

AGNEWS

Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture



May 2013

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Select Nova Scotia

Choosing Nova Scotia products will be easier than ever thanks to increased funding for Select Nova Scotia, the province's buy-local marketing initiative.



A new \$250,000 investment by the province doubles program funding to \$500,000 for Select Nova Scotia beginning this year. The successful provincial marketing program was launched in 2007 to promote local food products by increasing consumer awareness.

The additional funding will allow for a more robust marketing campaign, which began on television and online in late March. It also includes a redesign of Select Nova Scotia's logo to showcase the provincial flag--making it even easier to identify local products.

Continued on next page...

Home Grown Success Programs Update

The Department of Agriculture is looking forward to launching the Homegrown Success programs in the next few weeks.

Announcements will be made through the NSDA website, the NSFA E-news, newsletters and our regional offices. Watch for an information session in your region (<http://gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/>).

To apply for Homegrown Success programs, farmers need to provide a statement of farming income, an environmental farm plan (for BMP's) appendix, and a current farm registration number.

For more information, contact:

Steven Tattrie, M.Sc., P. Ag
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Business Risk Management Coordinator
Perennia Innovation Park
60 Research Drive, Suite A
Bible Hill, NS, B6L2R2
Phone: 893-6374
Fax: 893-7579

*Watch our website for
upcoming program
announcements.*

www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/



More than 400 businesses across the province are part of the Select Nova Scotia network. The program supports local businesses by sponsoring signature events including the Incredible Picnics in August and the Incredible Community Suppers in February, which together attracted more than 9,500 participants in 2012.

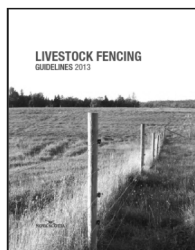
Since Select Nova Scotia began, awareness of buying local has increased 33 per cent among Nova Scotians, more farmers' markets are popping up across the province, and Nova Scotians are buying more local food.

The website www.selectnovascotia.ca has information on local products, where to buy local, recipes for seasonal foods, events and attractions featuring local products, and the benefits of eating and buying local. It gets over 30,000 hits annually.

If you would like to have your farm or agri-business listed on the Select Nova Scotia website, please contact Nicole Burkhard (902-638-2397 or burkhane@gov.ns.ca).

Please follow Select Nova Scotia on:

Twitter: @SelectNS (<https://twitter.com/SelectNS>) and Facebook: Select Nova Scotia (<https://www.facebook.com/selectns>)



New Fencing Resource

The Department of Agriculture, NSFA, Perennia, and Colchester Municipality have collaborated to produce a booklet on Livestock Fencing Guidelines. This 10-page illustrated booklet includes an overview of fencing for all types of livestock, and provides detailed information on the main types of fencing used in Nova Scotia. It is available to download on the Department of Agriculture

website at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fencing-guidelines-2013.pdf>. Hard copies are available at regional offices.



Nova Scotia Hops Growing Guide

A Nova Scotia Hop Growers Guide was commissioned by the Annapolis-Digby Economic Development Association to assist individuals and businesses wishing to develop a hop yard or hop farm in the Annapolis Digby region of Nova Scotia. However, most of the information is applicable across the province.

The guide outlines what is involved in choosing a site to grow hops and the resources and investments required to establish a small-scale commercial hopyard.

Hop growing requires a suitable growing environment, production knowledge, skills, and a market for the hops that will be produced. The guide also explores the operation of a hopyard and the potential market opportunity for hop sales within the province.

This guide is available on the THINKFARM webpage, under the Publications bullet - www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/hop-grower-guide2013.pdf.

2013 Nova Scotia Agricultural Exhibitions



- South Shore Exhibition - July 23 - 28, Bridgewater
- Western Nova Scotia Exhibition - July 30 - August 3, Yarmouth
- Shelburne County Exhibition - August 6 - 10, Shelburne
- Annapolis Valley Exhibition - August 12 - 17, Lawrencetown
- Halifax County Exhibition - August 14 - 17, Middle Musquodoboit
- Cape Breton County Exhibition - August 12 - 17, North Sydney
- Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition - August 20 - 24, Truro/Bible Hill
- Digby County Exhibition - August 21 - 24, Bear River
- Cumberland County Exhibition - August 27 - 31, Oxford
- Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition - August 28 - September 1, Antigonish
- Pictou/North Colchester Exhibition - September 4 - 7, Pictou
- Hants County Exhibition - September 13 - 15 & September 20 - 22, Windsor
- Queens County Exhibition - September 17 - 21, Caledonia
- Nova Scotia 4-H Show - September 27 - 29, Bridgewater
- Maritime Fall Fair - October 10 - 14, Halifax

2013 Nova Scotia Community Fairs

- New Ross Community Fair - August 12 - 17, Lunenburg County
- Barrington Municipal Exhibition - August 16 - 18, Shelburne County
- Dalhousie Community Fair - August 24, Kings County
- West Kings Community Fair - August 31, Tremont, Kings County
- Victoria County Fair - September 7, Victoria County
- Mira Ferry Community Fair - September 14, Cape Breton County
- Christmas Island Fair - September 14, Cape Breton County
- Port Morien Fair - September 14, Cape Breton County

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
ernestgl@gov.ns.ca

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Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Agriculture
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Adam Wile, Agricultural Transition Officer

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Rhonda MacDougall (Mabou) and Marina Gillis
(Sydney), Agriculture
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Extension and Outreach Western Region

Karen Wong-Petrie, Acting Manager

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Valorie Skinner, Agriculture Leadership
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Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer,
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Hana Nelson, Agricultural Transition Officer,
Lunenburg

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

Gina Saulnier, Admin. Assistant

Jeff Wentzell, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coordinator

Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer

Celebration OF SMALL-SCALE FARMING

Monday, July 22, 2013

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Explore how today's small-scale farmers are building on the strong foundation of traditional farming knowledge and practices with modern production technology, farm business management and marketing.

