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Agriculture and Food Operations

NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 13 No.4

Sonic Devices Regulations in Effect

Nova Scotia farmers now have regulations to guide their use of devices that emit sounds to deter birds and animals from destroying crops or livestock.

The Sonic Devices Regulations under the *Farm Practices Act* set reasonable parameters for farmers, spelling out the volume and distance from property borders required to deter predators while not causing a disturbance for neighbours.

The regulations are designed to minimize the impact of sonic devices on neighbours and to maximize their effectiveness against crop predators. They reflect crops grown in Nova Scotia, and set the times when sonic devices may be used, the minimum intervals between firings, and minimum distances to other properties.

The regulations will affect mainly farmers who grow fruit, tree nuts, and grapes. There are about 475 farms in these categories in Nova Scotia. Most farmers will not have to make any changes to comply, and any changes that some farmers will need to make are minimal.



The regulations were recommended by the Farm Practices Board and are modeled on codes of practice in Ontario and British Columbia that are working well and have been generally supported by farmers. Nova Scotia has developed regulations because the *Farm Practices Act* only provides for regulations to be developed, rather than codes of practice.

To learn about sonic devices and best practices with them, the Department of Agriculture consulted subject matter experts at Perennia (formerly AgraPoint), the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, Horticulture Nova Scotia, the Grape Growers Association of Nova Scotia, and the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia.

The regulations are in effect as of August 31, 2012. They were published in the Royal Gazette on September 21 at www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/rg2/2012/se2112.pdf. They are posted under Agriculture, *Farm Practices Act* on the Registry of Regulations website at www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations.

Better Protection for Agricultural Land

Farmers, municipalities and the province will be able to better protect agricultural land in Nova Scotia, thanks to new information and guidance available to them.

A new report on agricultural land use includes 28 recommendations to help protect agricultural land from development and preserve it for the future.

“Taking good care of our land is a priority for government, and we are committed to helping municipalities and the agriculture industry do the same,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. “Farmers and others who rely on the land to help them earn a living know how important it is to protect and enhance it so it’s available now and for generations to come.”

The report identifies roles for the province, municipalities and the agriculture industry to protect and preserve land. It recommends a mix of regulations, bylaws, codes, policies, guidelines, incentives and education.

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Recommendations include:

- setting clearly defined land-use planning criteria
- considering more effective policies and other tools that help make agriculture businesses profitable
- building on initiatives that raise Nova Scotians' awareness of and support for agriculture
- clarifying roles and evaluating guidelines for soil erosion and removing topsoil
- minimizing conflicts between agriculture landowners and neighbours through municipal planning and raising awareness of industry needs

Also, under the *Municipal Government Act*, there are five statements of provincial interest that must be considered in comprehensive municipal planning. Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations will soon be seeking input from municipalities to improve the statement for agriculture.

In Nova Scotia, there are about 3,900 farms employing about 5,200 people. In 2011, the industry generated \$539.7 million in farm cash receipts and \$229 million in international exports.

“The protection of quality agricultural land is important not only to promote local food production, but as an economic driver for rural Nova Scotia,” said Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) president Jim Smith. “The UNSM looks forward to working with the province and municipalities to develop a consistent policy framework to address the protection of agricultural lands. The report recommendations represent a good first step.”

The framework recommends the agriculture industry continue working to raise awareness of its economic and community contributions, and to educate members on best practices to keep soil productive.

“We are pleased with the recommendations presented in the report on protecting and preserving agricultural land,” said Beth Densmore, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. “We continue to support the idea of a provincial framework for land use and encourage the Nova Scotia government to move forward in consultation with the farm community.”

The report was developed by a working group with representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations and Natural Resources. The group's report, *Protecting and Preserving Agricultural Land in Nova Scotia*, is available at www.gov.ns.ca/agri.



Exploring the New Farm Dream

A four-session course called “Exploring the New Farm Dream” will be held this November in five locations around the province: Cornwallis, Bridgewater, Halifax, Tatamagouche, and Port Hawkesbury. The goal of Exploring the New Farm Dream is to help aspiring farmers learn what is required to start and manage their own profitable agricultural business. It will help them decide whether or not this is the path they want or can take. For career changers looking for a new start, farm apprentices considering a start-up, or a hobby that has the potential to become profitable, Exploring the New Farm Dream is intended to bridge the gap between ideas and action. For more information, visit: www.gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm.

