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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



August 2011

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 12 No.3

### **New Ruling on Advanced Payment Program for Strawberry Growers**

In the past, this program was of limited use to strawberry growers as they only had the loan for a couple of months before they had to repay. Horticulture Nova Scotia, administrator of this AFFC guaranteed loan program to strawberry growers, as well as all vegetable, raspberry, highbush blueberry and greenhouse vegetables, has been able to negotiate a change which will be beneficial to strawberry growers. Starting immediately, Horticulture NS can issue a loan when berry growers plant or renovate – when your input costs are highest. You will not have to repay until you harvest before September 30, 2012.

For instance, if you plant an acreage this year, you can receive a loan based on the anticipated yield from that planting. There is no repayment until you begin selling the product from that planting next year. AgriStabilty or Crop Insurance is required as collateral when you make the loan. Crop insurance is available on strawberries until November 14, 2011.

The purpose of this program is to provide a cash flow to allow for orderly marketing. Loans are based on the amount of crop you plant or have in storage. Loans of up to \$100,000 are interest free. Loans of more than \$100,000 and less than \$400,000 are at 1/4 of a per cent under prime.

There is an administration fee of one per cent to members and three per cent to non members of Horticulture Nova Scotia. There is no administration fee for potatoes. Repayment is as the product is sold.

Greenhouse Vegetable Growers are eligible for the Advanced Payment Program and Horticulture NS is administering the program for them. Administration fees for Vegetable Greenhouse Growers is 1.25 per cent.

Loans on other crops are still available. Contact Donna Crawford at 678-9335 for more details or for application forms.

### **Honey Bee Quarantine Update**

Alexander Shalin, NSDA

A Review and Assessment for the Quarantine of Nova Scotia Honey Bees under the Bee Industry Act was conducted through the winter and spring of 2011. The recommendations from that study have been reviewed and the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable John MacDonell, has announced that the Bee Quarantine Declaration will remain in place. The Nova Scotia border will remain closed to the importation of bees with exceptions of queens from designated countries and the movement (under permit) of bees to and from Prince Edward Island.



### **Mink Health and Biosecurity Workshop - September 8, 2011**

AgraPoint is hosting a Mink Health and Biosecurity Workshop on September 8 from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Mountain Gap Inn in Smith's Cove, Nova Scotia.

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*Mink Health and Biosecurity continued...*

The session will cover topics including, but not limited to: biosecurity; mink diseases; herd health and vaccination; cleaning and disinfection; and parasites. Guest speakers will include Dr. Bruce Hunter, who is being sponsored by the Canada Mink Breeders Association, as well as Dr. Gordon Finley, Dr. Dave McHattie and Dr. Randall Bishop. John Zinck from Orkin PCO Services will also be speaking on curbing pests. There is no registration fee and dinner is included. If you are interested, call AgraPoint at 1-877-

710-5210 (toll-free) as soon as you can to ensure we have correct numbers of dinner.

Funding for this session is provided under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Growing Forward program. Partial funding is being provided under the Canada-Nova Scotia Labour Market Agreement in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. For more workshop information, please visit [www.agrapoint.ca](http://www.agrapoint.ca)

## **Blogs Allow AgraPoint Specialists to Provide Timely Information to Producers**

When AgraPoint launched its new website in late April ([www.agrapoint.ca](http://www.agrapoint.ca)) it also included several blogs as a fast, effective and easy way to communicate what specialists are seeing in the field, additional information, new resources and observations. Depending on the season, the blogs will be updated on a regular basis. They are meant to be informal, conversational and provide up-to-date information as a valuable, quick resource for producers. Each blog has a subscribe box and people are encouraged to add their email. This will ensure they receive an email notification when a blog is updated.

**Cranberry Blog** - [www.novascotiacranberryblog.com](http://www.novascotiacranberryblog.com)

**Dairy Blog** - [www.novascotiadairyblog.com](http://www.novascotiadairyblog.com)

**Grape Blog** - [www.novascotiagrapeblog.com](http://www.novascotiagrapeblog.com)

**Raspberry Blog** - [www.novascotiaraspberryblog.com](http://www.novascotiaraspberryblog.com)

**Strawberry Blog** - [www.novascotiastrawberryblog.com](http://www.novascotiastrawberryblog.com)

**Lowbush Blueberry Blog** - [www.novascotiawildblueberryblog.com](http://www.novascotiawildblueberryblog.com)

**High Bush Blueberry Blog** - [www.novascotiahighbushblueberryblog.com](http://www.novascotiahighbushblueberryblog.com)

**The Sprouting Marketer Blog** - [www.thesproutingmarketer.com](http://www.thesproutingmarketer.com)

**Foodlogue - Food Safety Blog** - [www.foodlogue.com](http://www.foodlogue.com)

**Vegetable Blog** - [www.novascotiavegetableblog.com](http://www.novascotiavegetableblog.com)

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## **Production Insurance**

### **Applications Deadlines**

Winter Grain - August 31

Blueberries - November 30

Strawberries - November 14

Forage Establishment - October 15

Tree Fruit - November 30

### **Upcoming Deadlines**

The application deadline is fast approaching for Winter Grain - August 31!

The deadline for planting is September 30 in the Annapolis, Kings and Hants West counties and September 20 for all other areas.

The deadline to apply for Forage Establishment is October 31. Fields of legumes and legume-grass mixes seeded by July 1, as well as grass seeded by September 1 are eligible for coverage.

