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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER

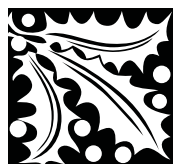


December 2010

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 11 No.5

Minister Launches 10-Year Plan for Agriculture



At the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting in

November, Agriculture Minister John MacDonell unveiled Homegrown Success - a new plan to make Nova Scotia's agriculture

industry more competitive, innovative and profitable.

As part of the government's jobsHere plan to create good jobs and grow the economy, the plan outlines a broad approach for the growth of our agriculture industry.

It focuses on creating business opportunities in high-value areas, innovation, building the Nova Scotia brand, connecting businesses with potential partners abroad and helping farmers generate greater profits from the marketplace.

Homegrown Success looks at economic, environmental and social trends in Nova Scotia and around the world and how they impact our agriculture industry.

Minister Delivers On Promise for Soil Program

The province is investing \$400,000 to help farmers be more productive.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced the enhanced funding for the Soil Amendment Program on Nov. 25, at the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

"We've made good on our promise to remove cost barriers and help farmers keep soils healthy and productive," said Mr. MacDonell. "We're keeping our commitment to enhance a sustainable agriculture industry that creates good jobs and grow the economy."

Soil amendments, materials such as lime and wood ash added to soil to make it more fertile, help plant growth by improving soil volume,

moisture retention and pH balance. Maintaining a healthy soil pH is important to agricultural productivity.

"Keeping lands productive is important, but it can be cost-prohibitive for farmers to transport substances like lime to individual farms," said Richard Melvin, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. "We welcome new funding for a soil amendment program and are grateful that the minister shares our concerns regarding the importance of improving soils on Nova Scotia farms."

Farmers can apply to the Department of Agriculture for assistance in the spring.

The minister said he believes the key to long-term success in agriculture is our ability to be innovative and adapt to the changing marketplace.

The report outlines how the province's natural features, geographic location, expertise in research and development, and natural leadership abilities can be used to grow the agriculture industry.

Homegrown Success contains a number of objectives and outcomes that government and industry will work together to achieve.

The plan is available at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri>.



Regional Services Section Created

by: Arthur Pick, Manager, Regional Services

The Agriculture Services Branch has identified priorities for 2010 that include forming an effective Regional Services Section and efficient ways to deliver outreach/extension services to clients.

The goal is for clients to be able to access services easily. Regional field service team clusters have been designed in five areas of the province to provide clients with similar opportunities for face-to-face access/service; proximity to major business centres as well as to co-locate with other department staff, partners and stakeholders. By sharing office space, resources can be pooled, information and ideas can be shared and overhead costs can be reduced.

The team clusters bring together Regional Services staff with a variety of expertise and experience that have the common goal of connecting/engaging clients, facilitating issues, being a catalyst for change and providing expert advice through analysis. All staff are working to develop prosperous rural communities and a sustainable agriculture industry by being the front-line linkage between clients, the department, industry/business and community stakeholders.

The Western Regional Office is located in Cornwallis Park:

- Dennis Moerman - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
- Jean Ward - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator
- Nicole Burkhard - Agriculture Transition Officer

- Gina Saulnier - Administrative Support (co-located with Mark Durkee, Manager, Food Safety and the Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency)

The Valley Regional Office is located in the Kentville Agricultural Centre:

- Brian MacCulloch - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
- Beth Trueman - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator
- Ron Young - Agriculture Transition Officer
- Valorie Oickle - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator (Lunenburg field office)
- Cheryl Theriault - Administrative Support (co-located with other Department of Agriculture staff, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada staff)

The Central Regional Office is located in the DeWolfe House at NSAC in Truro:

- Michael Kittilsen - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
- Jacqueline Hoyt - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator
- Vimy Glass - Agriculture Transition Officer
- Administrative Support - Vacant position (co-located with the NS 4-H Council office, Women's Institute (WINS) office)

The Eastern Regional Office is located in Antigonish:

- Kevin Bekkers - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
- Dawn Barrington-Hodgson - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator (Pictou field office)
- Marion MacAulay - Agriculture Transition Officer
- Laureen Boyd - Administrative Support (co-located with Food Safety and the Department of Natural Resources)

The Cape Breton Regional Office is located in Sydney:

- Gary Koziel - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
- Marina Gillis - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator
- Rhonda MacDougall - Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator (on maternity leave - Mabou field office)
- Catherine Plumridge - Administrative Support (co-located with Food safety, other provincial and municipal government departments)

Regional Services staff with provincial responsibilities are:

- Arthur Pick - Manager, Regional Services - Truro
- Faye Lennerton - Administrative Support - Truro
- Ruth Grant - Senior 4-H Program Coordinator - Truro
- Judy Grant - Agriculture Education Coordinator - Truro
- Rick Hoeg - Agriculture Education Liaison - Truro
- Becky Sooksom - ThinkFARM Coordinator - Truro
- Cheryl Chandler - Communications and Resource Coordinator - Mabou field office

The regional teams deliver extension services to clients. Staff are available individually or as a team to identify challenges and opportunities as well as to work with the agricultural industry. All staff have work plans and cooperatively work, share expertise, evaluate outcomes, adjust actions as needed, celebrate and promote successes.

The Department of Agriculture's regional offices are open for your business – come check us out!

Commodity Groups Find Efficiency in New Organization

Nova Scotia's beef, sheep and pork producer associations are strengthening the agriculture industry by working together to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

Pork Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and the Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia are creating the Agri-Commodity Management Association to co-ordinate programs and look for joint ventures in the red meat industry.

"A co-ordinated approach to sharing resources and information means our industries are more competitive," said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. "I applaud these groups for coming together and creating an effective, sustainable business model."

The groups agreed to share professional services and administrative support to provide consistent, quality support while reducing overhead costs.

