

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

November 2013

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Think Local This Holiday Season

Choose local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often. Try to buy directly from the growers. Cutting out the middleman means that more of your food budget goes directly to the people who grow your food. Farmers markets are a good place to start. Ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.

The Energy and Bioproduct Pilot Program is still Open!

Energy Pilot Program

The Farm Energy Pilot program provides funds to pilot, test or demonstrate energy conservation and renewable energy opportunities based in agriculture. Projects must demonstrate new technologies, processes or business models which promote conservation or renewable energy in the agriculture sector. Funds can be made available for multi year initiatives to a maximum of two years.

Bioproduct Pilot Program

The Bioproduct Pilot program provides funds to pilot, test or demonstrate new bioproducts; such as biomaterials, biofuels, bioenergy, and biochemicals based in agriculture. The objective is to optimize research and commercialization efforts through coordinated approaches and support supply chain development of new bioproduct opportunities. Projects must demonstrate new technologies, processes or business models which promote awareness, encourage implementation or facilitate the adoption of new bioproducts in the agriculture sector. Funds can be made available for multi-year initiatives to a maximum of two years.

Assistance on eligible costs may be up to 75 percent of total project costs (eligible cash expenses) to a maximum of \$50,000 per year. The lifetime cap for an applicant under this program is \$100,000. Eligible applicants include Nova Scotia farmers, agri-businesses registered in Nova Scotia; and universities, organizations and commodity groups in Nova Scotia. The application, proposal template, additional guidance and eligibility requirements for these programs are available online at: novascotia.ca/agri/documents/ENV-HGS-Energy-Bioproduct-Pilot-APP-2013.doc

Please contact Julie Bailey, Provincial Agricultural Liaison Engineer, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture at (902) 896-4473 or baileyja@gov.ns.ca for more information.

NSFA

118th annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will be held on November 28 - 29 in Truro at the Best Western Glengarry. For details go to the website at www.nsfa-fane.ca/.

To receive the NSFA weekly email newsletter, sign up on their website.



Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Why should I have AgriInsurance?

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

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

AgriInsurance helps you:

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

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines 2014:

Blueberry - November 30
Tree Fruit - November 30
Vegetable - March 14
Spring Grain - March 14
Potato - April 19
Corn - April 30
Maple - April 30
Weather Plan - April 30
Soybean (includes 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, except for Weather Derivative which must be applied for annually. This will give them an opportunity to choose their price and coverage level options for the upcoming growing season.

Advanced Payments Program

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

Dairy Producers

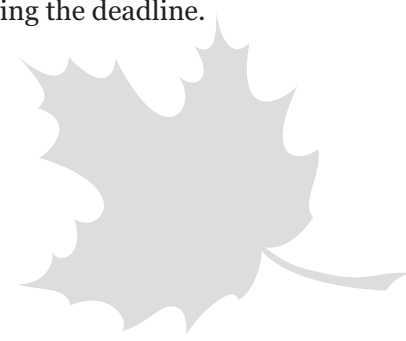
The Commission is able to write new coverage for Dairy Livestock anytime during the year. If you are interested in insuring your animals against disease, as well as loss of income from milk sales as a result of disease or fire, and building collapse due to ice and snow, it is not too late to apply for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

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program for Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly specified crops are covered for losses as a result of wildlife damage. There are a number of other requirements to be eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit novascotia.ca/agri/ci.

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

Maple Producers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers crop insurance for maple syrup production. This plan is available to all commercial maple producers to help them manage the risk of reduced yields due to natural perils. Any producers not currently signed up in the program can apply now for coverage for the 2014-15 crop year (the Feb-Mar 2015 harvest season). **The deadline for applying is April 30, 2014.** Since this is a busy time in the maple woods, we encourage you to apply now to avoid missing the deadline.



Continued on next page...

Forage Producers

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

Forage Establishment Plan

The forage establishment plan protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes. This plan covers losses from such things as winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from the time of seeding up until May 31 of the following year. Seeding must be completed by July 1 for legumes and legume/grass mixes, and by September 1 for grasses. The deadline date to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply for this insurance at seeding time your coverage can begin immediately. If you apply at some point after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered. This plan offers two levels of coverage : \$200/acre coverage (producer premium = \$4.00/acre) and \$100/acre coverage (producer premium = \$2.00/acre).

Weather Plan for Forage

This plan targets crop losses related to weather events. It guarantees 80 per cent of the average long term rainfall (mm) at a designated local weather station over a period of time (May 1 - August 31). An optional Quality Rider is also available for excessive rainfall in the month of June during prime harvest time. Managed pastures and stored forage acreage can be insured. The Weather Derivative Plan for Forage provides a guarantee of 80 per cent of the long-term average rainfall (30 year averages). A producer can choose two, three or four months of drought coverage between May 1- August 31. Any part or all of the managed forage and/or pasture on your farm can be insured for up to \$288 per acre.

An optional quality rider can also be purchased for the month of June. When three consecutive days of rainfall of at least 5 mm are recorded, a payment of 20 per cent of your guarantee is triggered. Producers can receive up to two payments under this quality rider during the month of June. For the weather plan, rainfall measurements are based on the recorded rainfall from sites around the province, primarily at Environment Canada weather stations. Producers select the site nearest their farm. This plan differs from other insurance plans since there are no yield measurements required. Once a drought or excess rainfall event occurs, based on Environment Canada weather statistics, a payment is triggered.

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

Have you reported your yield for 2013?

To provide accurate coverage to our clients, the Commission needs your harvested yield report for 2013. If clients do not report their actual yield, the Commission assumes you harvested at least the guaranteed production listed on your Certificate of Insurance. In years where you had very good production and where you do not report to the Commission, you are missing an opportunity to have this reflected in your yield history. What this means for you is that in a future claim year, your claim may not be as much as it could have been if the good experience was properly reported. To ensure you have the best coverage possible, be sure to accurately report your yields.