### **Cancelling Crop Insurance**

Most Crop Insurance contracts are continuous – they do not terminate at the end of the cropping season (unless a producer requests cancellation in writing by the deadline date).

The benefit of this approach is that you as a client do not risk the chance of not being able to insure your crop for the entire season if for some reason you do not make an application by the required date. At the same time, if you do not cancel by the cancellation deadline, you will be expected to insure your crop during the current

*continued on next page...*

*Crop Insurance continued...*

crop year. Please note the following deadlines:

#### **Cancellation Deadlines**

Blueberry - December 15  
Tree Insurance - November 14  
Winter Grain - September 15  
Tree Fruit - November 30  
Strawberry - September 15

### **Problems with Harvest?**

AgriInsurance clients who experience problems or delays at harvest are reminded of their obligation to advise the Commission promptly (within 5 days) with a Notice of Damage. You must provide the Commission with a Notice of Damage when:

- you think your crop will be reduced due to harvesting delays as a result of an insurable peril;
- you note a reduction in yield due to an insurable peril once you complete harvest. (Must be reported within 5 days of harvest); or
- your harvest could or extends past the end of the crop insurance crop year end date.

Failure to provide this reporting could result in the denial of any claim for losses to your crop. When in doubt report your concerns to the Commission office.

For further information on these or any of our other insurance plans, please call 679-6028/6015 in Kentville or 1-800-565-6371 in Truro.

### **AgriInsurance Now Covers New Crops**

The Commission recently amended several of its crop insurance plans to allow for coverage to be provided to new crops. These new crops include triticale, which has been added to the Winter Grain Plan and peaches which have been added to the Tree Fruit plan. Both crops are now available to be added to a client's coverage for the 2012 crop year. In addition to these new crops, clients growing sunflowers or Canola can also obtain crop insurance coverage for these oil seed crops under existing crop plans of the Commission.

### **Wind Now a New Peril for Dairy**

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission has amended the Dairy Livestock Insurance Plan to include wind as a peril for the purpose of the Loss of Income benefit. This was in response to a request made by DFNS. Farms with dairy insurance that are unable to produce milk will be eligible for the loss of income benefit if the loss is a result of excessive wind. Examples of this include losing a barn or milking parlour in a wind storm or hurricane and having no way to house or milk cows. Prior to the amendment, loss of income benefits could only be paid when losses occurred due to diseases specified in the insurance regulations, fire and collapse of a dairy building as a result of ice or snow.

### **Grass Pelletizing Demonstration Field Days**

The NSDA is partnering with Bioenergy Inc, a local innovative energy company that's constructing mobile densification equipment for the production of pellets. The demonstrations will promote a renewable energy business opportunity for farmers by demonstrating pelletizing of grass.

There is considerable acreage of underutilized land in Nova Scotia that could be brought back into production, providing a new business opportunity for farmers in the form of dedicated energy crops.

The demonstration sites include:

September 12 Truro, NSAC\*

\*This demonstration is the kick off event for the Agri Biomass Pellet Workshop scheduled for the next day. For more information, contact Julie Bailey at 896-4473 or [baileyja@gov.ns.ca](mailto:baileyja@gov.ns.ca)

September 14 - Lawrencetown

September 16 - West River Greenhouses, Pictou County

If interested, please watch for more details in the NSFA e-news or contact your local agriculture office for more information.

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## Programs and Business Risk Management - Update

### AgriInvest and AgriStability

These business risk management programs are designed to help producers protect their income and manage risks, such as drought, flooding, low prices, and increased input costs. AgriInvest provides farmers with flexible coverage for small income declines, as well as support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income. Farmers deposit money into an AgriInvest account and receive matching government contributions. If you receive an AgriInvest deposit notice, you have 90 days to respond by making your deposit.

### 2010 AgriInvest Deposit Notices

Deposit notices are being mailed out with information on how to make your deposit and receive matching government contribution. Once you receive your deposit notice, follow the instructions included to make your deposit. The deadline to make the deposit is indicated on the Deposit Notice.

Producers can request a withdrawal from their AgriInvest account through their financial institution at any time throughout the year. For more information, contact the AgriInvest administration 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest).

### AgriStability

This margin-based program provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a farmer's average income from previous years. If you participated in AgriStability 2010, you will automatically be enrolled for 2011 and receive a 2011 enrolment notice soon. If you have not received your 2011 enrollment notice and have not heard from AgriStability, call Steven at 1-866-844-4276 or 893-6374.

### Homegrown Success Programs

This spring, the Programs and Business Risk Management office held promotion sessions to launch our new suite of programs under the Homegrown Success 10-year vision for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. Attendance at the sessions was record breaking and we were pleased. The programs were launched June 1 and included a suite of programs under the Innovation, Environment, Business Development and Quality Assurance themes.

Under each theme there are a suite of both application and non-application programs. Uptake of

### New Participants or Farmers – AgriStability 2012 Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2011 AgriStability and wish to participate in 2012 must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2012. To request a package or for more information, visit the AgriStability website at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability) or call AgriStability toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

the application-based programs was very positive. Though the themes remain open the application-based programs have since been closed due to funding being fully allocated. Although, the Genetic Enhancement program remains open. This program is in place to help increase the competitive position of targeted livestock commodities by investing in improved genetic material for Nova Scotia flocks/herds.

