to the province, perhaps by the early French settlers in their seed mixtures brought with them as far back as the 1700's.

During the months of July and August, Alexandra and Sondra, or "Weed Team" as they came to be known, equipped with their many maps and GPS units, along with a backpack of fly repellent, traveled the countless kilometers of dykelands in Colchester, Hants and Kings Counties searching for wild chervil infestations. Locations were recorded and population sizes estimated. This information will be of great value in efforts to control this non-native invasive pest on Nova Scotia's dykelands.

Another non-native invasive plant which has been found in the Grand Pre area is garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Although not expected to be a weed of agricultural concern, it certainly has the attention of other land managers across the country. It thrives in native woodlands, ditches and roadsides. This was the second year the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal carried out the physical removal of this weed along roadsides near Grand Pre. Garlic mustard has great potential to upset the diversity of natural flora in woodland habitats. The students were involved in hand pulling this weed, which was then incinerated.

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## Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

### Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program in Nova Scotia. This program is currently available for wildlife damage to 24 types of crops and/or predation by wildlife on 14 types of livestock. A complete list of eligible crops and livestock are available on the Commission website at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/>. Producers who apply for compensation should be aware of the following requirements of this program:

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

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

More information, including the Compensation policy, are available on our website or by calling one of the Commission offices.

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### Advanced Payments Program

Any producers thinking about participating in 2010 in the Advance Payments Program (APP), formerly known as the Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP), are reminded that many of the organizations administering this program may require you to have crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer who is considering taking advantage of this interest free loan should contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

If Crop Insurance is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan, we advise all producers to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop insurance. In order to obtain coverage for 2010, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

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

For more details on APP, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the APP program, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca).

### Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for 2010

Spring Grain - March 14

Vegetable - March 14

Potato - April 19

Corn - April 30

Soybean, Canola, Sunflower - May 1

Weather Plan - April 30

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

give them an opportunity to choose their price option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season. Anyone considering applying for crop insurance for the first time must make their application on or before the dates noted above.

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



## New CEO for the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

On November 16, 2009, Bill MacLeod accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission (NSCLIC).

Bill graduated from the Nova Scotia Agriculture College (NSAC) with a BSc (Agr) as well as a diploma in Biology Laboratory Technology. He has worked for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture for the past 22.5 years, most recently as acting CEO for the NSCLIC since 2007. Bill began his career with the department

as a 4-H representative, then as Agriculture Representative and an Agricultural Resource Coordinator. He has worked out of many locations across the province, including Sydney, Truro, Nappan, Middle Musquodoboit, Pt. Edward and Mabou.

Bill and his family, wife Joanne and their two children, live in Valley where Bill is well known for his dedication to the local fire brigade as a volunteer and deputy chief.

### Are You Interested in Drip Irrigation and Fertigation?

As part of the annual planning process, AgraPoint is considering hosting a one-day workshop in late March 2010 on drip irrigation and fertigation. The workshop will likely be held at a location in the Annapolis Valley. The target audience would be berry, vegetable, grape, tree fruit and ornamental growers. Possible topic areas include system design and components; water requirements and scheduling; water quality and filtration system selection; and using your system to fertilize (fertigation). The workshop would be hands on and also have an expert speaker. To express an interest, please visit [www.agrapoint.ca](http://www.agrapoint.ca) or [www.extensioncentral.com](http://www.extensioncentral.com) and do a quick online survey, or call Sarah at 1-866-606-4636 (toll free).

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# Will you add your voice?

*Judy Grant, Agriculture Awareness Coordinator, NSDA*

“We need to get our message out there.”  
“Communication is the key to connecting”  
“We want Nova Scotians to value agriculture in the province”

In the topics farmers discussed at the NS Federation of Agriculture’s annual general meeting, one that came up several times was the need to find ways to reach out to the public to build support for farming in Nova Scotia.

But how do I do that? you might ask. The Ag Awareness office has a few suggestions. It does not need to take too much time, just a willingness to share a bit of life on your farm with the public.

Please visit our website: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware) and contact us at: [grantjd@gov.ns.ca](mailto:grantjd@gov.ns.ca) or [hoegl@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoegl@gov.ns.ca) with your ideas or to volunteer.