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



2014 Select Nova Scotia Calendars are available now!

The Select NS team has spent the past few months developing the 2014 calendar showcasing many of the great products we have to offer in Nova Scotia. We partnered with producers and chefs to create high-quality recipes from great local fare and used photos from farm, seaside and restaurant locations to set the scene for the meals.

The calendar was officially launched at the Devour Food Film Festival on November 14 in Wolfville, as part of the Nova Scotia Food Truck Rally. The calendars were well-received and are now available to the public.

The layout of the calendar is such that each recipe is highlighted on a month-by-month basis, and at the back, there are recipe cards that can be removed and stored for later use. The hope is that the calendar can be a cross promotional piece for chefs and producers in the province to help highlight the great work both groups do. Many commodities were showcased from one end of the province to the other, and our chefs were very excited to meet and work with our producers.

If you would like calendars to distribute from your storefront or from a farmers market stand, let us know and we'll be happy to get you some. In the meantime, here is a recipe from our website, www.selectnovascotia.ca. This makes a great addition to some of those holiday meals.



Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 butternut squash; peeled & cubed (seeds scooped out)
- 4 apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- Water, to cover
- Salt & pepper
- 1 tbsp. summer savory
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tbsp. maple syrup

Method:

A simple and satisfying soup, perfect to make in the fall when squash and apples are at their best. Makes 4 -6 portions.

In a heavy bottomed pan, add the olive oil and sauté the onion for 2-3 minutes or until soft. Add the squash and salt and pepper. Cook for 4-5 minutes and add the apple and then cover with water. Add the summer savory, bay leaves and maple syrup.

Cook until soft and then puree half of the soup in the blender and return to the remaining half. Check for seasoning, and add more if needed.

Optional - Serve with thinly sliced aged Gouda on top.
Recipe by the Feisty Chef www.feistychef.ca

Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Extension and Outreach

Marion MacAulay, Manager

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Elizabeth Coady, Acting Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

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boydll@gov.ns.ca

Laureen Boyd, Admin. Assistant
Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Acting Ag. Resource Coordinator / Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Adam Wile, Agricultural Transition Officer

Sydney Office

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plumricl@gov.ns.ca

Catherine Plumridge, Admin. Assistant
Gary Koziel, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coordinator
Rhonda MacDougall (Mabou) and Marina Gillis (Sydney), Agriculture Leadership Coordinators

Jeff Hennessey, Business Development Officer

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Tel: 679-6021 Fax: 679-6062
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Cheryl Theriau, Admin. Assistant
Brian MacCulloch, P.Ag., Ag. Resource Coordinator
Angie Garnett, Ag. Leadership Coordinator (South Shore) and Acting Ag. Resource Coordinator (Western Region)
Valorie Skinner, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Valley
Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer, Kentville
Hana Nelson, Agricultural Transition Officer, Lunenburg

Cornwallis Office

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties:

Tel: 638-2395 Fax: 638-2389
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Gina Saulnier, Admin. Assistant
Jeff Wentzell, P.Ag., Business Development Officer

Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator
Terry MacKay, Acting Agricultural Transition Officer

Perennia's Agricultural OH&S Consulting Services

Perennia is offering a new service to support large and small farms in the development and implementation of on-farm occupational health and safety plans. All farms are required to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations, regardless of size. We can help you assess the OH&S requirements of your farm. For more information on the services available please visit our website: www.perennia.ca/OHS.php.

Food Safety Training 2014 Calendar Released

Perennia's food safety training calendar for 2014 has been posted at www.perennia.ca/training.php

Courses being offered in 2014 include:

- HACCP I: Prerequisites
- HACCP II: Plan Development
- HACCP for Warehousing and Distribution Operations
- Allergen Management
- HACCP V: Internal Auditing of your HACCP System
- Implementing SQF Systems
- HACCP III: Train the Trainer
- Canadian Ingredient Labelling
- Canadian Nutrition Labelling
- Certified HACCP Auditor
- Shelf Life Determination

Course overviews and registration forms are available online. A ten percent discount is applied when three employees are registered for a course using the same registration form.

Genomics 101 A Breeder's Perspective

Come to a Genomics workshop near you!

- November 19, Antigonish,
- November 20, Wolfville,
- November 21, Truro

These workshops are sponsored by Holstein Canada, NS/NFLD Holstein Branch, Perennia, Nova Scotia Animal Breeders and Valacta.

- 9:30 a.m. Registration – coffee, tea, muffins available
- 9:50 a.m. Door prize draw (for those present)
- 10:00 a.m. Welcome – Harry Van der Linden, Holstein Canada
- 10:05 a.m. Genomics: – It's here to Stay Valerie Tremblay, Holstein Canada
- 11:15 a.m. A Breeders Perspective Len Vis, Mapel Wood Holsteins, ON
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch provided
- 12:30 p.m. East Nova, West Nova or Central meeting (all welcome)
- 1:15 p.m. A Breeders Perspective John Schenkels, Miramichi Holsteins, NB
- 2:00 p.m. Comments, questions, closing remarks
- 3:00 p.m. On your way

Lunch will be provided, therefore pre-registration is required. Watch for registration information on www.perennia.ca, or contact Gail Walsh at 1-877-710-5210.



Winter Courses through Extended Learning

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. Temple Grandin to visit Dalhousie Agricultural Campus
Extended Learning is pleased to announce that **Dr. Temple Grandin** will be visiting the Agricultural Campus on December 3, 2013. She will be giving a public presentation at 2:00 p.m. in the Alumni Theatre titled *"Understanding Animal Behaviour- How animals think, preventing fear memories, reducing stress."* **Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.**

** *New this year* - Post Harvest Management

Minimizing post-harvest losses can **increase profits** for producers and retailers and can result in the delivery of **better quality** and **safer produce** to the consumer. This **new course** is designed to provide the new and seasoned farmer, as well as processors and distributors, with the principles of postharvest management and specific practices for a variety of **fresh produce commodities** produced in the **Atlantic Region**. Crop groups covered will include leafy vegetables, roots and tubers, stem vegetables, tree fruits and small fruits.

