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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2010

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 11 No. 1

Minister Announces Beef Interest Pay-Down Program

Beef producers will be better able to stabilize the long-term viability of their industry with a \$2-million Nova Scotia Beef Interest Pay-Down Program, announced on January 18.

The program, delivered through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, provides assistance to Nova Scotia beef producers to pay down loan interest from 2009 to 2011. It will support the beef industry in the short term and provide funding to ensure producers remain viable.

“This program will address some of the current challenges facing beef producers, helping them move forward in their efforts to build a sustainable sector in Nova Scotia,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell.

“Working with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers since early last summer, I am confident that beef farmers will competitively position themselves in today’s marketplace.”

Cattle producers have expressed a need to make changes in the industry. This program is a starting point to reposition it by investing in a profitable and sustainable plan. Producers will have the flexibility to focus on parts of the industry that strengthens partnerships, alliances and collaborations. Individuals will also have opportunity to invest in their needs.

“Beef producers in Nova Scotia face serious short- and long-term challenges,” said Dave Oulton, chair, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers. “Today’s announcement ensures that some of the hardships faced by our farms, due to extremely low market conditions, can be addressed, and our board members will continue to be available to help clarify producer eligibility requirements and look forward to the quickest possible delivery of this necessary support.”

“The federation recognizes this will be a significant investment in the Nova Scotia beef sector and will help

producers with their goal of providing more high-quality beef for Nova Scotia consumers,” said Richard Melvin, president, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

The deadline to submit the 2009 application is March 31. The deadline for the 2010 and 2011 claim forms will be March 31, 2011 and 2012, respectively.

To be eligible for the program beef producers must meet specific criteria. For more details on the program, go to www.nsfa-fane.ca/programs_and_projects or call (902) 893-2293.

New Animal Protection Act



Nova Scotia has new animal protection legislation entitled *An Act to Protect Animals and to Aid Animals that are in Distress*, or the *Animal Protection Act*. This new act was proclaimed on January 19, 2010. There are some significant changes in the way animal cruelty complaints are handled, with the goal of improving animal welfare and professionalizing investigations in the province.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA) will now investigate farm animal cruelty complaints in Nova Scotia. The SPCA will remain responsible for cruelty

complaints of companion animals. Leighann Hartnett, DVM has been hired to implement this program. She has had significant training through courses on Animal Welfare, Investigations and Enforcement, and Administrative Justice. It is anticipated that by having a veterinarian in the field evaluating farm animals and husbandry practices, there will be improved professionalism and an increased knowledge of livestock production.

With the network of people in the NSDA, as well as other government departments, it is hoped that there will be more education and resources

...continued on next page

Animal Protection Act continued...

available to producers and owners of farm animals for improvement of animal welfare.

The new act includes the obligation of veterinarians to report suspected cases of animal cruelty to the SPCA or the NSDA, the obligation of the SPCA to submit an annual report to the Minister of Agriculture and the creation of a Board of Appeal. In addition to these changes, the maximum allowable fines have been increased, giving the courts the opportunity to implement greater penalties for offenses.

The Appeal Board is not yet operational. Once board members have been hired and trained, it will provide an opportunity for animal owners and caretakers to file an appeal when they feel their animals have been unjustifiably taken from them on suspicion of animal cruelty. This Board will review all facts and evidence to determine whether correct procedures were followed in an animal seizure case.

The *Animal Protection Act* is a comprehensive piece of legislation and with its implementation, Nova Scotia will be among the leading provinces in terms of animal welfare. As regulations are developed, the act will be strengthened even further. The act is available at: www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/bills/60th_2nd/3rd_read/b186.htm

Leighann Hartnett, DVM
Legislation and Compliance
Quality Evaluation
hartnelk@gov.ns.ca

Direct Marketing Vendors Receive Funding

Nova Scotians will be better able to connect with consumers and offer fresh, local products with provincial investment in four food direct-marketing initiatives.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced \$430,984 in funding on December 22, 2009, to help strengthen local food direct marketers' infrastructure and sustainability.

"We are investing in farm and farmers' market businesses that promote the variety and quality of food Nova Scotia has to offer," said Mr. MacDonell. "I am pleased that farmers and other food producers are initiating new, innovative business ventures to bring their foods more directly to consumers."

The funding is provided through the Direct Marketing Community Development Trust Fund, which aims to increase consumer access to local products and help agriculture businesses sell more directly to consumers.

Funding will allow:

- Meadow Brook Meat Market, in Berwick, Kings Co., to increase opportunities to supply unique pork products to local consumers
- Farmers' Market of Nova Scotia Co-operative of Halifax to adopt a program to support business development and training for the farmers' market sector.
- Meadowbrook Farm in Tatamagouche, Colchester Co. to upgrade its meat shop to provide opportunities for consumers to experience local products.

- Wolfville Farmers' Market, in Wolfville, Kings Co., to develop a long-term, fixed location that will accommodate growing popularity and increase opportunities to access and market local food products.

"These businesses are an integral part of Nova Scotia's agriculture community," said Mr. MacDonell. "These projects were chosen for their strong business plans and benefits for the agri-food industry in Nova Scotia."

The funds are provided through the Community Development Trust Fund, a \$34.9-million program established in 2008 by the federal government to help communities and sectors experiencing economic challenges.

The priorities of the Community Development Trust Fund are to enhance sustainable prosperity, diversify economic and trade opportunities, improve productivity, innovation and training, assist communities with transition planning, and help workers facing adjustment challenges. More information on the Community Development Trust of Nova Scotia is available at www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust.

Programs and Business Risk Management

New Participants or Farmers - AgriStability 2010 Enrolment

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

AgriStability 2009 Interim Applications Are Available

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

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

For more information on any of the above, contact Steven Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll-free 1-866-844-4276.

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

The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund has received 115 applications in all categories. The final deadline for Programs and Business Risk Management to receive claims for Categories A-D is March 1, 2010.

The Innovation Fund has reporting and claiming requirements in March as well. If you were a successful applicant in Categories B: Supporting the Innovation Capacity of Farmers or Category C: Innovation and Commercialization of New Opportunities for Agri-Based Products please refer to the terms listed in your Letter of Agreement to ensure you comply with the deadlines for your project.

Orchard and Vineyard Transition Program (OVTP)

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


and an onsite pre-inspection must be conducted before work begins.

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

PLEASE NOTE: For project work approved for the 2009-10 program year, the deadline to claim your orchard/vineyard removal project is March 1, 2010.

