

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

February 2014

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Early Launch of Innovation Programs

Programs and Business Risk Management is pleased to announce that we are now accepting proposals with applications for the following Innovation Programs for the 2014-15 program year:

- Research Acceleration
- Farm Innovation
- Agri-Products Innovation and Commercialization

All three programs have a deadline for submission of **February 28, 2014**. You can find the program guidelines and applications at the following link: <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/innovation>

Strawberry Assistance Initiative

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have partnered to provide AgriRecovery assistance to those Nova Scotia strawberry producers suffering a loss due to a strawberry virus complex. This is an application based program intended to cover a portion of the costs associated with destruction and replacement of strawberry acres. Applications are now available and must be submitted to the Programs and Business Risk Management office by **May 1, 2014**. For information regarding the details of this program, use the following link to access the complete guidelines and application form. <http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/programs-brm/Strawberry-Assistance.pdf>

Pollination Expansion Program

The intent of the Nova Scotia Pollination Expansion Program is to provide assistance to registered Nova Scotia Beekeepers for the provision of expanding the number of honey bee hives available for pollination of Nova Scotia crops. As such, Programs and Business Risk Management is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2014-15 Nova Scotia Pollination Expansion Program. You may get program application and guidelines at: <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/>

Please watch the Department of Agriculture website and NSFA e-news for notice of other upcoming program announcements and messages.

Please contact Programs and Business Risk Management 893-6510 or 1-866-844-4276 if you have any questions on any of these initiatives.

Scholarship Awarded

Nova Scotia 4-H Member
Awarded Scholarship
to Live and Work
in New Zealand
– see page 7

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. Last year there were more than 26,000 acres; 21,500 dairy animals; and 21 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

- Vegetable - March 14
- Spring Grain - March 14
- Potato - April 19
- Corn - April 30
- Maple - April 30
- Weather Plan - April 30
- Soybean (includes Canola and 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 the Weather Derivative Plan, 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 at any time 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 our website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>.

The Department of Natural Resources has valuable information on best practices to reduce damage from wildlife. This information can be found at: <http://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 February-March 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 which are \$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 - Truro, or 902-679-6015/6028 - Kentville, or visit our website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>.

Crop Insurance Information Sessions

The staff of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission will be holding three information sessions to discuss and receive feedback on its crop and livestock insurance programs. These sessions are open to clients and those thinking about or interested in crop insurance as a way to manage risk on their farm. All sessions begin at 7:00 pm. Information Sessions will be held on:

- Tuesday, February 25, Annapolis Boardroom, 60 Research Dr., Bible Hill
- Wednesday, February 26, Antigonish, Department of Agriculture Office
- Tuesday, March 4, Cornwallis Room, Kentville Research Station

Please Note:

The main office of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission is located at:
60 Research Drive, Suite A, Perennia Innovation Park
Bible Hill, NS

This is the same building as the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture office. The Commission's phone numbers and mailing address have not changed.

Perennia Food Safety Training

Perennia has been providing high quality food safety training in Atlantic Canada since 2006. We offer both public and private training. Our public courses vary each year depending on what is important to the food processing industry. Our **NEW 2014 Course Calendar** is now available online! For course overviews or to be directed towards our online registration form, please visit:

<http://www.perennia.ca/training.php>

Upcoming Courses:

HACCP for Warehousing and Distribution Operations

DATE: March 27 and 28, 2014

Fee: \$930.00 + HST

Location: Truro

Registration Deadline: March 13, 2014 Course Overview

Allergen Management

DATE: April 7, 2014

Fee: \$695.00 + HST

Location: Truro

Registration Deadline: March 25, 2014 Course Overview

HACCP V: Internal Auditing of your HACCP System

DATE: April 8, 2014

Fee: \$695.00 + HST

Location: Truro

Registration Deadline: March 25, 2014

Market Farming Workshop

ThinkFARM in collaboration with Perennia, will be hosting a one-day Intensive on **Market Farming** with Jean-Paul Courtens and Jody Bolluyt from Roxbury Farm (www.roxburyfarm.com).

On Monday, February 24, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at Perennia Park. Jean-Paul and Jody will deliver a workshop that will cover the following topics:

- Developing personal relationships to everything in farming;
- Vegetable production at Roxbury Farm;
- Integrating animals on a vegetable farm; and the principles and practice of crop rotation.

The cost will be \$15 +HST (refreshments will be provided).

Maritime Wild Blueberry Cost of Production Study Workshops

Perennia will be hosting a series of three workshops that will focus on the results of the Maritime Cost of Production study and how you can use this information to help guide your plans going forward. Each meeting will be two hours in length (6:00 - 8:00 pm) with no registration fee. Registration will be limited to 40 per event. Please call 1-902-896-0277 to register.

Amherst - Wandlyn - TBD

Antigonish - Claymore Inn - February 20, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

We will discuss the findings of the report and some of the trends it shows in the industry. Also, each participant will be given a worksheet that they can take home and use to compare their own operations against industry benchmarks.

Feeding Soil for Healthy Plants

Join Perennia specialists Amy Sangster and Av Singh and Environmental Farm Planner Kathryn Bremner, for a three-hour session on calculating application rates of organic soil amendments to meet crop demands.

There will be an overview of nutrient behaviour in soils, followed by a hands-on session in which participants will determine application rates based on soil test reports, plant requirements, and their own intuition and experience. Participants will choose from examples of commercial organic amendments, as well as compost and manure test results, to complete their soils fertility program.

