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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



April 2010

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 11 No. 2

New Vegetables and Fruit Social Marketing Campaign

Fresh, canned, frozen. No matter what way they come, vegetables and fruit have nutritional value. That is the focus of a new social marketing campaign, Goodness in Many Ways, launched on March 24, to help Nova Scotians eat more vegetables and fruit.

The campaign is a partnership of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Cancer Society (Nova Scotia Division), the Department of Health Promotion and Protection. The goals are to show people the many ways to eat vegetables and fruits as well as to help them prepare tasty meals and snacks.

“We’re working to help Nova Scotians eat healthier and be more healthy overall,” said Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health Promotion and Protection. “The campaign is part of a larger effort to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families in our province.”

According to Statistics Canada, less than one-third of Nova Scotians older than 12 consume the recommended five to 10 servings of vegetables and fruit per day. Yet, a diet rich in these foods helps improve overall health as well as decrease chronic diseases like heart disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes and obesity.

“People are not eating enough vegetables and fruit for a variety of reasons,” said Menna MacIsaac, CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia. “There are real barriers, from not being able to afford to buy vegetables and fruit to knowing what to buy and how to prepare it. This campaign draws attention to the numerous ways to consume vegetables and fruit and helps to address some of these important issues.”

Research for the campaign revealed that accessibility, availability and affordability keep Nova Scotians from consuming the recommended servings of vegetables and fruit.

“Most people know that eating vegetables and fruit is necessary for a healthy diet,” said Meg McCallum, director of programs and district services for the Canadian Cancer

Society. “This campaign is unique. It’s not about telling people the number of servings they should eat, but rather, it’s about helping them understand the options, such as fresh, frozen and canned, that are available.”

Goodness in Many Ways, gives practical tips and advice on preparing meals and snacks using fresh, frozen or canned vegetables and fruit as well as how to freeze or can them when they are in season. Visit www.freshcannedfrozen.com to see the featured monthly recipe and other resources.

Phase 1 of the campaign includes TV ads, print ads for buses, bus shelters, posters, and a website. The two-year campaign is funded by the Department of Health Promotion and Protection and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

AgriInvest and AgriStability

AgriInvest and AgriStability Promotion

A representative for AgriInvest and AgriStability will be at the Farm Investment Fund information sessions listed on the next page. If you wish to make an appointment for the day when the session is in your area contact Steven Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Filling AgriInvest and AgriStability Information

This is the time of year to start submitting AgriInvest and AgriStability applications to the Winnipeg Tax Center.

When you fill out your income tax, ensure that you or your accountant is reporting your income on the AgriStability and AgriInvest Programs Harmonized Tax form and

program application. If you are in AgriStability ensure that you complete the inventory and production capacity page at the end of the application. All forms must go to the Winnipeg Tax Center for processing.

AgriInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect their income as well as 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. If you receive an AgriInvest deposit notice you have 90 days to respond by making your deposit.

You can withdraw funds from your AgriInvest account at any time by calling Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and request a withdrawal or you can send a withdrawal form by mail or fax.

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.

If you participated in AgriStability in 2009 you will automatically be enrolled for 2010 and will receive a 2010 enrolment notice soon.

New Participants – 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.

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.

Farm Investment Fund Information Sessions

A new Farm Investment Fund Program year will be launched in April. You are invited to attend one of the scheduled information sessions and receive updates on the program for the coming year. All sessions will take place in the evening starting at 7 p.m., with coffee and tea available at 6:45 p.m. We ask that you bring your Farm Investment Fund Guidelines booklet if you have received it.

