

# AGNEWS

## Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture



August 2015

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### Nova Scotia 4-H Show

**October 2 - 4, 2015**

Hants County Exhibition  
Grounds, Windsor, NS

### Two New Grant Programs Available

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) division have announced two new grant programs that are available to the agricultural industry.

FarmNEXT is an existing interest relief program that was moved from the Farm Loan Board to PBRM to distinguish financial lending from grant support. FarmNEXT supports beginning farmers by reducing the borrowing costs by offsetting the amount of interest accrued. In this program, up to \$30,000 may be eligible to a new farmer with a successful loan approval from the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. More information can be found at: <http://novascotia.ca/programs/farmnext/>

The Lowbush Blueberry Development Program was introduced to improve the competitiveness and adaptability of Nova Scotia producers by increasing production capacity and creating more efficient production practices. The program will do this by improving or expanding land that is viable for blueberry production. Farmers can get up to 30% of eligible costs up to \$7,500 per applicant.

The PBRM staff have issued many approvals for 2015-2016 program year. As a reminder to all successful applicants, be sure to claim your projects before **March 1, 2016**. The programs staff encourage clients to claim each project as it is finished in order to help cash flow your next project.

For more information contact:

Department of Agriculture  
Programs and Business Risk Management  
60 Research Drive, Suite A  
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia  
B6L 2R2

Phone: 1-866-844-4276  
Email: [prm@novascotia.ca](mailto:prm@novascotia.ca)



## ThinkFARM

Attracting new farmers and supporting existing ones is essential for the future of our agriculture industry in Nova Scotia. ThinkFARM is a multi-faceted program developed by the Department of Agriculture staff, many of who come from a farming background, to provide farmers with access to useful information, programs, services and regulations.

Below are some of the exciting activities and work that are happening across Nova Scotia in support of our growing agriculture sector.

ThinkFARM staff put farmers in touch with the experts who can advise them at each stage of the farming business. Recent educational and training workshops have been held in Yarmouth, New Minas, Truro, Antigonish and Cape Breton and have covered topics such as Four Season Farming, Mushroom Cultivation, Market Gardening, Free Range Poultry, Farm Labour, Beer, Wine, Cider & Spirits and Forage Crops. The Small Farm Expo, held in Bridgewater on July 20, showcased experienced farmers through farmer-led workshops to help improve new farmers' knowledge and skills. There were over 120 attendees this year!

ThinkFARM helped the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture develop a succession planning web portal to prepare new and retiring farmers for successful inter-generational transfers of farm businesses. This easy-to-use portal, which can be found at <http://www.nsfarmsuccession.ca>, provides comprehensive information on farm succession.

ThinkFARM staff also work with First Nations leaders to promote agricultural education and development on First Nations communities across the province. This includes providing support for members to attend an indigenous agricultural conference and work to provide the *Exploring the New Farm Dream* course. This self-assessment course is aimed to help aspiring farmers learn what it would take to start and manage their own farm to decide if farming is the right path for them.

ThinkFARM also supports research. Recently Nova Scotia farmers were engaged in a survey about the barriers they face with regards to growth. The results of this project will help staff better understand what challenges farmers are facing and may help inform policy development. Over 120 producers participated from across the province.

ThinkFARM's *Guide for Beginning Farmers in Nova Scotia* and a resource kit of 36 factsheets on topics of interest to new farmers can be found at <http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/support/#page=publications> or by contacting Jaclyn Biggs at [Jaclyn.Biggs@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jaclyn.Biggs@novascotia.ca) or 902-893-5649.

I am very proud of this dynamic program and the staff that work hard to encourage collaboration, information sharing, and support for the Nova Scotia agriculture industry.

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture

## STAFF PROFILE

Jaclyn Biggs, ThinkFARM Coordinator



Jaclyn grew up on a dairy farm in Poplar Grove, Nova Scotia. After completing high school, she decided to attend the Nova Scotia Agricultural College where she received her Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) in Agricultural Economics. After completing her bachelor's degree, she continued to pursue her passion for agriculture by completing the Masters in Science with a specialization in Agriculture program from Dalhousie University. There she studied the feasibility of on-farm renewable energy technologies. From there she worked as a research assistant and sessional lecturer at Dalhousie. As an assistant, her research focused mainly on farm energy use and energy policy analysis. As a lecturer, she taught Microeconomics, and Agricultural and Food Policy.

Jaclyn joined the department last August, and has enjoyed her time with government. An avid sheep farmer, Jaclyn has also been a director on the Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum and the Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia.

In September, Jaclyn will introduce the newest farmer and member of the Biggs family to the world. She and her husband Evan are expecting their first child.

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## **FOOD SAFETY STAFF: On the Move!**

As part of the provincial government's budget communication on April 9, it was announced that the Food Protection Division and Animal Welfare staff would be moving to a new division of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment. The purpose of this initiative is to efficiently align employees who work on growth and sustainability of the sector from those whose key responsibility is around enforcement activities within those same sectors. This shift became effective as of July 1, 2015.

### **Capitalizing on trends in the food processing and foodservice sectors**

Due to the great success of buy-local campaigns and the 'foodie movement' by television and social media, the Food Protection Division responded by making two important hires in summer 2014 to better serve the increasing demands.

**Tracey MacDonald** is the newest Public Market Food Safety Specialist with our department. Tracey attended Cape Breton University and received her Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public Health) in April 2013. She completed her training in Calgary, Alberta in the summer of 2013 and became a Certified Public Health Inspector later that year.

Tracey's position allows her to work closely with public market organizers, as well as vendors within the farming community, the food service industry and community groups promoting food safety within the province. Since beginning her employment, Tracey has given several presentations for the Farmers Markets of Nova Scotia and attended their annual general meeting. Tracey was part of a team that updated the *Food Safety Guidelines for Public Markets*.

Tracey says her position as the Public Market Inspector has taught her the importance of proper communication and the value of respect when interacting with the public. She has been exposed to a variety of diverse foods, which has allowed her to appreciate other cultures, as well as local vendors.

"Although food safety is my number one priority, I take pride in promoting the local businesses within the province. I have created a lot of great relationships with many of the public market vendors over the past year, and it has been really nice to see how engaged the vendors are in food safety," said Tracey.

"One thing that I love about my job is seeing the access we have to local food products in the province. Since I've started visiting the markets, my shopping habits have certainly changed. I buy the majority of my food products at the market. It makes me feel good to give the vendors my support."

Currently Tracey's work area includes all of HRM and she has recently begun inspecting public markets in Truro and Wolfville. Tracey is located in the Dartmouth office and can be reached at

[Tracey.MacDonald@novascotia.ca](mailto:Tracey.MacDonald@novascotia.ca) or 902-424-2234.

**Rick Kane** is currently the Food Safety Outreach Coordinator working with the Environmental Health and Food Safety Division of Nova Scotia Environment. A unique position for the division, the Food Safety Outreach Coordinator's primary role is to administer a food safety assistance program to provincial agri-food producers, processors and retailers that will facilitate entry of Nova Scotian value-added food products into the marketplace.

His role as a coordinator assists clients in their challenges to meet increasing food safety demands of industry, public, and government. He is able to provide food safety advice to those requiring assistance across multiple agri-food disciplines. Rick is responsible for interacting with industry to provide science-based information that will assist them in meeting regulatory standards and specific food safety commodity requirements (if applicable) which may be necessary in order to promote or sell their food product to specific markets.

Rick brings to this position over 35 years of agri-food experience. Starting in the private sector he was involved with poultry processing-related work and had formerly owned and managed a sanitation consultation company providing training to the food service industry. Rick was employed with the federal government for over 30 years where he acquired extensive experience and knowledge with a number of commodities including processed fruit and vegetable, shell egg, honey, animal health, maple syrup, fish, meat processing and food safety (IMFD). He holds a BSc (Biology/ Microbiology) from Acadia University, a Certificate in Food Science (University of Guelph), and is pursuing completion of a Certificate in Food Safety Management/ HACCP Coordination (University of North Carolina).

Rick's job has a provincial scope and his office is at the Kentville Research Centre. [rick.kane@novascotia.ca](mailto:rick.kane@novascotia.ca) or 902-679-4368.