When: February 19, 20 & 21, 2014

Where: Kentville, NS

Cost: \$385 + tax

Operant Conditioning Behaviour Analysis – Level 1

Those who are looking for a more positive way to interact with the animals in their care can learn the skills of positive reinforcement animal training this winter from your own home using your own animal. OCBA Level I will help you become skilled at identifying wanted behaviours, goal setting, planning, training and understanding your animal. This course is a one-of-a kind online skills training program, taught by well-respected and experienced instructors, and supported by Dalhousie University.

When: January 9 – April 24, 2014

Where: Online

Cost: \$1295

Business Courses are on the Horizon

Extended Learning has been working with agricultural partners in the region to develop business training for the farmer and the farm advisor. Details are still being finalized, but watch for courses in Innovation, Entrepreneur Start-Ups, Lean Entrepreneurship, and Succession and Business Planning. **Remember that non-credit business courses are eligible for funding support through *Growing Forward 2*.**

Other winter offerings available:

Specialization in Organic Agriculture

Compliment your degree or build your resume by specializing in the expanding area of organic agriculture. The required courses are available for credit or non-credit and are all available *online*. **Available for Winter 2014: Organic Field Crop Management and Organic Livestock Production.**

Pesticide Certification

This course is excellent preparation if you are writing the Pesticide Applicator's Examination. You will learn the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides. **On campus April 15-18, 2014.**

**** One day updates for PRCP points are also available. Check our website for Pesticide Application Technology winter delivery dates.**

Master Gardener Training

Learn with other gardeners who share a passion for horticulture and are dedicated to growing their knowledge to share with their community. The Master Gardener training program consists of four independent study classes online, and a one-week, on-site summer school. **New courses starting November 15, 2013 and February 2014.**



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia

March 2-8, 2014

This year marks the 3rd Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week and the 7th Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia.

In Nova Scotia, Ag Literacy Week is simply a time when school children are encouraged to celebrate agriculture in our province by reading books about farming. Last year over 80 volunteers from agricultural sectors across the province went into grade 2 & 3 classrooms to read and donate books and other educational resources about farming.

This annual event is an educational initiative of the Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee and Department of Agriculture. With the support of Farm Credit Canada, classrooms across the county will be celebrating the 3rd Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week with a variety of activities.

If you are interested in volunteering to participate in Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week or would like further information please contact:

Rick Hoeg
Agricultural Education Liaison
Nova Scotia Department of
Agriculture
Tel: 902-893-7495
Email: hoegr1@gov.ns.ca



Here at THINKFARM, we are working to implement a new online registration system for workshops. We'll send out a notification when we are open for registration, but in the meantime, we'd like you to take note of some upcoming workshops.

Exploring the New Farm Dream

This self-assessment course is designed to help you decide if starting an agri-business is right for you. The course is delivered through four evening sessions (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) starting on Thursday, November 28 and the following three Thursday evenings in December. Spaces for this course are limited, so you can add your name to the list now by calling Amanda at 893-6575. Workshop fee: \$100+HST

Feeding Soil for Healthy Plants

Developed by Perennia and the Environmental Farm Plan Program in partnership with THINKFARM, this workshop will help you optimize soil health and soil fertility. This workshop will be more meaningful if you have a recent soil test report for your own farm in hand. Don't know how to take a soil sample? Watch Perennia's videos at www.perennia.ca/soils.php and drop the samples off at your nearest Department of Agriculture regional office or directly at the lab in Truro. The cost of analysis per sample for registered farms is \$11.89 + HST. Workshop fee: \$12+HST
Tentative dates and locations:

- Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Antigonish
- Thursday, December 12, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Skye Glen
- Tuesday, January 7, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Amherst
- Thursday, January 9, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Coldbrook
- Thursday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Bridgewater
- Saturday, February 22, time TBD, Yarmouth

Spaces at each location are limited. To reserve your space in advance of registration opening, please call Becky at 893-5649.

Agri Tourism Workshop

Targeted at producers and processors looking at diversifying into the agri- tourism business, this one-day workshop will feature speakers from industry, NGOs and government. Topics will include an overview of what is happening now in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions, the benefits of belonging to a tourism association, tapping into promotions and partnerships, how to prepare your farm for visitors, and real-life examples of how to build an agri-tourism business-- what works and what doesn't!

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 - Cost \$40 including lunch. Registration 9:30 a.m., with wrap up at 3:00 p.m., held at the Administration Building, Perennia Park, 90 Research Drive, Bible Hill, Nova Scotia

To register, or for more information, contact Amanda Priest, 902-893-6575 or priestav@gov.ns.ca

novascotia.ca/thinkfarm

www.facebook.com/thinkfarmns

Season's Greetings

*We wish you a Wonderful Holiday Season
and a New Year full of Happiness and Health*



Provincial 4-H News

National 4-H Month - 100 Years of 4-H Green in 2013

4-H members across the country are celebrating 4-H during November. And they have so much to celebrate!

Over the past 100 years 4-H has enriched the lives of young people and adult volunteers. It has given them the opportunity to develop leadership skills, sportsmanship, technical skills, responsibility, and life skills in a structured family-oriented atmosphere.

4-H has moved with the times to include over 40 projects that appeal to many youth. 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, and the caring and sharing of community spirit.

A national survey found that 4-H alumni attain higher education and earn higher salaries compared to the Canadian average. This confirms what we've known for years: 4-H members represent the future leaders of this country. Whether in agriculture, business or government, you can be sure 4-H members are leading the way.

For eighteen year-old Andrew Green of the Salt Springs 4-H Club, Pictou County, 4-H is a big part of his life. Currently in his first year of university at DAL AC, Andrew is a well- rounded 4-H member who has been in the program for 11 years.

"As a 4-H member I learn how to care for animals, gain more responsibility and work as a team with my club when doing volunteer work in my community," said Andrew. "I want to be a veterinarian and 4-H has pointed me in that direction."

