

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #	Acrobat Page #
<u>Main Newsletter</u> <i>(for all regions)</i>		
Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission	1	2
Programs and Business Risk Management	2	3
Select Nova Scotia Increases Consumer Motivation to Buy Local	3	4
2013 Nuffield Farming Scholarship Applications Open	3	4
THINKFARM	4	5
Advance Payment Program	4	5
Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop	5	6
Continue Your Education at NSAC	5	6
Beef Field Day	5	6
4-H News:		
– Nova Scotia 4-H Members Attend Canadian and American Conferences	6	7
– EastGen Held in June for 22nd Year	6	7
– 4-H Members to Showcase Communication Skills at Annual 4-H Weekend	6	7
– Camp Rankin Welcomes Youth For 40 Years	7	8
– Nova Scotia 4-H – 90 Years of Learning to Do by Doing	7	8
NS Farm Loan Board	8	9
<u>Custom Newsletter Pages</u> <i>(for individual regions)</i>		
Valley/South Shore Region News	9	10
Central Region News	9	11
Cape Breton Region News	9	13
Eastern Region News	9	15
Western Region News	9	17

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



April 2012

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 13 No.2

Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission

Wildlife Compensation for NS Blueberry or Bee Producers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers the Canada Nova Scotia Wildlife Compensation Program. This program provides compensation to producers for losses to eligible commodities as a result of damage from wildlife. For blueberry growers and beekeepers, included in this compensation is the loss of honey bee hives and their contents, bumble bee quads, and leaf cutter bees as a result of damage from bears, as well as the loss of berries caused by wildlife.

To be eligible for a compensation payment for bee damage, the owner of the hive or their agent must notify the commission of damage within 72 hours of the loss. This allows the commission's field agents an opportunity to inspect and verify the loss. It is also a requirement of this program that producers follow industry standards to protect their bees from predators. This includes appropriate electric fencing or other protective measure such as caging of quads to deter bears.

Damage to blueberry crops could be at any time of the growing season, however damage reports must be made within 72 hours and must affect at least two acres or cause a loss of at least \$250. The damage must be readily identifiable and recent. Inspectors must be able to measure the amount of crop loss that has occurred. Farmers must follow industry production and protection standards to be eligible for compensation. For those with crop insurance, unless the commission is notified otherwise, an eligible crop insurance payment will be made first and topped up with any remaining loss attributed to wildlife damage through the compensation program.

In addition, all producers must be registered under the Nova Scotia Farm Registration Act to qualify for a compensation payment.

Compensation for wildlife damage is paid based on values set by the commission. The price offered during 2012 includes 65 cents per pound for blueberries, the value of the actual loss up to \$500 for honey bee hives and contents, \$300 for bumble bee quads, and \$100 per box for leaf cutter bees. All compensation payments are subject to a 20 per cent deductible.

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines 2012

Potato - April 19
Corn - April 30
Maple - April 30
Weather plan - April 30
Soybean (includes Canola and sunflowers) - May 19
Winter grain - August 31



Maple Syrup Insurance Plan

Nova Scotia maple producers are eligible to participate in the Maple Syrup Insurance Plan. The plan insures against reduced production of maple syrup due to a range of insurable perils. Interested maple producers must apply for the insurance before the April 30, 2012 to obtain coverage for the next maple season in the spring of 2013.

For more information on any of the commission's programs, visit www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci or call 1-800-565-6371.

Programs and Business Risk Management

AgriInvest and AgriStability

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

AgriInvest Deposit Notices

AgriInvest deposit notices are being mailed out with information on how to make deposits and receive a matching government contribution. Follow the instructions to make a deposit by the deadline indicated on the notice. Producers can request a withdrawal from their AgriInvest account through their financial institution at any time throughout the year.

AgriStability

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. Once enrolled in AgriStability, participants are automatically enrolled for each subsequent year. Participants are sent an enrollment notice and fee amount to be paid by a deadline.

New Participants or Farmers -AgriStability 2012 Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2011 AgriStability and wish to participate this year must request a new participant package before April 30, 2012. To request the package, visit www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or call toll free 1-866-367- 8506. For more information, call Steven at 1-866-844-4276 or 1-902-893-6374.

The Genetic Enhancement Program

The Genetic Enhancement Program will continue for the 2012/13 program year. Eligible commodities include beef, sheep and goat livestock. The objectives of the program are to increase the competitive position of livestock farmers by investing in improved genetic material for Nova Scotia flocks and herds.

For more information and an application, visit www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm or call 1-866-844-4276.

Homegrown Success Program Guide Is Now Available

The Homegrown Success Program consists of several initiatives under the theme areas of Innovation, Environment, Quality Assurance and Business Development.