Interactive Sessions

plant teas
brewing and applying
forage clinic
soil clinic
basket weaving
fibre arts

Workshops

pastured poultry
pastured pork
grass farming 101
commercial cheese making
agri-tourism
selling vegetables at
farmers' markets
jams and jellies
cut flower production
seed saving
pushing the climate
boundary for vegetables
hops production

LOCATION

Digby Co. Exhibition Grounds
854 Riverview Road, Bear River

ADMISSION

Single admission: \$20

(\$15 for students/farm interns)

(includes \$5 in food vendor coupons)

Family admission: \$40

(includes \$10 in food vendor coupons)

Children under 12: free

Activities for children aged 4-11 will be held
throughout the day

REGISTRATION

*Pre-registration and pre-payment required
by July 17, 2013*

For more information or to register,

visit novascotia.ca/agri/cssf

call (902) 638-2395

email saulnigl@gov.ns.ca

Cash, cheque and credit card accepted

Reviewing Your Financial Picture: *Where to go from here?*

Tax season is almost over and now is a good time to review your financial statements to improve the future of your farm business.

Evaluating your balance sheet can help you identify whether your assets are contributing to your net income. When evaluating your assets, consider grouping them into income and non-income generating assets. If you have non-income generating assets, consider liquidating them and either replace them with assets that will generate income, or use the money to pay down debt. This strategy can result in a stronger bottom line.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board has been supporting positive growth in agriculture in rural Nova Scotia for many years. As you review your plans and financial statements, the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board has many options for structuring your agricultural development loans. The Farm Loan Board offers both term (A) and full amortization (B) period loans. Rates for the current quarter as of April 1, 2013 are as follows:

Term / Amortization	Interest Rates			
	Three-year Term	Five-year Term	Ten-year Term	Full
1 to 5 years	2.70 %	2.85 %	--	2.95 %
6 to 10 years	2.70 %	3.05 %	3.50 %	3.50 %
11 to 15 years	2.85 %	3.20 %	3.85 %	4.00 %
16 to 20 years	2.85 %	3.25 %	4.20 %	5.30 %
21 to 25 years	2.85 %	3.25 %	4.20 %	5.75 %
26 to 30 years	2.85 %	3.30 %	4.25 %	5.75 %

- A) The term rates are available at various amortization periods to clients meeting risk, cash flow and collateral requirements.
- B) The full amortization interest rates are locked in for the full length of the loan. These rates provide clients with protection against future increased interest rate hikes, which can help assist in stabilizing future cash flows.

Agricultural lending specialists at our Truro or Kentville offices encourage you to contact us to review your options. More details are available online at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/farmlb or by phoning either 902-893-6506(Truro) or 902-679-6009 (Kentville).

Advance Payment Program (APP)

Once again, the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has been asked by the federal government to administer the Advance Payment Program for 2013-14. The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products by extending an advance to producers as a means of improving cash-flow.

Any individual or farm business can receive an interest-free advance of up to \$100,000. Producers repay the advance by December 31, 2013 for the spring portion of the program. If crops are in storage, an individual or farm business may participate in the fall portion of the program with repayment of advances by September 30, 2014. Crops usually covered include barley, corn, oats, rye, hay, soybeans, and spring and winter wheat.

Producers must have crop insurance to be eligible for the spring portion of the program. Also, producers must allow SCIANS to conduct a third party credit check. Producers must provide SCIANS with an assignment on the crop insurance policy. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged to producers to cover the cost of administering the program. To learn more about the program, contact Carol Versteeg at carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca or 1-902-758-3530.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Wildlife Compensation for Blueberry Growers and Bee Keepers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers the Wildlife Compensation Program for the province. This program provides compensation to growers who lose their crop as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This also applies to honey bees and bumblebees or leafcutter bees. To be eligible you must:

- Be a registered farmer under the Farm Registration Act.
- Report the damage to the Commission within 72 hours.
- Experience damage to crops affecting at least two acres or experience a loss of at least \$250.
- Follow industry production and protection standards (e.g., fencing or caging of bee hives).
- Have damage that is readily identifiable, recent and measurable.

New Policy for Bumblebee Quads

For the 2013 crop year, the Commission will be implementing the following policy for settling compensation claims for bumblebee quads. Provided all other requirements for compensation are met, damage to bumblebee quads will be covered according to the following:

1. Full compensation (80%) will be paid where no more than 50% of bloom in a field has expired at the time of damage.
2. 50% compensation will be paid where between 50-80% of bloom in a field has expired at the time of damage.
3. No compensation will be paid where 80% or more of the bloom in a field has expired at the time of damage.

Compensation may be paid in the event the quads were intended for another use after the blueberry bloom if the producer can:

1. provide a contract for the sale of the quads; or
2. provide a statement by another party about the intended sale; or
3. show Commission Staff the new destination field requiring pollination.

Quads intended for another field must be removed from the original fields immediately after bloom. Where quads used on a second crop field experience wildlife damage, compensation will be limited to 50% or less and will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Commission's Field Agent.

Forage Producers

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 new forage crop from the time of seeding 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 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 after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage can be offered. This plan offers two levels of coverage: \$200/acre coverage (producer premium = \$4.00/acre) and \$100/acre coverage (producer premium = \$2.00/acre).

Crop Insurance Reporting Reminders

Crop Insurance clients are reminded of the following reporting requirements:

- File a seeding report no later than 10 days after planting.
- **Report damage when it occurs and within five days of any potential loss or damage. File this report regardless of whether you believe you may have a claim. If damage is not apparent until harvest you must provide a Notice of Damage either while harvesting or within five days of harvest. You can mail, fax, or phone in these reports.**
- File accurate yield information within 30 days of harvest.
- If you believe you have an insurance claim, apply using a Proof of Loss within 30 days of harvest or the end of the crop year (whichever is earlier).