For more information on the Homegrown Success programs visit [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/) or call 1-866-844-4276.



### Continue Your Education at NSAC

Visit the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

#### Modern Shepherd

Module 1 (Husbandry Handling, Pastures and Fences)

September 24 and 25, 2011

Module 2 (Nutrition and Breeding)

November 12 and 13, 2011

Module 3 (Health)

January 28 and 29, 2012

Module 4 (Lambing and Marketing)

April 21 and 22, 2012

#### Introductory Welding

November 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 and December 1, 2011

#### Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers

Start dates in October, January, and March

#### Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture (Online)

Start dates in September and January

#### Pesticide Applicator's Certification

November 1-4, 2011

#### Integrated Pest Management for Farmers

October 18, 2011

#### Integrated Pest Management for Landscapers

October 20, 2011

#### Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers

Spring 2012

#### Master Gardener Training (Online)

Coming Spring 2012

#### Contact:

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
PO Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Tel 893-6666 Fax 895-5528

Email: [cde@nsac.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ca)

### Nova Scotia 4-H Leaders Volunteer 189 Years of Service

It is often said that it takes a community to raise a child – but more so, it is the special people in that community that provide guidance, understanding and knowledge to help young people grow and flourish. Four Nova Scotia 4-H leaders were recently honoured at the 2011 Canadian 4-H Council Conference and Annual Meeting for their remarkable tenure of community service and dedication as volunteers to the provincial 4-H program. Together, they have contributed 189 years of volunteer service as 4-H leaders. Those exceptional individuals are Polly Zwicker with the Lapland 4-H Club in Lunenburg, Anne Carter and Doug and Eva Landry with the Lakeside 4-H Club in St. Peter's.

Polly has been a 4-H leader for 48 years and works with her daughter Gail to ensure that the young people in their 4-H club learn the life skills they need before they step out into the world. Her six children have all gone through 4-H and she says the wholesomeness of 4-H makes it a great family program. She says "It teaches children to get along with each other, to have manners and be good sports." "I've seen a lot of changes since I started in 4-H, but the program always teaches the children skills they can use throughout their lives, like how to cook for themselves or how to sew on a button. It teaches excellent public speaking skills and employers are always impressed at how poised and talented the young

people are when applying for jobs," said Polly.

Eva, Doug and Anne have all been instrumental in community development in St. Peter's, Nova Scotia. They have seen evidence of the 4-H influence in their community where volunteering and co-operation are hallmarks of everyday living. There is a pride in community shared by all.

4-H has had a presence in St. Peter's for over 75 years. Doug has been a part of that program as a leader for 41 years. Anne has been a 4-H leader for 45 years and has watched her family grow up within the program. Currently, her son Stewart is the general leader of the Lakeside 4-H Club. Eva began her 4-H career as a young teacher. Until then, Eva had never heard of 4-H, but moved on to become the sewing leader.

"I have often been asked why I stayed with the program so long and why I never miss an opportunity to promote 4-H." "It is because in my 42 years as an educator and now 55 years as a 4-H leader, I have become convinced that there is no other youth program that does as much to develop character. It helps kids find their strengths and build upon them, thereby giving them a positive-self image developing a social consciousness at an early age and offers the tools to help them take an active role in society. They learn how to conduct a

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meeting, how to speak in public and how to make decisions, as emphasized in judging,” said Eva who has been the recipient of the Canadian 4-H Council Volunteer Leader of the Year award and the Order of Canada.

In 1972, Anne, Doug and Eva were instrumental in the creation of Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, and as a result, they have been very involved in the yearly operation. Currently Anne is employed as assistant to the camp cook and Doug oversees the maintenance and repair of facilities at the camp.

These remarkable folks have spent a lifetime of demonstrating their dedication to youth and the desire to see each individual reach his or her potential. They plan on continuing their work with the 4-H program for years to come.

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## 34th Annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show to be Held in Bible Hill

At this time of year, 4-H members are busy attending exhibitions with their 4-H projects and making preparations for the 34th Nova Scotia 4-H Show, September 30 - October 2, 2011. Hosted at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill, this annual event is an excellent opportunity for 4-H families and the general public to come together to view the many talents of 4-H members across the province.

Nova Scotia has the largest 4-H Show in Canada with all exhibitors - 4-H members from 9 - 21 years of age. Each year a county or region hosts the 4-H Show and for this year's show, the Eastern Region 4-H Leaders Councils (Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties) have the responsibility of making site arrangements, providing security, fund raising and promotion.

“The Nova Scotia 4-H Show is an excellent family event and a great opportunity for the public to experience the 4-H youth leadership program in an interactive way. It offers something for everyone's tastes and visitors will see 4-H members demonstrate the livestock and life skills techniques they have learned throughout the year,” said Arthur Pick, Manager, Regional Services.

In a national survey by the Canadian 4-H Council and Ispos-Reid, 1097 4-H Alumni were polled for their attitudes towards the 4-H program and it's impact on them. Forty per cent named leadership and youth development as the most important goals of the 4-H program. Leadership development was listed as the most important goal. According to 52 per cent of alumni, it helps to create future leaders.

“4-H has had a huge positive influence on many aspects of my personal development and throughout my life. I will continue to be a product of the “Head, Heart, Hands and Health” motto. I've gained knowledge and confidence from my projects and experiences. I take pride in my club and community and have made many contacts and friends through 4-H. I've learned physical skills through working with my hands to build useful products. I'm sure the values and skills I've learned from 4-H will continue to guide me for the rest of my life,” said Tara McCarthy, 17 year old 4-H member, 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club, Queens County.