As part of the workshop, participants will receive a hard copy of Building Soils for Better Crops, edited by Fred Magdoff and Harold van Es, a valuable resource for farms of any type, production method, or scale. Participants are encouraged to bring their own soil test reports, manure test results and compost reports if they are available.

When: February 22, 2014, NSCC, Yarmouth

Registration fee: \$15+HST

Dairy Focus 2014

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia is pleased to be hosting another Dairy Focus in March 2014. March 25 is a pre-conference workshop and tour in Truro and Stewiacke (limited spaces for BOTH), and March 26 and 27 are the conference sessions and trade show days at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront.

The program agenda has kept all the good stuff and added more!

- An exciting speaker program with a new bear pit session
- One of the largest trade show to date (close to 60 exhibitors) with all exhibitors together in one big room
- A hot breakfast included in the fee
- Amenities at the hotel for the whole family
- A new Platinum Supper that starts right after the last session on Day 1 of the conference, allowing networking and casual conversations - with lots of time to hit the town or visit a hospitality suite afterward
- A super hotel room rate if booked by the deadline
- A \$350 Future Show gift card draw if you register by the deadline

For detailed information regarding speakers, agenda and registration information, please visit <http://dairyfocus.org/>.

2014 Beeline

At the request of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association joint pollination committee, the **Beeline** is up and running again for 2014. This allows blueberry growers and others who need pollination services to connect directly to beekeepers who wish to rent hives.

<http://www.perennia.ca/beeline.php>

Please note my new email and our new website, facebook and twitter addresses.

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My Farm and the Canada Revenue Agency

Are you new to the business of farming, and dreading tax time? ThinkFARM has invited experienced accountant Sonny MacDougall, CA, from MGM & Associates, to provide advice on tax-related topics such as reporting farm income, claiming expenses, calculating depreciation, claiming and charging HST, calculating payroll deductions, enrolling in AgriInvest and AgriStability, and more!

This workshop will be piloted in the following locations:

- February 25, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Cape Breton County Exhibition, North Sydney
- February 26, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Skye Glen Hall, Skye Glen

Registration deadline: February 20

Cost (due at registration): \$11.50 (\$10+HST)

To register, contact Catherine at 563-2000 or email plumricl@gov.ns.ca.

Send in Farm Photos

Do you dig being a farmer? Do you have farm photos? Then you can help show the public what a great career in farming looks like!

Send us a photo of you at work on your farm (with your passion for farming strongly evident) and we'll replace the current photo on our Facebook cover photo with yours. And as if Facebook fame and representing the amazing energy of Nova Scotia farmers weren't prize enough, we'll make a poster out of the winning entries and send you a copy. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year.

For more information, or for photo specs, please visit:

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/thinkfarm/facebook-photo-contest-a.pdf>

Food Safety and Preservation for Direct Marketers

Increase your awareness of food safety principles for producing foods sold directly to Nova Scotian consumers. Back by popular demand after its initial offering in 2010, this course is designed to provide small and medium scale value-added food marketers with knowledge of food safety principles for products found at public markets and other food establishments. It will be of interest to public market vendors, restauranteurs, chefs, food retailers, butchers, caterers, processors, and others. There is no charge to attend.

There are still spaces available at each location and some sessions may be canceled because too few people have registered. So sign up today by contacting Mary at hartme@gov.ns.ca or 902-893-7473! For more information, visit:

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/business-development/thinkfarm/workshops/food-safety/>

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Course Locations and Dates

All sessions run from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Sessions will be cancelled if fewer than 15 people register for a location. All courses may be subject to cancellation due to inclement weather.

Workshop Dates:

- February 25 - Days Inn and Conference Centre, Bridgewater - Deadline: February 18
- February 26 - Rm. C181, NSCC Burrigge Campus, Yarmouth - Deadline: February 19
- March 5 - Atlantic Superstore Community Room, Barrington St., Halifax - Deadline: February 26



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Inspiring Minds

*Faculty of
Agriculture*

Welcome Spring with Extended Learning

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

NEW! Start UP Agriculture Weekend

Startup Weekend is about passionate leaders and entrepreneurs on a mission to inspire, educate, and empower individuals and communities. Come share ideas, learn the path of entrepreneurship and start your own business!

Truro - March 28-30, 2014

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 post-harvest 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.

Kentville- February 17, 18 and 19, 2014

PEI April 21, 22 & 23, 2014

The Modern Beekeeper New intake

The Modern Beekeeper is a hands-on production course consisting of four modules timed with the annual beekeeping cycle. This course is designed for new farmers and existing producers with at least three hives, who want to gain production skills and grow into a viable agricultural business.

Module 1 The Busyness of Bees- March 1 & 2, 2014, on campus

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 14-17, 2014.

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

****Info Coming Soon Small Ruminant Parasite Seminar- April 26, 2014**

For more information on all of our programs, visit www.dal.ca/extendedlearning or call 902-893-6666.



Provincial 4-H News

Young Canadian Awarded Scholarship to Live and Work in New Zealand

4-H Canada is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2014 AgriVenture Global Scholarship program. This opportunity allows the scholarship recipient, Bridget Wilson, to work in New Zealand for six-months.