For information on any of our insurance plans, contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission 1-800-565-6371 Truro, or 902-679-6015/6028 Kentville, or visit our website www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.



Energy Rebate Programs for Agriculture

Efficiency NS has energy rebate programs for businesses and home owners, including farmers. The Business Energy Rebates program provides in-store and mail-in rebates when you purchase and install energy efficient products. These include agriculture technologies such as: ventilation fans, circulation fans, high-volume low-speed fans, low-energy or zero-energy livestock waterers, heat pads, engine block heater timers, dairy scroll compressors, heat reclaimer units, milk pre-coolers (plate coolers), and vacuum pump VSDs.

This program also has rebates on many other products such as efficient lighting, efficient motors and refrigeration equipment. For example: ENERGY STAR® washing machines, LED light bulbs, LED parking lot lights, HPT8 or T5 lights for low bay and high bay, evaporator fan motor controllers, strip curtains and outside air economizers. You can also get a 0% interest loan over two years on the purchase of efficient equipment. For more information on the Business Energy Rebate Program, please contact Efficiency NS at 1-877-999-6035, ber@efficiencyns.ca or www.efficiencyns.ca.

The Business Energy Solutions program provides a free energy assessment by a contractor/electrician and up to 60% funding for upgrades. This program works well for anyone with T12 fluorescent tube lighting, Mercury Vapor or Metal Halide lighting or incandescent lighting. Typically, farms have these lights replaced with High Performance T8 fluorescent tube lighting which can potentially use half the energy of the old lights. Occupancy sensors, lighting controls and heat pumps may also be funded. Also, electric hot water tank and pipe insulation are included free of charge. You can also get a 0% interest loan over two years on costs not covered by the rebate. For more information on the Business Energy Solutions Program, please contact Efficiency NS at 1-877-999-6035, bes@efficiencyns.ca or www.efficiencyns.ca.

The Custom program provides funding for measures that reduce electrical consumption by at least 20,000 kWh annually. It includes 50% funding (max \$1000) for a scoping study, 100% (max \$15,000) for a feasibility study and up to 50% (max \$500,000) for implementation. This program is typically for medium and large industrial customers but any farm operation not billed on residential rates may qualify. Projects costs can be financed at 0% interest for two years. For more information on the Custom program, please contact Efficiency NS at 1-877-999-6035, custom@efficiencyns.ca or www.efficiencyns.ca.

There are other programs available through Efficiency NS and elsewhere. For more information on Efficiency NS programs and funding, please contact them at 1-877-999-6035 or www.efficiencyns.ca.

Summer Learning at the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

Cultivating Agriculture, Food and Health- Learn, Contribute and Collaborate

Cultivating Agriculture, Food and Health aims to gather key players from the Atlantic region to work together to explore the ways that our agricultural and food systems can improve the health and the lives of Atlantic Canadians. We need you at the table.

Join us at the Agriculture Campus in Truro, NS, from June 19-21 to work towards the outcome of a healthier Atlantic Canada. The format includes presentations and open discussions to address key questions around the forum themes. Participants will also work in facilitated sessions to bring their own expertise to bear on the key questions.

Registration is limited so visit our website or contact us today to book your seat!

Master Gardener Summer School

This summer school encompasses a week of great learning activities for the classroom and outdoors and is open to anyone with an interest in expanding his or her gardening knowledge and skills. Join us on campus from July 8-12 for Level I and July 11-12 for Level II.

Topics include plant propagation, garden maintenance, pest management, and much more! Visit our website for complete schedules and registration information.

We have changed our name!

Continuing and Distance Education has now become Extended Learning at the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University. Extended Learning provides opportunities to address pressing issues important to agriculture. By combining specialties found within the Faculty of Agriculture, we increase avenues for knowledge transfer, mobilization and application to the industry. We remain committed to providing training solutions for agriculture and look forward to connecting with our stakeholders to continue to strengthen the industry.

Based in theory, experience and evaluation, our learning programs and products deliver excellence. For more information on these events or to see what else we have to offer please visit our new website at: <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning.html> or contact us by email at extended.learning@dal.ca or phone us at 902-893-6666.



DALHOUSIE
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Inspiring Minds

*Faculty of
Agriculture*



Food Safety Team Event: Shelf Life Determination

Consumers are becoming more knowledgeable about food quality and are paying close attention to food labels. One area of concern is the expiration date and shelf life of foods in the supermarkets. Determining the shelf life of a food product involves considering the microbiological, physical and chemical deterioration of the food product over time and using the appropriate analytical and sensory methods to assess product quality.

DATE: June 13, 2013

Fee: \$695.00 + HST

Location: Truro

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2013

For more information: http://www.perennia.ca/fs_shelflife.html

Bee Line

At the request of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of NS and NS Beekeepers Association joint pollination committee, Perennia manages a Bee Line that is a volunteer listing of beekeepers and their available hives for pollination. The list will help connect blueberry growers who need bee hives to pollinate their blueberry fields, with beekeepers who have available hives to rent. For more information on this service: <http://www.perennia.ca/beeline.php>

Monilinia Blight Line

The Monilinia Blight line is provided by the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia and Perennia, along with Delbridge Disease Management. For timely reports, please visit Perennia's Lowbush Blueberry Blog: <http://www.novascotiawildblueberryblog.com/>.

Guides to Pest Management

The Guides to Pest Management for both fruits and vegetables have been updated for 2013. These guides are meant to be used as a reference for pest control options. Pesticide labels are the best source of information and should always be consulted prior to using a product.