## Open Farm Day

2010 will mark the ninth year for this Maritime event. We know it takes time to prepare the farm for visitors, but many think the payback is well worthwhile. See our event overview, application form and gallery on our website: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware)

## Exhibition Support

Your local exhibition is a venue for showcasing Nova Scotia farms to the public. They need your help and expertise in offering educational exhibits. You are who the public wants to see and hear! Be a volunteer – help organize, advise or staff an exhibit.

## Maritime Fall Fair

The AgCot Center at the fair is a chance for farm organizations and groups to meet the public face to face, answer questions and showcase Nova

Scotia farm products. Your association needs your help to make it work. We provide the soapbox - climb up there!

## Ag Literacy Week

This spring event links farmers with local school children. We provide all the resources including books and handouts to be left at the school. You can choose a school or we can find one for you. The kids and teachers love this one – it makes their day so much richer!



## Speakers Bureau

Through the school system we can reach children of families across the province.

We want to create a team of individuals who can offer firsthand knowledge of life on the farm. We can accept requests through the Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SITS) program. When we have a request which fits the knowledge base and location of a volunteer on our list, we forward the request. This project is in development – watch for an application form for the speakers bureau on our website.



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## Hearing Screening Clinic Offered at NSFA Meeting

*Rick Hoeg, Agricultural Education Liaison, NSDA*

As many farmers suffer from hearing loss that is preventable, the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee arranged for attendees at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture annual meeting, November 24-25, to participate in a Hearing Screening Clinic. Producers signed up for individual appointments, which took approximately 30 minutes to complete. Audiometric testing was utilized to determine hearing capabilities, results were explained and participants were educated on the proper use of hearing protection. The clinic also examined blood pressure and body mass index. Resources and discussion were available for a number of other issues related to agricultural health and safety. The clinic was able to accommodate 36 producers over the two days.

Kendra Ulmer RN, BSN, and Beverly Hansen, a fourth-year nursing student, from the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan Agricultural Health and Safety Network, provided the service for the clinic. The Network focuses on providing farm families with farm safety and rural health information, health screening services, education and training. The ultimate goal of the Network is to reduce injury and illness related to agriculture production.

Feedback was positive for the clinic. It is hoped that future clinics may be offered, which will provide opportunity to screen for other occupational health and safety concerns associated with farming.



## Don't Miss The Scotia Horticultural Congress 2010 January 25 and 26, Old Orchard Inn Outside Wolfville

Scotia Horticultural Congress 2010 is a wonderful time to renew old contacts and make new ones. We hope that the agenda will provide some thought provoking ideas and new production information for you. This year we are providing more concurrent production sessions from which to choose. There will be two concurrent sessions on vegetables, one each on strawberries, highbush blueberries, raspberries, other berries, as well as a session for Oxford Frozen Food carrot producers in the mornings. Sessions of more general interest to all growers will be presented in the afternoon. We hope you find this new format exciting and more well rounded. Do not miss Dr. Barclay Poling in the strawberry sessions and Dr. Jude Boucher on no till for northern climates in the vegetable sessions.

We are very pleased to be able to offer you a remarkable international keynote speaker, thanks to the

generosity of the Royal Bank. The pace...The people...The process...The products... It is obvious for those in agriculture, "normal no longer exists" shift happens. During this upbeat presentation, we will be reminded of the importance of increased vision, quality, and adaptability as we market to diverse, deserving, and demanding customers. Together, we will laugh while we learn how to keep a positive perspective in a rapidly changing world.

Markets, technology and consumer pressure have forced farmers to face new challenges in how they do business. It is turning these challenges into opportunities that Hort Congress is building on an already advanced industry with "Building Blocks for Our Industry".

Under this theme we are able to introduce new concepts in traceability, dealing with the media, dealing with retail and alternative energy solutions.

At our banquet, popular CBC host Costas Halavrezos will be MC. We will be presenting an honorary life membership, but the Royal Bank Innovator of the Year has been suspended for a year so we could offer you Jolene Brown. Anyone who attended the Food Summit will remember our guest banquet speaker Michelle Smith for her unique look at the challenges a farmer must face. Michelle knows a lot about challenges, having survived growing vegetables at North Shore, Cape Breton for over 20 years.