More information on Homegrown Success Programs and the guide visit on line at gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/

Or you can contact your regional office for more information:

Cape Breton - 303-320 Esplanade, Sydney, plumricl@gov.ns.ca - 563-2000

Eastern - 190 Beech Hill Road, Antigonish, boydll@gov.ns.ca - 863-7180

Central - 157 College Road, (DeWolfe House), Truro, osborntc@gov.ns.ca - 893-6575

Valley - Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street, Kentville ctheriau@gov.ns.ca - 679-6021

Western - 86 Atlantic Ave., Cornwallis Park, Cornwallis saulnigl@gov.ns.ca - 638-2395

Programs and Business Risk Management office, 176 College Road, Truro, 893-6510 or 1-866-844-4276, e-mail PRM@gov.ns.ca

Nuffield



2013 Nuffield Farming Scholarship Applications Open

The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust is accepting applications for their 2013 program. Three scholarships of \$15,000 each are available for 2013.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are awarded to enthusiastic individuals, with a passion for agriculture, a desire to expand their knowledge, pursue new ideas and to share findings with others. Recipients are chosen based on the strength of their vision, enthusiasm and determination to pursue their goals. They are men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industry, and their communities through the opportunities for lifelong learning and improvement provided through the scholarship.

Applicants should be in mid-career, between the ages of 30 and 45 (although exceptions are made). They must have a minimum of five years agricultural business or farming experience, plus the management ability to step away from their current duties. The scholar must travel for a minimum of ten weeks, at least six of them consecutive. Scholarships are not for those involved in full-time studies or for the purpose of furthering research projects.

The scholarship is a life-changing experience. Scholars learn about the best production, management and marketing systems in every corner of the world. In addition to embracing the world's best in agriculture, scholars gain lifelong

friends and a deep understanding and global perspective of the politics, cultures and challenges of world agriculture.

A key part of the scholarship is the opportunity for recipients to study a topic of interest to themselves through out their travels. Scholars must complete their projects within two years of winning the award. They are expected to produce a written report and present their findings at the Nuffield annual general meeting as well as to others in their industries.

Canadian Nuffield Scholars are also required to participate in the Contemporary Scholars Conference where they meet with scholars from other countries including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and France to exchange ideas and experiences, and join a network of people who are at the cutting edge of primary industry.

Application forms are available at www.nuffield.ca and must be received by April 30, 2012. For questions about the international element of the scholarship, visit www.nuffieldinternational.org. For more information, contact Rod Bradshaw, secretary, Nuffield Canada at secretary@nuffield.ca or 1-403-224-2633.



Select Nova Scotia Increases Consumer Motivation to Buy Local!

Research shows that Select Nova Scotia increases consumer motivation and effort to buy local. Do not miss the opportunity to have your farm business listed in Select Nova Scotia's "Where to Buy Local" online database. The website has 35,000 visits a year and continues to grow. Promote your business with a free listing on SelectNovaScotia.ca.

Contact Jennifer Reynolds, Select Nova Scotia coordinator at 722-1305 or reynoljm@gov.ns.ca, to have your business listed!

Advance Payment Program (APP)

In February and March, THINKFARM travelled the province holding its From the Ground Up workshop. There were good turnouts at each location, for a total of over 130 participants.

The speakers have been great, too. Tim Alison and Ron Robichaud have tag-teamed to deliver their presentation on the Seven Attributes of a Happy Entrepreneur. Their take away message: If it's not fun anymore, change what you are doing, or stop doing it and do something else.

Michael Sanderson of the St. Mary's University Business Development Centre has talked about goal setting and managing business growth. A second tag team, Claire Hanlon-Smith and Julia Lindsay from the Department of Agriculture's Business Development and Economics Division, shared a tool developed by Cornell University to assess which marketing channels best suit a person's personality and make the most money. AgraPoint's Amy Sangster and some of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's environmental farm planners have been delivering a great workshop on evaluating soil.

The day's program was rounded out with great presentations from local farmer celebrities. Special thanks to all of them: Andrea Berry, Danny Bruce, David Brown, Niki Clark, Gilberte Doelle, Don Cook, Jack Thomson, Isabelle Rochas, Justin Smith, Danny MacDonald, Marguerite Fortune-Phillips, Stephen Sharpe, John Duynisveld, Amanda Eisses, Ron Muise, Chris van den Heuval, Donnie MacNeil, Marilyn MacDonald, Logie Cassells, William Alloway, and Patricia Bishop.

Farm Credit Canada generously donated copies of their farm management software as prizes. The winner of AgExpertAnalyst was Shaun Bennett, who attended From the Ground Up in St. Ann's. In Antigonish, George Goodall won Farm Manager Pro.

The second issue of Over the Fence, THINKFARM's e-newsletter, is now available on line. In this issue, there are answers to questions about custom machine work and free-range chicken regulations, a profile of Hilltop Cottage Farm in Yarmouth, and a feature article on prospects for grass energy in the province.

For more information, visit www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm.

Once again, the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has been asked by the federal government to administer the Advance Payment Program for 2012-13. The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products by extending an advance to the producers as a means of improving cash-flow.

Any individual or farm business can receive an advance of up to \$100,000 interest free. Producers repay the advance by December 31, 2012 for the spring portion of the program. If crops are in storage, an individual or farm business may participate in the fall portion of the program with repayment of advances by September 30, 2013. Crops usually covered are barley, corn, oats, rye, hay, soybeans, and spring and winter wheat.

