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Agriculture and Food Operations

NEWSLETTER



December 2012

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 13 No.5

Grass Pellet Heating System to Help Farmers

A new heating system at Perennia Innovation Centre in Bible Hill will encourage Nova Scotia farmers to produce green energy, increasing their profits and helping protect the environment.

The system can burn grass pellets and will serve as a pilot project to show how this renewable energy source can be used. Establishing a market for grass pellets will help spur economic growth and create good jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

“Agriculture is the backbone of rural Nova Scotia, and we need to think about and do things differently to grow this industry and our economy,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. “That’s why we’re helping develop a green energy niche market and giving farmers an option to supplement their income. It’s a win-win.”

As part of government’s capital plan, the Department of Agriculture is investing \$787,200 to construct a building next to the centre for the heating system. A tender will be issued for a grass pellets supplier.

“With lots of pasture and a climate that’s ideal for growing grass, Nova Scotia can be a leader in growing it for energy production,” said Mr. MacDonell. “Capitalizing on our natural advantage is the kind of innovation that will ensure Nova Scotia’s agriculture industry is strong, profitable, and sustainable.”

Nova Scotia has 40,000 hectares of pasture that could quickly be developed to produce 360,000 tonnes of grass pellets per year. This could add about \$36 million annually to the agriculture industry.

“At our grass pellet plant in Lawrencetown, we are sourcing local hay, processing it locally, and supplying local markets,” said Jonathan McClelland, general manager of West Nova Agro Commodities. “We’re creating new markets for small and medium-sized farms while providing an affordable, green heating fuel to customers.”

This is the third straight year the province will release the capital plan before the spring budget. This sends a clear signal of what the province intends to do in the year ahead, and gives the private sector greater opportunity to prepare for projects, creating efficiencies and cost savings for the province.

Change Helps Beekeepers and Farmers

A change to the Bee Industry Act will help beekeepers safely import bees to pollinate fruit and berry crops, which helps farmers create jobs, and run successful businesses in rural Nova Scotia. The amendment was passed in the legislature on November 19.

“Berry and fruit growers have told us they need more bees to pollinate their crops,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. “Our Pollination Expansion Program is helping, but it will take time and may not fully meet demand. We may need to import bees as well, and that means doing more inspections.”

The Department of Agriculture allows beekeepers to import hives under strict controls. Imported hives are inspected to ensure the bees are healthy. Any with pests are sent back.

The change gives the department the ability to charge fees to cover the cost of inspecting imported hives. Recovering the cost will make the service sustainable for beekeepers and farmers, and help ensure Nova Scotia bees remain healthy.



Amendments to Fur Industry Act Passed

Changes to the Fur Industry Act that were passed in November will ensure the industry is an environmentally responsible neighbour as it creates jobs in rural Nova Scotia.

The amendments allows the Agriculture Minister to respond to problems and help prevent them at new or established farms.

"Through a number of public consultations we heard communities when they said there were concerns associated with mink farming," said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. "We are taking significant steps to address those concerns by amending the act and implementing new regulations that will enable the industry to grow, while ensuring good environmental management."

The proposed regulations focus on environmental management of fur operations. The regulations concentrate on the storage, treatment and disposal of manure, waste feed and carcasses. They are expected to be in place by the end of the year.

The original act included a three-year grandfather period. A key amendment ensures existing farms that expand are no longer given the three years and will have only six months to comply. The amended act also requires any fur farms that stop operating to clean up waste.

Fur farming is a growing, rural-based industry in Nova Scotia worth about \$140 million annually and employs about 1,000 people.

New Amendments Benefit Wine Industry, Consumers

Nova Scotia wine consumers will soon have more choice for their favourite merlot, pinot grigio, or chardonnay.

Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald introduced changes to legislation in late November to put in place regulations to allow people to directly import 100 per cent locally grown and produced Canadian wine into Nova Scotia for personal use. The legislation passed on December 4.

The Importation of Wine for Personal Use Act is the result of consultation with the Nova Scotia wine industry.

"Our wineries see this change as the first step towards new marketing potential for their growing industry," said Ms. MacDonald. "I will encourage each of my provincial and territorial counterparts to make similar changes, so more Canadians can find out for themselves how good Nova Scotia wine is."

This amendment follows the federal government's decision June 28 to lift its prohibition on the individual importation of wine through changes made to the Importation of Intoxicating Liquors Act.

Nova Scotia is among the first to respond to the federal changes by removing provincial barriers. British Columbia and Manitoba are the only other provinces that allow for direct importation.

"Nova Scotia wines continue to earn awards and recognition for their unique and best in class

varieties," said Nick Jennery, CEO, Winery Association of Nova Scotia. "Nova Scotia's wineries are eager to serve all their Canadian customers and we appreciate the province taking this action today and advocating for change across the country."

Sales of Nova Scotia wines have grown to \$13.3 million in 2011, a 65 per cent increase from 2001. Nova Scotia wineries generated \$34.8 million in tourism revenues in 2010, including about 55,000 overnight tourists.



THINKFARM Helps Aspiring Farmers Explore Their New Farm Dream

This November, THINKFARM partnered with the regional offices to deliver a course called Exploring the New Farm Dream. This course was developed by the New England Small Farm Institute and is sponsored in Nova Scotia by the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus' Centre for Continuing and Distance Education. The course is not meant to teach people how to farm. Rather, it exposes them to the rewards and realities of farming in Nova Scotia and helps them answer the question: Is starting an agricultural business right for me?

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The course consists of a series of four evening sessions. It was offered on Mondays in Bridgewater, Tuesdays in Cornwallis, Wednesdays in Halifax, and Thursdays in Port Hawkesbury. Participants have diverse backgrounds and varying interests. It's encouraging to see the high degree of interest in starting a farm in Nova Scotia and the positive view that participants have of the agriculture industry.

Special thanks to Kevin Veinotte, David Hastings, Rupert Jannasch, and Ron Muisse for and sharing their farm business experiences at the workshop and agreeing to be interviewed by participants.

