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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2009

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 10 No. 1

NSDA and NSFA Join Forces on Competitive Transition Project

Jill Rogers

In December 2008, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture committed to adopting a strategy to support a transition of the agriculture industry. This transition collectively supports a vision of an agricultural sector that is self-sufficient, independent, sustainable, has appropriate intervention by government, allowing market signals to drive businesses. Industry and government committed to working together under three guiding pillars of: transitional support, strategic public investment, and public goods and services toward ensuring the competitiveness of the agriculture industry.

Transitional support recognizes that to be competitive, some in the industry must undergo a transition to develop business opportunities that are more competitive. It is recognized that these industries will require transitional support programs and services, investments in innovation, technology, new opportunities, new markets, as well as strategic infrastructure.

Strategic public investment recognizes that to be competitive and sustainable, public investments must be made in human, capital and other

resources that, in large, serve to benefit the industry as a whole rather than individual businesses. Examples of such strategic investments would include the development of strategic policy, strong partnerships, research, and support services to enable industry development.

As the global agriculture industry tackles issues that affect the environment, water scarcity, food safety, animal welfare and others, governments are realizing that in the pursuit of public benefits such as introducing environmental restrictions, costs may be imposed on a business. On the other hand, the public may value certain benefits that create a cost to farmers. Public Goods

and Services recognizes the need to address those targeted costs/benefits, foster opportunity cost recovery and support the purchase of desired public benefits.

Meetings between NSFA and NSDA to discuss implementation of the three pillars of competitive transition will continue throughout 2009. Within the next year, the Agriculture Services Branch will review its programs, services, and allocation of resources for alignment with the three pillars of competitive transition. Together, NSDA and NSFA will work to identify new opportunities and programming in support of competitive transition.

Agricultural Companies Receive Infrastructure Funding

Four agricultural companies have been awarded funding to help strengthen their infrastructure and sustainability.

Funding has been approved for:

- Melvin Farms Limited, to develop a fresh-cut cauliflower line and add value to their farm business
- Farmer John's Herbs, to increase capacity and further develop a fresh Nova Scotia herb processing business
- Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Limited, to expand into the Asian

market and increase export sales of wild blueberry juice

- Acadian Maple Products Limited, to develop and increase capacity for maple industry processing and packing

The businesses applied under the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund. To date, more than \$3.2 million has been committed from the \$6-million, four-year fund.

More information on the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/.





Time for Farm Registration Renewals...

Farm Registration renewals will soon be mailed to farmers across the province.

If you have previously registered your farm in the 2008/09 year, you should receive a form from Service Nova Scotia with your personal information already filled in. We ask that you update any information and complete the remaining sections. Check the box in Section 5 to ensure your NSFA membership and fill in your affiliated county. There is no additional charge for your NSFA membership and a portion of your fee will be returned to your local county federation to support their work. Effective April 1, 2009, there will be changes to the membership categories and an increase in the farm registration fees. More detail will accompany the registration form which is available on our website www.nsfa-fane.ca.

What are the benefits of registering my farm?

- Access to farm assistance programs (EFP, FIF, AgriStability)
- Access to veterinary services and herd health
- No tax on marked diesel fuel
- Zero taxation on farm land

What are the benefits of being a member of NSFA?

- Newsletters and reports
- Annual General Meeting
- Access to staff and office resources
- Services and promotions

What does the Federation do for me?

- Recognized voice of agriculture
- Public policy
- Research
- Legislative and regulatory reviews
- 'Watchdog' and lobby group
- Linkage to national issues

To find out more about the new fee structure or the work of NS Federation of Agriculture, check out our website www.nsfa-fane.ca or call the Federation office at: (902)893-2293.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission Production Insurance

Application Deadlines 2009:

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

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

Forage Insurance

Now is the time to apply for insurance to protect your forage crop from adverse weather. Forage crops intended for storage or pasture are eligible. The plan is based on historic precipitation levels for weather stations across the province. Producers choose a weather station near their farm. Coverage consists of a drought component available for

any one or all of the months of May, June, July or August. An excess rainfall rider can also be purchased to address quality losses due to excessive rain in the critical June harvest period.

Dairy Producers

Are you covered? The Commission has been providing Dairy Livestock Insurance in Nova Scotia for over 30 years. This insurance provides coverage for the loss of animals as a result of a number of diseases. It also has a loss of income component for specific drops in your income as a result of a disease outbreak, fire or building collapse. If you are not insured call us to find out if this insurance can help you manage risks on your farm.

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

Canada

NOVA SCOTIA

Farm Women's Health and Wellness Day

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College is hosting a Nova Scotia Farm Women's Health and Wellness Day in Truro on April 3, 2009. The day is free of charge and will include meals and door prizes.

This full day event will cover many women's health issues and offers a free health assessment and consultation by a registered VON. Also included in the day's events are speakers on nutrition, child injury and safety, stress reduction and exercise. There will be meals and snacks provided, as well chances to interact with massage therapists, the NSAC's farm health and safety consultant and a nutritionist.

Child care will be provided for those with small children.

The deadline for registering is March 23, 2009.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Melanie Goodridge at: mgoodridge@nsac.ca or (902) 893-6227.

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND A **FREE** SEMINAR

“PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT MANAGING SAFETY ISSUES ON THE FARM”

*February 25, 10 a.m.-12 noon
Multipurpose Room, Museum of Industry in Stellarton*

*March 4, 10 a.m.-12 noon
Cornwallis Room, Kentville Agricultural Centre*

Before you get into your busy season, get the answers you need to keep yourself, your family and your staff safe on the farm!

This seminar is intended to provide insight into the *NS Occupational Health and Safety Act* and exactly how it impacts the operation of your farm. You will have the opportunity to discuss what you can do to promote a safe workplace on your farm and what the consequences are if you fail to show due diligence. Come learn how to protect your livelihood and your health. All farmers, farm families and farm staff are welcome.

Refreshments will be provided.
Please reserve a seat by contacting:
Catherine Manning
Rural Research Center, NSAC
893-6227 or cmanning@nsac.ca



NSAC. Embrace Your World.



CASA-ACSA
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association
Association canadienne de sécurité agricole

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

AgriStability and AgriInvest Update

AgriStability 2009 Enrolment

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

AgriStability 2008 Interim Applications Are Available

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

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

Notice Of Meetings – AgriStability and AgriInvest

Information sessions on the new suite of business risk management programs, including AgriInvest and AgriStability, have now been scheduled. Representatives will talk about how the new programs can work for producers, and will provide tips for completing the 2008 harmonized form. Sessions are open to all interested and will be held at the following locations:

- Bridgewater, Days Inn, February 23, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Baddeck, St. Michael's Parish, February 23, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Yarmouth, Rodd Colony Harbour Inn, February 24, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Antigonish, Maritime Inn, February 24, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Truro, Holiday Inn, February 25, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Kentville, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 26, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.
- Amherst, Amherst Fire Hall, March 2, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m.