Vegetable Guides: <http://www.perennia.ca/vegetables.php>

Fruit Guides: <http://www.perennia.ca/fruit.php>

For more information, contact Perennia Extension and Food Safety Services at:

32 Main Street
Kentville, NS B4N 1J5
Phone: 678-7722

199 Innovation Drive
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2H5
Phone: 896-0277



Provincial 4-H News

100 Years of 4-H Green in 2013



2013 marks the 100th Anniversary of 4-H in Canada. 4-H began in Roland Manitoba and it is here where celebrations for this milestone will begin. Centennial festivities will be part of the Canadian 4-H Council's Annual General Meeting, May 28 - June 3.

Delegates from 4-H Leaders Councils across Canada will celebrate this milestone event on May 30 at a special 100th anniversary gala evening themed *Food for Thought*, a nod to the importance of food production, sustainability and the role of youth as future leaders in feeding a growing planet. It is also an opportunity to highlight community service, and the progress of the 4-H 100th anniversary food drive taking place in communities across Canada. Also at this event, a Canada Post commemorative envelope marking the 4-H Centennial will be unveiled.

Since 1913, 4-H in Canada has grown to 35,000 members and 10,000 leaders across Canada. 4-H enriches the lives of young people and volunteers and gives them the opportunity to develop leadership, sportsmanship, and technical and life skills in a structured, family-oriented atmosphere. This leadership program teaches responsibility, confidence and poise, preparing youth to become the agricultural, business, government and civic leaders of the future. 4-H volunteers make a difference in the lives of young people by teaching many skills to a new generation, while watching them grow and have fun.

Other national events taking place in 2013 include: the *Do More With Less Recipe Challenge*; a national food drive; *\$100 for 100 years* fundraising campaign; *Shout Out for Ag* video competition sponsored by FCC (where 4-H members, clubs and leaders create a 30-second video expressing a positive message about agriculture); a *Living 4-H History* website showcasing and celebrating the past and present of 4-H in Canada; and a global *4-H Youth Ag Summit* for youth ages 18-25, in Calgary, Alberta on August 19-25, 2013.

Join us in celebrating 100 years of our greatest achievement - our future, our youth!

For more information on the 100th celebration, contact www.4-h-canada.ca. Information on the Nova Scotia 4-H program can be found at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h.

4-H Centennial Program - "Do More with Less Recipe Challenge"

As part of the 4-H centennial celebrations 4-H members are encouraged to participate in the *Do More with Less Recipe Challenge*. It is a national 4-H initiative encouraging 4-H members to create tasty recipes with both budget and nutrition in mind. A Recipe Challenge Information Kit and a Recognition Form are available from your Agriculture Leadership Coordinators.

The Information Kit will offer important resources for building a healthy meal on a budget, as well as useful tools to calculate the nutritional value and cost of a recipe. The Recognition Form will ask participants to provide details about their creation and a picture of the finished product. Participants will email their completed Recipe Recognition Form and meal picture to 4-H Canada at recipes@4-h-canada.ca, where the recipes will be reviewed and then posted online.

New recipes will be promoted via social media as they come in. At the end of the program, recipes will be judged and selected for inclusion in a *Do More with Less Recipe Book*, which will be published online and in print and made available at Food Banks, among other places.

This program is in line with, and builds on, the history of 4-H Canada's commitment to philanthropy, agriculture and food, as well as the theme of the centennial year, **Food for Thought**. The program is also meant to support and complement the 4-H National Food Drive already in progress.

23rd EastGen Showcase Scheduled for July

For 23 years, EastGen Showcase has taught Atlantic 4-H members the finer points of dairy and beef showmanship, management and judging. This year the event will be held July 12 - 14 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill.

On behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Agriculture Leadership Coordinators with the Department of Agriculture help make the showcase possible. In partnership with EastGen staff, Leadership Coordinators teach approximately 70 4-H members the latest techniques in show preparation for beef and dairy cattle, health of the show calf, livestock judging, showmanship, clipping, display design, and herd management.

Atlantic 4-H beef and dairy members who are 13 - 21 years of age are eligible to attend EastGen. Those selected to attend will be expected to bring the information back to their 4-H club.

After two full days of training, 4-H members show their own calves at the beef and dairy show on Sunday, July 14 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Awards will be presented to the winners in showmanship and confirmation, as well as those who excelled in session work over the two days of instruction. The show is open to the public.

Camp Rankin to Open for 41st Year

For the 41st year, Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, will welcome 200 4-H members, aged 9 - 15, to five one-week summer camps. From June 30 to August 2 campers will learn skills training, leadership, and healthy living while building lasting friendships in a scenic setting at Cape George, near St. Peters in Cape Breton.

“Camp Rankin has provided a memorable camping experience for thousands of 4-H members since 1972,” said Ruth Grant, Senior Agriculture Leadership Coordinator. “We are pleased once again to offer this unique leadership development program to 4-H members and their friends in partnership with the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the Camp Rankin 4-H Association in Richmond County.”

Camp Rankin offers 4-H members opportunities to learn canoeing, crafts, drama, nature and outdoors, exploring 4-H, recreation and healthy living, and to socialize with youth with similar interests. Many 4-H members have had a great camping experiences and come back each year as campers or as camp staff.

In addition to providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin provides employment for seven camp counsellors aged 16 or older, a Camp Director and an Assistant Director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions, ensuring 4-H members carry out the motto “Learn to do by Doing.”

Spring Workshop Will Train Judges for Fairs and Exhibitions

Department of Agriculture staff, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Exhibitions Association, will be hosting an Exhibition Judges Training School to educate new and existing judges in several skill areas. A workshop will be held in Port Maitland on June 15.