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

Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich, NS
March 24-25, 2010



DAIRY FOCUS
The Building Blocks of Success

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia is hosting Dairy Focus 2010 March 23-25 at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich, Nova Scotia. The 2010 theme is "The Building Blocks of Success". The keynote speaker is Dr. Joep Driessen of the successful

world-wide Cow Signals program from Holland. Other speakers are Dr. Limin Kung, Patrick Hoffman, Robert James, Jack Rodenburg and Daniel Scothorn. A pre-conference tour and special Cow Signals Session is being held on March 23rd. Agenda, forms, sponsors and trade show information is all posted on the conference website at www.dairyfocusconference.com.

Agricultural Companies Receive Strategic Infrastructure Funding

The province awarded funding to eight agricultural companies to help strengthen their infrastructure and sustainability, Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced on December 23, 2009.

“We are working with producers and processors to assist them as they develop their economic potential and improve competitiveness,” said Mr. John MacDonell. “These businesses were chosen for their strong business plans and benefits for the agri-food industry as a whole.”

Funding has been approved for:

- Foxhill Cheese House, Port Williams, Kings Co., to expand their processing capacity so they can respond to opportunities to produce new, specialty dairy products
- 2M Farms Ltd., of Berwick, Kings Co. to expand the seed potato operation that will allow the Nova Scotia potato industry to expand into specialty, export markets
- Nova Agri. Inc., Centreville, Kings Co., to support the commercialization of an innovative greenhouse technology that will provide opportunities for the Nova Scotia agriculture industry to meet increasing consumer demand for fresh horticulture products
- Holmstead Cheese Sales Inc., of Aylesford, Kings Co., to meet growing demand for existing cheese products and to develop new product lines

- MacMaster Choice Meats, Antigonish, Antigonish Co., to develop production and processing systems that will result in increased opportunities for the Nova Scotia beef sector to respond to consumer demand for quality beef products
- Eyking Brothers, Millville, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, to develop a facility that will position them to respond to new opportunities in the growing market for value-added vegetable products
- Cogmagun Poultry Processing Co. Ltd., Centre Burlington, Hants Co., to provide enhanced, value-added processing opportunities for Nova Scotia's specialty poultry industry to capitalize on consumer demand for differentiated products
- Northumberland Cooperative Ltd./Brookside Abattoir, of Truro, Colchester Co., to enhance the Nova Scotia agriculture industry's ability to supply high-quality, provincially-inspected lamb and other meat products to existing and new markets.

The eight businesses applied for funding under the third year of the Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund. To date, \$4.25 million has been committed from the \$6 million, four-year fund.

“The Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund increases collaboration and partnerships in our industry,” said Mr. MacDonell.

New Appointment - Assistant New Entrant Resource Coordinator

Rebecca Sooksom has recently been appointed to the position of Assistant New Entrant Resource Coordinator as part of the ThinkFARM (New Entrant) Initiative.

Becky brings vast experience and energy to the position. She will be coordinating information to beginning farmers, website updates, communication and trade show events. Her office is located in DeWolfe House in Truro with Agricultural Awareness staff. Prior to this role, Becky worked for the NSAC Centre for Continuing and Distance Education developing curricula for the PEI Farm Workers Apprenticeship Program. She returned to Nova Scotia last year after spending nine years in Thailand, where she worked with small-scale farmers on a variety of projects.

Rural Leaders Conference
growing
healthy communities

4 – 6 March 2010

The Lord Nelson Hotel, Halifax, NS

You Are Invited to Attend!

The 2010 Rural Leaders Conference Committee is pleased to invite you to a dynamic leadership conference “*Growing Healthy Communities*”.

Key note speakers will be:

- **Bill Carr** – Seeing a Healthy Tomorrow
- **Dr. Jane Lewis** – Working with People
- **Neville MacKay** – Building a Thriving Team

Anyone who is involved in or has an interest in rural organizations working towards the betterment of rural Nova Scotia is eligible to attend. Groups may include 4-H leaders, Women’s Institutes of Nova Scotia, agricultural awareness committee members, farmers, municipal leaders, community health boards, rural development agencies, industry groups, agriculture awareness teachers and other rural organizations. It is an excellent opportunity to have a winter get away while networking with other community leaders and learning new things to strengthen your role in your community organization.

Mark your calendars for March 4-6, for the 2010 Rural Leaders Conference in Halifax which will celebrate success stories, create valuable partnerships and build stronger rural communities.

- Registration is \$150 (Includes room, based on double occupancy, and meals.)
- Individual Day Registration:
 - lunch and day program only, either day is \$50
 - lunch, Friday program and banquet is \$75

Registration deadline is February 26, after which no refunds will be given.

Please send your completed registration form and conference fee (cheque made out to the NS 4-H Council) to:

Cheryl Chandler, Communications and Resource Coordinator
NS Department of Agriculture
Box 70, Mabou
Nova Scotia B0E 1X0
Phone: (902) 945-2902
Fax: (902) 945-2858
E-mail: chandlerc@gov.ns.ca

To view full conference details visit www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/glkit/ruralleadersregform2010.pdf

Registration Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

_____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Food Allergies? _____

Name Roommate _____
Preferred

Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Continuing and Distance Education, NSAC

Crop 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 price and coverage level options for the upcoming growing season.

Advanced Payments Program -

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 Crop Insurance as a security for the advance. Late applications for Crop Insurance cannot be accepted after the above dates.

Dairy Producers - The Commission is able to write new coverage for dairy livestock each month. If you are not currently enrolled but would like to be, please call our office. If you are interested in insuring your animals against disease, or loss of income from milk sales as a result of disease or fire and building collapse due to ice and snow, it is not too late to apply for Dairy Insurance (includes all reportable diseases except BSF and Foot and Mouth, along with shipping fever and IBR.) 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 targets 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 administers a Wildlife Compensation Program for Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of damage by 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 (902) 679-6015/6028 – Kentville.

Winter Courses 2010

- Exploring the Small Farm Dream (Halifax) – March 30, April 6, April 20, April 27
- Garden Centre Training – March 18-19 and 25-26
- Integrated Pest Management Update for Farmers – February 20
- Integrated Pest Management Update for Landscapers – February 27
- Introductory Welding – February 22-24
- Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Training Program, Truro – April 10 and 11

Please visit nsac.ca/cde or call (902) 893-6666 for more information on these and other programs.



