

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #	Acrobat Page #
<u>Main Newsletter</u> <i>(for all regions)</i>		
Understanding Compact Fluorescent Lighting	1	2
Dairy Management Session	1	2
Dairy Focus Taking Place	2	3
Market Manager Training – Essential Skills for Farmers’ Market Managers	2	3
Programs and Business Risk Management - Update	3	4
NS Farm Loan Board	3	4
Atlantic Survey of New Farmer Training Needs	4	5
Introducing AgPal	4	5
THINKFARM Is Pleased To Present: From The Ground Up:		
Regional Workshops For Beginning Farmers	4	5
Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission	5	6
Continue Your Education at NSAC: Visit the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education	6	7
Profiting from your Greenhouse Effect: the Essentials of Season Extension	7	8
Give Yourself a Voice... Check the Box	7	8
Garlic Production and Disease Workshop	8	9
4-H News:		
– Annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Tour Teaches 4-H Membership Leadership Skills	8	9
– 4-H Leaders Embrace the Future at an Atlantic 4-H Conference	9	10
– 4-H Member Wins CIBC 4-H Scholarship	9	10
– 4-H Annual Chocolate Fund Raiser Set for March	10	11
<u>Custom Newsletter Pages</u> <i>(for individual regions)</i>		
Valley/South Shore Region News	11	12
Central Region News	11	14
Cape Breton Region News	11	16
Eastern Region News	11	18
Western Region News	11	20

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



February 2012

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 13 No.1

Understanding Compact Fluorescent Lighting

Compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) and High Performance T8 lighting systems are both great energy conservation options for many farming operations. HPT8 systems can reduce lighting costs by up to 40% compared to older style T12's. Compact fluorescent lights use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent lights.

There are many incentive programs to help Nova Scotians change their lights to more efficient options. Efficiency Nova Scotia offers the following programs that include incentives for upgrading lighting:

- The Direct Install Program (also known as Part of the Solution) installs CFLs free of charge in businesses. The program also installs other upgrades such as light-emitting diode (LED) exit lights, thermostats, hot water tank wraps, occupancy sensors and power bars with timers.
- The Small Business Energy Solutions program is designed for retrofits and provides a free lighting assessment and up to 80% funding, and a 0% interest loan on the remaining 20%, for lighting upgrades.
- The Business Energy Rebate program offers rebates on new lighting purchases.

Contact Efficiency Nova Scotia toll-free at 1-877-999-6035 or visit www.energycyns.ca for more information on how fluorescent lights can save you money incentives that may be available to you.

Recycling Options and Safe Handling

Mercury is an element found naturally in the environment. Fluorescent lights contain a very small amount of mercury sealed in the tube or bulb. It's essential to a fluorescent bulb's ability to emit light but it's also toxic. Exposure can potentially cause health problems.

The US Environmental Protection Agency claims that using a CFL bulb reduces the amount of mercury in the environment due to decreased electrical consumption compared to an incandescent bulb. In order to prevent mercury from

ending up in the environment or the landfill, recycling fluorescent tubes and bulbs is recommended. Several municipalities and waste authorities have bulb crusher units.

The Department of Environment provides these tips for waste fluorescent lighting:

- Contact your municipality to find out if there are any specific requirements for fluorescent light disposal.
- Waste fluorescent bulbs can be returned for safe disposal at RONA and Home Depot stores.
- If disposed with household garbage, CFL bulbs should be double-bagged (Ziploc) and placed in the top of your garbage bag on your collection day. This minimizes the potential for breakage that could harm either the waste hauler or the homeowner.

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Dairy Management Session

The Annapolis Dairy Management Club is hosting a session on Leukosis and Johnies in dairy cattle with speaker Dr. John Vanleewen from Atlantic Veterinary College. The session is Friday, February 17, at the Aylesford District Lions Club, 2160 Highway 1, Auburn. All dairy

producers and interested parties are invited. Contact Danny Phinney at 584-3050 or phinneyvalfarms@ns.sympatico.ca for more information.

NOVA SCOTIA

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- In case of breakage, it's recommended to follow advice developed by Health Canada for clean-up and disposal. Phone 1-866-225-0709 or see the advice online: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/prod/cfl-afc-eng.php.

LED lighting is an alternative to fluorescent lighting. The above-mentioned funding programs may also include incentives for LED lighting. For example, the Business Energy Rebate program offers a \$20 rebate on EnergyStar® rated LED globe or A-style bulbs greater than 10 watts that have at least a three-year warranty.

For more information on energy management, a brochure is available online: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/rs/envman/energy-pgm2011.pdf.

Contact Julie Bailey, the Department of Agriculture's farm energy specialist, at 896-4473 or baileyja@gov.ns.ca for more information on energy and funding programs.

Dairy Focus Taking Place March 27–29, 2012 in Greenwich

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia is hosting Dairy Focus, the largest dairy conference in Atlantic Canada, March 27–29.

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

The conference takes place at the Old Orchard Inn, 153 Greenwich Road South, Wolfville.

March 27 features a tour of Jack Folkestma's farm in Stewiacke. Two hoof health workshops are being held with hoof specialist Karl Burgi. One workshop is in Antigonish and the other in Grand Pr .

For the conference agenda, speaker overviews, trade show and sponsorship information and registration forms, please visit www.dairyfocus.org .

Market Manager Training: Essential Skills for Farmers' Market Managers

The Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia Cooperative (FMNS) is once again offering Market Manager Training. This customized training is open to managers, board members and members of a group collectively running a farmers' market. The training is a total of 40 hours and will take place over two long weekends in March, in the Wolfville area. Market manager training is free to FMNS members. Participants are responsible for their own travel, food, and, if applicable, accommodations.

Comments from 2011 participants:

"Very informative and applicable to my market day-to-day and strategic needs."

"Such a great wealth of information. I can't think of anything missing."

"The materials are well chosen and will become a resource I return to again and again."