For more information about Exploring the New Farm Dream, contact THINKFARM at 902-893-5649 or thinkfarm@gov.ns.ca.



Winter Farm Safety Tips

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

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

Hemp, Hops and Haskap: *The Next Big Thing?*

One-Day Winter Workshops

If you currently produce or have thought about adding hemp, hops or haskap to your farm, this workshop is for you. It will provide vital information from industry experts that can help you make informed decisions about the crops.

Workshops will target people in the farm planning stage or people who have already started farming and are exploring new opportunities to diversify. These three products have been identified as emerging agricultural opportunities that are in limited production in this area. Many offices have been receiving numerous inquiries on these crops recently and there have been several new start-ups. These crops also have the potential to be moved up the value chain at a local level but markets are not as clearly defined. Discussion during the workshops will focus on production and markets.

There will be three one-day workshops held around the province in January:

January 11, Museum of Industry, New Glasgow

January 12, Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Sydney

January 19, Old Orchard Inn, Kentville

The registration fee is \$20 and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register for the workshop closest to your location visit <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/nextbigthing.shtml> or contact Catherine Plumridge in the Department of Agriculture's Sydney office at 902-563-2000 or plumricl@gov.ns.ca.

This workshop is hosted by THINKFARM, the Department of Agriculture's program for beginning and transitioning farmers. The THINKFARM program is funded by Growing Forward, Canada's federal-provincial-territorial commitment to agriculture.

Canada

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

THINK FARM
READY | START | GROW

NOVA SCOTIA

- 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 and smoke alarms.
- Check all first aid kits and replenish missing or old supplies.



Nova Scotia's Animal Protection Act

Nova Scotia's Animal Protection Act aims to protect animals and to aid animals that are in distress. This comprehensive act gives the responsibility for the welfare of farm animals to the Department of Agriculture, while the responsibility for the welfare of companion animals remains with the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Animal welfare, as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health, is how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. It is measured by indicators such as behavior, physiology, longevity, the prevalence of disease, and reproduction and is a complex issue.

The Department of Agriculture's farm animal welfare program has a multi-faceted approach. The inspectors respond to concerns of suspected cruelty or neglect of farm

animals, educate farm animal owners and caretakers, and promote good farm animal welfare.

Prosecuting individuals who commit an offense under the act and the Criminal Code of Canada is an option reserved for remarkably bad cases of animal cruelty or neglect.

A new database is being used to collect information on each animal welfare call received. Analysis of the data will help the department target areas of concern, for example by species, or by geographical area. Yearly reports on the data collected are shared with stakeholders.

As of June 30, 2012, there were 63 cases with a total of 98 complaints. For the same period in 2011, there were 78 cases with 100 complaints. Approximately 67% of the complaints in the first half of 2012 were about the lack of shelter, food and water for horses. Beef and dairy

cattle had 9.5% and 6.5% of the complaints respectively with the most common complaints about lack of food, water and shelter. The remaining 17% of the complaints were about sheep, goats, pigs and mink. Geographically, Hants County received the most complaints with Annapolis County, Colchester County and Pictou County following.

In the first six months of 2012, charges were laid in two cases, under the act and Criminal Code of Canada. One case involves dairy cattle and will be heard in court in May 2013. The second case involved horses. The owner has pled guilty and received a lifetime limitation on owning farm animals with strict conditions. Two other cases were completed with one guilty plea and a \$50 fine, and one guilty plea with \$25 fine, a five-year prohibition of owning farm animals, and some cost recovery. There are three cases from 2011 with charges laid yet to go to trial.

The animal welfare inspectors work closely with other department staff for initial and follow up visits, for administrative support and for educational resources. The Department of Justice also provides advice and support. A few cases have required RCMP involvement. The inspectors have been more involved in outreach this past year through presentations that have been given to a number of agricultural based groups and staff within the department.

Animal welfare is a complex issue, and the way we treat our animals is considered a reflection of ourselves as a society. We all play a role in ensuring good animal welfare.



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board Changes

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board has changed significantly throughout 2012. Chairs Leo Cox of Mabou and Steven Healy of Kentville completed their terms, along with members Victor Moses of New Minas and Hank Bosveld of Lakeville. They were thanked for their years of service and guidance as board members.

Beginning in January of 2013, directors of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board will be:

Angela Hunter, chair
Arnold Park, vice chair
Greg Sheffer
Lee Thompson
James MacAfee

Many thanks to our previous board members and welcome to the directors of the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board.

Energy Rebate Programs for Agriculture



Efficiency Nova Scotia has energy rebate programs for businesses and home owners, including farmers.

The Business Energy Rebates Program provides in-store and mail-in rebates when you purchase and install energy efficient products. As of March 28, 2012, several agriculture technologies have been added to the list of rebates, such as ventilation and circulation fans, high-volume low speed-fans, low-energy or zero-energy livestock waterers, heat pads, engine block heater timer, dairy scroll compressors, heat reclaimers units, milk pre-cooler, and vacuum pump VSD.

This program had already included many products such as energy efficient lighting, motors and refrigeration equipment. Examples include ENERGY STAR® washing machines, LED light bulbs, LED parking lot lights, HPT8 lights for low bay and high bay, evaporator fan motor controllers, strip curtains, and outside air economizers. You can also get a 0% interest loan over two years on the purchase of efficient equipment.

The Business Energy Solutions Program provides a free energy assessment by a contractor/electrician and up to 80% funding to upgrade lighting and refrigeration. This program works well for anyone with T12 fluorescent tube lighting, mercury vapour or metal halide lighting or incandescent lighting. Typically farms have these lights replaced with high performance T8 fluorescent tube lighting which can use up to half the energy of the old

lights. Occupancy sensors and lighting controls, high efficiency EMC motor replacements, and refrigeration economizers upgrades may be funded. Also, electric hot water tank and pipe insulation are included free of charge. You can also get a 0% interest loan over two years on costs not covered by the rebate.

