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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



October 2009

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 10 No. 4

Amendments to Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act

Marshlands will be managed more efficiently with amendments to the *Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act* introduced on September 23.

The act allows for the management of dykes and marshlands in the province for agriculture. The proposed amendments were identified by the marshland administrator.

“While the changes to the *Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act* are primarily administrative, they do make sure the act is current and addresses our current needs for

marshland management,” said John MacDonell, Minister of Agriculture. “Marshlands are an important part of agriculture and the province's landscape.”

Some of the changes include permitting marshland owners to form groups to collectively manage the marshland, allowing for construction, repair and maintenance to protect, drain and improve marshlands.

The province took over management of marshlands from the federal government in 1967.

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.

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New Vice President of Research, Extension and Outreach

Dr. Richard Donald joins the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) as the new Vice President of Research, Extension and Outreach. Dr. Donald will be working closely with the research community at the NSAC, as well as NSDA, AgraPoint and other provincial agriculture departments.

“I am pleased to welcome Dr. Donald to NSAC,” said John MacDonell, Minister of Agriculture. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position that will help focus NSAC's efforts on innovation, research and outreach for Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.”

Playing a primary role in cultivating NSAC's research capacity for the

agri-food and bio-resource sectors, Dr. Donald is excited about his new role. “NSAC is uncovering the emerging challenges facing agriculture and the agri-food industry. We conduct research to address those challenges and transfer the results back to industry,” said Dr. Donald. He is interested in promoting careers in these areas and engaging the consumer in agriculture.

For the past three years, Dr. Donald has led a team in identifying international markets and developing partnerships worldwide in his role as Principal and Business Unit Director, International at Jacques Whitford Limited in Halifax.

Dr. Donald brings a wealth of experience to the role as previous NSAC Research Fellow (1992-93) and as both a private and independent industry consultant in the areas of environment and agronomy. He holds a BSc from Mount Allison, MSc from University of Guelph and a PhD from University of Saskatchewan. He lives in Halifax with his wife Jennifer and his two teenage daughters.


NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture

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

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Farmers still have time to participate in 2008 AgriInvest. The deadline to submit a form (which is harmonized with the AgriStability form) was September 30, 2009. Farmers can submit their 2008 AgriInvest form until **December 31, 2009**, but their matchable deposit will be reduced by five per cent for each month or part of the month that the application is received after the September 30, 2009 deadline.

Farmers can withdraw the 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.

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 or call AgriStability toll-free 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 to 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 or 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.

Programs Update

The Farm Investment Fund (FIF) closed to new applications as of September 4, 2009. As in every year, program closure occurs when the budget has been fully allocated to eligible applicants. This year there were approximately 600 successful applicants, with over 2000 projects approved.

You are encouraged to claim projects as they are completed, which may help you cash manage for multiple approved projects. There is no limit to the amount of claims you may submit.

The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF) program is currently open, with over 90 applications to date. These include applications to the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund (SIIF) and the Direct Marketing Community Development Trust (DMCDT) categories. The initial Committee meeting to review these proposals has occurred. Applications are still being accepted for AFIDF program categories A through E.

The Innovation Fund has received 59 applications for all categories to date. Categories B and C have closed and the review committees have been scheduled to assess 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.

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

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year, an application must be received and an on-site 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, 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, and the Orchard and Vineyard Transition program may be accessed at the following web site: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm. Questions? Contact Programs & Business Risk Management (PBRM) office at (902) 893-6510 or toll-free 1-866-844-4276.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee

Who are they and what do they do?

The NS Agricultural Awareness Committee is a partnership of government, industry and rural organizations and has been in place for over 18 years. Over that time the intent has been to enhance knowledge, understanding and appreciation of all Nova Scotians for agriculture and the

agri-food industry. The committee does this by taking a leadership role in development and implementation of agricultural awareness initiatives for the public, as well as the school system.

Representation on the committee has evolved over time. The current membership includes:

Representative Designation

Agricultural Awareness Coordinator	Ex-officio
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Government (federal)
NS Department of Agriculture - Resource Stewardship Branch	Government (provincial)
NS Agricultural College - Recruitment Office	Government (provincial)
NS Department of Education	Government (provincial)
NS Department of Health Promotion and Protection	Government (provincial)
Agri-Business Representative	Industry
NS Federation of Agriculture - staff	Industry
NS Federation of Agriculture - Council of Leaders Representative	Industry
NS Federation of Agriculture - producer rep	Industry
NS Federation of Agriculture - producer rep	Industry
Producer Representative	Industry
Producer Representative	Industry
Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia	Rural Organization
Young Farmers Forum	Rural Organization

How can you get involved?

If you have ideas that you want to share with the committee, contact the Agricultural Awareness Coordinator at grantjd@gov.ns.ca or the Ag Education liaison at hoegr1@gov.ns.ca. You can reach either through the 4-H and Rural Organizations office at (902) 893-6585.