"The instructor was exceptional. Her style was clear and she was approachable. She connected wonderfully with us."

Interested in attending? Contact Keltie: 425-9776; FMNS@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca. Space is limited.

If you are not an FMNS member and wish to attend this training, contact Keltie for prices and availability, 425-9776 or, FMNS@farmersmarketsnovascotia.ca.

Programs and Business Risk Management Update

AgrInvest and AgriStability

AgrInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect their income and manage risks like drought, flooding, low prices and increased input costs.

AgrInvest provides farmers with flexible coverage for small income declines and support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income. Farmers deposit money into an AgrInvest account and receive matching government contributions. If you receive an AgrInvest deposit notice you have 90 days to respond by making your deposit.

AgrInvest Deposit Notices 2010

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

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

AgriStability is a margin-based program that provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15% in a farmer's average income from previous years. If you participated

in AgriStability in 2010, you will automatically be enrolled for 2011 and will receive a 2011 enrolment notice soon. If you have not received your 2011 enrollment notice and have not heard from AgriStability, you should contact them at 1-866-367-8506.

New Participants

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

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

The Genetic Enhancement Program

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

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



The following rates are available to clients of Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board effective January 1 to March 1, 2012.

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

Length (years)	Full Term	*5 Year Term	*3 Year Term
1-5	2.90%	2.80%	2.60%
6-10	3.50%	3.05%	2.60%
11-15	4.20%	3.15%	2.80%
16-20	5.55%	3.20%	2.80%
21-25	5.75%	3.25%	2.85%
26-30	5.90%	3.25%	2.85%

* 3- and 5-year term rates available to clients meeting risk, cashflow, and collateral requirements.

* 10-year rate is also available upon request

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



Atlantic Survey of New Farmer Training Needs

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College's Centre for Continuing and Distance Education is surveying the training needs of new farmers in Atlantic Canada. If you're an aspiring farmer or have been farming for only a few years, please visit our website at www.nsac.ca/cde and select the link from the left menu to take the survey. It should take between five and 10 minutes to complete. We thank you for your input!

Introducing AGPAL PROGRAM AND SERVICE FINDER

It's now easier to find agricultural programs and services information offered by government that meet your needs. AgPal is a one-stop, web-based discovery tool designed to provide the agriculture industry with information on all federal and provincial programs and services. AgPal can be found at: www.agpal.ca.

This new online service for farmers and producers is a major improvement under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's service excellence initiative, designed to

support Growing Forward. AgPal is a collaborative effort between AAFC and the Department of Agriculture.

Nova Scotia is the first province to sign up as an early adopter of AgPal. All programs relating to the agriculture and agri-food industry offered to Nova Scotia businesses are included in AgPal's database. There will be more information on AgPal at federal and provincial booths at upcoming commodity meetings and trade shows.

THINKFARM is pleased to present

From the Ground Up

Regional Workshops for
Beginning Farmers

Join us at a location near you to learn some of the fundamental things you can do to move your farm business forward. We've put together a great program that touches on entrepreneurship, business management, marketing and more! You will hear from professional speakers and local farmers about best practices for your farm business. Do not miss this great opportunity to get ideas for improving your farm business and networking with other farmers and industry support organizations. The registration fee is \$20/person. Register on time to be entered to win a Farm Credit Canada software package! (Registrations will also be taken at the door.)

- February 24, Debert Hospitality Centre, 130 Ventura Dr., Debert
- March 3, Gaelic College, 51779 Cabot Trail Rd., Englishtown
- March 24, Best Western Plus Hotel and Convention Centre, 527 Highway 10, Bridgewater

For more information, contact your local Department of Agriculture office or e-mail thinkfarm@gov.ns.ca.

Agendas and registration forms are available online:
www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fromthegroundup.shtml.



Canada

Growing Forward
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Why should I have AgriInsurance?

As a producer, you are constantly faced with factors that are beyond your control. Things like adverse weather, disease, wildlife, and insect infestations can have a serious impact on your production and your income.

AgriInsurance, sometimes referred to as production insurance or crop insurance, adds some predictability to your business. It protects you against the effects of yield reductions and crop losses caused by insured perils. There are currently more than 115,000 acres, 17,500 dairy animals and 46 million birds insured annually in Nova Scotia.

AgriInsurance helps you:

- Maintain your cash flow in poor crop years with claim payments that offset losses caused by crop damage or low yields.
- Manage your operation with a more predictable cash flow.
- Provide collateral required to secure loans.
- Stabilize your AgriStability program reference margin over time.
- Gain affordable peace-of-mind by paying tax-deductible premiums that are cost-shared with government.

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines

Spring grain: March 14
Vegetable: March 14
Potato: April 19
Corn, soybean, canola and sunflower: April 30
Maple: April 30
Weather plan: April 30

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

Advanced Payments Program Reminder

If you are planning to apply for an advance through the Advance Payments Program (APP), keep the above application deadlines in mind. In many cases, the APP requires participation in Crop Insurance (or CAIS) as a security for the advance. Late applications for Crop Insurance cannot be accepted after the above dates.

Dairy Producers

The Commission is able to write new coverage for dairy livestock each month. If you are interested in insuring your animals against disease, as well as loss of income from milk sales as a result of disease or fire and building collapse due to ice and snow, it is not too late to apply for Dairy Insurance (includes all reportable diseases, as well as shipping fever and IBR, but does not include BSE or Foot and Mouth Disease). To find out more give the Commission office a call.

Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program for farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly, specified crops are covered for losses as a result of wildlife damage.

There are a number of other requirements to be eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses, crop and livestock covered, visit our website at: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci .

The Department of Natural Resources has valuable information on best practices to reduce damage from wildlife. This information can be found at: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife .

Maple Producers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers crop insurance for maple syrup production. This plan is available to all commercial maple producers and helps them to manage the risk of reduced yields due to natural perils. Any producers not currently enrolled in the program can apply now for coverage for the 2012-13 crop year (the February-March 2013 harvest season). The deadline for applying is April 30. Since this is a busy time in the maple woods, we encourage you to apply now to avoid missing the deadline.