The Custom Program provides up to 50% of the costs of measures that reduce electrical consumption. It includes 50% funding (to a maximum of \$1000) for an audit, 100% (to a maximum of \$15,000) for a feasibility study, and up to 50% (to a maximum of \$500,000) for implementation. The total project should save at least 20,000 kilowatt hours per year. This

program is typically for medium and large industrial customers but any farm operation not billed on residential rates may qualify. Projects costs can be financed at 0% interest for two years.

For more information on these programs, please contact Efficiency Nova Scotia toll-free at 1-877-999-6035 or ber@efficiencyns.ca, or visit the website at www.efficiencyns.ca.

There are other programs available through Efficiency NS and elsewhere. For more information on energy programs and funding, please contact Julie Bailey, farm energy specialist with the Department of Agriculture, at 902-896-4473 or baileyja@gov.ns.ca.



Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Wildlife Compensation Program

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program in Nova Scotia. The program is currently 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 on the commission's website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.

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

- 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 must be followed to be eligible for a

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claim, e.g., fencing, deterrents, protection of beehives, etc.

- 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 or crow, or birds of prey are eligible.

To settle a wildlife compensation claim, the commission must be able to:

- (1) Confirm that the damage was beyond the control of the producer.
- (2) Attribute the damage to wildlife.
- (3) Measure the damage.

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.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013-14 crop year. The application deadline is April 30, 2013.

Advanced Payments Program

Producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program in 2013 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. Those considering taking advantage of this interest-free loan should contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

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 coverage for 2013, new applicants must apply before the deadlines below.

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

For more details on the Advance Payments Program, including contacts for participating producer organizations, consult the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada website at www.agr.gc.ca.

AgriInsurance Application Deadlines for 2013

Spring grain - March 14
Vegetable - March 14
Potato - April 19
Corn - April 30
Maple - April 30
Weather plan - April 30
Soybean, canola, sunflower - May 19

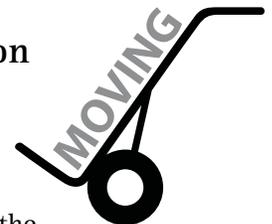
All producers who hold an active contract of insurance for most of the above plans will receive a coverage quote form(s) before the beginning of the crop year. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price option and coverage level for the upcoming growing season. Anyone considering applying for crop insurance for the first time must make their application on or before the dates noted above.

Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission is Moving

As part of the provinces relocation of the Department of Agriculture, the main office of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission will be moving from the MacRae Library, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, to our new office at:
60 Research Drive
Perennia Innovation Park
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

The commission's mailing address (PO Box 1092, Truro, NS B2N 5G9), phone and fax numbers, and email addresses will not change. This move will not affect the commission's offices in Kentville.

This move is expected to take place in early December. While every effort will be made to minimize the disruption of service to our clients, we apologize for any inconvenience our move may cause and ask for your patience and understanding.



Crop and Livestock Commission Appointments

The Honourable John MacDonell, Minister of Agriculture recently announced the reappointment of Mr. Greg Coldwell and Mr. R. Michael Walsh to three-year terms on the Board of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission. Mr. Coldwell is a potato farmer from Port Williams, and Mr. Walsh is an apple grower from Berwick. In April, Minister MacDonnell announced the appointment of Mr. John Vissers, a dairy and field crop producer from Stewiacke, to a three-year term on the board.

In addition to these appointments, the six-member board also includes Mr. Avard Bently (chair), a blueberry and maple producer from Westchester; Mr. George C. Smith (vice chair) from Saltsprings; and Mr. James Baillie, a blueberry and grain producer from Tatamagouche.

For more information on AgriInsurance or Wildlife Compensation, visit the website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci or call:

Toll-free at 1-800-565-6371
Truro office: 902-893-6370
Kentville office: 902-679-6015/6028

Busy Fall in Agricultural Education

The Agricultural Awareness Committee and the Agricultural Education office partnered on a number of initiatives for the general public and schools during the fall of 2012.

Meet Your Farmer at the Mall was held at in September at the Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth. A broad cross section of the urban population was able to learn about Nova Scotia agriculture and local products. Chefs prepared recipes using local produce at the Select Nova Scotia Cooking Stage and a farm animal and equipment display was available to the public. The event provided a great opportunity to communicate with the general public and promote Open Farm Day on September 16.

The following organizations helped educate shoppers during the event:

- Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
- Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Egg Producers
- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Agri-Commodity Management Association
- Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Cranberry Growers Association
- Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- Department of Agriculture representation from Agriculture Education, THINKFARM, Select Nova Scotia, and Food Safety

Farmer for a Day at Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum was held in September. Elementary students, teachers and chaperones from Halifax Regional School Board participated in this activity based educational school field trip. The museum provided an historical image of Nova Scotia agriculture while presenters at 10 workshops delivered interactive sessions focusing on modern day agriculture.

Workshops were hosted by the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, THINKFARM, 4-H Nova Scotia, Select Nova Scotia, Environmental Farm Plan, Agri-Commodity Management Association, Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia, the Department of Agriculture's Central Regional Office and the Agricultural Education team. Teacher feedback was extremely positive in regards to quality of the presentations, curriculum linkages and educational value.

AgZone, an agriculture education program modeled after the Amazing Race, was hosted by the Cape Breton Regional Team and the Cape Breton Federation of Agriculture at the North Sydney Exhibition Grounds in October. This two day event provided Grade 8 students, teachers and chaperones from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board with a glimpse into the world of agriculture. The six workshops were designed around the Grade 8 curriculum and included the ruminant digestive system, water in the environment, food safety, veterinary science, molecular biology and engineering.

Agricultural Education staff attended the Association of Science Teachers Provincial Conference in October. Science teachers from across the province had an opportunity to learn ways to introduce elements of agriculture to their classrooms. Agriculture presentations included: Science for Elementary School Gardens presented by Rick Hoeg with the Department of Agriculture; DNA From Strawberries - The How and Why for Junior High by Sherry Matheson, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture and Judy Grant with the Department of Agriculture; and High School Seed Resource Program by Treasa Pauly of Field to Fork AgriSystems Consulting.