The Nova Scotia 4-H Show is open to the public and admission is free. Competitions begin Friday, September 30 and end on Sunday, October 2.

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## Young Speakers For Agriculture Competition

4-H members interested in challenging their public speaking abilities and who want to discuss their enthusiasm for the agriculture industry, are encouraged to enter the Nova Scotia Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition. All senior 4-H members and alumni 16 - 24 years of age as of the competition date, can enter this competition on Friday, September 30, 2011 at 7 p.m. during the Nova Scotia 4-H Show at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill.

The Nova Scotia 4-H member that wins the provincial contest will be sponsored by the 4-H Council to participate in the 27th annual Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture National Senior Public Speaking Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario on Saturday, November 5, 2011.

The rules are the same as those for the Royal competition. Each contestant will give a five to seven minute prepared speech, as well as introduce and thank another speaker. Contestants may choose to use a flip chart, or appropriate posters to illustrate their talk. Slides, films, videos or overhead projectors will not be allowed. A complete set of rules, as well as the score sheet, will be sent to all applicants prior to the Nova Scotia competition.



The competitors have five agriculturally related topics they can choose to speak:

- Dynamic careers in agriculture and agri-food beyond the farm gate.
- Does “value-added” really add to the bottom line.
- How the role of women in agriculture has changed in the past 50 years.
- The top five facts people should know about Canadian agriculture.
- Farm succession: Who is the next generation of Canadian farmers, and how will they succeed?

4-H members are taught public speaking skills during the year along with their project work and each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions. Many young people often identify the communications training and the confidence that it has given them as their most memorable experience in 4-H.

For more information, contact the nearest 4-H office or visit [www.cysa-joca.ca/](http://www.cysa-joca.ca/)

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## STEP UP - Mentorship Program for 4-H Members

If you are a 4-H member interested in learning critical aspects of farm management in an interactive setting from an experienced mentor, sign up for the STEP UP program.

The STEP UP program is an on-farm learning placement that matches beginning, transitioning, or those interested in farming with experienced farm managers - where enthusiasm meets experience!

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council, Canadian 4-H Council, Canadian Young Farmers' Forum, and Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program have partnered to provide 4-H members who are planning or considering a farming career with a real life experience. By training with an experienced farm manager for eight weeks, 4-H members learn critical aspects of farm business management in an interactive setting.

The STEP UP program is accepting applications for Mentors and Mentees now! Those accepted into the program will have opportunities to engage in the day-to-day management of a farm operation, see how the decisions are made, expand their professional network and learn to do by doing.

For more information visit [www.farmcentre.com](http://www.farmcentre.com)





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# INCREDIBLE PICNIC

Visit a picnic near you at [SelectNovaScotia.ca](http://SelectNovaScotia.ca)  
August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2011

Dempsey Corner Orchards,  
Aylesford – August 13

Memorial Park, Kentville –  
August 14

Annapolis Royal Farmers Market –  
August 21

Halifax Waterfront, Sands at Salter  
– August 21

Muir Murray Estate Winery,  
Wolfville – August 21

Wentworth Park, Sydney –  
August 21

Chisholm Park, Antigonish –  
August 21

Truro Farmers Market – August 24

Evan's Family Farm Market,  
Wilmot – August 28

Noggins Corner Farm, Greenwich –  
August 28

Beacon Park, Yarmouth –  
September 11

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## Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg  
and Queens counties:

Brian MacCulloch

Tel: 679-6006 Fax: 679-6062

[macculbc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:macculbc@gov.ns.ca)

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester  
and Halifax counties:

Michael Kittilsen

Tel: 893-3645 Fax: 893-0244

[kittilma@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kittilma@gov.ns.ca)

Pictou, Antigonish  
and Guysborough counties:

Kevin Bekkers

Tel: 863-4705 Fax: 863-7342

[bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca)

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness  
and Richmond counties:

Gary Koziel

Tel: 563-2000 Fax: 563-3435

[kozielgj@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kozielgj@gov.ns.ca)

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth  
and Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman

Tel: 638-2396 Fax: 638-2389

[moermade@gov.ns.ca](mailto:moermade@gov.ns.ca)



## **Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales**

Cattle Sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be starting up in September. The dates for sales for the remainder of the year are: Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 12 and 26. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

## **Local Community Fairs and Exhibitions**

Don't forget about the local community fairs and exhibitions being held in our region:

New Ross Community Fair -  
August 19-20

Dalhousie Community Fair -  
August 27

West Kings Fair, Tremont -  
September 3

Hants Co. Exhibition, Windsor -  
September 16-18 and September  
23-25

Queens Co. Exhibition, Caledonia -  
Sept. 20-24

NS 4-H Show, Truro - September  
30-October 2



## **Mink Health and Biosecurity Workshop**

AgraPoint is hosting a Mink Health and Biosecurity Workshop for mink producers in the Digby-area on September 8 at the Mountain Gap Inn, Smith's Cove. The workshop will be held from 2-7:30 p.m. There is no registration fee but you are encouraged to express your intention to attend as soon as you can by calling 1-877-710-5210 to ensure the number of meals required.