Celebration of Small-Scale Farming

Another successful Celebration of Small-Scale Farming was held on July 30. More than 150 people converged at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition Grounds for a day of farmer-led workshops on a range of topics, including, marketing meat, on-farm composting, sheep flock health, growing garlic, essential tools, and getting into farming in your ‘silver’ years. Thanks to the Eastern Regional Team, Perennia, and the Pictou Regional Development Agency for their assistance in organizing this year's event.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

AgriInsurance

Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program in Nova Scotia. This program is currently available for wildlife damage to 24 types of crops and/or predation by wildlife on 14 types of livestock, at no cost to producers. A complete list of eligible crops and livestock are available on the commission website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.

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

- Farmers must notify the commission as soon as possible and not later than 72 hours after the damage has occurred or has begun to occur.
- The cause of any loss must be confirmed by the commission.
- Industry production and protection standards must be followed to be eligible for a claim, (e.g., fencing, deterrents, etc., for honey or bumble bees - fencing or caging are required)
- For crop damage, you must incur a loss of 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 be eligible for compensation payments, you must be a current Registered Farm under the *NS Farm Registration Act*.

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.

Advanced Payments Program

Any producers thinking about participating in the Advance Payments Program in 2013 are reminded that many of the organizations administering this credit program may require you to have crop insurance as a condition of securing the loan. Any producer who is considering taking advantage of this interest free loan should contact the appropriate agency that is administering the loan for details on their requirements.

We will advise all producers to take note of the deadlines for applying for crop insurance if it is one of the conditions for obtaining a loan. In order to obtain coverage for 2013, new applicants must apply before the application deadline.

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

For more details on the program, including contacts for participating producer organizations who are administering the program, 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 will receive a coverage quote form(s) before the beginning of the crop year, for most of the above plans. 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.

Peaches Now Covered Under AgriInsurance

Nova Scotia peach growers can now insure their fresh fruit crop under the commission's existing Tree Fruit Plan for the 2013 year. Producers interested in participating must apply prior to November 30.

AgriInsurance Fall Harvest Season Reminders

- The crop year end for several fall harvested crops is quickly approaching. These include:
 - Corn - November 15
 - Potato - December 20
 - Soybean - November 1
 - Tree fruit - November 30
 - Vegetable - November 15

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- Your AgriInsurance contract requires you to report your harvest within 30 days of the last day of harvest or the end of the crop year whichever is earlier.
- If you are in a potential claim (your actual yield is less than your crop insurance production guarantee) then you must apply for a claim on a Proof of Loss form, no later than 30 days after harvest or the end of the crop year whichever is earlier.
- If you are unable to harvest your crop by the crop year end date, you must file a notice of damage and report the reasons to our office.

For information on any of our insurance plans, contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 or 893-6370 in Truro; 679-6015/6028 in Kentville, or visit our website www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.

Programs and Business Risk Management

AgriInvest and AgriStability

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

AgriInvest Deposit Notices

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

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

AgriStability

AgriStability is a margin-based program that provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a farmer's average income from previous years. If you are a participant in AgriStability, you will automatically be enrolled for each year and will be sent an enrollment notice and fee amount to be paid by a deadline.

New Participants or Farmers

AgriStability 2013 Enrolment Producers who did not enroll to participate in 2012 AgriStability and wish to participate in 2013 must request a new participant package before April 30, 2013. To request a 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.

The Genetic Enhancement Program

The Genetic Enhancement Program is still accepting applications. Eligible commodities include beef, sheep and goat livestock commodities. The objectives of the program are to increase the competitive position of livestock by investing in improved genetic material for Nova Scotia flocks and herds.

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



Continuing and Distance Education

Courses 2012-2013

Pesticide Applicator Certification
November 6-9

Introductory Welding
November 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29

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

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

New Farmer Courses
Soils, Beekeeping, Farm Machinery and more
Coming in 2013

For more information, contact:
Continuing and Distance Education
Dalhousie University, *Faculty of Agriculture*
PO Box 550
Truro, NS B2N 5E3
Tel: 893-6666
Fax: 895-5528
E-mail: cde@nsac.ca
Website: www.nsac.ca/cde/

Atlantic Mink Production Short Course, January 14 - 17, 2013

Mark your calendars for this Mink Production Course being brought to you in a partnership between Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University and Perennia. This course, held at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (formerly NSAC) will feature speakers from across the region and provide a forum for learning new skills and networking. Through classroom sessions and demonstrations in the

campus fur unit, participants will gain insight into production practices, health, codes of practice, grading, and new technologies in the industry. A detailed agenda will be available soon.

For more information, call Tracy Kittilsen at 893-6666; or email tracy.kittilsen@dal.ca; contact Nancy Smith at 896-0277 or email nsmith@perennia.ca.