4-H members also have the opportunity to travel on national and international exchange programs, participate in cutting-edge provincial and national conferences, and apply for national scholarships.

Take another look at 4-H today. Join us in celebrating 100 years of our greatest achievement - our future, our youth!

For more information on the Nova Scotia 4-H program check out the web site at novascotia.ca/agri/4h.

Scholarships Available For 4-H Members

Young people can gain more than confidence, technical skills and friendship from the 4-H program. 4-H members who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H member for at least two years can apply to win four university entrance scholarships.

Presently, 4-H members can apply for scholarships from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, TD Bank, and AgriVenture. Scholarships range from \$800 to \$2500.

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded \$800 university entrance scholarships to Hannah Jamieson, Hants County; Erin MacCarthy, Queens County and Andrew Greene from Pictou County.

4-H member Haley Wilson from Inverness County won the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Scholarship, valued at \$1000. This scholarship is presented to students enrolling in their first year in Agriculture, Veterinary Science, or other recognized disciplines.

The deadline is April 1, 2014 for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council scholarships, which are found in the General Leader Kit or at novascotia.ca/agri/4h.

Janessa Henry, Halifax East Hants was the Nova Scotia recipient of the TD 4-H Scholarship. She was one of ten 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2500 scholarship for entrance to first year of university. The deadline for the 2014 TD 4-H Scholarship is in October, and the application is available in June.

The application for both the TD scholarships can be found at www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/scholarships.

Ask your Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for more information about scholarships.

2013 4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award

In Nova Scotia, 850 volunteer 4-H leaders make a real difference in the lives of 2400 young people. They pass on their life experience and skills to a new generation, while watching them grow and have fun in the process.

Along with building confident youth, 4-H is about building responsible, caring and strong leaders who bring about positive change in the world around them. 4-H leaders play a significant and pivotal role in young people's success and development.

To recognize the contribution that adult leaders make, 4-H members are asked to show their appreciation for our outstanding leaders across the country. 4-H Canada is soliciting a call for nominations for the 2013 4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award, sponsored by CIBC.

Nominations are currently being accepted by 4-H Canada and will close on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. The 10 provincial winners will then move forward to qualify for the national winner. The national winner will also receive a \$2000 prize.

Selection of the provincial winners is based on three 4-H member references, club involvement, community involvement, length of involvement, and how much members have learned and developed as a result of the leader.

“The commitment and energy of our volunteer leaders is the foundation for 4-H,” said Shannon Benner, CEO of 4-H Canada. “We are very fortunate that CIBC understands the importance of recognizing responsible and motivated leaders in Canada. This investment truly embodies the spirit of 4-H leadership as it will have community impact from coast to coast.”

“CIBC is proud to sponsor the 4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award,” said Dino Medves, Senior Vice President, CIBC Commercial Banking. “With a community investment focus on Kids, Cures and Community, we know that a commitment to 4-H leaders is a positive investment in the future. Strong leaders cultivate self-esteem, encourage social interaction, work as a team and give back to their communities.”

To submit a nomination, please visit apply.4-h-canada.ca.

FCC and 4-H Canada Launches Second “Shout Out for Ag!” Video Competition

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and 4-H Canada are pleased to announce the **Shout Out for Ag!** video competition for a second year.

Feeding off of the success of last year's inaugural – **Shout Out for Ag!** Competition, FCC made the announcement during the National 4-H Members Conference.

Last year, 4-H members and clubs rose to the challenge and posted videos that explained why they were passionate about Canadian agriculture. Almost \$20,000 in prize money was awarded to provincial winners and the national winner.

In 2013 the Nova Scotia winners of this contest were:

First place - Grand Mira Agriculture Shoutout - Grand Mira 4-H Club - \$1000
Second Place - Rawdon 2-Way Loves Agriculture - Rawdon 2 -Way 4-H Club - \$750
Third Place - Margaree Riverside 4-H Club Shakes - Margaree Riverside 4-H Club - \$400

The 2014 competition is open to 4-H clubs across Canada and includes five categories and \$60,000 in prize money. Categories include:

- Leadership in agriculture is important because . . .
- We joined 4-H because . . .
- We want to pursue a career in agriculture because . . .
- What is the future of science and technology in agriculture?
- What can every Canadian do to sustain feeding the planet?

New categories have been created to generate more entries and more winners to reach more clubs. Top entries from each category and province will be declared winners and will advance onto national finals. Complete contest rules and details will be posted on the 4-H Canada website.

The 2014 **Shout Out for Ag! Contest** opens January 1, 2014 and will close on February 15, 2014.

“The longstanding support from FCC towards developing future leaders ensures that youth from across Canada can experience the ‘Learn To Do By Doing’ philosophy first-hand,” said 4-H Canada’s CEO, Shannon Benner.

“We are proud to be a partner in the **Shout Out for Ag!** competition for the second straight year to offer more prizing to more 4-H clubs across Canada,” said Lyndon Carlson, FCC’s Senior Vice President of Marketing. “FCC's partnership with 4-H Canada dates back nearly 25 years, and this latest project aligns perfectly with our belief that young people in rural Canada have creative and positive stories to share with the rest of the country.”

Ram Canada “100 Scholarships for 100 years of 4-H in Canada” Program

The Chrysler Foundation has teamed up with 4-H Canada to sponsor 100 scholarships valued at \$1,000 each for 4-H members across Canada.

4-H scholarships provide opportunities for Canadian youth to further their education and expand their knowledge in support of the agriculture industry. Members also have opportunities to travel nationally and internationally on exchanges, participate in leadership conferences and apply for additional grants and awards. 4-H Canada works with all provinces to create clubs in local communities and has an exceptional track record of developing confident Canadian leaders.

4-H youth from across Canada are eligible to apply for the scholarship if they meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be at least 16 years of age as of January 1, 2013;
- A current 4-H member in good standing;
- In their final year of high school and have **applied*** to a field of study in the arts, science or business of agriculture or currently enrolled in post-secondary school and studying arts, science or business of agriculture.