## Promote Your Business on the Select Nova Scotia Website!

Select Nova Scotia is the Government of Nova Scotia's buy-local initiative. We've seen significant growth in our social media engagement and website traffic in the last year and we want you to leverage that traffic.

A new feature of the Select Nova Scotia website allows business owners to update information for themselves. Simply go to [www.selectnovascotia.ca](http://www.selectnovascotia.ca) and click on the registration button and follow the steps to set up your profile.

This new site should allow you to show consumers where your farm is located and where your products can be purchased. And it should allow you to update your current profile if you already have one.

If you have any questions or need help with registration, please contact Nicole Burkhard 902-638-2397 or [nicole.burkhard@novascotia.ca](mailto:nicole.burkhard@novascotia.ca).

Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow @SelectNS on Twitter.

If you have great stories and pictures to share and you would like your farm to be featured in our social media feeds, let us know!

## Exhibitions Associations of Nova Scotia Exhibition Dates - 2015

South Shore Exhibition, <i>Bridgewater</i>	July 28 - August 2
Western Nova Scotia Exhibition, <i>Yarmouth</i>	August 5 - 9
Shelburne County Exhibition, <i>Shelburne</i>	August 11 - 15
Annapolis Valley Exhibition, <i>Lawrencetown</i>	August 17 - 22
Halifax County Exhibition, <i>Middle Musquodoboit</i>	August 19 - 22
Cape Breton County Exhibition, <i>North Sydney</i>	August 17 - 22
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, <i>Bible Hill</i>	August 25 - 29
Digby County Exhibition, <i>Bear River</i>	August 26 - 29
Cumberland County Exhibition, <i>Oxford</i>	September 1 - 5
Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition, <i>Antigonish</i>	Cancelled for 2015
Pictou/North Colchester Exhibition, <i>Pictou</i>	September 9 - 13
Hants County Exhibition, <i>Windsor</i>	September 18 - 20 September 25 - 27
Queens County Fair, <i>Caledonia</i>	September 15 - 19
Maritime Fall Fair, <i>Halifax</i>	Cancelled for 2015

## Community Fairs

New Ross Community Fair	August 21-22
Barrington Municipal Exhibition	August 20-23
Dalhousie Community Fair	August 25
West Kings Community Fair	September 5
Victoria County Fair	September 5
Christmas Island Fair	September 5
Mira Ferry Community Fair	September 12
Port Morien Fair	September 12

## Erosion Control Structures

Mitigating soil erosion can be a struggle for many farmers. Without a cover crop, agricultural land faces an increased risk of soil erosion. However, planting a cover crop isn't always possible. Other erosion controls need to be considered, most notably, terraces.

Terraces are shallow grass waterways, with a berm on the downhill side, which are constructed across the slope to intercept surface runoff water moving down the field. The terraces decrease the slope length and remove water safely from the field. Terraces are used extensively in the potato growing areas of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

In PEI, over one million feet of terraces have been constructed. In Nova Scotia, two dairy farms have constructed terraces in the last few years to control soil erosion on their farms.

**Mark Dykstra of Dykeheuval Farm** in Heathbell, Pictou County says the main reason for constructing the terraces was because they wanted to protect their land.

They grow silage corn, high moisture corn, beans, barley and forage. Some years it was not possible to plant a winter cover crop after corn harvest to protect against soil erosion, so the farm constructed three terraces across their 65 acre field to divide the field into four sections that are between 10 and 22 acres.

The field has a slope of approximately 5% and there have been no issues with crop planting or harvesting across the slope. Maintenance involves mowing the terraces every two years to keep bushes from growing up.

**Bob Wilson of Bovidae Farms Ltd.** in Falmouth, Hants County cleared a 30 acre field that had moderate slope but was only able to grow grass on the field due to soil erosion problems.

Bob participated in a project with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to construct a terrace on the field. Bob was happy with the results and he has constructed two more terraces on the field. The terraces were constructed with a dozer. Bob grows corn, beans, barley and forage. Bob compared the cropping of the long narrow strips to cropping on dykeland.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's Homegrown Success Program has provided funding on the design and construction of erosion control structures.

For more information contact:

Paul Brenton,  
Environmental Farm Team Manager  
Phone: 902-893-2293  
E-mail: [pbrenton@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:pbrenton@nsfa-fane.ca)



Back-to-school shopping was interrupted by the sounds of farm animals again this year. From August 21 - 22 busy shoppers at Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth were surprised to see sheep in the parking lot and apple pressing in the Bay Court. They were able to stop to sample quick and healthy menu items at the Select Nova Scotia demo booth, and that was just the beginning.

*Meet Your Farmer at the Mall* brought together commodity groups and rural organizations to give urban families a chance to learn about local farmers and Nova Scotia agriculture.

Information booths and demos ran from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day. Visit [www.meetyourfarmer.ca](http://www.meetyourfarmer.ca) for more information.

This event also provided a great opportunity to promote *Open Farm Day*, September 20. This annual event is growing each year. For a list of the 2015 farms involved in *Open Farm Day* check out <http://www.meetyourfarmer.ca/openfarmday/>

In 2014, over 20,000 Nova Scotians took the time to visit 51 participating farms to see where their food comes from.

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# Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

## Grape Insurance –

### New Plan

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission has been working with the grape industry on the development of a new Grape Insurance plan. Currently the Commission is in the final stages of obtaining its authorities to offer this plan.

The intention, pending receipt of all authorities, is to be able to offer this plan to grape producers for the 2016 crop year. The application deadline which we are aiming for is November 15, 2015. More information on this plan will be available later this summer or early in September.

In preparation for the release of the new insurance plan, the Commission encourages any grape growers who are interested in insuring their crop to contact our office to add their name and contact info to a mailing list for potential clients. Once the final authorizations are in place a package would be sent to any interested growers detailing the insurance plan and including specific applications.

### Winter Grain Deadline

The application for Winter Grain – August 31, 2015

The deadline for planting is:

- September 20 for the rest of the province (Zone 3)
- September 30 for Colchester, Hants East, and Halifax (Zone 2)
- October 7 for Annapolis, Kings and Hants West counties (Zone 1)

### Forage Establishment Deadline

The deadline to apply for Forage Establishment is October 15.

Fields of legumes and legume-grass mixes seeded by July 1, as well as grass seeded by September 1 are eligible for coverage.

### Application Deadlines 2015

- Winter Grain - August 31
- Forage Establishment - October 15
- Raspberries - October 31
- Strawberries - November 14
- Blueberries - November 30
- Tree Fruit - November 30
- Tree Insurance - December 1

### Cancelling Crop Insurance

Most Crop Insurance contracts are continuous. This means they do not terminate at the end of the cropping season (unless a producer requests cancellation in writing by the deadline date).

The benefit of this approach is that you, as a client, do not risk the chance of not being able to insure your crop for the entire cropping season if for some reason you do not make an application by the required date. At the same time, if you do not cancel by the cancellation deadline, you will be expected to insure your crop during the current crop year.

### Cancellation Deadlines

- Strawberry - September 15
- Winter Grain - September 15
- Raspberries - October 31
- Tree Insurance - November 14
- Tree Fruit - November 30
- Blueberry - December 15



### Crops Covered by NS AgriInsurance

- Strawberries - June bearing and Day Neutral
- Blueberries - Lowbush and Highbush
- Raspberries
- Potatoes - Table, Processing and Seed
- Corn - Silage and Grain
- Soybean - Soybean, Canola, Sunflowers
- Spring Grain - Barley, Oat, Mixed Grain, Feed Wheat, Milling Wheat
- Winter Grain - Feed Wheat, Milling Wheat, Rye, Triticale
- Maple Syrup
- Vegetables - Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Carrots (Fresh and Processing), Lettuce, Onions, Parsnip, Rutabagas, Winter Squash
- Forage Establishment
- Forage Weather Derivative
- Tree Fruit - Apples, Pears, Peaches
- Tree Insurance - Apples and Pears

## Problems with Harvest?

AgriInsurance clients who experience problems or delays at harvest are reminded of their obligation to advise the Commission promptly (within five days) with a Notice of Damage. You **must** provide the Commission with a Notice of Damage when:

- At any time you believe your crop may be reduced as a result of an insurable peril.
- You think your crop will be reduced due to harvesting delays as a result of an insurable peril.
- You note a reduction in yield due to an insurable peril once you complete harvest. (Must be reported within five days of harvest) or
- **Your harvest could or does extend past the end of the crop insurance crop year end date (see dates below).**

Failure to provide this reporting could result in the denial of any claim for losses to your crop. When in doubt report your concerns to the Commission office.