In November, the Department of Agriculture partnered with Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia, beekeepers and sheep producers to deliver information on a variety of agricultural topics during the Excel After School Program at Brookhouse Elementary. There are 3,800 students in 61 schools in the Halifax Regional Municipality involved in the Excel After School Program, providing potential for a variety of agricultural education opportunities.



The above events provided excellent opportunities for volunteers within the farming community to tell the agricultural story to a variety of Nova Scotians. If you would like to volunteer for future events or would like information on agricultural education programming, please contact:

Judy Grant
Agricultural Education
Coordinator
Nova Scotia Department of
Agriculture
PO Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3
902-893-6598 –
grantjd@gov.ns.ca

Continue Your Education at the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University

Upgrade or learn new skills this winter at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. Visit the website at nsac.ca/cde or contact 902-893-6666 for more information.

Upcoming learning opportunities in 2013 include:

The Modern Beekeeper: Basics to Business **NEW**

Module 1: The Busyness of Bees, March 2-3

Module 2: Bee Hive and Health, May 4-5

Module 3: Bee Production and Products, June 22-23

Module 4: Bee Maintenance and Business Growth, September 14-15

Atlantic Mink Production Short Course

January 14-17

Modern Shepherd Module 3: Lambing and Marketing

New Date: February 2-3

Modern Shepherd Module 4: Health

March 23-24

PRCP Updates: Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers

February 20

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers

February 21

Introductory Welding

February 22-24

Pesticide Applicator Certification

April 16-19

Bulk Milk Grader Course

Friday May 15-17 (tentative)

Organic Field Crop Management - online study

January- April

Organic Livestock Production - online study

January- April 2013

**Master Gardening Training Program -
online study**

January and March Intakes

Programs and Business Risk Management

Homegrown Success Program Reminders

A reminder to individuals and organizations with 2012-13 funding that all claims must be postmarked or received in the Programs and Business Risk Management office by March 1, 2013. Late claims will not be processed.

Copies of all invoices with proof of payment (i.e., cancelled cheques, credit card statements, debit slips or official invoices marked paid and signed by supplier) are required to support claims for 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.

For more information please contact:

Programs and Business Risk Management
Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
902-893-6510
Toll free 1-866-844-4276
www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates – as of October 1, 2012

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

Term Length (years)	Full Term	*10 Year Term	*5 Year Term	*3 Year Term
1-5	2.95%	--	2.85%	2.75%
6-10	3.50%	3.40%	3.10%	2.75%
11-15	4.00%	3.70%	3.20%	2.90%
16-20	5.20%	4.00%	3.25%	2.90%
21-25	5.60%	4.00%	3.25%	2.90%
26-30	5.60%	4.05%	3.30%	2.90%

* 3, 5 and 10 year term rates are available to clients meeting risk, cash-flow and collateral requirements.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board supports agricultural development such as: property purchase/improvements, construction, machinery/quota/stock purchase, financial restructure, and farm transition. The board is committed to helping you with your individual financial needs.

A loan officer will also have information concerning programs and other services offered by Nova Scotia Agriculture.

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 893-6506

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture campus, 137 College Road

Kentville 679-6009

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb



Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Extension and Outreach Eastern Region
Marion MacAulay, Manager

Truro Office

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties:
Tel: 893-6575 Fax: 893-2757
osborntc@gov.ns.ca

Theresa Osborne, Admin. Assistant
Michael Kittilsen, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.
Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coord.

Antigonish Office

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough counties:

Tel: 863-7170 Fax: 863-7342
863-7180 or 863-4705
boydll@gov.ns.ca

Lauren Boyd, Admin. Assistant
Kevin Bekkers, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.
Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Agriculture Leadership Coord.

Cape Breton Office

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), Agriculture Leadership Coordinators

Extension and Outreach Western Region

Karen Wong-Petrie, Acting Manager

Kentville Office

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, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, South Shore
Valorie Oickle, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Valley
Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer

Cornwallis Office

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties:

Tel: 638-2395 Fax: 638-2389
saulnigl@gov.ns.ca

Gina Saulnier, Admin. Assistant
Jeff Wentzell, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.
Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coord.
Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer

Department of Agriculture Newsletter Review

We are seeking input from our readership of this newsletter. We currently mail out it to members of Nova Scotia's agriculture industry five times a year. We are working to improve the newsletter to ensure it meets your needs. We would appreciate your feedback to help us do this.

In order to have enough time to incorporate your feedback before the next edition, we ask that you complete and return this questionnaire by December 21.

If you would prefer to complete the questionnaire online, please go to <https://surveys.gov.ns.ca/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=76K17mmL&Preview=true>. No personal information will be collected through the online survey.

Please circle your response to each question and/or write other comments.

THANK YOU

Thank you for sharing your thoughts about our newsletter. We look forward to using your feedback to make the newsletter better so that it meets your needs.

Please submit your completed questionnaire to:

Cheryl Chandler, Communications and Resource Coordinator
Department of Agriculture
Box 70
Mabou, NS B0E 1X0
Fax: 945-2858
chandlcl@gov.ns.ca

How are you involved in agriculture?

- Farmer
- 4-H member or leader
- Rural organization
- Department of Agriculture staff
- Other:

How often would you like to get the newsletter?

- Quarterly
- Twice a year
- Three times a year
- Monthly
- Other:

In what format would you like to get the newsletter?

- Paper copy in the mail
- Text in the body of an email
- Email with a PDF attachment
- Email with a link to the newsletter online
- Other:

Would you like to see photos, graphs and other visuals in the newsletter?

- Yes
- No

For an electronic version of the newsletter, would the larger file size make it difficult for you to open the PDF or the web page if we added visuals?

- Yes
- No

What content would you like the newsletter to cover?

- Provincial and regional news
- Federal, provincial and regional programs
- Programs and Business Risk Management
- Crop and Livestock Insurance
- Farm Loan Board
- 4-H News
- Upcoming courses
- Other:

Currently, your newsletter comes with a page at the end with specific news for your region. Do you like this format? Or would you like to see the news for other regions also?