The commodity groups have created a governing structure and by-laws for the new association. They have hired Brad McCallum as their first executive director.

The Department of Agriculture approved \$300,000 in funding over three years. The goal is for the association to be self-sustaining by year three.

The new business model was supported by the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

Animal Protection Act Amendments Clarify Powers, Duties

Animals and animal owners will be better protected through amendments to legislation introduced on Nov. 25, by Agriculture Minister John MacDonell.

Changes in the *Animal Protection Act* will clarify the powers and duties of inspectors, as well as the custody, ownership and disposition of seized animals.

"These changes are about acting in the best interest of the animal," said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. "At the end of the day, we want to ensure the owner has the tools and information they need to properly care for their animals."

Specific amendments include:

- confirming that tests, taking samples, seizing carcasses, requiring records be produced, and taking photographs or other recordings can be conducted in the course of an investigation
- giving inspectors clear authority to give directions and requiring an individual to comply with those directions
- the Department of Agriculture taking ownership of farm animals deemed abandoned if the actual owner does not claim the animal within a specified period of time
- permitting the Animal Cruelty Appeal Board to order the department or SPCA to arrange for adoption or euthanasia of a seized animal

The board, with members appointed by Governor in Council, will set up panels to hear appeals from those aggrieved by the seizure of their animal. Until the board is in place, an amendment will require that the Department of Agriculture will maintain custody of a seized farm animal until a decision has been made on a judicial review, if the owner has filed for one.

This will ensure fair treatment of animal owners while limiting the cost of maintaining seized animals. It also ensures clear title will be given to new owners when seized animals are adopted.

"We are eagerly awaiting the appeal board," said Mr. MacDonell. "Until that time, we now have clearer guidelines that protect both the animals and animal owners."

Leighann Hartnett, provincial inspector under the *Animal Protection Act*, said she is pleased with the changes.

"They will help us better manage investigations and, in the long run, ensure animals at risk receive the best possible response."

The *Animal Protection Act* was proclaimed Jan. 19, 2010. Supporting regulations and selecting members is still needed to establish the Animal Cruelty Appeal Board. Both are expected to be in place by spring, 2011.

Amendments Introduced to Weed Control Act

The province is weeding out problems on agricultural lands.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell introduced amendments to the *Weed Control Act* on Nov. 24, to clarify and modernize the law.

The proposed changes will allow more and better options for investigation and response to destroy weeds on agricultural lands. The act will be renamed the *Agricultural Weed Control Act*. It will reflect current Department of Agriculture resources and structure.

“Any threat to our farmlands must be dealt with quickly and effectively,” said Mr. MacDonell. “These amendments will allow us to do exactly that by ensuring lands are better protected with improved measures for weed control.”

The *Weed Control Act* was first introduced in 1967 to preserve the quality of agricultural lands and provide protection from agricultural weeds. The act allows for management of agricultural weeds that may be highly destructive, invasive, competitive and difficult to control.



THINKFARM Video

Earlier in the year, THINKFARM visited nine farms, from Gilberts Cove to Southwest Margaree. They asked the owners of these farms what they love about farming, how they got started, how they decided what to produce, their sources of support, and how they stay profitable. The first part of the video has been released and can be viewed on the THINKFARM website: <http://gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm>. Comments on the video are welcomed at thinkfarm@gov.ns.ca. Stay tuned as additional clips are released.

Wild Chervil Days Numbered on NS Dykelands

Joe Calder, NSDA

The ongoing battle to control wild chervil on the many kilometers of dykes that protect some of the provinces most productive farmland moved up a notch in 2010. It has been joined by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and DuPont Canada. Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) is one of several weeds regulated under the *Weed Control Act* and has been especially troublesome for the provinces land protection managers. With its deep taproot and aggressive growth patterns, it has the potential to destabilize the dyke's structure and out compete the grass and legume species intended to grow there. Two university students were hired again this summer by the Department of Agriculture through

the Clean Nova Scotia program to carry on survey work on this weed that was initiated last year under the same program. Caitlin Porter and Jake Parker were the two students hired to perform this grueling task. A detailed soil sampling and mapping program was also included this year.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Nathan Boyd, with the Environmental Sciences Department of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and his summer staff, test plots were set up to look at some new herbicide treatments on this troublesome weed. DuPont Canada played a key part in supplying materials for the tests in hopes of gathering important registration information for their new herbicide

aminocyclopyrachlor. These tests showed some very interesting and promising results although complete details are not available as yet. With funding from the Technology Development program of the Programs and Business Risk Management Division, further testing will be performed in 2011 in hopes of gathering the required information to produce a detailed management plan for Wild Chervil on Nova Scotia's dykelands.

This is just one more example of a unique partnership arrangement between government, academia and private industry that can go a long way in assisting the agriculture industry in this province.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program. This program is available for wildlife damage to 24 types of crops and/or predation by wildlife on 14 types of livestock. A complete list of eligible crops and livestock is available on the Commission's website at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/>.

Producers who apply for compensation should be aware of the following requirements:

- Farmers must notify the Commission as soon as possible, not later than 72 hours after the damage has occurred.
- The cause of any loss must be confirmed by the Commission.
- Producers must follow industry production and protection standards to be eligible for a claim (e.g. fencing, deterrents, etc.)
- For crop damage, a loss of at least \$250 or two acres must be incurred.
- For livestock damage, only losses as a result of black bear, fox, coyote, raven or crow, or birds of prey are eligible.

To settle a Wildlife Compensation claim, the Commission must be able to:

- (1) confirm that the damage was beyond the control of the producer
- (2) attribute the damage to wildlife
- (3) measure the damage.