Forage Producers

The Commission offers two plans for forage producers to help manage the risk in this crop from natural perils. These plans are a Forage Establishment Plan and a Weather Derivative Plan for forage production.

Forage Establishment Plan

The forage establishment plan protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes. This plan covers losses from such things as, winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from the time of seeding up until May 31, of the following year. Seeding must be completed by July 1, for legumes and legume/grass mixes and by September 1, for grasses. The deadline date to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply for this insurance at seeding time your coverage can begin immediately. If you apply at some point after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered.

Weather Plan for Forage

This plan targets crop losses related to weather events. It guarantees 80% of the average long term rainfall (mm) at a designated local weather station over a period of time (May 1 to August 31). An optional quality rider is also available for excessive rainfall in the month of June during prime harvest time. Managed pastures and stored forage acreage can be insured. The Weather Derivative Plan for

Forage provides a guarantee of 80% of the long term average rainfall (using a 30 year average). A producer can choose two, three or four months of drought coverage between May 1 and August 31. Any part or all of the managed forage and/or pasture on your farm can be insured for up to \$288 per acre.

An optional quality rider can also be purchased for the month of June. When three consecutive days of rainfall of at least five mm are recorded, a payment of 20% your guarantee is triggered. Producers can receive up to two payments under this quality rider during the month of June. For the weather plan, rainfall measurements are based on the recorded rainfall from sites around the province,

primarily at Environment Canada weather stations. Producers select the site nearest their farm. This plan differs from other insurance plans since there are no yield measurements required. Once a drought or excess rainfall event occurs, based on Environment Canada weather statistics, a payment is triggered.

Both the Weather Derivative Plan for Forage and the Forage Establishment Plan require an annual application. For more information including the cost sharing with government for these programs contact one of our offices.

For information on any of our insurance plans, contact us at 1-800-565-6371 in Truro or 679-6015/6028 in Kentville.

Continue Your Education at NSAC

Visit the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

Check out the following courses offered by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Atlantic Poultry Short Course
February 20-24

Introductory Welding
February 24-26

Livestock Medicines for Meat and Milk Industries
March 8

Exploring the Small Farm Dream (Halifax)
March 21, March 28 and April 11, April 18

Pesticide Applicator Certification
April 10-13

Modern Shepherd Module 4 (Lambing and Marketing)
April 21-22

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

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

Operant Conditioning Behaviour Analysis (Level I): Animal Training in the 21st Century (Online)
Starting Spring 2012

Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers
Starting Spring 2012

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers
Starting Spring 2012

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
PO Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
Phone: 893-6666
Email: cde@nsac.ca

Profiting from your Greenhouse Effect: the Essentials of Season Extension

Are you looking to extend your growing season and diversify the crops you grow? Join renowned organic greenhouse growers and industry representatives for a practical two-day workshop on greenhouses, hoop houses and season extension techniques.

Sessions will cover the basics of greenhouse selection and production, including soil fertility, transplants, grafting, plastic selection, heat and water management. Speakers will also discuss how to choose the right greenhouse for your operation, construction tips for high tunnels and low tunnels, and other season extension options.

Who should attend:

- New producers interested in greenhouses/high tunnels
- Organic and low-input growers looking for new opportunities
- Current producers who want to make better use of their existing infrastructure

Cost to attend is \$75 for ACORN members and \$100 for non-members (includes refreshments, dinner on Tuesday, breakfast and lunch on Wednesday).

A second-day only registration is available for \$40 (\$60 non-members), including lunch, which covers more advanced topics. Please note that hotel is extra.

Attendance is limited, so do not delay! Register now for the greenhouse workshop (required).

Sessions are being held February 28-29 at the Debert Hospitality and Convention Centre. Centrally

located and only 15 minutes away from Truro, the facility provides rooms (private and shared with kitchenettes) starting at \$50 per night. Book a room by calling 662-4074.

Sponsored by National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program, ThinkFarm, Multi-Shelter Solutions, OCTA Greenhouses and Halifax Seed.

Give Yourself a Voice... Check the Box

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is **YOUR VOICE** in the agricultural industry.

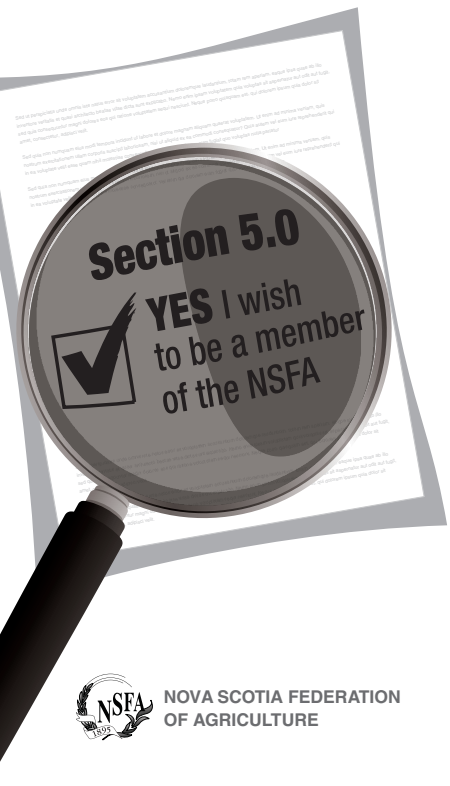
When completing your farm registration for 2012, don't forget to show your support - there is **no additional charge** to become a member.