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

To learn more about the program, contact Carol Versteeg at carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca or 1-902-758-3530.

Continue Your Education at NSAC

Visit the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

Courses 2011-2012

Master Gardener Training (online)
Start dates in October, January and March

Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture (online)
Start dates in September and January

Other Upcoming Course Offerings

NS Tractor Safety Certification for Youth (May 5 and 6)

Bulk Milk Grader Refresher Course (May 15)

Bulk Milk Grader Course (May 16-18)

For more information contact:
Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, Nova Scotia Agricultural College
PO Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
cde@nsac.ca
1-902-893-6666



Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop Provides New Pest Management Solutions For Nova Scotia Growers

The Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop was held on March 20-22 in Gatineau, QC. This workshop is sponsored by the Pest Management Centre at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and has been held annually since 2003. Its purpose is to select a number of projects that provide solutions to pest management problems through the User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion program of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

The workshop was well attended with more than 250 delegates including staff from the agencies noted above, grower associations, federal and provincial agricultural researchers, extension specialists, minor use coordinators, USA I-R 4 representatives, and pesticide industry representatives.

As a result of this years workshop, a number of projects were selected to begin in 2013 that will benefit growers in Nova Scotia.

Entomology projects targeted Spotted Wing Drosophila control for peaches, plums, table grapes, raspberries and strawberries. Other projects were approved for thrips on greenhouse peppers; cucumber beetle on greenhouse cucumbers; aphids on greenhouse lettuce and greenhouse ornamentals; and balsam gall midge on Christmas trees.

Pathology projects include control of powdery mildew on greenhouse cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes; fruit rots on cranberries; powdery mildew on strawberries; bacterial spot on peaches; downy mildew on

mustard greens; and Anthracnose on grapes. Herbicide projects include control of broad leaved weeds on carrots, raspberries, grapes and hops, and a growth regulator for greenhouse ornamentals.

The projects for organic production are to control Spotted Wing Drosophila on stone fruits and various caterpillars on cranberries.

The Atlantic region's choice for a project is for a screening trial for Fusarium wilt on greenhouse ornamentals. A screening trial will also be done for control of horsetail in outdoor ornamentals.

A detailed report of this workshop is available from:

Lorne Crozier
Minor Use Coordinator
Department of Agriculture
PO Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
crozielm@ns.ca

Hold the Date!

Beef Field Day at the Cape John Community Pasture

Friday, June 8

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch provided

Watch www.agrapoint.ca for more details or contact 1-902-896-0277.

Nova Scotia 4-H Members Attend Canadian and American Conferences

Nine Nova Scotia 4-H members will join youth from across Canada and the USA at two prestigious conferences this spring.

From April 13-19, eight 4-H members from Nova Scotia will gain a better understanding of the political process in Canada at the 40th annual National 4-H Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa. They will join 55 4-H members from across the country to examine their rights, roles and responsibilities as Canadian citizens.

Delegates will learn through interactive activities such as question period on Parliament Hill; a swearing-in ceremony for new Canadians at Citizenship Court; tours of the Supreme Court of Canada, the National War Museum, and the Museum of Civilization; and a visit to Fulton's Maple Sugar Camp.

"Having so many excellent young people represent Nova Scotia at these national and international conferences shows that the leadership training taught in the 4-H program meets its goal of developing youth as community leaders," said Ruth Grant, senior 4-H program coordinator at the Department of Agriculture.



Andrew Greene from Pictou County was part of a Canadian delegation that attended the USA National 4-H Conference in Maryland from March 31-April 7. The conference engaged youth in personal development experiences to increase their knowledge,

resources and skills. They discussed topics affecting youth and 4-H programming nationwide. The conference empowered and mobilized 4-H youth to create positive social change, and they were encouraged to be active members of their communities, nation and world.

EastGen Held in June for 22nd Year

For twenty two years, the Eastern Breeders Showcase, now known as the EastGen Showcase, has taught Atlantic 4-H members the finer points of dairy and beef showmanship, management and judging.

This year's event will be held June 22-24 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Atlantic 4-H beef and dairy members who are 13 years of age or older are eligible to participate. The public is invited to attend.

Experts from EastGen and 4-H leadership coordinators with the Department of Agriculture will teach about seventy 4-H members the latest techniques in show preparation for beef and dairy

cattle, health of the show calf, livestock judging, showmanship, clipping, display design, and herd management.

After two intense days of training, 4-H members will show their own calves at the beef and dairy show Sunday, June 24, at 9:30 a.m. Awards will be presented to the winners in showmanship and confirmation, as well as those who excelled in session work over the two days of instruction.

Participants are expected to bring the information they learn back to their 4-H clubs.

Rural leadership staff at the Department of Agriculture provide organizational skills through the Atlantic 4-H Committee to help make the showcase possible.

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

Many 4-H members say that they credit the program for developing their communication skills of listening and speaking, and to build self-confidence and poise. On May 11-12, members from across Nova Scotia will compete in

provincial public speaking and demonstration competitions at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill.