February is Apple Month

Select Nova Scotia is sponsoring Apple Month as part of An IncrEDIBLE February by promoting Nova Scotia apples at various locations throughout the province.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell says that apples are the major tree fruit grown in Nova Scotia, contributing more than \$50 million annually to the local economy.

IncrEDIBLE February is Select Nova Scotia's winter promotion to encourage consumers to eat local. For more information about winter Select Nova Scotia events, go to www.selectnovascotia.com or phone (902) 722-1305.

For more information about Nova Scotia apples go to www.nsapples.com.

NSFA Membership/Farm Registration Renewals Coming Soon...

Farm registration renewals will soon be mailed to farmers across the province. If your farm was previously registered in the 2008–09 year, you should receive a form from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations with your personal information already filled in. We ask that you update any information and complete the remaining sections. Check the box in Section 5 to ensure your NSFA membership and fill in your affiliated county. There is no additional charge for your NSFA membership and a portion of your fee will be returned to your local county federation to support their work. More detail will accompany the registration form and is available on our website at www.nsfafane.ca/farmregistration, or on the Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations website, <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/paal/agric/paal005.asp>.

What are the benefits of registering my farm?

Access to farm assistance programs (EFP, FIF, AgriStability).

Access to veterinary services and herd health.

No tax on marked diesel fuel.

Zero taxation on farm land.

What are the benefits of being a member of NSFA?

Newsletters and reports.

Annual general meeting.

Access to staff and office resources.

Services and promotions.

What does the Federation do for me?

Recognized voice of agriculture, public policy, research, legislative and regulatory reviews, 'Watchdog' and lobby group, and linkage to national issues.

To find out more about the work of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, visit our website www.nsfafane.ca or call the Federation office at (902)893-2293.



Now it's time to give yourself a Voice

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is YOUR VOICE in the Agricultural Industry. When filling in your 2010 Farm Registration Form, don't forget to show your support.

Section 5 - Declaration



I wish to be a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA)



I do not wish to be a member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

For more information on the farm registration process and membership benefits, contact

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
332 Willow Street, Suite 201 Truro, N.S., B2N 5A5

Phone ~ (902) 893-2293 / Fax ~ (902) 893-7063 Email ~ info@nsfa-fane.ca Website ~ www.nsfafane.ca



Nova Scotia to Host 2010 Atlantic Cranberry Management Course

The Nova Scotia Cranberry Growers Association is hosting the Atlantic Cranberry Management Course for the first on time March 11-12 at the Westin in Halifax. This event is held every two years and hosting duties are rotated among the four Atlantic provinces. The theme of the conference is "Raising the Production Bar: Learning and Working Together". Topics to be covered include – Engineering and Bed Design; Vine Sourcing and Planting; Cultivators; Economics of Cranberry Production; Organic Cranberry Production; a Buyers Panel; Weed and Disease Management; Irrigation Scheduling; and a Growers Panel on Maximizing Production on Upland Soils. The featured grower is Ray Habelman from Madison, Wisconsin. Registration for the conference begins the evening of March 10. Agenda, forms, etc. are available at the conference website at www.atlanticcranberry.ca.



Pasture Manual Still Available

The Maritime Pasture Manual is available for download at www.extensioncentral.com. The information and recommendations in the manual have been shown to be effective tools in this region for improving both animal and pasture productivity. The manual is written from the perspective that if you improve the productivity and health of the pasture, then animal productivity will improve. The manual covers a broad range of information, including grazing management systems, pasture fertility, fencing, drought management, riparian management, as well as methods for extending the grazing season. Funding to produce this manual was provided by the Agri-Futures CARD Councils of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island through a project submitted by the Hants County Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Hants County Federation of Agriculture in partnership with AgraPoint. For more information, please call Sarah Wood at 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free).

Changing Practices in a Changing World

**Promoting
Local Producer Innovation**
One-day workshop with
presentations by local producers

Annapolis Basin Conference
Centre, Cornwallis
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pre-register with Terry Thibodeau
at tthibodeau@annapolisdigby.com
or (902) 638-8937 by March 12

\$20 registration fee, includes lunch
and a chance to win door prizes!

AgraPoint Welcomes New Horticulturist

Effective April 12, 2010, Rachael Cheverie will join AgraPoint as a horticulturist working from the Truro office. She will start part-time in mid-March. Although based in Truro, she will divide her time between the Truro and Kentville offices during peak growing seasons. Cheverie will be working closely with AgraPoint's other horticulturists to become integrated and engaged in all the horticultural sectors. She has an MSc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph, with a focus on

entomology. From 1998 to 2007 she was the Integrated Pest Management Specialist for PEI, where she dealt directly with farmers and industry groups and covered a whole range of crops. In 2007, she was appointed as the PEI Department's Potato Industry Coordinator, coordinating research, training and extension activities for that important industry. During her time in PEI she was PEI's Minor Use Coordinator and served on various regional and national expert committees.

Drip Irrigation and Fertigation Workshop March 19th, Old Orchard Inn

AgraPoint is hosting a one-day workshop on drip irrigation and fertigation, March 19 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Old Orchard Inn in Greenwich. Topics include Components of Trickle Irrigation; Plant Water Requirements; System Design; Filtration; Irrigation Scheduling; and Fertigation. Guest speakers are Ted van der Gulik, P. Eng., Senior Engineer, Sustainable Agriculture Management Branch with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Brian Beaton, Sales

Representative, Vanden Bussche Irrigation. The workshop is \$40 + HST and the 330+ page Trickle Irrigation Manual is \$40 + HST. The first 40 registrants can register for the workshop and order a manual for the special combined price of \$60 + HST. Registration may be limited for space considerations. Please register early. Manuals are only available for sale to workshop registrants. Deadline to register is March 5. Register by calling (902) 896-0277 (Truro) or toll-free 1-866-606-4636.

Lowbush Blueberry Sessions in Early March

AgraPoint is hosting three sessions for lowbush blueberry growers in early March:

March 2 – 6-9 p.m. (Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre - Springhill)

March 3 – 6-9 p.m. (Admin Building - AgriTech Park, Truro)

March 4 – 1-4 p.m. (St. Ninian's Place - Antigonish)

Topics will include cost of production; managing inputs and their costs; the importance of record keeping on a field-by-field basis; how to make strategic decisions around inputs. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free) or (902) 896-0277 in Truro. Sessions are limited to 25 people on a first-come first-serve basis. Cost is \$20 (HST included). A record keeping binder and tracking template will be provided for each participant, as well as light refreshments.