The one-day program will focus on judges' ethics and professionalism and providing reasons for class placing. The program will also increase skill development in areas such as rug hooking, crafts, photography and foods.

The program aims to enhance the existing skills of current judges and to establish a mentorship program for new judges, such as senior 4-H members, who have the basic project skills but need experience in judging at exhibitions and fairs. This program and partnering opportunity will contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for fairs and exhibitions across the province.

Anyone interested in learning what it takes to be a confident and successful exhibition judge should contact:
Valorie Skinner - skinnevh@gov.ns.ca - 679-6027.

Regional News Cape Breton: Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond Counties

Cape Breton Community Fairs 2013

The season for Community Fairs and Exhibitions is fast approaching, and now is a good time to reserve the date on your calendar or plan your fair entry. The following fairs are scheduled for Cape Breton Island:

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT
Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge)	To be announced	Cheryl MacIntyre (Chair) 562-1056 Gladys Lever (Treasurer) 562-6310 562-2089
Christmas Island (C.B. County)	Sept. 14	Kevin MacKenzie 622-2667
Port Morien (Glace Bay)	Sept. 14	Margie MacQueen 737-2478
Baddeck (Victoria County)	To be announced	Wendell MacPhee 295-2494

Community Pastures

Community Pastures will be starting up for this pasture season. Most pastures can always use additional cattle numbers to help keep them viable. Also, as the summer continues, if you find you need extra feed or pasture, consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pastures for Cape Breton:

Cape Mabou – Frank Fraser, 258-5898
Mira – John MacPhee, 727-2542
Maplebrook – John P. MacDonald, 756-2671
Little Harbor (L'Ardoise) – Arthur Sampson, 587-2276
Cheticamp Island – Eli Joe Chaisson, 224-2417



Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With numerous tasks to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. Make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family:

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

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the agriculture office.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

Farm sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. They should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture-resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Contact your local municipal waste disposal for specific details on container disposal in your area. For more information, contact Gary Koziel at 563-2000.



Cape Breton Region 4-H News

4-H in Cape Breton is Strong and Vibrant

The 4-H program is strong and expanding in the Cape Breton region. Currently there are 262 active members, 12 clover buds, and 89 volunteer leaders from the four counties. This is an increase in both member and leader registration. The 4-H program offers youth an opportunity for leadership development, agricultural awareness, travel, and livestock and life skill project training. We would like to extend a warm welcome to a newly forming club in Cape Breton County called the "Membertou 4-H Club" under the general leadership of Rebecca Scirocco-Paul.

These are exciting times for regional youth as clubs explore another 4-H year and make memories for another 100 years! Watch for upcoming celebrations in the region.



Upcoming Food Handler Courses

Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre - May 28, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Grand Lake Rd. Fire Hall - May 29, 2013, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sydney
Seats are filled on a first come, first serve basis when registrations are submitted with payment. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>

Getting Ready For Achievement Days

4-H members and leaders across the region will soon be gearing up for their 4-H Achievement Day. Achievement Day is the opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their project work to their clubs, family and community.

Upcoming Achievement Days include:

- Lakeside 4-H Club - May 23, Sampsonville Community Hall
- Richmond County Show - May 28-29, Camp Rankin
- North Sydney 4-H Club - July 4, Cape Breton County Exhibition Grounds
- Grand Mira 4-H Club - July 3, Grand Mira Hall
- Inverness County 4-H Horse Show - July 16, Margaree
- Richmond County 4-H Livestock Day - August 6, Adrienne and Scott - Smith's
- Inverness County 4-H Clubs - August 22-24, Brook Village Hall
- Baddeck Valley 4-H Club - September 4-7, Baddeck Forks

The general public is always invited to come out and view the project work of local 4-H youth. If you would like more information, contact the 4-H office in Sydney or Mabou.

4-H Judging

May is when many 4-H members across the region are involved in 4-H judging practices and competitions. Members place four items in a project area based on the project standards for that project. They then give their reasons for the placing, from best to worst, to a judge. This activity develops confidence, communication and decision-making skills. See upcoming events and dates.

Tips to remember when giving your reasons to a judge:

- Be confident
- Make good eye contact
- Know the judging format
- Compare, don't describe
- Speak clearly and concisely
- Know the project standards

Dates to mark on your calendar:

- Lakeside 4-H Achievement Day - May 23, Richmond County
- Exhibition Judging 101 - May 25, North Sydney
- 4-H Make-Up Judging Day - May 28, Camp Rankin
- Richmond County 4-H Days - May 28-29, Camp Rankin
- Cape Breton County 4-H Day - August 12, Cape Breton County Exhibition Grounds
- Cape Breton County Exhibition - August 11 - 17

Feel free to contact your regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator if you have any questions about these programs. Telephone 945-2901 (Mabou office) or 563-2000 (Sydney office).

Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

Safety First Sounds easy enough, but are we practising it?

We are entering another busy time of year, where long hours, shortcuts, and taking chances can create accidents. In the past few years, farm safety and the changes implemented under the Occupational Safety General Regulations have been well promoted.

Here are some suggestions for farmers to increase safety:

- Keep up to date with safety courses
- Keep a well-stocked first aid kit in the workplace
- Ask workers to do only tasks they are trained for.
- Ensure staff have training, protective equipment, safety glasses, and noise protection or dust masks, depending on the task.
- Check mechanical safety, e.g. guard on the chain drive, PTO shaft, etc.
- Consider how long staff are working alone, e.g. in a separate field. (Perhaps isolated workers could check in with a cell phone.)
- Consider having field maps so that you can easily reach an injured worker.

Finally, safety is something that is practised and documented. Hold a safety meeting to talk about the risks around a certain task, stress the safe ways to complete these tasks, and document that they have been discussed.

Farming is a business, and safety is a part of that business. Practise safety in 2013 to ensure you are protecting yourself, your family and employees.