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

**Nova Scotia
Federation of Agriculture**

Phone: (902) 893-2293
E-mail: info@nsfa-fane.ca

www.nsfa-fane.ca



NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION
OF AGRICULTURE



4-H News

Garlic Production and Disease Workshop

There has been a tremendous interest in garlic production in recent years. This workshop will focus on garlic production and disease prevention. White rot, the most devastating disease of the entire onion family (garlic, onion, leek) was confirmed in Nova Scotia last year. Strategies on how to prevent the spread of white rot and how to diagnose the disease will be discussed. The workshop is being held March 21 in the Cornwallis Room, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada office, Kentville from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please register with AgraPoint by calling 678-7722. The cost of the workshop is \$20. Please bring your own lunch.

Annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Tour Teaches 4-H Members Leadership Skills

Peggy's Cove, the reconstruction of the Bluenose and several farms will be a few of the stops for 10 youths visiting Lunenburg County from March 12-14. The young people will be part of the fourth annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour.

Mr. Grant was a long time 4-H participant, government public servant and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H program. His legacy lives on through a fund that provides a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development. After careful consideration of his wishes, the foundation has developed the rural youth leadership development tour named in his honor.

Its purpose is to present the 4-H members, between the ages of 15-17, with an opportunity to see a new and different part of Nova Scotia so that they can confidently make decisions about where they choose to settle, when they enter the workforce.

4-H members are selected from across the province for the tour through an application and interview process. During the three days they hear speakers and participate in tours with a business, agriculture and industry format. 4-H members learn about a specific region in the province; the community, community leaders, the local area resource based businesses and rural employers.

During the 2012 tour 4-H members will visit a Christmas tree farm, Peggy's Cove, a maple syrup operation, the reconstruction of the Bluenose, a small mixed berry farm and several businesses and historic sites in Lunenburg County. During various social activities they will have many opportunities for networking with 4-H members from the specific region they are visiting.

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

The 4-H members participating in the 2012 Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership tour are:

- Emma Batson, Valorie DeLong, Annapolis County
- Meghan Martin, Shelburne
- Scot Withrow, Jillian Davidson, Ella Lantz, Hants County
- Areta Boone, Pictou County
- Emily Sitzer, Aedan Crouse, Halifax-East Hants
- Kenzie MacNeil, Antigonish County

4-H Leaders Embrace the Future at an Atlantic 4-H Conference

Fifty 4-H leaders from across Atlantic Canada will develop leadership skills to embrace the future of 4-H with confidence during a dynamic two-day conference, March 2-4, in Debert.

This interactive conference provides an opportunity for leaders from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island to network, develop personal, teamwork, communication and leadership skills. Over the weekend, leaders will develop meeting, conflict and risk management skills, expand their horizons about working with a variety of learning styles for youth, as well as learn techniques for recruiting and retaining volunteers and parents all while having lots of fun.

Two key speakers will address the delegates at the conference. Chet

MacPhail, a motivational speaker from New Brunswick, is a familiar face in 4-H circles. He will keep the leaders on their feet with interactive activities that not only guarantees a laughter filled session but sends leaders home thinking about their importance as a mentor to youth.

Rob Black, President of the Canadian 4-H Council, will address the theme of the conference with a session on Embracing the Future. He will give leaders lots to think about as they approach the 100th year of 4-H in Canada and prepare the 4-H program for growth in the next few years.

Funding has been provided by the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Growing Forward Business Opportunities Program and the provincial 4-H councils.

4-H Member Wins CIBC 4-H Scholarship

Jessica Overmars believes being a leader is about inspiring people, taking the initiative to put ideas into action, setting goals and being a role model. That is exactly what she did when she sent in her essay to apply for the 2012 CIBC 4-H scholarship.

Recently the Canadian 4-H Council and CIBC announced that Jessica was one of three 4-H members from across Canada awarded \$2,500 per year (for two years) for her post-secondary education.

"4-H has prepared me for the future and has given me the skills to succeed. I'm applying for a Bachelor of Science degree because science allows me to learn to do by doing," said Ms. Overmars. "Once I've obtained this degree, I plan to continue my education by enrolling in a pharmacy program. By following this career path, I am ensuring that my education never ceases and that my passion for both learning and helping others is always fulfilled."

Ms. Overmars likes to tackle challenges head on and use the leadership skills she learned in 4-H to make a difference. She juggles school, a part time job on her family farm and caring for her six pets with several extracurricular activities. She is the president of the St. Andrew's 4-H Club, co-vice president of the Antigonish 4-H Leader's Council, is a junior leader for the dog obedience project and plans to complete five projects this year.

In the CIBC scholarship application, Ms. Overmars had to write about what 4-H has done for her.

"The confidence and sense of responsibility I've gained in 4-H has led me in many different directions. Each year, I help organize a village clean-up for my club. Also, with the help of other 4-H members, I organize an annual movie night to raise funds for different local charities," she said.

"This past year we raised money for Feed Nova Scotia and the Canadian Association for Community Living. From my 4-H experience, I have realized that you do not need to go to a developing country to volunteer. There are people in our own communities who need our help. I feel empowered to know that I can make a difference by doing small acts of kindness for others."

Ms. Overmars says she has been privileged to be a 4-H member for nine years. It has made her a responsible, active member of her community and a well-rounded young adult.

"I've developed a good attitude towards learning, responsibility, leadership and being a team player," she said.

"4-H has helped make some of my dreams a reality by teaching me the importance of hard work and setting personal goals. 4-H creates lasting friendships, builds self-esteem and has helped me develop life-long skills to be successful in the competitive world of today. Overall, I think 4-H is the best program for youth today!"

Young people who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H members for at least two years can apply to win the Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, CIBC, Agriventure and the TD Bank Scholarships.

Each scholarship has specific requirements. The two Nova Scotia scholarships require an essay to be submitted with their completed application form. The essays are judged for style, subject knowledge, originality, quality and interpretation of research, spelling and grammar. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Applications are available in the General Leader Kit or from the local Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator.

Application deadlines vary, but begin with April 1, 2012, for Department of Agriculture scholarship and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship. The deadline for the TD 4-H Scholarship is October. Deadlines for the CIBC and Agriventure 4-H Scholarships are in December.