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

On Saturday, May 12, the NSAC Alumni Theatre will be the venue for 4-H Night in Nova Scotia, a finale that showcases talented members. It will present the top overall communication winners and county entertainment. Members and leaders who have won Canadian 4-H Council National Travel Awards and winners of the provincial competitions will be recognized.

The public is welcome to attend all the events to see the 4-H life skills program in action.

Members can complete an application available at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h under the heading 4H Weekend. Members can stay in residence for \$30 and do not need to be competing in an event to attend.

Camp Rankin Welcomes Youth For 40 Years

From July 1 to August 4, Camp Rankin will welcome 200 members at five one-week summer camps. Campers aged nine to 15 will visit the provincial 4-H camp to develop leadership, healthy living and other skills while building lasting friendships in a scenic setting on the Bras d'Or Lakes in Cape Breton.

“For 40 years, Camp Rankin has been a memorable experience for thousands of 4-H members,” said Ruth Grant, senior 4-H program coordinator at the Department of Agriculture. “We are pleased to bring this leadership development program to members and their friends in partnership with the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the Camp Rankin 4-H Association. Congratulations to Camp Rankin on such a milestone anniversary.”

Camp Rankin offers members opportunities to learn canoeing, crafts, drama, nature, outdoors, exploring 4-H, recreation, healthy living and to socialize with youth that have similar interests. Many

members that have had a great camping experience come back each year as campers and later on as camp staff. Members are reminded of the May 1 deadline to register for this year's camping season.

In addition to providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin provides employment for seven youth aged 16 or older as camp counselors, a camp director and an assistant director. Trained camp counselors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions where members carry out their motto “Learn to do by doing.”

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

Nova Scotia 4-H - 90 Years of Learning to Do by Doing

Over the past nine decades, 4-H has enriched the lives of young Nova Scotians and volunteers in communities throughout the province. From its rural beginnings in Heatherton, Antigonish Co. in 1922, Nova Scotia's 4-H organization is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2012 with a healthy membership of 2,400 young people and 850 adult leaders.

Through the 4-H movement, young Nova Scotians are developing

leadership skills, sportsmanship, technical skills, responsibility, and life skills in a structured, family-oriented atmosphere. They learn by doing projects in a wide range of fields from livestock and gardening to photography and crafts.

Through learning, fun and lasting friendships, today's 4-H members will become the agricultural, business, government and civic leaders of the future. 4-H volunteers make a real difference

Cont'd on next page...

Cont'd from previous page...

in the lives of young people. They pass on their life experiences, skills to a new generation, while watching them to grow and have fun in the process.

A national survey found that 4-H alumni attain higher education and earn higher salaries when compared to the Canadian average. This only confirms that 4-H members represent the future leaders of this country. Whether in

agriculture, business or government, 4-H members are leading the way.

4-H Nova Scotia celebrates deep roots, and is looking ahead to an exciting future as the program leads the way in modern youth development. Take another look at 4-H today and join in celebrating 90 years of great achievements in shaping the province's youth and future.



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

Effective period: April 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012

(applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Term Length (years)	Full Term	3 Year Term	5 Year Term	10 Year Term
1-5	3.15%	2.80%	3.05%	--
6-10	3.75%	2.80%	3.35%	3.65%
11-15	4.40%	3.10%	3.45%	4.05%
16-20	5.60%	3.10%	3.50%	4.45%
21-25	5.90%	3.15%	3.50%	4.45%
26-30	5.90%	3.15%	3.55%	4.50%

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office to access our services:

Truro Office

Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus,
137 College Road, Bible Hill
Maria McCurdy, Senior Loan Officer, 893-6505
Jim Neary, Loan Officer, 893-8178
Paul Arnfast, Loan Officer, 893-6503

Kentville Office

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street,
Kentville
Pam Fraser, Senior Loan Officer, 679-6010
Sam Lacey, Loan Officer, 679-6008

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb



Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Central

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties:

Tel: 893-6575 Fax: 893-2757
osbornmc@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
863-7180 or 863-4705
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

Cheryl Theriau, Admin. Assistant
Brian MacCulloch, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.
Angie Garnett, 4-H Leadership Coordinator, South Shore
Valorie Oickle, 4-H Leadership Coordinator, Valley
Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer

Cape Breton

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond counties:

Tel: 563-2000 Fax: 563-3435
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
saulnigl@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

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on April 14, April 28, May 12, and May 26. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

April Flavours 2012/Entrepreneurs' Showcase

The third annual April Flavours Tasting Feast and Fundraiser will take place at Wheelock Hall at Acadia University on Monday, April 30, at 6 p.m. Twelve or more chefs and six or more winemakers will provide wonderful local food and a wide variety of beverages. Tickets are \$38 and are available from Box of Delights, Wolfville; Kings RDA, Kentville; or Linda Best, 1-902-542-3442.

The FarmWorks Entrepreneurs' Showcase (Gentle Dragon's Den) will take place from 2-5 p.m. on April 30, at the Irving Auditorium. Presenters will be invited guests at April Flavours. Funds raised will go to the Acadia Community Farm and Friends of Agriculture Society. All are welcome.

Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

The Department of Agriculture is once again updating its newsletter mailing list. To stop receiving this newsletter, to receive it via email instead of post, or to correct an address, please notify Cheryl Theriau at ctheriau@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-679-6021.

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. Be sure to make time in your spring schedule to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family.

Now is a good time to:

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

4-H News

South Shore Regional Rally

The South Shore Regional Rally will be hosted by Lunenburg County at the Wileville Fire Hall on April 28 at 10 a.m. 4-H members from Queens, Shelburne and Lunenburg counties will compete in public speaking and demonstration competitions. There will also be competitions for posters, entertainment, as well as host and hostess. Members compete at this regional rally to qualify to attend 4-H weekend in May. All are welcome to attend and support the South Shore 4-H program.

Hants Co. Rally

Hants County is holding its rally on Saturday, April 21, start at 9 a.m., at the Brooklyn Middle School.

Valley Regional Rally

The Valley Regional Rally will be hosted by Hants County and will be held on Saturday, April 28, at the Windsor Elms located in Falmouth. The event will start at 1 p.m.

Both events are open to the public.

County 4-H Judging Days

Queens County Non-Livestock Judging Day - May 17

Lunenburg County Livestock Judging Day - May 30

Kings County - May 22 at Bob Best's Farm

Hants County - May 30 at the Hants County Ex Grounds.

Shelburne County - June 4, 3-5 p.m.

Agriculture Energy Workshop – ‘Save Energy and Money’

The Department of Agriculture’s central regional services office is sponsoring an informative workshop about funding available in Nova Scotia. It will feature Sean Brogan, business development manager with Efficiency Nova Scotia and Julie Bailey, farm energy specialist at the Department of Agriculture.

Efficiency Nova Scotia is responsible for developing and administering programs that reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency. Mr. Brogan will discuss Efficiency Nova Scotia’s financial incentives, technical assistance and

financing available to help save energy and money.

Ms. Bailey will speak about additional energy programs and funding available to Nova Scotia farmers. She is also available to visit farms to review energy efficiency, discuss energy options and available programs.

The workshop will take place at the Lion’s Club in Oxford on Wednesday, April 18 at 7 p.m. To register or to arrange a visit from Ms. Bailey, contact Michael Kittilsen at kittilma@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-3645.

Is Your Farm OH&S Compliant?

Many farmers are unaware of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, along with the legal, financial and moral risks associated with not practicing health and safety on their farms.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia has developed a Farm Health and Safety Manual to help farmers implement health and safety practices in their operations, and reduce the risk of non-compliance with current legislation.

Workshops have also been developed to educate farmers on safety practices, help them assess their farms, and how to apply the Farm Health and Safety Manual to their farm operations. Lloyd Yuill’s farm in Old Barns will host a workshop on April 10.

To register for the workshop, contact Michael Kittilsen at kittilma@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-3645, or Theresa Osborne at osborntc@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-6575.

Farm Tractor Youth Safety Course

Shubenacadie Area
Saturday, April 28
\$10, lunch included

All youth are welcome to attend, however, only those 12 years of age and older will be permitted to operate tractors. For more information on Halifax East Hants Federation activities or any fees, contact David Hill at 1-902-899-5265.

Equipment Fees and Contacts

Fees and contacts for use of HEHFA rental equipment are as follows:

Equipment	Rental Cost	Contact Information
Lime Spreader	\$4/ton (member) \$4.50/ton (non-member)	Allen Benjamin, 1-902-758-2427
Land Leveler	\$100 (member)/day \$125 (non-member)/day	Dean Cole, 1-902-384-2517 Alex Brown, 1-902-890-9080
Cow Lift	\$ 10 initial day + \$5 every day after (member) \$15 initial day \$10 every day after (non-member)	Corey Fraser, 1-902-758-2262

Do You Have the Proper Drivers License?

To drive a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg, a Condition 23 Endorsement is required to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. To haul any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500 kg, a Condition 15 Endorsement.

These regulations apply to the class 5 licence. To obtain these endorsements, contact Michael Kittilsen at kittilma@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-3645, or Theresa Osborne at osborntc@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-6575.

Upcoming dates for Condition 15/23 information and testing sessions are as follows:

Information session (recommended): Thursday, April 26

Testing session: Thursday, May 3

PROCESS For Condition 15:

Purchase a road test receipt which costs \$48.63 (HST included) or at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp or an Access Nova Scotia Centre.

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 \$48.63 (HST included) at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp or an Access Nova Scotia Centre.

Pre-registration with the central office and a valid driver's license ("N" removed) are required to be eligible for testing. For the Condition 23 application, the medical exam form, and other information, contact Michael Kittilsen at kittilma@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-3645.

Central Region 4-H News

Public Speaking

Public speaking is continuing on with the Central Regional Rally on Saturday, April 14, at Old Barns Elementary School.

Dog Clinic

The Central Region will be hosting a dog clinic again this year on June 26-27. It will be held at 23 Jennifer Drive in Bible Hill. Registration forms will be available soon.