Bridget Wilson, a fourth-year university student pursuing an agriculture degree in Animal Science, Genetics and Molecular Biology, will take part in a six-month program to rural New Zealand. Originally from Skye Glen, Nova Scotia, Wilson is currently enrolled at Dalhousie University. She will live and work on a dairy farm in New Zealand from October through April. The \$3,000 scholarship will be applied towards the AgriVenture program fee.

“Although I have gained a lot of knowledge about agriculture through my schooling, I am in need of more practical, hands-on learning experiences,” said Wilson.

“The AgriVenture scholarship recognizes a 4-H member who is a leader in their club and community” said Allison Sarauer, AgriVenture Program Co-ordinator for Canada. “AgriVenture trainees are ambassadors for Canadian agriculture, and we’re happy to support an outstanding 4-H member or alumni in gaining experience and exposure to the global agriculture scene”.

“4-H Canada is very fortunate that AgriVenture understands the importance of building young leaders,” added Shannon Benner, CEO of 4-H Canada. “This investment embodies the spirit of 4-H leadership because it cultivates self-esteem, responsibility, and self-motivation.”

AgriVenture provides cultural and work experiences to young adults aged 18-30. Wilson had a choice of dairy, beef, sheep or crop placement opportunities in a variety of host countries including New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden and others.

Wilson was chosen by Nova Scotia 4-H as the provincial candidate for the scholarship and joined others from across Canada in the competition. Scholarship applicants between the ages of 18 and 30, with two years of 4-H experience, are welcome to apply to their 4-H provincial office by November 1.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week in Nova Scotia

March 9th 15th, 2014.

Every year the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA), the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and provincial organizations join in celebrating Canadian Agricultural Safety Week during the third week of March.

This year's campaign, “Let's Talk About It!” focuses on communication. In keeping with this theme, Farm Safety Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will be hosting an event, which will include a presentation on “The Internal Responsibility System & Rights and Responsibilities”, a press conference and a workshop focusing on “Seasonal Agricultural Workers The Importance of Communication”.

Where: Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich
When: March 11, 2014

For further information contact:
Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, Farm Safety Coordinator
Farm Safety Nova Scotia
Phone: (902) 893-2293
Email: cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca



4-H Members Can Apply for Scholarships

4-H members are encouraged to apply for several provincial 4-H scholarships - with deadlines for submission due April 1. Guidelines and applications can be found in the General Leader Kit for scholarships from the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the George MacNeil 4-H Entrance Scholarships.

4-H members are encouraged to keep checking on the Canadian 4-H Council website for national 4-H scholarship opportunities available in 2014. Check out: <http://apply.4-h-canada.ca>

Atlantic 4-H Members to Attend Leadership Conference in Debert

On March 21 - 23, 80 Atlantic 4-H members will participate in an interactive conference challenging them to become strong leaders in their 4-H club, community and country. The conference will be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre.

“At this conference members will gain self confidence and the skills necessary to be effective leaders in their 4-H clubs, community organizations and in their future careers,” said Ruth Grant, Senior Agricultural Leadership Coordinator. “The Atlantic 4-H Committee is pleased to host such an exciting event.”

Tyler Hayden, a motivational speaker, will keep the 4-H members busy with interactive activities that not only guarantees a laughter filled session but sends 4-H members home thinking about what simple commitments they can make to create a balanced lifestyle in their personal and professional lives.

4-H members will participate in uFit a fitness program, a community service project and a variety of workshop sessions designed to keep them active and learning new skills.

Funding has been provided by the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Growing Forward and the 4-H councils from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Annual Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Youth Tour Introduces 4-H Members to Career Opportunities

From March 10 -12, ten 4-H members will participate in the sixth annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour. Each year this provincial program is held in a different area in Nova Scotia during the school March Break and this year it will be hosted in the Valley Region.

The purpose of the three day tour is to give 4-H members, between the ages of 14 -17, opportunities to hear speakers and participate in tours with a business, agriculture and industry format. Visiting a new part of the province will give them a broader perspective on career opportunities, which will help them to confidently make decisions about where they choose to settle when they enter the workforce.

4-H members are selected from across the province for the tour through an application and interview process. During the tour, 4-H members learn about a specific region in the province; the community, community leaders, and the local area resource-based businesses and rural employers. During various social activities they will have many opportunities for networking with 4-H members from the specific region they are visiting.

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

The 4-H members participating in the 2014 Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour are:

Callie Mac Donald, Cape Breton County; Nicole Martin and Katie Stokes, Kings County; Maria Penman, Halifax East-Hants; Teresa Verstraten, Cumberland County; Shanay Bent, Digby County; Ian Oliver, Annapolis County; Seth Freeman, Lunenburg County; Benn Himmelman, Shelburne County and Emma Dwyer, Pictou County.

Summer Jobs at Camp Rankin

Students who have an interest in working with children and spending time in the outdoors can find a rewarding summer job at Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp. Positions are available for Canoeing; Drama; Nature and Outdoors; Crafts; Recreation and Healthy Living and Exploring 4-H Counselors this summer.

Camp Rankin is located in Cape Breton just outside of St. Peter's at Cape George on the Bras d'Or Lakes. The camp is open to Nova Scotia's 4-H members between the ages of nine and fifteen and strives to uphold 4-H's values and traditions which encourages care and responsibility for our resources and teaches positive life skills to youth. Campers attend one of five camps running Sunday until Friday, beginning June 29 and ending August 1, 2014. A wide range of activities are offered to campers and include hiking, swimming, canoeing, drama, crafts and recreation.