NEW – Maple Syrup Insurance Plan

Maple producers can now insure their maple syrup production through the new Maple Syrup Insurance Plan. By signing up, producers will be insured against reduction of maple syrup yield resulting from problems such as ice storms, drought, insects or fire.

The insurance program works by calculating an average insurable yield based on your history production (up to 15 year production records). A claim is triggered when your production falls below the guarantee.

To have your syrup production insured for the 2011-12 crop year you must apply before April 30, 2011.

Advanced Payments Program

Producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program (APP), formerly known as the Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP) in 2011 are reminded that many of the organizations administering this credit program may require crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer considering taking advantage of this interest-free loan should contact the appropriate agency administering the loan for details on their requirements.

If crop insurance is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan, all producers are advised to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop insurance. In order to obtain coverage for 2011, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

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

For more details on APP, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the APP program, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at: <http://agr.gc.ca/> (in the left menu, click *Programs and Services*; click on APP under *Managing the risk of your business*).

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for 2011

Spring Grain - March 14
Vegetable - March 14
Potato - April 19
Corn - April 30
Maple - April 30
Weather Plan - April 30
Soybean, Canola, Sunflower - May 1

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

For information on Wildlife Compensation, the Maple Plan or any of our insurance plans, contact The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 or 893-6370 - Truro, 679-6015/6028 - Kentville, or visit our website <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/ci/>.

From Idea to Marketplace: Growing YOUR Value-Added Agriculture Ideas



What does it take to grow a farm business? Well, lots of things. It takes innovation, money, clever ideas, and the confidence to pursue them. It also takes time, perseverance, keen business skills, and the right connections.

Although you certainly cannot get these all in one place, the 'Idea to Marketplace' program is a great place to start. In this series of five workshops, you will work face-to-face with facilitators, industry experts, and other entrepreneurs to learn new skills and develop new value added product ideas that YOU can profit from. Learn more below and by visiting <http://www.acsbe.com/workshop/skill-building-program.html> .

Topics include:

- Making sense of value-added agriculture
- Appealing to the new food consumer
- Upcoming trends in agriculture and agri-tourism
- Determining your business' readiness for growth
- Where do new value adding ideas come from?
- Traits of successful value-adders
- Overcoming challenges and barriers in value adding
- Opportunities in manufacturing and food processing
- Labelling, packaging, and product design
- Protecting intellectual property in agriculture
- Selling your products digitally: web marketing and social media

- Wholesaling, retailing, or direct marketing - which is best for you?
- Achieving higher profits through branding
- Managing risk in farm business expansion
- Financial management and acquiring capital for value-added ideas

Facilitators and presenters include:

- Morton Horticultural Associates
- Department of Agriculture – Product and Quality Development
- Several local farm entrepreneurs and value adders
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship.

Who should attend these value-added skills training workshops?

The skills training workshops should be attended by farmers and processors that are serious about going in-depth in exploring their value-added product or service ideas. These instructional workshops will provide 18-20 participants an opportunity to apply newly-learned business management skills to their specific ideas. Participants are required to attend all five training sessions.

Participants will:

- Learn how to add more value and earn more profit from your farm output
- Meet new industry contacts that can help you advance your ideas

- Develop new ideas for value-added agriculture products and services
- Learn new business management skills in marketing, financial analysis, exporting, technology and online selling, packaging, food safety regulations, opportunity identification, and more
- Find out what ideas other farmers and processors are working on
- Learn how to diversify farm revenues
- Learn about value-added agriculture trends from all around the world

How do I apply to take part in these workshops?

In order to ensure a focused, interactive learning atmosphere, enrolment in these workshops is limited to 20 people. This will allow every participant to ask individual questions, get to know the many facilitators on a personal level, and share ideas in a comfortable setting. To apply, please log on to <http://www.acsbe.com/workshop/skill-building-program.html> or contact joel.stoddart@acadiau.ca

The workshops occur on January 20, February 3, February 17, March 3, and March 17

Registration for all five workshops is \$250 + HST (\$287.50)

“Let’s Cut the Bull...!”

Beef Slaughter and Marketing Workshop + Zone 1 Cattle Producers Meeting

St. Michael’s Parish Hall, Baddeck -
7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

- **Grass-Fed Beef and Market Opportunities**
Andrew Knight – Senior Planning and Development Officer
- **Marketing Options for your Beef Herd**
Jamey Coughlin – Business Development Officer
- **Slaughter Regulations and Food Safety**
William Feltmate – Senior Meat Inspector
- **Working Together to Get More Value From Local Beef**
Amy Melmock – Development Specialist
Jonathon Wort – Ruminant Specialist

Come talk to other Cape Breton beef producers

Explore new business opportunities

Find out what’s new at MacNeil’s abattoir in Bras d’Or

Please call or e-mail to register and reserve a seat: plumricl@gov.ns.ca or phone 563-2000.

This workshop will be followed immediately by the Zone 1 Cattle Producers meeting at 9 p.m.

The Zone 1 meeting of the cattle producers will include updates on the overall state of the industry, the Cape John Project, reputation cattle, information on the Beef Interest Pay Down Program, and an update on the Maritime Beef Council. Members are encouraged to receive this valuable information as well as provide feedback to the association.

Farm Tours

The Agricultural Education office is seeking farms currently hosting school tours, or those who would consider offering educational tours of their farm. These tours can provide a valuable resource for teachers and experiential learning opportunity for students while allowing producers an active part in educating kids about local food and agriculture. Opportunities may exist for developing a modest income generating sideline.

At present, teachers may know and contact farms directly, others may connect with farms in a variety of ways, while some may overlook the opportunity altogether. The Department of Agriculture is developing a farm visit resource list that can be used to direct requests or promote farm visits as a teaching opportunity.

The Agricultural Education office has a number of resources available for farms wishing to host school tours. With enough interest, a workshop on hosting farm visits for schools and the general public will be developed for those currently offering or those wishing to get started.