Growth Through Innovation Conference Slated for December 6 in Truro

Perennia will be hosting The Innovation for Growth Conference on December 6 at Perennia Innovation Park in Truro/Bible Hill. Working with representatives from Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, an agenda has been developed focusing on entrepreneurs talking about how they have used innovation to spur growth, as well as processes participants can use after the conference to start thinking innovatively in their own agri-businesses. Value chains and their benefits/development will also be discussed.

A key component in the works is a resource kit to let participants know what people and resources are there to help as they move through a path toward innovation and growth, as well as an online community that can assist along the way.

Details are being finalized on the agenda and registration fee. Anyone interested can call or email Lynne Godlien at 678-7722 or lgodlien@perennia.ca. A conference website is in development. A pre-conference check in with participants will also be part of the process. Seating will be limited. Stay tuned for more information!



Nova Scotia 4-H Members to Attend the Royal Winter Fair

Nineteen 4-H livestock members with the highest caliber dairy and beef heifers were selected to be on the Nova Scotia teams participating in two prestigious cattle shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The selections for the Royal Dairy Classic and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic were made based on the quality of their calf on Saturday, September 29, at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

Ten Nova Scotia dairy members will compete against 4-H members from across Canada in the Royal Dairy Classic in November. Five members on the Nova Scotia dairy team are from Inverness County: Hayley, Robin and Darcie Wilson, Becky Lowe, and Sarah MacDonnell; Marshall Ellis and Andrew Eikelenboom are from Halifax East Hants; and Jacob Greenough from Hants County. The spare is Emma Thomson from Antigonish County.

Darcie Wilson won the Versteeg Memorial Award. This award is presented to a 4-H dairy member based on a 50/ 50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability.

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 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.

The nine members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic are Connor Morse, Victor Horsenell and Breagh Ross from Kings County; Sarah Manthorne and Brady Baker, Cumberland County; Wyatt Oulton and Jacoba Ronduis, Hants County; Andrew Greene, Pictou County; and Leanne

Lenihan, Lunenburg County. The spare is Makela Sears from Cumberland County.

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



4-H Member Wins Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

4-H members had the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for agriculture at the provincial Young Speakers for Agriculture competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Truro on September 28. Morgan MacNeil, Hants County won the provincial competition and will represent Nova Scotia 4-H at the 28th annual Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture National Senior Public Speaking Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario on Saturday, November 3.

The winner of the provincial competition is sponsored by the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and must be 16 - 24 years of age, as of January 1 to enter the national contest. During the competition, each contestant will give a five to seven-minute prepared speech on one of five selected topics, as well

as introduce and thank another speaker. Morgan's speech was titled The Importance of Water for Agriculture and Globalization.

4-H members are encouraged to do public speaking and demonstrations along with their project work during the 4-H year. Each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions. In an Ipsos Reid survey commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, 74 per cent of alumni said their experiences as a member was very beneficial in terms of contributing to personal or career experiences later in life. In particular they indicated that the 4-H program contributed to developing public speaking and presentation skills.

For more information, visit the website: <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/> .

Show Your 4-H Colours and Celebrate National 4-H Month

The celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the many benefits of the 4-H program, which continues to help thousands of youth in Nova Scotia reach their full potential.

In 4-H, the focus is on fun, friends, and learning cool new skills, such as, creating a scrapbook, designing a website, learning to care for animals, welding a garden arbour, or making a quilt.

“In 4-H, I’ve taken on various leadership roles including president of my club and the King’s County 4-H Leader’s Council president. I’ve also held office as the county and club vice-president, county secretary and treasurer,” said Meghan Chisholm, an 18-year-old from the Central Valley 4-H Club. “Through the Junior Leaders project, I’ve organized and lead events for the light horse and miniature horse project. I’m also involved with my county’s tug-of-war team and have met many life-long friends through this wonderful organization”.

Young people aged 9-21 can be a member in 4-H. 4-H encourages leadership development, care and responsibility for our resources and builds positive life skills to secure the future of rural communities. Originally, the 4-H clubs consisted mainly of farm youth and focused on livestock projects. Today, the 4-H program still has an agriculture base but prides itself with moving with the times, developing projects to meet the needs of modern youth.

Jessica Overmars’ experience with the St. Andrew’s 4-H Club in Antigonish County helped her build confidence and decide on a career as a pharmacist.