Foreign workers have become an important part of our labour force. We have arranged for Service Canada to come and give us an update on changes to the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program and to inform us of the Low Skills pilot project, which allows workers to stay in Canada for two years. If labour is an issue on your farm, you cannot afford to miss this session. It is a post conference session at 3:45 on January 26 and free to all.

Pre-register to get the best deal on registration and hotel prices, plus a chance to win a free Congress package. And do not forget to fill out your evaluation for a chance to win \$150 courtesy of Provide Agro!!!

See more at [www.hortns.com](http://www.hortns.com)  
or call Donna Crawford  
at (902) 678-9335.



## Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Annual Convention Coming in January 2010

The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association is hosting its annual convention January 26-28 at the Old Orchard Inn outside Wolfville. The convention theme is "Profiting from Production". The keynote speakers are Mo Tougas of Tougas Family Farm in Massachusetts, which was named one of the top five apple picking farms in the US, and Al Mussel from the George Morris Centre (Guelph, Ontario) discussing the tree fruit industry revitalization

benchmark study. If you attend several sessions, you can also earn one pesticide recertification point. Sponsors include Bayer Crop Science, AgroFresh, N.M. Bartlett, Farm Credit Canada, Bishops Accounting and AgraPoint. Funding has also been provided by the Nova Scotia Farm Investment Fund. For more information, please visit [www.nsapples.com](http://www.nsapples.com) or call the Fruit Growers at (902) 678-1093.



## Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

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

Presently 4-H members can apply for scholarships from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the TD Bank. Each scholarship has specific requirements and the two Nova Scotia scholarships require an essay to be submitted with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality and interpretation of research, as well as spelling and grammar. Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$2500.

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded a \$1000 university entrance scholarship to Amanda Lowe of Inverness County. Four 4-H members won the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Scholarship, valued at \$1000 each. These were awarded to Alexander Burrows, Colchester County; Matthew Lees, Pictou County; Julie Vermeer, Antigonish County and Brittany Maxner, Kings County. The department scholarship is presented to students enrolling in a first year program in Agriculture, Veterinary Science, or other recognized disciplines.

In November, Bridget Wilson from Inverness County was the Nova Scotia recipient of the TD 4-H Scholarship and was one of ten 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2500 scholarship for entrance to first year of university. For 54 years the TD bank has been a generous supporter of

the Canadian 4-H Council and provided financial support to future generations of agricultural leaders who attend a Canadian college or university for agriculture-related or agri-business studies. Applicants with the highest academic average in their province are selected to receive this scholarship.

4-H members are encouraged to speak to their General 4-H Leader or their Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator to get a copy of the scholarship applications for 2010.

Deadlines are April 1, 2010 for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship, and October for the TD 4-H Scholarship.

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## The George MacNeil Memorial Scholarship Fund

On June 19, 2009, George MacNeil passed away as the result of a tragic traffic accident. George was a well-known farmer, entertainer and tireless community volunteer. Among his many volunteer pursuits was the 4-H program where he was a 4-H dad and grand-dad and a leader who held executive offices at club, county and provincial levels. George's life and his death have left a giant mark on all who knew him.

In honor of George, and as a lasting memorial, the Cape Breton County 4-H Leaders' Council has embarked upon an ambitious campaign to raise \$50,000 for the establishment of a perpetual, endowed scholarship that will bear George's name. Financial gifts of any size are welcome.

For individuals, businesses and families who want to make a greater contribution (\$500 or more) to the Scholarship Fund, they can become members of The George 500 Club. These contributions can be made in one lump sum or as a pledge over time, with up to 5 years to honor the commitment.

Pledgers make an initial minimum contribution of \$100 to join The George 500 Club. On the pledge form, contributors specify what the annual contribution will be (must be a minimum of \$100 annually) and the time period for honoring the pledge. Separate tax receipts can be issued upon request for individuals if more than one contributor is involved. Letters will be sent annually as a reminder of the next contribution to the fund.

Contributions are income-tax deductible and receipts will be issued for each gift of \$20 or more. Cheques should be made payable to: The Cape Breton County 4-H Council – George MacNeil Scholarship Fund, c/o Barb MacKinnon, 2107 Grand Mira South Road, Grand Mira South, Nova Scotia, B1K 1J5.