If you are interested in offering school tours or having your farm tour listed on the website please contact: Rick Hoeg, P. Ag.,
Agricultural Education Liaison,
Department of Agriculture

176 College Road, P.O. Box 550,
Truro, NS, B2N 5E3

Phone: 893-7495; Cell: 890-1894;
Fax: 893-0244;

E-mail: hoegrl@gov.ns.ca

Continue Your Education at NSAC

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College has been providing education in agriculture for over 100 years. Continuing and Distance Education draws from that knowledge base and shares it with people passionate about agriculture.

Learning possibilities include:

1. Master Gardner Training –
(January and March intake)
2. Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture
3. PEI Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program
4. Modern Shepherd
5. Customized training developed for your business or association



Visit our website to see what we offer that might interest you!
<http://nsac.ca/cde/> .



Programs and Business Risk Management

AgriInvest and AgriStability

AgriInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect 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. Farmers deposit money into an AgriInvest account and receive matching government contributions. Recipients of AgriInvest deposit notices have 90 days to respond by making a deposit.

2009 AgriInvest Deposit Notices

2009 AgriInvest Deposit Notices are starting to be mailed out with information on how to make a 2009 deposit.

For 2009 AgriInvest deposits can be made at a participating bank. Once a 2009 deposit notice has been received open an account at a financial institution and make the 2009 AgriInvest deposit by the deadline indicated on the deposit notice to receive a matching contribution from governments.

Existing funds currently held by the federal government will be transferred to the AgriInvest account with the financial institution. Producers can request a withdrawal from the AgriInvest account through the financial institution at any time throughout the year.

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.

Farmers who participated in AgriStability 2009 will automatically be enrolled for 2010 and will be receiving a 2010 enrolment notice soon. Farmers who have not received a 2010 enrollment notice and have not heard from AgriStability should make contact at the number below.

New Participants or Farmers - AgriStability 2010 Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2010 AgriStability and wish to participate in 2011 must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2011. To request an AgriStability New Participant package or for more information, visit the website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability> or call toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability 2010 Interim Applications Are Available

The interim application is available for producers who would like to apply for an advance for the 2010 program year. Program participants cannot receive the full 2010 AgriStability payment until the 2010 program year is complete. By using the interim application, farmers can estimate 2010 income and expenses and receive a portion of this payment early. The deadline to apply for the interim is March 31, 2011.

AgriStability/AgriInvest 2009 Harmonized Form Final Deadline

If the September 30, 2010 deadline was missed, forms may still be submitted until December 31, 2010 with a \$500/month reduction to your payment.

AgriStability 2010 Final Fee Deadline

Fees paid after April 30, 2010 will have a 20 per cent penalty added. Fees must be paid by December 31, 2010 or be ineligible to participate in AgriStability for the 2010 program year.

To contact the AgriInvest or AgriStability administration call 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website's at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest

For more information on any of the above contact the Programs and Business Risk Management office toll free at 1-866-844-4276.

PROGRAMS UPDATE

It is claiming time for the **Farm Investment Fund**. Farmers are encouraged to claim projects as they are completed, which may help with cash management for multiple approved projects. There is no limit to the amount of claims that may be submitted. The final claiming deadline is March 1, 2011.

The **Agri-Food Industry Development Fund** program is now closed and it is claiming time for completed projects. The final claiming deadline is March 1, 2011.

Program information regarding the Farm Investment Fund and Agri-Food Industry Development Fund may be accessed at the following website: <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/prm>. Questions? Contact Programs and Business Risk Management office at 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Do You Have the Proper Drivers Licence?

Drivers operating a farm tractor-trailer combination over 14,000 kg need a Condition 23 Endorsement. If hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that weighs over 4,500 kg, a Condition 15 Endorsement is needed to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 licences.

Contact the regional agriculture office to obtain these endorsements and a date and place will be arranged for the testing to take place. Once a testing date is set the following process must take place for each condition.

PROCESS For Cond 15:

1. Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$47.68 (HST included). This can be purchased at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at <http://gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

PROCESS For Cond 23:

1. Complete a Condition 23 application prior to testing.
2. Have Driver's Medical Exam completed by a Doctor
3. Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$46.85 (HST included). This can be

purchased at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at <http://gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

Please register with the Regional Department of Agriculture office first and have a valid drivers license ("N" removed) to be eligible for testing. The Condition 23 application, the form for the medical exam and more information is available at your regional office as well.

4-H News



Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

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

4-H members can apply for scholarships from the Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the TD Canada Trust. Each scholarship has specific requirements. The two Nova Scotia scholarships require an essay to be submitted with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality, interpretation of research as well as spelling and grammar. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded a \$1,000

university entrance scholarship to Bridget Wilson, Inverness County.

Two 4-H members won the Department of Agriculture Scholarship valued at \$1,000 each to, Ria van der Linden, Guysborough County and Pat Thompson, Antigonish County. The Department scholarship is presented to students enrolling in their first year program in agriculture, veterinary science, or other recognized disciplines.

In November, Michelle Trenholm, of Port Williams, Kings County, was the Nova Scotia recipient of the TD 4-H Scholarship and was one of 10 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2,500 scholarship for entrance to first year of university.

For 55 years, the TD Canada Trust has been a generous supporter of the Canadian 4-H Council and

provided financial support to future generations of agricultural leaders who will be attending a Canadian college or university for an agriculture related field of study. Applicants with the highest academic average in their province are selected to receive this scholarship. Previous scholarship recipients have gone on to study in the fields of veterinary medicine, engineering, agriculture and bio-chemistry.

Deadlines for applications are April 1, 2011 for the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship, which are found in the General Leader kit or on line at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/>. October 2011 is the deadline for the TD 4-H Scholarship. Ask your Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for more information about the TD scholarship application in June.