- I only want news for my region
- I would like to see news for all regions
- Other:

Please share any other comments you have to improve the newsletter:

Provincial 4-H News

Impressive Results for Nova Scotia at the Royal 4-H Dairy Classic

For the 33rd year parents, supporters and spectators were treated to an impressive showing at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic during the Royal Winter Fair from November 3-5 in Toronto.

Youth from Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia took place in the prestigious competition. In total, 4-H members from 51 teams were part of the three-day competition. Teams worked well together with veterans assisting first-time competitors in the true spirit of learning to do by doing.

Showmanship judges were Mike West of Orangeville, Ontario along with his associate judge Paul Hunt of Donderdan, The Netherlands. The conformation judge was Donald Dubois of Princeville, Quebec.

Nova Scotia dairy members achieved some outstanding results in show of more than 360 entries. Ashleigh Benedict, Halifax East Hants, placed first in coloured breeds. Marshall Ellis, Halifax East Hants, was second and Jacob Greenough, Hants County, was sixth. The team was sixth in groups of three and eight as a premier team.

Hayley Wilson of Inverness County placed 25th in Intermediate Showmanship. In Holstein classes, Nova Scotia competitors placed as follows:

2nd - Darcie Wilson, Inverness County

8th - Sarah MacDonell, Inverness County

13th - Andrew Eikelenboom, Halifax East Hants

24th - Helen Fraser, Halifax East Hants

25th - Robyn Wilson, Inverness County

26th - Becky Lowe, Inverness County



Nova Scotia 4-H Beef Team Does Well at the Royal

The nine members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the National Junior Beef Heifer Show were Connor Morse, Victor Horsenell and Breagh Ross of Kings County; Sarah Manthorne and Brady Baker of Cumberland County; Wyatt Oulton and Jacoba Ronduis of Hants County; Andrew Greene of Pictou County; and Leanne Lenihan of Lunenburg County. The spare was Makela Sears of Cumberland County.

The team had a strong showing. Four 4-H members – Wyatt Oulton, Leanne Lenihan, Connor Morse and Breagh Ross – made it through the heats and were brought back for the final round. The Nova Scotia Beef Team display placed second overall.

While at the Royal, 4-H members will compete in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes, participate in a provincial display contest and spend a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

The dedicated work of the Royal Dairy Classic Committee and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic Selections Committee results in the 4-H members being able to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the 4-H cattle classes. The Nova Scotia committee members obtain funding sponsorship and organize this event on a provincial and national level. Annual financial support from major sponsors, producers, individuals and businesses, provide the 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.

Atlantic 4-H Senior Member Conference

4-H members from across Atlantic Canada will develop leadership skills during a dynamic conference from March 22-23 in Debert.

The conference provides an opportunity for 4-H members from the Atlantic provinces aged 14-21 to network and develop personal, teamwork, social media, communication, leadership and entrepreneurship skills. Over the weekend, 4-H members will be encouraged to think outside the box and challenge themselves.

Applications will be mailed to senior 4-H members in January. The cost for the two-day event is \$100. For more information, contact your regional 4-H office.

Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

4-H members who are 16 and have been in the program for at least two years can apply to win one of four university entrance scholarships from the Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council.

The scholarships are awarded to students enrolling in their first year program in agriculture, veterinary science, or other recognized disciplines. They are valued at \$1,000 each.

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded a scholarship to Megan Smith of Halifax East Hants, while Kamryn Findlay of Cumberland County won the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Scholarship.

Applications forms are available at www.novascotia.ca/agri/4h under application and registration forms. The deadline to apply is April 1. An essay must be submitted with the completed application form for the Department of Agriculture scholarship. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality and interpretation of research as well as spelling and grammar.

Agriculture Leadership Coordinators can provide more information about the scholarships.

4-H Websites - Great Places for Information

The Nova Scotia 4-H Council's new website is up and running at www.novascotia4h.ca. The council is seeking information such as news, history, pictures and projects from clubs across the province to round out the site, and can link to club websites. Information and questions can be directed to the webmaster, Jackie Wile, at beechglade@eastlink.ca.

The council's site features links to 4-H project newsletters, the General Leader Kit, and application forms on the Department of Agriculture website at www.novascotia.ca/agri/4h. The Canadian 4-H Council website at www.4-h-canada.ca has information on the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Canada, as well as conferences, national scholarships, grant programs, exchanges, and links to other provinces.



2013 Celebrating 100 years of 4-H in Canada

Next year, 4-H members, leaders and alumni will celebrate a significant milestone in the program's long history of developing excellent agriculture, business and community leaders. 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Canada.

4-H began in Roland Manitoba in 1913 and over the past several decades, it 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, leading the way as a modern youth leadership development program.

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. As clubs plan their celebrations of this important anniversary, the details can be submitted online at <http://www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/celebrate-2013> where they will be promoted nationally. Party kits and promotional materials will also be available to help support events.



Kings County Federation of Agriculture

Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Perennia boardroom at the Kentville Agricultural Centre. All members of the Kings County Federation of Agriculture are welcome to attend. Our new directors for 2013 are: Angela Patterson, Carol Tobin, Colin Bell, Dan Fulton, Gail Sawler, Hank Bosveld, Leslie Wade, Neils Langelaan, and Paul D'Entremont.

Throughout the year the federation will be hosting meetings with the Municipality of the County of Kings and farmers to get feedback and suggestions on the Kings 2050 Agriculture Principal and Driving Elements that are under review. Email gwalsh@perennia.ca to be notified of meeting dates and times.

Also this year, the federation will host a Farm Day with the councillors of Kings County. Councillors will visit different farms to see the diversity and challenges of farming. The goal is to give them a better appreciation of the goals and needs of the farmers.



Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture

The Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture annual general meeting had a good turnout on October 30 in Bridgewater. The new board members are as follows: Pete Morine (president), Jim Crooker (vice-president), Michael Tupper (secretary-treasurer), Wayne Slauenwhite, Vicki Conrad, Tom Frail, Kevin Woodworth, Duane Crouse, Lynn Colp, Wayne MacKay, Nelson Millett, Royal Stevens, and Marilyn Ramey.