To reach one of the committee members, check the website www.gov.ns.ca/agri/agaware for the names of current members.

What if I want to join the committee?

Members of the committee meet about six times yearly - generally in Truro or Halifax. Member terms are for two years and are reviewed annually in the fall. Contact the co-chairs if you want to be involved.



Traceability Pilot at Millen Farms



John Lewis, M.Sc., P.Ag.,
Horticulturist, AgraPoint

Food safety standards continue to rise and the produce industry is now pushing for “traceability” systems that identify problems quickly and accurately. In 2009, Curtis and Ann Millen piloted the use of the FreshQC™ traceability system on their farm in Great Village. FreshQC™ is the only traceability system that tracks individual packs of produce all the way back to the picker in the field. This kind of accuracy is extremely valuable when it is necessary to track down a health or safety issue. With this system, problems can be isolated and resolved quickly, to the benefit of all parties involved. This project was funded through the Traceability Project under the Canada Nova Scotia Growing Forward Policy.

However, FreshQC™ is much more than a traceability system, it is also a quality improvement system. Curtis insists “it will improve your produce quality”. By using in-field scanners that link individual pickers to the produce they harvest, there is no hiding from doing a poor job. A unique identifier on each pack contains details about its harvest including, grower, field, picker, time of harvest, supervisor, crop, and more. Also, the scanners are used to time individual pickers “in” and “out” of the field so that the productivity of individual growers can be closely monitored. The result is a greater picker accountability. This ultimately results in improved work efficiency and quality of the produce they harvest.

Another attribute of the FreshQC™ system is improved payroll efficiency

and accuracy. Because every picker is scanned in and out of a given job, they are paid for exactly the time they worked with no losses associated with errors from pickers arriving late or leaving early. Realizing this, pickers are found to be more punctual. Also, the system ensures that each pack is accounted for and paid for only once. Thus pickers are never paid for more boxes than they have picked (which can be a problem with manual tracking systems).

A great strength of the FreshQC™ system is that it takes away the burden of manual data collection. FreshQC™ automates it using the digital scanners and accompanying VirtualOne software package. The in-field data collected with the scanners is downloaded when desired and can be readily manipulated into reports in short minutes. In addition to total yields and costs, individual picking rates can be quickly monitored to assess picker productivity and performance. In fact, all farm jobs can

be accounted for accurately and precisely using the VirtualOne software package.

Another empowering feature of the FreshQC™ system is their website, (FreshQC.com) where the consumer has an opportunity to tell the grower how they felt about the produce they purchased. This kind of direct feedback is rare in today’s global marketplace and creates the kind of awareness growers need to maintain or improve their produce quality.

Finally, the FreshQC™ team is located in Florida. When asked about their customer service Ann Millen indicated it was “unbelievable”. With any new system there will be questions and it is critically important that the user has easy access to competent information.

Cost-shared funding has been available under the Agri-Food Industry Development Program for producers wishing to undertake initiatives.

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines

Raspberries - October 31
Strawberries - November 14
Blueberries - November 30
Tree Fruit - November 30

Yield Reporting:

All Crop Insurance yield-based plans require reporting of the harvested yield within 30 days of harvest. Harvest yield report forms are sent out to all clients prior to the harvest season. These reports are

essential in order to process any potential claims for payment based on reduced yields. Regardless of whether a client is in a claim, a harvest yield report must be completed and submitted to the Commission. These reports are used to build a cropping history for the next and subsequent cropping seasons. Accurate and timely yield reporting ensures you receive the best possible coverage for your farm that reflects your crop management practices.



Advance Payments Program

Once again the Soil & Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has applied to the federal government to be administrators for the fall portion of the 2009/10 Advance Payments Program (APP). The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products to eligible producers by extending to the producers an advance as a means to improve cash-flow. Any one person or any farm business is limited to an advance of \$100,000 interest free. Producers repay the advance to the Administrator as the agricultural product is sold and at the rate per unit in effect at the time of repayment. The crops proposed to be covered under the program this year are: wheat, hay, rye, grain corn, oats, barley and soybeans. Producers must have these crops in storage and allow a crop inspection to be done by an agent appointed by SCIANS. Also,

producers must agree to allow SCIANS to conduct a credit review. This will be done by a third, unrelated party. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged for producers to participate in the program. Producers who are already involved in the spring portion of the program and would like to continue in the fall portion will be charged an administration fee of 0.5 per cent of the advance. All advances must be paid back by September 2010. If you are interested in finding out more about the program or if you would like to add your name to the list to have an application sent to you, please contact Carol Versteeg (902) 758-3530 or e-mail carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca



You Can Make a Difference

By serving on one of Nova Scotia's adjudicative agencies, boards and commissions, you can play a vital role in the administration of government. Adjudicative agencies, boards, and commissions serve various roles and diverse interests. Adjudicative boards have quasi-judicial functions.

