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# Agriculture Services

## NEWSLETTER



December 2011

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 12 No.5

### Enhanced Support for New Farmers

#### *Department of Agriculture*

The province is helping ensure the viability of the agriculture industry by making it easier for new farmers to get the funds and practical business advice they need to be successful.

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell unveiled the FarmNEXT program, on Nov. 24, at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture annual meeting in Truro.

FarmNEXT will support new farmers by helping reduce the financial burden of their loans. New farmers may be eligible for up to \$30,000 in loan relief when starting a farm business or up to \$20,000 in loan relief when buying an established farm business.

"Attracting and encouraging new faces to agriculture is vital for the long-term growth and success of the industry," said Mr. MacDonell. "We are aligning resources to help farmers make ends meet and to support the long-term viability of farm operations in Nova Scotia. Funds are being allocated to new entrants in the most relevant, effective and responsible way."

FarmNEXT will replace the New Entrants to Agriculture program, which has been offered for 10 years. Commitments already made to farmers and agri-businesses under the existing program will be met before the new program comes into effect.

Mr. MacDonell said the FarmNEXT program will better meet the needs of Nova Scotians wanting to enter the agriculture industry.

Applications for FarmNEXT will be accepted starting April 1.

FarmNEXT will be administered through the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. It will be part of a suite of government programs and services available to Nova Scotians new to agriculture.

### Province Invests in Food Safety

#### *Department of Agriculture*

The province is making milk and dairy product quality testing faster and more accurate in Nova Scotia. Agriculture Minister John MacDonell announced, on Nov. 16, that the province has bought a Bactoscan analyzer to automate the manual laboratory process. The investment is part of the province's new capital plan to make life better for families.

"This investment will help Nova Scotia's dairy producers provide the best quality and safest milk products possible for consumers," said Mr. MacDonell. "Improving laboratory testing means better efficiency and more profits for dairy producers. Overall, it means better, healthier dairy products for Nova Scotia families."

The \$225,000 piece of equipment will be used in the Department of Agriculture's dairy laboratory in Truro. It will bring Nova Scotia to the same standard of testing as most dairy labs across Canada and help the province's 245 licenced dairy producers.

"Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia and the province's processing sector are pleased with this improvement in milk-quality testing technology," said Havey Whidden, chairman of Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia. "New technology will allow the dairy industry to continue meeting consumer's expectations of high-quality milk and dairy products."

The Department of Agriculture operates several labs that analyze soils, livestock feed, plants, water and other materials. These services are available to producers, government, researchers, private companies and the public.

The province's new capital plan will invest millions of dollars to make life better for families. It will create good jobs, grow the economy and provide better health care for Nova Scotians. Details on investments will be announced in the months ahead.



**NOVA SCOTIA**

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## **Oulton Family: Environmental Farm Stewards of the Year**

### *NS Federation of Agriculture*

“We consider the environment in all our business decisions,” said Wayne Oulton of W.G. Oulton and Sons Ltd. Whether they are pasturing a new type of livestock or considering how to best store fuel on the farm, they research all projects to make sure they are up to date with new technologies. For their hard work and dedication to making their farm “greener” with less labour input, the Oulton Family have been named the of 2011 Environmental Farm Stewards of the Year.

The Oulton family farm, located in the Martock area of Hants Co., includes mixed livestock, orchards, wood lots, and an on farm abattoir, providing employment for 16 full-time and 10 seasonal workers. It is a fourth generation farm with a mission to use sustainable agricultural and environmental practices. The Oulton’s strive to be exceptional caretakers of livestock in order to support the future generation and to provide a quality meat product.

The Oultons have been involved in various pilot projects for both the farm and processing facility around composting and wetlands.

Beth Densmore, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture said, “The Oultons are wonderful ambassadors of agriculture. Their leadership in environmental stewardship through such research is significant to moving the industry forward in best management practices.”

Erica Versteeg with the Environmental Farm Plan program said, “After visiting the Oulton farm one can’t help but be impressed with the scale and diversity of this operation. This farm is a wonderful example of how biodiversity and farming can be beneficial to each other,”

The Oulton family has not only embraced stewardship today but as the farm continues to change, stewardship and conservation will undoubtedly continue to be a valued part of the farms future.

“The Oulton family’s long-standing commitment to using agricultural resources in responsible and sustainable ways makes them true environmental stewards and worthy of this recognition,” said

Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. “I congratulate the family for their forward-thinking business model and dedication to making their farm business green.”

The Environmental Farm Stewardship Award was established to highlight producers who make good land, water and habitat stewardship a significant part of their farm operations. The Oultons will be able to make further environmental improvements to their farm with the award, which was announced during the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture’s annual banquet on November 24. The award, complete with a hand painting of their farm was accepted by Wayne and Nicole on behalf of the Oulton family.

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## **Canada’s 2011 Outstanding Young Farmers: Congratulations to Geoff and Jennifer Bishop!**

### *Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture*

Nova Scotia dairy farmers Geoff and Jennifer Bishop and Kevin and Annamarie Klippenstein British Columbia were chosen Canada’s 2011 Outstanding Young Farmers at the annual national event held Nov. 18 in Brandon, Manitoba.

Geoff and Jennifer own Bishop Farms Ltd., a 160-cow dairy operation located on the farm his grandfather purchased in 1969 when he emigrated from England. After meeting at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and Geoff’s work travels to dairy farms in New Zealand and England, the Bishops came home to farm with Geoff’s parents in 1997.

A new dairy barn and milking facility were built to accommodate their growing herd of registered Holstein cattle. An eye on energy conservation led to a fabric structure barn with natural lighting and ventilation, and geo-thermally heated floors in the double-ten milking parlour. Herd production rose to 10,750 litres per cow with butterfat increased to 4.25 per cent.

The Bishop’s land base has kept pace, and their 750 acres includes a wood lot and pheasant preserve. Large machinery is mostly cost shared with other farmers and the newest on-farm innovation is a soybean extruder that provides meal for the cows and oil that is sold to a feed company for a new revenue stream.