Program representatives are available to meet producers individually to discuss AgriInvest and AgriStability. During these meetings producers can receive:

- advice on completing their 2008 harmonized form;
- a quick check of their 2008 harmonized form to ensure all relevant sections are complete prior to submission;
- tips on providing information to AgriStability/AgriInvest;
- general program information.

Appointments are limited and will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis. To book an appointment with a program representative call: (902) 893-6374 or 1-866-844-4276

Meeting Locations:

- Bridgewater, Days Inn, February 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Sydney, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Yarmouth, Rodd Colony Harbour Inn, February 24, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Antigonish, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 24, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Weymouth, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 25, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Truro, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 25, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Lawrencetown, 4-H office, February 26, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Kentville, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, February 27, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Amherst, Amherst Fire Hall, March 2, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs Update:

Farm Investment Fund (FIF) project claiming deadline is March 1, 2009 for the 2008-09 program year. Although currently closed, the Farm Investment Fund is expected to re-open to applications in April of this year. Keep your eye open for dates and locations of FIF information sessions this spring in your area. These sessions will highlight the program changes for the 2009-2010 program year.

Agri-food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF) claiming deadline is March 1, 2009 for the 2008-09 program year.

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The Orchard and Vineyard and Transition Program (OVTP) has had an excellent uptake for both the 2007-08 and 2008-09 program years. There are upcoming claim deadlines for the removal projects that began after April 1, 2008. Each individual applicant has a specific deadline dependant on the date of their FIRST pre-inspection. The claim form for completed projects must be submitted by this date. If you are unsure as to your deadline, please refer to condition 11 on page two of your Letter of Agreement. You are encouraged to claim as soon as the project is completed to avoid the busy claiming season in March and April. Note: You may claim multiple times, so send in claims for individual blocks as you complete them.

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

Scotian Gold Co-operative Unveils New Pre-sort Facility

Eastern Canada's largest apple packing and storage operation opened its new pre-sort facility on December 19, 2008 in Coldbrook, Kings Co.

Scotian Gold Co-operative is improving its ability to grade apples thoroughly and efficiently while creating less waste by employing new technology. This will help meet the worldwide demand for its premium-quality apple products.

The facility is part of a larger expansion and modernization project for which the province provided a \$2 million loan through the Industrial Expansion Fund in September and a grant for \$1 million through the Department of Agriculture's Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund. Scotian Gold provides the Annapolis Valley economy with 75 jobs and a payroll of \$2.2 million.

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency provided assistance of a repayable contribution for more than \$600,000 through its Business Development Program to support the company's long-term strategy for innovation and increased productivity in the apple industry.

In 2008, Scotian Gold Co-operative generated \$23 million in gross sales. During the last six years, capacity has increased through planting premium apple varieties and higher yielding orchard systems by progressive growers in Annapolis Valley. The co-operative is also seeing the largest crop of apples ever brought through its doors.

"We are thankful for the support we have received for this expansion," said president and CEO of Scotian Gold Co-operative, David Cudmore. "The new facility is the most important investment we have made in our company's history. It is our largest single investment and will be an integral part of the infrastructure necessary to continue to move our industry forward."



The Development and Implementation of a Late Blight Fungicide Spray Model for Canadian Potato Growers

Weather Innovations Incorporated (WIN) developed SPUDcast, a new weather-based decision model to help growers across Canada time fungicide applications. Two modules were developed targeting smaller and larger potato enterprises. Each has the potential to reduce the number or type of sprays used for late blight management, thereby decreasing financial costs and environmental pesticide loading. SPUDcast was shown to provide recommendations suitable for each region of the country.

More information about the results of this project are available at: <http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1228313666947&lang=eng>

Celebrating Nova Scotia Farms and Food

Nova Scotia fruit and vegetable producers are working hard to put fresh, safe, affordable and delicious food on the tables of Nova Scotia residents. On January 13, 2009, the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association and Horticulture Nova Scotia hosted a public event to showcase Nova Scotia farms and their produce.

"Nova Scotia Agriculture is more than food on your plate," says Mary Lou Power, vice president of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association. "The size and scope of our industry has changed. When you buy Nova Scotia fruits and vegetables, you're investing in Nova Scotia farms and food and the future of the Nova Scotia agricultural industry. Nova Scotia residents need to hear about our vibrant industry".

Speakers at the conference included Richard Melvin, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Chef Craig Flinn of Chives Canadian Bistro, Andy Vermeulen from Vermeulen Farms and Mary Sue Waisman, registered dietitian. In addition to the presentations, the 91 participants enjoyed a See and Sample session with local producers and a lunch featuring Nova Scotian food.

This day was dedicated to having consumers connect to local farms and food. It was sponsored by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, Horticulture Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Select Nova Scotia.

11th PRCP On-Line Exam Available

AgraPoint has just posted the 11th in its series of home study exams available on-line to producers. This exam is on Proper Cleaning of a Boom Sprayer and is available at www.extensioncentral.com You will need to complete the exam and send to AgraPoint's Agriculture Information Centre in Truro at the address located on the exam. The deadline is March 25, 2009. If you make the passing grade of 75 per cent you will receive one-half a pesticide re-certification point. If you successfully complete every exam over the five-year span of your pesticide license, you will achieve over half of your re-certification requirements with the home-study series. For more information, contact the Ag Info Centre toll-free at: 1-866-606-4636 or info@agrapoint.ca

Expanding Opportunities for Selling to Restaurants

Restaurants can be a potentially stable and lucrative market and a great source of ideas and feedback for producers. Two upcoming opportunities:

"Selling to Restaurants"

Workshops will be held during the week of March 9 to 13 in the Annapolis Valley, Truro and Cape Breton. Location details TBA. Workshop cost \$10. Learn tips on working with chefs from those who are already buying from producers, plus marketing best practices.

Select Nova Scotia Producer

Marketplace at ApEx, April 5 and 6 at Exhibition Park, Halifax is the

premier place to connect with restaurant and food service decision-makers and industry. Market ready producers are invited to showcase their products to potential buyers at the show.

If you are interested in building relationships within the Nova Scotia restaurant market and would like to learn more about the opportunity to participate in the workshops and/or ApEx marketplace, please contact Jennifer Reynolds at (902) 722-1305 or reynoljm@gov.ns.ca



Advice In Turbulent Economic Times

John Murray, NSDA

A number of articles have recently featured ways to adjust both personal and business lifestyles during tough economic times. The following article covers some of these thoughts, with some suggestions to help you reach the goals for your agricultural business.

How many times have you heard it is time to get costs and debt under control? Costs are unavoidable, as we all have costs to deal with no matter whether it is running a household, a multi million dollar manufacturing business or the family farm. Operating a farm business requires a great deal of skill, vision and determination, especially in today's tough economic climate. Despite the many challenges facing farm families, there are many opportunities for market growth in the food sector and ways to deal with costs and the structure of your business debt.