## Crop Year End Dates

- Strawberries - August 31
- Winter Grain- August 31
- Blueberries - September 15, or September 25 in Kings County
- Spring Grain - September 30
- Soybean - November 1
- Corn - November 15
- Vegetable - November 15
- Tree Fruit - November 30
- Tree Insurance - December 1
- Potato - December 20

## Experiencing Wildlife Damage?

The Canada-Nova Scotia Wildlife Compensation program may be able to help cover some of the losses from damage to crops or livestock. For more details visit our website or call one of our offices.

For information on any of insurance plans, contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 Toll Free, 902-893-6370 Truro, or 902-679-6015 Kentville, or visit our website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>.

You can also visit our offices at:

60 Research Drive, Suite A, Perennia Innovation Park, Bible Hill NS  
B6L 2R2

Or Agricultural Centre, Kentville NS B4N 1J5

## Fall Food Safety Fundamentals Session

This series of workshops will help you learn how to write and implement your food safety program in an informative and practical atmosphere where the goal is for you to learn in a setting that is light on lecture and long on learning creatively.

These one-day basic sessions are aimed at small-to-medium sized primary producers and processors who currently do not have a food safety plan, or who have started writing one and are in need of guidance to successfully complete it. Of those sessions held to date, 100 percent of participants would recommend the session to others and said they would be able to apply what they learned in the workplace.

The sessions are:

- Premises and Equipment - September 9, Truro
- People, Product Handling and Storage - September 23, Truro
- Developing Your HACCP Plan - October 21, Truro and October 28, Kentville
- Product Traceability and Recall - October 7, Kentville

Check [www.perennia.ca](http://www.perennia.ca) for more information and registration details. If anyone is interested in having any or all sessions done in Cape Breton or Yarmouth areas, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Contact Gail at 902-678-7722, 1-877-710-5210 (toll-free) or [gwalsh@perennia.ca](mailto:gwalsh@perennia.ca)

This Food Safety Outreach Program is funded under Growing Forward 2.

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# Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

Extended Learning at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture is conducting two training needs surveys: one on Meat Training and one on Food Product Development. Both surveys are only 10 questions in length and take no time at all. Your feedback is much appreciated.

## **Meat Training Needs Survey**

<https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=28441>

This survey is for anyone who is interested in red meat slaughter, red meat cutting, marketing new products, meat processing, poultry slaughter or other meat topics. Taking this quick 10 question survey will help us gather information on the areas of training that are needed. Your feedback is much appreciated!

## **Food Products Development Training Needs Survey**

<https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=28724>

This unique opportunity for entrepreneurs will look at building and enhancing the skills that are needed for food product development. The objectives for the training are to provide an understanding of the process for developing ideas and value add products, to connect people to key resources to help develop their ideas, and to support entrepreneurs as they navigate the development process.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley in Extended Learning at: [Ashley.Coffin@Dal.Ca](mailto:Ashley.Coffin@Dal.Ca)

## **Organic Learning Lives Here!**

### **Certificate in Specialization in Organic Agriculture-Online!**

Gain a specialty or use it as a stepping stone to completing your degree. Courses include:

- Transition to Organic Agriculture,
- Composting and Compost Use,
- Principles of Organic Horticulture,
- Organic Field Crop Management, and
- Organic Livestock Production.

Apply now for Fall/Winter courses.

Contact Extended learning at: 902-893-666, e-mail: [extended.learning@dal.ca](mailto:extended.learning@dal.ca) or visit [dal.ca/exl](http://dal.ca/exl)

## **Extended Learning Workshops at DAL AC:**

### **Wild Pollinator Workshop - September 14, 2015, Moncton, NB**

A one day workshop in Moncton, NB, to provide research knowledge and skills to blueberry producers, and others, on how to maintain and develop habitat to enhance wild bee populations

### **Farm Composting for Fur Farmers - September 22 - 23, 2015**

This course is designed for any new or existing mink rancher considering on-site composting as a component of their organic waste management plan. Successful completion of this course will enable participants to meet the requirements of the new Fur Act regulations.

### **The Modern Shepherd - Getting Started: Husbandry Handling Products and Markets - October 16 - 17, 2015**

This course involves determining the right production system, selecting the right breed, handling sheep to minimize stress, as well as record keeping.

### **Integrated Pest Management for Farmers - October 27, 2015**

Using an Integrated Pest Management approach, this training session for farmers will focus on pesticide safety practices, pesticide performance and the effect of water quality, developing an IMP strategy, new products and technologies.

### **Pesticide Certification Course- November 3 - 6, 2015**

This course teaches you the basic principles and practices of safe use, handling and storage of pesticides.

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## **The Modern Shepherd Nutrition and Breeding - November 13 - 14, 2015**

This course will provide participants with an overview of sheep nutrition, forage, and strategies to enhance reproductive potential as well as record keeping.

### **Extended Learning Faculty of Agriculture**

Agricultural Campus  
PO Box 550, Truro NS, B2N 5E3  
902-893-6666  
[extended.learning@dal.ca](mailto:extended.learning@dal.ca)

## **Farmer for a Day**

September 22 - 24, 2015  
Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum, Cole Harbour

How many school field trips let kids meet a full grown rooster up close? Or scratch a piglet behind the ear? Or learn about plowing a field so that a heavy rain will not carry soil into the brook? Learn all this without leaving the city.

*Farmer for a Day* asks kids to think like a farmer during eight interactive sessions at the Cole Harbour Heritage Farm. This farm site has been in production since 1880 when it supplied the young city of Halifax with meat and produce.

Grade 3 students and their teachers will learn about agriculture in Nova Scotia from experts on topics from bee-keeping to hatching eggs and much more.

The success of *Meet Your Farmer-at the Mall, Open Farm Day and Farmer for a Day* all hinges on volunteers from the farming community. Please consider participating in these and future events.

For more information contact:

Judy Grant  
Agricultural Awareness Coordinator  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
Phone: 902-893-6598  
E-mail: [Judy.Grant@novascotia.ca](mailto:Judy.Grant@novascotia.ca)

Rick Hoeg  
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Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
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## **Your Regional Agricultural Offices**

### **Extension and Outreach**

Marion MacAulay, Manager

#### **Truro Office**

##### **East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax Counties:**

Tel: 902-893-6575 Fax: 902-893-2757

Jillian Garland, Admin. Assistant

Michael Kittilsen, Agricultural Resource Coordinator

Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Claire Hanlon Smith, Business Development Officer

Rebecca Sooksom, Agricultural Transition Officer

#### **Antigonish Office**

##### **Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough Counties:**

Tel: 902-863-4705 Fax: 902-863-7342

Laureen Boyd, Admin. Assistant  
Dawn Barrington-Hodgson, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Terri MacPherson, Agricultural Transition Officer

Adam Wile, Agricultural Resource Coordinator

#### **Sydney Office**

##### **Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond Counties:**

Tel: 902-563-2000 Fax: 902-563-3435

Catherine Plumridge, Admin. Assistant  
Gary Koziel, Agricultural 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:**

Tel: 902-679-6021 Fax: 902-679-6062

Cheryl Theriault, Admin. Assistant  
Brian MacCulloch, Agricultural Resource Coordinator

Colin Hirtle, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, South Shore

Valorie Skinner, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Valley

Ronald Young, Agricultural Transition Officer, Kentville

Jeff Wentzell, Business Development Officer, Kentville

#### **Cornwallis Office**

##### **Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties:**

Tel: 902-638-2395 Fax: 902-638-2389

Gina Chapelhow, Admin. Assistant  
Jean Ward, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

Terry McKay, Agricultural Resource Coordinator, Western Region

Nicole Burkhard, Agricultural Transition Officer

# Sunshine and Change – 250 years of Agriculture at the Hants County Exhibition

The first agricultural fair in North America took place May 21, 1765 in Windsor, Nova Scotia at Fort Edward, overlooking fertile Acadian dykeland and the world's highest tides. There was a considerable show of cattle, horses, sheep, and good samples of grain, butter, cheese, and homespun cloth.