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Geoff is active on his local milk committee and Holstein club, and Jennifer volunteers her time in church and children's activities. Geoff and Jennifer, majority shareholders in the farm operation, are grateful for the support they received from Geoff's parents, who are still active in the farm. The Bishops hope their four young children, aged three-10, will have the same passion for agriculture and stewardship of the land as their parents.



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## Province Funds LaPlanche River Aboiteau Engineering Study

### Department of Agriculture

The province is protecting agricultural marshlands by investing in an engineering study to assess and design a replacement for the LaPlanche River aboiteau in Cumberland Co.

MLA Brian Skabar, on behalf of Agriculture Minister John MacDonell, made the announcement on Nov. 21, as part of the province's new capital plan to make life better for families.

"Marshlands, and the aboiteaux and dykes that support them, are an important part of agriculture and the landscape of Nova Scotia,"

### Department of Agriculture

The Animal Protection Act came into effect in January 2010. The new law replaced the Animal Cruelty Prevention Act.

There are several key components to the legislation including:

- The Department of Agriculture has responsibility for the protection of farm animals and the SPCA focuses on non-farm (domestic) animals
- A legal requirement for veterinarians to report alleged abuse, neglect and cruelty.
- Those convicted of animal cruelty face much stiffer penalties. A first offence is a possible fine of up to \$10,000 or up to six months in jail, or both; a second offence is a fine of up to \$25,000 or up to six months in jail, or both; and a third or subsequent offence is a fine of up to \$50,000 or up to six months in jail, or both.

said Mr. Skabar. "The province is doing the work needed to protect valuable agricultural resources."

Mr. Skabar said the engineering study will provide the necessary information to make informed decisions on the best and most cost-effective way to replace the LaPlanche River aboiteau.

The aboiteau is part of a system that protects the Town of Amherst and about 730 hectares of marshland, primarily used for farmland, from tidal flooding.

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## Animal Protection Act

Individuals who witness or suspect cruelty, abuse or neglect of farm animals (including horses) are asked to contact Dr. Leighann Hartnett, the provincial inspector, at 896-2299 with their concerns. Callers are required to provide their name, contact information and details of their concern (e.g. animal species, location and reasons for suspecting the animal(s) is in distress). Anonymous complaints will not be investigated. Callers can leave a voicemail message outside regular office hours. Dr. Hartnett, with the assistance of other Department of Agriculture staff, are responsible for dealing with complaints across the province.

All calls are assessed on an individual basis. When required, a representative from the Department of Agriculture will visit the property and carry out an inspection which may result in a variety of actions including:

- no further action required
- the owner or caretaker must meet specific recommendations as outlined in a letter or a notice
- seizure of animals
- charges under the Animal Protection Act and/or the Criminal Code of Canada

Animal cruelty, abuse or neglect is a complex problem that has a negative impact on society. Reporting it is everyone's responsibility. The Department of Agriculture takes animal cruelty seriously.

The full Animal Protection Act can be found on-line at: <http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/animlpro.htm>

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“The Town of Amherst looks forward to working with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that the replacement of the aboiteau is designed and implemented in a way that continues to protect the area while respecting previous commitments the department has made regarding the logistical and financial impacts on our wastewater treatment facility, which is under construction on the marsh,” said Amherst Mayor Robert Small.

Study results are expected by the end of next year.

“The Municipality of Cumberland is very pleased to see the commitment of this funding, which is necessary to ensure the aboiteau is correctly engineered and located,” said Keith Hunter, warden of the Municipality of Cumberland County. “This structure is a key component of the dyke system that protects the agricultural lands, transportation links and other infrastructure in existence and under construction on the marshlands between Amherst and Fort Lawrence.”

The Department of Agriculture protects agricultural marshlands by monitoring 240 kilometres of dykes and 260 aboiteaux that protect more than 17,800 hectares of agricultural marshlands.

Supporting infrastructure is part of protecting 5,800 jobs in an agriculture industry that adds \$400 million to the Nova Scotia economy.

The province’s new capital plan will invest millions of dollars to make life better for families. It will create good jobs, grow the economy and provide better health care for Nova Scotians. Details on investments will be announced in the months ahead.

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## Winter Agricultural Education Events

### *Department of Agriculture*

A number of exciting events and projects are coming up in the next few months and as always, we are looking to the farm community for support. We welcome your feedback, to volunteer, help us promote, or just to let us know how we could improve.

### **School Food Garden Support**

Food gardens in schools are gaining interest world-wide as a way to help students make the connection between food and agriculture. Our Windowsill Garden Kit and School Garden Guide are available to schools interested in starting a school garden. In January, we will open a new round of school garden funding grants. This one time grant of \$500 is available to all schools province-wide starting Jan. 1.

#### **What can you do?**

- Direct teachers to our website for the guide and the funding application.
- Volunteer to help out in your local school.

### **Agricultural High School Classroom Project Support**

High School teachers with agriculture projects for the classroom can apply for a support grant starting Jan.1 for the winter semester and June 1 for the fall. Suitable projects can receive up to \$500. In addition, we may be able to provide other resources for the project such as guest speakers or contacts.

#### **What can you do?**

- Encourage teachers at your community high school to apply through our website.
- Offer your farm for a tour (bus costs are eligible).

### **Experience Agriculture 2012**

This 1.5 day workshop will run March 12 to help high school teachers incorporate agriculture into their classrooms. We have space for 25 Agriculture and Agri-Foods 11 or Science 10 teachers in the program. They will come away with a better understanding of our agriculture industry as well as exercises that can be used right in the classroom.

#### **What can you do?**

- Encourage teachers at your community high school to apply by visiting our website.



### **Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week**

In its fourth year in Nova Scotia, this program is going Canada-wide! Volunteers from farms visit Grade 2 or Grade 3 classrooms to read and donate a book provided by our office. Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week happens on the first week in March. Last year we had 85 class visits!

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What can you do?

- Volunteer to read! You can visit a local classroom of your choice or we will find one for you.