Reviewing operating costs on a regular basis requires a great deal of time, however there are many software packages available to track and monitor these costs. As producers, you often have very little control over sudden increases in costs. Knowing your costs in relation to revenue will provide some of the tools required to mitigate future cash flow issues. Operators who have control over their pricing, are often in the best position to work through times of cost fluctuations. Agricultural producers who do not have control over their pricing face cash flow challenges and need to monitor their operating costs more closely.

Planning for the future has proven to be successful for many businesses. Many successful business owners surround themselves with a management team to evaluate each segment of their business. Many resources are available to explore options through agricultural business planning.

Debt management is one of the important keys to business survival. The first step of this process is to compare the total farm debt with the assets. Once you have a good handle on this, review the various debts and compare the terms of the debt with the life of the various assets. So often businesses suffering from cash flow issues have too much short term debt. If this is the case, review how or why this short term debt was acquired. So often short term debt has been easy to access. Refinancing over a longer term is often suggested as a way to resolve current cash flow situations. This may not be in your best long term interest, particularly if this debt was originally used to acquire assets with a shorter useful life.

The best way to manage your debt is to evaluate and match your debt with the useful life of the various assets on your farm. For example your farm mortgage could be amortized over 10-30 years, while equipment should only be financed over a 3-7 year period depending on their age and condition. Operating loans and various lines of credit (including credit cards) should revolve at least once every 12 months and should only be used for items such as supplies or purchases that will generate cash before year end. If these short term forms of credit are improperly used, they can often lead to cash flow deficiencies.

Reviewing your financials on a regular basis with your primary lender(s) is another way to avoid cash flow issues during turbulent economic times. It is important to recognize and understand the implications of too much short term debt or debt that cannot be serviced with the level of income generated by your farm business and or off-farm income.

In planning a refinancing package, consider liquidating assets that generate no or little income. Selling and directing the value of these assets to pay down debt is a wise decision to enhance the business cash flow and assist the operation in mitigating risk. So often producers are concerned that liquidating assets sends a wrong message to creditors. Contrary to this belief, creditors will likely view this as positive action to the survival of your farm business.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board has been serving agricultural producers in Nova Scotia with stable long term financing since 1912. For further information about the Board's products and services, I encourage you to view these at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb. If you would like to discuss your current and/or future agricultural business plans do not hesitate to contact one of our loan officers in either the Truro or Kentville offices.

Agricultural Literacy Day



Last spring, many schools across Nova Scotia had some special visitors in the classroom. March 20th, 2008 was the first Ag Literacy Day in Nova Scotia when school children were encouraged to celebrate agriculture with the help of a local farmer.

This year we would like to make the event bigger and better! And warmer! Ag Literacy Day is shifting to the first week in May, when the signs of spring in Nova Scotia are more reliable!

Here is what happens: farm volunteers are linked with local schools to arrange a date to visit the class and read a book about farming. The book is donated to the school library and the kids have a chance to talk to the farmers about what life is like on their farm.

The discussions that follow offer opportunities to bridge the gap in understanding that exists between

the general public and modern agriculture.

We will provide a book, as well as agricultural resource materials, including lesson plans for the teacher to use in follow up activities.

If you are interested in volunteering for Ag Literacy Day, please contact the Agricultural Awareness Coordinator:
Judy Grant
902-893-6598
grantjd@gov.ns.ca

Visit www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware for more information on Ag Awareness & Education in NS.



Future of Farming Workshop

Producers are invited to attend a dynamic one-day workshop on the **Future of Farming**. Hosted by the Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board and AgraPoint, the event takes place at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Cape Breton on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The *Future of Farming* workshop will be of special interest to:

- producers who are looking at issues of long-term sustainability at their farm
- producers who are considering ways of diversifying their on-farm activities
- producers who are reviewing their financial options and/or planning for succession.

The workshop will explore planning for the future by taking an intensive look at the various financial resources that are available to farmers and by looking at the latest trends in farm income diversification. A wealth of knowledgeable and inspiring speakers will take part in the event. The cost to participants is \$5 per person. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Gary Koziel (Agricultural Resource Coordinator, Cape Breton) at: (902) 563-2000.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

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

Kings, West Hants, Lunenburg, & Queens counties:

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

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

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

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

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



Peter LeBlanc Selected as the Co-operators National Volunteer Leader of the Year

The Co-operators Volunteer Leader of the Year Award recognizes the efforts of 4-H volunteers across Canada. Nine volunteer 4-H leaders from across Canada, with collectively more than 120 years of involvement with 4-H, were selected for the 2008 award. Peter Leblanc, from the River Bourgeois 4-H Club in Richmond County, was selected as the Volunteer of the Year for Nova Scotia.

“This award from the Co-operators and the Canadian 4-H Council is a great way to recognize the tireless efforts of our more than 8,500 volunteers. The amount of time devoted to 4-H is a reflection on the quality of these volunteers. Clearly 4-H plays an extremely important role in their lives, and we thank them for their continued time and efforts,” said Bob McAuley, president of the Canadian 4-H Council. “Without them, we would not have the vibrant 4-H program in Canada that we have today.”

Along with the provincial award, Peter LeBlanc was also selected as the Co-operators National Volunteer of the Year for his more than 25 years of volunteering with 4-H.

“Peter is always open, friendly, fair and caring,” his club wrote about him in their nomination letter. “He has continued to support 4-H long after his own children have finished the program. Peter can be counted on to help out whenever needed with a huge smile.”

Peter is best known for his contribution to Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H Camp, and in particular for his tireless volunteer

hours that make the Camp Rankin Caf come alive at every 4-H show. Peter manages the caf, cooks the food and works with many volunteers during the weekend to make sure the caf is a success. All proceeds from the sales go toward the maintenance of the camp.

Peter and his wife Emily also cater to many functions in Richmond County. The club pointed out that

one of the main sources of funding for the club would not be possible without the contributions of the LeBlanc family.

Each of the nine winners received a \$100 gift, as well as Co-operators and 4-H products. For being the grand prize winner, Peter received \$1000 and a trip to the Canadian 4-H Council Annual Meeting in Prince Edward Island in May.

Ten 4-H Members To Attend the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar

Ten 4-H members from Nova Scotia, along with 55 members from across the country will examine their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens during the 38th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, March 27 - April 2, 2009.

At the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar, delegates will learn about the Canadian political process and citizenship in great detail through session speakers, mock parliamentary debates and tours. Delegates will visit the Supreme Court of Canada, sit in on the Parliamentary Question Period, hear guest speakers, participate in discussion groups, and participate in a ceremony of new Canadians at citizenship court. The 4-H members also tour the National War Museum, The Museum of Civilization, visit Fulton’s Maple Sugar Camp and have lunch with their Member of Parliament.

“We are pleased to have ten excellent delegates represent the Nova Scotia 4-H program at this National 4-H Citizenship Conference,” said Arthur Pick, acting manager, 4-H and Rural Organizations. “The 4-H members selected for this award have shown their dedication and commitment to the 4-H program in their club, regionally and provincially. Through an application and interview process, they were awarded this national award and will be given the opportunity to learn about how the Canadian government operates and issues affecting the nation.”