Farm Nova Scotia Forage Competition

Sponsored by Rural Delivery, NSDA and AgraPoint

Display, Results, Cash Prizes at

Farm Nova Scotia, March 12-14, Exhibition Park, Halifax

Classes

Grass-Legume Hay (mixed); Grass Hay – not more than 15 per cent legume; Legume Hay – not more than 15 per cent grass.

Grass Haylage/Silage – not more than 20 per cent legume; Legume Haylage/Silage; Corn Silage.

Rules

1. All entrants must be bona fide farmers.
2. Only one entry per class per farm enterprise will be accepted.
3. Entries must be fair and unaltered.
4. Entries will consist of two samples: one for analysis, one for display.
5. A sample will consist of:
 - a. Hay: Two 12 cm flakes or equivalent volume. Samples must be boxed. If placed in a plastic bag the sample will mold.
 - b. Hay/Silage: The sample should weight 1 – 2 kg. Samples should be placed in a 1 kg zip lock bag and must be frozen immediately to maintain optimum quality.
6. Entries will be judged on visual and laboratory analysis. Not all samples will be displayed.
7. All samples must be received by February 15, 2010.

Judging Criteria

Corn Silage: analyses – dry matter, TDN, NDF; visual – odour, length of chop, grain content

Hay: analyses – crude protein, ADF, NDF; visual – stage of development, leafiness, colour, odour, softness

Haylage/Silage: analyses – dry matter, digestible protein, crude protein, ADF, NDF; visual – colour, odour

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place entries.

Cost: Chemical analysis will be performed by the provincial feed testing laboratory. Entrants will be charged the standard forage analysis fee for each entry.

How to Enter: Samples can taken to a regional Agriculture office and will be forwarded to Bill Thomas, AgraPoint, Truro.

Woodland Conferences Coming Soon to a Place near You

If you are a woodland owner or someone who is interested in the future of our forests, you may be interested in attending an upcoming woodland conference. Every year there is a series of three woodland conferences held in different locations across the province.

On March 6, the western region conference will be held at the West Queen's Community Centre in Port Mouton. The central region conference will be held March 27 at the Winding River Elementary School in Stewiacke, Colchester County. The eastern region will host an April 10 event in Chedabucto Place Performance Centre in Guysborough.

The conferences consist of expert speakers who present a wide variety of information pertaining to the forests and forest management. Some of the topics include financial planning, woodlot ecology and managing for wildlife, harvesting timber, silviculture, wildlife issues, riparian

zone protection, biomass production, non-timber forest products and market outlook.

There will be exhibitors set up to show off the latest in information and equipment. A hearty lunch will be served at noon. Admission for the conference is \$25, which covers lunch, presentations and a chance to win the grand draw prize - a new chainsaw.

The annual conference series is sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, Nova Forest Alliance and Regional Development Authorities across the province. The target audience is owners of woodlands and other members of the public who have an interest in forests and forestry.

For more information or to register, call 1-888-375-2198 or visit: www.woodlotinfoshop.ca.

There will be a draw for a free GPS unit for those who pre-register.



4-H Members Participate in Annual Kevin Grant Memorial Leadership Tour

Ten 4-H members from across the province have been selected to participate in the second annual Kevin Grant Memorial Tour from March 15 - 17 in Yarmouth. This program is designed to introduce 4-H youth, ages 14 to 16, to what communities in Nova Scotia have to offer as a place to live and work.

The initial event will feature speakers and tours with a business, agriculture and industry format and will allow 4-H members to learn about a specific region, the community, community

leaders, the local area resource-based businesses and rural employers.

The conference is sponsored by the Kevin Grant Memorial Tour fund. Mr. Grant was a long time 4-H participant, government employee, and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H program. The fund provides a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. After careful consideration of his wishes, the foundation has developed the rural youth leadership development tour.

The leadership development tour is held in different locations across Nova Scotia each year during the school March Break.

This year the conference component will include meeting community group leaders/members in Yarmouth and discussing roles of the various rural organizations in the area, a tour of the tidal power project, Forchu Lighthouse, University St. Anne, local farming innovation sites/business and recreation time with local 4-H clubs.

The 2010 Kevin Grant memorial tour 4-H delegates selected to attend the event this year are: Marja Himmelman, Shelburne County; Logan MacKenzie and Malcolm Elliott, Pictou Co.; Alex Oliver and Brendan Shaw, Annapolis Co.; Gillian Tetlow, Kings Co.; Taylor Hoyt and Kaitlin O'Connell, Colchester Co.; Heather Sweeney, Yarmouth Co. and Justin Jamison, Hants Co.

4-H Members Ready For Annual Chocolate Fund Raiser

Each spring 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in a provincial fund raising campaign. This year they are selling Sunsweet chocolate products to raise money for local and provincial programs.

The campaign runs from March 1 - 31. 4-H members will be selling Cadbury caramilk bars and chocolate covered almonds for \$2 each.

Proceeds are divided among the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties that sell bars. The provincial council uses the money to support the EBI Showcase; National Travel Award Opportunity registrations; Camp Rankin; the Nova Scotia 4-H Council scholarships; 4-H Weekend, annual meeting and 4-H Show.

Camp Rankin Provides Students with Summer Jobs

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

Camp Rankin is located in Cape Breton, just outside of St. Peter's at Cape George on the Bras d'Or Lakes. The camp is open to Nova Scotia 4-H members between the ages of 9 and 15. It strives to uphold 4-H's values and traditions, which encourage care and responsibility for our resources as well as teaching positive life skills. Campers attend one of five, week-long sessions running Sunday until Friday. They begin on July 4 and end on August 6, 2010.

Under the supervision of the Camp Director, each camp counselor will follow all camp rules and set a good example for campers. The camp counselor will supervise a group of up to seven campers during the night in individual cabins. They will work with this group during camp activities, such as campfire, chapel and during camp chores. Each counselor

will be responsible for preparing two to three workshops directly related to their job title, suitable for campers aged 9 - 12 and 13 - 15, as well as leading their session one to two times daily. Counselors are expected to participate in and supervise all group activities, including hikes, dances and various recreational activities.