In the late 1940's the directors of the Windsor Agricultural Society purchased the land housing a former WWII training facility, considered too far from town, and moved the Hants County Exhibition from Fort Edward to its current location.

Two-hundred and fifty years later, not much, and everything has changed. There are still prizes for quality forage at the Hants County Exhibition. Horse and cattle shows now share time with motorsports and the midway, and ox pulls remain popular despite today's demand for instant gratification.

Industrious 4-H kids continue to be the heart of exhibition, just as they have for the past 100 years – though craft projects out number calf projects and sunshine continues to be an exhibition's best friend.

Roughly 30,000 visitors come through the gates of the Hants County Exhibition, if the weather cooperates. A 1996 hurricane brought on the decision to double the odds of a sunny Saturday and Sunday, and change a week long exhibition to one running over two weekends.

Next to weather, planning a program that draws a crowd is the greatest challenge. A Saturday night in 2013 hit the mark, when the "Redneck Olympics" packed exhibition arena.

Dave Coombes has seen many big crowds since he was hired as manager right out of college in 1965. George Jones, ostrich and pig racing, wrestling, and even soap stars from Another World drew crowds well throughout the years. But it's harder now. "The challenge now, is to invent and implement new twists to sometimes old ideas to create a buzz," Dave says. "A strong enough buzz to encourage the masses to visit the fair rather than a competing venue."

The 2014 program was child focused. The exhibition hosted the first ever *Future Farmers Friday*. The event drew 750 local school children who took part in a free, structured educational event designed to teach them about local food production. Community members, and growers all volunteered for this hands-on learning opportunity. A dwindling cattle show space was transformed into *Little Farmers Hoedown*, an interactive agriculture awareness venue.

Directors have been busy planning the 250<sup>th</sup> exhibition for several years. Hants County Exhibition Park will be bustling almost every weekend throughout the summer. The current volunteer board of 18, led by President Brian Casey, is a good mix of 3rd, even 4th generation society members, and men and women newer to the area. Over 70 volunteers make up the many exhibition committees. Along with the manager, there are six seasonal employees, and up to 25 part time employees.

The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration has received strong support from Heritage Canada and the province of Nova Scotia. The year kicked off on May 21 by acknowledging and celebrating the Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, and Acadian communities' contribution to agriculture with four performances of DRUM! Also in May, the AgArt Festival showcased agriculture through art and craft.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary celebration, a commissioned painting by Susan Sweet has been reproduced and a limited run of signed, framed prints featuring a team of oxen at the fair are available to purchase for \$75 from the exhibition office (902-798-0000). Exhibition is family affair for Sweet. Her dad, Ernest was president during the 200th year.

The Hants County Exhibition Park sits just off highway 101, 40 minutes from Halifax. The 41 acre site has 4 acres under cover, as well as Playland, a camp ground, and parking. There are upwards of 250,000 annual visits to the facility, bringing people into the town of 3,000 almost every weekend. The society generates all operating income through exhibition revenues, facility and equipment rentals.



The 2015 Hants County Exhibition dates are Sept 18-20 and 25-27, opening Friday, September 18 with a *250th celebration* – bringing together elements of the past, present and future in a high energy choreographed community production.

Throughout the exhibition, special prizes will be offered in competitions including 4-H, tug of war, motorsports, ox pulls, livestock, horse and poultry shows. A culture and heritage venue, will host basket and drum making, musical performances, food and craft workshops, story-telling and more.

The Heritage Beef Classic, is expected to attract 200 entries of major beef breeds from as far away as Quebec, on the second weekend. A petting zoo, *Little Farmers Hoedown*, *Future Farmer's Friday*, and of course a spectacular midway will round out the exhibition.

The 250th year closes fittingly, with the Nova Scotia 4-H Show on October 2-4, when the spotlight moves from acknowledging the past, to celebrating the promise of youth, and the future of agriculture. The kids will shine. Hopefully the sun will too.

This article is reprinted with permission from the author.

*The author, Lisa (Coombs) Hines, has exhibitions in her blood. She has missed just one Hants County Exhibition in her lifetime, and has been a director since 2012. She exaggerates only slightly in saying half of her life has been spent at Hants County Exhibition Park with kids, horses, cows, birds, and hockey.*



## Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

### Interest Rates

As of July 1, 2015 (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	2.45%		2.45%	2.30%
6–10	3.05%	3.05%	2.70%	2.40%
11–15	3.85%	3.45%	2.80%	2.45%
16–20	4.35%	3.80%	2.90%	2.45%
21–25	4.75%	3.80%	2.90%	2.45%
26–30	5.05%	3.85%	2.95%	2.45%

\* 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 902-893-6506**

Dalhousie University Agricultural College Campus, 137 College Road

**Kentville 902-679-6009**

[novascotia.ca/farmloan](http://novascotia.ca/farmloan)



# **38th Annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show to Be Held in Windsor**

4-H members are looking forward to one special event this fall - the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

This show, the largest 4-H Show in Canada, takes place October 2 - 4, 2015 and all the exhibitors are 4-H members from 9 - 21 years of age.

Hosted this year, at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds in Windsor, this annual family event offers something for everyone and it is an excellent opportunity for the public to experience the 4-H youth leadership program in an interactive way.

It's fitting that the Nova Scotia 4-H Show will be the final event at the Hants County Exhibition during their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The show began there in 1976 when the Nova Scotia 4-H Council and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture 4-H staff had a vision to bring 4-H members, their livestock and life skills projects together from all corners of the province for a weekend of friendly competition.

Previous to 1977, 4-H members could only bring their beef and dairy projects to the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition in Truro to compete on a provincial level.

As the exhibition program grew to include a variety of projects, the 4-H council realized that by having a show that specifically featured 4-H members' work that all projects would be able to participate and all counties would be equally represented. Also, the show would allow for the public and many more 4-H members to participate in this event.

The first 4-H show was truly a hands-on experience! With sheer determination and a lot of hard work, a provincial committee of 4-H volunteers and staff prepared for the event. Besides the pre-preparation work, several days before the exhibition began they built livestock pens, cleaned the grounds and readied the display areas for the 4-H projects. The show began small and as the years went by several new competitions and livestock auctions were added to give the 4-H members more areas in which they could compete.

Liz Crouse, former 4-H Supervisor with the Department of Agriculture remembers the Nova Scotia 4-H Show as being a gathering of 4-H friends, family and supporters that was unique and magical.

"The friendly competitions and the work of 4-H leaders and families from across province created an atmosphere of success and innovation. And it still does!" said Crouse. "The Nova Scotia 4-H Show is truly a model for growth and an example of what can be created with pure determination and the power of a positive attitude."

The Nova Scotia 4-H Show was held in Windsor for a few years, then began to move to other locations around the province so 4-H members could see more of Nova Scotia. Also by taking the show on the road other communities could benefit from the revenue generated by such an influx of people attending this event. The organizing committee then shifted from having provincial representation to having the county 4-H councils take on more responsibility for the show.

4-H members are eligible to compete at this event after achieving top honours at a local exhibition with their life skills or livestock projects. This year 40 projects, 90 classes, and 2400 entries are expected to be displayed at the 4-H Show.

Each year a county or region hosts the 4-H Show and this year the Hants County 4-H Leaders Council has the responsibility of making site arrangements, providing security, fund raising and promotion

Highlights of the Nova Scotia 4-H Show include livestock auctions, fashion show, dog obedience and handling trials, tug of war, cake decorating competition, grand champion showmanship class, and dairy and beef cattle selections for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

The Nova Scotia 4-H Show is open to the public and admission is free. 4-H families and the general public are invited to view the 4-H members' livestock and life skills projects. Competitions begin Friday, October 2 and end on Sunday, October 4 at noon.



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## 4-H Members Win University Entrance Scholarships

Along with gaining confidence, technical skills and friendship from the 4-H program, young people who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H members for at least two years can apply to win university entrance scholarships.