Pictou County Farm Machinery Rentals

If this sounds like a good idea you can make your voice heard.

The Pictou/North Colchester Federation of Agriculture is looking at developing a farm machinery rental to help serve farmers in the region who may need an important piece of equipment for a short period of time. Development of the project is in the early stages and the Federation is looking for input on high priority pieces of equipment, along with an idea of how much use the equipment would get. This information will help with the development of a business plan to determine if machinery rental is a feasible venture for the Federation.

A machinery rental would be a great advantage to new entrant farmers who may not be able to afford the up-front capital investment, and well-established farmers who are using worn-out or patched-up equipment and want to increase their productivity. There are examples of successful machinery rentals in other parts of the province which could be replicated in Pictou County.

For more information or to provide input, please contact Joe and Lorenda Ebbett at 902-657-2122.

Eastern Region 4-H News

In the Eastern region we are pleased to welcome our 4-H Summer Assistant, Margaret Sutherland, to the office. You may remember Margaret as the 4-H Summer Assistant in 2011 or Pictou 4-H Summer Worker in 2010. She graduated from the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture with a BSc in Animal Science and plans to enter the MSc in Agriculture this fall. Throughout the summer, Margaret will be actively involved in many 4-H events including judging days, Achievement Days and 4-H days at exhibitions.

4-H Club Achievement Day Dates:

- Antigonish Light Horse - June 2
- Hopewell - June 24
- Middle River - June 27
- Scotsburn (life skills) - July 3
- Havre Boucher - July 8
- St. Josephs - July 9
- Heatherton - July 10
- Sunrise Trail - July 22
- Scotsburn (livestock) - July 24
- St. Andrews - July 25
- Saltsprings - July 29
- River John - July 30
- West River - August 6
- Landing - August 7
- Sutherlands River - August 8



4-H Dates to Remember:

Upcoming Antigonish County 4-H Events:

- Ant/Guys Judging Day - May 21, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- C.A.C.L. - Collection Evening - May 28, or during the week of May 28
- 4-H Council Meeting - June 11, 7:00 p.m.
- 4-H Council Meeting for resolutions - July 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Junior Tour - July 17
- Ant/Guys 4-H Project Competitions - August 8, 4-H Barn
- 4-H Day at ENSE - August 28
- 4-H Show Meeting for exhibiting members and parents - September 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Antigonish Education Centre
- Council Meeting - September 10, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Antigonish Education Centre
- Last day for scratch and sub on pro show list - September 18
- Nova Scotia 4-H Show - September 27 - 29, Bridgewater

Upcoming Pictou County 4-H Events:

- Judging Day - May 22, Exhibition Grounds, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting - May 27, 7:00 p.m., Northumberland
- Ice Cream Pick up - June 8, Times TBA
- Council Meeting - June 18, 7:00 p.m., Fisheries School
- Junior Tour - July 18, Location TBA
- 4-H Council Meeting - July 22, 7:00 p.m., Fisheries School
- Run Offs - August 9, 9:00 a.m., West River Fire Hall
- 4-H Council Meeting for resolutions - August 19, 7:00 p.m., Fisheries School
- Barn Clean Up - August 17, 9:00 a.m., Exhibition Grounds
- 4-H Day PCNCE - September 4,
- 4-H Show Meeting followed immediately by Council meeting (finalize resolutions from the county) - September 16, 6:30 p.m., Northumberland
- Last date for Scratches and Substitutions to 4-H show entry list - September 18
- Nova Scotia 4-H Show - September 27 - 29, Bridgewater

Regional News Central: East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax Counties

The Central Region Extension and Outreach office houses the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Transition Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Administrative Support and 4-H Summer Assistant, and covers the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax East Hants.

We are your 'one stop shop' for Department of Agriculture services and information. We have recently moved offices to Perennia Park. If you have an agricultural question or a business opportunity you'd like to discuss, feel free to contact us at the location below:

Agriculture and Food Advisory Services
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
90 Research Drive, Suite 112
Truro, NS B6L 2R2

Members of our team:

Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 893-3645
kittilma@gov.ns.ca
Elizabeth Coady, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 893-6586
coadyea@gov.ns.ca
Gina Ernest, Administrative Support, 893-6575 ernestgl@gov.ns.ca
Nicole Lennerton, 4-H Summer Assistant, 896-4471 lennerna@gov.ns.ca

Mail Address Changes

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we can keep our mailing list up to date. If you have an address change, please call Gina at 902-893-6575 or contact her by email at ernestgl@gov.ns.ca. If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please email Gina with your request.

Do You Have the Proper Driver's License?

If you have a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg you need a Condition 23 Endorsement. If you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500 kg you need a Condition 15 Endorsement on your license to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to Class 5 licenses. If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements, please contact Michael Kittilsen at 893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca or Gina Ernest at 893-6575 or ernestgl@gov.ns.ca at the Central Region Office.

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

Information session (recommended): Thursday, May 16th
Testing session: Thursday, May 23rd

PROCESS For Condition 15:

Purchase a Road Test Receipt, which costs \$48.63 (HST Incl.), at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp>.

PROCESS For Condition 23:

Complete a Condition 23 application prior to testing.
Have Driver's Medical Exam completed by your doctor.
Purchase a Road Test Receipt, which costs \$48.63 (HST Incl.), at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp>.
You must register with the Central Region Office and have a valid driver's license ("N" removed) to be eligible for testing. For the Condition 23 application, the Medical Exam form, and more information, please call Michael Kittilsen at 893-3645.