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members at least 16 years old, who have a good understanding of the 4-H program and enjoy the outdoors. Current first aid training is required for all counselors and formal canoeing training is required for the canoeing counselor. As a Camp Rankin counselor you will have a great summer job where you will meet new friends and create many fond memories. 4-H members who are 16 or older can also apply for the counselor-in-training positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one of the camping weeks.

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

Agricultural Land Review Public Meetings

What do you think the future of Nova Scotia's agricultural lands should be? The short and long term future of the existing agricultural lands in NS will be the subject of a province-wide consultation. The public meetings will focus on the preservation of prime agriculture land; how much land is needed to sustain the population of NS; whether land uses that are incompatible with agriculture, such as private homes, hospitals, day cares, etc., should be restricted from agricultural areas; and what role society as a whole needs to play in determining the future of Nova Scotia's agricultural lands. A series of public meetings are being held to answer these questions. The public meetings in our area will be held as follows:

February 24 - Lunenburg Fire Hall, 7-9 p.m.
March 3 - Berwick Fire Hall, 7-9 p.m.

Pesticide Certification Courses

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

The dates for certification courses are:

March 11-12 – AgriTech Park, Truro
March 23-24 – Wandlyn Inn, Coldbrook

The dates for recertification courses are as follows:

March 5 – AgriTech Park, Truro
March 31 – Days Inn, Bridgewater

Important Reminder

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

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 save on costs. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify Cheryl.



Valley Region 4-H News

Council Meetings

Kings County Council meetings are held at the Kentville Agricultural Centre at 7:30 p.m. and Hants County Council meetings are held at Brooklyn Elementary School at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Hants County: Monday, March 5;
Tuesday, April 6; Monday, May 3.
Kings County: Tuesday, March 8;
Monday April 12; Monday May 10.

4-H Continues to Grow in the Valley Region

Proof that 4-H is growing within our region is the springing up of new clubs and an ever increasing membership. In 2010, both Hants and Kings counties have more members enrolled in the 4-H program compared to previous years, and a wave of enrollment from the younger population is being seen. A brand new club covering the New Minas and surrounding areas is the New Minas 4-H Club. This Kings County club is being led by Jan Pineo as the general leader. It has already had several club trips and events to begin the new year. Also coming back into existence is the

Vaughans 4-H Club located in Hants County. This club, covering the Smiths Corner, Vaughan and Waterville areas, is being led by the general leader Beth Brown. We welcome both of these clubs into the Valley Region.

N.S. Department of Agriculture, Making a Difference in Developing Today's Youth

One of the mandates of the NS government is to retain today's youth within our province. By developing youth with a broad skill set, including leadership, technical and critical thinking skills, they are challenged to develop to their full potential, allowing them to confidently look for rewarding careers in Nova Scotia. The 4-H program, funded by the NS Department of Agriculture is an excellent example of how the provincial government is achieving this mandate. Be sure to look for 4-H member success stories in your local newspapers and on the Provincial 4-H website www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h. These stories are examples of how NS youth are benefitting and continue to benefit from the 4-H program.

Future of Farming

Are you a producer reviewing financial options, planning for succession or considering ways of diversifying on-farm income?

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is in the process of planning a one-day workshop that will provide some tools to assist you.

Check the next Agriculture Services newsletter for dates and times or contact Michael Kittilsen (902) 893-3645 kittilma@gov.ns.ca for more information.

Central Region Newsletter Mailing List

We are updating our newsletter mailing list. Please contact Marlene Allen by phone at (902) 893-6575 or by e-mail allenmm@gov.ns.ca if there are any changes to your address, if you would like to be removed from the list; or if you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Twilight Blueberry Meeting

Weed Management Strategies

Thursday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.,
Parrsboro Fire Hall
Speakers: Peter Burgess, IPM Coordinator, AgraPoint; Nathan Boyd, Vegetation Management Research Chair, NSAC; Dale McIsaac, Lowering Your Cost of Production.

Open to wild blueberry producers interested in new approaches to controlling weeds in their fields.

There will be a minimum of one point available for the NS Environment pesticide recertification program.

Pesticide Certification and Recertification

Course Schedule

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

Recertification:

Feb. 24, 2010, Nappan Pavilion, Amherst 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., \$ 75 (plus tax)

March 5, 2010, AgriTech Park, Truro 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., \$ 75 (plus tax)

Certification:

March 11 and 12, 2010, AgriTech Park, Truro 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., \$ 185 (tax and manual incl.)

Please call (902) 798-2114 to register.

Tractor Safety Certification

If you have a Class 8 drivers licence and operate tractors on Nova Scotia roads, you must pass this course to be certified to legally haul trailed implements on the road with your tractor. This course is targeted to youth aged 14-16. Topics such as safety, highway regulations, pre-operation checks, safe starts, stops, connecting and hauling various implements will be covered. Any current tractor operator who holds a Class 8 license and has at least 10 hours tractor driving experience is welcome to attend.

At the end of the course, written and driving skills tests will be completed. Participants who obtain 70 per cent on both the written and skills will receive a certificate of achievement from NSAC. For more information or to register, contact Continuing and Distance Education Nova Scotia

NOTE: Dates for certification and recertification are also available in Kentville. For more information please call Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114. If you are applying for a pesticide licence for the first time, or your current licence is due to expire and you have not collected any recertification points, then you should take a certification course. Alternately, you may arrange to write the pesticide application exam at a Department of Environment office. Recertification sessions provide five of the 15 required points before your licence expires to recertify without writing an exam.

* New in 2010, applicators can now accumulate 10 points per year but will need to acquire 15 points within 5 years to qualify for recertification.

Agricultural College. Phone: (902) 893-6666, Fax: (902) 895-5528; e-mail: cde@nsac.ca

<http://www.nsac.ca/cde/courses/Contract/tractor.asp>

• NSAC - Truro: April 10-11, 2010

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

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



4- H News

New Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the Central Region

Hello, my name is Janette McDonald and I am the new Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the Central Region. I will be the 4-H Coordinator for the upcoming 4-H year and am very excited to be apart of the 4-H team in this great region!

I grew up on a dairy farm in Middle Musquodoboit, NS and I am a former 4-H member of 10 years. I took various projects, including dairy, beef, sheep, dog obedience, light horse, crafts, foods, and poultry over the years. I was also an avid woodsmen and tug-o-war team member. I completed a BSc.(Agr), majoring in Agricultural Business in 2008 from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Since graduation I have been working for the Department of Agriculture in various roles.