Opportunities presently available:

Farm Practices Board (2) Members
Natural Products Marketing Council (2) Members

Closing Date for applications:
November 9, 2009

For further information about the adjudicative process, board position profiles, current opportunities and how to apply, visit the website at www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/abc or contact the Executive Council office at (902) 424-4877 or toll free 1-866-206-6844.

Tractor Safety Certification

The Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Certification Program will be held in Truro at NSAC on November 7–8. It will also be held in Port Williams at VanOostrum's Farm Equipment on November 14–15.

This course is targeted, but not limited to, youth aged 14-16. Topics such as safety, highway regulations, pre-operation checks, safe starts and stops, connecting and hauling various implements will be covered.

Any current tractor operator who holds a class 8 license or higher, and has at least 10 hours tractor driving experience is welcome to attend. At the end of the course, written and driving skills tests will be completed. Participants who obtain 70 per cent on both the written and skills test will receive a certificate of achievement from NSAC and are eligible to get a condition 15 endorsement on their license.

Thank you to the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee for partially covering tuition costs for the Tractor Safety Training Program! Keep your eyes open for more information on the Tractor Certification course.

For more information visit: <http://nsac.ca/cde> or call (902) 893-6667

Dairy Focus 2010 Welcomes Cow Signals Experts



Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia is hosting Dairy Focus 2010 March 23-25 at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, Nova Scotia. The 2010 theme is "The Building Blocks of Success". Keynote speakers include Dr. Joep Driessen, from Holland, of the successful world-wide Cow Signals program. Other speakers are Dr. Limin Kung, Patrick Hoffman, Robert James, Jack Rodenburg and Daniel Scothorn. Support has been provided for this conference under the provincial Agri-Food Industry Development Fund. Information is posted on the conference website at www.dairyfocusconference.com

Hayline Still Up and Running

AgraPoint and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture are still operating a toll-free hay and forage hotline and online listing. If you have hay or forage for sale or need some, please call 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free) or visit www.extensioncentral.com for information. This service is offered at no charge. Pricing for hay is set by the seller.

Pasture, Pellets and Fly Publications On-line

The Maritime Pasture Manual is available for download at www.extensioncentral.com. The information and recommendations in the manual have been shown to be effective tools in this region for improving both animal and pasture productivity. The manual is written from the prospective that if you improve the productivity and health of the pasture, then animal productivity will improve. The manual covers a broad range of information including grazing management systems, pasture fertility, fencing, drought management, riparian management, as well as methods for extending the grazing season. Funding to produce

this manual was provided by the Agri-Futures CARD Councils of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island through a project submitted by the Hants County Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Hants County Federation of Agriculture in partnership with AgraPoint. Also available is the booklet "Managing Grass for Fuel Pellet Production in Nova Scotia" and new fly management fact sheets, prepared in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. All three publications are available from the website listed above. For more information, please call Sarah Wood at 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free).



Nova Scotia to Host 2010 Atlantic Cranberry Management Course

The Nova Scotia Cranberry Growers Association is hosting the Atlantic Cranberry Management Course, March 10-12 at the Westin in Halifax. This event is held every two years and is rotated among the four Atlantic provinces. The theme of the conference is "Raising the Production Bar: Learning and Working Together". Speakers are being added to the program daily so visit www.atlanticcranberry.ca for information as it becomes available.

Opportunities in the Evolution of Atlantic Agriculture



Canadian Association of Farm Advisors

Annual Atlantic CAFA Conference

November 12, 2009

Crowne Plaza, MONCTON, NB

Thursday, November 12

8 a.m.- 4:15 p.m.

CAFA provincial conferences are an opportunity to learn from some of the best in the field, as well as network with others who have expertise in ways that will benefit you and your clients.

CAFA thanks our sponsors for the important role they play in helping

make a difference for Canada's farm families and businesses by working to ensure that the level of advice being offered is always improving. Please consider being a conference sponsor. Contact CAFA for information – e-mail: info@cafabet.com



SPEAKERS:

Gerald Post, Nova Scotia Dept. of Agriculture: Growing Forward Programs

Steve Grady, Business Improvement Group: Scientific Research and Experimental Development

Gary Morton, Morton Horticultural Associates: How Value Adding is Changing the Definition of Agriculture

Jim Soldan, The Family Furrow / The Canadian Family Business Institute: Succession/Farming with Family... its more than a Tax Strategy!