Under the supervision of the Camp Director, each Camp Counsellor will follow all camp rules and set a good example for campers. The Camp Counsellor will supervise a group of up to seven campers during the night in individual cabins and will work with this group during camp activities such as campfires and chapel and during camp chores. Each counsellor will be responsible for preparing two to three workshops directly related to their job title suitable for campers aged 9 - 12 and 13 - 15, and for leading their session one to two times daily. Counsellors will be expected to participate in and supervise all group activities including hikes, dances and various recreational activities.

This is a great opportunity for all senior 4-H members at least 16 years old, who have a good understanding of the 4-H program and enjoys the outdoors. Current First Aid training is a requirement for all counsellors and formal canoeing training is required for the Canoeing Counsellor.

As a Camp Rankin Counsellor you will have a great summer job, where you will meet new friends and create many fond memories. 4-H members who are 16 or older can also apply for the Counsellor - in - Training positions. These positions are on a volunteer basis and are for one of the camping weeks.

Deadlines to have the applications to the 4-H office in Truro is March 15. Contact your local 4-H office if you are interested in any of these summer jobs or check with your General Leader for an application.

4-H Annual Chocolate Fund Raiser Set for March

If a 4-H member asks you to buy a chocolate bar from March 1 - 31 it's for a good cause! Each year 4-H members across Nova Scotia participate in their provincial fund raising campaign and this year they are selling World's Finest Chocolate products to raise money for local and provincial 4-H programs.

For \$2.00 each, 4-H members will be offering consumers a choice of Almond, Caramel or Crispe Bars, Mint Meltaways and Chocolate Covered Almonds. A coupon from Pizza Hut will be on the bar labels.

Proceeds from this sale are split 50/50 between the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the counties/ clubs selling bars. The provincial council uses the money raised to support provincial events such as the East Gen Showcase; National Travel Award registrations; Camp Rankin and the Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships; and provincial programs such as 4-H Weekend, Annual Meeting and the Nova Scotia 4-H Show.



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

As of January 1, 2014 (applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Length (years)	Full Term	*10 Yr Term	*5 Yr Term	*3 Yr Term
1 – 5	2.95%	--	2.95%	2.65%
6 – 10	3.95%	3.95%	3.40%	2.65%
11 – 15	4.75%	4.45%	3.55%	2.95%
16 – 20	5.20%	4.95%	3.65%	2.95%
21 – 25	5.70%	5.00%	3.70%	3.00%
26 – 30	5.65%	5.05%	3.75%	3.00%

* 3, 5 and 10 year term rates available to clients meeting risk, cashflow, and collateral requirements.

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

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

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 893-6506

Dalhousie University Agricultural College Campus, 137 College Road

Kentville 679-6009

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street

novascotia.ca/agri/farmlb



Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Extension and Outreach

Marion MacAulay, Manager

Truro Office

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax Counties:

Tel: 893-6575 Fax: 893-2757
priestav@gov.ns.ca

Amanda Priest, Admin. Assistant
Michael Kittilsen, P.Ag., Ag. Resource
Coordinator

Elizabeth Coady, Acting Agriculture Leadership
Coordinator

Claire Hanlon Smith, Business Development
Officer

Vacant, Agricultural Transition Officer

Antigonish Office

Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:

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Laureen Boyd, Admin. Assistant
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Coordinator

Adam Wile, Agricultural Transition Officer

Sydney Office

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond Counties:

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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

Kentville Office

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens Counties:

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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

Cornwallis Office

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties:

Tel: 638-2395 Fax: 638-2389
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Gina Saulnier, Admin. Assistant
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Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator
Terry McKay, Acting Agricultural Transition
Officer

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

Creating Local Food Connections – March 17, 2014

Bringing together restaurant owners and food producers – Mabou Parish Hall 1:00 - 4:00 pm – Invitation only.
Please contact Adam Wile for more information. wilean@gov.ns.ca
(902)-863-2087

Pesticide Applicators Licence Course – Skye Glen Hall

Date: To be announced

The Inverness Victoria Federation of Agriculture is hosting a Pesticide Certification Course in the Skye Glen Hall for anyone wishing to prepare and write the test for the Pesticide Applicator's Licence. Training will be provided by Jim Jotcham.

All participants should get a copy of the training manual prior to the course, they can be ordered from the NSAC bookstore (1-902-893-6728) downloaded for free
(<http://novascotia.ca/nse/pests/applicatortraining.asp>).

Don't forget to bring a calculator and pen or pencil.
For more information contact the agriculture office at (902) 563-2000.

Pesticide Re-Certification Points

If anyone is interested in a training course for re-certification points for the agricultural pesticide licence, please contact our office and leave your name. We will try to offer this course in early spring if we have enough interest to proceed. Please call 563-2000 to register or e-mail plumricl@gov.ns.ca.

AG ZONE 2014

AG Zone is coming back again to the Cape Breton Region! A curriculum enrichment day is planned for Grade 8 students on April 15-16 at the Strathlorne Forest Nursery in Inverness County.

This programming gives students a glimpse into the world of agriculture by visiting career and science related sessions for a day. While competing against their classmates in a friendly "Amazing Ag Race" format, grade 8 students will attend six mini workshops based on the Grade 8 curriculum. Each 20 minute, interactive workshop will be packed with information and there will be no time to get bored! Schools will be contacted so book soon, as space is limited and allocated on the basis of registration date.