The delegates attending from Nova Scotia are: Justin Clark and Jason Withrow, Hants County; Nicholas Gear, Lunenburg County; Kelly Smith, Cumberland County; Tyrell Giffin, Antigonish County; Katherine Banks, Annapolis County; Hillary MacDonell, Halifax East Hants; Margaret Peill and Breagh Ross, Kings County; Nicole MacKenzie, Colchester County.

Apply for Summer Jobs at Camp Rankin

Students who are interested in working with children and spending time in the outdoors can find a rewarding summer job at Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp. Positions are available for canoeing, drama, nature and outdoors, crafts, recreation and healthy living, life guard water safety and exploring 4-H counsellors.

Camp Rankin is located in Cape Breton just outside of St. Peter's at Cape George on the Bras d'Or Lakes. The camp is open to Nova Scotia's 4-H members between the ages of nine and fifteen. The camp program strives to uphold 4-H's values and traditions. It encourages care and responsibility for our resources and teaches positive life skills to youth. Campers attend one of four week-long camps or a mini camp running Sunday until Friday beginning July 5 and ending August 7, 2009. A wide range of activities are offered to campers and include hiking, swimming, canoeing, drama, crafts and recreation.

Under the supervision of the Camp Director, the camp counsellor will follow all camp rules and set a good example for campers. The camp counsellor will supervise a group of up to seven campers during the night in individual cabins and will work with this group during campfires, chapel and camp chores. Each counsellor will be responsible for preparing two to three workshops directly related to their job title suitable for campers aged 9 - 12 and 13 - 15, and for leading their session one to two times daily. Counsellors will be expected to participate in and supervise all group activities including hikes, dances and various recreational activities.

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members at least 16 years old who have a good understanding

of the 4-H program and enjoy the outdoors. Up to date first aid training is a requirement for all counsellors and formal canoeing training is required for the canoeing counsellor. As a Camp Rankin counsellor you will have a great summer job, where you will meet new friends and create many fond memories. 4-H members who are 15 years or older can also apply for the counsellor in training

positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one of the camping weeks.

Deadlines to have the applications to the 4-H office in Truro is March 15. Contact your local 4-H office if you are interested in any of these summer jobs or check with your General Leader for an application.

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 six 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. The two Nova Scotia scholarships require an essay be submitted with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject

knowledge, originality, quality, interpretation of research, as well as spelling and grammar. Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$2000.

Members are encouraged to speak to their General 4-H Leader or their 4-H Specialist to make sure they get a copy of the applications. The deadline is April 1, 2009 for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture scholarship and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship. The deadline is October for the TD 4-H Scholarship. Ask your 4-H Specialist for more information about the TD scholarship in June.

4-H Members Ready For Annual Fund Raiser

This spring, if a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar it is for a good cause! Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in a provincial campaign to raise money for county and provincial programs. This year they are selling Cadbury Caramilk chocolate bars through Sunsweet Fundraising Inc. A coupon for \$2 off any 15" pizza or \$1 off any 12" pizza at regular price from Greco will be attached to each bar. The coupon expires June 30, 2009.

The fund raising campaign runs from March 3 – 31, 2009. Proceeds from this sale are split among the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties selling bars. The provincial council uses the money raised to support provincial events such as the EBI Showcase; National Travel Award Opportunity registrations; Camp Rankin and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships; provincial programs such as 4-H Weekend, the annual 4-H Council Meeting and 4-H Show.

Pesticide Certification and Recertification Courses

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

The dates for certification courses are as follows:

March 4-5, Agri-Tech Park, Truro
March 26-27, Kentville Agricultural Centre

The dates for recertification courses are as follows:

March 3, Agri-Tech Park, Truro
March 25, Kentville Agricultural Centre
March 31, Days Inn, Bridgewater

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day will be held 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.

Valley Region 4-H News

Council Meetings

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

Upcoming Meetings:

Hants County:

Monday, March 9
Monday, April 13
Monday, May 11

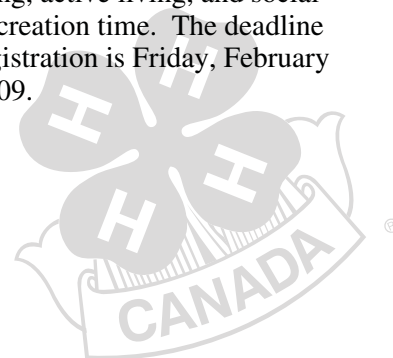
Kings County:

Monday, March 2
Monday, April 6
Monday, May 4

Chat-A-Rama

The 2009 Chat-A-Rama is designed specifically for 4-H members who are 14 to 18 years of age as of January 1, 2009, eager to learn new things, meet new friends, and have fun. Chat-A-Rama will be held at Camp Hillis in Paradise, Annapolis County on March 13 and 14. The registration fee is \$30, which includes workshop fees, meals and accommodations. The theme for the 2009 Chat-A-Rama is "4-H, 2009 Is the Year to Shine". There have been lots of changes to the program and location for the 2009 event! The

new program will include sessions on 4-H members as Agricultural Ambassadors, as well as motivational sessions that will encourage members to shine and be the best that they can be, with presenters guiding them to explore personal skills while sharpening communication skills. There will also be team work activities, meal planning, active living, and social and recreation time. The deadline for registration is Friday, February 27, 2009.



Tractor Safety Program

The Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Program to increase tractor safety is on the road! If you have a Class 8 drivers licence and operate tractors on Nova Scotia roads, you must pass this course to be certified to legally haul trailed implements on the road with your tractor.

This course is targeted to youth aged 14-16. Topics such as safety, highway regulations, pre-operation checks, safe starts, stops, connecting and hauling various implements will be covered. Any current tractor operator who holds a Class 8 license and has at least 10 hours tractor driving experience is welcome to attend.

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

For more information or to register contact Continuing and Distance Education Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Phone: (902) 893-6666, Fax: (902) 895-5528, Email: cde@nsac.ca, <http://www.nsac.ca/cde/courses/Contract/tractor.asp>

Spring 2009 Schedule

- Fort Equipment - Amherst: March 14 – 15
- J. G. VanOostrum Farm Equipment – Port Williams: March 14 – 15
- MacLeod's Farm Machinery – Antigonish: March 21 – 22
- Valley Industries – Lawrencetown: March 21 – 22

- NSAC - Truro: April 4 - 5, 2009
Space is limited, register early!

NSAC instructors bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program. Their skills include tractor and farm machinery operation, tractor and machinery repair, welding, hydraulic systems, pneumatic systems and more.

A special thanks to the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee and Canadian Agriculture Safety Association for helping to cover costs for the delivery of the NS Tractor Safety Program!

Business Risk Management Programs

AgriInvest and AgriStability Information Sessions on the new suite of business risk management programs are coming to Truro at the Holiday Inn on February 25 and Amherst at the Amherst Fire Hall, March 2. Both sessions start at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. Topics important to your farm business will be covered, including how the new programs can work for you and tips on how to complete the 2008 Harmonized form.