INFORMATION SESSIONS:

PLACE	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Truro	April 19, 2010	7–9 p.m.	Bestwestern Glengarry 150 Willow Street
Amherst	April 20, 2010	7–9 p.m.	Super 8 Hotel 40 Lord Amherst Drive
Baddeck	April 26, 2010	7–9 p.m.	Inverary Inn 368 Shore Road
Antigonish	April 27, 2010	7–9 p.m.	Greenway Claymore 137 Church Street

Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop 2010

More than 230 growers, extension specialists, pesticide registrants, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) staff recently attended a three-day Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop at the Hampton Inn Conference Centre, Ottawa. Nova Scotia was represented by delegates from Horticulture Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, Wild Blueberry

Producers Association of Nova Scotia, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia and NS Department of Agriculture

A total of 35 projects for solutions to pest problems were selected from national priority lists for three categories: entomology, plant pathology, weeds and growth Regulators. AAFC Pest Management

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Centre staff will develop field studies to address these problems in 2011. Data collected from the studies will be compiled and submitted to the PMRA to have new pest control products registered for use through the Minor Use Registration Program.

Several of the projects selected were for pest problems that Nova Scotia growers rated as a high priority. These projects included two spotted spider mite control on raspberries; sciarid fly control on mushrooms; balsam root aphid control on Christmas trees; black root rot control on strawberries; downy mildew control on field grown head lettuce; control of cleavers and other weeds on carrots.

In addition, screening trials to try to find solutions for a fruit thinner for apples and a control for sheep sorrel in wild blueberries were also selected. Two projects for organic production were also selected. These include screening trials for controls for late blight on potatoes and downy mildew on field grown cucumber.



For more information on the results of the workshop, contact Lorne Crozier, Minor Use Coordinator, NSDA, Phone: (902) 893-6548, e-mail: crozielm@gov.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines 2010:

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.

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

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

Poultry - This plan was introduced in October 2007. It offers protection against ILT in broiler, layer and breeder flocks. All producers are

encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure that they are protected against this risk.

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

Wildlife Compensation - The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers a Wildlife Compensation Program to Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly specified crops are covered for losses as a result of wildlife damage. There are a number of other requirements to be eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/

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

Atlantic Agricultural Forum hosted by NSAC

April 22 and 23 in Truro

The Atlantic Agricultural Forum (formerly the Atlantic Agriculture Science and Communications Workshop) is taking place April 22 and 23, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Truro Conference Centre and on the NSAC Campus. With a theme to connect, innovate and renew, this two-day workshop, hosted by Nova Scotia Agricultural College, will focus on the changing face of agriculture. It will aim to connect all players in the industry by providing a forum for learning, innovation, as well as by fostering renewal, ideas, growth and partnerships. Key content areas will be sharing new technologies, research, discussing new extension methods, learning improved ways to communicate with farmers, consumers and increasing awareness of food quality, safety and traceability issues. There is limited seating for this event, so please register early. The registration deadline is April 16. Please visit the conference website for the full agenda, online registration and other conference details.

www.nsac.ca/aaf



Interest Rates

As of April 1, 2010		Three and five year interest rates are available to clients meeting risk, cashflow and collateral requirements	
Length (years)	Full term	5-year term	3-year term
1-5	3.81%	3.56%	2.72%
6-10	4.94%	4.21%	3.04%
11-15	5.56%	4.36%	3.70%
16-20	6.94%	4.43%	3.76%
21-25	7.20%	4.47%	3.80%
26-30	7.29%	4.51%	3.82%

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro (902) 893-6506

Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus, 137 College Road

Kentville (902) 679-6009

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb/

Grow Your Own 2010 Summer Workshop Series - NSAC Continuing Education

Do you like to grow your own food? Are you interested in food security? Then you will want to join us for a series of practical, hands on workshops designed to guide you through the food production journey... from soil to plate.

Start your journey with our first workshop: Building a Solid Foundation – understanding your soil and improving soil health. This workshop is an absolute must for anyone wanting to understand their soil type and how to improve the soil with the goal of producing a healthy, sustainable garden. Day One (June 11) focuses on soil types, taking soil samples and using the soil you have. Day Two (June 12) teaches how to compost, how to improve soil health and how to plan what you will grow. Take one day for \$80 or register for the complete two-day workshop for

\$150. Please call us at (902) 893-6666 or visit our website at nsac.ca/cde/courses for more information and registration.