4-H Member Receives Jack Pemberton Youth Development Bursary

Sarah MacDonnell is passionate about the dairy industry and has been awarded the prestigious Jack Pemberton Youth Development Bursary in partnership with the 4-H Canada.

The 17-year-old accepted the \$3,000 award and attended the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto for two nights in November. While at the fair she had lunch with Jack Pemberton, attended the Black and White Holstein show and sale as well as the Sale of Stars. "It was absolutely amazing," said Ms. MacDonnell. "I learned so much just touring the barns and being at the cattle show for the first time. Now I'll be better able to prepare, manage and market cattle for show."

The award is presented annually to one Canadian 4-H member in good standing outside the province of Ontario and in his or her final year of high school. They must demonstrate involvement in agriculture and have plans for post-secondary education in an agriculture related program.

Ms. MacDonnell, a 4-H member from the Port Hood Island 4-H Club, Inverness County, is an

active dairy member and was also awarded the title of Grand Champion Dairy member at the Eastern Breeders Showcase held in June. She is active in the showing circuit at Atlantic cattle shows.

Ms. MacDonnell plans to attend the Nova Scotia Agriculture College

and enroll in a BSc. (Animal Science) or a pre-veterinarian degree program.

Congratulations to Ms. MacDonnell on winning this bursary and her future contributions to the Nova Scotia agriculture industry.

Nova Scotia Hosts Atlantic 4-H Intermediate Member Conference in February

Seventy 4-H members from the Atlantic provinces will challenge themselves to be the best they can be during the Atlantic 4-H Intermediate Member Conference in February.

The two-day conference will be held on February 25-27 at the Debert Hospitality Centre. 4-H members, ages 13 to 15, will learn the skills needed to achieve leadership excellence in all aspects of their life including business, community, agriculture and their 4-H club.

"We are pleased to be working with the Atlantic 4-H committee to host this conference," said Ruth

Grant, Senior 4-H Program Coordinator, Rural Leadership. "Many interactive sessions will challenge the 4-H members both physically and mentally while they learning the skills it takes to be an effective leader. We hope that everyone will return home with renewed energy to take on leadership roles in their clubs and communities."

Applications will be available soon and the deadline to register is January 21, 2011. 4-H members are encouraged to ask their Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for applications.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg
& Queens counties:
Brian MacCulloch
Tel: 679-6006
Fax: 679-6062
macculbc@gov.ns.ca

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester
& Halifax counties:
Michael Kittilsen
Tel: 893-3645
Fax: 893-0244
kittilma@gov.ns.ca

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

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

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth
& Shelburne counties:
Dennis Moerman
Tel: 638-2396
Fax: 638-2389
moermade@gov.ns.ca

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is my sincere hope that each and every one of you find the joy and happiness that this time of year offers. As we look back on our accomplishments over the past year and look forward to the new challenges and opportunities of the new year, I hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the warmth of friends and family. Everyone at the Agriculture office wishes you and yours a very safe, happy holiday season on your farm.

New Agricultural Transition Officer

Ron Young is the new Agricultural Transition Officer in Kentville. He started working with the Department of Agriculture in October.

Ron earned a Masters of Science degree (Agriculture) at Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Prior to being appointed Agricultural Transition Officer for the Valley Region, Ron was employed at

NSAC as a research associate. He has worked closely with producers and researchers with a variety of horticultural crops and integrated pest management.

Ron is excited with this opportunity to collaborate with co-workers and all stakeholders in supporting a prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry in Nova Scotia.

Pesticide Certification Course

Traci Curry will hold a pesticide certification course in the Coldbrook and Truro areas in mid-February. Please contact Traci at 897-0276 to be added to the list of applicants.

The NSAC also have courses in pesticide certification. Check the Continuing Education website at: <http://nsac.ca/cde/courses/Pesticide/application-farmers.asp> for more information.

Although recommended, it is not mandatory to take the course. Contact Nova Scotia Environment to write the exam without a course. Download the agriculture training manual on the website at <http://gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/applicatortraining.asp>.

Think Local This Holiday Season

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

Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

We are still trying to update our mailing list. If your mailing address is incorrect, or your wish to unsubscribe, contact Cheryl either by phone, 679-6021, or e-mail, ctheriau@gov.ns.ca.

Please notify Cheryl if your civic address is not on the envelope. If you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please share your e-mail address with Cheryl.

Thank You

The Kings County Federation of Agriculture held its fall dinner and dance on Nov. 20 at the Union Street Caf in Berwick. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and live entertainment. Thanks to everyone who attended and the generosity of the many individuals and businesses that donated items for the silent auction. The federation raised approximately \$2,000 to help support ongoing initiatives for the farmers of Kings County and the betterment of agriculture. On behalf of all the directors of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture, thank you to everyone who helped make this evening a big success.

Sincerely,
Dan Fulton
KCFA President

Valley Region 4-H Update

4-H continues to grow and thrive in the Valley Region and members are gearing up for another busy year. Registration took place throughout the fall but it is not too late to join. Contact the 4-H office for information of the club nearest you. Registration numbers were up for the 2010 year with a new wave of younger members enrolling, especially cloverbuds. The average age of a 4-H member in the Valley Region is 13 and the average club size is approximately 35 members. The number of leaders within the Valley Region has also increased since 2009. The 4-H program in Nova Scotia is dedicated to improving the skills of both rural and urban youth.

Hants County 4-H Clubs:

Avon
Border Riders
Burlington Workers
Cobequid
Newport
Rawdon 2-Way
Riverview
Vaughans

Kings County 4-H Clubs:

Central Valley
Cornwallis
Eastern Kings
Harmony Nicholasville
Horton
New Minas
Western Kings

For more information about 4-H contact the Valley Region office at 679-6027 or visit the website: <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h> .