4-H Annual Chocolate Fund Raiser Set For March

If a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar this spring, it's for a good cause. Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in their provincial fundraising campaign. This year they are selling World's Finest Chocolate products to raise money for local and provincial programs.

Proceeds from this sale are divided among the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties selling bars. The provincial council uses the money raised to support provincial events such as, the EBI Showcase, National Travel Award Opportunity registrations, Camp Rankin and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships, provincial programs such as 4-H Weekend, Annual Meeting and 4-H Show.

This year the campaign runs the month of March. 4-H members will be offering consumers a choice of almond, caramel or crisper bars, caramel whirls and chocolate-covered almonds for \$2 each. A coupon from Greco Pizza will be on the bar label.

Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Central

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties:

Tel: 893-6575 Fax: 893-2757

osbornetc@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.
Valorie Oickle, 4-H Leadership Coord.
Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer

Cape Breton

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond counties:

Tel: 563-2000 Fax: 563-3435

plumricl@gov.ns.ca

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

From the Ground Up - Regional Workshops for Beginning Farmers

The last of these workshops is being held March 24 at the Best Western Plus Hotel and Convention Centre, 527 Highway 10, Bridgewater. Further information can be found in the notice in the main section of this newsletter. Registration forms can be found on the THINKFARM website: www.gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm.

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Update

On November 8, 2011, the Kings County Federation of Agriculture held its annual general meeting. This year there were no pressing issues on the agenda, which resulted in poor attendance by the farmers. Other county federations have also noted similar attendance at annual meetings.

The annual meeting is a chance for all farmers in the county to get together and discuss the industry and put forth and vote on resolutions to be taken to the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's annual meeting. The directors will be trying new ways to get people out to the county meeting so farmers and their views can be represented at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture annual meeting.

The Kings County Federation of Agriculture for 2012:
Paul d'Entremont, president
Carol Tobin, vice-president
Leslie Wade, treasurer

Regular monthly meetings are held in the AgraPoint boardroom on the second Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m.

The Kings County Federation of Agriculture office is based out of AgraPoint, 10 Webster Street, Kentville. Please direct correspondence there.

Valley Region 4-H

The 4-H program continues to grow and thrive in the Valley region. Families and leaders are gearing up for another busy year. Registration has taken place over the past two months. Most clubs are underway, but if you are interested in joining, individual

For more information about the 4-H program contact Valorie Oickle, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, at 679-6027, or log on to the 4-H website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h.



clubs may be able to accept additional members. If you need information on a 4-H Club within your area, or contact information, call the Department of Agriculture at 679-6027.

One of the keys to the success of the 4-H program is its 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 much within the 4-H Program.

2011-2012 Hants County 4-H Clubs:

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

2011-2012 Kings County 4-H Clubs:

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

New Leader Screening

The final new leader screening for the Valley Region is being held February 13 at 7 p.m. at Brooklyn District Elementary School, 8008 Trunk 14, Newport. The session will last about an hour.

New for 2012

A comprehensive judging school is being offered to train new and existing judges in a variety of areas ranging from foods and photography to small livestock and beef. Sessions include professionalism in judging and giving reason and hands on judging in the area of your choice. The Judging School is being held Saturday, June 9 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds. For further information or to register, contact Valorie Oickle at oicklevh@gov.ns.ca or Jean Ward at wardje@gov.ns.ca.

Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

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

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

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

Water Day

Join us March 6 between 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Room A108, Kingstec Campus, Kentville for an information update for farmers on water projects and polices. To register, please call Cheryl at 679-6021 or e-mail at ctheriau@ns.gov.ca before March 1.

Agenda

- 09:30 – 10:00: Registration and coffee
- 10:00 – 10:15: Welcome and Department updates, Marion MacAulay, Manager of Environmental Services, Department of Agriculture, David Briggins, Director of Water and Wastewater Branch, Department of Environment
- 10:15 – 10:30: Weather monitoring and irrigation scheduling in the Atlantic, Carla MacKay, Land and Water Technician, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 10:30 – 10:45: On farm best management practices from Ansem's Farm in Pereaue Branch, Lorelei Langille, Regional Sustainability Coordinator, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 10:45 – 11:30: Nova Scotia Environment water withdrawal permitting, Lynsey Barnes, Regional Hydrologist, Department of Environment
- 11:30 – 11:45: Water metering project, Trevor Davison, Environmental Farm Planner, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
- 11:45 – 12:00: Environmental farm planning database project update, Melissa Fulton, Environmental Farm Planner, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
- 12:00 – 13:00: Lunch
- 13:00 – 13:30: Water quality research in the Thomas Brook watershed, Dale Hebb, Research Biologist, AAFC's Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre
- 13:30 – 14:00: Nitrate monitoring project, Kevin Garoway, Water Monitoring and Reporting Specialist, Department of Environment
- 14:00 – 14:30: Beneficial management program past and future, Loretta Robichaud, Director of Programs and Business Risk Management, Department of Agriculture
- 14:30 – 14:45: Growing Forward II update, Heather Rand, Senior Programs Officer, AAFC's Agricultural Research Organization

Central Region News ~

Agriculture Energy Workshop – 'Save Energy and Money'

The Department of Agriculture's central regional office is sponsoring an informative workshop about funding available for agriculture featuring Sean Brogan, Business Development Manager from Efficiency Nova Scotia, and Julie Bailey, the Department of Agriculture's Farm Energy Specialist.

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 you save energy and money. Ms. Bailey will speak about additional energy programs and funding available to farmers.

Join us February 23 at 1 p.m. in Room 257, Cox Institute Building, 50 Pictou Road, Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus, Bible Hill.

Contact Michael Kittilsen at 893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca to register for this workshop.

Stewiacke and Halifax East Hants Federation Curling Bonspiel

A curling event and potluck is being held March 24 at the Don Henderson Memorial Sportsplex starting at 8 p.m. Contact Chris Whidden (Stewiacke) at 639-2713 or Nikki Eikelenboom (Halifax East Hants) at 758-2806 to register. Participants are reminded to bring indoor shoes.