Sarah Allen, ACSBE: Effective Communication: Enhancing Client Relationships

Producer Panel: What farmers need now from advisors and consultants

Bruce Roberts, Kelco Consulting Ltd.: Evolving Agriculture and Implications for Farm Business Advisors

**CONTACT: www.cafanet.com
or by phone: 1-877-474-2871**

The Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) Inc. is a national non-profit professional umbrella organization dedicated to assisting farm families and businesses by increasing the skills and knowledge of farm advisors and consultants.

Grow Smart: Next Steps for Developing Farmers' Markets and Vendor Businesses

**October 28, Lunenburg Fire Hall
9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Do you want to...

- increase the profitability of your market business?
- explore selling at multiple locations or days?
- learn effective sales and display techniques?
- use the web to interact with customers?
- connect with the right partners and communities?
- make sound decisions about new facilities and expansion?
- network with other vendors, managers and board members?

...then you should attend.

Grow Smart is for current and aspiring farmers' market vendors, market managers, boards, agencies and organizations interested in supporting farmers' markets (such as Regional Development Authorities and Municipalities).

Sessions include:

2009 Season in Review

- impact of the recession
- opportunities and challenges
- how markets managed challenges

Scaling Up to Smart

- increasing volume
- multi-market sales
- cooperation
- integrating other marketing options

The Remarkable Market Stall

- stall display and sales tips
- customer service
- signage

Building Relationships with Community Partners

Web and New Media

- [nsfarmersmarkets.ca/Market Websites](http://nsfarmersmarkets.ca/MarketWebsites)
- Facebook/Twitter/YouTube

Next Generation of Farmers' Markets

- managing growth
- business plans, feasibility studies
- possible funding sources
- potential pitfalls
- community partners

Pre-registration is required! Space is limited. For more information contact Claire Hanlon Smith at (902) 893-4491 or e-mail hanlonca@gov.ns.ca or

Jamey Coughlin at (902) 896-7088 or e-mail coughljp@gov.ns.ca

Marketing 101 – What Every Rural Business Needs to Know:

At one time, farmers who mastered production could count on achieving solid financial results. That is history. Today, with production expertise a given, those who seek above-average results must understand and manage other elements of their business equally well. One of the most important of these is marketing.

For many people, the whole notion of marketing can be confusing, intimidating or downright scary. CFBMC aims to demystify marketing, providing farmers and rural entrepreneurs with practical knowledge they can quickly implement in their own businesses.

If you are ready to be a better marketer and are looking for a common-sense approach, the Marketing Workshop is the place for you. In just a single day, you will learn:

- the basics of marketing: what it is and why it matters
- taking your own pulse: the marketing self-assessment
- how to choose and implement essential marketing tactics
- how other agribusinesses have used these techniques to boost sales and profitability.

Beyond this core curriculum, there is an opportunity to meet other farmers and rural entrepreneurs, share experiences and learn together in a helpful environment. When you head home, you will be better positioned to connect marketing principles to your own situation, and write and manage your own marketing plan.

Wednesday, November 4, 2009
9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre
Shannon Studio
606 Reeves St., Port Hawkesbury
Call Catherine Plumridge to register at (902) 563-2000 or e-mail plumricl@gov.ns.ca

REGISTRATION FORM - Marketing Workshop Wednesday, November 4, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre 9:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Email: Phone:

No. of People Attending:

Payment Options (\$25 per person):

Enclosed is a cheque (made payable to Department of Agriculture) in the amount of \$

Please charge (amount) \$ to my: VISA MasterCard

Card Number: Expiry Date:

Name on Visa/Mastercard:

I have special food requirements of:

Please fax, email or mail the registration form by October 26, 2009 to the attention of:

Catherine Plumridge
303-320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS, B1P 7B9
Telephone: (902) 563-2000, Fax: (902) 563-3435
E-mail: plumricl@gov.ns.ca

4-H News



Nova Scotia Delegates To Attend National 4-H Conferences

Nine 4-H members and seven 4-H leaders from Nova Scotia have been selected to attend the National 4-H Members and the National 4-H Leaders conferences in Toronto from November 4 – 8. Each year Nova Scotia selects and sponsors a group of 4-H members and leaders to attend these two prestigious 4-H events hosted by the Canadian 4-H Council.

“The Canadian 4-H program focuses on leadership development for young people. Through conferences such as this, 4-H members develop into

responsible citizens and become committed leaders in their communities,” said Arthur Pick, Manager, 4-H and Rural Organizations. “National travel awards are one aspect of the 4-H program that contribute to their personal success.”

The National 4-H Members Conference is a five-day leadership and agricultural based program involving 52 4-H members aged 16 -

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21 from across Canada and two from the United Kingdom. The theme of this year's conference is *Broadening 4-H Horizons*, reflecting the impact that individuals can make in their own lives and to their local and global community, as well as celebrating the 4-H movement.