The Scholarship Fund will support deserving members within the 4-H organization and honour the life of George MacNeil.

For more information contact Scholarship Fund Raising Chair, Dr. Jane Lewis. [Jane\\_lewis@cbu.ca](mailto:Jane_lewis@cbu.ca)

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## 2010 Rural Leaders Conference – Growing Healthy Communities

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is pleased to invite you and all leaders in agriculture and rural communities to a dynamic conference – the 2010 Rural Leaders Conference – Growing Healthy Communities, March 4 - 6 at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. This conference promises to create valuable partnerships, build

on the skills, resources and commitment of volunteers that contribute to the health and wellness of rural areas.

Community leaders in rural organizations who are working towards the betterment of rural Nova Scotia are eligible to attend. These

include 4-H leaders, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, agriculture awareness committee members, farmers, industry groups, agriculture awareness teachers, business organizations, etc. It is an excellent opportunity to create a network with other community leaders that have a common understanding of partnerships and assets available to them to keep their organizations and communities healthy and viable.

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### Introduction to Grape Growing in Nova Scotia

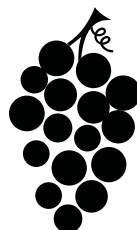
*Kingstec Campus NSCC*

#### Course Description

Join award-winning instructor, Patrick Cantieni, for a 14-week introduction to grape growing. Patrick's international experience includes winning two Silver Medals and one Gold Medal in the 2006 Swiss National Wine Competition. He is currently a Vineyard Manager and Assistant Winemaker at Domaine de Grand Pré in the Annapolis Valley.

This course is presented in four sections, including:

1. **Vineyard Planning and Development** – where you will develop a clear understanding of the importance of proper site selection and the detailed planning required to develop a Nova Scotia vineyard.
2. **Planting, Trellis Design, Pruning and Canopy Management** - will provide participants with current practices and methods for planting and maintaining a Nova Scotia vineyard. This section will also include demonstration and field trips to Nova Scotia vineyards.



3. **Integrated Pest Management** - will provide you with an understanding of the various pests and beneficial species in Nova Scotia vineyards and the management procedures used for control.
4. **Harvest and Processing** - will define the term "quality wine grape" and the important relationships between sugar, acid, and pH levels during the grape ripening phase.

#### Course Details

Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Jan 7 – April 14, 2010

Cost: \$360

To register call NSCC Admissions:

1-866-679-6722 or visit your local NSCC campus.

For more information on this course please contact Dwayne MacLeod (902) 690-2429  
[dwayne.macleod@nscc.ca](mailto:dwayne.macleod@nscc.ca)

The program is still in the planning stages, but will include a panel of local success stories; sessions about effective leadership in healthy communities; working with volunteers; and an entertaining evening at Pier 21. Lil MacPherson, owner of the Wooden Monkey Restaurant in Halifax and supporter of the buy/eat local movement, will address the delegates.

More information will be available in early January.

For more information please contact:

Vimy Glass

E-mail: [glassvm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:glassvm@gov.ns.ca)

Ruth Grant (902) 893-6585

E-mail: [grantra@gov.ns.ca](mailto:grantra@gov.ns.ca)

Staff of the Kentville Agricultural Centre office would like to extend a Merry Christmas and warm wishes for a new year of happiness. During this holiday season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. We remind our farm owners and operators to keep safety a top priority while they are celebrating the season with family and friends. May the new year refresh your spirit, bring you renewed inspiration and prosperity. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

## Think Local This Holiday Season

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

## Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

We are once again trying to update our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and do not wish to receive it any longer or if your address is incorrect, please notify Cheryl by phone (902) 679-6021 or e-mail, [ctheriau@gov.ns.ca](mailto:ctheriau@gov.ns.ca).

We are also trying to cut costs and would ask if you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify Cheryl and it will be sent out to you that way.

## Pesticide Certification/Recertification Courses

Certification - January 14-15, 2010 - Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook  
Recertification - March 31, 2010 - Days Inn, Bridgewater

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will be offering Certification and Recertification Courses in 2010. Please contact Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114 or by e-mail at [proagri@eastlink.ca](mailto:proagri@eastlink.ca) to register.