Once you have your garden established, come back and see us in July for the second workshop called “Weeds, Tools and Pests”. We’ll teach you what tools to use in your garden, and how to use and care for them. We will also look at weeds and pests we find in our gardens, why they are there and what we should do about them. As the summer winds down, join us for the last workshop in this series as we explore ways for “Preserving Your Bounty”. We will cover topics such as food preservation principles, freezing, drying, root cellars and making jams and pickles. This workshop will give you the skills to enjoy your home grown food throughout the cold winter!



Bee Line to be Operational in Early April

At the request of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association joint pollination committee, AgraPoint has developed a Bee line that will be a volunteer listing of beekeepers and their available hives for pollination. The list will help connect blueberry growers who need bee hives to pollinate their blueberry fields, with beekeepers who have available hives to rent. The list will be accessible online at www.extensioncentral.com and postings can be made by e-mail through the website or by calling 1-866-606-4636 (toll free).

Atlantic Agronomy Workshop Slated for November 2010 in Truro

On November 4 and 5, 2010 the Atlantic Institutes of Agrologists will be hosting the Atlantic Agronomy Workshop at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro, NS. The workshop theme is "From the Farm to the Future". Keynote speaker is Michele Payn-Knoper of Cause Matters Corp. Her keynote will be Science, Soundbytes and Sex Appeal. Michele is the founder of two popular, weekly moderated Twitter chats: #agchat and #foodchat. She speaks professionally about agriculture, food, nutrition and social media as the voice behind Cause Matters Corp. She's a mom who's lived on a farm her entire life.

www.michelepaynknoper.com

The workshop will begin with an evening reception and entertainment on November 4 and kick off with the keynote November 5. Pricing and agenda to follow shortly. Rest assured there will be lots of time for interaction and networking! Book your room early by contacting the Glengarry at reservations@bwglengarry.com

For more information, contact Bob Vair at bvair@eastlink.ca or (902) 897-6742.

Adventures in Taste

Adventures in Taste is a culinary tourism program developed in joint partnership between the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Taste of Nova Scotia and the Winery Association of Nova Scotia, with support



from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. It is a province-wide collection of culinary experiences linking food producers, restaurants, farms, markets, fisheries/agri-tourism experiences, wineries and breweries, specialty food outlets, cooking schools, festivals, events, packages and more.

Since 2001 there has been an international surge in "culinary and wine tourism". It is recognized by tourism professionals as one of the most popular niches in the global tourism industry. Nova Scotia has a flourishing food and drink culture, an abundance of fresh local seafood, regional product diversity as well as

an established wine industry. All this coupled with our breathtaking scenery and world-renowned hospitality makes Nova Scotia the perfect destination for a culinary and wine tourism program.

Adventures in Taste showcases unique and memorable culinary tourism experiences authentic to Nova Scotia's culture, heritage and lifestyle. All participants in Adventures in Taste must offer a Nova Scotia food and/or beverage experience to consumers.

If you have a unique and memorable experience to offer, whether it is a restaurant, a winery, a u-pick or a fisheries experience, Adventures in Taste may be perfect for you. To learn more about how you can get involved call (902) 492-9291 or visit www.adventuresintaste.ca/participate.



EBI Showcase To Train Atlantic 4-H Members

4-H members from Atlantic Canada will participate in the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 27 - 29, 2010 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

Eastern Breeders Incorporated sponsors the two-day workshop and specialists from the company partner with Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinators with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to teach 4-H beef and dairy members the latest techniques in showmanship, clipping, marketing, display design and herd management. All skills can be used on family farms and to excel as agricultural leaders.

Learning proper animal management and preparation skills for showing cattle will prepare the 4-H members to be better contenders in the show ring and leaders in the agricultural industry. 4-H members who are 14 years of age, with a minimum of two years experience the 4-H dairy and beef projects, can attend this event. After two days of training, 4-H members compete for top honours with their calves at the beef and dairy show. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class. The show will be held on Tuesday, June 29 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. The public is welcome to attend.