For more information on AgriInvest and AgriStability, call Steve Tattrie (902) 893-6347 or visit www.agr.gc.ca/agristability or www.agr.gc.ca/agriinvest

Pesticide Certification and Recertification Course Schedule 2009

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

Recertification:

Feb. 27, 2009, Nappan Pavilion, Amherst
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
\$ 75 (incl. tax)
March 3, 2009
AgriTech Park, Truro
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
\$ 75 (incl. tax)

Certification:

March 4 – 5, 2009
AgriTech Park, Truro
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$ 185 (tax and manual incl.)
Please call (902) 798-2114 to register.

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

If you are applying for a pesticide licence for the first time, or your current licence is due to expire and you have not collected any recertification points, then you should take a certification course. Alternately you may arrange to write the pesticide application exam at a Department of Environment office.

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

Twilight Blueberry Meeting

Weed Management Strategies

Tuesday March 31, 6:30 p.m.,
Parrsboro Fire Hall

Speakers:

Peter Burgess; IPM Coordinator,
AgraPoint
Rick Hoeg; EFP Environmental
Technical Support, NSDA
Nathan Boyd; Vegetation
Management Research Chair, NSAC

Open to wild blueberry producers interested in new approaches to controlling weeds in their fields. There will be two points available for the NSDE pesticide recertification program.

February 24 – 26, Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel Ottawa. For more information contact: (613) 236-5749, e-mail: suzanne@cfafca.ca or visit the web site: <http://www.cfa-fca.ca/pages/home.php>

February 27 – 28, 9th Annual ACORN Organic Conference and Trade Show, Holiday Inn, Truro, Nova Scotia. For more information: <http://www.acornorganic.org/conference.shtml>

March 5 – 7, Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show, Moncton, NB. For more information: <http://www.farmmechshow.com/>

February 25, National Farmers Union presents: The Farm Crisis and the Cattle Sector: Toward a New Analysis and New Solutions Moncton, NB 7 p.m. for more information: <http://www.nfu.ca/>

News From Halifax East Hants Federation

Hello all, hope everyone is having a great new year! With respect to fresh starts, I would like to introduce myself, Lindsay van de Riet, as the new term secretary of the Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture.

We have a tentative date for our annual friendly curling competition with the Stewiacke Federation of

Agriculture for Saturday, February 28, starting at 8 p.m. After the curling, we usually have a potluck social. All are welcome and a contribution dish (chili, dessert etc.) would be more than appreciated by all!

For more information for this event or any concerns please contact Lindsay at: vanderietl@nsac.ca or (902)758-3874.

Central Region 4-H News

National 4-H Awards

Three 4-H members from the Central region were chosen for 4-H National awards. The three members are: Kelly Smith of the Linden 4-H Club in Cumberland County; Hillary MacDonell of the Shu-Mil 4-H club in Halifax-East Hants County; and Nicole MacKenzie of the Stewiacke Valley 4-H club in Colchester County. These three 4-H members will attend the very prestigious National Citizenship Seminar which is held in Ottawa from March 27 to April 2, 2009. The rest of the awards will be announced at 4-H weekend in May. Congratulations goes out to all three members. We wish them the best of luck on their travels.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: February 23, March 23, and April 27, at the Farm Loan boardroom NSAC campus at 7 p.m. Colchester County Exhibition Committee Meetings: February 9, March 9, and April 13, at the Farm Loan boardroom, NSAC campus at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee meetings: February 3, March 3, and April 7, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m. Halifax County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings: February 10 (Campbell Hall), March 10 (Hardwoodlands), and April 14 (Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit) at 7 p.m.

Public Speaking and Demonstrations Rallies

Cumberland County Rally, Saturday March 28, Pugwash District High School
Halifax County Rally, Saturday March 28, St. Bridget's Catholic Church
Colchester County Rally, Saturday April 4, Onslow Junior High School
Central Regional Rally, Saturday April 18, Old Barns Elementary School

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

Pesticide Recertification and Certification Courses

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a pesticide recertification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on April 3, 2009. This five-hour course provides five recertification points to current holders of a pesticide applicators licence.

ProAgri Consulting is looking for individuals interested in taking a Pesticide Certification course in the

Mabou Area scheduled for April 2009 for anyone wishing to prepare and write the test for the Pesticide Applicator's Licence. This course will only be offered if there are enough people registered.

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

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 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list or you are looking to purchase hay, please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

4-H 2009

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

The 4-H communities are starting another calendar year and are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead. Many programs are looking at helping our members and leaders grow in the areas of agri-awareness, leadership, meeting managements, communications and project skills. These opportunities are making the future a great place for 4-Her's in the Cape Breton region. "4-H, 2009 Is the Year to Shine" is the theme for this year. Members will base poster and club displays with this in mind. The logo and theme will highlight the efforts of 4-H in the province in 2009.

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

4-H junior members from Cape Breton will have a second workshop at the North Sydney Exhibition grounds on Friday, February 27th. These workshops give our junior members an opportunity to polish their 4-H skills and help them during their 4-H year. The workshops focus on hands-on activities and opportunities to meet other members. Members will learn about judging, running a meeting, poster making, recreation, 4-H & agriculture through games, speakers and activities. The workshops are open to 4-H members 9-13 years of age. In case of bad weather, cancellations will be aired on local radio stations.

Learners Today – Leaders Tomorrow

The Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow conference is a dynamic mix of powerful speakers and interactive activities that will challenge you to be the best leader you can be in your 4-H club, community and on a local and global level. Socialize with old friends, meet new people, develop business skills as well as personal and leadership skills. The conference will take place at the Debert Hospitality Centre in Debert, Nova Scotia. Applications are due at the Mabou 4-H office by February 6th. The fee is \$55 per member.

Rally Time

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

Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Youth Tour

The first Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Memorial Youth Leadership Tour will be hosted in the Cape Breton region. Kevin Grant, a long time 4-H participant, government public servant and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H Program, has provided a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. After careful consideration of his wishes, the foundation has developed the Rural Youth Development Tour named in his honor. The Leadership Tour will be held in different locations across Nova Scotia each year during the school March Break. This year, it will be held March 16-18th. Ten 4-H members from across the province, between the ages of 14 to 16, have been selected to participate. The Tour will allow 4-H members to learn more about a specific region of the province: the community, the rural community leaders, the local area's resource-based businesses and rural employers. The participants will meet the leaders, tour and understand their business and their part in the community (examples include agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, mining, value-added facilities). The conference component will include meeting community group leaders/members and discussing roles of the various rural organizations in the area, such as volunteer fire departments, the Federation of Agriculture, local politicians). Participants will join local 4-H members in various activities, including bowling, swimming, pizza party, etc. This is an excellent way for 4-H members to experience our 4-H regional communities and bring back new ideas and experiences to their regions. Contact the Sydney 4-H office if you would like to help us welcome our tour delegates in March with some Cape Breton 4-H spirit.

Students in Business - iPod touch Contest

Richmond and Inverness County 4-Her's

Want to win an iPod touch?