## **Fibre, Fabric and Natural Dye Forum (FANDS).**

NSAC, NS College of Art and Design and AgraPoint are exploring new opportunities in fiber, fabric and dye production in NS and Atlantic Canada with a workshop at Taproot Farms in Port Williams on Sept 14-16. During the forum, we will examine the feasibility of supporting and rejuvenating a local fibre, fabric, and natural dye industry for Atlantic Canada, as well as map out the next steps. Registration is limited to the first 40 participants. The cost is \$40 + HST. For more information and a registration form, visit the [www.atlanticfoods.com](http://www.atlanticfoods.com) or contact Gail Walsh, AgraPoint at 678-7722, ext 221, [g.walsh@agrapoint.ca](mailto:g.walsh@agrapoint.ca)

## **Transportation Guidelines for NS Farmers**

The Kentville office has a supply of the Transportation Guidelines for Nova Scotia Farmers as set by the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. You may pick up a copy at the office or contact us and we will mail one out to you.

## **Welcome Valorie Oickle**

The Kentville office would like to welcome Valorie Oickle to our office. Valorie is the new Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for Kings and Hants Counties. Valorie comes to us with lots of previous experience in this position as she transferred from our Lunenburg office where she held the same position for the South Shore area. Valorie can be reached at 679-6027 or [oicklevh@gov.ns.ca](mailto:oicklevh@gov.ns.ca).

## **Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter**

We are still updating 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 either by phone, 679-6021, or e-mail, [ctheriau@gov.ns.ca](mailto:ctheriau@gov.ns.ca). Also, to cut costs, please indicate if you wish to receive this newsletter by email.

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## Valley Region 4-H

- August 22: Kings County Joint Achievement Day Wrap Up, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 6 p.m.
- August 22: Kings County NS Show Committee meeting, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7 p.m.
- September 6: Kings County Council meeting, Kentville Agricultural Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- September 12: Hants County Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- September 16-18: Hants County 4-H Exhibition Days, Hants County Exhibition Grounds
- September 30 - October 2: NS 4-H Show, Truro Exhibition Grounds
- November 13: Hants County Awards Night - Upper Rawdon Hall

### Hants County Exhibition 4-H Days, Hants County Exhibition Grounds

September 16 - September 18 Hants County Exhibition preparation is well underway. On Friday evening the Dog and Draft Horse Classes will be held. On Saturday beef, dairy, goat, light horse, waterfowl and poultry classes will be taking place along with a variety of competitions. On Sunday, sheep, light horse and the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship class will take place along with the parade of clubs. Different competitions including the bake-off, vegetable preparation, woodworking, floral arranging, outdoorsman, photography, cake decorating, fashion show beef, dairy and sheep clipping will be happening throughout the weekend.

### Provincial Show, September 30 - October 2

The 4-H Provincial Show is a great event to attend and to see what 4-H is all about. It will be taking place September 30 - October 2, at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro. The show displays the top projects, articles, and livestock from each county in Nova Scotia. Some of the highlights of the weekend include tug-of-war, a fashion show, market lamb, market steer and market turkey auctions, the Grand Champion Showmanship Class and the parade of champions.

### Interested in Joining 4-H?

As the summer comes to a close, the end of another 4-H year draws near. For people interested in joining 4-H this year, now is the time to get ready. With the variety of projects offered in 4-H, there is something for everyone! If anyone is interested in finding out more about the 4-H program, call the 4-H office at 679-6027.



## Central Region Agriculture Services Office

The DeWolfe house on the NSAC campus is the Central Region Agriculture Services office housing the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Transition Officer, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator and Administrative Support. DeWolfe also houses NS 4-H Council staff, WINS Staff and the provincial New Entrant Coordinator. We are your one-stop shop for Department of Agriculture services and information, if you have an agricultural need, question or opportunity you'd like to discuss feel free to contact us.

We have a great group of people working here as a team. All are participating in making this newly formed central regional field office

a place of resource for the farming community. The Central Region includes the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax East Hants.

Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 893-3645  
[kittilma@gov.ns.ca](mailto:kittilma@gov.ns.ca)

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, 893-6586  
[hoytjm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoytjm@gov.ns.ca)

Theresa Osborne, Administrative Support, 893-6575  
[osborntc@gov.ns.ca](mailto:osborntc@gov.ns.ca)

DeWolfe House  
157 College Road  
PO Box 550  
Truro, NS B2N 5E3

## Do You Have the Proper Drivers License?

If you have a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg you need a Condition 23 Endorsement. If you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500 kg you need a Condition 15 Endorsement on your license to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 license. If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements, contact us for information on the next opportunity coming up at the NSAC.

### PROCESS For Condition 15:

1. Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$47.68(HST Incl.) at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at [www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/)

### PROCESS: For Condition 23

1. Complete a Condition 23 application prior to testing
2. Have a Driver's Medical Exam completed by your doctor
3. Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$46.85 (HST Incl.) at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at [www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/)

You must register with the Central Office 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 by calling 893-3645 and speaking to Michael or Theresa.

## Halifax East Hants Federation Information

The summer is just flying by! Hopefully everyone can spare a little bit of time to not only to take in an exhibition, catch a little bit of rest and relaxation, but to have quality time with your families before its time to go back to school!