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

Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, will welcome 200 4-H members, aged 9 – 15, at five one-week camps this summer from July 4 to August 6. Campers will learn skills training, leadership, and healthy living while building lasting friendships in a scenic setting on the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton. Camp Rankin offers 4-H members opportunities to learn canoeing, crafts, drama, nature, outdoors, exploring 4-H, recreation, healthy living and to socialize with youth that have similar interests. Many 4-H members that have had a great camping experience come back each year as campers and later on as camp staff. 4-H members are reminded of the May 1 deadline to register for the years camping season.

Besides providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin provides employment for seven camp counsellors aged 16 or older, a Camp Director and an Assistant Director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions.

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

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

The 4-H program is noted for the excellent life skills training young people receive in the program, including exceptional communication skills that build self confidence and poise. On May 7 – 8, 2010, 4-H members from across Nova Scotia will compete in provincial public speaking and demonstration competitions at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill.

The event hosts 250 4-H members and families from across the province. Besides communication contests, 4-H members compete in the woodsman competition and the Nova Scotia Horse Classic.

On Saturday May 8, the NSAC Alumni Theatre will be the venue for 4-H Night in Nova Scotia, a finale that showcases talented 4-H members. It presents the top overall communication winners and county entertainment as part of the evenings program. 4-H members and leaders who have won Canadian 4-H Council National 4-H Travel Awards and the winners of the provincial competitions are recognized. The public is welcome to attend all the weekend events to see the 4-H life skills program in action.

Nova Scotia 4-H Hosts Provincial and Atlantic Programs in March

Rural Leaders Conference

The 4-H and Rural Organizations Section partnered with representatives from various agricultural and rural organizations to hold the 2010 Rural Leaders Conference. There were 93 people in attendance.

The goal of the conference was to build capacity in rural leaders, to help provide social and economic health and wellness in rural communities through an interesting mix of workshops, team building activities and networking opportunities. Evaluations are complete and the positive response indicates the goals were met.

Leaders in agriculture or rural organizations were introduced to a variety of topics that helped them work towards improving their rural communities and strengthening their role in the organizations in which they are involved. Session topics included community leadership, buying local foods, rural development, volunteer recruitment and retention, communications, changing demographics, fund raising, teamwork, establishing 4-H in urban areas and the keys to maintaining vibrant rural communities.

Kevin Grant Memorial 4-H Leadership Tour

Ten 4-H members were selected to attend the second annual Kevin Grant Memorial 4-H Leadership Tour in Yarmouth. 4-H members, aged 14 – 16, from across the province attended the three day event to learn more about agriculture, municipal government and culture in that area so that they can confidently make decisions about where they choose to settle when they enter the workforce.

Kevin Grant was a 4-H member, public servant, and avid supporter of the 4-H program. The conference and tour is sponsored by a memorial fund in his name. It is designed to assist with development of 4-H members and administered through the Nova Scotia 4-H Council. Each year, the tour will be held in a different region in Nova Scotia over March Break.

Atlantic 4-H Senior Members Conference

Forty-five Atlantic 4-H members participated in the Atlantic 4-H Senior Members Conference, Go For the Green! This dynamic conference for 4-H members aged 14 – 21 introduced them to many issues that are impacting their lives now and will in the future. Conference sessions challenged them to be leaders in their 4-H club, community, locally and globally.

The two-and-a-half-day conference provided an opportunity for 4-H members to network; develop personal, teamwork and leadership skills; expand their horizons about climate change; international development; agriculture and community involvement.

Funding has been provided by the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Agri-Futures Nova Scotia, Agrium and the Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, provincial 4-H Councils.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coordinator:

Arthur Pick – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-6587
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West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg &

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macculbc@gov.ns.ca

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Dennis Moerman –
Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: (902) 837-7696
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on the following dates this spring: April 24, May 1, May 15, May 29. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

The Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture is considering a purebred sale in conjunction with their Annual Spring Cattle Sale. Any interested purebred owners may contact Peter Morine (902) 543-3011, Jim Crooker (902) 682-2211 or Wayne Slauenwhite (902) 644-2384, for more details.