Soil and Water Sampling

The Strathlorne Forest Nursery is now accepting soil and water samples for delivery to our labs in Truro. Sample kits and information can be picked up at their main office in the main building for more information contact Shirley MacArthur at (902)-258-2626

HOLD THE DATE!

The NSDA Cape Breton Regional Team has the pleasure of hosting the annual **Celebration of Small Scale Farming Conference 2014** at the **Gaelic College in St. Ann's on Monday, July 28**. The event has been held in different areas of the province for the last four years. The workshop emphasizes the idea that modern small-scale farmers are building on a strong foundation of traditional agricultural knowledge and practices. They also employ the best of current science-based practices, farm business management methods and marketing models. There has been a resurgence of interest in Nova Scotia agriculture among people who have no farming background. Most of these new farmers are interested in smaller-scale farming which, when combined with direct marketing, has the potential to fill profitable niches in the market. Small-scale farms, whether full or part-time, can help strengthen rural communities in many ways and, in sufficient numbers can contribute to the revitalization of Cape Breton. The workshop will:

- Celebrate small-scale farming in Cape Breton and showcase the achievements of experienced farmers;
- Promote agri-business models that are diversified, sustainable, market-focused and profitable;
- Celebrate agriculture as a driver of rural economic development;
- Facilitate farmer-to-farmer networking and knowledge exchange on topics of interest to beginning farmers and potential farmers;
- Raise awareness of current NSDA programs and services with beginning farmers.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

February 25, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre

March 18, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Bras d'Or Hall, Bras d'Or

April 1, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre

April 22, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Bras d'Or Hall, Bras d'Or

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 ([click on the Sydney form](#)).

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/registration-forms/>: Online courses are also available at www.traincan.com

Cape Breton Region 4-H News

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

The Junior 4-H Member Workshop will be at the Sydney YMCA on Friday, February 28. This workshop will give our junior members the opportunity to polish their team building and leadership skills to help them through their 4-H year. It offers hands-on activities and lots of opportunities to meet other youth from all over the island. Topics include project judging, entrepreneurship in action, team building through games, agriculture awareness and physical recreation time. They are open to 4-H members 7-13 years old. This workshop will also be open to youth outside the program. In case of bad weather cancellations will be aired on our local radio stations.

4-H Camp Rankin Spotlight

Bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada and since 1972 has provided great memories for campers. The camp boasts a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. 4-H members and friends of 4-H members between the ages of 9 to 15 spend six fun-filled days here. There are a variety of educational activities for campers and each day ends with a campfire. At camp participants can take sessions on Drama, Nature Studies, 4-H Trivia, Canoeing, Recreation Activities, Arts and Crafts and much more. Applications are available from your General Leader, 4-H office or online. Acceptance is on a first come first serve basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week and the application deadline is May 1, 2014.

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 in your 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 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture staff, in conjunction with the Cape Breton Regional 4-H Program. It is open to 4-H members and all students. The basics of the workshop will focus on meeting preparation, the 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, preregistration is required. All sessions will run from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Book a session with your 4-H office.

Important 4-H Dates

- Junior 4-H Member Workshop - February 28 - Sydney YMCA
- Cape Breton Council Meeting - March 4, 7:00 pm Sydney Fisheries office
- Camp Rankin Scholarship deadline, April 1
- Inverness Co. Council Meeting - March 1, 9:30 am NSDA office, Mabou
- Richmond Co. Council Meeting - March 17, Mac Eachern's
- Atlantic Senior 4-H Member's Conference - March 21-23, Debert
- Richmond County Rally - March 29, hosted by Lakeside 4-H Club
- Inverness Co. Rally - April 5, hosted by Strait 4-H club
- Cape Breton County 4-H Rally - April 5, hosted by Grand Mira
- Cape Breton Regional 4-H Rally - April 12, 10:00 am, Baddeck
- 4-H Camp Rankin - May 1 - deadline for applications

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



Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

Antigonish Guysborough Federation of Agriculture Business Plan

The Antigonish Guysborough Federation of Agriculture (AGFA) has been collaborating with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED) to create a forward thinking business plan. The plan includes recommended actions, practices, tools and resources and should enhance the governance, business structure, diligence and day-to-day operations of the federation. It also will identify a clear course of action to grow and sustain AGFA's financial resources. This will be an excellent resource once the Municipality of the County of Antigonish completes the intended transfer of the Exhibition Grounds to AGFA in the coming months. Stakeholders such as the Antigonish Farmers' Market, Eastern Nova Scotia Holstein Club, All for Horses Association, the Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition Committee and Antigonish County 4-H have been providing input throughout the process making it a true collaborative effort. Project Manager Pam Bailey has been working on this project since December and will have the report complete by the end of March.

Antigonish Local Food Store Survey

A group of volunteers has been developing a concept for a small independent grocery store in Antigonish. While not a new concept, the group is dedicated to bringing a service to downtown Antigonish that doesn't currently exist. The idea is to create a point of sale so local food can be accessible year round, any day of the week. They are currently in a research phase of the project and require community input to help build a business case around the proposal. Many details need to be sorted out before the project moves forward, so a survey has been created to provide insight on the next steps that need to be taken to build a venue that will effectively serve the needs of the community. They have an interest in reaching the agricultural community and have asked to include the link to their survey, and hope that you'll contribute to their research. To complete the survey go to: <http://sgiz.mobi/s3/Local-Food-Store> or call 1-888-519-5909.