Think Local This Holiday Season

Choosing local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often is good for farmers and Nova Scotia's economy. Try to buy directly from the growers, because cutting out the middleman means more of your food dollar goes to the people who grow your food. Farm markets are a good place to start. Also, ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.

Pesticide Certification Course

Jim Jotcham is taking names of those interested in a Pesticide Certification Course in 2013. Contact Jim at marbicon@eastlink.ca or call 902-538-7101.

The course is recommended, but not mandatory. The Department of Environment pesticide certification exam can be written without the course. Information about the exam and a copy of the agriculture training manual are available on the department's website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/pests/applicator.asp>.

Pesticide certification courses are also offered through Continuing and Distance Education at Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus. Courses are listed online at <http://nsac.ca/cde/courses/Pesticide/application-farmers.asp>.

Email Addresses

In an effort to improve communication with clients, we are collecting e-mail addresses. If you would like to occasionally receive reminders, notices, or this newsletter via email, please provide your email address to Cheryl Theriau at ctheriau@gov.ns.ca. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email Cheryl or call 902-679-6021.

Regional 4-H News

Clubs in Full Swing for 2012-13

The 4-H program continues to grow and thrive in the Valley and South Shore regions. 4-H families and leaders are gearing up for another busy year. The South Shore 4-H Region will be hosting the 2013 Nova Scotia 4-H Show at the South Shore Exhibition grounds from September 27-29. This is sure to be an exciting and memorable event as it will also be the 100th year anniversary of 4-H in Canada.

Registration for the program 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. Contact the Department of Agriculture for more information at 902-679-6027 in the Valley area or 902-634-7757/902-679-6846 for the South Shore area.

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. A big thank you goes to the volunteer leaders and to the many supportive parents that enable members to accomplish so much through the 4-H program.

The following are the 4-H clubs in the region for 2012-13

Hants County

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

Kings County

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

Lunenburg County

Two Bays
Ocean Breeze
Livewires
Hill N Dale
Branch Lahave
BB/HH
Handy Hands
Lapland

Queens County

4-Leaf Clover

Shelburne County

Roseway River
Lockeport Area

Training for New 4-H Leaders

Welcome to the 4-H Team is a workshop that introduces the program to new leaders. All new leaders must attend the workshop as part of the volunteer screening process. During the workshop, leaders receive information about the 4-H program, go through the screening process, and learn what resources and support systems are available to them. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and get comfortable with the program. The workshop schedule is as follows:

Valley - January 8, 6:30 p.m.,
Kentville Agricultural Centre

Shelburne - January 7, 6 pm,
location TBA

Lunenburg - January 8, 6:30 pm,
Wileville Fire Hall

Nova Scotia 4-H Council AGM

Nova Scotia 4-H Council met in November and, as always, there are some project changes. Watch for the newsletter in mid-December outlining the various changes.

Holiday Wishes

As the holiday season fast approaches, it is our sincere hope that each and every one of you finds the joy and happiness that this time of year brings. Staff at the Department of Agriculture office in Kentville extend best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday on your farm. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

Hants County 4-H Awards Banquet

Hants County 4-H Awards Banquet was held on November 25. At the annual banquet, Sarah Levy, president of the council, presented Jean and Mac Brown with a Friends of Hants County

4-H Award for 52 years of combined volunteer service. Jean and Mac have been general and project leaders of the Avon Clubs, as well as project leaders in the Vaughans Club. Congratulations, Jean and Mac, and thank you for your years of giving to the 4-H program.



Central Regional Agriculture Office Moving

The Department of Agriculture's Central Regional Office moving to Perennia Innovation Park in late December or early January. The office houses the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Agricultural Transition Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator and Administrative Assistant.

Perennia Innovation Park is also home to Perennia (formerly AgraPoint) staff, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, 4-H Nova Scotia and other Department of Agriculture staff. With this move and others, the department is creating a central location to meet the needs of clients in the agriculture industry.

The Central Region includes the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax East Hants. The regional office is a one-stop-shop to discuss agriculture questions or opportunities with the Department of Agriculture staff:

Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 902-893-3645, kittilma@gov.ns.ca
Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-893-6586, hoytjm@gov.ns.ca
Theresa Osborne, Administrative Assistant, 902-893-6575, osborntc@gov.ns.ca

Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers

Nominations are open for the 2013 Outstanding Young Farmers Program within the Atlantic region. It's a great opportunity to honor the up-and-coming farmers in the agriculture community. Anyone can nominate a young farmer or farm couple provided the nominee meets the basic requirements. Nominees can be an individual, couple, or managing partner/ shareholder of a farm group. They must be between the ages of 18 and 39 and derive a minimum of two-thirds of their gross revenue from farming. More information and nomination forms are available at www.oyfatlantic.ca

Regional 4-H News

A Workshop for Better Meetings

Do you know your parliamentary procedure? Join Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, for a workshop on executive roles and responsibilities, meeting management, and how to make motions. The workshop is open to all 4-H leaders, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and community members. No registration is required. The workshop will take place on January 8 at 7 pm at the Shinimicas Fire Hall in Cumberland County.

Training for New 4-H Leaders

Welcome to the 4-H Team is a workshop that introduces the program to new leaders. All new leaders must attend the workshop as part of the volunteer screening process. During the workshop, leaders receive information about the 4-H program, go through the screening process, and learn what resources and support systems are available to them. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and get comfortable with the program. The workshop schedule is as follows:

Halifax East-Hants - January 15, 6:15 pm, Hants East Rural High School

Colchester County - January 28, 6:15 pm, upstairs in the Agri-Dome

Cumberland County - February 5, 7:15 pm, Shinimicas Fire Hall

Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Jacqueline Hoyt at 902-893-6586 or hoytjm@gov.ns.ca.

Feedback

Your ideas for the upcoming year for workshops, clinics and articles and club profiles in the Clover Crop newsletter are welcome. Contact Jacqueline Hoyt at 902-893-6586 or hoytjm@gov.ns.ca with your ideas.