Beef Clinic

Cumberland County is once again hosting a beef clinic in Nappan on May 19-20. Registration forms will also be available soon. For more information, contact Crystal Siddall, at crystal_siddall@hotmail.com

4-H Council Meetings

Colchester County

April 23, May 28, and June 25 upstairs in the Agri-dome at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County

May 1 and June 5 at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County

April 23 (Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit), May 15 (Hants East Rural High), and June 19 (Hants East Rural High) all at 7 p.m.

4-H County Judging Dates

Cumberland County:

May 23-24 – Nappan Experimental Farm

Halifax-East Hants County:

May 8 – Middle Musquodoboit Exhibition Grounds

Colchester County:

April 22 - MacMillan Show Centre, NSPE Grounds

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, contact Jacqueline Hoyt, agriculture and 4-H leadership coordinator for the Central Region, at hoytjm@gov.ns.ca or 1-902-893-6586.

Community Pastures

Community Pastures will be starting up for this season. Most pastures can always use additional cattle numbers to help keep the pastures viable operations. If the need arises through the summer for extra feed or pasture, consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pasture contacts for Cape Breton:

Cape Mabou – Frank Fraser
1-902-258-5898

Mira – John MacPhee
1-902-727-2542

Maplebrook – John P. MacDonald
1-902-756-2671

Little Harbor (L'Ardoise) – Arthur Sampson, 1-902-587-2276

Cheticamp Island – Eli Joe Chaisson, 1-902-224-2417

Farm Field Day - No-Till Demo Day

A session will be held at the Bayview Dairy Farm (Beaton's Farm) in Mabou on May 10 at 10 a.m. Farmers interested in viewing the new federation equipment in action are invited to attend this informative session. Bill Thomas of AgraPoint and Department of Agriculture staff will be on hand to answer questions. For more information, call Gary at 1-902-563-2000.

Cape Breton Community Fairs 2012

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

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT	PHONE
Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge)	September 8	Cheryl Macintyre (<i>Chair</i>) Gladys Lever (<i>Treasurer</i>)	562-1056 562-6310 562-2089
Christmas Island (C.B. County)	September 8	Kevin Mackenzie	622-2667
Port Morien (Glace Bay)	September 15	Margie Macqueen	737-2478
Baddeck (Victoria County)	September 8	Wendell Macphee	295-2494

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

Sydney office:

April 17 – NSCC Port Hawkesbury,
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 7 – Cape North, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

May 29 – Bras d'Or Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

More course dates may be posted in the future at this link
www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses_neast.shtml

To register, contact Catherine at the Department of Agriculture office in Sydney at 1-902-563-2000. Registration forms are available at
www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf

Pesticide Applicators Re-certification – (5 points)

A workshop will be held at the North Sydney Exhibition on (date TBA) at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$75. Call 1-902-563-2000 to register.

4-H Drama Request

Sending out a casting call for interested 4-H members, leaders, parents or community members who would like to be part of a drama project hosted by the North Sydney Exhibition and local drama instructor Bhreagh Ross. To be included in the casting call sessions, contact exhibition manager Maureen Murphy at capebretonfederation@hotmail.com.

Cape Breton Exhibition Art/ Essay Contest

Agriculture and 4-H have played a big role in rural communities for many years. With this in mind, Cape Breton Exhibition, Cape Breton University, the Department of Agriculture, and local 4-H clubs are partnering to share and showcase food production in our communities.

Rural youth in Cape Breton region are eligible to enter a poster and/or essay contest. Both categories are to express the theme "Farming - Food For Thought." Essays and artwork may be showcased at this year's Cape Breton Exhibition week. This will be the inspiration for a wall sized mural on the Cape Breton Exhibition grounds. The deadline for all essay and poster submissions will be May 1. Contact your local 4-H office for more details.

Camp Rankin

If you are between 9 and 15 years of age, Camp Rankin really is the opportunity of the summer. Why not get a group of friends together this summer and plan to attend Camp Rankin? It is a chance to meet other 4-H members your age from the Cape Breton Region and beyond. It is also the chance to learn about crafts, the outdoors, water safety, and so much more. Applications and information is available from general leaders and online. The deadline to apply is May 1 – so check it out and plan to attend.