Presently, 4-H members can apply for three provincial scholarships from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council, and the George MacNeil Scholarship Fund. Provincial scholarship applications are found in the General Leader Kit or online at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/4h/general-leader-kit.pdf>

National scholarships such as the TD Agriculture Scholarship and the Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship are available through 4-H Canada at <http://apply.4-h-canada.ca/>.

Each scholarship has specific requirements to be submitted with their completed application form and scholarships range from \$1000 to \$2500.

This year the Nova Scotia 4-H Council awarded university entrance scholarships to Emily van den Hoogen, Inverness County and Cassandra Hayward from Halifax East Hants.

Riley van den Heuvel, Inverness County won the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Scholarship valued at \$1000. The Department of Agriculture scholarship is presented to students enrolling in their first year program in Agriculture, Veterinary Science, or other recognized disciplines.

Brooke MacNeil from Hants County won \$1000 from the George MacNeil Scholarship and \$2500 from the Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship sponsored by the Canadian Meat Council.

“I am incredibly honoured and thankful to be receiving these scholarships,” said McNeil. “It will help me to pursue my wish to enroll in the Agricultural Campus of Dalhousie University for September 2015 to study the Animal Science degree program. I have a passion for animals, and this is definitely going to assist me in pursuing it.”

Cynthia Campbell from Inverness County was the 2015 Nova Scotia recipient of the TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarship and was one of 12 4-H members across Canada to receive a \$2500 scholarship for entrance to her first year of university.

“I’ve been a 4-H member for eight years. 4-H has given me the chance to compete regionally, provincially and nationally, meet long lasting friends, and continues to shape me into the person I am today,” said Campbell. “I am going to Dalhousie’s Agricultural Campus in the fall for my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture”.

4-H members are encouraged to ask your General Leader or Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for more information about any of the scholarships.

## Camp Rankin Café Still Cooking After All These Years

Each year, 4-H volunteers from Richmond County arrive a day before the Nova Scotia 4-H Show begins to turn their assigned space into the Camp Rankin Café. In a matter of hours they are serving up perennial favourites of chili and a hot chicken dinner to the hungry 4-H families.

In 1988, the Camp Rankin Café began as the *Nutrition Booth*, a county responsibility at 4-H Show that provided nutritious foods to the spectators and participants. But in 1993, Richmond County was asked to take on the challenge of running a full restaurant during that weekend with all proceeds going to Camp Rankin and a tradition was born! Ever since then Richmond County has taken on this challenge under the direction of Peter LeBlanc, a dedicated 4-H supporter and fabulous cook!

Peter’s right hand lady is his wife Emily and together they each have volunteered with the 4-H program for over 30 years. They’ve seen their daughters benefit from being in 4-H and now their grandchildren are involved.

In preparation for the 4-H show, they have tremendous assistance from volunteers in Richmond County, both current and former 4-H parents and leaders. Prior to the show, the volunteer cooking crew gather at Camp Rankin to bake cinnamon rolls and 800 individual pies for dessert.

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Hot meals are provided on Friday and Saturday of the show and a cooked breakfast is popular with early risers on Saturday and Sunday morning. "I'm happy to be able to provide food for everyone," said Peter. "4-H Show is a great way to connect with old friends and meet new people all weekend."

The 4-H leaders that make the Camp Rankin Café run so smoothly are to be commended - for their tireless work preparing for 4-H Show and running the café. Shifts of 4-H leaders from across the province also lend a helping hand during the weekend. Their assistance is key to making this huge undertaking go smoothly once the café is open for business.

In 1972, Camp Rankin was built by volunteers as a Centennial project of the Richmond County 4-H Leader's Council and was the first 4-H camp to be built in the Atlantic Provinces.

The camp is situated on 60 acres of land at Cape George, near St. Peters in Richmond County. Although the original intention was to accommodate the 4-H clubs of Richmond County and surrounding areas, it now hosts 240 4-H members ages 9 - 15 at five week-long camps during July and August.

## **4-H Members Encouraged to Enter the Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition**

4-H members who are interested in challenging their public speaking abilities and want to discuss their enthusiasm for the agriculture industry are encouraged to enter the *Nova Scotia Young Speakers for Agriculture* competition. All senior 4-H members and 4-H Alumni who are 16 - 24 years of age as of the competition date can enter this competition on Friday, October 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m. during the Nova Scotia 4-H Show at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds in Windsor.

The contestant that wins the provincial contest will be sponsored by the Nova Scotia 4-H Council to participate in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual *Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture* National Senior Public Speaking Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Ontario on Saturday, November 7, 2015.

While the Nova Scotia competition is for past and present 4-H members only, contestants at the national level were also competing against fourth year University of Guelph students or graduates already working in the agricultural industry.

4-H members are encouraged to doing public speaking and demonstrations along with their project work during the 4-H year and each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions.

This life skill is invaluable in so many facets of life that 4-H members will often credit 4-H for giving them the opportunity for that specific training.

The Nova Scotia competition rules are the same as those for the Royal competition. Each contestant has to give a five to seven minute prepared speech on one of five selected topics and introduce and thank another speaker. The speech can be delivered in English or French.

The 2015 competitors have five agriculturally related topics from which they can choose to speak:

- The biggest challenge facing Canadian agriculture today is ...
- What role should government play in assisting young people entering farm businesses?
- Here's how our changing climate is affecting Canadian agriculture.
- This Canadian has significantly influenced agriculture.
- The one thing modern Canadian farmers must have is ...

Contestants may choose to use a flip chart. Or appropriate posters to illustrate their talk. Slides, films, videos or overhead projectors will not be allowed.

A complete set of rules, as well as the scoresheet, will be sent to all applicants prior to the Nova Scotia competition. For more information check out the website <http://www.cysa-joca.ca/core/>

To register please contact the Nova Scotia 4-H Council in writing with your name, birthdate and 4-H connection by Monday September 21, 2015.

Nova Scotia 4-H Council  
60 Research Drive  
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2  
Phone: 902-843-4467  
Fax: 902-843-3989  
Email: [iola@novascotia4h.ca](mailto:iola@novascotia4h.ca)



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

## **Celtic Colours Farm and Food Show**

*Experience the Harvest of Cape Breton*

October 10, 2015 – Centre 200 Sydney

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Sponsored by the  
Cape Breton/Richmond Federation of Agriculture**

The Celtic Colours Farm and Food Fair event is a one day event located at Centre 200 in Sydney and takes place on Saturday October 10, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event showcases Cape Breton farm, fish and food products. This event is delivered in conjunction with the launch of the Celtic Colors International Festival.

This event is being organized to raise the public awareness of Cape Breton produced Farm and Food products, including seafood while at the same time providing a venue for producers to sell their locally produced wares. Through this event we hope to create linkages between consumers, food producers and processors, restaurants, seafood and farm-related products.

In addition to Farm, Fish and Food Vendors, the event will be offering chef demonstrations, educational booths, food sampling and will feature a special *Sprouting Talent Stage* with young local musicians.

This event will attract locals and tourists, in equal measure, who are looking for a taste of Cape Breton, to learn about our local food industry and to have some fun as well. Our promotional campaign will begin in September and will include online advertising, social media, newspaper ads, radio and a special live radio promotion at the time of the event. We hope to make this event the PREMIERE local food event for Cape Breton presented at the peak of the harvest season!

If you are interested in being a vendor, demonstrator, sponsor or volunteer at this unique event please contact Maureen at 902-794-7633 or [federationofagriculture@outlook.com](mailto:federationofagriculture@outlook.com)

## **ATTENTION: RECYCLING USED PESTICIDE CONTAINERS**

### **HERE'S WHAT TO DO:**

1. Allow the formulation to drain from the container for at least 30 seconds.
2. Add at least 20% of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
3. Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds.
4. Repeat the above procedure twice more.
5. Render containers not useable by puncturing.
6. Leave label on the container.

Containers that have been handled in this way are technically suitable for disposal.

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling. You can drop off containers at the CO-OP COUNTRY STORE for recycling, please see staff prior to dropping off containers.

No five gallon buckets or plastic bags accepted.

## **Cape Breton Workplace Skills Advancement Program**

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture is pleased to offer the following customized 40 hour training program free of charge to NSFA members, family members or employees:

### **“Financial Management”**

The Financial Management Program could include basic accounting practices to advanced financial principles and will be customized to meet the needs of your farm business.