4-H Provincial Show 2014

This year the Eastern Region (Antigonish, Pictou and Guysborough counties) will be hosting the 4-H Provincial Show. The show will be held from September 28 to 30 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro. The region is pleased to again have the opportunity to produce a high-caliber, family-oriented event in the spirit of the 4-H Motto: "Learn To Do By Doing!" Leaders, members and parents are, and will be, working hard to make the weekend an enjoyable one where 4-H'ers from around the province can showcase their projects, take part in competitions and have a lot of fun. Many hands make light work, so if you are interested in helping out with the preparations for the show please call the office at 863-7500. The next meeting for the organizing committee will be held at the Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 pm at the Frank H. School in Sutherlands River. Please consider coming out to volunteer!

Important 4-H Dates

Pictou County

- 4-H Council meeting - February 26, 7:00 pm, Northumberland School
- Pictou County 4-H Junior Members Workshop - March 7, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- 4-H Council meeting - March 27, 7:00 pm, Northumberland School
- Pictou County 4-H Rally - April 4, 6:00 pm Northumberland School

Antigonish County

- 4-H Swim - February 23, 3:00 - 4:00 pm, Oland Centre
- Antigonish County Junior 4-H Members Workshop - March 6, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
- 4-H Council meeting - March 18, 7:00 pm, NSDA office
- Antigonish County 4-H Rally - April 5, 9:00 am, Antigonish Education Center



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, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator and Administrative Support are part of that team.

Perennia Innovation Park also houses staff with Perennia, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the NSDA. 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

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

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 may continue to keep our mailing list up-to-date. If you have an address change, please call Amanda at 902-893-6575 or contact her by e-mail at priestav@gov.ns.ca with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter instead of a paper copy, please e-mail Amanda with your request.

Do You Have the Proper Driver's Licence?

If you have a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg, you need a Condition 23 Endorsement and if you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500kg, you need a Condition 15 Endorsement on your licence to legally drive on Nova Scotia's roads. These regulations apply to class 5 licence.

If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements, contact Michael Kittilsen (893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca) or Amanda Priest (893-6575 or priestav@gov.ns.ca) at the Central Office.

Upcoming dates for Condition 15/23 Information and Testing sessions are:

- Information Session (recommended): Wednesday, April 30
- Testing Session: Thursday, May 1

CONDITION 15 PROCESS:

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

CONDITION 23 PROCESS:

1. Have Driver's Medical Examination completed by your doctor
2. Purchase a Road Test Receipt (\$48.63 HST Incl.) at Access Nova Scotia or online <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp>.

You must register with the Central Region Office first and have a valid driver's licence ("N" removed for Condition 23) to be eligible for testing. The form for the Medical Examination and more information is available by calling Amanda Priest at 893-6575..

Wild Blueberry Cost of Production

Peter Burgess of Perennia is hosting a Wild Blueberry Cost of Production (CoP) session that will focus on the Maritime CoP study for wild blueberries. Participants will walk through a self-analysis tool so growers can compare themselves to the industry benchmarks. February 20, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Claymore Inn, Antigonish Limited to the first 40 people, call 896-0277 to register.

Introductory Berry Workshop

Exploring new ideas? Thinking of diversifying your present production base? The Introductory Berry Production Workshop this spring may be just what you are looking for. This information packed day-long workshop will cover business skills, soil information, site selection, and disease and pest control. You will have the opportunity to obtain in-depth, species specific berry production information in the morning, and tour local berry production sites in the afternoon. For more information, contact Michael (893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca) or read about it your next copy of the Ag News.

Central Region 4-H

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

Upcoming Workshop

A "Growing 4-H Clubs" workshop will be held on February 22 in the Administration Building at 90 Research Drive, Bible Hill. The workshop will be open to Leaders, Senior Members and parents. Cost is \$20 and lunch will be provided. Workshop topics will include: Volunteers - Importance, Recruitment and Retention, Fundraising, Good Sportsmanship, Financial Literacy and Steps for Dealing with a Bully. Pre-registration is required.

National Award Winners:

Two 4-H members from the Central Region were chosen for 4-H National awards! Tamara Snook of the Double D Club in Cumberland County and Emily Cameron of the Shu-Mil 4-H Club in Halifax-East Hants County will attend the very prestigious National Citizenship Seminar, which will be held in Prince Edward Island in April. The rest of the awards will be announced at the 4-H weekend in May. Congratulations to both members and we wish them the best of luck on their travels. Members should know that if they did not receive an award this year they should apply next year.

Kevin Grant Memorial Rural Leadership Award:

Maria Penman, Riverside 4-H Club, Halifax-East Hants and Teresa Verstraten, Sunrise 4-H Club, Cumberland County were selected to attend the Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Tour along with eight other 4-H members from across the province. The delegates will travel to the Valley Region during March break to learn about the resource-based businesses in the area.



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

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

The ACFA spring livestock sale dates at the Exhibition grounds in Lawrencetown are May 3 and 17. Sale of miscellaneous items starts at 10:30 am and livestock at 1 pm. **Tentative** fall dates are October 4 and 25. Please note that profit margins at previous sales have been minimal. For sales to continue, they must become more viable with increased volume.