Where: South Shore Exhibition Grounds in Bridgewater
 When: Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 12:30 p.m.

Update of Mailing List and E-mailing Newsletter

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

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

Think Safety

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

Now is a good time to:

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

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



4-H Weekend

This year 4-H weekend will be held May 7–8 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. Woodsman competition, horse classic, demonstrations and public speaking, are a few of the events taking place. To apply to stay in residence you can find an application

online at http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/glkit/app_forms.shtml or contact the 4-H office. Members can stay in residence for \$30. You do not have to be competing in an event to participate and stay at 4-H Weekend. Valley Region applications are due April 27 at the Kentville 4-H office.

Dates and Deadlines

- April 22: Hants County Junior Member Small Steps Conference, Windsor, O'Brien Building
- April 24: Regional Rally 1 p.m. Windsor Forks District School
- April 25: Kings County Woodsman Competition, 1 p.m., Harmony Hall
- April 27: Valley Region 4-H Weekend Residence applications due
- May 3: Kings and Hants County Summer Worker applications due
- May 1: Camp Rankin applications due
- May 3: Kings County Joint Achievement Day, Committee and monthly meeting, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 6:30 p.m.
- May 3: Kings County Council meeting, Kentville Agriculture Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- May 7–8: 4-H Weekend, Bible Hill
- May 10: Hants County Council meeting 7 p.m. West Hants Middle School
- May 15: All animal livestock registration due
- May 19: 4-H Judging Day, Hants Co. Exhibition Grounds, Windsor
- May 21-23: Fluff-n-Buff, Lawrencetown
- May 25: 4-H Judging Day, Kings Co. Bob Best's farm, Berwick

Valley Region 4-H Activities and Announcements

A New Year and a New Valley Region 4-H Newsletter!

4-H is constantly changing, with each year bringing new members, new ideas that turn into projects and new memories that will last a life time. Another new change is the face of the traditional Hants and Kings newsletters. The Valley Region 4-H office is located in Kentville, and throughout the year, staff are constantly listening and working at developing new ideas for improving 4-H within this region. As a response to the demand to keep everyone in the 4-H loop, "The Valley 4-H Link" newsletter has been created. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the members, leaders and volunteers of Hants and Kings Counties with current information throughout the 4-H year.

2010 Hants Royalty Night Results

Congratulations to all 4-H members who participated in the 2010 Hants County Royalty Night. The Hants County's winning Host and Hostess will be competing at the up-coming Regional Rally.

The following are the 2010 results:

Miss	Courtney Allison	Club: Avon
Master	Caleb Grant	Club: Rawdon 2-Way
Host	Justin Clark	Club: Newport
Hostess	Chantel O'Brien	Club: Newport

Join us for an upcoming forage grower session

April 28, 7:30-9 p.m., Truemanville Fire Hall

A good forage program is foundational to a competitive and sustainable beef, dairy and sheep industry in Nova Scotia. Join Crop Specialist Bill Thomas, Soil Specialist Amy Sangster and fellow growers for some good information and discussion on how to interpret a soil test. Other topics include using wood ash as a soil amendment as well as some practical ways to improve forage quality and keep costs down.

Advance Payment Program (APP)

Once again Soil & Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has been asked by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to administer the Advance Payment Program for 2010-2011. The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products 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 up to \$100,000 interest free. Producers repay the advance by December 31, 2010, or participate in the fall portion of the program. To participate in the fall portion of the program you must have crops in storage. These advances are then due to be paid off by September 31, 2011. The crops covered under the program and the rates assigned to them are as follows:

Barley	\$85 tonne
Corn	\$97 tonne
Oats	\$80 tonne
Rye	\$75 tonne
Hay	\$80 tonne
Soybeans	\$167 tonne
Spring wheat	\$114 tonne
Winter wheat	\$110 tonne

Producers must have crop insurance on these crops to be eligible to participate in the spring portion of the program. Also, producers must agree to allow SCIANS to conduct a credit check. (This will be done by a third party.) Producers must provide SCIANS with an assignment on the crop insurance policy for the crop. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged to producers to cover the cost of administering the program.