I am very excited to be working with 4-H this year. It is going to be a busy one with the Central Region hosting the 2010 Provincial 4-H Show, but an enjoyable one too! I look forward to meeting 4-H members and families as I travel throughout the Central Region.
-Janette

Central Region National Award Winners:

Congratulations to three Central Region 4-H members who have been selected to participate at the National Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa from April 9-15, 2010. The members are Kelton MacDonell from the Shu-mil 4-H club in Halifax East-Hants; Sasha Baldwin of the Ro-Win-Lea 4-H Club in Cumberland County and Kyle Kaiser from the TNR 4-H Club in Colchester County. This is a very prestigious award. Best wishes are extended to these members for a memorable and exciting trip!

Central Region Kevin Grant Memorial Tour Award Winners:

Congratulations to Taylor Hoyt and Katelyn O'Connell, both of Colchester County, who have been selected to participate in the second annual Kevin Grant Memorial Tour. This year the tour is taking place in Yarmouth, from March 15-17. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet 4-H members from across the province and travel to a great part of Nova Scotia.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings:

Halifax East-Hants Leaders Council Meetings: March 9 (Hants East Rural High School) and April 6 (Middle Musquodoboit Forestry Complex). All beginning at 7 p.m.

Halifax East-Hants New Leader Training Workshop: February 9 (Hants East Rural High School) 6:30 p.m.

Colchester County Leaders Council Meetings: February 22, March 22, and April 26. All are upstairs in the Agridome and begin at 7 p.m.

Colchester Exhibition Planning Meetings: March 8, and April 12. All are upstairs in the Agridome and begin at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County Leaders Council Meetings: March 2 and April 6. All are at the Shinimicas Fire Hall beginning at 8 p.m.

Members – look out for upcoming judging workshops in your county during March Break!

Public Speaking and Demonstration Rallies:

Cumberland County Rally, Halifax East-Hants County Rally and Colchester County Rally will all be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

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. Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the Central Region.

Pesticide Recertification and Certification Courses

ProAgri Consulting will be holding a Pesticide Recertification course in Sydney's Civic Centre on April 1, 2010. This five-hour course provides five recertification points to current holders of a pesticide applicators licence.

ProAgri Consulting are looking for individuals interested in taking a Pesticide Certification or Recertification Course in the Mabou

area. It is scheduled for April 2010 for anyone wishing to prepare and write the test for the Pesticide Applicator's Licence. This course will only be offered if there are enough people registered.

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

Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton Agriculture office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2010 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds, if you would like to have your name added to the contact list or you are looking to purchase hay please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

Nutrient Management Workshop -

Wednesday March 10, 2010, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Guest speakers include Tim Fisher of Truro Agromart and Lise Leblanc, LP Consulting Ltd., who will be discussing nutrient management planning, fertilizer issues and the wood ash program. Everyone is invited to attend, coffee and refreshments will be served. Please call the Sydney office to register and reserve a seat! Contact Catherine at (902) 563-2000.

Upcoming Events from the Cape Breton Agriculture Office:

- Beef Slaughter and Marketing Workshop - April 2010
- Rural Safety Day - May 1, 2010 - Brook Village
- Nutrient Management Workshop - March 10, 2010
- Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth - Inaugural meeting

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

Forklift Training - Safe Forklift Operation

Thursday May 13, 2010 - Millville Community Hall - Cost is \$110 per person plus tax (Total \$124.30)

Course begins at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

Section 56 of the Occupational Safety General Regulations states: "An employer shall ensure that a hoist, industrial lift truck or powered mobile equipment (a) is operated by a designated competent person; (b) has gears and moving parts securely guarded by adequate means where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace; (c) has any load on it adequately secured where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace; and (d) is provided with safe means of access

and exit from the operator's position and any passenger's position."

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

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

If you are interested in this training, call our office to register. (902) 563-2000



"Join the 4-H Trend in 2010"

The 4-H communities are looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead. Many programs are looking at helping our members and leaders to grow in the areas of agriculture awareness, leadership, meeting management, communications and project skills. These opportunities are making the future a great place for 4-Hers in the Cape Breton region.

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

4-H junior members from all over Cape Breton will be having workshop sessions. These workshops will give our junior members a time to polish their 4-H skills and help them through their 4-H year. The workshops will focus on hands-on activities and opportunities to meet other members. We will be learning about judging, conducting a meeting, poster making, recreation, 4-H and agriculture

through games, speakers and activities. The workshops are open to 4-H members 9-13 year olds and for the first time this year, cloverbud members. In case of bad weather, cancellations will be aired on our local radio stations.

Our second workshop will be at the North Sydney Exhibition grounds on Friday, February 26.

2010 Rural Leaders Conference – “Growing Healthy Communities”

Mark your calendars for March 4-6, for the 2010 Rural Leaders Conference in Halifax which will celebrate success stories, create valuable partnerships and build stronger rural communities. This is a dynamic leadership conference “Growing Healthy Communities”. It has a dynamic mix of powerful speakers and interactive activities that will challenge you to be the best leader you can be. Anyone involved in or who has an interest in rural organizations working towards the betterment of rural Nova Scotia is eligible to attend. Groups include 4-H leaders, Women’s Institutes of Nova Scotia, agricultural awareness committee members, farmers, municipal leaders, community health boards, rural development agencies, industry groups, agriculture awareness teachers and other rural organizations. It is an excellent opportunity to have a winter get away while networking with other community leaders and learning new things to strengthen your role in your community organization.

Keynote speakers will be:
Bill Carr – “Growing People - Growing Communities”

Dr. Jane Lewis – “Working with People”

Neville MacKay – “Building a Thriving Team”

Registration deadline is February 26. Contact Cheryl Chandler (Mabou office) for registration information at (902) 945- 2902 or e-mail chandlcl@gov.ns.

Rural Safety Day

Rural youth and community members are encourage to attend the Rural Safety Day event planned for May 1 at the Brook Village Hall in Inverness County. The program will highlight various safety topics for both adult and youth, including:

- ATV and lawn mower safety
- Home alone
- Fire safety
- DNR - Lost in the woods
- Public Health - danger in the home

Contact Department of Agriculture staff for more details and registration information.

4-H Craft Workshop-Spring

4-H members, leaders, parents, and friends are invited to participate in the SPRING CRAFT Homemaking Workshop in Brook Village on May 15. Various craft projects will be offered to give fresh ideas for members and leaders. All registration fees must accompany the application. The deadline for submission is May 1. The program will start at 10 a.m. All applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. Applications can be obtained from your local 4-H office.