Is Your Farm Health and Safety Compliant?

Farm Safety Nova Scotia has developed a manual to help farmers implement health and safety in their operations and reduce the risk of non-compliance to legislation. Workshops have been developed to educate farmers on safety practices, allow farmers to self-assess their farms as well as to apply the farm health and safety manual to their individual farm operations.

Farmers wanting to learn more about legal, financial or other risks associated with health and safety on their farms are encouraged to attend.

The workshops take place Monday, February 27 at the Nappan Research Farm pavilion at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 10 at Lloyd Yuill's farm in Old Barns.

Please let us know if you plan on attending by contacting Michael Kittilsen at 893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca or, Theresa Osborne at 893-6575 or osborntc@gov.ns.ca.

From the Ground Up - Central Region Workshop for Beginning Farmers

Join us at the Debert Hospitality Center on February 24, to learn some of the fundamental things you can do to move your farm business forward. Registrations for this event will be taken at the door but we appreciate it if you pre-register so we can plan better for the event. To register contact Ginger Stoddard 893-6585 or STODDADG@gov.ns.ca.

More information can be found online at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fromthegroundup.shtml.



Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H enthusiasts! The new year is upon us and it is already shaping up to be a great one! Many clubs will be hosting public speaking rallies in February and March. Public speaking is an important part of the 4-H program and a great learning experience. Everyone is encouraged to take part in speech days and public speaking rallies. Whether you are a member giving a speech, a community member volunteering to be a judge, or want to be part of the audience, 4-H speech days and rallies are a lot of fun!

National Award Winners:

Two 4-H members from the central region have been chosen for 4-H national awards. Taylor Hoyt of the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club and Michelle Larkin of the Riverside 4-H Club will attend the very prestigious National Citizenship Seminar, which is being held in Ottawa from April 13-19. Congratulations go to both girls and we wish them the best of luck on their travels!

The rest of the awards will be announced at 4-H weekend in May. Members not receiving an award this year should apply next year as your chances improve with more experience!

Kevin Grant Memorial Leadership Award:

Emily Sitser and Aedan Crouse, both members of the Shu-Mil 4-H club in Halifax-East Hants County have been selected to attend the Kevin Grant Memorial Leadership tour, along with eight other 4-H members across the province. The delegates will travel to the South Shore area during March break to learn about the industries and museums that operate within the area. Congratulations to both members!

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Council meetings:

February 27, March 26, and April 23, upstairs in the Agri-dome beginning at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Council meetings:

March 6 and April 3, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council meetings:

February 21, at Cole Harbour; March 20, at Hants East Rural High; April 10, at the Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit, all at 7 p.m.

4-H Judging Workshops

Cumberland County:

April 3, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall, 7 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County:

April 10, at the Forestry Complex, Middle Musquodoboit, 6 p.m.

Colchester County:

April 25, upstairs in the Agri-dome beginning at 6:30 p.m.

All members and leaders are welcome at this session.

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the central region, at 893-6586 or hoytjm@gov.ns.ca.



Farm Safety Workshops

Farm Safety Nova Scotia has developed a manual to help farmers implement health and safety in their operations and reduce the risk of non-compliance to legislation. Workshops have been developed to educate farmers on safety practices, allow farmers to self-assess their farms as well as to apply the farm health and safety manual to their individual farm operations.

Farmers wanting to learn more about legal, financial or other risks associated with health and safety on their farms are encouraged to attend.

The next workshop is Monday, February 28 at the Millville Hall starting at 1 p.m. Please register for this workshop by calling 563-

2000. Another workshop is offered Tuesday, February 21 at Skye Glen Hall, Skye Glen starting at 1 p.m.

Farm Safety Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit society dedicated to advancing workplace health and safety within agriculture in Nova Scotia. Farm Safety Nova Scotia is a farmer-driven initiative, with a membership consisting of registered farm members of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

If your county federation or commodity group is interested in safety information, additional training or first aid supplies, please contact the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture or Trevor Davison, Safety Coordinator, at 899-5097.

East Nova Holstein Club Information Sessions

Holstein breeders in Antigonish, Guysborough and Cape Breton Island are invited to attend information sessions taking place in Antigonish and Inverness counties. Stephanie Williams-Gregson, Young Adult Coordinator and Business Developer with Holstein Canada, will be working in Nova Scotia from February 27 to March 2. She will attend sessions to meet breeders and discuss the Young Adult Program, recruiting new business, member retention, problem solving relating to registration and classification. Norman Wiebe, Coordinator, will provide insight and history regarding the Atlantic John's Disease Initiative.

The sessions take place Monday, February 27 at Wilsonburg Holsteins, Skye Glen, at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, February 29 at Twinroad Holsteins, Addington Forks.

Refreshments will be compliments of Holstein Canada and the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland brand.

Dairy Nutrition Workshop with Dan Mosely

Two workshops are being offered Wednesday, February 22 covering financial benchmarking, lab testing, feed efficiency and more. The first session is at 1 p.m. at the Skye Glen Hall, Skye Glen and the second session is at 7 p.m. at the Northside Exhibition Grounds.

For more information, contact the Department of Agriculture office at 563-2000.

Growing Your Farm Profits

Baddeck February 29, 2012

Growing Your Farm Profits is a dynamic workshop that has been made possible by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council and the Department of Agriculture.

The program was developed and delivered in Ontario for the past two years. It was attended by new and existing dairy producers, other supply managed commodities, beef, sheep and fruit producers as well as small scale agriculture businesses. Based on the evaluation of the participants, they all found this to be a very

beneficial workshop which contributed to the success and future of their operations.

There is no cost to those who attend!

The workshop will be held on February 29 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Inverary Inn, Baddeck. Ten participants are required to move forward with the sessions. You are encouraged to attend. Please call the Department of Agriculture at 563-2000 to confirm your attendance.