Staff of the Central Regional office of the Department of Agriculture would like to extend a Merry Christmas and good wishes in the new year. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. Our farm owners and operators are reminded to make safety and well being a priority while preparing for the new year.

It has been a bountiful year with one of the best growing seasons and largest harvests that most seem to recall, a blessing when we think back to some past wetter seasons that made farming very challenging. Lots of issues are being discussed such as government programs and services, farm safety, occupational health and safety concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, and more. Please advise the Central Regional office if an issue needs to be addressed or an area meeting needs to be held. Our door is always open!

Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers

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



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 the web site <http://www.sja.ca/NSPEI/>, or toll free at: 1-800-565-5056

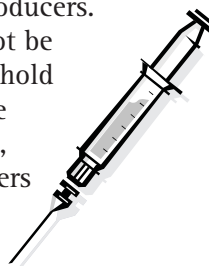
They offer many courses designed to meet industry and business requirements. Emergency level first aid is a state-of-the-art, modular, course of basic first aid skills and other select subjects needed to sustain life and manage the scene of an injury. Emergency First Aid is recommended for work sites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

Haylage for sale

For more information contact
Dara Wilson 251-2048

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

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



News From Halifax East Hants Federation

Happy holidays! Here is hoping everyone had a successful, safe and bountiful 2010 and to ringing in 2011 with the anticipation of an equally fortunate coming year!

Halifax Hants East Federation of Agriculture held its AGM November 16, 2010 at the Middle Musquodoboit Forestry Education Centre where two great topics were discussed. Guest speakers Joe Young and Aubrey Smith of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's Vehicle Compliance Section and Bill MacLeod of Crop and Livestock

Insurance offered their expertise to those in attendance at the meeting. Thanks to the guest speakers and to the members who attended the meeting and expressed their views.

I would like to introduce the new Secretary-Treasurer for the Halifax-East Hants Federation of Agriculture. Karen Holman of Middle Musquodoboit will be taking over the position in 2011. Good Luck Karen! I would like to thank all the members and the community for their cooperation over the past two years, it was an enjoyable experience!



Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H'ers!

I am officially back from maternity leave, as of November. I thank Janette McDonald for all her hard work, as well as her dedication to the 4-H program over the past year. I am happy to be back working in what I consider the greatest youth program in Canada! My door is always open for new leaders or members who would like more information or to borrow resources. I am located in the Central Regional office at 157 College road.

If you have any ideas or needs for the upcoming year such as workshops or clinics please let me know. As well if you have members or clubs to profile in the upcoming January edition of the Clover Crop, the regional 4-H newsletter, please pass them along! Just a heads up in March, 10 4-H members from across the province will be participating in the third annual Kevin Grant Memorial Tour. This year the tour will take place in Cumberland County!

Yours in 4-H, Jacqueline

Upcoming 4-H Council Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

January 24, February 28, March 28, Upstairs at the Agridome at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

January 4, February 1, March 1, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

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

January 18 (Forestry Complex, Middle Musq.), Feb. 15 (Hants E. Rural High), March 22 (TBA) at 7 p.m.

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

Jacqueline Hoyt, Central Region Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator at 893-6586 or hoytjm@gov.ns.ca .



“Let’s Cut the Bull...!” Beef Slaughter and Marketing Workshop + Zone 1 Cattle Producers Meeting

St. Michael’s Parish Hall, Baddeck
- 7: p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Please call or e-mail to register
and reserve a seat:
plumricl@gov.ns.ca or phone
563-2000.

This workshop will be followed
immediately by the Zone 1 Cattle
Producers Meeting.

For details about this workshop
and meeting see the notice above
in the main newsletter.

Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Certification Program - Mabou

April 30 - May 1, 2011

Nova Scotia Agricultural College is
pleased to offer the Nova Scotia
Tractor Safety Program in
Inverness County for Nova Scotia
tractor drivers.

Owners of a class 3, 5 or 8 drivers
license can be eligible to get a
condition 15 endorsement on the
licence if successfully completing
this course.

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

Please note: This course is not
intended to teach tractor driving.
All participants must have at least
10 hours of supervised tractor
driving experience before taking
this course.

This course is limited to 12
participants so register early.

Growing Your Farm Profits Baddeck

Growing Your Farm Profits is a
dynamic workshop that has been
made possible by the Canadian
Farm Business Management
Council and the Department of
Agriculture’s Business
Development and Economics
branch. There is no cost to those
who attend!

The program was developed and
delivered in Ontario for the past
two years and was attended by
new and existing dairy producers,
other supply managed
commodities, beef, sheep, fruit
producers, as well as small scale
agriculture businesses. Based on

the evaluation of the participants,
they found this to be a very
beneficial workshop which
contributed to the success and
future of their operations.

The workshop will be held on
March 2, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3:30
p.m., at the Inverary Inn in
Baddeck. Please call the
Department of Agriculture,
Business Development and
Economics office at 893-6580 to
confirm your attendance. Ten
participants are required to move
forward with the sessions.

Scotsburn Dairy Tour – Sydney

The Cape Breton Agriculture office
is collecting names of those
interested in taking part in a
guided tour of the Scotsburn Dairy
plant in Sydney. This is a good
opportunity to see how locally
produced dairy products are
handled, processed and delivered
to customers across the Maritimes.

Anyone interested in taking part in
this interesting and educational
visit should call the Agriculture
office at 563-2000 to register.

Tour times and dates will be
determined based on response.

Agricultural Awareness – Classroom Farm Tours

The Cape Breton Regional Agriculture office is looking for farm volunteers in Cape Breton who would be willing to host Junior and Senior High School classes on their farm as part of the Agriculture in the Classroom initiative. We hope to increase youth exposure to agriculture and inform them of the importance and opportunities of the agriculture industry in this region. Anyone interested or seeking more information should contact the Agriculture office at 563-2000.