***Applied** means the student must show acceptance from a qualified, post-secondary institution by **May 31, 2014**.

Applicants must submit a 500 word essay on “What does being a farmer mean to you?” as well as a letter of reference from a 4-H Club leader.

An on-line application form can be found at apply.4-h-canada.ca and will open on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

“This educational initiative supports the cornerstone of what 4-H is about,” said Shannon Benner, CEO of 4-H Canada. “We are very fortunate that The Chrysler Foundation understands the importance of developing responsible and motivated young leaders in Canada. This investment truly embodies the spirit of 4-H leadership as it will have community impact from coast to coast.”

The scholarship deadline is January 15, 2014 and scholarship winners will be notified in March 2014.

To learn more about 4-H Canada visit: www.4-h-canada.ca .

Nova Scotia 4-H Members Attended the Royal Winter Fair

Seventeen 4-H livestock members with the highest caliber dairy and beef heifers represented Team Nova Scotia at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in early November. They competed in two prestigious cattle shows: - The Royal Dairy Classic and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic. Selections for this competition were based on the quality of their calf at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

While at the Royal, 4-H members competed in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes, participated in a provincial display contest and spent a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

Eight 4-H dairy members competed against 4-H members from across Canada in the Royal Dairy Classic: Bridget Wilson and Cyle Campbell from Inverness County; Lane Yuill, Rebecca O’Connell and Holly Masters Colchester County; and Leslie Anderson and Marron Brown, Halifax East Hants. The spare was Sarah Wilson from Inverness County.

Taylor Masters from Colchester County 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 showmanship ability.

The nine members who represented Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic included: Wyatt Oulton and Brittanni Hamilton, Hants County; Jennifer Deon and Emily Ross, Colchester County; Sarah Morse and Victor Horsnell, Kings County; Nicole Booth, Cumberland County; and Rebecca Gilby, Halifax-East Hants. Hailey Scotland of Pictou County had Grand Champion Shorthorn Heifer--a first for Nova Scotia. Melanie Delong of Annapolis County was Herdsman.

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



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

New Business Development Officer in Cape Breton!

We are pleased to announce that, effective October 15, Jeff Hennessey has assumed the position of Business Development Officer with Agriculture and Food Advisory Services in our Sydney office.

Jeff is a graduate of Cape Breton University with a degree in Business Administration. He has held various positions with Sobeys during the past 13 years, and previously worked with Cape Breton University in Resources Based Extension, as well as on an agricultural promotion project. Jeff has experience with a variety of public and private organizations and has acquired a wealth of industry and business knowledge by working closely with farmers, businesses and organizations. Jeff lives in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia with his wife and two children.

Jeff can be reached at 563-2814 or through the main office number at 563-2000.

Welcome aboard, Jeff!

Feeding Soil for Healthy Plants - developed by Perennia and the Environmental Farm Plan Program in partnership with THINKFARM. This workshop will help you optimize soil health and fertility. It will be more meaningful if you have a recent soil test report for your own farm in hand. Don't know how to take a soil sample?

Watch these Perennia videos (www.perennia.ca/soils.php) and drop the samples off at your nearest regional office or directly at the lab in Truro. The cost of analysis per sample for registered farms is \$11.89 + HST. Workshop fee: \$12+HST.

Tentative dates and locations:

December 10, 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m., Antigonish

December 12, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Skye Glen

Spaces at each location are limited. To reserve your space in advance of registration opening, please call Becky at 893-5649.

Upcoming Activities to watch out for in Cape Breton:

Season Extension Using High Tunnels - spring 2014

Tax/HST/Payroll for Farmers/Small Business - 2013

Food Preservation and Safety - 2014

Celebration of Small Scale Farming - July 2014

CB Grass Fed Beef Meeting - 2013

Ag Zone 2014 - April 2014

Cape Breton 4-H News

Moved, Second... Passed

Are you interested in learning how to run a meeting or maybe, how to be a more active participant in meetings with your 4-H club, school groups, or community? Meetings can be confusing, but some basic knowledge can make meetings more productive, interesting and interactive. "Moved, Second... Passed!" is a workshop designed to help you learn the basics of running and participating in an effective meeting. It is a two hour workshop that will be offered in schools across Cape Breton Island by agriculture staff in conjunction with the Cape Breton Regional 4-H Program. It is open to 4-H members and all students. The workshop will focus on meeting preparation, roles of executive members, planning an agenda, making motions, maintaining order, and taking care of business. There is no charge to attend the session, however, pre-registration is required. All sessions will run from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Book for your club or school session now.

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour

Each year ten 4-H members aged 14-16 are selected to participate in the annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour. This is a provincial award held three days over march break. The 2014 tour will be held in the Valley Region. Contact the 4-H office for applications for all the national award travel opportunities.

***Please submit all applications for national and provincial awards to the Sydney office by November 20, 2013, with your photo attached. Mail to: National/ Provincial 4-H Award, c/o Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Suite 303- 320 Esplanade Sydney NS B1P 7B9 or fax to 563-3435.**

Winter Craft Co-op Workshop

Interested in learning some new skills? 4-H members, leaders, parents, and community members are invited to participate in the Winter Craft Co-op Workshop. Partnering with a local quilting group will promise to be a relaxing crafting day. Program details to follow for a January session.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2013/ 2014

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: novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/

Civic Center - November 26, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Port Hawkesbury
Grand Lake Rd. Fire Hall, November 27, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sydney
Grand Lake Rd. Fire Hall, December 11, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sydney
Bras d'Or Hall, Villa Drive, December 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Bras d'Or
Bras d'Or Hall, Villa Drive, January 14, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Bras d'Or
Bras d'Or Hall, Villa Drive, February 18, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Bras d'Or