From January 19 to March 27, 2009, Students in Business (SIB), in partnership with InRich Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC), will be offering one lucky student or 4-H member an iPod touch. There are three easy ways to obtain an entry. You can attend an information session about Students in Business, meet with Cape Breton's Outreach Facilitator to discuss the program, or submit an application and business plan for 10 chances to win. You must be eligible for the SIB program to enter the contest (see details below) and be a resident of Richmond or Inverness Counties.

- Do you know where you will work this summer? Will you set your own schedule?
 - Do you think you can guarantee savings up to \$1250? Will the job be interesting work that you want to do?
- If you said no to any of the above, Students in Business might be for you!

The Students in Business program is a government-sponsored, non-profit program that supports Nova Scotia students who want to explore entrepreneurship and operate their own business. To participate, full-time students must be between the ages of 15 and 34 and a resident of Nova Scotia for at least six months. SIB offers up to \$5000 as an interest-free, flexible repayment business loan, free training, networking opportunities and more. Throughout the process of the loan, students are encouraged to participate in training and mentoring for a chance to receive a 25% rebate on their loan (e.g. a \$5,000 loan with a 25% rebate provides \$1,250 back to the student). For more information about SIB or our iPod touch contest, please contact Bailey MacIntosh, Students in Business Outreach Facilitator (Cape Breton) at 902 539-4332 Ext. 2 or e-mail at bailey.macintosh@cbdc.ca or mark.sparrow@cbdc.ca

4-H Camp Rankin Spotlight

Bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. This is our 4-H camp that has provided many 4-H memories over the years and will continue into the future. Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. Camp Rankin originated 35 years ago as a Centennial Project of Richmond County 4-H Leaders' Council and is owned and operated by this group. Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada. 4-H members between the ages of 9-15 spend six fun-filled days with fellow 4-H'ers. There are a variety of

educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Each day ends with a chapel service by the campfire, sing-song, and lunch. Members participate in drama, nature studies, 4-H trivia, canoeing, recreation activities, arts and crafts and much more.

Applications are available from your general leader, local 4-H office, or online. Acceptance is on a first-come first-serve basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week and application deadline is May 1st, 2009. Don't forget about our mini camp to be held again this year. Let's keep this 4-H tradition alive and well in Cape Breton!

4-H Craft Workshop – Spring

4-H members, leaders, parents, and friends are invited to participate in the Spring Craft Homemaking Workshop in Baddeck on May 23, 2009. Various craft projects will be offered to give fresh ideas for members and leaders alike. All registration fees must accompany the application. The deadline for submission is May 5, 2009. The program will start at 9:30 a.m. All applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. Applications can be obtained from your local 4-H office.

4-H Resources

The new list of resource materials is coming soon with the production of a new foods leader manual and CD option. These will also include an activity guide and recipe book which will be formatted and print ready for membership. Communications and resource staff will also be looking at a scrapbooking leaders guide. Keeping members and leaders current in project information is one of the many goals of provincial staff.

Provincial Show

The Provincial 4-H Show is one of our biggest and most exciting 4-H events. The Provincial Show is an opportunity for 4-H counties to showcase their best project work and compete for top honors in livestock and life skills project areas. The Provincial Show will be held from October 2-4 this year.

National 4-H month

This November capture the 4-H spirit as 4-H members, volunteer leaders and supporters celebrate National 4-H Month across Canada. The month-long celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the many benefits of the 4-H program, which continues to help thousands of youth in Nova Scotia reach their full potential. 4-H has been bringing leadership and development programs to Nova Scotia's young people since 1922 when the first 4-H club began as a boys and girls club in Heatherton, Antigonish County. This 4-H club was an Ayrshire heifer and swine club comprised of fourteen members. Since its early beginnings, the 4-H program has evolved to offer leadership training, public speaking,

technical and life skills to youth from 9-21 years of age.

We have so much to celebrate! In a national survey conducted by the Canadian 4-H Council and Ispos-Reid, 4-H Alumni across Canada were polled for their attitudes towards the 4-H program. The results strongly indicated that the 4-H program continues to help and develop youth across Canada. Seventy eight per cent of those surveyed felt the knowledge and skills gained in 4-H continue to benefit them in their adult years. Sixty-nine per cent said parents and families benefit from their children's membership in 4-H.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

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

- Mar. 4 Doreen Mackley, CB Exhibition Grounds –
105 Reagent St., North Sydney
- Mar. 18 Mike Gardiner, Marconi Campus – Room A147
- Apr. 15 Mike Gardiner, Marconi Campus – Room A147
- Apr. 29 Doreen Mackley, CB Exhibition Grounds –
105 Reagent St., North Sydney
- May 12 Carrie Fraser, Inverness County Centre for the Arts
- May 13 Mike Gardiner, Marconi Campus – Room A147
- May 27 Doreen Mackley, CB Exhibition Grounds –
105 Reagent St., North Sydney
- June 17 Mike Gardiner, Marconi Campus – Room A147

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

Upcoming Events

Here are some important dates to add to your calendar.

- Junior Member workshop - Feb. 27, North Sydney Exhibition grounds
- Provincial Senior Members Workshop - Feb. 28, March 1, Debert
- Cape Breton Co. Council Meeting - March 3 & April 7, Civic Center at 7:00 pm
- Camp Rankin Job Opportunity - March 15, deadline for applications
- E.B.I deadline - March 31
- Camp Rankin Scholarship - April 1, deadline
- Victoria Co. Rally - April 4, Baddeck Forks Hall
- Cape Breton Co. Rally - to be announced, hosted by North Side 4-H
- Inverness Co. Rally - to be announced, hosted by Scotsville Lakers
- Cape Breton Regional Rally - April 18, Baddeck Academy 10:00 am
- 4-H Camp Rankin deadline applications - May 1
- 4-H Weekend - May 8-9, Agricultural College, Truro - application due Monday, April 20
- Royal Dairy Classic Pre-registration forms - due May 15 (attached to dairy newsletter)
- CB County Judging Day - May 19, North Sydney
- CB County Horse Judging Day - May 20, location to be announced
- Richmond County Judging Day - May 27, Sampsonville
- Lakeside Achievement Day - May 27, Sampsonville
- Richmond Co. 4-H Show - June 4-6, Camp Rankin

Important Reminder

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

**"Get Connected ...
Farm Mech 2009!"**



**ATLANTIC
FARM MECHANIZATION
SHOW**

March 5-7, Moncton Coliseum –
www.farmmechshow.com – drop by
the Agriculture office for your
brochure and \$5 discount entrance
coupon!

Pesticide Certification/Recertification

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. has
scheduled several pesticide training
courses.

- **Recertification**, Truro, Tuesday,
March 3 at the Agri-Tech Park,
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$75 (5 points)
- **Certification**, Truro, March 4 and 5
at the Agri-Tech Park,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days - \$185
Please call Sarah or Traci at (902)
798-2114 to register.

ProAgri will also come to this area to
present courses if the numbers
warrant. If you are unable to attend
the above courses and would like to
attend one in your area, please call
the Agriculture office at (902) 863-
4705.