Dates to Mark on Calendar

April 20 - Water Day Challenge Submission
Apr 21 - Cape Breton Regional Rally, Baddeck, 10 a.m.
May 1 - 4-H Camp Rankin - deadline for applications
May 1 - Exhibition Essay and Poster Contest (Sydney office)
May 11-12 - 4-H Weekend, Bible Hill, applications/ poster due Monday, April 23
May 15 - Cape Breton County Judging Day, North Sydney Exhibition
May 15 - Livestock Registration due to 4-H office
May 16 - CB County Horse Judging, MacKeigan's
May 16 - Inverness Judging Day
May 17 - Richmond County Judging Day
May 22 - Lakeside Achievement Day
May 26 - Train the Judge training session, Antigonish
May 28 - Victoria County Judging Day, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
May 30 - Richmond County Show, project judging
May 30 - June 1 - Richmond County Show
June 22 - Grand Mira Achievement day
June 22-24 - EastGen Showcase, Bible Hill
July 10 - Margaree Achievement Day
July 10 - Inverness County Horse Day, Margaree hosting
August 1 - Inverness County record sheets due to Mabou 4-H office (please call first, if not dropping off on August 1)
August 8 - Richmond County Livestock Day
August 7 - Cape Breton Exhibition Work night, 6 p.m.
August 12-13 - Cape Breton 4-H Exhibition program
August 15 - Cape Breton Agri-awareness program 1-4 p.m., North Sydney
August 23-25 - Inverness 4-H County Days, Brook Village
September 5 - Victoria County project judging
September 6 - Victoria County Community Display night
September 8 - Victoria County Show
September 28-30 - Nova Scotia 4-H Pro-Show, Bible Hill

Contact the Department of Agriculture's regional agricultural and 4-H leadership coordinator with concerns or questions about the 4-H program at 1-902-945-2901 (Mabou office) or 1-902-563-2000 (Sydney office).

Community Pasture

In 2011, the Community Pasture experienced a successful season with 699 head of cattle from 31 patrons. It is time once again to consider putting cattle on the community pasture. The fee schedule for 2012 is as follows:

Cows	68¢ per day
Calves	0 - 200 lbs at entry \$25 / season
Calves	200 - 400 lbs at entry \$35 / season
Calves	400-600 lbs at entry 48¢ per day 600 lbs + 68¢ per day
Breeding fees	\$20 per animal
Calf born on pasture	\$10 calving fee

Note: Note: Bulls arrive July 15, 2012.

All cattle must have CCIA approved tags. Blackleg vaccination is provided at cost if required. There is a minimum grazing charge of 90 days of the pasture fee. HST will be charged on all fees. First payment is due on June 30 and is calculated for 90 days. The balance paid when cattle leave pasture.

Upcoming Community Pasture dates include:

May 21 - Open Pasture
May 22 - Breeding Pasture
Oct 25-26 - Closing Day

There may be room on the rotational grazing trial for feeders to finish on a pasture. Please contact Donald MacLellan at 1-902-863-2781.

In order to ensure a reservation for cattle, applications must be filled out and returned no later than May 1. Applications are available through the Department of Agriculture at 1-902-863-4705.

Pictou North Colchester Federation Semi Annual Meeting

Saturday April 28, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
Pictou Exhibition Grounds- Light Horse Building/Dining Room

This Evening will begin with a BBQ. Following the BBQ, we will be laying the ground work for a one day event held during the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition.

This event is a joint project by the PRDA and the Pictou North Colchester Federation. On this day, we want to highlight and promote local agriculture in a big way. This will help local people realize what is available for them and promote the value of buying local.

A few potential items we wish to include on this special day are

- a local food trade show
- a ploughing match
- exhibits demonstrating how local agriculture flows from the farm to the plate
- pony rides
- pig scramble
- any other fun farm related event that you can think of

We want this to be one of the highlights of the Exhibition. It is extremely important that your commodity is well represented at this Exhibition Event. For this to happen, it is crucial to have your input at this planning meeting.

Pictou County 4-H Rally Results

Top Junior Team Demonstration - Samantha Smees and Kristen Smees, Hopewell Club
Top Senior Team Demonstration - Samantha Cormier and Rebecca Fraser, Saltsprings Club
Top Junior Single Demonstration - Jade Boutler, Middle River
Top Junior Freehand Poster - Savannah Lees, Saltsprings
Top Junior Computer Generated Poster - Fiona MacKenzie, Scotsburn
Top Senior Freehand Poster - Brianne Sutherland, Saltsprings
Top Junior Speaker - Lydia Tobin, Saltsprings
Top Senior Speaker - Jane Stevenson, Scotsburn
Top Intermediate Speaker - Katie Sharpe, Scotsburn
Top Junior Introducer - Aidan Robinson, Scotsburn
Top Junior Thanker - Nicole Robinson, Scotsburn
Top Cloverbud Speaker- Madison Ripley, Scotsburn
Hostess - Jane Stevenson, Scotsburn

Antigonish County 4-H Rally Results

Top Junior Team Demonstration - Anna Van De Sande and Sophie MacInnis, West River
Top Senior Team Demonstration - Jessica Overmars and Miranda Teasdale, St. Andrews
Top Junior Single Demonstration - Iain MacLennan, West River
Top Senior Single Demonstration - Courtney George, Landing
Top Junior Freehand Poster - James Van De Sande, West River
Top Intermediate Speaker - Katelyn Bland, West River
Top Junior Introducer - Hannah Bland, West River
Top Junior Thanker - Miranda Wallace, St. Andrews
Top Junior Speaker - Alex Kennedy, St. Josephs
Top Senior Speaker - Katherine MacDonald, Landing
Top Club Entertainment, St. Andrews Club
Host - Emery VandeWiel, St. Andrews
Hostess - Hannah Chisholm, Heatherton