4-H: A Great Year Regionally

The 4-H program was strong and bright in the Cape Breton region this year. The region has 266 active members, 29 cloverbuds and 77 volunteer leaders from the four counties. 4-H member and leaders worked hard this year to complete project work in various life skills and livestock project areas. A total of 243 members participated in communication skills development over their 4-H year, developing life long skills that will serve them well into the future. Volunteer leader membership is drawn from 13% urban, 71% rural and 16% farm. Youth membership is 25% urban, 65% rural and 10% farm. This is showing an increase into urban communities and

hopefully a trend to encourage a growing membership base. These are exciting times for regional youth as new clubs and project areas are explored.

In 2010, the 4-H year concluded with a strong showing, with lots of local, regional and provincial events for the community. At present many clubs are preparing for another full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun. Staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and old members alike to the Cape Breton Regional Program for the upcoming program year. Here are a few things on the go for our 4-H communities.

New 4-H Website - Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H website for all sorts of great information. The provincial website has loads of information with general questions on starting a 4-H club, 4-H around the province, leader and member resources including project newsletters, provincial workshops and much, much, more! You can find the provincial 4-H website at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h>. Check

out new updates, designed to make finding what you need even more easier. Our national website through Canadian 4-H council offers various resources materials, national scholarship, program grants and funding as well as links to all that is 4-H on a national level. This website has something for everyone, especially our senior members. You can visit the site at <http://4-h-canada.ca/>.

New Leader Training

“Welcome to the 4-H Team” is a workshop that introduces 4-H to new leaders. As part of the volunteer screening process, all new leaders must attend a training session. Sessions were completed in late 2010 and others will be continuing in early 2011. Leaders are free to attend any session. During these sessions you will be given information regarding the 4-H program, the screening process and information about leaders resources and support systems available. This session is compulsory and an excellent opportunity to ask questions regarding the program. Contact a regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator at the Department of Agriculture office, for screening procedures and dates.

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour 2011

The Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Memorial Youth Leadership Tour will be hosted this year in the Cumberland region. Kevin Grant, a long time 4-H participant, public servant, and avid supporter of the 4-H Program, has provided a significant endowment to the 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. This tour will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the 2011 school March break. Ten 4-H members from across the province between the ages of 14 to 16 will be selected to participate each year. The tour will allow local 4-H members to learn more about a highlighted region in the province, the community, the rural community leaders, the local area resource based businesses and rural employers. Cape Breton region 4-H members are encourage to participate in this event.

Scotsburn Dairy Tour-Sydney

The Cape Breton Regional Agricultural office is collecting names of 4-H clubs interested in taking part in a guided tour of the Scotsburn Dairy plant in Sydney. This is a good opportunity to see how locally produced dairy products are handled, processed and delivered to customers across the Maritimes. Those interested in taking part in this interesting and educational visit may call the Rural Leadership office at 563-2001. Tour times and dates will be determined based on response.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2010/2011

Sydney

Grand Lake Road Fire Hall:

January 26 Doreen Mackley

February 23 Doreen Mackley

March 30 Doreen Mackley

North Sydney - To be announced soon and posted on <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/foodsafetycourse.shtml>

If you wish to register please contact Catherine at the Department of Agriculture in Sydney at 563-2000.

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:

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

Regional Staff Holiday Greeting

It's the time of year for greetings, for carols, and friends that are dear, T'is the season for reflecting, and for welcoming a new 4-H year.

Members learned to tack a mini horse, wash a calf, and to decorate a cake; to prep a feast, recycle a treasure, to judge and to bake.

They've learned to speak in public, can make a motion, and can adjourn; sanding, scrapbooking, welding and showing, by doing, they have learned.

They've learned to be a leader, and to be part of rural teams, learned to set a goal, to work hard, and to realize all their dreams.

They've had the help of leaders, of regional staff, sponsors, and parents too; for all that they have learned, - it was because of you!

For having time and patience, and always a ear to lend, for acting as a parent, a teacher, a mentor and a friend.

Holiday wishes are sent your way for a season of peace and joy; may you always know you've made a difference to a 4-H girl or boy!

December 2010

Cape Breton Regional Staff - Department of Agriculture

**HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Farm Investment Fund

A reminder to all those with current year funding that all approved project work must be completed and claims received by March 1, 2011.

This is a good time to be planning for next year and preparing an application for 2011-12 funding year.

New Executive

Antigonish/Guysborough
Federation of Agriculture

President - Dustin Swinkels

Vice President - Robert Overmars

Secretary-Treasurer - John

Oostvogels

Pictou North-Colchester

Federation of Agriculture

President - Joe Ebbett

Vice President - Jim Fraser

Secretary-Treasurer - Lorenda Ebbett

RFID Tagging Requirements

Cattle producers are reminded that effective July 1, 2010, all cattle must be tagged with an approved radio frequency identification (RFID) tag before moving cattle from their current location or moving them from their farm of origin. Producers must not remove existing bar-coded tags; they must leave the bar-coded tag on the ear and apply a RFID tag to the same animal. Producers must cross-reference the identification number on the RFID tag with the number on the bar-coded tag in the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS). Cross-referencing the numbers will allow all of the information about the animal to be maintained. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency enforces

national identification and movement reporting requirements for cattle, bison and sheep under the authority of the *Health of Animals Regulations*. For more information on Canada's livestock identification systems, or for assistance cross-referencing data in the CLTS, please visit <http://canadaid.ca> or call 1-877-909-BEEF (2333). For more information on traceability in Canada, please visit <http://inspection.gc.ca/english/animal/trac/trace.shtml>, or call 1-800-442-2342. The local CFIA contact is Karen Brenton: 863-7042 or 870-0366.