Important Dates

November - National 4-H Month
Deadline for National Members Awards - Cape Breton/ Victoria, November 22
Cape Breton Annual Meeting and Banquet - November 17, (Rising Sun hosting)
National Award applications due to 4-H office - November 20
Cape Breton/ Victoria New Leader Training Session - November 26, 6:00 p.m. - Civic Center
Cape Breton/ Victoria National Award Interviews - November 26, 4:00 p.m., Civic Center
Richmond County National Award Interviews tentative - December 18
Inverness County National Award Interviews tentative - December 19
Junior Member Workshop- February 28, Sydney
Junior Member Workshop - February 3, Port Hawkesbury
Regional Rally - April 12, Baddeck
Ag- Zone- Inverness County- April, location TBA

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 you all for your energy and dedication this year. Your volunteer efforts reflect the quality of work that the members in our region are showcasing locally and provincially. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the regional office in Sydney at (phone) 563-2000, (fax) 563-3435, or the Mabou office at: (phone) 945-2901, (fax) 945-2858.

HOLIDAY
Greetings

Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

New Farm Dream

Have you ever considered, or do you know someone who is considering, launching a small farm business, but are unsure of where to start? Then this course is for you!

For career changers looking for a new start, farm apprentices considering a start up, or those looking to turn their farm hobby into a profitable venture, exploring the new farm dream is intended to bridge the gap between ideas and action.

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 and will help them decide whether or not this is the path they want, or can take. Participants of this program will discuss current business opportunities in agriculture. A facilitator will guide you through four interactive sessions featuring panel discussions with existing farmers, guest speakers, government and industry representatives.

The course will be offered in Antigonish in January but we need confirmation of at least ten participants before we can schedule times. There will be one session per week for four weeks on Thursday evenings for three hours each.

The course fee is \$100/person. You must register and pay by December 16, 2013.

Spaces are limited to 12 participants, so don't delay!
To register call Laureen Boyd at 863-4705

Feeding Soil for Healthy Plants Workshop

What do the letters and numbers on your soil test report mean? What do the numbers on the bag of compost or fertilizer mean? How do you combine the two sets of numbers to calculate how much of a soil amendment to apply? This workshop will answer all of these questions and more. The Department of Agriculture has partnered with Perennia's soil specialists to bring interactive learning workshops to five different regions across the province. The first half of the workshop will consist of presentations about what the soil tests mean and the second half you'll get to calculate fertility requirements for different crops. You'll have an opportunity to interact with other farmers and get answers to questions that should help you prepare for the next growing season. Below are the dates and locations of all the workshops, however, we require at least 10 people to register for the workshop before we can commit to offering it. So if you're interested, or know someone who is, visit novascotia.ca/thinkfarm to register.

Upcoming dates (tentative):

- December 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Antigonish
- December 12, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., Skye Glen

Spaces at each location are limited. To reserve your space in advance of registration opening, please call Becky at 893-5649.

Farmers' Markets

The **Antigonish farmers' market** is now in its 17th year and still going strong!

At the market you will find a wide variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables, organic meats, maple syrup, honey, preserves, wild mushrooms, heritage products, to whatever kind of mouth watering baked goods you can imagine. With the many artisans and crafters you're sure to find unique jewelry, quilts, wall hangings, wood products, photos, painted silk items and stained glass - just to name a few. As we get closer to Christmas the market offers some wonderful gift ideas. Market hours are Saturday 9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. in the 4-H barn behind the Antigonish arena. The market will run every Saturday until December 21.

New Glasgow farmers' market finished its regular season but they will have two **winter markets** with most of the usual vendors and some additional seasonal vendors. Dates for these two markets will be **November 16** and **December 14**; hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the [dome.mailto:jiggysjava@hotmail.com](mailto:jiggysjava@hotmail.com)

November is National 4-H Month

4-H is a nation-wide youth program dedicated to the development of young people. It is for youth aged nine to 21 and offers 40 different projects, including both life skills and livestock projects. There are close to 2,400 members, 900 leaders and 100 clubs in Nova Scotia. Check out their website at novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/educational-resources/4h/projects

For more information on how to become a 4-H member in Antigonish, Guysborough or Pictou Counties, contact Dawn Barrington-Hodgson at 863-7501 or 485-7161.

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

The Central Region Extension and Outreach office is located in the Perennia Innovation Park.

The Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Business Development Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator and administrative support are part of that team.

Perennia Innovation Park also houses the Perennia staff (includes the former AgraPoint staff), staff of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and other NSDA staff. 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 question or opportunity you'd like to discuss, feel free to contact us.

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

Elizabeth Coady, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 893-6586
coadyea@gov.ns.ca

Amanda Priest, Administrative Support, 893-6575 priestav@gov.ns.ca

Claire Hanlon-Smith, Business Development Officer, 893-4491
hanlonca@gov.ns.ca

Staff at the Central Regional office of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture would like to extend a Merry Christmas and good wishes in the New Year. During this holiday season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. We remind our farm owners and operators to make safety a priority while they prepare for the New Year.

It has been a busy fall with meetings and events. Lots of issues are being discussed such as NSDA programs and services, grass pellets for fuel, OH&S concerns, environmental pressures, land use planning, and societal pressures. If you have a particular issue you would like addressed or if you want to organize a meeting for your area, please let me know so that we can discuss it and take appropriate steps.

Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers

There's always time to be thinking of nominees for the Atlantic Region Outstanding Young Farmers award. It's a great opportunity to honour the up-and-coming farmers of the agriculture community. Anyone can nominate a young farmer or farm couple, provided the nominee meets three basic requirements: they must be between the ages of 18 and 39, be farm operators and derive a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming. For more information or to obtain nomination forms please visit: <http://www.oifatlantic.ca/>

First Aid Training

St. John Ambulance offers several first aid courses in throughout the province. Obtaining more information on first aid training or to register for a course can easily be done on their website <http://www.sja.ca> Or toll free at: 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 first aid skills and other select subjects needed to sustain life and manage the scene of an injury. Emergency First Aid is recommended for worksites with 1-19 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

If there is a farm or a group of farmers in a given area where there are 12 willing participants, they can have a training day of their own, and receive a reduced rate through Farm Safety Society of Nova Scotia. Call Michael at 893-3645 for more details.