Dates to remember

April 17 -Regional Rally, Guysborough County
April 24 -Pictou County 4-H Council meeting, Northumberland School, 7 p.m.
May 8 -Antigonish County 4-H Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 7 p.m.
May 11-12 -4-H Weekend, NSAC in Truro
May 15 -Antigonish/Guysborough Judging Day, Antigonish Exhibition Grounds
May 22 -Pictou Judging Day, Pictou Exhibition Grounds
May 30 -Pictou County 4-H Council meeting, Northumberland School, 7 p.m.
June 12 -Antigonish County 4-H Council meeting, Department of Agriculture office, 7 p.m.
June 20 -Pictou County 4-H Council meeting, Northumberland School, 7 p.m.
June 26 -Antigonish County Dog Project Achievement Day, Antigonish 4-H Barn

Regional Achievement Day Schedule

June 25 - Hopewell
July 3 - Landing
July 4 - Scotsburn
July 5 - Havre Boucher
July 16 - River John
July 17 - Heatherton
July 18 - St. Josephs
July 23 - Sunrise Trail
July 24 - Middle River
July 25 - St. Andrews
July 26 - Saltsprings
August 1 - West River
August 8 - SBI 4-H
August 8 - Sutherlands River



Farm Registration

To be eligible for government agriculture programs, farms need to be registered, and spring is the best time of year to do so. Farm registration is valid for one year, from April 1 to March 31. The fee depends on a farm's gross income (the amount of money made from farming). The cost is the same whether a farm is registered in April or January as it is not prorated throughout the year.

Registration can be done at any Access Nova Scotia Centre, or by completing and mailing the form available at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/permits/forms/farm-registration.asp.

Required information includes business number (if applicable), type of farm ownership (sole proprietorship, partnership, etc), how much land is farmed. For more information or help completing the application, contact Nicole at 1-902-638-2397.

Environmental Farm Plan

An environmental farm plan is required for some Department of Agriculture programs, such as Beneficial Management Practices which falls under the environment stream of Homegrown Success. Staff from the Environmental Farm Plan team will come to farms and review things such as manure storage, water quality, chemical storage, and more to help develop the plan. There is no cost. For more information, contact Janette McDonald in Truro at 1-902-893-7338.

Food Safety Dates:

Kentville	Digby	Yarmouth
May 9	May 31	April 24
June 13		May 29
Shelburne	Bridgewater	
May 15	May 17	
	June 20	



4-H and Rural Leadership:

Annapolis County Farm and Rural Women's Day

The 29th annual Annapolis County Farm and Rural Women's Day will be held at the Fire Hall in Lawrencetown on April 24 at 9 a.m.

This year's theme is: "A Honey of a Day." There will be great speakers, good food, educational information, and booths with articles that will provide a unique shopping experience. For more information, contact Connie Lewis at 1-902-825-4002.



4-H Calendar for the Western Region

April 18 - Yarmouth 4-H Council meeting, 4-H office, 7 p.m.
April 19 - Digby County 4-H Council, Library , 7 p.m.
April 21 - Annapolis County 4-H Rally NSCC, Lawrencetown
April 28 - Western Regional Rally, Yarmouth
May 9 - Annapolis Council meeting, 7 p.m.
May 11-12 - 4-H Weekend, Truro
May 15 - Judging Clinic, Lawrencetown
May 18-20 - Fluff'n'Buff, Lawrencetown
May 19 - Judging Day for beef, dairy, goats and sheep, Annapolis County
May 25 - Small Steps Program, Sandy Cove Fire Hall, Digby County
May 26 - Farm Safety Workshop, Bridgewater
May 26 - Judging Day, Yarmouth
May 26-27 - Light Horse Clinic and Station Day, Annapolis County
May 29 - Judging Day, Annapolis County
June 9-10 - Light Horse Clinic, Mock Show and Judging, Annapolis County
June 13 - Annapolis Council meeting, 7 p.m.
June 16 - Judging Day, Bear River, Digby County
June 20 - Yarmouth Council meeting, 4-H office, 7 p.m.
June 21 - Digby County Leaders Council meeting, library, 7 p.m.,
June 22-24 - East Gen Showcase, Truro
June 28, Advanced Achievement Day, Annapolis County
July 9-12 - Light Horse Boot Camp, Lawrencetown
July 13 - Light Horse Achievement Day
July 10 - Lighthouse Achievement Day, Digby County
July 11 - Annapolis Council meeting, 7 p.m.
July 13 - Bear River Trail Blazers Achievement Day
July 14 - Sissiboo Landers Achievement Day
July 16 - Islands Seabreeze Achievement Day, Freeport Fire Hall
July 18 - Yarmouth Council meeting, 4-H office, 7 p.m.
July 19 - Digby County Council meeting, library, 7 p.m.
July 20 - Lucky Stars 4-H Club Achievement Day, Annapolis County
July 23 - Clarence 4-H Club Achievement Day, Annapolis County
July 27 - Mountain Ridge/Seabreeze 4-H Clubs Achievement Days