Central Region 4-H News

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Coady to the position of Agriculture Leadership Coordinator. She will be covering Jacqueline Yuill's maternity leave until March. Elizabeth graduated from the NSAC with an Agricultural Business Technician Diploma and a BSc(Agr) with a major in Business. Elizabeth was a 4-H member in Pictou County for 11 years and her family grows wild blueberries. Throughout the summer, Elizabeth will be actively involved in many 4-H events.

Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming 4-H Dates:

- Cumberland County Judging for Life Skills and most livestock - May 23, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., Nappan Pavillian and Test Station
- Colchester County Council Meeting - May 27, 7:00 p.m., Agri-dome
- Cumberland County Make Up Judging - June 4, 7:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall
- Cumberland County Council Meeting - June 4, 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall
- HEH Council Meeting - June 18, 7:00 p.m., Hants East Rural High
- Colchester County Council Meeting - June 24, 7:00 p.m., Agridome
- North Shore Achievement Day - June 28
- 4-HRM Achievement Day - June 29
- Cumberland County Council Meeting - July 2, 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall
- Harmony Ridge Achievement Day - July 5 -6
- Shu-Mil Achievement Day - July 9
- Hardwood Lands Achievement Day - July 10
- EastGen 4-H Showcase - July 12 - 14
- Riverside Achievement Day - July 12
- TNR Achievement Day - July 13
- Linden Achievement Day - July 15
- Oxford Achievement Day - July 17
- BVCM Achievement Day - July 18
- Clifton Achievement Day - July 19
- Sunrise Achievement Day - July 22
- Colchester County 4-H Council meeting - July 22, 7:00 p.m., Agridome
- Ro-Win-Lea Achievement Day - July 26
- Onslow-Belmont Achievement Day - July 30



Regional News Valley: West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens Counties

Livestock Sales

The last Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture cattle sale this spring will be held on June 1 at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Fall dates will be set at a later time. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:00 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Lunenburg and Queens Federation of Agricultural Spring Livestock Sale at the Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds will be held on May 18, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Congratulations!

The Department of Agriculture staff extends congratulations to James and Amanda Kinsman of Somerset, Kings County for winning the Outstanding Young Farmers for Atlantic Canada Award. We wish them all the best in the national competition later this year.

Update of Mailing List and E-Mailing Newsletter

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or if your address is incorrect, please notify Cheryl by phone at 679-6021 or e-mail ctheriau@gov.ns.ca.

We are also trying to cut costs and reduce our paper consumption, so if you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please notify Cheryl.

Valley Region 4-H News

Valley Regional Rally

The Valley Regional Rally was hosted by the Cornwallis Club of Kings County and held on April 20 at the Evangeline Middle School in New Minas. As a result of great participation from both Hants and Kings Counties, almost a full slate of participants represented the region at 4-H Weekend.

Small Steps, Great Distances

A leadership development workshop, originally developed by Cape Breton Staff, was held in Hants in March and focused on introducing all aspects of 4-H judging, team building and public speaking activities to junior members.

Life Skills Workshop

Participants from Annapolis, Kings, Hants and Lunenburg Counties attended a Life Skills Workshop in March. 4-H members, leaders and WINS learned two traditional forms of mat making: Proddy Rug Hooking and Rug Braiding.

County 4-H Judging Days

- Queens County Non-Livestock Judging Day - May 21, Westfield Community Hall
- Kings County Judging - May 22, Bob Best's Farm, Berwick
- Hants County Livestock Judging Day - May 23, Hants County Exhibition Grounds
- Hants County Light Horse Judging - May 28, Evangeline Trail Rides with a 6:30 p.m. start. (Please note the change of date from the original May 30th date that was announced)
- Lunenburg County Judging - May 29, South Shore Exhibition Grounds

4-H Club Achievement Days

- Roseway River 4-H Club - June 11, Shelburne County
- Border Riders Achievement Day - June 25
- Lockport 4-H Club - June 26, Shelburne County
- Lapland 4-H Club - July 2, Lunenburg County
- 4 Leaf Clover 4-H Club - July 3, Queens County
- Hill 'n Dale 4-H Club - July 4 -5, Lunenburg County
- Cobequid Achievement Day - July 5
- BBHH 4-H Club - July 5, Lunenburg County
- 2 Bays 4-H Club - July 10, Lunenburg County
- Branch Lahave 4-H Club - July 11 - 12, Lunenburg County
- Avon Achievement Day - July 15
- Rawdon 2-Way Achievement Day - July 17
- Burlington Workers Achievement Day - July 18
- Newport Achievement Day - July 19
- Hants County Light Horse Achievement Day - July 26, Hants Exhibition Grounds
- Kings County Joint Achievement Day, July 31 - August 2, Kings Mutual Century Centre, Apple Dome, Berwick
- Livewires 4-H Club - August 9 - 10, Lunenburg County
- Handy Hands 4-H Club - August 16, Lunenburg County

County 4-H Days

- Lunenburg County 4-H Days - July 23-24, South Shore Exhibition
- Shelburne County 4-H Days - August 5-6, Shelburne County Exhibition
- Queens County 4-H Days - September 16-17, Queens County Exhibition

Other Upcoming Events:

- Miniature Horse/Dog Clinic, Annapolis Valley Exhibition Grounds - May 25, open to all members in South Shore, Valley and Western Regions
- Kings County 4-H Joint Achievement Day Planning and Council Meetings - June 3, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition Planning and Council Meetings - June 10, Brooklyn School
- Western Judging 101 Clinic - June 15, Port Maitland
- Kings County Joint Achievement Day planning and Council Meetings - July 2, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition planning and Council Meetings - July 8, Hants Exhibition Grounds
- Lunenburg County 4-H Awards Night - August 22



Regional News Western: Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties

Driver's License Endorsements: Annapolis County producers have expressed interest in scheduling road tests for Conditions 15 and 23 driver's license additions. A Condition 15 endorsement on your Class 5 license is required to tow loads on highways with a combined weight of between 4,500 kg and 14,000 kg. A Class 3 license is required for vehicles or loads with a combined weight in excess of 14,000 kg, including farm vehicles.