Space is limited to 12 participants per course and a minimum of 10. This training could cost up to \$500 from private training schools but is being offered for **FREE** to federation members!

If you are interested in finding more about this exciting program please contact:

Jeff Hennessey  
Business Development Officer  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Agriculture  
[Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca)  
Phone: 902-563-2418



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## **Upcoming Agriculture Workshops in Cape Breton**

- Blueberry Field Day - September
- Corn Silage Day - September
- CB Farm & Food Show-- October 10
- Farm Business Training

If you would like more information on these sessions or want to register please contact Gary at [Gary.Koziel@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gary.Koziel@novascotia.ca) or Catherine at 902-563-2000 or by email [Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca](mailto:Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca)

## **Upcoming Food Handler Courses**

Food Handler Training Courses will resume this September the schedule is yet to be decided.

Seats are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis when registrations are submitted with payment.

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:  
<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/>

Please refer to the website for a list of all food handler courses being offered. Online courses, and **Basics Food Safety Training** are also available at [www.traincan.com](http://www.traincan.com)

## **Attention all Giant Pumpkin growers.**

The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth(GPC) is a collection of more than 70 official weigh-off sites, their supporting clubs, and growers worldwide. These sponsored sites are attended by hundreds of thousands of people attending popular annually run festivals and weekend events. Established in 1993 the GPC is the major organizer and sanctioning body overseeing competitions in giant pumpkin and vegetable growing.

The Official GPC weigh off date is **Saturday, October 3, 2015** at the Millville Hall, Millville.

All entrants must be **REGISTERED before 11:00 a.m.** on that day, so the judges may inspect each pumpkin prior to weighing.

The GPC sets the recognized standard for all world records in the giant pumpkin family as used by Guinness for their world records. GPC growers have set the world records for the last 15 years. The GPC's mission cultivates the hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world by establishing standards and regulations that ensure quality of fruit, fairness of competition, recognition of achievement, fellowship and education for all participating growers and weigh-off sites.

Should you require additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 902-563-2000. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Hay for Sale?**

The Cape Breton Agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2015-16 winter season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds, if you would like to have your name added to the contact list or if you are looking to purchase hay please call our office at 902-563-2000 or email [Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca](mailto:Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca)

### **Business Development – Great ideas wanted**

Have you recognized the need for business training for your farm? Is there a particular area that you are interested in or would like to develop a better understanding? Do you have a vision for the future of your farm but see an obstacle that needs to be overcome? Have an idea for an additional revenue stream for your business but don't know where to begin?

We would like to hear from you so we can assist you in overcoming these challenges. If we can identify common areas that farmers are interested in, we will be able to develop workshops or bring workshops offered in other parts of the province to Cape Breton. If you have an idea for a workshop of any sort, please share, we are looking for great ideas.

If you recognize an issue but would like direct assistance, let us know as well and we'll schedule a meeting to discuss how we can help. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Jeff Hennessey 902-563-2418 or by email [Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca).

## Cape Breton 4-H News

With August coming to an end the Cape Breton Regional 4-H program wraps up another successful summer filled with Achievement Days and Exhibitions. A huge thank you goes out to all the leaders and volunteers within the 4-H community who made the events so successful. Also, a big congratulations goes out to all the 4-H members within the Cape Breton Region whose project work showed extreme talent and determination. Many members will be anticipating the highlight program of the year in October as members, leaders and 4-H families head to Provincial Show in Windsor this year.

### **Victoria's County Show**

Victoria's County Show is the last achievement day/county show to take place in the Cape Breton Region. The Achievement Day/County show runs September 9-12, 2015. This year will mark Victoria County Fairs 85<sup>th</sup> year, making it the longest running fair in the Cape Breton Region.

The Baddeck Forks 4-H club may not have size to their advantage but this little club has members that exhibit extreme talent that is noticed within the Nova Scotia 4-H community. The public is encouraged to come out to the hall Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and view the 4-Her's hard work. Come back on Saturday for livestock and life skills competitions and displays. For more information on this event or for an event schedule contact Marina Gillis in Sydney at 902-563-2001 or [Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca](mailto:Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca)

### **Can your project work make you \$\$\$?**

4-H members are a keen group of young people with some tremendous skills. Many 4-H members have accomplished a tremendous skill set during their years in 4-H, including strong communications and organizational skills, the ability to make decisions based on knowledge and facts, and time and people management skills. On top of that, many have excellent technical skills – from cake decorating to dog training, from computer to cattle show preparation and breeding, and from cooking to growing veggies and flowers. These skills make 4-H members excellent employees, but also make them strong contenders for running their own business. 4-H members are great at creating their own opportunities and creating their own success.

The staff will be looking at project work of members this summer and with the help of Students In Business Program, would like help identify potential small business initiatives 4-H members on Cape Breton Island may be able to be involved with seen in their project work. You can get in touch with us at either the Sydney or Mabou office, or email us at [Rhonda.MacDougall@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rhonda.MacDougall@novascotia.ca) or [Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca](mailto:Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca)

Additional information on the business loans, training and counselling available to help youth to start their own business, please let us know. We would be more than happy to help you access this information and resources as you think about running your own business. Just drop us an email or give us a call.

### **Leader Screening – Cape Breton Region**

The 4-H program could not exist without input from many dedicated volunteers, and your skills are needed! Our goal is to offer a quality program in a safe environment for our 4-H youth.

Just a reminder that this upcoming registration year, all new and existing 4-H leader's in the program will be required to be rescreened for program and provincial council requirements.

Please visit the website for leader screening packages and additional direction. Any questions please contact your general leader.

### **Important 4-H dates to remember:**

- CB County Council Meeting - September 1 – Provincial Building, Sydney
- Victoria County Show - September 9-12 , Baddeck Forks Hall
- Nova Scotia 4-H Show - October 2-4 , Windsor

Feel free to contact your regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator if you have any questions about these programs in the region at 902-945-2901 (Mabou office) or 902-563-2000 (Sydney office).

### **Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H team!**



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

## **Central Region Staff**

The Central Region offices house the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Agricultural Transition Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, and administrative support. 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.

We have a great group of people working here as a team. The Central Region includes the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax. We are located at Perennia Innovation Park. Our contacts are below.

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

- Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 902-893-3645  
[Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca](mailto:Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca)
- Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-893-6586  
[Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca)
- Rebecca Sooksom, Agricultural Transition Officer, 902-896-1288  
[Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca)
- Claire Hanlon-Smith, Business Development Officer, 902-893-4491  
[Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca](mailto:Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca)
- Jillian Garland, Administrative Assistant, 902-893-6575  
[Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca)

## **Mail Address Changes**

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we may continue to keep our mailing list up to date. If you have an address change, please contact Jillian at 902-893-6575 or by e-mail at [Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca) with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter please e-mail Jillian with your request.

## **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Sheep Sale**

Sponsored by Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia, the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Sheep Sale takes place on Saturday, September 5, 2015 beginning at 11:00 a.m. (Animals on view from 7:00 p.m., Friday, September 4), NS Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Truro, NS. For further information/catalogues call Rosemary Wort 902-671-2410 email [herngatefarm@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:herngatefarm@ns.sympatico.ca), or Andrew Hebda, 902-369-2969 [nantymor9982@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nantymor9982@ns.sympatico.ca) or visit: [www.sheepnovascotia.ca](http://www.sheepnovascotia.ca)

## **Pictou-North Colchester Sheep Fun Day**

The Northumberland Sheep Producers' Association is hosting its Annual Sheep Fun Day on Sunday, September 12, 2015 at the Pictou-North Colchester Exhibition Grounds.

Sheep must be on the exhibition grounds by noon, with classes beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending near 4:00 p.m.. A potluck supper for participants, show donors and Northumberland Sheep Producers' Association members will follow in the show tent.

If you are planning on attending please notify us of how many pens (4 ft x 4 ft) you will require for your animals by emailing us at [northumberlandsheepproducers@gmail.com](mailto:northumberlandsheepproducers@gmail.com) or by calling either Richard Hines at 902-351-2027 or Sarah Turner at 902-351-3454 (leave a message at either number if there is no answer) before Saturday September 5, 2015.