First Aid on the Farm

Farming is one of Canada's most
hazardous occupations. Dealing
with heavy machinery, unpredictable
animals, dangerous chemicals and
farm activities increase the
likelihood of injuries occurring. First
Aid On the Farm, taught by St. John
Ambulance, will cover topics such as
farm hazards, shock, burns,
poisoning, heart attack, stroke and
much more. Please check your card
to see that it has not expired.

A course has been scheduled for
Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to
4:30 p.m. The training session will
be held in the Department of
Agriculture boardroom unless
otherwise notified. The cost of the
course is \$55 per person. Please call
Lauren at (902) 863-4705 to pre-
register by February 25, 2009.

Corn Planter Clinic

Bill Thomas of AgraPoint will be
hosting a corn planting clinic at
Bekkers Farm on Tuesday, February
17. This hands-on clinic is for corn
planters ONLY. It is not designed
for corn growers.

Cape John Community

Pasture will hold their annual
meeting Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at
8 p.m. at the Plymouth Fire Hall.

AgriInvest – Steven Tattrie,
Programs and Business Risk
Management will be taking
individual appointments Tuesday,
February 24 at the Antigonish office.
If you would like an appointment,
please call Steven directly (902) 893-
6374, toll free 1-866-844-4276 or
call Lauren at (902) 863-4705.

Zone II Meeting

The next meeting of Zone II Cattle
Producers will be held at East Pictou
Middle School Monday, March 2,
2009, at 7 p.m.

Good Food Box Program

The Voices Good Food Box Program
started as a pilot project in October
2007 in partnership with the
Braemore Co-op. The Food Box
includes a supply of locally-
produced, fresh produce for pick-up
and/or delivery from the local Co-op.
The pilot program resulted in five
deliveries of locally produced foods
(grown in Nova Scotia) over a 10-
week period delivered to central pick
up locations for approximately 35
customers /households. The pilot
project helped in working out the
logistics to gauge community
interest and assessing the feasibility
of the local market's ability to supply
the demand. The pilot project also
allowed us to work with interested
producers to plan in advance to
supply the food box program.

In 2008, the program was extended
from July to November with
approximately 30 customers/
households ordering every two
weeks. This year's program was able
to feature foods almost exclusively
from Antigonish County or the
surrounding area. The program also
produced a flyer, which included
recipes to educate customers on how
to use their seasonal food and
featured a profile on the producers
who were supplying for the box.

We are planning for another season
of the Good Food Box Program for
2009. We would like to start meeting
with producers now, including those
who have supplied for the program

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in the past, as well as anyone who thinks they may be interested in joining. You do not have to be a large producer to be involved. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m. to discuss options and what would be necessary from a producer point of view to enable involvement. This meeting will be held at the Department of Agriculture boardroom on Beech Hill Road. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there! For more information please contact Christine Johnson, Voices Co-Chair at (902) 867-3224 cjohnson@stfx.ca.

Local Food Guide in Antigonish

When we choose to buy local, we are choosing quality. By buying local we are also supporting our local farming families which strengthen our community and are an important way to encourage sustainable development in rural communities. Benefits can include increased access to wholesome foods, healthier communities, more farmers and food producers who can make a living from their work, more money staying in local economies, an increase in the volume and quality of local food, and fostering a sense of community.

The Antigonish Regional Development Authority, in cooperation with GASHA, the Department of Agriculture, and Voices, is creating a local food guide and would like to invite local food producers to participate. There will be no cost to you for publishing your business name and contact information in the guide.

In order to promote local food production, consumers need to understand these benefits as well as know where farms and local markets are located. By creating a local food

guide we will be supporting Antigonish County businesses that are growing and selling local food. This guide will include general and contact information about your product. Specifically we are targeting businesses that interact directly with the public. If you choose to participate in this project, you are agreeing to have your business name and contact information published in the guide.

4-H Update

The 2009 4-H Year is up and running and to date we currently have seven clubs in Antigonish County with 302 members/cloverbuds and 95 volunteer leaders; one club in Guysborough County with 11 members and four volunteer leaders; and eight clubs in Pictou County with 165 members/cloverbuds and 89 volunteer leaders. Without the dedication of these volunteer leaders we could not offer the wide selection of projects to our members, so we thank you all for giving your time and talents to the 4-H Program.

All new 4-H leaders are reminded to complete and return the screening forms that were mailed out in Dec/Jan and to attend one of the new leader training sessions listed below. If you are unable to attend a session, you can do an online training session found on the 4-H website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/screening/infosession.shtml>

Participating in a public speaking rally is an opportunity for our members to learn public speaking skills by either giving a short speech or demonstration at the club level and then possibly going on to compete at the county, regional or provincial levels. If you ask former 4-H members what the most valuable skills they have taken away from 4-H, public speaking is almost

You are also willing to be contacted by the public who wish to purchase your product or use your services.

Our goal is to have the guide printed by spring 2009 and to begin distributing the guide shortly after. For more information or questions please do not hesitate to contact Heather Myers, Antigonish Regional Development Authority, (902) 863-1409, hmyers@antigonishrda.ns.ca.

always at the top of the list. Many of our clubs ask local community members to assist at these rallies by volunteering their time as a judge. If you receive a call to help out, we ask that you consider being a part of this worthwhile event!

The 4-H Senior Members Conference "Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow" will be held February 28 to March 1, at the Debert Hospitality Centre. This conference is a dynamic mix of powerful speakers and interactive activities that will challenge our senior members to be the best leaders they can be within their clubs, communities and on a local and global level.

The second day of the conference has been opened up to invite leaders, farmers, farm organizations, and Womens' Institute members to hear our keynote speakers for the conference. Mark Essay, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, will speak on "Living the Big Life." This invigorating hands-on session allows participants to explore the benefits of being involved in 4-H and how their personal style of leadership cannot only enhance their own experience but also motivate and inspire those around them. Enthusiasm is contagious. Find out how to be the leader who people want to be around

and at the same time live your own BIG LIFE! Gerry Sullivan of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador will speak on "The Power of Laughter." This interactive and dynamic workshop allows participants to discover the importance of laughter in their work and family life. When the participants finish this workshop they will be armed with the knowledge and resources to take a little stress out of their life. Please contact Rachael at the 4-H office in Antigonish: (902) 863-7501 by February 12 to pre-register as spaces are limited.

The annual provincial 4-H fund raising campaign will be underway during the month of March. Members will be selling Cadbury Chocolate Bars (made in Canada!) for the price of \$2. Please support your local 4-H members when they arrive at your door.

Upcoming dates for Antigonish County

- Feb. 10 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 10 New Leader Workshop, noon – 1 p.m.
OR 6 – 7 p.m.
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Senior Members Conference
- Mar. 10 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 10 New Leader Workshop, noon – 1 p.m.
OR 6 – 7 p.m.
- Mar. 18 Last date for entries for the county rally
- Mar. 28 Antigonish County Rally, Antigonish Education Centre
- Apr. 7 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 7 Exhibition Committee Meeting, 8 p.m.