If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please contact Carol Versteeg (902-758-3530) or email carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca



Do You Have the Proper Drivers Licence?

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

When: May 13, 2010

Where: NSAC Farm

Total Cost: \$55.87

How: There is a 4 step process to obtain your Condition 15 Endorsement.

1. Call Michael Kittilsen to register at (902) 893-3645 and book your test time.
2. 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/default.asp>.
3. Upon completion of a successful test you will be given a form by the Driver Enhancement Officer. The form must be taken 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.

There is an information session on May 6, 2010 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) Truck and a Featherlite Flatdeck Trailer with a registered weight of 20,000 kg.



St. John Ambulance Canada

First Aid Training

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

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

Time: 8 hours (1 day)

Fee: \$70 per person

Emergency First Aid
Recertification

Time: 3.5 hours (1/2 day)

Fee: \$55 per person

Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!

Lots of 4-H activity is happening in the central region this spring! Three members are eager for the National Citizenship Conference in Ottawa from April 9-15. Kyle Kaiser, Sasha Baldwin and Kelton MacDonnel are representing this great region.

Judging days will be coming up at the end of May. Judging workshops were held in each county during March Break for members to learn techniques and brush up on their skills.

Public speaking is continuing with the Central Regional Rally on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Please contact me for the location of this event!

4-H Weekend is also coming up during May 7-8 at the NSAC campus in Bible Hill. Check out the public speaking, woodsmen competition and of course 4-H Night in Nova Scotia on May 8!

Livestock members keep your ears open for upcoming clinics within the central region. A few clinics are happening this spring for beef, light horse and rabbit. If you know of a clinic open to 4-H members please let me know!

Please contact me with any 4-H questions, concerns or how you can become involved in 4-H! We are always looking for new members, leaders, judges, and volunteers. Thanks to all who help make 4-H happen in the central region.

Yours in 4-H, Janette

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council meetings:
April 26 and May 17 upstairs in the Agridome beginning at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee meetings:
May 10 and June 14 upstairs in the Agridome beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council and Exhibition Committee meetings:
May 4 and June 1 at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax County 4-H Leaders Council meetings:
May 11 (Hants East Rural High School) and June 8 (Hants East Rural High School) at 7 p.m.

Public Speaking and Demonstrations Rallies

Central Regional Rally, April 24,
4-H Weekend, May 7-8, NSAC

County Judging Days

Halifax-East Hants: Tuesday, May 25
Colchester County: Wednesday, May 26

Cumberland County: Wednesday and Thursday, May 19 and 20 (TBD)

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact:

Janette McDonald at (902) 893-6586 or mcdonajk@gov.ns.ca Central Region Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator



Community Pastures

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

Cape Mabou	Frank Fraser	(902) 258-5898
Mira	John MacPhee	(902) 727-2542
Maplebrook	John P. MacDonald	(902) 756-2671
Little Harbor (L'Ardoise)	Arthur Sampson	(902) 587-2276
Cheticamp Island	Eli Joe Chaisson	(902) 224-2417

2010 Community Fairs

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

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT/PHONE
Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge)	Sept. 11	Florence Macintyre (902) 562-1056 Gladys Lever (902) 562-6310 Cheryl Macintyre (Chair) (902) 562-2089
Christmas Island (C.B. County) Port Morien	Sept. 11	Kevin Mackenzie (902) 622-2667
(Glace Bay) Baddeck	Sept. 18	Margie Macqueen (902) 737-2478
(Victoria County) Marion Bridge	Sept. 11	Wendell Macphee (902)-295-2494
Cancelled Indefinitely		Norma Macinnis (902) 727-2764

Community fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun and entertaining day to show off their talent. Anyone can enter articles, from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics). If you have never been to a fair, why not plan to attend this year.