### Newspaper in Education

To celebrate Canada Water Week, March 19–25, we are partnering with the Department of Environment for a special educational insert in the Chronicle Herald. The comic strip style insert has the theme of "Water Stewardship in Agriculture" and will go to 12,000 Grade 5 classrooms as well as the regular circulation.

What can you do?

- Watch for the insert and help us celebrate good water stewardship practices on farms.

### To contact us:

Log on to the Agricultural Education and Awareness webpage: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri)

Contact Judy Grant, Agricultural Education Coordinator, by phone at 893-6598 or by e-mail at [grantjd@gov.ns.ca](mailto:grantjd@gov.ns.ca)

Contact Rick Hoeg, Agricultural Education Liaison, by phone at 893-7495 or by e-mail at [hoegr1@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoegr1@gov.ns.ca)



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## Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

### AgrilInsurance

#### Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation program in Nova Scotia. This program is available for wildlife damage to 24 types of crops and/or predation by wildlife on 14 types of livestock. A complete list of eligible crops and livestock are available online at [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci).

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

- Only farms registered under the Farm Registration Act are eligible for wildlife compensation
- Farmers must notify the commission as soon as possible and not later than 72 hours after the damage has occurred
- The cause of any loss must be confirmed by the commission
- Industry production and protection standards (e.g. fencing, deterrents, protection of beehives, etc.) must be followed to be eligible for a claim
- For crop damage, loss incurred must be at least \$250 or two acres
- For livestock damage, only losses as a result of black bear, fox, coyote, raven, crow or birds of prey are eligible

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

- confirm that the damage was beyond the control of the producer

- attribute the damage to wildlife
- measure the damage

### Maple Syrup Insurance Plan

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

The insurance program works by calculating an average insurable yield based on the producers' historical production (up to 15 years of production records). A claim may be payable when production falls below the amount the commission guarantees based on the producers' production history.

Producers can apply now to have syrup production insured for the 2012–13 crop year. The deadline for applications is April 30.

### Advanced Payments Program

Producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program in 2012 are reminded that many of the organizations administering this credit program may require the producer to have crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer considering taking advantage of this interest-free loan should contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

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If crop insurance is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan, the commission advises all producers to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop insurance. In order to obtain crop insurance coverage for 2012, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

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

For more details on Advance Payments Program, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the program, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca>

## Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for 2012

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

All producers who hold an active contract of insurance in one or more of the above plans will receive a coverage quote form(s) before the beginning of the crop year. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price

option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season. Anyone considering applying for crop insurance for the first time must make their application on or before the dates noted above.

For information on Wildlife Compensation, the Maple Syrup Instance Plan or any of the insurance plans, contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 (across Nova Scotia) or 893-6370 in Truro or 679-6015/6028 in Kentville.

## Continue Your Education at NSAC Visit the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

Modern Shepherd  
Module 3 (Health)  
Jan. 28-29

Module 4 (Lambing and Marketing)  
April 21-22

Pesticide Application Technology  
for Farmers  
Spring 2012

Pesticide Application Technology  
for Landscapers  
Spring 2012

Master Gardener Training (Online)  
Starting January, March and  
October

Certificate of Specialization in  
Organic Agriculture (Online)  
Starting January and September

Operant Conditioning Behaviour  
Analysis (Level I): Animal Training  
in the 21st Century (Online)  
Spring 2012  
*New offering!*

Centre for Continuing and Distance  
Education  
Nova Scotia Agricultural College  
PO Box 550  
Truro, NS B2N 5E3  
Phone: 893-6666  
E-mail: [cde@nsac.ca](mailto:cde@nsac.ca)

### Atlantic Poultry Short Course

February 20-24

Targeted to commercial poultry operations and allied industry personnel, the Atlantic Poultry Short Course will provide a forum to increase participant knowledge of commercial poultry production. The course will feature speakers from across the region and provide opportunities for hands-on demonstrations, networking with speakers and other course participants. Participants meeting the minimum attendance standard will be awarded a certificate of participation from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College at the end of the course. Key topics include nutrition, feeding practices, ventilation, lighting, energy use and efficiency, health and biosecurity, flock care, food safety and biosecurity.

The course takes place Feb. 20-24 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus.

For more information, visit:  
<http://nsac.ca/cde/courses/contract/atl-poultry-short-course.asp>

## Programs and Business Risk Management - Update

### AgriInvest and AgriStability

AgriInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect their income and manage risks like 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.

### AgriInvest Deposit Notices 2010

AgriInvest 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 at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at [www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest](http://www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest).

AgriStability is a margin-based program that provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a farmer's average income from previous years. If you participated in AgriStability in 2010, you will automatically be enrolled for 2011 and will receive a 2011 enrolment notice soon. If you have not received your 2011 enrollment notice and have not heard from AgriStability, you should contact them at 1-866-367-8506.

### 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. To request an AgriStability New Participant 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.

For more information on the above points call Steven at 1-866-844-4276 or 893-6374.

### The Genetic Enhancement Program

The Genetic Enhancement Program was launched April 2, 2011. Eligible commodities include beef, sheep, goat and livestock commodities. The objectives of the program are to increase the competitive position of livestock by investing in improved genetic material for Nova Scotia flocks and herds. Funding is available on a per animal basis for eligible animals purchased after April 2, 2011.

For more information on the Genetic Enhancement Program, please visit: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm) or call 1-866-844-4276.

## Ready to Grow?

Whether you are starting out or already established, the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board can provide the capital and financial advice you need to develop your farming business.

We offer loans to help farmers:

- Buy or improve property
- Buy machinery, quota, or stock
- Refinance
- Expand or switch to more profitable types of farming
- Enter agriculture or generationally transfer the farm

### Benefits

- Fixed interest rates for the entire length of the loan
- Option to repay without penalty at five year intervals
- Option to pay 10 per cent of the original loan amount each year, without penalty
- Payment deferral options
- Term rates



Nova Scotia  
Farm Loan Board

For interest rates, contact us:  
[www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb)  
Truro office: 902-893-6506  
Kentville office: 902-679-6009

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## Scotia Horticultural Congress Is “Breaking the Barriers”

Both large commercial farms and smaller acreages can experience challenges. It requires stamina and imagination to keep one step ahead of the competition, while providing a safe, quality product to our customers. Atlantic farmers have always been particularly adept at adapting to changing conditions.