Upcoming Dates for Pictou County

- Feb. 13 Bowling, 8 – 10 p.m., Heather Bowling Lanes, New Glasgow cost \$5
- Feb. 25 New Leader Training Workshop, noon – 1 p.m., 4-H office Pictou
6 – 7 p.m., Northumberland
- Feb. 25 Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Northumberland
- Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Senior Members Conference, Debert Conference Centre
- Mar. 14 Swimming, 6 – 7:30 p.m., Pictou Fisheries Pool, Pictou, Free of charge
- Mar. 25 Council Meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H office
- Mar. 27 Pictou County Rally, 5:30 p.m., Northumberland

Upcoming Events

Gardening Information Day

Bill Rose is inviting everyone who is interested in gardening to an information session. It is open to those who would like to know more about gardening and those who would be interested in sharing their experiences with others.

Bill Rose is well known for his excellent organically-grown vegetable garden.

When: Saturday, Feb. 14

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Location: Wesleyan Church, Ellis Road, Yarmouth

Tri-County Local Food Systems: Exploring the Possibilities Together

When: February 20, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Anyone with an interest in local food

Where: Yarmouth Lion's Club, 58 Parade St.

Cost: Free

Purpose of the day:

- explore local food systems
- connect people who have ideas about local food, local food systems and a sustainable food supply
- create opportunities to move forward together

A delicious local lunch will be catered by Gary Kent and the Old World Bakery.

Please RSVP to Ruthie Allen Hamilton by February 13.

Call (902)749-1994 or email thisistheday@ns.sympatico.ca

DCFA Organic Growers Club

- Meets the last Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the boardroom of the Weymouth office of the Department of Agriculture, 4459 Hwy 1. Topics and speakers for upcoming meetings are:

- February 23, "Green Manure Crops", Rupert Jannasch, Organic Farmer
 - March 30, "Composting", Av Singh, Organic and Rural Development Specialist with AgraPoint
 - April 27, "Post Harvest Storage of Organic Fruits and Vegetables", Dr. Charles Forney with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Cost: NSFA members free, all others \$5.
Sponsors: Digby County Federation of Agriculture, NS Department of Agriculture

Yarmouth Organic Growers Club

- Meets the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., in the boardroom of the Yarmouth office of the Department of Agriculture, 3 Lovitt Street, Suite 101. Topics and speakers for upcoming meetings are:

- February 24, "Sourcing Organic Seeds" Gilberte Doelle, Organic Farmer
 - March 31, "Composting", Av Singh, Organic and Rural Development Specialist with AgraPoint
 - April 28, "TBA"
- Cost: Free
Sponsors: Yarmouth County Federation of Agriculture, NS Department of Agriculture

Stress Management Workshop

Feeling pressured by financial strain, low commodity prices, high input costs, family issues, illness, working off farm to make ends meet, livestock disease outbreaks? Then this workshop is for you. Trained specialists will provide tips and techniques to managing the stress in your life.

Date: March 28

Location: Boardroom of the Weymouth office of the Department of Agriculture, 4459 Hwy 1

Time: 1 – 4 p.m.

Cost: Free

Sponsors: Digby County Federation of Agriculture, NS Department of Agriculture, Canadian Mental Health Association - Yarmouth, Digby Shelburne Branch

Space is limited so please register early by calling the Weymouth office at (902)837-5161

Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Program

NSAC is pleased to offer the Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Program in a community near you!

If you have a Class 8 drivers license and operate tractors on Nova Scotia roads, you must pass this course to get certified to legally haul trailed implements on the road with your tractor.

This course will increase awareness and test competency of Nova Scotia youth aged 14 - 16 with regards to safe operation and use of farm tractors and implements. Topics such as safety, highway regulations, pre-operation checks, safe starts, stops, connecting and hauling various implements will be covered.

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

Please note: All participants must have at least 10 hours of supervised tractor driving experience before taking this course.

Courses in the Region -

Valley Industries, Lawrencetown
March 21 – 22, 2009

Tuition - \$110

To Register - download the form from <http://www.nsap.ca/cde/courses/contract/tractsafe-csf.pdf>

If there is sufficient interest, a course could be arranged for Digby/

Yarmouth. If you would like to see a course offered in the Digby/Yarmouth area, please call the Weymouth office at (902) 837-5161 and get your name on the waiting list.

Pro-Agri Consulting is once again offering pesticide certification and pesticide recertification courses. A list of the courses is enclosed with this newsletter. Unfortunately none of the courses are in the Western Region. If you are interested in seeing one or both of these courses offered in the region, please call the Weymouth office at (902) 837-5161 and get your name on the waiting list.

Pasture Management Seminar and Tour

Date: April 18
Location: Weymouth (specifics TBA)
Time: TBA
Cost: TBA
Sponsors: Digby County Federation of Agriculture, NS Department of Agriculture, AgraPoint

Direct Marketing Workshop

Tentative Date: Saturday, April 4, 2009
Tentative Location: Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth, Clare/Argyle room
Time: 9:45 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Cost: TBA

This one-day workshop covers aspects of direct marketing and its potential to impact your farm business. An overview of direct marketing options will be presented, along with detailed information on how to evaluate the potential impact of on your farm.

Three types of direct marketing to be covered include: farmers' markets, roadside markets and community support agriculture (CSA), with guest speakers who successfully implemented each of these methods. Sponsors: Yarmouth County Federation of Agriculture, NS Department of Agriculture, AgraPoint

4H News and Events – 2009

DATE	EVENT	COUNTY
Feb. 15	Ski Martock Trip	Annapolis
Feb. 18	Leaders Council Mtg.	Yarmouth
Feb. 19	Leaders Council Mtg.	Digby
Feb. 21	CPR/FIRST AID Course	Annapolis
Feb. 28–Mar. 1	Senior 4-H Members Conference, Truro	Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth
Mar. 1–31	Chocolate Bar Sales, 4-H Fundraiser	Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth
Mar. 7	Craft Workshop	Annapolis
Mar. 11	Leaders Council Mtg.	Annapolis
Mar. 13–14	Chat-a-rama, Camp Hillis Senior Members	Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth
Mar. 18	Leaders Council Mtg.	Annapolis
Mar. 19	Leaders Council Mtg.	Digby
Mar. 21	Scrapbooking Workshop Place, TBA	Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth
Apr. 1	Small Steps Program	Annapolis
Apr. 4	County Rally	Annapolis, Digby
Apr. 5	County Rally	Yarmouth
Apr. 8	Leaders Council Mtg.	Annapolis
Apr. 15	Leaders Council Mtg.	Yarmouth
Apr. 16	Leaders Council Mtg.	Digby
Apr. 18	Regional 4-H Rally, Yarmouth	Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth

The 15 clubs in the region have various meeting dates and activities. The events listed above are for the Western Region.

Digby County Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting

Date: April 14
Location: Clare Service Club - Grosse Coques
Time: 7 p.m.
Keynote Speaker: Henry Vissers, Executive Director, NSFA
All registered and non-registered farmers are welcome to attend (only registered farmers can vote). Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.