“4-H has prepared me for the future and has given me the skills to succeed. I have been accepted to a B.Sc. Program at St. F.X. University,” said 18-year-old Jessica. “I chose the program because science allows me to learn to do by doing, which is a skill I’ve acquired through years of practice as a 4-H member. Through 4-H, I’ve developed a good attitude towards learning, learned how to be a team player, participated in new experiences, developed responsibility, have acquired leadership skills and life-long skills to be successful in the competitive world of today.”

4-H members can choose from over 40 projects and still learn to do by doing. Projects help develop technical and record keeping skills in youth while teaching them responsibility. They take pride in doing their best, making decisions and seeing projects through to completion. Youth grow up with confidence in their own skills and talents, as well as the caring and sharing of community spirit. 4-H members also have the opportunity to travel on national and international exchange programs, participate in cutting-edge provincial and national conferences, as well as apply for more than \$100,000 in national scholarships.

We have so much to celebrate. A national survey of 4-H alumni conducted by Ispos Reid and commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council found that 88 per cent said the key goals and objectives of 4-H are relevant to today’s youth. Also, 85 per cent of former 4-H members would recommend membership to young people.

4-H Member to Attend the International Judging Seminar

Andrew Greene, a 4-H member from Pictou County will represent Nova Scotia at the Canadian National 4-H and Youth Judging Seminar during the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

During the Grand Champion Judging Competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in September, Andrew placed three livestock and three life skills classes and gave oral reasons on four of them to win the trip to Agribition.

From November 18 - 20, Andrew will attend the International 4-H Judging Seminar along with as many as 80 delegates from across Canada and the United States. This competition fosters the future development of young judges for the agricultural industry and provides a high profile and competitive judging experience.

Competitors must be 17 - 21 years of age to participate in this international judging competition.

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They will compete in judging livestock classes and provide oral reasons to a judge in identified classes.

Aggregate scores will be based on total scores of the classes plus scores of the oral reasons. Cash prizes will be awarded to the Grand Aggregate and the highest placing Canadian competitor.

During the year, Nova Scotia 4-H members learn to judge the

projects in which they are enrolled. Each member compares four items or animals (related to their project topic), places them from best to worst and give reasons for their placing. Besides developing confidence in 4-H members, the judging exercise teaches them decision making, communication skills and how to deliver their opinions with conviction.



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, 4-H Leadership Coord.

Antigonish Office

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.

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), 4-H 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, 4-H Leadership Coordinator,

South Shore

Valorie Oickle, 4-H 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

Dennis Moreman, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coord.

Jean Ward, 4-H Leadership Coord.

Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds for the remainder of the year are: Oct. 27, November 10 and 24. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

The next Lunenburg Queen's Federation of Agriculture Cattle sale will be held on Saturday, October 20 at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds. Sale starts at 12:30 p.m. For more information contact Peter Morine at 527-3274.

Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meetings

The Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture will hold their annual general meeting on Thursday, October 25, at 7 p.m., in Brooklyn.

Lunenburg Queens Co. Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 30, at 7p.m., at the Best Western in Bridgewater.

This year the Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture annual general meeting will take place on Thursday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m. The scheduled guest speaker is Liam Taylor from LaHave Forests speaking on Hascap Berry production. This year the format will be changed slightly. The AGM

will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner and dance beginning at 8 p.m. The cost of the dinner and dance will be \$10 per person, with advanced tickets required. Tickets may be purchased from any of the directors or by contacting Gail at Perennia at 678-7722.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will be held on November 29 and 30 at the Best Western Glengarry, Truro.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture office in Kentville still has a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids.

Updating the Mailing List

We are constantly updating our mailing list. If your address has changed, you no longer would like to receive this newsletter, or you would prefer to receive by e-mail, please contact Cheryl at 679-6021 or by e-mail ctheriau@gov.ns.ca.

Valley/South Shore 4-H

Fall marks the beginning of another 4-H year! Clubs are now starting to take registrations, so this is a great time to get involved with this rewarding program. The Valley region, consisting of Hants and Kings Counties, boasts a very strong 4-H program with 15 clubs that offer a wide range of livestock and life skills projects. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the 4-H program in Kings or Hants counties, do not hesitate to get in touch with Valorie Oickle, your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the Valley Region located in Kentville. Call 679-6027.

The South Shore region consisting of Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelburne Counties also has a strong 4-H program with 10 clubs. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the 4-H program in the South Shore area, do not hesitate to get in touch with Angie Garnet, your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator. Angie can be reached at 634-7575.

You can also log on to the Nova Scotia 4-H Website to find out more information about the program and youth movement at: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/ .

Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 893-3645
kittilma@gov.ns.ca

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator, 893-6586
hoytjm@gov.ns.ca

Theresa Osborne, Administrative Support, 893-6575 osborntc@gov.ns.ca

Central Region Agriculture Services Office

The Central Region Extension and Outreach office is moving to the Perennia Innovation Park at the end of November. The office houses the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Transition Officer, Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator and Administrative Support.

Perennia Innovation Park also houses Perennia (formerly known as AgraPoint), Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the majority of staff in the Department of Agriculture. This will truly make a central location for your agricultural needs.

The Central Region includes the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax East Hants. We are your one stop shop for Department of Agriculture services and information. If you have an agricultural need, question or opportunity that you would like to discuss, feel free to contact us.

Cumberland Food Action Network

The Cumberland Food Action Network is a new initiative by residents of Cumberland County to become more food secure. We are eaters, farmers, health care professionals, parents, teachers, community gardeners, and, most of all, food lovers. We want to support our communities to sustain food projects that will help all of us access good, healthy food for ourselves and our families.

If you are interested in where your food comes from, gardening, healthy eating, food preparation, and food preservation, we would like to invite you to join our network.

We are organizing some upcoming

food events which we will post on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CumberlandFoodActionNetwork.

For more information email Sarah at: sarahguthro@gmail.com.

Cumberland Federation Annual Meeting will be held the evening of October 27 at the Shinimicas Fire Hall. The annual meeting will be preceded by a roast beef dinner and a guest speaker.

Halifax East Hants Federation Annual Meeting will be October 25 starting at 7:30 p.m., upstairs at the Royal Canadian Legion in Shubenacadie.

First Aid Training

St. John Ambulance offers several first aid courses in throughout the province. Information on first aid training or to register for a course can easily be obtained on their website: www.sja.ca, or toll free 1 (800) 565-5056

They offer many courses designed to meet industry and business requirements. Emergency level first aid is a state-of-the-art, modular, course of basic skills and other select subjects needed to sustain life and manage the scene of an injury. Emergency First Aid is recommended for worksites with one to 19 employees per shift.

Emergency First Aid + CPR Level A
Time: 8 hours (1 day)
Fee: \$80 per person

Emergency First Aid Recertification
Time: 3.5 hours (1/2 day)
Fee: \$60 per person

Central Region 4-H News

The Central Region had a busy and exciting summer. Over the summer there were 19 4-H Club Achievement Days in the Central Region. It was wonderful to see all the hard work and effort the 4-H members put into their livestock and life skills projects over the past year. In August, all three counties took part in their local exhibitions, with much success.

This fall, we hope to have lots of new families join the 4-H movement. We welcome returning members and leaders back to 4-H. There will be meeting management/executive workshops coming up over the next few months. The first will be on November 20 for Halifax East Hants. The second will be on November 28 in Colchester County. Please contact your general leader for more information.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Council Meetings:

October, 22, and November 26, upstairs in the Agri-dome beginning at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:

November, 6 and December 4, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meetings:

October, 23 (Cole Harbour), November, 20 (location TBA), 7 p.m.

County 4-H Award Nights

Halifax-East Hants County, October 25, Campbell Hall

Colchester County, November 3, Onslow Junior High (Scholarship Auction and Awards Night)

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 .



Meetings

Inverness-Victoria Federation of Agriculture - Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 24, at the Skye Glen Hall, starting at 10 a.m.

Cape Breton Richmond Federation of Agriculture - General Meeting

Tuesday, October 30, at the Federation Grounds in North Sydney, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Soil and Water Sampling

The Strathlorne Nursery is now accepting soil and water samples for delivery to our labs in Truro. Sample kits and information can be picked up at their main office in the main building. For more information, contact Shirley MacArthur at 258-2626.

Exploring the New Farm Dream Workshop

Starting November 8 in Port Hawkesbury and running once a week for four weeks.

If you would like more information or a registration form, please contact 563-2000.

Hay For Sale?

The Cape Breton Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2012-13 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list or you are looking to purchase hay, please call our office at 563-2000.

Upcoming Winter Workshops for Cape Breton:

Dairy Nutrition

First Aid for Farmers

Pesticide Training

Marketing Workshop

Victoria County Meet and Greet

Blueberries and Beekeepers

Hops, Hemp and Haskap - Ag. Opportunities for Nova Scotia

If you would like any information on these workshops, please call or e-mail our office at 563-2000 or kozielgj@gov.ns.ca.



Cape Breton Regional 4-H

National Member Conference - Winners

Congratulations to our national award members attending the National Members Conference held in Montreal, from September 19 – 23. There were 13 delegates from across the province attending this event. Our regional winners had the opportunity to attend some very creative programming this year. The delegates attending were Ian Lewis and Amber Lovell from Cape Breton County.