## **Colchester Silage Plastic Recycling Pilot Review**

The Colchester County silage plastic recycling pilot project wrapped up at the end of June. The project provided an opportunity to evaluate the condition of incoming used silage plastic and to test the handling equipment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Deliveries ranged in size and level of contamination. The MRF received seven deliveries during the project for a total of four tonnes of silage plastic. The average truck load of uncontaminated material weighed approximately half a tonne.

The MRF staff had no problem baling plastic that was relatively free from contamination (no rocks, soil, feed, twine, netwrap, etc.) and that material was able to enter existing recycling streams. Some loads had garbage or other non-recyclable materials such as netwrap mixed into the loads, and had to be hand sorted prior to being recycled. Two loads had large quantities of soil and rocks contaminating the loads and these were landfilled. In some cases contamination issues arose from plastic being loaded with a front end loader which had a tendency to pick up soil and rocks.

It is apparent from the results of this project, that in order for silage plastic recycling to be viable, reducing the level of contamination in the loads will be a top priority. Farm owners need to be aware of what constitutes an unacceptable level of contamination. Once clear about what is acceptable, only minor changes to handling would be required to ensure the silage plastic is easily recycled.

Now that the pilot project is over, well sorted silage plastic will still be accepted at the MRF for a reduced tipping fee (\$87.50/tonne) vs. the landfilling fee (\$112/tonne). Make sure to tell the scale operator you are delivering silage plastic. If you would like to know if your silage plastic is fit to be recycled call Jann McFarlane 902- 897-0450, ext.101 and she will come to your farm to tell you whether it would be acceptable.

## **Colchester “Feed Dating” Event**

Monday, November 2, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Truro Farmers’ Market, Truro Are you a local farmer or food processor interested in selling your food products to restaurants? Maybe you should try Feed Dating! This event will connect farms to restaurants. Trade information, stories, needs and sales pitches. Maybe we'll find a match!

Speakers will address what chefs/restaurant owners are looking for, how they buy and what successful food suppliers can do to tap into this market. Following a short break featuring local food prepared by a local chef, producers and buyers will have an opportunity to meet one-on-one in a speed-dating format. Don't pass up this opportunity to learn more about accessing this direct marketing channel, and in meeting your potential buyers.

For more information, or to register, contact: Jillian Garland, 902-893-6575  
[Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca)

***Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!***



## **Central Region 4-H News**

Between June and early August there were 19 4-H Clubs in the Central Region who held their club

Achievement Days! It was wonderful to see all the hard work and effort the 4-H members put into their livestock and life skills projects over the past year! Of course the month of August was dedicated to exhibitions in our region.

## **Upcoming 4-H Meetings**

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

- October 26 and November 23, 7:00 p.m., Lower Truro Hall, Kent Road

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

- September 1, October 6, and November 3, 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Leaders Council Meetings:

- September 8 (exhibition grounds, Middle Musquodoboit), October 20, and November 17, 7:00 p.m., Hants East Rural High School

## **County 4-H Exhibition Competitions**

Cumberland County – Monday, August 31 and Tuesday September 1, Oxford Exhibition Grounds.

## **Sign Up for 2015/16 4-H Year**

Looking to register for 4-H? Not sure on the ages? Junior members are 9-13 and senior members are 14-21. Some clubs offer a Cloverbud program for children 7-8 years old. Contact the club General Leader or the Central Regional Services Office for more information. Registration will occur throughout the fall

# **Regional News Eastern:** Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

## **4-H News**

The Eastern region has had an awesome summer so far with lots of 4-H events going on. We are very proud of how well our 4-H members did at 4-H weekend.

Fiona Mackenzie from Pictou won top Sr. Computer generated poster, and Makayla Mackinnon from Pictou won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for junior computer poster.

Emaleigh Murray from Pictou won top Sr. demonstration, and Brianne Sutherland and Andrew Greene from Pictou won top Sr. double demo.

Fiona Mackenzie from Pictou will be attending the 4-H Canada Members Forum in November and Kendra Vigneau from Antigonish attended the 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress in the Spring.

Our judging days in May went really well, with many 4-H members improving their judging skills and learning to do by doing.

On July 3, 86 4-H members, leaders and families attended the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax. Everyone had an awesome time and was amazed by the incredible acts from all over the world. Our achievement days began in June and finished up August 5. They went really well and the 4-H staff is always blown away by the talent of our 4-H members.

The Antigonish County 4-H Show runoff competitions took place August 13 - 14. The Pictou North Colchester Exhibition will take place September 7 - 13 with 4-H day happening Wednesday September 9 starting at 7:45 am.

### **Provincial Show Reminders:**

Any cancellations for 4-H Show must be received by noon on Monday, September 21.

Substitutions can be made by Friday, Sept 18 (4:30 p.m.) which allows another member to take your place.

**PLEASE NOTE: Life Skills items must be on the grounds and in their spot no later than **5:00 p.m.** on Friday, October, 2.**

**Livestock** must be on the grounds before 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 2. Market Steer, Lamb and Goat weigh in is from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Livestock members are reminded that they have to care for their animals all weekend long and assist with the county display and cleaning of the area.

## **4-H Member Profile**

Andrew Greene  
Age 20  
Saltsprings 4-H Club, Pictou County

### **How many years have you been in 4-H?**

14 years total. Two years as a cloverbud, and 12 as a member.

### **What projects are you in this year?**

Beef, dairy, poultry, waterfowl, vet science, first aid.

### **How did you first get involved in 4-H?**

I was never interested in sports but always had a keen interest in agriculture. I also really liked the competitive aspect of 4-H, and had a strong desire to do well at club, county and provincial competitions, especially with my livestock. My parents bought me some ducks when I turned three and my interest grew as I got older. My cousins were involved in 4-H and as I became old enough, I realized it was the perfect organization for me.

### **What is your proudest 4-H moment?**

I have a few particular events that stick out in my mind as highlights of my 4-H career. I was a member of the Royal beef team in 2012 with my tremendous heifer Sweet Tart. Being provincial host was also an opportunity I really enjoyed. I was able to meet lots of new people, and attend and represent my region at many events around the province. The 4-H Show is also an annual highlight that I look forward to every year.

### **What is the most important lesson 4-H has taught you?**

The importance of hard work and dedication. You have to work for what you want to achieve, and 4-H provides the perfect opportunity to work hard and achieve your goals. Whether it's getting up in front of the club to do a speech or demonstration, or winning grand champion at the Provincial Show, the feeling of pride and accomplishment is extremely rewarding.

### **What advice do you have for new 4-H members?**

Don't be afraid to try new things, get as involved with as many aspects of 4-H as you can and don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone.

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## 4-H'ers Experience a Successful EastGen Weekend

Eastern Region participants included:

Beef:

Andrew Mikkelsen, Peter Bekkers  
Andrew Green, Brennan Hoare

Dairy:

Alex Kennedy, Iain MacLellan  
Gracien Murray  
Emaleigh Murray, Logan MacDonald



Members attended from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. A highlight for the event was a presentation by Dr. Tim Henshaw, a veterinarian who works with EastGen in Ontario.

Andrew Green placed first in the beef quizzes.

Plans for next year's event are now underway so if you've not yet attended EastGen, you're missing out on a fabulous opportunity. Be sure to consider taking part next year.

### Food Safety Course

If you require a food safety course for yourself or a group you work with, please contact Sam Robichaud.

Phone: 902-485-7162

Email: [Samantha.Robichaud@novascotia.ca](mailto:Samantha.Robichaud@novascotia.ca)

### Testing for Soil Compaction

The Eastern regional office has a soil penetrometer available to borrow to help you better assess soil compaction on your fields.

Measuring soil compaction is another tool in the toolbox that can be used to help you make management decisions. Soil compaction in your fields can impact nutrient movement, microbe activity, the ability of your roots to penetrate the soil and ultimately your crop development performance. The tool is most useful for identifying the depths of different compaction layers and helping you decide if you should plow, subsoil or move to a no-till system.

The penetrometer is very simple to use and information is interpreted on the spot using a gauge attached to the probe. NSDA staff in the Eastern region are also available to help you assess soil compaction in your fields if you're not comfortable doing it yourself. To inquire about borrowing the penetrometer please call 902-863-4705.