Cont'd on next page...

4-H Dates to Note

Colchester County 4-H Council meetings will take place upstairs in the Agri-Dome at 7 pm on the following dates:

January 28
February 25
March 25

Cumberland County 4-H Council meetings will take place at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 pm on the following dates:

January 8
February 5
March 5

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council meetings will take place at Hants East Rural High School at 7 pm on the following dates:

January 15
February 19
March 19



Holiday Wishes

Staff of the Central Regional Office of the Department of Agriculture would like to extend a Merry Christmas and good wishes in the new year to all clients. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. It has been a bountiful year with one of the best growing seasons and largest harvest that most seem to recall, a blessing when we think back to some past seasons that made farming very challenging. We remind our farm owners and operators to make safety and well being a priority as they prepare for 2013.

Upcoming Courses

Skills Advancement for Cape Breton Farm Businesses

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, in partnership with the Departments of Labour and Advanced Education and Agriculture, is pleased to offer *Financial Skills for Your Farm Business*. This customized 40-hour training program is offered free of charge to federation members, family members or employees. The Department of Agriculture's Cape Breton Regional Office is collecting names of interested individuals to offer this course in January. There must be at least 12 participants to run the course.

Hemp, Hops and Haskap – The Next Big Thing?

A day-long workshop in three different locations across Nova Scotia will explore the potential for hemp, hops and haskap as new agricultural opportunities in Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces. Discussion will focus on production and markets.

January 11, New Glasgow, Museum of Industry

January 12, Sydney, Membertou Trade and Convention Centre

January 19, Kentville, Old Orchard Inn

First Aid Courses

First Aid courses are being planned in early April for members of the Cape Breton Federations of Agriculture. For more information or to register, contact the Department of Agriculture's Cape Breton Regional Office at 902-563-2000.

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

The Environmental Farm Plan Program is a voluntary educational program that has been delivered through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture since 1999. It helps farmers identify and assess environmental risk on their property. The program is confidential, available at no cost, suitable for all farms, and offers practical advice. It will be offered on January 26 at St. Mike's Hall in Baddeck.

The Environmental Farm Plan Team is currently offering workshops for small farms interested in environmental stewardship. Upon completion of the workshop, all participants will have a completed environmental action plan and process for their farm.

To register for this free workshop, contact:

Janette McDonald
902-893-2293
jmcDonald@nsaf-fane.ca

Forklift Safety Certification

The Department of Agriculture's Cape Breton Regional Office is collecting names of people interested in taking a forklift safety certification course in Millville in the spring. Adequate training to operate a forklift is required under Section 56 of Nova Scotia's Occupational Safety General Regulations:

"An employer shall ensure that a hoist, industrial lift truck or powered mobile equipment

- (a) Is operated by a designated competent person;
- (b) Has gears and moving parts securely guarded by adequate means where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace;
- (c) Has any load on it adequately secured where necessary to prevent a hazard to a person in the workplace; and
- (d) Is provided with safe means of access and exit from the operator's position and any passenger's position."

The Safe Forklift Operation Course includes both classroom instruction and actual hands-on training on a forklift. Students will be expected to perform basic manoeuvres and demonstrate their ability to inspect their lift truck. For more information or to register, call the Sydney office at 902-563-2000.

Food Handler Course

The Department of Agriculture will offer its Food Handler Course on numerous dates and locations throughout 2013. Courses on the following dates will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre:

January 29	April 30
February 26	May 28
March 26	June 25

To register, contact Catherine at the Cape Breton Regional Office at 902-563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from the department's website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>.

Cont'd on next page...

The course will also be offered in Sydney and Bras d'Or, and the schedule will soon be available on the department's website at http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses_neast.shtml.

Regional 4-H News

100 years of 4-H Green in 2013

On the verge of its 100th birthday in Canada next year, the 4-H program is thriving in the Cape Breton region with 280 active members. Of these, 27 are Cloverbuds and 72 are volunteer leaders from the four counties.

Cape Breton clubs have seen an increase in participation from rural and farming communities over the previous year. Volunteer leader membership was 13% from urban areas, 69% from rural areas, and 18% from farms. Youth membership was 15% from urban areas, 76% from rural areas, and 9% from farms.

The regional team aims to provide a variety of leadership and skills programming for local, regional and provincial members. Rural youth and leaders in Cape Breton worked hard this year to complete project work in various life skills and livestock project areas. Through the year, 220 rural youth learned communication skills that will serve them well now and in the future.

Clubs are welcoming new leaders and members, and preparing for another full year of project work, community activities and just plain fun.

New Leader Training

Welcome to the 4-H Team is a workshop that introduces the program to new leaders. All new leaders must attend the workshop as part of the volunteer screening process. During the workshop, leaders receive information about the 4-H program, go through the screening process, and learn what resources and support systems are available to them. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and get comfortable with the program. Contact your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator at the Department of Agriculture office for screening procedures and dates.

4-H Dates to Note

Cape Breton Co. 4-H Council Meeting - January 8, Swiss Chalet, Sydney

Inverness Co. 4-H Council Meeting - January 3, 9:30 am, Mabou Office

Richmond Co. 4-H Council Meeting - January 7, 7 pm, Doug and Eva Landry's, St. Peter's

Victoria Co. 4-H Council Meeting - January 22, Nelson Peterson's, Baddeck

Inverness/ Richmond Jr. Member Workshop - February 1, Port Hawkesbury

Cape Breton/ Victoria Jr. Member Workshop - March 1, Sydney

Kevin Grant Tour- March 11-13, Eastern Region

Senior Members Conference - May 22-24, Debert Hospitality Centre

Volunteer Food Safety - To Be Announced

Rural Safety Day - April 4, North Sydney

Regional Rally - April 20, Baddeck
Nova Scotia 4-H Show - September 27-29, Bridgewater

4-H Christmas Greeting

The snow has yet to fall,
But we know the seasons here,
A season for traditions,
And good wishes for a new year.

The air has become chilly,
And frost is on the ground,
The signs of this joyful season,
Everywhere are abound.