AG Literacy Week

Nova Scotia Ag Literacy Week will be held during the week of May 3 - 9, 2010. During this week, the world of agriculture is promoted to grade two and three students through an in-class reading program. Local producers, 4-H leaders, and anyone with an interest in reading and in agriculture is invited to get involved. If you can volunteer an hour or so of time to visit a local elementary school to read and educate a class about agriculture, let us know. We will forward your name and contact information to the provincial Ag Awareness office, which will connect you with an interested class. The provincial office will provide a book and other classroom materials for your visit. We are encouraging everyone with an interest to get involved. For more information, please contact the 4-H office by April 1 and let us know if you can help out.

Rally Time

Public Speaking is one of the most important skills 4-H members can learn. It will serve them well in school, university, interviews, community volunteer organizations and their careers. Throughout March and April, 4-H members across the island will be improving their speaking skills at club, county and regional rallies. At these events, members will do public speaking, demonstrations, poster competitions and Host and Hostess Competitions. 4-H members are divided into categories based on age.

4-H Camp Rankin Spotlight

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

educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Each day ends with a chapel service by the camp fire, sing-song, and lunch. What members can learn at camp include sessions on drama, nature studies, 4-H trivia, canoeing, recreation activities, arts and crafts and much more.

Applications are available from your general leader, local 4-H office, or online. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-serve basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week and application deadline is May 2, 2010. Let's keep this 4-H tradition alive and well in Cape Breton!

Students in Business

Do you know where you will work this summer? Will you set your own schedule?

Do you think you can guarantee savings up to \$1250? Will the job be interesting work that you want to do? If you said no to any of the above, Students in Business might be for you!

The Students in Business program (<http://www.studentsinbusiness.ca/>)

is a government sponsored, non-profit program that supports Nova Scotia students who want to explore entrepreneurship and operate their own business. To participate, full-time students must be between the ages of 15 and 34 and a resident of Nova Scotia for at least six months. SIB offers up to \$5000 as an interest free, flexible repayment business loan, free training, networking opportunities and more. Throughout the process of

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

Sydney

Patrick's Beauty College, 333 Charlotte St (Upstairs)

Wanda Timmons – February 15

Grand Lake Road Fire Department - Auditorium

Mike Gardiner – March 17, April 7, May 19

North Sydney

Northside Exhibition - 105 Regent St.

Wanda Timmons – April 20, May 26, June 22

Port Hawkesbury/ Inverness

Port Hawkesbury Civic Center

Carrie Fraser – March 2

Scotsville School of Craft - Scotsville - Inverness County

Carrie Fraser – April 8

If you wish to register please contact Catherine at the NS Department of Agriculture office in Sydney at (902) 563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:

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



the loan, students are encouraged to participate in training and mentoring for a chance to receive a 25 per cent rebate on their loan (e.g. a \$5,000 loan with a 25 per cent rebate provides \$1,250 back to the student). For more, please contact Bailey MacIntosh, Students in Business Outreach Facilitator (Cape Breton) at (902) 539-4332 Ext.2 or e-mail at bailey.macintosh@cbdc.ca mail to: mark.sparrow@cbdc.ca

Dates to Mark on the Calendar

- February 18 Richmond Co. meeting, 7 p.m. (Carter's)
Camp Rankin Association meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- February 26 Cape Breton Jr. Member Workshop (In-service day), N. Sydney Exhibition
- March 2 Cape Breton Co. meeting, 7 p.m. (Civic Center)
- March 4-6 Rural Leaders Conference (Halifax)
- March 6 All Atlantic Night with EBI 4-H Auction, 6 p.m., Antigonish; Interested 4-H Holstein Members should contact Rhonda for tickets.
- March 9 Victoria Co. meeting, 7 p.m. (Peterson's)
- March 22 Inverness Co. 4-H Council meeting, 7 p.m. at the 4-H office
- March 29 10 a.m. - Deadline for all Inverness Clubs to have County Rally Competitors Names/Topics to 4-H office for County Rally Brochure
- March 31 EBI application deadline for all senior dairy and beef members
- April 1 Camp Rankin Scholarship deadline
- April 5 Inverness Co. Rally hosted by Brook Village Club, 6 p.m.
- April 7 Cape Breton Co. Rally, North Sydney Exhibition
- April 10 Richmond Co. Rally, hosted by Lakeside Club, 1 p.m.
- April 17 Cape Breton Regional Rally, Baddeck Academy 10 a.m.
- May 1 4-H Camp Rankin deadline for applications
- May 1 Rural Safety Day, Brook Village (open to rural communities)
- May 7-8 4-H Weekend, NS Agricultural College, Bible Hill, application due April 19
- May 13 Richmond Co. Judging Day, West Bay Hall, 3-5 p.m.
- May 15 Craft Co-op Workshop, Brook Village
- May 15 Royal Dairy Classic pre-registration forms are due (attached to dairy newsletter)
- May 17 Inverness Co. Judging Day, Mabou
- May 18 Cape Breton Judging Days, all projects except horse
- May 19 Horse Judging
- May 27 Lakeside Achievement Day, Sampsonville
- June 10-11 Richmond Co. 4-H Show, Camp Rankin
- June 27-29 EBI 4-H Showcase, Truro
- August 3 Deadline for Inverness Record Sheets to be returned to the 4-H office in Mabou (Any record sheets not received by this date, and without prior permission for an extension by 4-H staff will not be eligible to compete in county day competitions).
- August 26-28 Inverness 4-H Show, Brook Village
- October 1-3 Nova Scotia 4-H Pro-Show, Truro
- October 17 Richmond Co. annual banquet/meeting, 3 p.m. Meet and Greet; 4 p.m. supper

Feel free to contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator if you have any concerns or questions. We can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2001 (Marina). E-mail addresses are: gillisma@gov.ns.ca or macdourm@gov.ns.ca

REMINDER

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

Important meeting - Farm Safety

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is partnering with your local fire departments to improve farm safety on your farms. We are looking for farm families to get involved with this venture. Two local meetings are scheduled. It would be great if you could attend.

St. Andrews Fire Department - Monday, February 22, 2010 beginning at 8 p.m.

Pomquet Fire Department - Wednesday, February 24, 2010 beginning at 8 p.m.