Congratulations and special thanks for Jane Lewis (Rising Sun 4-H leader) for assisting with leader chaperoning for this event.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2012

Please pre-register for food handlers courses by contacting Catherine at the Department of Agriculture office in Sydney at 563-2000.

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/applications.shtml.

October 30	Port Hawkesbury Civic Center	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
November 14	Bras d'Or Hall, Villa Drive, Bras d'Or	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
November 27	Port Hawkesbury Civic Center	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
December 11	Bras d'Or Hall, Villa Drive, Bras d'Or	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Judging 101

Judging 101 will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 9:15 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Millville Hall in Millville. This workshop is an opportunity for those interested in becoming an exhibition or community fair judge to learn new skills. It is also a chance for experienced judges to refresh their skills. Exhibitors and those interested in learning more about how items are evaluated are also invited to take in the session. There will be four skill areas of concentration available. Sessions will be provided in, crafts, foods, photography, and garden/floriculture. Participants will select one area in which they wish to focus for the day.



Fall Craft Co-op Workshop - Saturday, November 10, 2012 - Port Hawkesbury

Interested in learning some new skills? 4-H members, leaders, parents, and community members are invited to participate in the Fall Craft Co-op Workshop. Various life-skills projects will be offered to provide fresh ideas for members and leaders alike. The program will be held at the Evergreen Senior Club, Embree Street, Port Hawkesbury, beginning at 10 a.m. The sessions included are; scrapbooking (instructor Gail Ryan), quilting (Barb Mac Intyre) and cake decorating – basics (instructor Jennifer Brown) For more information, contact the 4-H office.

The cost of the Judging 101 workshop is \$10, which includes lunch. A minimum number of participants is required for each focus area in order for that session to take place, so please respect the application deadline.

Tentative Judging 101 Workshop Schedule

- 9:15 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Introduction to judging, ethics and professionalism in judging
- 10:30 a.m. Short snappers – the little things that make a big difference
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch/discussion
- 12 p.m. Judging standards for the skill area you selected
- 1 p.m. You be the judge – hands on judging
- 3 p.m. Wrap up and evaluations

Important Dates

- October 29 Richmond County meet and greet (3 p.m.), banquet (4 p.m.) and annual meeting – Camp Rankin
- November National 4-H Month
- November 8 Inverness Council meeting and resolution review – 9:30 a.m., NSDA office
- November 13 Richmond County Council meeting and resolution review, 7 p.m., Smith's in Dundee
- November 15 Deadline for National Members awards
- November 16-17 Annual meeting, Truro
- November 18 Cape Breton annual meeting and banquet, Rising Sun hosting
- November 27 Cape Breton Regional New Leader Training Session, 6 p.m., Civic Center
- November 27 Cape Breton County National Award interviews, 4 p.m., Civic Center
- December 1 Annual registration for all leaders and members due in 4-H office
- December 13 Inverness County National Award interviews, tentative
- December 14 Richmond County National Award interviews, tentative 2013 4-H Theme “100 Years of 4-H Green in 2013”

As the 4-H season winds down we would like to recognize the efforts of our 4-H leaders, members, parents and friends of 4-H. On behalf of regional staff, we would like to thank all of you, for your energy and dedication this year. Your efforts are obvious in the quality of the members that our region is showcasing locally and at a provincial level.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Regional office in Sydney at 563-2000, or the Mabou office at 945-2901.

Pictou/North Colchester Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting will take place October 30 at the West River Fire Hall.

Guest speaker: Ian MacLennan from Parrish and Heimbecker.

Topic: Present and future of oilseed productions and markets in Nova Scotia.

The event will begin with a roast beef dinner at 6:30 followed by the guest speaker and business at 7:30. Please RSVP by October 22.

***Be sure to celebrate
November as National 4-H
Month!***

4-H News

Interested in learning some new skills? 4-H members, leaders, parents, and community members are invited to participate in the Fall Craft Co-op Workshop being held on November 10. There will be a light potluck lunch break offered for participants. For more information and registration forms, contact the 4-H office. The deadline for submission is **October 10**. The program will be held at the Evergreen Senior Club on Embree Street, Port Hawkesbury with a 10 a.m. start time. All applications will be accepted on a first come basis.

There will be workshops on the following:

Scrapbooking recipe book for youth 14 years and up as well as adults, cost is \$25.

Quilted placemats for youth 14 years and up as well as adults, cost is \$25.

Cake decorating basics for youth 9 years and up, as well as adults, cost is \$25.