Throughout the week, members will have an opportunity to participate on tours to a variety of agri-food or other related businesses. They will share 4-H information and meet new friends; participate in a variety of discussion sessions of special interest; meet and visit with 4-H council members/representatives and program sponsors. They will also visit points of interest in Toronto, including the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and experience live theater.

Nova Scotia members who won travel awards are: Alicia Cox, Colchester Co.; Jennifer Bent, Annapolis Co.; Emily Ripley, Cumberland Co.; Jessica Rhodenizer, Lunenburg Co.; Jarvis Pierrard, Victoria Co.; Jenna Rippey, Hants Co.; Tracey Tate and Julie Vermeer, Antigonish Co.

Forty -five outstanding volunteer 4-H leaders from across Canada will attend the National 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference, running concurrently with the 4-H member conference. A strong 4-H program depends on informed, up-to-date, and enthusiastic volunteer leaders. The program is designed to strengthen leadership qualities, to better equip leaders to creatively meet the needs of their 4-H members. It will also promote personal development in leaders, provide an opportunity for an exchange of program ideas and provide recognition for volunteer 4-H leaders through an enjoyable and educational experience.

Nova Scotia 4-H leaders attending this conference are: Melissa Welch, Digby Co.; Dianne Sinclair, Guysborough Co.; Sue Works, Cumberland Co.; Shirley Crouse,

Lunenburg Co.; Adrienne Smith, Richmond Co.; Sharlene Carter Earle, Cumberland Co. and Marion Turner, Cape Breton Co.

Nova Scotia 4-H Members To Attend the Royal Winter Fair



Seventeen 4-H members will travel to Toronto to compete in two prestigious cattle shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto this November. Participants were selected at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show on October 3 based on the quality of their calf and/ or their showmanship skills.

Eight 4-H dairy members will participate in the Royal Dairy Classic in November where they will compete against 4-H members from across Canada. The Nova Scotia participants attending the 4-H dairy show are Nicole MacKenzie, Colchester Co.; Abby MacInnis, Antigonish Co.; Heather Sweeney, Yarmouth Co.; Andrew Eikelboom, Colchester Co., Corey Charlton, Annapolis Co., Lindsay Macdonald and Lauren van Zutphen, Inverness Co.

Jeanette van der Linden, Antigonish Co., was the winner of the Versteeg Memorial Award and will travel to Toronto. This award is presented to a 4-H member based on a 50/ 50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability. The spare is Jacob Works from Colchester Co.

The dedicated work of the Royal Dairy Classic Committee and the Royal Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show Selections committee results in the 4-H members being able to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the 4-H cattle classes. The Nova Scotia committee members obtain funding sponsorship and organize this event on a provincial and national level. Annual financial support from major sponsors, producers, individuals and businesses, provide the 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.

While at the Royal, 4-H members will compete in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes, participate in a provincial display contest and spend a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

The nine members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Royal Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show are Megan Robertson, Pictou Co.; Michael Spiddell, James MacDonald and Emily Parsons, Annapolis Co.; Jennifer Dean, Antigonish Co.; Crystal Siddal and Kaitlyn McAloney, Cumberland Co.; Breagh Ross, Kings Co. and Chris Holman, Halifax-East Hants Co.

Show Your 4-H Colours and Celebrate National 4-H Month

Show Your 4-H Colours! All 4-H members, volunteer leaders, parents, family, supporters and alumni across Canada are encouraged to wear green on November 4 to celebrate National 4-H Month. 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.

In 4-H, the focus is on fun, friends, and learning cool new skills ... like creating crafts, building a website, learning all about animals, building a small engine, or making a prom dress!

“I strongly believe that children should be enrolled in some sort of group or organization. For me, I was lucky enough to have been enrolled in my local 4-H club,” said Amber Tattrie, an 18 year old 4-H member with the North Shore 4-H Club in Cumberland Co. “4-H gives a child the ability to find their creativity, learn about different things like agriculture, animals, group skills, commitment, among other things that some kids don’t have a chance to engage in.”

Young people from 9-21 years old can be a member in 4-H. 4-H encourages leadership development, care and responsibility for our resources and builds positive life skills to secure the future of rural communities. Originally the 4-H clubs consisted mainly of farm children and livestock projects. Today the 4-H program still has an agriculture base, but prides itself with moving with the times and developing projects to meet the needs of modern youth.

“Learn to do by doing. As a nine year 4-H member I can safely say that is a fitting motto for 4-H,” said Erin Thomson, an 18 year old 4-H member with the Northside 4-H Club in Cape

Breton Co. “ I have benefited endlessly on many different levels because of my involvement with 4-H. As a member, I have learned practical skills such as sewing and crafts, life skills including public speaking and interpersonal skills. I’ve learned about culture, heritage and politics by visiting my country’s capital and attending the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar. I’ve made many friends and contacts along the way. My early and long term involvement with 4-H had added many other dimensions to my life.”