This year at Scotia Horticultural Congress on Jan. 30 and 31 at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, we hope to celebrate successes and provide information to help with the process of breaking the barriers which are constant challenges to the horticultural industry.

Introducing the theme on day one is David McInnes of the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute. The institute is focused on stimulating a national dialogue on agriculture and agri-food issues by addressing the policies that will enable Canada’s agri-food sector to thrive in the domestic and global agri-food marketplace.

Following him is Rob Hannam of Synthesis Agri-Food Network who will forecast the trends he expects to impact horticulture in the upcoming year.

Our second day keynote speaker is Diana Endicott of Good Natured Family Farms. Some say small family farms can have a tougher time in the general market place. Diana started a co-op in Kansas which proves they can. A true story of stamina and imagination.

We will provide three concurrent sessions each afternoon which look at not only berry and vegetable production, but finance and investment, marketing, integrated pest management, research and technology. Hopefully there will be something to help anyone who is trying to break a barrier.

Contact Donna at 678-9335 for a conference program or see our events at [www.hortns.com](http://www.hortns.com) .

We invite you to spend time talking to our suppliers in the trade show, making new friends and meeting old ones. Horticulture is the way of the future. Join us in being proud of our achievements!

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### Grow Your Farm Profits: Attend a FREE Workshop Near You!

Growing Your Farm Profits is a business self-assessment process designed to help farmers improve their business planning and maximize their long-term farm business goals.

- Do you need to improve your profits?
- Have you started planning for succession?
- Do you have an action plan for each priority of your farm business?

The “Growing Your Farm Profits” free workshop can help.

The workshop will teach you how to complete a farm self-assessment. Your workshop leader will guide you to:

Assess your current farm management systems, knowledge and skills.

Understand how planning provides the framework for effective decision making.

Set and Prioritize goals for your farm’s future.

Identify resources that can help meet these goals.

Build on a farm’s strengths.

Create action plans to improve farm management skills and knowledge.

To register for a free workshop, phone 893-6580 or e-mail [bme@gov.ns.ca](mailto:bme@gov.ns.ca) .

Jan. 12  
Nappan Pavilion, Nappan  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 1  
Pictou, Location to be determined  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 2  
AgriTECH Park, 90 Research Drive,  
Bible Hill  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 29  
Inverary Inn, 368 Shore Road,  
Baddeck  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March 7  
Paradise Community Hall,  
Annapolis  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March 8  
Rudder’s Seafood Restaurant, 96  
Water St., Yarmouth  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Dairy Focus Taking Place March 27–29 in Wolfville

Dairy Focus, the largest dairy conference in Atlantic Canada, will be taking place March 27–29 at the Old Orchard Inn near Wolfville. March 27 will be tour day of Jack Folkestma's Farm in Stewiacke and two hoof health workshops will be held with hoof specialist Karl Burgi. One workshop will be held in Antigonish and the other in Grand Pre.

Keynote speakers include Geoff Spence, the UK's 2009 Farmer of the Year, on making management decisions in a changing UK dairy industry. James Drackley from the University of Illinois will present on controlled energy diets for dry and transition cows. There will be innovator panel discussions on heifer rearing and reproductive performance.

A large trade show will also be part of the conference.

Dairy Focus is hosted by the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia.

For more information, please visit [www.dairyfocus.org](http://www.dairyfocus.org)

### Optimizing Sprayer Efficiency to Improve Onion Thrips Control

A new sustainable crop protection factsheet from the Pest Management Centre's Pesticide Risk Reduction Program is now available online. Log on to see the Sustainable Crop Protection factsheet series at: [www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1321544973429&lang=eng](http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1321544973429&lang=eng)

THINKFARM is pleased to present

# From the Ground Up

Regional Workshops for  
Beginning Farmers

Join us at a location near you to learn about  
some of the fundamental things you can do  
to move your farm business forward.

The workshop will be offered in the following locations:

- Feb. 14 - Annapolis Basin Conference Centre, Cornwallis
- Feb. 15 - Rodd Grant Hotel, Yarmouth
- Feb. 17 - St. F.X., Antigonish
- Feb. 25 - Debert Hospitality Centre, Debert
- Mar. 3 - St. Ann's Gaelic College, St. Ann's
- Mar. 24 - Best Western Hotel, Bridgewater



For more information, or to register  
visit [www.gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm)  
or email [thinkfarm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:thinkfarm@gov.ns.ca)

Canada Growing Forward A federal-provincial-territorial initiative NOVA SCOTIA

## Pest Priorities Now Available On The United States-Canada Grower Priority Database

The goal of the U.S.-Canada Grower Priority Database is to provide a means for growers on both sides of the border to identify and prioritize their pest control product needs for resolving differences in available crop protection tools and maximum residue limits in the United States and Canada.

Under guidance of the U.S. Minor Crop Farmer's Alliance and funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the U.S. portion of the database went online in 2008. In the meantime, a Canadian Screening Committee, facilitated by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, was formed to compile Canadian grower priorities. The original list was based on grower-identified priorities from the 914 Technology Gap Program list, the minor use priority setting program (AAFC, 2008), the joint Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)/Health Canada Pesticide Risk Reduction Program and NAFTA commodity-based projects.

Over 5,000 Canadian priorities (combinations of commodity, active ingredient, pest and brand name) were ranked as high, intermediate or low by the Screening Committee and participating stakeholders.

In March 2010, the PMRA funded the addition of Canadian priorities to the joint US-Canada Grower Priority Database and contributed to making Canadian priorities available in both official languages on the Canadian Federation of Agriculture web site. The database continues to be updated in the U.S. and Canada and has already become a valuable resource for US and Canadian growers, registrants and regulatory agencies. Registrants have indicated that they use it to identify opportunities for business development. The PMRA routinely references the database: to encourage registrants to address grower-identified priorities on incoming submissions; as one indicator of the value of

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specific products or uses to Canadian growers; to identify candidate active ingredients for Program 914 (providing shortened time lines for products addressing the technology gap) and to identify grower priorities that could possibly replace products currently being phased-out.