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

Equipment	Rental Cost	Contact Information
Lime Spreader	\$4/ton (member) \$4.50/ton (non-member)	Allen Benjamin, 758-2427
Land Leveler	\$100/day (member) \$125/day (non-member)	Dean Cole, 384-2517 or John van de Riet, 758-3874
Cow Lift	\$ 10.00 initial day + \$5.00 every day after (member)  \$15.00 initial day \$10.00 every day after (non-member)	Corey Fraser, 758-2262

Any fees due can be mailed to: Karen Holman, 382 Archibald Brook Rd., Middle Musquodoboit, B0N 1X0.

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## Local County Exhibitions

Halifax County Exhibition, Middle Musquodoboit, Aug. 17-20  
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, Truro, Aug. 23-27  
Cumberland County Exhibition, Oxford, Aug. 30 - Sept. 3  
Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition, Antigonish, Aug. 31 - Sept. 4  
Pictou/North Colchester Exhibition, Pictou, Sept. 7-10  
Hants County Exhibition, Windsor, Sept. 16-18 and Sept. 23-25  
Nova Scotia 4-H Show, Truro, Sept. 30 - Oct. 2  
Maritime Fall Fair, Halifax, Oct. 6-10



### NSAC Modern Shepherd Course

NSAC Continuing Education is offering a 4-module sheep course called the Modern Shepherd, this fall/winter. The goal of this program is to increase the skills of new and existing sheep producers in Atlantic Canada - showcasing tried and true production methods, as well as new and emerging trends in the industry.

More information can be found on the Continuing and Distance Education website [www.nsac.ca/cde](http://www.nsac.ca/cde), by calling 893-6666 or emailing [cde@nsac.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ca)

### 31st Annual Atlantic Sheep Sale

Sponsored by Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011 beginning at 11 a.m. (Animals on view from 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 2 ), NS Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Truro, NS

For further information/catalogues call Rosemary Wort 671-2410 email [herngatefarm@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:herngatefarm@ns.sympatico.ca) or visit [www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/atlantic-sheep-sale/](http://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/atlantic-sheep-sale/)

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## Central Region 4-H News

### Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!

This summer is shaping up to be busy and full of 4-H events! In July, there were 19 4-H Clubs in the Central Region who held their club Achievement Days! It was wonderful to see all the hard work and effort the 4-H members put into their livestock and life skills projects over the past year! Of course the month of August is dedicated to exhibitions in our region. See below for dates for all three Central Region exhibitions.

### Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council meeting: September 19 and October 24, upstairs in the Agri-dome beginning at 7 p.m.

Colchester County Exhibition Committee meeting: September 5, upstairs in the Agri-dome beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council meetings: September 6 and October 4, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Leaders Council meeting: September 13 at the Forestry Complex in Middle Musquodoboit at 7 p.m.

### County 4-H Exhibition Competitions

Halifax-East Hants County, Wednesday, August 17 at the exhibition grounds in Middle Musquodoboit.

Colchester County, Monday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 23 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition grounds in Bible Hill.

Cumberland County, Monday, August 29 and Tuesday, August 30 at the Oxford Exhibition grounds.

Yours in 4-H, Jacqueline

For Further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, contact Jacqueline Hoyt at: 893-6586 or [hoytjm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoytjm@gov.ns.ca) Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the Central Region.

## 2011 Community Fairs

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT	PHONE
Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge)	Sept. 10	Cheryl Macintyre (Chair) Gladys Lever (Treasurer)	562-1056 562-6310 562-2089
Christmas Island (C.B. County)	Sept. 10	Kevin Mackenzie	622-2667
Port Morien (Glace Bay)	Sept. 17	Margie Macqueen	737-2478
Baddeck (Victoria County)	Sept. 10	Wendell Macphee	295-2494
Ole County Fair - Two Rivers Wildlife Park - (Marion Bridge)	Oct. 1 and 2	Patricia Macneil	727-2483

Community Fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun and entertaining day and to show off their talent. Anyone can enter articles, from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics).

## Attention All Giant Pumpkin Growers

The Millville Hall is now an official Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) site whereby the new GPC rules will now apply. The GPC is a collection of more than 70 official weigh-off sites, their supporting clubs, and growers are distributed worldwide. These sponsored sites are attended by hundreds of thousands at the ever popular annual festivals and weekend events. Established in 1993, the GPC is the major organizer and sanctioning body overseeing competitions in giant pumpkin and vegetable growing. The GPC works vigorously to improve weigh-off site standards in fairness of competition while promoting family values.



The official GPC weigh-off date is Saturday, October 8, 2011 at the Millville Hall, Millville.

All entrants must be registered before 11 a.m., on that day.

The GPC sets the recognized standard for all world records in the giant pumpkin family as used by Guinness for their World Record endeavors. GPC growers have set the World Records for the last 15 years. The GPC's mission cultivates the hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world by establishing standards and regulations that ensure quality of fruit, fairness of competition, recognition of achievement, fellowship and education for all participating growers and weigh-off sites. For more information call 563-2000.

## Cape Breton Regional 4-H News

### County Updates

Inverness County has the largest member enrollment in the region this year. This county is known for being keen in the livestock area of 4-H - this year, the Dairy project is the county's strongest. 2011 also marked the second year Inverness County competed at the annual Horse Classic Competition at 4-H weekend, the County team placed second - an excellent showing! Kathryn Ryan from the Brook Village club, went on to place third in both Senior Public Speaking and the Hostess Competition. Jenna MacPhail, also from the Brook Village Club, placed third in Junior Thanking at 4-H Weekend.