Attention All Giant Pumpkin Growers:

We would like to invite all giant pumpkin growers to attend a meeting at the Millville Hall on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to set up an official weigh-off site sanctioned under the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC). The mission statement of the

GPC is "to promote the sport/hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world." In order to proceed with becoming an official weigh-off site we must establish and maintain a recognized and respected organization that supports giant pumpkin growers by having an election of the executive

to serve the members through meetings and act as the direct line of communication for the weigh-off site as GPC officers.

We will review the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Bylaws and Articles, as well as the weigh-off rules and regulations. This meeting will cover the information we have gathered thus far. Its purpose is to get the "pumpkin" rolling to form an official weigh-off site in Millville for giant pumpkin growers. The benefits include the ability to exchange information, gain education on successful growing techniques and new products available, plus have fun competing with one another in a friendly manner.

Please contact the Sydney office for more information (902) 563-2000. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reminders:

Pesticide Re-Certification Course – **NEW DATE:** Friday April 23, 2010 at the Civic Centre in Sydney starting at 8:30 a.m. Call Traci to register (902) 798-2114.

Farm Investment Fund Information Session – Inverary Inn, Baddeck – Monday, April 26, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Family Safety Day – Brook Village Community Hall, Saturday, May 1, 2010 – call Cheryl to register (902) 945-2902.

Forklift Safety Certification Workshop – Millville Hall, May 13, 2010. \$110 plus tax, please call to register (902) 563-2000.

Northside Exhibition is scheduled for August 16 to August 21, 2010. Remember, spring is the time to start

getting your entries ready for the various agricultural competitions. Call the Federation office for more information (902) 794-7633.

Food Handler's Courses are offered on a regular basis throughout the year. If you wish to register, please contact Catherine Plumridge at the Department of Agriculture office in Sydney at (902) 563-2000.

Food Handler Course Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>

Upcoming course schedules can be viewed at

this web link: http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses_neast.shtml



Getting Ready For Achievement Days

4-H members and leaders across the region will soon be gearing up for their 4-H Achievement Day. Achievement Day is the opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their project work to their clubs, family and community. It is also a chance to promote 4-H and for members to receive an evaluation on their project articles or work.

Upcoming Achievement Days include:

Lakeside – May 27, Sampsonville Community Hall
Twinlight House – June 14, Twinlight House Farms
Grand Mira – June 18, Grand Mira Hall
Bayside 4-H – June 23, Glace Bay Hall
Northside – June 24, Exhibition Grounds, North Sydney
Arm of Gold – July 5
Rising Sun – July 7
Richmond County Livestock Day – August 4
Inverness County 4-H Clubs - August 26, Brook Village Hall
Baddeck Valley – September 9–11, in conjunction with Baddeck Valley Community fair - which will be celebrating their 80th year.

More Important Dates to Remember

- Cape Breton Regional Rally - April 17 - Baddeck Academy - 10 a.m.
- 4-H Camp Rankin deadline applications - May 1
- Rural Safety Day - May 1 - Brook Village (open to rural communities)
- 4-H Weekend - May 7-8 - Agricultural College - Truro - application due Monday, April 19
- Richmond Co. Judging Day - May 13 - West Bay Hall - 3-5 p.m.
- Craft Co-op Workshop - May 15 - Brook Village
- Royal Dairy Classic pre-registration forms - due May 15 (attached to dairy newsletter)
- Inverness Co. Judging Day - May 17 - Mabou
- Cape Breton Judging Days - May 20, all projects except horse
- May 19 - Horse Judging
- Lakeside Achievement Day - May 27 - Sampsonville
- Richmond Co. 4-H Show - June 10-11 - Camp Rankin
- EBI 4-H Showcase - June 27-29 - Truro
- Deadline for Inverness record sheets to be returned to 4-H office in Mabou - August 3
- Inverness 4-H Show - August 26–28 - Brook Village
- Richmond Co. Annual Banquet/Meeting - October 17
Meet and Greet (3 p.m.) - Supper (4 p.m.)
- Nova Scotia 4-H Pro-Show - October 1–3 - Truro

Feel free to contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator if you have any concerns or questions you would like to address. Staff can be reached at the Sydney office (902) 563-2000. E-mail address is gillisma@gov.ns.ca

4-H News

Bring a Friend to Camp

This year 4-H members attending Camp Rankin can bring a friend or relative who is not in 4-H to camp with them. Both campers pay the same fee and each camper fills out their own registration form. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2010.