Farm Safety

A good safety management program can help avoid farm accidents that are costly, time consuming and stressful. Take some time this winter to read up on the Standards of Practice for Farms in Nova Scotia. Legal duties for employers can be found at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/farmsafety/standards/contents.shtml>. Stay Safe!

E-mail Request

In an effort to improve communication between farmers and the regional Department of Agriculture office, email addresses are being collected. If you would like to occasionally receive reminder notices, etc. please provide us with your email address. Forward a quick email to Lauren at boydll@gov.ns.ca.

Winter Farm Safety Tips

The change of seasons brings about new challenges in farm safety – keep the following tips in mind and have a safe and happy winter season.

- Snow and ice are inevitable. Use extra care and precaution. Be prepared for slippery surfaces around your farm yard and around the barn.
- If you have not already done so – clean your chimney.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting for working in buildings and around equipment.

- Ensure covers are in place around manure pits and tanks.
- Check your generator and perform regular maintenance.
- Check equipment, perform regular maintenance and ensure all safety guards are in place.
- Check fire extinguishers.
- Check all first aid kits and replenish missing or old supplies.

New 4-H Executive Antigonish and Pictou

Antigonish 4-H council executive
for 2010 – 2011

President - Angela MacNeil
Vice-President - Scott Butler
Secretary - Lisa Wright
Treasurer - Lori VandeSande

Pictou 4-H Council Executive for
2010 – 2011

President - Penny McLeod
Vice-President - Bonnie Allan
Secretary - Betty Lou Scott
Treasurer - John VanKessel

Local Christmas Meal

Make Christmas dinner a “local” one this year by preparing a local meal for your family. The Antigonish Farmers Market will be operating until December 18 at the Antigonish Education Centre where you will find lots of tempting, tasteful local goodies to help make that meal a delectable one!

Also check out the Taste of Nova Scotia’s website for some of their great recipes.

<http://www.tasteofnovascotia.com>

Best wishes for a happy
Christmas season, good health
and much success in 2011
from the staff of the
Antigonish office!



Upcoming 4-H Events

Antigonish County

- December 27 County 4-H Skate - 12 - 1 p.m., at the Antigonish Arena
January 11 New 4-H Leader Training session at the Agriculture office - sessions run either 12 - 1 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m.
January 11 County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., at the Agriculture office
January 23 County 4-H Bowling - 3 - 4 p.m., at Pins Bowling Center
February 8 New 4-H Leader Training session at the Agriculture office - sessions run either 12 - 1 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m.
February 8 County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., at the Agriculture office
February 20 County 4-H Swim - 4 - 5 p.m. at the Oland Center

Pictou County

- January 25 New 4-H Leader Training session - sessions run either 12 - 1 p.m., or 6 to 7 p.m., - Lunchtime session will be at the office in Pictou. Evening session will be held at Northumberland Regional High School.
January 25 County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., at Northumberland Regional High School
February 23 New 4-H Leader Training session - sessions run either 12-1 p.m. or 7 to 8 p.m., - Lunchtime session will be at the office in Pictou. Evening session will be held at Northumberland Regional High School.
February 23 County 4-H Council Meeting, 7 p.m., at Northumberland Regional High School

Food Safety and Holiday Turkey

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

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

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

Approximate Cooking Times at 325°F

	<u>Unstuffed</u> (hours)	<u>Stuffed</u> (hours)
8-12 lb	2¾-3	8-12 lb 3 - 3½
12-14 lb	3 - 3¾	12-14 lb 3½ - 4
14-18 lb	3¾ - 4¼	14 - 18 lb 4 - 4¼
18-20 lb	4¼- 4½	18-20 lb 4¼-4¾



Up-coming Sessions and Meetings

Growing Your Farm Profits is an education tool designed to help farmers improve their business planning and maximize their long-term farm business goals.

- Do you need to improve your profits?
- Have you started planning for succession?
- When was the last time you were in a room with your peers and had the opportunity to share new ideas?
- Do you have an action plan for each priority of your farm business? Growing your Farm Profits will help.

Several workshops will be held in the Western Region in the new year, as follows:

January 18, 2011 - Weymouth Library, Weymouth, Digby County 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

January 18, 2011 - Rudders Seafood Restaurant, Yarmouth, Yarmouth County 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

February 8, 2011 - Bridgetown Motor Inn, Bridgetown, Annapolis County 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To register contact Ginger Stoddard at 893-6580, bme@gov.ns.ca

Check out the website for more information.
<http://gov.ns.ca/agri/bde/GYFP.shtml>

Updating Mailing List

The regional office is updating its mailing list. If your address has changed or you no longer would like to receive this newsletter, please contact Gina at 638-2395 or by email at saulnigl@gov.ns.ca. We have had a number of Annapolis County newsletters returned to us recently due to incomplete/wrong addresses, so please advise us if your address is incomplete on our label.

Selling Locally

If you are interested in selling your products to local institutions and/or being included in the 2011-12 issue of Select Nova Scotia's 'Local and Direct: Chef's Guide to Buying from Nova Scotia Producers,' please contact Nicole Burkhard at burkhane@gov.ns.ca or 638-2397.

Western Region 4-H Update

2011

January 12	Annapolis County 4-H leaders Council meeting
January 18-20	4-H Staff meeting
January 19	Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meeting
January 20	Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting
January 15	Annapolis County Craft Workshop
February 9	Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Meeting
February 16	Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meeting
February 17	Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting

For further information please contact Jean Ward, Western Region 4-H Specialist, Department of Agriculture, 86 Atlantic Avenue, Box 278, Cornwallis Park, NS, B0S 1H0

ph: 638-2387, fax: 638-2389