Another event strongly contributed to by Inverness County is the annual EBI 4-H Showcase. This year, two members from Inverness County were selected to attend - Maggie MacDonell and Lauren van Zutphen. Both girls represented their County with Lauren being named the top overall dairy member in attendance, and Maggie placing fourth overall. Inverness County's Show dates are set for August 25 - 27.

Cape Breton County is second largest in enrollment this year. The county offers a variety of projects, especially homemaking projects - its strongest being the Photography project with an enrollment number of 17. Additionally, many diverse livestock projects are offered. This county is home to the oldest continuous club in Canada, the

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Grand Mira 4-H club, first originating in 1929 as a boys Calf Club. Cape Breton County is a strong competitor in the speaking and demonstration competitions, both regionally and provincially. At this year's 4-H weekend, Jacob MacDonald from the Rising Sun club placed second in Junior Introducing, Emma Simpson from the Northside club also placed second in the Intermediate Public Speaking competition, and Amber Lovell from the Northside Club took home top honors in Senior Single Demonstrations. Each year, the county hosts the "Junior Member Small Steps" workshop and provides craft co-op workshops to membership in the region. This county has also founded the "George MacNeil Scholarship" and are actively working towards making this endowment an educational funding source for 4-H youth to benefit from for years to come.

Congratulations to the winners for the CB Exhibition Contest:

Emma Simpson – essay winner (North Side 4-H Club), Cape Breton County

Marshall Van Den Hoogen – poster submission (South West Mabou 4-H Club), Inverness County

Alura Sutherland – poster submission (Baddeck Valley 4-H Club), Victoria County

Murals and essays will be presented on 4-H day at the exhibition.

**Richmond County** 4-H celebrates its 75th year in 2011. This county is very strong in spirit and community. It is home to Camp Rankin – the provincial summer camp where 4-Hers go to make

memories to last a lifetime. Each year, the county also runs the Camp Rankin Caf at provincial show and has leaders that have been involved in the program for over 50 years. Richmond County is strongest in cake decorating, scrap booking, woodworking and photography.

#### **Victoria County**

One club makes up Victoria County 4-H; however, all of its members and leaders are very energetic and involved in their county's 4-H program. They are a group of fantastic volunteers who make 4-H fun for everyone! The County is very strong in both livestock and non-livestock projects. Livestock mainly involves rabbit and poultry, with non-livestock being strongest in sewing, crafts and foods. This year will mark the 81st for the Victoria County Fair, the longest running in Cape Breton History! It is set for September 8-10.

If you are interested in joining the 4-H program, either as a member or an adult leader, contact the Regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator in your area. There may already be a 4-H club in your area waiting for you to join! If not, a new 4-H club could be started.

If you would like to get involved in the 4-H program in the Cape Breton Region, please contact the 4-H offices: Mabou: 945-2901 or Sydney: 563-2001. For more information on our region's clubs and the possibilities of starting a new one, visit [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h).

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### **Giant Beet Competition – New for 2011!**



At the 2011 Provincial 4-H Show, there will be a Giant Vegetable Competition. For 2011, the giant vegetable will be a beet. This competition was created as a result of the resolution that was passed at the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Annual meeting in November of 2010. One junior and one senior

member from each county are permitted to enter this new competition. Tops should be removed at 1/4 inch above the crown and will be judged on weight. Scratch date for beet entries only are September 22 at noon.

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## Pro-Show 2011

*"From Country, Town to Every Place, We See 4-H"*

The 2011 Provincial 4-H Show is set to take place Friday, September 30 to Sunday, October 2 at the Truro Exhibition Grounds. This is one of Nova Scotia's biggest and most exciting events of the 4-H year. The show is an opportunity for all the 4-H counties in the province to showcase their best project work and compete for top honors in livestock and life skills project areas.

A reminder to all general leaders. If you cannot bring your club projects to the show, please inform your local 4-H office by September 14 in order to find a substitute for your scratch. All life skills projects must be on the grounds by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, September 30, while livestock must be there by 8:30 p.m. The whole weekend will be filled with 4-H fun, competitions, judging, showmanship and conformation classes, even tug-of-war and livestock auctions!

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## Important Dates to Remember

August 14	CB County Exhibition, project drop-off, judging, Grand Champion judging
August 15-20	Cape Breton Exhibition- 4-H Day
August 17	Agri-awareness program, 1-4 p.m.
August 25-27	Inverness County Days
September 8-10	Baddeck Forks Achievement Day and Victoria County Show
September 7	Substitute Deadline for Pro-Show
September 14	Scratch Deadline for Pro-Show
September 22	Beet competition deadline
September 30-October 2	Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H Show
October 3	Resolutions due
October 15	Nova Scotia 4-H Council meeting





## It's Exhibition Time Again

The Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition is being held from August 31 – September 4 this year. The Ag Awareness booth will be supported by the Antigonish Regional Services team, local Federation members, provincial Federation staff and several commodity associations. The Ag Awareness booth in the 4-H barn will contain agricultural information along with some activities and animals for the kids to enjoy. In addition, the following special events are scheduled:

Thursday: Learn How to Cook with Local Food, outdoor stage, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: Sherbrooke Village Wool demonstration, sheep shearing,

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., 4-H Barn

Bees Blossom Blueberries, 1-3 p.m., 4-H Barn

Dairy Display, 4-5 p.m., 4-H Barn

Milking Demonstration, 5:30 p.m., Dairy Barn

Sunday: Garden Box Session - Creating a garden box, soil samples, grow your own food, 1-3 p.m., 4-H Barn

Come out and enjoy the exhibition and meet the public – they want to “Meet their Farmers”!