To date, over 400 Canadian priorities have been addressed by the registration process. Grower input and wide use of the database is needed to ensure its continued success as a tool for stakeholders. For more information about Canadian grower priorities and access to the bilingual version of the database, consult the Canadian Federation of Agriculture website: [www.canadiangrowerprioritydatabase.ca](http://www.canadiangrowerprioritydatabase.ca) , or visit the joint U.S.-Canada database: [www.uscanadagrowerprioritydatabase.com](http://www.uscanadagrowerprioritydatabase.com) .



Ask your 4-H leadership coordinator for more information about any of the scholarships.

## 4-H News



### Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

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

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

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded a \$1,000 university entrance scholarship to Milton King in Cumberland Co.

Two members won the Department of Agriculture Scholarship valued at \$1,000 each. The recipients were Leah Cook, Lunenburg Co., and Kathryn Gilfoy, Antigonish Co. The Department of Agriculture scholarship is presented to students enrolling in their first year program in agriculture, veterinary science or other recognized disciplines.

The deadline is April 1 to apply for the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council scholarship. More information can be found in the General Leader kit or online at: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h) .

In November, Morgan MacNeil from the Border Riders 4-H Club in Hants Co. was the Nova Scotia recipient of the TD 4-H Scholarship and one of ten 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2,500 scholarship for entrance to first year of university.

For 55 years, the TD Bank Financial Group has been a generous supporter of the Canadian 4-H Council and provided financial support to future generations of agricultural leaders who will be attending a Canadian college or university for agriculture or an agriculture-related field of study. Applicants with the highest academic average in their province are selected to receive this scholarship. Previous scholarship recipients have gone on to study in the fields of veterinary medicine, engineering, agriculture and bio-chemistry. All active 4-H members over the age of 16 can apply for the scholarships. October is the deadline for the 2012 TD 4-H Scholarship and the application is available in June.

Recently the CIBC and the Canadian 4-H Council announced a new scholarship program. Three scholarships per year (for two years), valued at \$2,500 each, will be awarded to 4-H members in their last year of high school. Winners must use the funds within two years of receipt of the award for attendance at a Canadian post-secondary institution. Funding may be used for tuition, books and/or lodging. The application for both the TD Bank Financial Group and CIBC scholarships can be found online at: [www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/scholarships](http://www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/scholarships) .

## 4-H Celebrates Two Significant Anniversaries

For the next two years 4-H members, leaders and alumni will be celebrating the 4-H program and its long history of developing excellent agriculture, business and community leaders. 2012 marks the 90th anniversary of 4-H in Nova Scotia and 2013 is the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Canada.

From the rural beginnings in Heatherton, Antigonish County in 1922, 4-H in Nova Scotia has grown to 2,400 young people learning communication, speaking, sportsmanship, leadership and technical skills and mentored by 850 adult leaders.

Over the past several decades, 4-H in Canada has enriched the lives of more than one million young people in both small and large communities from coast to coast. 4-H celebrates deep roots, and is looking ahead to an exciting future as the 4-H program leads the way as a modern youth leadership development program.

As part of the 100th anniversary celebrations for 4-H in Canada, the Canadian 4-H Council is looking for contributions to build a virtual history project about 4-H. This history project will live online, and will showcase 4-H from its origins in Roland, Manitoba all the way to the program that it is today. The Canadian 4-H Council wants to celebrate everything that 4-H has been able to accomplish, as well as the future of this great program.

If you have any historical materials that you would like to share, it is a very easy process. You can upload photos, videos, articles and documents at: [www.4-h-canada.ca/100/en/e-history](http://www.4-h-canada.ca/100/en/e-history), and help tell the amazing story that is 4-H!

### Your Regional Agricultural Offices

#### Central

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties:

Tel: 893-6575 Fax: 893-2757

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

Theresa Osborne, Admin. Assistant  
Michael Kittilsen, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.  
Jacqueline Hoyt, 4-H Leadership Coord.

#### Eastern

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties:

Tel: 863-7170 Fax: 863-7342

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

Laureen Boyd, Admin. Assistant  
Kevin Bekkers, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.  
Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, 4-H Leadership Coord.

#### Valley/South Shore

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties:

Tel: 679-6021 Fax: 679-6062

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

Cheryl Theriau, Admin. Assistant  
Brian MacCulloch, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.  
Valorie Oickle, 4-H Leadership Coord.  
Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer

#### Cape Breton

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond counties:

Tel: 563-2000 Fax: 563-3435

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

Catherine Plumridge, Admin. Assistant  
Gary Koziel, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.  
MacDougall, Rhonda (Mabou) and Gillis, Marina (Sydney), 4-H Leadership Coordinators

#### Western

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties:

Tel: 638-2395 Fax: 638-2389

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

Gina Saulnier, Admin. Assistant  
Dennis Moreman, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.  
Jean Ward, 4-H Leadership Coord.  
Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer



May the peace and good will of this holiday season gently fill your home with joy that lasts throughout 2012. As we look back on our accomplishments over the past year and look forward to the new challenges and opportunities of the New Year, we hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the warmth of friends and family. Everyone at the Kentville Regional Office extends best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.



## Think Local This Holiday Season

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

## Pesticide Certification Course

Traci Curry is offering a pesticide certification course in January in the Coldbrook area. Please contact Traci at 798-4272 to be added to the list of applicants. Courses are also offered through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Check the Continuing Education website at: [nsac.ca/cde/courses/Pesticide/application-farmers.asp](http://nsac.ca/cde/courses/Pesticide/application-farmers.asp) .

Although recommended, it is not mandatory to take the course. You may contact the Department of Environment and write the exam without a course. You can download the agriculture training manual on their website at [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/applicator/training.asp](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/applicator/training.asp) .