From the Ground Up

Do not forget to register for the ThinkFarm business workshop "From The Ground Up" on March 3at the St. Ann's Gaelic College! For details, see the notice in the main part of this newsletter.



4-H Camp Rankin Spotlight

Bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. This is our 4-H camp that has held many memories over the years and will into the future. Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada. 4-H members between the ages of nine and 15 spend six fun-filled days with fellow 4-H'ers. There are a variety of educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Each day ends with a chapel service by the camp- fire, sing-song, and lunch. What members can learn at camp include sessions on drama, nature studies, 4-H trivia, canoeing , recreation activities, arts, crafts and much more.

Applications are available from your general leader, local 4-H office or online at

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h .

Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week. The application deadline is May 1.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

- February 21: NSCC Port Hawkesbury, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- February 29: Bras d'Or Hall, 24 Villa Drive, Bras d'Or, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- March 20: NSCC Port Hawkesbury, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- March 27: Bras d'Or Hall, 24 Villa Drive, Bras d'Or, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- March 27: Grand Lake Road Fire Hall, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- April 17: NSCC Port Hawkesbury, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register, please contact Catherine at the Department of Agriculture's office in Sydney at 563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf .

Dates to Mark on Calendar

- February 24: Junior member workshop, Sydney YMCA
- March 2: Atlantic Leader's Conference, Debert
- March 3: From the Ground Up workshop, St. Ann's
- March 6: Cape Breton Co. Council meeting, Civic Center, 7 p.m.
- March 20: Victoria Co. Council meeting, Peterson's
- March 22: Inverness Co. Council meeting, Mabou 4-H office, 9:30 a.m.
- April 2: Richmond Co. Council meeting, LeBlanc's, 7 p.m.
- March 15: Camp Rankin Job Opportunity- deadline for applications
- April 1: Camp Rankin Scholarship deadline
- April 7: Victoria Co. rally, Baddeck Forks Hall (tentative)
- April 14: Richmond Co. rally
- April 14: Inverness Co. rally
- April 20: Water Challenge club reports due
- April 21: Cape Breton regional rally, Baddeck, 10 a.m.
- TBA: Cape Breton Co. rally, hosted by Rising Sun 4-H

Homegrown Success Program Reminders:

A reminder to those with current year program funding that all claims must be postmarked or received by the Department of Agriculture by March 1, 2012. Late claims will not be processed.

Include 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) to support completed approved project activities.

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

Making good Farm Decisions

Take advantage of these remaining winter days to plan your summer projects.

What are the priorities for your farm? Have you reviewed your environmental plan lately? What is your soil's health? Are you expanding in any areas? Have you read any program information to see the trends that are happening? Have you updated your insurance lately? Pesticide points? Do you have a succession plan started?

There may be many questions and winter provides an opportunity to think and plan in some of these areas. Good farmers make time for planning and as a result make good decisions.

What are some examples that you should be considering and what information do you need to apply for potential programs? The Genetic Enhancement program requires some record keeping. Do you have a system in place to record the necessary information to participate in the program?

Recent extension workshops have demonstrated the benefits of winter bale grazing, grass fed opportunities, selecting the right bull for your farm, will pre-vaccinated feeders continue to lead the market price. How can you reduce costs to cash in on these high prices? These are just a few of the issues farmers have discussed at meetings or one on one.

Dairy Producers

Exploring energy alternatives, there are some neat examples of using your plate heater to maintain wash water temperature during the wash cycle. Several farmers are upgrading their feed storages, conducting good farmstead planning to see where future buildings should be added to the farm and what the farm will look like in the next ten years.

Blueberry Producers

Field days often provide valuable information. Have you attended one lately? Crop yields vary. What are the high yielding farmers doing?

Small-scale farmers are actively creating networks and getting together to learn more and share knowledge. We have vegetable clubs established, workshops, and many opportunities to get engaged. So whatever venture you are exploring, let us know or contact AgraPoint so we can assist you.

Federation News

The Antigonish/Guysborough Federation of Agriculture has initiated a steering committee to develop a governance model for the exhibition grounds. This is as a follow-up to the work completed by the Antigonish Regional Development Authority last year.

ARDA has hired Archibald and Fraser Architects Ltd. to develop a schematic design for a new farmer's Market building as part of the phase one from the Antigonish exhibition grounds master plan.

The Eastern Nova Scotia exhibition grounds master plan is available online at:

www.antigonishrda.ns.ca/resources/publications/ .

Mark Your Calendars

June 8: Community Pasture field day, Cape John community pasture

July 30: Celebration of Small-scale Farming workshop, Pictou



East Nova Holstein Club Information Sessions

Holstein breeders in Antigonish, Guysborough and Cape Breton Island are invited to attend information sessions taking place in Antigonish and Inverness counties. Stephanie Williams-Gregson, Young Adult Coordinator and Business Developer with Holstein Canada, will be working in Nova Scotia from February 27 to March 2. She will attend sessions to meet breeders and discuss the Young Adult Program, recruiting new business, member retention, problem solving relating to registration and classification. Norman Wiebe, Coordinator, will provide insight and history regarding the Atlantic Johnes Disease Initiative.

The sessions take place Monday, February 27 at Wilsonburg Holsteins, Skye Glen, at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, February 29 at Twinroad Holsteins, Addington Forks.

Refreshments will be compliments of Holstein Canada and the Nova Scotia and Newfoundland brand.

Upcoming 4-H Dates

Antigonish County

March 13: Council meeting, 7 p.m.

March 23: Last day for entries for the county rally

March 31: Antigonish County rally, 9 a.m., Antigonish Education Centre

April 10: Council meeting, 7 p.m.

April 17: Antigonish-Guysborough-Pictou regional rally in Guysborough, 6 p.m.

May 8: Council meeting, 7 p.m.

May 8: Exhibition committee meeting, 8 p.m.