## Grow It, Eat It! Workshop Series

The Antigonish Food Security Coalition, which includes representatives of the Dept of Agriculture, VOICES and GASHA Public Health, are hosting four workshops over the 2011 gardening season. The first workshop titled “How to Build, Fill and Plant your Garden Box” held in May was very well attended and was hosted by Kevin Bekkers. The second workshop titled “Plant Pests, Diseases and Nutrient Deficiencies” featured Av Singh from AgraPoint was held in July and was hosted at Elizabeth Leighton’s garden.

Two more workshops are planned for the fall. The September workshop will focus on canning and preserving the harvest and one in September will focus on cooking

fall produce. If you are interested in either of these workshops please contact your local agriculture office at 863-4705 for more detailed information.

### “Transportation Guidelines for Nova Scotia Farmers”

are now available at the Agriculture office, Beech Hill Road, Antigonish

## INCREDIBLE PICNIC

Sponsored by Select Nova Scotia

Hosted by the Antigonish Food Security Coalition and the Antigonish Highland Society

Sunday, August 21  
12 noon – 4 p.m.

Join us for a fun filled afternoon in Chisholm Park, Antigonish

Come have a picnic with over 15 local food vendors.

Sample and purchase the foods you like best.

Eat in the park or take home.

Agriculturally focused children’s activities.

Picnic games for all – young and young at heart.

Local entertainment in the gazebo.

Prize giveaways.

## The Antigonish Farmers’ Market

Now open until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Located on the Exhibition Grounds in the 4-H building until August 27. It will move to Chisholm Park for the Exhibition weekend to enjoy an outdoor Farmers Market by the Gazebo on September 3 and back to the 4-H building on September 10, until October 29. November 3, it will move to the Antigonish Education Center on Appleseed Drive for the remainder of the season.

Last market day this year is December 17.

Need more info Cell/Text 867-7479

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## Pictou County Agriculture Strategic Plan

The Pictou County Agriculture Asset Based Community Development Plan is now complete thanks to the hard work of many stakeholders. Under the leadership of the PRDA, the plan was developed by farmers and is now endorsed by Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture (PNCFA). It will be implemented by and for farmers.

The PRDA employed a student this summer, Jamie Cock, as an Assistant Project Officer to support the initiation of some of the strategies in the plan. Jamie will be contacting farmers to complete a survey is intended to define the challenges and needs of the farmers. Jamie is encouraging members of the PNCFA to add

their farm information to the Federation website [www.pncagr.ca](http://www.pncagr.ca) and to add their farm to the updated local food guide. She is also working, alongside a committee struck by the stakeholders, to gather information from farmers and restaurateurs interested in participating in the Food Trade Show being held this fall. This trade show will be an opportunity for farmers and restaurants to come together and learn what each has to offer. If you are interested in this event or would like to receive a copy of the plan, contact Kelly McVicar at [kelly.mcvicar@pictourda.ca](mailto:kelly.mcvicar@pictourda.ca) or call your local agriculture office at 863-4705.

## Eastern Region 4-H News

### Upcoming 4-H Dates

#### Antigonish

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Aug. 31         | 4-H Day ENSE<br>Exhibition Grounds, Antigonish  |
| Sept. 13        | Pro Show meeting for Exhibiting members and parents,<br>6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Ant. Ed. Centre |
| Sept. 13        | Antigonish County 4-H Council meeting<br>7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Ant. Ed. Centre                 |
| Sept. 21        | Last day for pro show scratches and substitutes   |
| Sept. 30-Oct. 2 | NS 4-H Show, Truro  |
| Oct. 11         | Antigonish County 4-H Council meeting<br>7 p.m., Beech Hill Rd, Antigonish                |
| Nov. 10         | Antigonish Awards Program, 7 p.m., St. Andrew's<br>Community Centre                       |

#### Pictou

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| August 23       | Pictou County 4-5 Day Camp,<br>9 a.m.- 4 p.m. West River Fire Hall |
| August 24       | Council meeting<br>7 p.m. 4-H office                               |
| Sept. 7         | 4-H Day PNCE<br>All day, Exhibition grounds                        |
| Sept. 21        | Last day for pro show scratches and substitutes                    |
| Sept. 30-Oct. 2 | NS 4-H Show, Truro   |

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## Young Speakers for Agriculture

A public speaking competition will be held during the Provincial 4-H Show in Truro for youth aged 16 - 24 years as of January 2011. The Nova Scotia 4-H Council will sponsor the winner to represent Nova Scotia at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, November 2011. You must either be a current 4-H member or a past member that was registered for at least two years.

Full details of the competition, a list of topics for 2011, and the registration process, visit [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/glkit/speakers.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/glkit/speakers.shtml)

## We're Hosting The 2011 Nova Scotia 4-H Show

The Eastern Region, consisting of Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties is hosting the 2011 4-H Show in Truro on September 30 - October 2. The weekend will be full of 4-H competitions, project displays, delicious meals from the Camp Rankin Caf  and a giant vegetable competition featuring beets. Admission is free and \$2 covers parking for the whole weekend. From "county, town to every place", come out and enjoy a great weekend of 4-H activities and comradery.