Reminders:

Antigonish

November 8
Antigonish County Awards
7 p.m.

Pictou

October 24
Council meeting and resolution review, 7 p.m., Northumberland

November 8
Pictou County Celebrate 4-H Night, 7 p.m., WA MacLeod School

November 14
Annual meeting

November 16,17
NS Council annual meeting in Debert

November 21
Council meeting and set dates for 2013, 7 p.m., Northumberland

December 2
Leaders Christmas social 7 p.m., Mings in New Glasgow



Provincial Show 2012 Local Results:

Antigonish County

Champion 4 Showroom Class Rabbit
Champion 6 Showroom Class Rabbit
Reserve Champion Market Lamb
Grand Champion Market Turkey
Champion Rabbit Judge
Champion Scrapbooking Judge
Reserve Champion Floriculture Judge
Reserve Champion Sr. Sewing Article
Reserve Champion Jr. Great Outdoors
Reserve Champion Sr. Small Engines
Reserve Champion Sr. Floriculture
Reserve Champion Jr. Photography
Reserve Champion Jr. First Aid
Reserve Champion Rabbit Showman
Craft Competition
Photography Competition
Reserve Champion Tug-of-War
Classic Royal Dairy

Guysborough County

Champion Sheep Showman

Pictou County

Champion Poultry Showmanship
Champion Miniature Horse Judge
Champion Waterfowl Judge
Champion Crafts Judge
Champion Woodworking Judge
Champion Floriculture Judge
Champion First-Aid Judge
Champion Poultry Trio
Champion Waterfowl Pair
Champion Sr. Woodworking Article
Champion Jr. Welding Article
Woodworking Competition

Record Keeping Competition 2.
Sheep Clipping Competition

Champion Tug-of-War Team
Champion Overall Judge
Reserve Champion Rabbit Judge
Reserve Champion Overall Judge
Reserve Champion Draft Horse Driving
Reserve Champion Shorthorn Calf
Reserve Champion Poultry Judge
Reserve Champion Photography Judge
Reserve Champion Jr. Sewing Article
Reserve Champion Sr. Cake Decorating
Reserve Champion Sr. Garden Article
Reserve Champion Vet Science
Reserve Grand Champion Livestock Showman
Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer

Julia Vosman
Jorden Vosman
Connie VandenHeuvel
James vande Sande
Jordan Vosman
Miranda Teasdale
Hannah Chisholm
Kenzie MacNeil
Caden McLaren
Jacob VanVonderen
Hannah Chisholm
Kendra Vigneau
Kaitlyn Kelly
Jordan Vosman
Sr. 2nd Rachael Bekkers
Jr. 1st Sarah van den Heuvel
Antigonish County
Emma Thomson (spare)

Breanna Sinclair

Andrew Greene
Fiona MacKenzie
Andrew Greene
Kayla Graham
Kayla Graham
Margaret Sutherland
Savannah Lees
Felicia Graham
Andrew Greene
Derek Gladney
Nick Dykestra
Jr.1st Kaitlyn Heighton
Sr.2nd Kayla Graham
Brianna Sutherland
1st Place Team -
Margaret and Emily Sutherland
Pictou County
Kayla Graham
Andrew Greene
Andrew Greene
Fiona MacKenzie
Hayley Scotland
Kayla Graham
Ainslie Campbell
Jade Butler
Joshua Sharpe
Joshua Sharpe
Andrew Greene
Andrew Greene
6th Andrew Greene

Top County

1. Cumberland
2. Hants
3. Halifax East Hants
4. Victoria
5. Antigonish
6. Richmond
7. Pictou
8. Kings
9. Lunenburg
10. Inverness



Antigonish Farmers' Market Association will be operating from their regular location in the 4-H Building at the Exhibition Grounds on James Street, behind the Arena every Saturday until and including December 22 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Antigonish Farmers Market is always actively seeking food vendors. If you have extras in your garden, would like to grow to sell direct to consumers, would like to prepare foods to sell direct to consumers, or maybe you are looking for feedback from consumers on a product you make, the Farmers Market is a great first step in getting your product out in the public. For more information on becoming a vendor, contact Veronica by calling or texting 867-7479.

Website:
www.antigonishfarmersmarket.org
Email: AFMA@bell.blackberry.net
Face Book:
www.facebook.com/antigonishfarmersmarketassociation

The Market closes for the winter (January to April) and reopens in May 2013.

Food Trade Show Showcases Local Foods For Consumers

Pictou County's second Food Trade Show will be held Wednesday, October 24, from 4-8 p.m., at Summer Street Industries, New Glasgow. Last year's show was for restaurant owners. This year, it is all about consumers.