Disposal of used farm sharps

The agriculture office in Truro 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. If you would like to receive a sharps bucket for your farm please give Michael a call at 893-3645.

Central Region 4-H News

I would like to recognize the following members from Central Region who have completed 13 years of 4-H. Thank-you for your dedication to the 4-H Program!

Brent Fisher - Brookfield; Alexander Burrows - Clifton; Kait Bates, Jennifer Deon - Harmony Ridge; Fabian Hamilton, Thomas Harrington - Onslow-Belmont; Rebecca Gilby - Hardwood Lands; Robyn MacDonald and Sarah Manthorne - Double D

Fall is 4-H Awards Banquet season in the Central Region!

Cumberland County held their annual 4-H awards banquet on October 19 at the Lion's Den in Amherst. The evening's guest speaker was Dorin Dorn. Cumberland's top club reporter for 2013 was Kayla Dale, Double D.

Halifax East Hants County held their annual 4-H awards banquet on October 24 at St. Bridget's Hall in Shubenacadie. Tracy Cameron, former Shu-Mil member was the guest speaker for the evening. Awards were presented to the following members: Top Junior- Jordan Reid, 4-HRM, Top Senior - Mandy Smith, Shu-Mil and Top Rookie- Anik Tellier, Riverside.

Colchester County 4-H had their annual auction and awards night on Saturday, November 9 at the Onslow Junior High School at 6:30 p.m. Colchester County in recognized the outstanding 4-H members, leaders, sponsors and friends of 4-H. Awards were presented to the following members: Top All Around - Jamie O'Connell, Stewiacke-Valley, Top Junior Leader - Jessica Whooten, TNR, Top Senior - Kait Bates, Harmony Ridge, Top Junior - Beth O'Connell, Stewiacke-Valley, Top Rookie - William Cooper, Onslow-Belmont and Top Cloverbud - Tasha McNutt, Clifton.

Colchester Scholarship Recipients: Michaela Benvie, Hanna Hart, Katelyn O'Connell, and Rebecca O'Connell, Erica Jackson, Megan Wright - Stewiacke-Valley; Erica Brenton, Andrea Hamilton, Taylor Hoyt - Onslow-Belmont; Alexander Burrows, Jelisa Waugh, Jacob Works - Clifton; Deanna Stevens, Glooscap Trail and Alex Wile, Brookfield.

Cumberland Scholarship Recipients:

Heather Creamer, Nicole Booth - Three-Way
Ryan Thompson, Kendra Kinnear - Sunrise
Luke Jackson, Allison Smith, Josh Tannahill, Kamryn Findlay - Ro-Win-Lea
Lea Branden Casey, Milton King - Oxford
Allison Foster - Linden
Moya Ferrigno, Patrick Milner, Tamara Snook, Emily Pipes, Raymond Manthorne - Double D
Megan Elliot Jenna Cottrill, Lindsay Anderson - BVCM

Central Region Leader Tenure Awards

5 years:

Teri-Lynn Masters, Clifton; Becky Brenton, Onslow-Belmont; Crystal Fullerton, Onslow-Belmont; Michelle Williams, TNR; Fred Horton, Ellen Langille - Bay Vista Conn Mills;
Lynne Bishop, Gerald Milner, Cathy Mitchell, Tim Peters, Geraldine (Peggy) Sperry, Kim Bacon - Double D; John-Calvin Siddall - Three-Way; Leslie Holman - Musqie Maple Leafs;
Jocelyn Parker - Riverside; Carolyn Cameron, Peter Giffin, Tammy Giffin, Kelly Morehouse, Scott Smith, Teena Vincent vanderRiet - Shu-Mil.

10 years:

Brittany (Alum) Sutherland, Shelia Archibald, Tricia Nelson - Brookfield; Scott Masters, Clifton; Jennifer Porter - Onslow-Belmont; Kevin Wells, Bay Vista Conn Mills; Lisa Baldwin - Ro-Win-Lea.

15 years:

Karma Reid - Bay Vista Conn Mills; Bev Mason - Sunrise

20 years:

Valerie Taylor - Brookfield; Jose Kowenberg - Bay Vista Conn Mills

25 years:

Wendy Brenton - Brookfield; Judy Richards - Bay Vista Conn Mills

30 years:

Brian Truman - Sunrise

35 years:

Colleen Jackson - Stewiacke-Valley

40 years:

Margaret Hansen - Bay Vista Conn Mills

It's not too late to join your nearest club! For more information on 4-H in Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax East Hants counties contact Elizabeth Coady, agriculture leadership coordinator at the Central Region Department of Agriculture Office, coadyea@gov.ns.ca or 893-6586.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and realizes their dreams in 2014!

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

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, the NSDA staff at the Kentville Agricultural Centre would like to extend a Merry Christmas and warm wishes for a New Year of happiness. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. We remind our farm owners and operators to keep safety a top priority while they are celebrating the season with family and friends. May the New Year refresh your spirit, bring you renewed inspiration and prosperity. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sale at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on October 26. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1:00 p.m.

Farm Management Skills Training Course Lunenburg/Queens Counties

The Lunenburg-Queens Federation of Agriculture are looking at facilitating a training course focused on Farm Management Skills that will be offered to farmers and farmer's spouses, employees, etc., from Lunenburg and Queens counties. Interested individuals are asked to contact a member of the local federation. If there is enough interest in such a course, a date and time will be set up.

E-Mailing Addresses

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

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2013 - 2014

Food handler courses are held in Bridgewater, Windsor, Kentville, Middleton, Lawrencetown, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne.

Our website, listing all dates and times of courses, is located here: novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/scheduled-courses/southwest/

The link to our registration form is found on this page as well. For additional information, contact the food safety office at 902-638-2395.

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.