**You Are Invited
March 4 - 6, 2010**

The 2010 Rural Leaders Conference Committee is pleased to invite you to a dynamic leadership conference "Growing Healthy Communities"

Anyone involved in or who has an interest in rural organizations working towards the betterment of rural Nova Scotia is eligible to attend. Groups may include 4-H leaders, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, agricultural awareness committee members, farmers, municipal leaders, community health boards, rural development agencies, industry groups, agriculture awareness teachers and other rural organizations. It's an excellent opportunity to have a winter get away while networking with other community leaders and learning new things to strengthen your role in your community organization.

Farm Nova Scotia - Expo For Small Farming - March 12 - 13

Exhibition Park

More than half of all farms in Canada are small farms

Small Farms = Big Business

Nova Scotia is not an exception to this equation as witnessed at our inaugural event in 2008. Farming is alive and well in Nova Scotia, thus explaining the need and demand for an event such as this! Grow your business by exhibiting in the 2010 edition of Farm Nova Scotia!

www.masterpromotions.ca/farm-nova-scotia.asp

AgraPoint hosting Blueberry Session

Optimization of inputs for profitability in Lowbush Blueberries

Topics will include cost of production; managing inputs and their costs; the importance of record keeping on a field-by-field basis; how to make strategic decisions around inputs.

March 4, 1-4 p.m. (St. Ninian's Place - Antigonish)

Pre-registration is required and is on a first-come first-serve basis. Limited to 25 people per session. Please call (902) 896-0277 to register. Registration fee is \$20. A record keeping binder and tracking template will be provided for each participant. Light refreshments provided.

NSAC is pleased to offer the Nova Scotia Tractor Safety Program

If you have a Class 8 Drivers License you are eligible to get a condition 15 endorsement on your license.

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

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

Pesticide Training

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will once again be holding Certification and Recertification training sessions. See below for a course near you.

- Feb 19 Recertification
Stellarton,
Museum of Industry
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Feb 24 Recertification
Amherst,
Nappan Pavillion
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Mar 5 Recertification
Truro, Agri-Tech Park
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Mar 11-12 Certification
Truro, Agri-Tech Park
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Both Days

*** Possible dates for Mabou to be announced.

Certification - participants are eligible if they have never had a valid pesticide safety license or if their license has expired. This course is done over two days and on the afternoon of the second day class participants will write the N.S.

Please note: All participants must have at least 10 hours of supervised tractor driving experience before taking this course. Truro, April 10 - 11, 2010.

Who Should Attend? Youth aged 14-16 who currently have a Class 8 Nova Scotia Drivers License and at least 10 hours tractor driving experience. For more information or to register contact Continuing and Distance Education Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Phone: (902) 893-6666, Fax: (902) 895-5528; e-mail: cde@nsac.ca, www.nsac.ca/cde

Department of Environment Pesticide Certification Exam. Cost is \$185 (tax and manual included)

Recertification - continuing education points are awarded and course participants will be eligible for five points at the end of the five hour workshop. In order to be credited the points, applicators must already hold a valid pesticide license which has not expired. All participants must complete a recertification form provided on the day and return it to the course instructor, signed. Your instructor will assist you with this form at the end of the session. Cost is \$75 +tax.

New in 2010 - applicators can now accumulate 10 points per year but will still need to acquire 15 points within five years to qualify for Recertification.

To register, please contact Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114.

Join the 4-H Trend in 2010

Upcoming 4-H Events Antigonish County:

- March 9 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- March 19 Last date for entries for the county rally
- March 27 Antigonish County Rally,
9 a.m. AEC
- April 13 Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- April 13 Exhibition Committee Meeting, 8 p.m.
- April 20 Ant./Guys/Pictou Regional Rally,
Antigonish, 6 p.m.
- May 7 - 8 NS 4-H Weekend, Truro

Upcoming 4-H Events Pictou County:

- February 24 New Leader Training Workshop, Noon - 1 p.m., 4-H office and 7 - 8 p.m.
- February 24 Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Northumberland
- March 13 Swimming, Pictou Fisheries Pool, Pictou, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Free of charge
- March 24 Council Meeting 7 p.m., 4-H office
- March 26 County Rally 6 p.m., Northumberland (Storm date Apr. 9)
- April 20 Regional Rally - Antigonish Co. to host 6 p.m., Antigonish
- April 10 County Woodsmen Competition, 10 a.m., Eureka Fire Hall
- April 29 4-H Weekend Meeting 7 p.m., Northumberland
- April 29 Council Meeting 7 p.m., Northumberland
- April 29 Exhibition Committee Meeting, 8 p.m., Northumberland
- May 7 - 8 NS 4-H Weekend Truro

Western Region 4-H

Dates to Remember:

February 17, Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council meeting, 4-H office in Yarmouth, 7 p.m.
February 18, Digby 4-H Leaders Council meeting, Digby Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
March 5-6, Rural Leaders Conference, Halifax
March 6, All Atlantic Night, EBI Auction
March 10, Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting, 4-H office, Lawrencetown, 7 p.m.
March 15-17, Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Tour, Yarmouth
March 17, Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council meeting, 4-H office in Yarmouth, 7 p.m.
March 18, Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting, Fire Hall Digby, 7 p.m.
March 26-28, Senior Members Conference, Debert

Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Tour

The Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Tour will be held in Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth counties on March 15-17. Congratulations to Brendon Shaw of the Clarence 4-H Club, Alex Oliver of the Sun Valley Riders and Heather Sweeney of the Prince Charles 4-H Club who will join seven other 4-H members from across the province to participate in this tour. 4-H members applied for this program and were selected through an interview process.

Other Notes

Congratulations to Bryan Rice of the Sun Valley Riders, Leigh Stultz of the Clarence 4-H Club and Amy Redden of the Sunset View 4-H Club who have been selected as National Award winners and will attend the Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa in April.

Listen each Saturday at noon for 4-H News on AVR.

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

Up Coming Events

DCFA Organic Growers Club - Monday, February 22, 7 p.m. at the Weymouth Agricultural office - planning session.

The Agricultural Land Review Committee is holding a series of public meetings around the province. Is there an agricultural land issue in Nova Scotia? If so what is it? And what can be done about it? It is important that farmers' voices be heard.

The meetings in our region are:
Yarmouth, February 25, Rodd Grand Hotel 7 - 9 p.m.
Berwick, March 3, Berwick Fire Hall 7 - 9 p.m.

For more information visit www.nsaglandreview.com or contact your local ACCESS NS office for a hard copy of the Agricultural Land Review Committee Background paper.