The excitement of the children,
With caroling voices on crisp nights,
The magic of elves, and Santa,
Scents of evergreen amid bright lights.

To all our 4-H members,
Our leaders, and sponsors too,
A very special thank you
For all that you do.

An anniversary year we've had,
Celebrating 90 years of fun,
with projects, skills and leadership,
4-H is truly number one.

Learning to do by doing,
Pledging head, heart, health and hand
Making projects, making friends,
Always being the best you can.

So, Christmas greetings to your family,
To friends near, and far away,
Here's hoping for a Merry Christmas,
and a wonderful New Years Day.



Holiday Wishes

The Department of Agriculture staff in Cape Breton wish all their clients a peaceful holiday season and good health and happiness in 2013. Happy holidays from Rhonda MacDougall, Marina Gillis, Cheryl Chandler, Catherine Plumridge, Gary Koziel and Adam Wile.

Upcoming Workshops

Dates and locations for the following three workshops will be determined by interest. Therefore, registration is required by January 15 to allow time for planning. For more information or to register, contact Laureen Boyd at the Department of Agriculture's Eastern Regional Office at 902-863-4705.

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop

The Environmental Farm Plan Program is a voluntary educational program that has been delivered through the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture since 1999. It helps farmers identify and assess environmental risk on their property. The program is confidential, available at no cost, suitable for all farms, and offers practical advice.

The Environmental Farm Plan Team is currently offering workshops for small farms interested in environmental stewardship. Upon completion of the workshop, all participants will have a completed environmental action plan and process for their farm.

First Aid for Farmers

Knowing how to care for your co-workers, family, friends and even yourself can make all the difference in an emergency situation. Check the expiry of your First Aid certification and register for recertification if you're due.

Farm Safety Workshop

Learn the basics of farm safety and how to evaluate your farm.

Regional 4-H News

Pictou 4-H Leader's Council Executive for 2012-13

President - Bonnie Allan
Treasurer - John VanKessel
Secretary - Betty Lou Scott

Pictou County 4-H

Dates to Note

4-H Leaders Council meeting -
January 21, 7 pm, Northumberland School

New Leader Workshop - February 26, 12-1 pm at the Pictou office, or 6-7 pm at Northumberland School

4-H Leaders Council meeting -
February 26, 7 pm,
Northumberland School

4-H Leaders Council meeting -
March 27, 7 pm, Northumberland School

Antigonish 4-H Leader's Council Executive for 2012-2013

President - Angela MacNeil
Secretary - Courtney George
Treasurer - Trina MacDonald

Antigonish County 4-H

Dates to Note

4-H skating party - December 27, 12-1 pm, Antigonish Arena

4-H Leaders Council meeting -
January 8, 7 pm, Antigonish office

New Leader Workshop - February 12, 12-1 pm or 6-7 pm, Antigonish Office

4-H Leaders Council meeting -
February 12, 7 pm, Antigonish office

4-H Leaders Council meeting and
Leader Judging Workshop - March 18, 7 pm, Antigonish office



Spicy Cranberry Cream Cheese Dip

Ingredients:

1 12oz package of fresh local cranberries
1/4 c fresh local green onion, chopped
1/4 c cilantro, chopped
1 small jalapeno pepper
1 1/4 c sugar
1/4 tsp cumin
2 Tbsp lemon juice
2 8oz packages of cream cheese
dash of salt

Preparation:

Chop the cranberries in a food processor or by hand. Cut the pepper in half and discard the seeds. Chop the green onion, cilantro and jalapeno pepper into small pieces. Put all ingredients,

except cream cheese, into a bowl and mix together. Cover and store in the fridge for at least four hours.

When you are ready to serve, place cream cheese bricks on a plate and spread them out evenly. Pour the cranberry mixture over the cream cheese. Serve immediately with tortilla chips or your favorite cracker.

Holiday Wishes

Department of Agriculture staff in the Antigonish Regional office send their best wishes for a happy Christmas season, and good health and much success in 2013.

Agriculture Staff Ready to Serve

Staff in the Western Regional office of the Department of Agriculture are ready to answer your questions or to meet with you. To make inquiries or set up an appointment or farm call, contact (interim) Agricultural Resource Coordinator Jeff Wentzell at 902-638-2396 or wentzejh@gov.ns.ca. Please watch for information on winter programs in future newsletters.

New Skills Training Opportunity

The Government of Nova Scotia has launched a website to provide free online courses to Nova Scotians. At www.skillsonlinens.ca, there is a variety of courses, including human resources (hiring and motivating employees), how to use social media for your business, succession planning, accounting, marketing, etc.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2012-2013

The Food Handler Course will be offered on numerous dates in the Western Region. Registering well in advance is recommended as courses fill up quickly. The registration form is available online at http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandler_West.pdf or by calling the Food Safety office at 902-638-2395.

Shelburne	Lawrencetown
March 19	April 17
May 14	

Yarmouth	Kentville
January 10	February 13
February 5	March 6
March 5	April 10
April 9	May 8

Digby	Bridgewater
February 13	March 21
April 16	May 16

Regional 4-H News

4-H Dates to Note

New Leader Information Session - January 9, 6 pm, Municipal Building, Lawrencetown

Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - January 9, 7 pm, Municipal Building, Lawrencetown

New Leader Information Session - January 16, 6 pm, 4-H office, Lovitt Street

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - January 16, 7 pm, 4-H office, Lovitt Street

New Leader Information Session - January 17, 6 pm, Digby Library

Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - January 17, 7 pm, Digby Library

Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - February 13, 7 pm, Municipal Building, Lawrencetown

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - February 20, 7 pm, 4-H Office, Lovitt Street

Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - February 21, 7 pm, Digby Library

Watch for information on 4-H winter programs.



Holiday Wishes

Season's greetings from Department of Agriculture staff in the Cornwallis Office. The holidays are about family and friends, we hope you get to enjoy the season with your loved ones. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Jean Ward, Jeff Wentzell, Gina Saulnier-Chapelhow and Nicole Burkhard.