## Valley Region 4-H

The 4-H program continues to grow and thrive in the valley region. 4-H families and leaders are gearing up for another busy year. Registration has taken place over the past two months. Most clubs are underway but if you are interested in joining, individual clubs may be able to accept additional members. For more information on a 4-H club in your area, contact the Department of Agriculture at 679-6027 .

One of the keys to the success of the 4-H program is leaders. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not have the highly successful program we have here in Nova Scotia! So a big thank you goes to the volunteer leaders and to the many supportive parents that enable members to accomplish much within the 4-H program.

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

We are continuing to update our mailing list. If your address is incorrect or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter any longer, please notify Cheryl either by phone at 679-6021 or by e-mail at [ctheriau@gov.ns.ca](mailto:ctheriau@gov.ns.ca) .

Please note that a civic address is required on all mail. If your civic address is not on the envelope, please notify Cheryl.

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

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**2011–12 Hants County 4-H Clubs:**

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

**2011–12 Kings County 4-H Clubs:**

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

For more information about the 4-H program contact Valorie Oickle, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, at 679-6027. You may also log on to the provincial 4-H website at [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h) .

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**Fall Food Flavours –  
A Taste Celebration of Local  
Food**

Ask anyone who attended, Fall Food Flavours was a celebration of local, seasonal produce! Local 4-H leaders, senior members, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia and farm market representatives experienced a day of local food! Chef Todd Frank provided an entertaining and educational program on everything from root vegetables to food safety to the importance of presentation in serving meals. Katie Campbell joined the group to share her insight as a local producer of apples and potatoes. Funding for the event was made possible through Canadian 4-H Council and Loblaws Canada.

## NSCC International Business - Student Internships

Good people are hard to find! Is your business involved in importing, exporting, trade-related services or part of the transportation sector? Need an extra hand? Are you overworked on certain projects? Do you have back burner projects that never seem to make it to the top of the pile? Are you planning for growth? If so, have you considered a Nova Scotia Community College international business student internship?

Between January and April, 25 job-ready students who are finishing their third year will be seeking a four month internship to complete their credit requirements for the Advanced Diploma in International Business program. This program was identified as one of Nova Scotia's top ten most innovative programs. These students are keen to work and are

capable of working in almost any aspect of your company's business. A lot can be accomplished in four months so express your interest early if we can help. For more information, contact Barrie Reid, international business faculty, by phone at 893-5352 or by e-mail at [barrie.reid@nscc.ca](mailto:barrie.reid@nscc.ca).

Typical projects include:

- Customer service support
- Sales and marketing assistance
- Logistics coordination and support
- Market research
- Inside sales
- Newsletter/website development
- Trade-related administrative support
- Consulting and planning support



## Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!

### Do you know your Parliamentary Procedures?

Join Jacqueline, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, on Jan. 3 at 7 p.m., at the Shinimicas Fire Hall in Cumberland Co. or Jan. 17 at 6 p.m., at the Forestry Complex in Middle Musquodoboit for a workshop covering executive roles and responsibilities, meeting management and how to make motions. It is open to all 4-H members and leaders, Federation of Agriculture members and the general community. No registration is required.

If you have any ideas or needs for the upcoming year such as workshops or clinics please contact Jacqueline. As well, if you have members or clubs to profile in the upcoming January edition of the Clover Crop, the regional 4-H newsletter, please pass them along.

## 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 or if you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4,500 kg you need a condition 15 endorsement on your license to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 licenses. If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements contact Jacqueline Hoyt by phone at 893-6586 or by e-mail at [hoytjm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoytjm@gov.ns.ca).

### Process for condition 15:

- Purchase a road test receipt, which costs \$47.63 (HST incl.) This can be purchased 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:

- Complete a condition 23 application prior to testing
- Have a driver's medical exam completed by your doctor
- Purchase a road test receipt, which costs \$47.63 (HST incl.). This can be purchased 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 Regional Office first and have a valid driver's 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 893-6586 and speaking to Jacqueline. Once you have successfully passed the road test your license can be upgraded for \$22.15 at the Service Nova Scotia office.

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## Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Jan. 3, Cumberland Co. 4-H Council meeting, Shinimicas Fire Hall, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 17, Halifax-East Hants Co. 4-H Council meeting, Forestry Complex in Middle Musquodoboit, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 23, Colchester Co. 4-H Council meeting, Agri-dome, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 6, Cumberland Co. 4-H Council meeting, Shinimicas Fire Hall, 8 p.m.  
Feb. 21, Halifax-East Hants Co. 4-H Council meeting, Hants East Rural High, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 27, Colchester Co. 4-H Council meeting, Agri-dome, 7 p.m.  
March 5, Cumberland Co. 4-H Council meeting, Shinimicas Fire Hall, 8 p.m.  
March 20, Halifax-East Hants Co. 4-H Council meeting, Hants East Rural High, 7 p.m.  
March 26, Colchester Co. 4-H Council meeting, Agri-dome, 7 p.m.

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

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the central region, by phone at 893-6586 or by e-mail at [hoytjm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:hoytjm@gov.ns.ca)



## Nappan Beef and Sheep Research Results + Zone 1 Cattle Producers Meeting

Come talk to other Cape Breton beef and sheep producers, hear about the latest research taking place at the Nappan Research Station and discuss opportunities in the beef industry. The meeting will take place Jan. 23 at St. Michael's Parish Hall, Baddeck starting at 7 p.m. Please call 563-2000 or e-mail [plumricl@gov.ns.ca](mailto:plumricl@gov.ns.ca) to reserve your seat.

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

The Zone 1 meeting of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Association will include updates on the overall state of the industry, genetic enhancement program, the Maritime Beef Council and more. Members are encouraged to come out to receive this valuable information as well as provide feedback to the association.

## Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, St. John Ambulance Course 2012

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture invites federation members to participate in the sponsored St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid course to be held early in the new year. This is a great opportunity for introductory training or updating your current first aid certification. Participants will be learning about current standards needed to sustain life and safely managing the scene of an injury. This is open to all Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture members at a reduced rate of \$60. Non-federation members can participate at a standard fee of \$80.