May 11-12: 4-H Weekend, Truro

May 15: Antigonish-Guysborough judging day, 2:30 to 4 p.m., and 6:00 to 8 p.m.

May 22: CACL collection evening (or during the week of May 22)

Pictou County

March 21: Council meeting, 7 p.m., Northumberland

March 30: County rally, 6 p.m., Northumberland (storm date, April 13)

April 14: County woodsmen competition, 10 a.m., Eureka Fire Hall

April 17: Antigonish-Guysborough-Pictou regional rally in Guysborough, 6 p.m.

April 24: 4-H Weekend meeting 7 p.m., Northumberland

April 24: Council meeting 7 p.m., Northumberland

May 11-12: 4-H Weekend, Truro

New Farmers

Environmental Farm Plan workshops for small-scale farms are being planned for March and April. If you have a small commercial farm, would like to know more about environmental regulations, best management practices, what funding programs are available, and get to know other beginning farmers in the area, you will want to attend this day-long workshop. Contact our office at 638-2395 for details.

Upcoming Conference for New Farmers

The Canadian Young Farmers Forum Conference and annual meeting takes place February 17–21 in Halifax. The theme is "Energizing Farm Leaders of Today for Tomorrow." Visit www.cyff.ca for more information.

Programs

Reminder: The deadline to submit claim forms for approved Homegrown Success programs is March 1, 2012.

From the Ground Up Workshop for Beginning Farmers

ThinkFarm and the regional offices have organized workshops throughout the province geared towards beginning farmers (generally the first five years). The events in our region took place on Tuesday, February 14, at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre and Wednesday, February 15, at the Rodd Colony in Yarmouth. If you missed out on these and are still interested in attending, the closest one to our region is on March 24, at Best Western Hotel in Bridgewater. For more information see www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fromthegroundup.shtml, or call our office.



Recent Workshops

A Forage Day for Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Goat, Horse producers was held on December 10, at the Paradise Hall. AgraPoint specialists, Amy Sangster, Jack VanRoestel, Jonathan Wort; Jonathan MacClelland of West Nova Agro Commodities; as well as, local veterinarian, Dave MacHattie, presented on topics such as economics, soil health, livestock health, pasture management, and grass pellet production. The event was sponsored by the Annapolis Dairy Management Club, the Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture and AgraPoint. There was a great turnout of over 40 people, mainly from Annapolis and Digby Counties, but also from Yarmouth, Windsor and Bridgewater. As a follow-up to the workshop, we would like to organize pasture tours in the spring. If you would like to attend please contact our office so we can let you know when details become available.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops:

If you see something that interests you, give our office a call to get on our contact list for the workshop!

Things come up all the time in between newsletters. If you have an e-mail address and would like to get notification about upcoming workshops and events, please sign up with Gina at saulnigl@gov.ns.ca.

February

February 17: The Annapolis Dairy Management Club is having a session on February 17 at the Aylesford District Lions Club.

February 28–29: Organic Greenhouse Growers Conference, Debert Hospitality and Convention Centre. More information: acornorganic.org/greenhouse.html

March

TBA: Nutrient Management Workshops for Vegetable Growers with Dr. Viliam Zvalo of AgraPoint. There will be one session in Yarmouth County and another in Annapolis or Digby County during the March Break week. This will be the third meeting in the series and will focus on interpreting soil test results, planning for specific crop requirements and address general fertility issues. Contact Nicole at 638-2397 or burkhane@gov.ns.ca.

March 21: Garlic Production and Disease workshop, Cornwallis Room, AAFC Kentville, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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March 28: Growing Your Farm Profits / Planning for Business Success, Paradise Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., presented by Kittilsen, Business Specialist, Department of Agriculture. Do you need to improve your profits? Have you started planning for succession? When was the last time you were in a room with your peers and had the opportunity to share new ideas? Do you have an action plan for each priority of your farm business? Growing your Farm Profits will help. Call 893-6580 or e-mail bme@gov.ns.ca to register.

March 28: Pricing For Profit Session, Paradise Community Hall, 6:00 to 9 p.m., presented by Kittilsen, Business Specialist, Department of Agriculture. Setting prices can be very challenging. You want to be competitive, but you also need to be profitable if you want to survive for the long term. So how do you go about setting prices that will help you do both? What are some of the things you should take into account when establishing your prices? Attend the upcoming workshop to help work through these challenges. Call 893-6580 or e-mail bme@gov.ns.ca to register.

April

April 11: Farm Energy Efficiency Workshop, Paradise Community Hall, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., with Efficiency Nova Scotia and Julie Bailey, Farm Energy Specialist, Department of Agriculture. We will also be organizing farm visits while these energy specialists are in the area. Please call our office at 638-2395 to be added to the list.

TBA: Digby Farm Women's Day
TBA: Pasture Tour with AgraPoint
TBA: Orchard Tour with AgraPoint

Upcoming Food Safety Courses

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

February 22: Yarmouth

March 7: Kentville
March 14: Yarmouth
March 20: Shelburne
March 22: Bridgewater

April 11: Kentville
April 17: Digby
April 18: Lawrencetown
April 24: Yarmouth

May 9: Kentville
May 15: Shelburne
May 17: Bridgewater
May 29: Yarmouth
May 31: Digby

June 13: Kentville
June 20: Bridgewater



4-H

Congratulations to Emma Batson and Valorie DeLong who were chosen to attend the Kevin Grant Tour. Also, to Kristine Spidle and Erin Graves, who will be attending the Citizenship Seminar in Ottawa, beginning April 13.

Dates to Remember:

March 2-4: 4-H Leaders Conference, Debert

March 10-11: Chat-a-Rama, Brigadoon Village, Aylesford Lake

March 12-14: Kevin Grant Memorial Tour to South Shore

March 14: Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting, 7 p.m., Municipal Building, Lawrencetown

March 21: Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council meeting, 7 p.m., 4-H office

March 22: Digby County 4-H Leaders Council, 7 p.m., library