## Valley Region 4-H Update

### Royal Winter Fair

Two members from the Valley Region had the exciting opportunity of traveling to Toronto to participate at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair while representing Nova Scotia. Breagh Ross from Kings County traveled as part of the beef team and Cory Charlton from Kings County was part of the dairy team. Both members did very well in competition. They were enthusiastic about the trip and the many memories made.

### Upcoming 4-H Events

Kings Co. Council Meeting, January 4, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7:30 p.m.

Hants Co. Council Meeting, January 11, Brooklyn Elementary School, 7 p.m.

Kings County New Leader Training Session, February 1, 6:30 p.m.

Hants County New Leader Training Session, February 8, 6 p.m.

## Christmas Wishes...



With flurries and carols, it is that time of the year,  
A time for family, and for friends so dear.  
A time for good wishes, for merriment and cheer,  
A time to reflect on yet another year.

4-H started as a calf club, in 1922,  
And all these decades later, how 4-H has grew.  
With garden and computer, rabbit and cake,  
Over forty 4-H projects for members to take.

Tours and workshops are part of the fun,  
For learning and friends, 4-H is second to none.  
Speaking and judging, and Camp Rankin too,  
"Learn to do by doing" ... that is what we do.

A new 4-H year is about to start,  
With members pledging head, hands, health and heart.  
Here's to leaders and those who will teach new skills,  
Here's to the 4-H program for the values it instills.

Thanks to sponsors, and to parents for all they've done,  
By building stronger communities, we all have won,  
So with the wishes of the season being sent your way,  
May you have Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day.

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

It has been a busy fall with meetings and events. Lots of issues are being discussed, such as NSDA programs and services, grass pellets for fuel, Occupational Health and Safety concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, and societal pressures. If you have a particular issue you would like addressed, or if you want to organize a meeting for your area, please let me know so that we can discuss it and take appropriate steps.



## Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers

There is always time to be thinking of nominees for the Atlantic region Outstanding Young Farmers Award. It is a great opportunity to honor up and coming farmers in the agriculture community. Anyone can nominate a young farmer or farm couple provided the nominee meets three basic requirements: they must be between the ages of 18 and 39, be farm operators and derive a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming. For more information or to obtain nomination forms you can go to: <http://www.oyfatlantic.ca/>

## Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

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

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



St. John Ambulance Canada

## First Aid Training

St. John Ambulance offers several first aid courses throughout the province. Obtaining more information on first aid training or to register for a course can easily be done on their web site <http://www.sja.ca/Pages/default.aspx> or by calling toll free 1-800-565-5056.

They offer many courses designed to meet industry and business requirements. Emergency level first aid is a state-of-the-art, modular course of basic first aid skills and other select subjects needed to sustain life and manage the scene of an injury. Emergency First Aid is recommended for work sites with 1- 19 employees per shift.

## Farm Safety

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we have experienced during 2009 and to look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. During the holidays, more than ever, it is important to consciously practice safe working practices on your farm. As farm routines change, remember to keep the safety of you and your family in mind. Do not let what should be a happy and joyful time of the year become a tragic one. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

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

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

## Upcoming Events from the Cape Breton Agriculture Office

- Beef Slaughter and Marketing Workshop - March 2010
- Pesticide certification/re-certification course for points and licencing - Spring 2010
- Agriculture Industry Update - January 19 and 20
- Nutrient Management Workshop - early 2010
- Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth - Inaugural meeting
- Ongoing production information sessions with AgraPoint staff

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

## Forklift Training - Safe Forklift Operation

Section 56 of the *Occupational Safety General Regulations* state: "An employer shall ensure that a hoist, industrial lift truck or powered mobile equipment

- (a) is operated by a designated competent person;
- (b) has gears and moving parts securely guarded by adequate means where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace;
- (c) has any load on it adequately secured where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace; and
- (d) is provided with safe means of access and exit from the operator's position and any passenger's position."

If you are operating a forklift or other lift truck you must be adequately trained.

The Safe Forklift Operation Course is based on classroom instructional time and actual hands on training on a forklift. Students will be expected to perform basic maneuvers, as well as demonstrate their ability to inspect their lift truck.