For more information, please contact your local federation representative or the Department of Agriculture at 563-2000.



## Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2012

- Jan. 24, Bras d' Or Hall
- Jan. 24, Grand Lake Road Fire Hall
- Feb. 21, Grand Lake Road Fire Hall
- Feb. 29, Bras d' Or Hall
- March 27, Grand Lake Road Fire Hall
- March 27, Bras d' Or Hall
- April 24, Grand Lake Road Fire Hall
- May 29, Bras d' Or Hall

If you wish to register please contact Catherine at the Department of Agriculture office in Sydney at 563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf).

### THINKFARM Conference: From the Ground Up

St. Ann's Gaelic College, St.  
Ann's

Watch for future announcements and registration information, coming soon! Also see the announcement in the main newsletter.



## 4-H Christmas Newsletter: 4-H Memories for a Lifetime

The 4-H program is thriving in the Cape Breton region as a New Year approaches. The region consists of 263 active members, 24 of these members being cloverbuds and 78 volunteer leaders from the four counties.

Rural youth and volunteer 4-H leaders worked hard this year to complete project work in various life skills and livestock project

areas. In all, 215 4-H youth participated in communication skills development over their 4-H year, developing lifelong skills that will serve them well now and into the future. Volunteer leader membership was drawn from nine per cent urban, 75 per cent rural and 16 per cent farm. Youth membership was drawn from 16



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per cent urban, 73 per cent rural and 11 per cent farm. This showed an increase from our rural community participation this year.

These are exciting times for regional youth as new clubs and project areas are explored and regional teams work on expanding the types of knowledge base offered to our rural communities.

In 2011, the program year concluded with a strong showing, with lots of local, regional and provincial events for the communities. Presently, many clubs are preparing for another full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun! A special welcome to our new members and leaders registering this year.

#### **4-H Christmas Greeting**

The halls are decked, the stockings hung,  
The gifts being wrapped, the carols sung;  
There's a chill in the air, and snowflakes in the sky,  
Children with smiles, and a twinkle in their eye.

As we send our Christmas greeting, a new 4-H year is to start,  
Another year of pledging head, health, hands and heart,  
Achievement days, Camp Rankin, public speaking and 4-H shows,  
With each year, and each member, our 4-H program grows.

4-H teaches members new ideas and new skills,  
Leadership and community service - just a few of the values it instills;  
A thank you to the leaders for all the work they do,  
Let's not forget parents, sponsors, volunteers, and alumni too.

Christmas is a time of peace, and a time of joy,  
Excitement and anticipation for every girl and boy,  
A season to reflect, and a season to rest,  
So, merry Christmas wishes and in 2012, all the best!

Seasons greetings from Rhonda MacDougall, Marina Gillis, Gary Koziel, Catherine Plumridge and Cheryl Chandler.

#### **New Leader Training**

Welcome to the 4-H Team is a workshop that introduces 4-H to new leaders. As part of the volunteer screening process, all new leaders must attend a training session. Sessions were completed across the region in late 2011 and will continue in early 2012. Leaders are free to attend any session.

During these sessions you will be given information regarding the 4-H program, the leader screening process, as well as, what resources and support systems are available to leaders. This session is compulsory and is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you have regarding the program.



Contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture office, for screening procedures and dates.

#### **Calendar Dates**

Jan. 3, Cape Breton Co. Craft Co-op meeting, Swiss Chalet, 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 5, Inverness Co. 4-H Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 9:30 a.m.

Jan. 19, Richmond Co. 4-H Council meeting, Landry's

Jan. 25, Victoria Co. 4-H Council meeting, Nelson's

Feb. 3, Inverness/Richmond Jr., member workshop, Port Hawkesbury

Feb. 26, Cape Breton/ Victoria, Jr. member workshop, Sydney

March 12-14, Kevin Grant Tour

April 21, Regional rally, Baddeck

May 24, Atlantic Leader's Conference

Sept. 28-30, Nova Scotia 4-H Pro-Show, Truro

For more information, contact your regional Agricultural and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, at the Mabou office (902) 945-2901 or the Sydney office (902) 563-2001.

## Homegrown Success Program Reminders:

A reminder to those with current year funding that all claims must be postmarked by the post office or received by the Department of Agriculture by March 1. Late claims will not be processed.

Copies of invoices with proof of payment (e.g. cancelled cheques, credit card statements, debit slips or official invoices marked paid and signed by supplier) to support completed approved project activities.

In addition to the claim form and proof of payment documents, copies of municipal building permits (if applicable) must be provided for the following approved projects: manure, pesticide or fertilizer storage construction.

## Antigonish-Guysborough Federation of Agriculture

Your federation would like to organize a training session for those who need training on the condition 23 endorsement on their driver's licence. Please contact Dustin Swinkels by phone at 870-2980 or the Department of Agriculture office at 863-4705 if you would like to be added to the list of participants.

## 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 or if you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4,500 kg you need a condition 15 endorsement on your license to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 licenses.

2011-12 Executive  
Dustin Swinkels, President  
Robert Overmars, Vice President  
John Oostvogels,  
Secretary/Treasurer

2011-12 Directors  
Pat VandenHeuvel  
Ben Cornect  
Terry Boyle  
Neil Doiron  
Sid Taylor  
Rhonda McCarron

## Pictou North-Colchester Federation of Agriculture

2011-12 Executive  
Joe Ebbett, President  
Jim Fraser, Vice President  
Lorenda Ebbett,  
Secretary/Treasurer

In an effort to improve communication with you, we are collecting e-mail addresses. If you would like to occasionally receive reminders and notices, please provide your e-mail address to Laureen at [boydll@gov.ns.ca](mailto:boydll@gov.ns.ca). If you would like to be taken off our mailing list, please e-mail Laureen or call 863-7180.