Interested In Joining 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 South Shore 4-H region consisting of Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelburne Counties has a strong 4-H program with 11 clubs. The Valley 4-H region consists of Kings and Hants Co. and has six clubs in each county. With the variety of projects offered in 4-H there is definitely something for everyone! If anyone is interested in finding out more about the 4-H program, give the 4-H Office a call at (902) 679-6027 (Valorie Skinner - Valley Region), 902-634-7575 (Angie Garnett - South Shore Region) and we will be more than happy to give some helpful information. You can also log on to the Nova Scotia 4-H website to find out more information about 4-H program and youth movement.

novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/educational-resources/4h/

4-H Clubs in communities all across Canada are gearing up for the month of November, which is National 4-H Month. Throughout the month clubs will be celebrating being a part of Canada's most prominent youth organization with fundraisers, socials and fun.



South Shore and Valley Region 4-H News

Thank You South Shore 4-H

100 years of 4-H in Canada was celebrated at the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show held this year on the South Shore Exhibition grounds in Bridgewater, September 27-29, 2013. The South Shore 4-H Region was very pleased to host this special event and would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who helped to make it a success. 4-H families and spectators travelled to the show from all counties across the province to compete in, and observe, the many leadership and skills building competitions that included young speakers for agriculture, livestock, life skills, tug-of-war and many more. In 2014, the Eastern 4-H Region will host the Nova Scotia 4-H Show at the provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro, September 26-28, 2014.

Upcoming 4-H Leaders Council Meetings

Queens County - November 18, 6:00 p.m., Westfield Hall, Caledonia
Lunenburg County - December 3 and January 7, 7:30 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall.

Valley 4-H

Hants County Awards Banquet

Hants County awards banquet was held on Sunday November 10. At the annual banquet, Ralph Clark, president of the council, presented numerous leaders with certificates indicating their years of volunteering with the program.

New Leader Information Sessions

Kings County leaders - January 8, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Kentville Agricultural Centre.

Hants County Leaders - January 13, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Brooklyn school.

All new leaders are required to attend OR complete the online knowledge test. For more information, contact Valorie at 679-6027 or email at skinnevh@gov.ns.ca.

Traditional Craft Workshop: January 24 and 31 Cornwallis Room Kentville Agricultural Centre

This workshop will be a combination of traditional rug hooking (two day workshop); Needle Felting (one day workshop) and one more workshop to be determined. This workshop is open to 4H Volunteers, WINS and other community members within the South Shore, Western and Valley Regions, who are interested in learning more about our traditional crafts. Information will be mailed out to clubs and branches mid-November.

HOLIDAY
Greetings

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

Cornwallis Office – New Location

The Western Region office located in Cornwallis Park has moved. We are still in the Park but now at 173 Haida Street in an office with Department Fisheries and Aquaculture Head office and Department of Natural Resources Regional office. The toll free number to reach our departments is 1-800-639-7030.



Cornwallis Staff Updates

Terry McKay joined the Cornwallis team on October 15. He will be filling in as agriculture transition officer for Nicole Burkhard while she is on maternity leave. Terry is a graduate from NSAC and has a wealth of industry knowledge and experience, gained by working closely with farmers as a consultant with Clarence farm services and as an owner operator of his own farm. Terry has been employed for the past six years with Michelin. Contact Terry at 902-638-2397 or email at mckaytw@gov.ns.ca.

Jeff Wentzell has moved within the office to become the new business development officer. We are excited to have this position moved from Truro to the region to better serve the clients. Jeff is transitioning his duties as agricultural resource coordinator. Contact Jeff at 902-824-0924 or email at wentzejh@gov.ns.ca.

Angie Garnett will be acting agricultural resource coordinator for the next couple of months. Angie is a graduate of NSAC with both a BSc and MSc in agriculture. Since graduation she has worked with AAFC as an agri-environmental research assistant and watershed coordinator for the Cornwallis headwaters society and currently with NSDA as agricultural leadership coordinator for South Shore and Western regions. Contact Angie at 902-638-2396 or email at garnetae@gov.ns.ca.

Fur Industry Regulations

We continue to work with the fur industry in the implementation of the fur industry regulations. If you have questions about this information or would like to discuss specifics about the regulations our are in the planning process we are available for a farm visit or local meeting to discuss the regulations please call us at 902-638-2396 or email at garnetae@gov.ns.ca.

Western Region 4-H News

All three counties have completed the 2013 year with awards banquets and reports from travel award winners. Registration forms are now available at the 4-H office in Cornwallis. All forms must be returned to the office by December 1, 2013. Travel award applications will be coming out the middle of November. All 4-H members who meet the guidelines should apply. Interviews will be held the first week of December.

November is 4-H month in Canada.

Watch for special activities and events. 4-H news and information is heard each Saturday around noon on AVR stations. This broadcast will keep all 4-H families up to date on events that are taking place in the Western Region.

Congratulations to Allison Graves and Alexa Wilson from Yarmouth County who attended National 4-H members conference in Toronto from November 6-10, 2013, and to Melanie DeLong of Annapolis County who travelled with the Nova Scotia Royal beef team to the Royal Winter Fair.

Upcoming Dates:

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting and annual meeting, November 20, 7:00 p.m., 3 Lovett St.
Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting and Annual Meeting November 21, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library
Annapolis County 4-H turkey dinner and dessert auction, November 24, at Lawrencetown Firehall. Tickets at the door. This is a fund raiser for renovations to the 4-H canteen.
4-H National Award interviews, December 2 - 6
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the 4-H members, families and leaders from the staff in the Western Region.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

Food handler courses are held on the following dates:

Kentville - December 4
Yarmouth - December 5
Shelburne - December 10
Digby - December 11
Bridgewater - December 12
Yarmouth - January 7
Kentville - January 8

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

Our website listing all dates and times of courses is located here: novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services. (click on Food Protection) You may also obtain a registration form on the website. For more information, contact the Food Safety office at 638-2395.