4-H members can chose from over 40 projects and still *learn to do by doing*. Projects help develop technical and record keeping skills in youth while teaching them responsibility. They take pride in doing their best, making decisions and seeing projects through

to completion. Youth grow up with confidence in their own skills and talents, and the caring and sharing of community spirit. 4-H members also have the opportunity to travel on national and international exchange programs, participate in cutting-edge provincial and national conferences, as well as apply for more than \$100,000 in national scholarships.

We have so much to celebrate! A national survey of 4-H alumni conducted by Ispos Reid and commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, found that 88 percent said the key goals and objectives of 4-H are relevant to today’s youth and 85 percent of former 4-H members would recommend 4-H membership to young people.

4-H Member Wins Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

4-H members had the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for agriculture at the provincial *Young Speakers for Agriculture competition* during the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Bridgewater on October 2. Kristy Waalderboos, Cumberland Co., won the provincial competition and will represent Nova Scotia 4-H at the Canadian *Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition* at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November.

The winner of the provincial competition is sponsored by the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and must be 16 - 24 years of age as of January 1, 2009 to enter the national contest. During the competition each contestant will give a five to seven minute prepared speech on one of five selected topics.

They also have to introduce and thank another speaker. Kristy’s speech was entitled *Farming the Future: Taking Agriculture into the 21st Century*.

4-H members are encouraged to do public speaking and demonstrations along with their project work during the 4-H year. Each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions. In an Ispos Reid survey, commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, 74 per cent of 4-H alumni said their experiences as a 4-H member was very beneficial in terms of contributing to personal or career experiences later in life and in particular they indicated that the 4-H program contributed to developing public speaking and presentation skills.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on the following dates: October 24, November 7, 21. Sale of miscellaneous items will begin at 11 a.m. Sale of livestock begins at 1 p.m. Auctioneer will be Dean Manning.

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

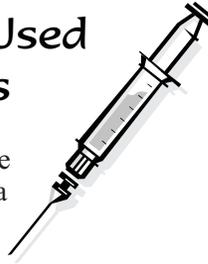
The next Lunenburg Queen's Federation of Agriculture cattle sale will be held on Saturday, October 31 at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds. Sale begins at 12:30.

County Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meetings

Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture will hold their Annual General Meeting on October 28 at the Super 8 in Windsor at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture office in Kentville still has a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps cannot be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids.



Upcoming Valley Region 4-H Events

Tuesday October 13: Hants County Council Meeting 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Middle School
Tuesday October 13: Kings County Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. Cornwallis Room at the Kentville Agriculture Centre
November 13 – 14: Nova Scotia 4-H Council Annual Meeting, Debert Hospitality Centre, Debert

Valley Region 4-H News

Fall marks the beginning of another 4-H year! Clubs are now starting to take registrations, so this is a great time to get involved with this rewarding program. The Valley region, consisting of Hants and Kings Counties, boasts a very strong 4-H program with 14 clubs that offer a wide range of livestock and life skills projects. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the 4-H program, do not hesitate to get in touch with your local 4-H office, or log on to the Nova Scotia 4-H Website to find out more information. <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/>

4-H clubs in communities all across Canada are gearing up for the month of November, which is National 4-H Month. Throughout the month, clubs will celebrate being apart of Canada's most prominent youth organization with fund raisers, socials and fun events.



NSCC International Business Student Internships

“Good people are hard to find”! Is your business involved in importing, exporting, trade-related services or part of the transportation sector? Need an extra hand? Are you overworked on certain projects? Do you have back burner projects that never seem to make it to the top of the pile? Are you planning for growth? Have you considered an NSCC student internship? Between January and April of 2010, nearly 30 job-ready students who are finishing the three-year Advanced Diploma in the International Business Program will be seeking a four-month internship to complete their credit requirements for

graduation. This program was identified as one of Nova Scotia’s top ten most innovative programs last year. A lot can be accomplished in four months. These students are keen and capable of working in almost any aspect of your company’s business. Express your interest early, contact information is provided below.

Typical Projects Include

- Customer Service Support
- Sales and Marketing Assistance
- Logistics Coordination and Support
- Market Research
- Inside Sales

- Newsletter/Website Development
- Trade Related Administrative support
- Consulting and planning support
- Customer Service Support

Interns are typically paid \$ 5,000 for the four-month internship period, but we are open to any options that will fit your needs.

Leroy Lowe, Faculty International Business

Leroy.lowe@nsc.ca (902) 893-5362

Barrie Reid, Faculty International Business

Barrie.reid@nsc.ca (902) 893-5352

Fonda Smyth, Faculty International Business

Fonda.smyth@nsc.ca (902) 893-5358

Do You Have the Proper Drivers Licence?

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

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

You must register with Michael first and have a valid drivers licence to be eligible for testing.