If you are interested in this training, call our office and see how we may help. (902) 563-2000



## Happy Holidays

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

## Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2009-10 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 please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

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## 4-H 2009 : A Great Year Regionally

The 4-H program was strong and bright in the Cape Breton region this year. The region consists of 275 active members, 26 Cloverbuds and 100 volunteer leaders from the four counties. These numbers were an increase across the board. 4-H members and leaders worked hard this year to complete project work in various life skills and livestock project areas. 258 members participated in communication skills development over their 4-H year, developing life long skills that will serve them well into the future. Volunteer leader membership is drawn from 8 per cent urban, 78 per cent rural and 14 per cent farm. Youth membership is 18 per cent urban, 69 per cent rural and 13 per cent farm.

This is 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.

The 2009 4-H year concluded with a strong showing, with lots of local, regional and provincial events for the community. At present, many clubs are preparing for a full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun. Staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and old members alike to the Cape Breton Regional Program for the upcoming program year. Here are a few things on the go for our 4-H communities.

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## Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour 2010 - Yarmouth

The Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Memorial Youth Leadership Tour will be hosted this year in the Yarmouth region. Kevin Grant, a long time 4-H participant, government public servant and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H Program, has provided a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. This tour will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the school March break. Ten 4-H members from across the province between the ages of 14 to 16 will be selected to participate. The tour will allow local 4-H members to learn more about a highlighted region in the province: the community, the rural community leaders, the local area resource based businesses and rural employers. The participants will meet these leaders, tour and understand their business and their part in the community (examples include agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, mining, value-added facilities). A conference component will include meeting community

group leaders/members and discussing roles of the various rural organizations in the area. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with local 4-H members. Please contact the 4-H office if you have interest in making this tour our local success story. Applications for 4-H member attendance will be reviewed in early January.

### General Leader Kit

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

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## New 4-H Website – Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H website for all sorts of great information. Our provincial website has loads of information on starting a 4-H club, 4-H around the province, leader and member resources including project newsletters, provincial workshops and much, much, more! You can find the provincial 4-H website at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/>. Check out our new updates coming soon, designed to make finding what you need even easier. Our national website, through Canadian 4-H council, offers various resource materials, national scholarship, program grants and funding, and links to all that is 4-H on a national level. This site has something for everyone, especially our senior members. You can visit the site at [www.4-h-canada.ca/](http://www.4-h-canada.ca/).

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## New Leader Training

“Welcome to the 4-H Team” is a workshop that introduces 4-H to our new leaders. As part of the volunteer screening process, all new leaders must attend a training session. Sessions were completed in late 2009 and will continue in early 2010. Leaders are free to attend any session. During these sessions you will be given information regarding the 4-H program, the leader screening process, as well as what resources and support systems are available to leaders. This session is compulsory and is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions regarding the program. Contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office for screening procedures and dates.

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## Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2009/2010

Mike – Grand Lake Road Fire  
Department – Auditorium:

December 16  
January 20  
February 17  
March 17  
April 7  
May 19

Wanda – Northside Exhibition, 105  
Regent St., North Sydney:

December 15  
January 19  
February 23  
March 23  
April 20  
May 26  
June 22

If you wish to register, please contact  
Catherine at the NS Department 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>

## *Have a Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!*

*Seasons Greetings from Rhonda  
McDougall, Marina Gilles and  
Cheryl Chandler at the 4-H offices  
on Cape Breton Island*

## Dates to Mark on the Calendar

December	Richmond Co. Meeting (date to be announced), 6 p.m., New leader screening
January 5	Cape Breton Co. Meeting, Civic Center Community Room, 7 p.m
January 19	Victoria Co. Meeting, Peterson's, 7 p.m.
January	Inverness Co. 4-H Council Meeting (date to be announced), 6 p.m., New leader screening
February 1	(tentative) Inverness/Richmond Jr. Workshop, West Bay Hall
February 26	(In-service Day) Cape Breton Jr. Member Workshop, North Sydney Exhibition
Feb. 28 - Mar. 1	Provincial Leaders Conference
March 3-6	Rural Leaders Conference, (location to be announced)
March 13	All Atlantic Night and EBIAuction, Antigonish
March 15-17	Kevin Lewis Grant Tour
April 17	Regional Rally, Baddeck Academy
May 7-8	Provincial 4-H Weekend
May 18	Cape Breton Judging Days, all projects except horse
May 19	Horse Judging
October 1-3	Nova Scotia 4-H Pro-Show, Truro

Contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator if you have any concerns or questions you would like to address. We can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2001 (Marina). Our email addresses are: [gillisma@gov.ns.ca](mailto:gillisma@gov.ns.ca) or [macdourm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:macdourm@gov.ns.ca)

### *Christmas Wishes...*

With flurries and carols, it is that time of the year,  
A time for family, and for friends so dear.  
A time for good wishes, for merriment and cheer,  
A time to reflect on yet another year.

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Over forty 4-H projects for members to take.

Tours and workshops are part of the fun,  
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Speaking and judging, and Camp Rankin too,  
"Learn to do by doing" ... that is what we do.

A new 4-H year is about to start,  
With members pledging head, hands, health and heart.  
Here's to leaders and those who will teach new skills,  
Here's to the 4-H program for the values it instills.

Thanks to sponsors, and to parents for all they've done,  
By building stronger communities, we all have won,  
So with the wishes of the season being sent your way,  
May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day.



**REMINDER**

The deadline for submitting claims under this year's Farm Investment Fund program is March 1, 2010.

**Upcoming dates for Antigonish County:**

Leaders Christmas Social (Jr. School)	December 15, 7 p.m.
Christmas skating, Antigonish Arena	December 22, 12-1:30 p.m.
Bowling, Pins Bowling Center	January 10, 2010, 2 p.m.
Swimming, Oland Centre	February 7, 2010, 3 p.m.

**Food Safety and Holiday Turkey**

A fresh turkey should be purchased 1-2 days before cooking. When purchasing a turkey, select it last and keep it separated from other foods to prevent juices from cross-contaminating other foods. Proper hand washing should be practiced before and after handling raw turkey.

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

- 1.) In the refrigerator – it takes approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of turkey.
- 2.) Submerged in cold water – change the water every 30 minutes to ensure it stays cold. It takes approximately 30 minutes per pound to thaw.
- 3.) In a microwave – the turkey should be cooked immediately after thawing and not cooked at a later time.

Approximate Cooking Times at 325 F

Unstuffed		Stuffed	
8 - 12 lbs.	2¾ - 3 hours	8-12 lbs.	3 - 3½ hours
12 - 14 lbs.	3 - 3¾ hours	12-14 lbs.	3½ - 4 hours
14 - 18 lbs.	3¾ - 4¼ hours	14 - 18 lbs.	4 - 4¼ hours
18 - 20 lbs.	4¼ - 4½ hours	18-20 lbs.	4¼ - 4¾ hours

**Think Local This  
Holiday Season**

Choose local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often.

Try to buy directly from the growers. Cutting out the middleman means more of your food dollar goes to the people who grow your food. Farmers' markets are a good place to start. The Antigonish Farmers Market has now moved to the Antigonish Education Centre for the remainder of the season.

Ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.



*Best wishes for a happy  
Christmas season, good health  
and much success in 2010 from  
the staff of the Antigonish office!*

## Seasons Greetings

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is my sincere hope that each and everyone of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. I join everyone at the agricultural office in extending best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season on your farm!

The new year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments we have experienced during 2009 as we look forward to the many opportunities that the coming year will bring. May the peace of the season be with you and may you enjoy a prosperous and happy new year.

Best wishes for the holiday season

Dennis Moerman P.Ag.



## Western Region 4-H Dates to Remember:

- January 13 Annapolis County 4-H leaders Council, 7 p.m., 4-H office in Lawrencetown
- January 20 Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council, 7 p.m., 4-H office in Yarmouth
- January 21 Digby County 4-H leaders Council, 7 p.m., Digby Fire Hall  
Listen each Saturday at noon for 4-H News on AVR

**Call the 4-H office at (902) 584-2081 or (902) 584-2080 for information on any of these events or programs**

## Up Coming Events

DCFA Organic Growers Club -  
Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7 p.m. at  
the Weymouth Agricultural office -  
Speaker - To Be Announced