Information is available through ThinkFarm at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fsheets/04-farm-vehicles.pdf> or on the Nova Scotia Registry of Motor Vehicles site at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

A session is tentatively scheduled in Annapolis County for June. If you are interested, please contact Jeff at 902-638-2396 or Gina at 638-2395.

Fur Industry Resources

There have been major changes for fur farmers since I began in the Cornwallis office six months ago. With the Fur Industry Regulations now in effect, I would like to highlight information and resources that are available.

As Agricultural Resource Coordinator for the Western Region, I am the first line of contact for agricultural information. I can provide copies of the *Fur Industry Act* and Fur Industry Regulations, site approval permit and license to operate forms, and meet with you to discuss what the new regulations may mean for your farm. If you have other questions about our programs, I can help with that too.

Fur Industry Regulation information sessions were held in February in Weymouth. For those who missed the session, here is a brief overview of the process:

- Planning Phase have a designated professional map and develop a Management Plan for your farm site.
- Submit a "Site Approval Permit" to the NS Department of Agriculture. The Management Plan and Map will be included in the application. Consult with the NSDA to ensure you include all required details with the Site Approval Permit. Any construction and renovations should not be started prior to receiving the approved Site Approval Permit.
- After the construction and/or renovation phase is complete, the Fur Industry Inspector will do a site inspection.
- Existing fur farms will then be considered in compliance with the regulations. New fur farms will now apply for a License to Operate. With that license you can become operational and populate mink on the new fur farm.
- Ongoing inspections will be conducted by the Fur Industry Inspector to ensure fur farms remain in compliance with the regulations.

Further information is available on the Department website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/mink/>. If you would like to begin the process, or arrange a farm visit or meeting to discuss the regulations, please contact Jeff Wentzell at 638-2396 or email wentzejh@gov.ns.ca.

Mark your calendar!

Celebration of Small-Scale Farming, an annual ThinkFarm event is coming to the Bear River Exhibition grounds on Monday, July 22. Examples of workshops include: pastured poultry and pork production, agri-tourism, hops, cut flower production and growing 'exotic' vegetables. Workshop agenda and registration information will be available online at www.gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm and at our regional office.

The last Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture cattle sale this spring will be held on June 1 at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds. Fall dates will be set at a later time. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:00 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Western Region 4-H News

In the Western region, we are pleased to welcome our 4-H Summer Assistant Jen Bent back to the office. Jen has just completed her third year at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. This is her third summer as 4-H Summer Assistant. Throughout the summer Jen will be actively involved in many 4-H events such as judging days, Achievement Days and 4-H days at exhibitions.

The 4-H Barn is Up

In the fall of 2012, the 4-H Livestock Barn at the Annapolis Valley Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown was demolished for health and safety reasons.

In early April this year, a new Brite-Span coverall type barn was erected under the direction and support of Treeline Project Management Ltd. of Bridgetown. The Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council is now fundraising to complete the interior of the barn, and it will be ready for 4-H days at the Annapolis Valley Exhibition in August. A big 'thank you' goes out to the many supporters of the project and to the 4-H Leaders Council for making it happen.

Digby County Has Reached 100+

4-H membership in Digby County has now reached over 100 members in five clubs. 4-H members and leaders are now busy planning for summer activities, which include a 4-H weekend camp to be held in South Range in late June. Clubs extend from Meteghan to Bear River and out on Brier and Long Islands. Achievement Days will be held throughout the county during the month of July.



4-H Dates to Remember:

- 4-H Judging Day - May 23, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., Churchill's Farm, Yarmouth
- Mini Horse and Dog Clinics - May 25, Annapolis Valley Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- 4-H Light Horse Show - May 25, Lawrencetown
- Judging Day for all projects that did not attend Fluff'n Buff or the Mini and Dog Clinic - May 28, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Digby County Judging Day - June 5, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., Barton School
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - June 12, 7:00 p.m., Lawrencetown
- Judging 101 - June 15 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Port Maitland School, Yarmouth
- Yarmouth 4-H Council Meeting - June 19, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office
- Digby County 4-H Council Meeting - June 20, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library
- Annapolis County 4-H sponsored Light Horse Walk Trot Show - June 23, Lawrencetown
- Advanced Achievement Day and Make Up Judging - June 25, 3:00 p.m., Lawrencetown
- Light Horse 4-H Boot Camp - July 1 - 5, Lawrencetown
- Les Étoiles de Acadienne Achievement Day - July 6, Meteghan
- Clarence Club 4-H Achievement Day - July 8
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - July 10
- EastGen - July 12 - 14, Truro
- Bear River Trail Blazers 4-H Achievement Day - July 16, Exhibition Grounds
- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - July 17
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting- July 18, Digby Library
- Islands Seabreeze 4-H Club 4-H Achievement Day - July 19, Freeport
- Yarmouth County 4-H Days - July 19 - 21
- Sun Valley Riders 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 23
- Maple Nuts 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 25
- Sissiboo Landers 4-H Club 4-H Achievement Day - July 26, New Tusket
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - July 31

Upcoming Food Handler Courses in 2013:

Food Handler Courses will be held throughout June in the Western Region:

June 4 - Yarmouth

June 12 - Kentville

June 13 - Digby

June 20 - Bridgewater



The courses are filled on a first-come, first-served basis upon receipt of registration and payment. Register well in advance for upcoming courses, as they fill quickly. Confirmation letters are sent out one week before the course date with time and location information. For course information, please visit

http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/courses_west.shtml.

You may also obtain a registration form on the website. For more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 638-2395. Courses will start again in September 2013.