When: November 10, 2009

Where: NSAC Farm

Total Cost: \$55.87

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

Call Michael Kittilsen to register at: (902) 893-3645 and book your test time.

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

There is an information session on November 5, 2009 which allows you to become familiar with equipment being used on test day. If you are interested in the session, let Michael know so you can register for that event as well. The equipment being used is a 1 Tonne GMC Sierra (2000) standard truck and a Featherlite Flatdeck Trailer with a registered weight of 20,000 kg.

Soil and Crop Improvement Association Workshop

Holos ‘carbon credit potential on your farm’ workshop October 24, November 5 and November 14, presented by the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided and mileage covered. For information, visit www.scians.org, or contact Drucie Janes, SCIANs (902) 893-7724 or at: djanes@nsac.ca

Halifax- East Hants News

Just a reminder to those that have used the HEHFA rental equipment (land levelers, cow lift and lime spreader) that the fees and contacts for usage of the equipment are as follows:

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

Fees due can be mailed to Lindsay van de Riet, 234 Mill Village Road, Shubenacadie, B0N 2H0.

The Shu-Mil 4-H club is looking for interested senior members in the REAL SKILLS project. The Real Skills project would allow members to build their portfolio, with such certifications as first aid and food handling, volunteer/ job experience and how to construct a good resume. This would be on a county basis including Riverside, Hardwoodlands and Shu-Mil. For more information contact your general leader.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

October 26, November 23, at the Farm Loan board room NSAC campus at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee Meetings:

October 19, at the Farm Loan board room, NSAC campus at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee meetings:

November 3 and December 1, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

County Awards Nights

October 17 - Cumberland County awards night and banquet, Amherst Lion's Den at 7 p.m.

October 22 - Halifax-East Hants County awards night and banquet, Campbell Hall in Shubenacadie at 7 p.m.

October 24 - Colchester County awards night and scholarship auction, Bible Hill Junior High at 7 p.m.

Provincial Events

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.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps



The Agriculture offices in Sydney and Mabou still have a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps cannot be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours or for more info contact (902) 563-2000.

Attention: Recycling Used Pesticide Containers
Here's What to Do:

- Allow the formulation to drain from the container for at least 30 seconds.
- Add at least 20 per cent of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
- Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds.
- Repeat the above procedure twice more.
- Render containers unuseable by puncturing.
- Leave label on the container.

Containers that have been handled in this way are technically suitable for disposal.

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling. You can drop off containers at the Co-op Country Store for recycling. Please see staff prior to dropping off containers. No five gallon buckets or plastic bags accepted.

Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton Agriculture office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2009-10 season. Each year the regional office receives numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feed. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list, please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses- 2009/2010

Oct. 22 Richmond Villa - St. Peter's
Oct. 28 Cape Breton University - Sydney
Nov. 7 Donkin Fire Hall - Donkin
Nov. 25 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
Dec. 16 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
Jan. 20 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
Feb. 17 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
Mar. 17 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
Apr. 7 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium
May 19 Grand Lake Road Fire Dept. - Sydney - Auditorium

Oct. 15 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Nov. 17 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Dec. 15 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Jan. 19 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Feb. 23 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Mar. 23 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Apr. 20 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
May 26 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall
Jun. 22 Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St. - Main Hall

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>

4-H Fall Update 2009

4-H: Provincial Success for Cape Breton Region 4-H!

Annual 4-H Show -Bridgewater

4-H members gathered in Bridgewater to participate in the 32nd annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show. The event was held at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds from Oct. 2- 4. "Through 4-H, young people learn technical, communication and leadership skills that help them become confident, responsible citizens and future leaders in their community," said John MacDonell, Minister of Agriculture. "I have watched my children grow and mature through the 4-H program as they to work in harmony with each other and I certainly recommend this

program to all children and adult volunteers."

The 4-H show includes technical presentations, projects and competitions that help members become confident in their abilities and acquire skills that will help them later in life. Each year, the 4-H show is held in different communities. The 2009 event was hosted by the Lunenburg County 4-H Leader's Council. "It takes a team of dedicated volunteers to organize a show of this size," said Arthur Pick, manager of 4-H and rural organizations. "A strong volunteer base is a true testament to the health of a community. These towns benefit

from the additional visitors attending the event."

Nova Scotia has the largest 4-H show in Canada for young people aged 9 to 21. There are 2,400 4-H members, 850 4-H leaders and 85 4-H clubs in the province. Events featured this year included livestock competitions and auctions, a fashion show, dog obedience and handling trials, tug of war, speaking competition, displays and selections for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. Winners from our region will be posted..