The Food Trade Show will have about 30 vendors showcasing produce such as beef, chicken, organic cheeses, honey, vegetables, blueberries, organic garlic and more. Producers are inviting consumers to come and sample quality homegrown foods prepared by qualified chefs of Summer Street Industries and talk about how they can buy it locally.

The food trade show held last fall for producers and restaurants, the first of its kind in Pictou County,

was a successful first step in encouraging local restaurants to offer patrons more options of high quality local meats, produce and fish. Restaurants which offer 15 per cent or more local products on their menus will be able to promote this with a new local foods identification program.



Sue, owner of BaKED Food Caf Inc., uses the logo to let customers know she is accessing local foods whenever possible.

“At BaKED, we're proud to display and utilize the logo through our menu, front counter, mailbox and Facebook. It has been a great conversation starter, it's used as a cross promotional tool but also to raise awareness about our food issues, trends and future initiatives. Our customers are very supportive, appreciative and well connected within the community, which allows us to expand our intentions and explore new markets, suppliers, products and opportunities on a constant basis.”

Any restaurants looking for more information are invited to attend this year's food trade show. The logo criteria will be available and development officer Kelly McVicar will be on hand for more details to explain the verification process.

It is fall already! We hope you have had a successful 2012 season despite challenges that come with dry conditions. It is hard to believe two seasons could be as opposite as this summer and the one before.

Energy Efficiency

Last spring our Farm Energy Specialist, Julie Bailey, did a number of site visits to help farmers and agri-businesses figure out what programs could help them increase their energy efficiency and reduce costs. To book a visit from Julie, give her a call at 896-4473.

Efficiency NS has some great programs that farmers can tap into. One of them is Business Energy Solutions. They send someone to do a free initial assessment of ways you can improve energy efficiency, give you a proposal for changes that can be made, and they even offer to pay up to 80 per cent of the cost.

- Fluorescent lighting
- Occupancy sensors and lighting controls **New**
- High efficiency EMC motor replacements **New**
- Refrigeration economizers **New**

There are also some in-store rebates available for commercial equipment and there is a whole section for agriculture technologies. So if you are looking to purchase equipment, take a look at this list before you do (if you do not have access the internet we can print and mail it to you): www.energycyns.ca/for_business/energy_savings_programs/business_energy_rebates/Approved_products/

Programs

The Genetic Enhancement Program for beef, sheep and goat (meat not dairy) is still open. The program guidelines and application can be found online at: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/genetic_enhancement.shtml You can also call our office to pick up an application or have it mailed to you.

Kitchen Table Meetings

If anyone is interested in hosting a small group session (kitchen table meeting) at their farm or facility, contact us and we will organize a peer-to-peer session for farmers or bring in production experts. Topics could include general commodity production (beef, sheep, vegetables, etc.), how to overcome labour issues, financing and how to grow your business, marketing, energy efficiency solutions, succession, etc.

New Farmers

Are you considering getting into farming or know someone who is? We are offering Exploring the New Farm Dream, a course to help people evaluate their skills and resources before taking the plunge. It will take place in Cornwallis every Tuesday night in November from 6-9 p.m.

Pasture Tour

As a follow-up to the forage day we hosted last December, we would like to organize a pasture tour this fall. We ask all who are interested to contact our office and let us know what would work for you (day/evening/weekend) and what information you would like to get out of it.

Business Support

Farmers need to have a lot of skills nowadays and it is hard to be really good at all of them. The good news is that there are so many organizations and programs out there that can help guide you through issues. If you feel like you need help with business related topics – start-up, expansion, financing, setting goals, etc., there is a lot of support available to you. Call Nicole Burkhard at 638-2397 if you would like to talk about what you are doing and where you want to go.

Food Safety Courses 2012 - 2013

Bridgewater

all 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December 13
March 21
May 16
June 20

Lawrencetown

all 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 14
April 17

Shelburne

all 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December 11
March 19
May 14

Kentville

all 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 7
December 5
January 16
February 13
March 6
April 10
May 8
June 12

Yarmouth

all 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 7
December 4
January 10
February 5
March 5
April 9
May 9
June 4

Digby

all 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

December 12
February 13
April 16
June 13

4-H news from Western Region

Registration forms for the new 4-H year are available from the 4-H office at 86 Atlantic Ave., Cornwallis Park.

October 18, Awards banquet for the Digby County 4-H members, leaders and families.

October 21, Yarmouth County 4-H awards banquet, 4 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Travel award winners Erin Graves and Heather Sweeney will speak.