Energy Crops Workshop

Are you interested in growing energy on your farm? There are opportunities emerging in Nova Scotia for the production of hay, specialty grasses (e.g., Miscanthus), and short rotation woody crops (e.g., hybrid poplar) for sale to energy producers. Attend THINKFARM's free information session on February 19 to learn more about whether energy crop production would be a good fit for your farm.

The information session will take place twice at the Super 8 Motel in Windsor on February 19 at 1 - 4 pm and 6 - 9 pm.

To register please contact Cheryl at 679-6021 or ctheriau@gov.ns.ca. There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required for planning purposes.

Food Safety and Preservation for Direct Marketers

Increase your awareness of food safety principles for producing foods sold directly to Nova Scotian consumers. As a re-offering of sessions held in 2010, this course is designed to provide small and medium scale value-added food marketers with knowledge of food safety principles for products found at public markets and other food establishments. It will be of interest

to public market vendors, restaurateurs, chefs, food retailers, butchers, caterers, processors, and others. There is no charge to attend.

Through demonstrations, presentations and discussions, you will learn about:

- Regulatory standards of product distribution for public markets and retail establishments
- Shelf life of food products
- Issues affecting food safety and quality (e.g., pH, salt, water activity, packaging)
- Use and calibration of equipment associated with food safety testing
- Food premise design and food flow

The course will be delivered by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture staff and food scientists, food safety specialists, and food science technicians from the Canadian Institute of Fisheries Technology at Dalhousie University.

Course Locations and Dates

All sessions run from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Sessions will be cancelled if fewer than 15 people register for a location. All courses may be subject to cancellation due to severely inclement weather.

February 25, Days Inn and Conference Centre, Bridgewater Registration deadline - Feb. 18

February 26, Rm. C181, NSCC Burrige Campus, Yarmouth Registration deadline - Feb. 19

March 5, Atlantic Superstore Community Room, Barrington St., Halifax Registration deadline - Feb. 26

Download registration form at http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/thinkfarm/registration-form_foodsafety.pdf

ThinkFARM/KCFA Mentoring Workshop

Kings County Federation of Agriculture, with financial sponsorship from ThinkFARM, is organizing a workshop on developing a mentoring network for farmers in Kings County on Saturday, March 22, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. at the Kentville Agricultural Centre. The workshop will explore the needs of beginning and transitioning farmers in various commodities and identify established farmers experienced in these commodities willing to act as mentors. New and experienced farmers are encouraged to attend in order to develop the best possible network.

A network of mentors is needed because beginning/transitioning farmers can easily get theoretical information on farming through courses offered by NSDA, NSFA, Perennia, and Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, but the next step to successful implementation is local information relevant to the region where the farmer is starting up. The best way to obtain this local information (such as micro-climate, local soil characteristics, nuisance wild-life, markets, feed and equipment suppliers, and farmers willing to rent/loan equipment and advice) is from other farmers in the locality. Although other mentoring programs exist (Step-up by FMC, WWOFF exchanges), these are apprenticeship programs where the new farmer has to move to another farm, which many farmers are unable or unwilling to do. This workshop will develop a network of local mentor farmers willing to provide this information to beginning/transitioning farmers. To register contact Cheryl at 679-6021 ctheriau@gov.ns.ca

Farm Management Skills Training Course Lunenburg/Queens Counties

The Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education are organizing a training course for interested Lunenburg and Queens County farmers, spouses, and anyone else that is a member of the farming community and would like to improve their farm management skills. This course is offered at no cost for the participants.

Topics may include: business planning, strategic planning, managing growth, leadership, human resource management, marketing, basic bookkeeping, time management, succession planning, risk management, budgeting, data tracking and reporting, purchasing land & equipment, and managing generational differences. The course will be tailored to the participants' needs. For example, once everyone is enrolled, the instructor will conduct a needs assessment and then narrow down the list of subjects based on the participants' needs.

The tentative start date is Thursday March 13 and will run for about 10 weeks, or until about May 15. The course will be held from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm each Thursday at the Exhibition Office Building in Bridgewater.

Please contact Isabel Hackney at isabelhackney@hotmail.com or (902) 689-2112 before Friday, February 20 for more information and/or to enroll.

Pesticide Training

Anyone interested in PRCP points or in a full pesticide safety course can contact Jim Jotcham at marbicon@eastlink.ca or at 902-538-7101. It is hoped that places and dates for courses will be lined up starting in late February and going into March and early April, so your input regarding where they are needed would help him in organizing these courses.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses - February June 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: <http://www.gov.ns.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.

E-Mailing Addresses

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

Rocky Top Farm's Egg Grading Station

Rocky Top Farm in New Ross have a new Federal Egg Grading Station and are offering the service of grading and packing eggs for small, local egg producers. Interested producers can contact Rocky Top Farm at 902-689-2112, e-mail therockytopfarm@hotmail.com or visit their website at www.therockytopfarm.com.

South Shore 4-H News

Important 4-H Dates:

- Lunenburg County 4-H Leaders Council - March 4 and April, 7:30 pm, Wileville Fire Hall
- New 4-H Leader Information Session for Queens County - February 27, 6:30 pm, Westfield Hall, Caledonia, followed by a meeting of the Queens Co 4-H Leaders Council
- The Lunenburg County 4-H Winter Carnival, Sprout Day, Woodsmen activities and Royalty Pageant - February 15 (storm date February 22). Notice to go out by mail to all leaders and members.
- Queens County 4-H Rally -March 22, Westfield Hall, Caledonia.
- Lunenburg County 4-H Rally - March 29, Wileville Fire Hall.
- Shelburne County 4-H Rally - April 5, Hillcrest Academy.