National Members /Leaders Conference - Winners

Congratulations is sent to our national award members and leader attending the national conferences at the beginning of November. Our regional winners will get an opportunity to attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and tour Toronto and surrounding agricultural areas. Delegates attending are:

Jarvis Pierrard - Victoria Co.
Marion Turner - Cape Breton Co.
Adrienne Smith - Richmond Co.

Important Dates and Notes

- Inverness sign up, Church service and banquet - October 18, Port Hood 10 a.m.
- Victoria Co. council meeting- October 20 - Peterson's
- Richmond Co. Banquet - October 25
- Cape Breton new leader training session - November 3 - 6 p.m. - Civic Center
- Cape Breton Co. meeting - November 3 - 7 p.m. at the Civic Centre
- Annual meeting - November 13-14 at Debert
- National Members Awards - Deadline for November 15
- November - National 4-H Month
- Cape Breton annual meeting and banquet- Sunday Nov. 22 (Northside hosting)
- 4-H Registration forms- (annual registration) due in 4-H office for December 1
- Leaders Travel Award -deadline is December 15 - Truro 4-H office -4-H store named "The 4-H Trail Store"-price list on line
- 2010 theme- "Join the 4-H Trend in 2010"
- Provincial Show Oct 1-3, 2010 -Truro Provincial Exhibition

As the 4-H season winds down, we would like to recognize the efforts of our 4-H leaders, members, parents and friends of 4-H. On behalf of myself and Rhonda, we would like to thank everyone for your energy and dedication this year. Your efforts are obvious in the quality of the members that our region is showcasing locally and at a provincial level.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the 4-H office in Sydney at :
phone: (902) 563-2000 ; fax:
(902) 563-3435; or the Mabou 4-H office at: phone (902) 945-2901; fax (902) 945-2858.

Antigonish Film Festival

The third Antigonish International Film Festival is to be held October 23-25. See www.antigonishfilmfest.org for a complete list of details. These are exciting films that feature culture and real life, not big screen movies. Festival pass (Access to all films), Regular: \$20; Students/Unwaged: \$5 Admission by donation at the door for those without a festival pass, space permitting.

Pass holders will have priority seating until five minutes prior to screening, at which point people without passes will be allowed in by donation, space permitting. Two films that will be featured and may be of interest to our local agricultural community are;

Island On the Edge

2008, Canada; 70 minutes

Director: Nick Versteeg; Co-Producers: Don Genova and Jason Found

Food security is an issue that affects everyone. This film looks at the history of food production on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands and what would happen to residents' food supply if the islands were suddenly cut off from the rest of the world. It also chronicles the efforts of several crusaders who grow crops, raise animals, and craft artisan food products in the face of growing competition from imports and rising costs. These visionaries imagine a world in which eating and growing food is accessible to all and is part of a healthy community, economy, and planet. The film shows why people need to get involved with supporting the local food movement. The film's producers and B.C. Minister of Agriculture Stan Hagen are featured in the film. St.F.X.U. Nicholson Hall, Rm. 151, Sunday at 4:35 p.m.

The Real Dirt on Farmer John

2006, USA; 83 minutes

Film maker: Taggart Siegel

A third-generation American farmer, John Peterson, is on a journey of success, tribulation, failure and rebirth. This film takes us through his childhood in the 1950's to the farm-crisis in the 1980's, culminating in his creation of a biodynamic, organic CSA farm serving 1500 families in the Chicago area with fresh produce. Equal parts performance artist, philosopher of the soil, and farmer, Peterson has been known to wear a feather boa with his overalls. This is the story of the transformation of an individual and his community. It is the story of the terrors of non-conformity in a traditional insular society with its resistance to change and diversity, and the necessity for innovation and risk in response to changing circumstances. Awards: Audience Award, Slamdance Festival; Grand Jury Award, San Francisco International Film Festival. St. Francis Xavier University, Nicholson Hall, Rm. 151, Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

Pictou North Colchester Annual General Meeting

October 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., at
the Central West River Fire Hall.
For more information you can
contact Joe at (902) 657-3420

Antigonish County Upcoming 4-H Dates

- Council meeting –
October 20, 7 p.m.
note this is a recent date change
- County awards –
October 25, 2 p.m., St. Andrews
Community Hall
- National 4-H Month – November
- Review NS resolutions and Council
meeting to set 2010 dates –
November 10, 7 p.m.
- NS Council annual meeting –
November 13 and 14, Truro
- Annual general meeting –
November 17, 7 p.m.

Pictou County 4-H Upcoming Dates

- Council meeting – October 29,
7 p.m., 4-H office
- National 4-H Month – November
- Church service – November 1
Location TBA
- Awards ceremony – November 10,
7 p.m., WA MacLeod School
- Annual meeting – November 18,
7 p.m., Northumberland
- Council meeting and set dates for
2010 – November 26, 7 p.m.,
4-H office
- Leaders Christmas social –
December 6, 7 p.m., Mings in
New Glasgow