AG Literacy Week

Interested in teaching kids about Agriculture? Come out and read for an hour the week of May 3 to 7 at local elementary schools.



Teach our young community members about local agriculture. For more information or to sign up, contact the local office at (902) 863-4705.

Attention Gardeners!

It's that time of year to get the jump start on your garden plans. I would like to encourage everyone to consider opportunities in vegetable production, small fruit and orchards. There is lots of interest from the food box program, farmers market and local farm outlet stores. The demand for local product is increasing and this may be the opportunity for your farm.

Antigonish Farmers Market

The Farmers Market Annual General Meeting will be held on April 21, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Super Store. The market is always looking for new vendors. They had another successful year. The market continues to diversify and expand. There is always talk about a full time location. Come out to the AGM to learn more about their activities and see what is involved in growing for the local market.

Upcoming dates - Antigonish/Pictou/Guysborough:

Ant./Guys./Pictou Regional Rally	April 20	6 p.m.
	St. Andrew Junior School, Ant.	
Pictou 4-H Weekend meeting	April 29	7 p.m.
	Northumberland	
Pictou Council meeting	April 29	7 p.m.
	Northumberland	
Pictou Exhibition meeting	April 29	8 p.m.
	Northumberland	
NS 4-H Weekend	May 7 and 8	
	NSAC, Truro	
Antigonish Council meeting	May 11	7 p.m.
	Board Room	
Ant/Guys Judging Day	May 18	2:30-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Antigonish 4-H Barn
Pictou Skills Day	May 26	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
	Pictou 4-H Barn	
Pictou Council meeting	May 27	7 p.m.
	Pictou 4-H office	

Farm/Fire Safety Project

Two pilot projects are being held at the St. Andrews and Pomquet Fire Departments. Local fire fighters and farmers are getting together to discuss safety, preventing accidents and remote location plans. Fire fighters are looking at training days for farm rescues/fire fighting, development of a Farm Safety Cannister to provide locations of fuel storage, electric

panels, fertilizer storage and pesticide storage. Also they will discuss the 911 location for blueberry farms so that first responders can locate an individual. A family safety day is being planned for all community members to cover topics such as ATVs lost in the woods, farm equipment safety, first aid, etc.

Western Region 4-H

Dates to Remember:

- April 20 Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- April 21 Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- April 24 Western Regional Rally Oakdene Center Bear River - 1 p.m.
- May 7-8 Provincial Weekend in Truro. Speeches, demos, royalty, horse classic and woodsmen competitions
- May 11 Annapolis Judging Clinic
- May 12 Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- May 21-23 Fluff'n Buff Exhibition Grounds Annapolis County. Open to all livestock members in Valley, South Shore and Western Regions
- May 22 Judging Day for Annapolis beef, dairy, sheep and goat project members
- May 25 Judging Day in Annapolis County for all other projects
- May 29 Light Horse Clinic and Judging Day for Annapolis County
- May 30 Light Horse Point Show #1 Annapolis County
- June 5 Judging Day Yarmouth County
- June 5 Farm Safety Day at the Exhibition Grounds in Windsor
- June 9 Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- June 16 Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- June 17 Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
- June 27-29 EBI Dairy and Beef Showcase in Truro
Listen each Saturday at noon for 4-H News on AVR

Up Coming Events

DCFA Organic Growers Club -
Monday April 26, 2010 at 7 p.m.,
at the Weymouth Agricultural
Office - Speaker to be announced.

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