For more information in regards to the South Shore 4-H program contact Angie Garnett, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Lunenburg office 634-7575 or Kentville office at 679-6846 or e-mail garnetae@gov.ns.ca

Valley 4-H News

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour

The Valley Region will be hosting the sixth Annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour on March 10 - 12. Ten participants will stay in the Windsor area but will tour extensively with stops at CFB Greenwood, as well as several agribusiness operations.

Kevin Grant, a long time 4-H participant, Government Public Servant, and avid supporter of the Nova Scotia 4-H Program, has provided a significant endowment to the Nova Scotia 4-H Foundation to assist with rural youth development.

Important 4-H Dates:

- Hants County 4-H Leaders Council - March 6, April 7 and May 5, 7:00 pm Brooklyn Elementary School
- Kings County 4-H Leaders Council - March 3, April 7 and May 5, 7:30 pm, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook.

Contact the Department of Agriculture for information on the Valley 4-H program, contact Valorie Skinner, Agricultural Leadership Coordinator at 679-6027 or by e-mail skinnevh@gov.ns.ca.

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

Cattle Sales

The ACFA spring livestock sale dates at the Exhibition grounds in Lawrencetown are May 3 and 17. Sale of miscellaneous items starts at 10:30 am and livestock at 1:00 pm. Tentative fall dates are October 4 and 25. Please note that profit margins at previous sales have been minimal. For sales to continue, they must become more viable with increased volume.

Update of Mailing List

We are continuing to update our mailing list. If your address is incorrect or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter any longer, please notify Gina either by phone at 638-2395 or by e-mail at saulnigl@gov.ns.ca . Please note that a civic address is required on all mail. If your civic address is not on the envelope, please notify Gina.

Sharp Containers

Livestock producers generate medical waste on a regular basis. These wastes include sharps such as syringes, needles, broken glass tubes, lancets and scalpel blades. If not disposed of properly they can injure livestock and family members; increase risk of infection spread; pollute the environment; and put waste handlers at risk. Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharp containers have been specifically designed for disposing of sharps. When the container is full of sharps, the contents should still be considered potentially infectious to humans and animals but the risk is low. For disposal in any municipality, you must first check with your local disposal site to see what they have in place to accept sharps.

These containers can be picked up at the Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis Park. Call 638-2395 for hours and information.

Upcoming Food Safety Courses

The Department of Agriculture is offering Food Handler Courses for food service facility owners, operators, managers and staff. Application forms and registration information is found online at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/scheduled-courses/southwest/>. For more information, please contact Gina at 638-2395.

March 5: Kentville
March 6: Yarmouth
March 18: Shelburne
March 20: Bridgewater

April 8: Yarmouth
April 9: Kentville
April 15: Digby
April 23: Lawrencetown

May 6: Yarmouth
May 7: Kentville
May 13: Shelburne
May 15: Bridgewater

June 4: Yarmouth
June 10: Digby
June 18: Kentville
June 19: Bridgewater

Western Region 4-H News:

Congratulations to the 4-H members from the Western Region who have been selected for Travel Awards: Valerie DeLong and Natacha Rowsell will be attending the Citizenship Seminar in PEI and Ian Oliver and Shanay Bent will be attending the Kevin Grant Rural Leadership Tour in the Valley during March Break. Shyloe Emmett is attending the National Leaders Conference in Ottawa in February.



Important 4-H Dates

- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council meeting - February 19, 3 Lovett St, 7:00 pm
- Small Steps Program - February 19, 4:00 pm, Saulnierville High School
- Digby 4-H Council Leaders Council meeting - February 20, Digby Library, 7:00 pm
- Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour - March 10-12, Valley Region
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - March 12, 7:00 pm, Community Services boardroom, Middleton
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - March 19, 7:00 pm, 3 Lovett St. Digby County 4-H Leader
- Council meeting - March 20, 7:00 pm, Digby Library
- Annapolis County 4-H Rally - April 5, NSCC, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - April 9, Community Services boardroom, Middleton
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - April 16, 7:00 pm, 3 Lovett St
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council - April 17, 7:00 pm, Digby Library
- Western Regional 4-H Rally - April 19, Digby County
- Annapolis County Small Steps Program - May 1
- 4-H Weekend, Truro - May 2 - 3
- Annapolis County Judging Clinic - May 13
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - May 14, 7:00 pm
- Fluff n Buff - May 16-18, Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Judging for all livestock with the exception of light horse - May 17
- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - May 21, 7:00 pm, 3 Lovett St.
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - May 22, 7:00 pm, Digby Library
- Yarmouth County Judging Day - May 24
- Annapolis County Judging Day for all Lifeskills Projects - May 27
- Judging 101 - June 3 - 4, Cornwallis
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - June 14
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - June 18, 7:00 pm, 3 Lovett St.
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - June 19, 7:00 pm, Digby Library
- Light Horse Walk Trot Show - June 21 - 22, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis County Make-Up Judging Day and Advanced Achievement Day - June 30, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis County Light Horse Boot Camp - June 30 - July 3