## Winter Farm Safety Tips

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

- Snow and ice are inevitable. Use extra care and precaution; be prepared for slippery surfaces around your farm yard and around the barn.
- If you have not already done so clean your chimney.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting for working in building and around equipment.
- Ensure covers are in place around manure pits and tanks.
- Check your generator and perform regular maintenance.
- Check equipment, perform regular maintenance and ensure all safety guards are in place.
- Check fire extinguishers.
- Check all first aid kits and replenish missing or old supplies.



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## Antigonish 4-H council executive for 2011–12

Angela MacNeil, President  
Jessica Overmars and Miranda Teasdale, Vice President  
Courtney George, Secretary  
Lori VandeSande, Treasurer

## Upcoming Dates to Remember: Antigonish County

Dec. 27, Skating, 11 a.m.  
Jan. 16, Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 22, Bowling, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 24, Leaders' social, St. Andrews, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 14, New leader training workshop, Department of Agriculture office, 12 p.m.  
Feb. 14, Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 19, Swimming, 4 p.m.  
March 13, Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 7 p.m.  
March 31, County rally, Antigonish Education Centre, 9 a.m.

## Pictou 4-H Council Executive for 2011–12

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

## Upcoming Dates to Remember – Pictou County

Jan. 25, Council meeting, Northumberland Regional High School, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 22, New leader training workshop, Department of Agriculture office, 12 p.m.  
Feb. 22, New leader training workshop, Northumberland Regional High School, 6 p.m.  
Feb. 22, Council meeting, Northumberland Regional High School, 7 p.m.  
March 21, Council meeting, Northumberland Regional High School, 7 p.m.  
March 30, County rally, Northumberland Regional High School, 6 p.m.

## Local Christmas Meal

Make your holiday dinners and get-togethers "local" ones this year. We are challenging you to prepare a local meal for your family. The Antigonish Farmers' Market will be operating until Dec. 17 at the Antigonish Education Centre where you will find lots of tempting, tasteful local goodies to help make that meal a delectable one! Also check out Select Nova Scotia's website to find out what's in season and get some great recipes: [www.selectnovascotia.ca](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca).

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

## Methods of defrosting turkeys:

Methods of defrosting turkeys:

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

## Approximate Cooking Times at 325°F

### Unstuffed:

8–12 lb	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> –3 hours
12–14 lb	3–3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> hours
14–18 lb	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> –4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> hours
18–20 lb	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> –4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> hours

### Stuffed:

8–12 lb	3–3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> hours
12–14 lb	3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> –4 hours
14–18 lb	4–4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> hours
18–20 lb	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> –4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> hours

Best wishes for a happy holiday season, good health and much success in 2012 from the staff of the Antigonish Regional Office!



## Season Greetings / Joyeuses Fêtes

From all of us at the Western Regional Office, we wish you and your family a wonderful and joyous holiday season filled with the warmth of loved ones and friends. May the New Year bring you peace, happiness and good health.



### Office Hours

Regular office hours are  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
closed from 12–1 p.m. for lunch.

The office will be closed  
December 26, 27 and January 2  
for the holidays.

## Congratulations!

This fall has seen a lot of accolades for our region and we should celebrate our successes:

We extend our congratulations to Geoff and Jennifer Bishop, of Bishop Farms Ltd. in Round Hill, for being named one of the two winners of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer's program. The Sun Valley 4-H Riders and our office hosted an open house before they left to wish them well. What a great accomplishment!

Congratulations to Martin McGurk and Gordon Tingley of Sledding Hill Growers in Bear River for being awarded Innovative Product of the Year by Taste of Nova Scotia!

We congratulate David Brown of Northview Farms in Annapolis Royal and Gilberte and Siegmar Doelle of Wild Rose Farm in Gilbert's Cove for being shortlisted for the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Award. Well done!

In addition, Wild Rose Farm was recently named Entrepreneur of the Year and received an Award of Excellence from the Digby Area Board of Trade. Congratulations Gilberte and Siegmar!

## Upcoming Events and Workshops

### Conducting Effective Meetings

A leadership presentation will be held at Rudders Restaurant, 96 Water St., Yarmouth on January 16 at 7 p.m. Members from agriculture-related organizations like 4-H, farmers markets and Women's Institute of Nova Scotia are invited to attend. The presentation will include duties of executives, making motions and agendas and many tips on running an effective meeting.

### Team Building

There will be a leadership presentation held Jan. 25 for all 4-H leaders in Digby Co. This presentation will provide leaders with tips on how to work together effectively to achieve goals and objectives of the 4-H club in your community. The time and place is to be announced. Contact Jean at 638-2387 for more information.

## 4-H and Rural Leadership –

### 4-H dates to remember:

Jan. 11, Annapolis Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting  
Jan. 18, Yarmouth Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting  
Jan. 19, Digby Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting  
Feb. 8, Annapolis Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting  
Feb. 12, Annapolis Co. 4-H ski trip  
Feb. 15, Yarmouth Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting  
Feb. 16, Digby Co. 4-H Leaders Council meeting

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## Food Handlers Courses

The Department of Agriculture is offering food handler courses for foodservice facility owners, operators, managers and staff. Application forms and registration information is found online at [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses\\_west.shtml](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses_west.shtml)



### Bridgewater

All courses held at Bridgewater  
Fire Hall, 81 Dominion St.,  
Bridgewater  
Jan. 24  
March 22  
May 17  
June 20

### Digby

All courses held at Digby Curling  
Club, 27 Shreve St., Digby  
Feb. 8  
April 17  
May 31

### Kentville

All courses held at Kentville  
Agricultural Centre, 32 Main St.,  
Kentville  
Jan. 11  
Feb. 8  
Feb. 16  
March 7  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

### Lawrencetown

Course held at Nova Scotia  
Community College,  
Lawrencetown, AV Room  
April 18

### Shelburne

All courses held at Nova Scotia  
Community College Shelburne  
Campus, 1575 Lake Rd., Shelburne  
March 20  
May 15

### Yarmouth

All courses held at Nova Scotia  
Community College Burrige  
Campus, Room C-181, 372  
Pleasant St., Yarmouth  
Jan. 26  
Feb. 22  
March 14  
April 24  
May 29