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### Market Gardening Field

#### Day

Jean Martin Fortier, founder of Les Jardins de la Grenlinetter and author of 'The Market Gardener' conducted a field day in Antigonish for people interested in market farming. Approximately 50 people attended. The day was hosted at the Bethany apprenticeship farm with apprentice farmers Michael Overmars and Colleen Freake.

Topics discussed included organic farming practices, soil quality, nutrients required for vegetable production and various small-scale farming methods. Machinery demonstrations were also conducted. Many of the participants attending are already farming however many were exploring food production for commercial purposes.

Market farming is appealing to some people because of its low startup costs and small land requirements. It's a convenient way for people to test the waters while retaining the ability to develop the idea into a business should they find success.

### Community Markets

You can support local business and crafts people by attending a market in your community. Watch for fresh produce from local vendors!

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Antigonish:

Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
4H Barn behind the Antigonish Arena

Guysborough:

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Marina Building on the Guysborough Waterfront

New Glasgow:

Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
115 Jury Street on the New Glasgow Riverfront

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

## **Annapolis Co. Federation Livestock Sale**

Cattle Sale will be held in October at the Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown. Date TBA.

## **Local Community Fairs and Exhibitions**

Don't forget about the local community fairs and exhibitions being held in our region:

**Western Kings Fair**, Tremont - September 5  
**Hants Co. Exhibition**, Windsor - September 18-20 & September 25-27  
**Queens Co. Exhibition**, Caledonia - Sept. 15-19  
**Nova Scotia 4-H Show**, Windsor - October 2-4

## **New Staff Member**

We would like to welcome Matthew Reeves to the Kentville office. Matthew has joined the Farm Loan Board team in Kentville as the Senior Loans Officer. He can be contacted at 902-679-6010,  
[Matthew.Reeves@novascotia.ca](mailto:Matthew.Reeves@novascotia.ca)

## **Come to the Hants County Exhibition!**

The Hants County Federation of Agriculture is pleased to announce that in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Hants County Exhibition, Canada's oldest agricultural fair, all provincial Federation members with a valid membership card will receive \$2 off admission, with up to four people per card on the Saturdays (September 19 and 26) and Sundays (September 20 and 27) of each Exhibition weekend. The goal is to help reduce the financial burden on farm families and further increase attendance and participation.

The Valley Region Staff of the Department of Agriculture would like to congratulate the 250th Celebrations Committee and wish them all the best at the upcoming event.

## **Local Food Awareness Week – Lunenburg & Queens**

The local Food Team of Lunenburg and Queens Counties strives to build active partnerships. The committee membership represents a diverse cross section within our communities. The goal of the Local Food Team is to raise awareness of local food issues and activities and to build networks that promote and support community food sustainability and healthy living activities and programs.

The Lunenburg-Queens Local Food Team is excited to be supporting Local Food Awareness Week, which will take place September 19-27, 2015. A poster contest for schools is new for 2015. Help our committee celebrate and promote our local food in Lunenburg and Queens Counties.

This upcoming celebration will feature activities that raise awareness of local food in our region, organized by businesses, community groups, institutions, and citizens.

Activities are designed to celebrate local food in our region. For more information on the Local Food Awareness Week go to <https://localfoodteam.wordpress.com/local-food-awareness-week/>; Twitter: @LocalFoodTeam; Facebook: Local Food Team

## **2015 Small Farm Expo**

On behalf of the Valley Region Staff, we would like to thank the speakers, trade show vendors and sponsors for their support of the 2015 Small Farm Expo held in Bridgewater on July 20.

This event continues to bring farmers together to learn from each other about the opportunities and challenges of small scale farming.

Also a thank you goes out to all the participants of the Expo for a great day!

## **Food Safety Courses**

Food Safety Courses are held from September to June each year. Visit our website towards the end of August for a full list of new course dates and times:

<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/scheduled-courses/southwest/>.

For more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 902-638-2395. Online courses are also available. Please visit:  
<http://www.traincan.com/basicfst/nsagriculture.html>

## **Valley/ South Shore 4-H News**

### **Valley 4-H News**

#### **Hants County Exhibition 4-H Days, Hants County Exhibition Grounds - September 18-20**

Hants County Exhibition preparation is well underway... Hants County 4-H is pleased to be part of the events during this, the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

On Friday evening there will be Dog and Rabbit Classes throughout the evening and visitors are encouraged to visit the Life Skills displays which hosts a wide variety of Life Skills projects completed by the members.

On Saturday Beef, Dairy, Goat, Light Horse, Waterfowl and Poultry classes will be taking place along with a variety of competitions.

On Sunday, Sheep, Light Horse and the Grand Champion Livestock Showmanship class will be happening along with the parade of clubs.

Life skill competitions including the Bake-Off, Vegetable Preparation, Woodworking, Floral Arranging, Outdoorsman, Photography, Cake Decorating, Fashion Show and Beef, Dairy and Sheep Clipping will be happening throughout the weekend.

### **South Shore 4-H News**

#### **Exhibitions/Fairs**

- Queens County 4-H Day at Queens County Fair –**  
Tuesday, September 15

For more information in regards to the South Shore 4-H program, contact Colin Hirtle, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Lunenburg Office, 902-634-7575 or by email [Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca](mailto:Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca).

## **The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Nova Scotia 4-H Show**

Hants County 4-H Council is proud and excited to once again be hosting the Nova Scotia 4-H Show. The 2015 4-H Provincial Show being held from October 2-4 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds in Windsor. In 2015 The Hants County Exhibition will celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary as being the home to the Oldest Agricultural Fair in North America. In 2015 the Nova Scotia 4-H Show will be 38 years old and it all started in 1976 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds. The 2015 4-H Show will be truly different than that first show and Nova Scotia 4-H should be proud to realize what has been accomplished in 38 years of growing the program within the province.

Hants County 4-H Council and its many volunteers are pleased to have the opportunity to be hosts to the province and do so in the spirit of the 4-H motto “Learn to Do by Doing”! Leaders, Members and their parents, are working to make the weekend an enjoyable one where 4-Hers can showcase their projects, take part in competitions and have a lot of fun.

### **Upcoming 4-H Events**

- Kings County - JAP Wrap - Up Meeting** - September 8, 6:30 p.m., Scotian Gold followed by **Kings County 4-H Council meeting**, 7:30 p.m.
- Kings County Awards Night** - October - TBA
- Hants County Awards Banquet** - November - TBA

Contact Valorie Skinner, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Department of Agriculture for information on the Valley 4-H program at 902-679-6027 or by email [Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca](mailto:Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca).

### **Interested In Joining 4-H?**

As the summer comes to a close, the end of another 4-H year draws near. For people interested in joining 4-H this year, now is the time to get ready. 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 or email, 902-679-6027, [Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca](mailto:Valorie.Skinner@novascotia.ca) (Valley Region), 902-634-7575, [Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca](mailto:Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca) (South Shore Region) and we will be more than happy to give some helpful information.

### **Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!**



## **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, or if you'd like to receive an email in the future, please notify Gina either by phone at 638-2395 or by email at [Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca).

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

## **Upcoming Food Safety Courses**

Food Safety Courses are about to begin for this season. They are held from September to June each year.

Visit our website for a full list of new course dates and times:  
<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/scheduled-courses/southwest/>

You will find a link to the registration form on this page as well.

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.

For more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 902-638-2395.

Online courses are also available. Please visit:  
<http://www.traincan.com/basicsfst/nsagriculture.html>

## **Need a Sharp Container?**

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 spreading infection; 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 902-638-2395 for hours and information.



## **Fur Industry Regulations**

The deadline is closing in fast for compliance with the Fur Industry Regulations on January 11, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the regulations or would like to discuss where you are in the process, please contact us at 902-638-2396 or email at [Terry.McKay@novascotia.ca](mailto:Terry.McKay@novascotia.ca)

## **Think Safety**

Summer and fall are busy times on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. Be sure to make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family.

Now is a good time to:

- Check fencing around ponds and manure storages.

Ensure PTO guards are in place.

- Take extra precautions to guard against manure gas in liquid manure storages.

• Check your farm first aid kit(s) to ensure they are fully stocked and ready for use.

• Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and in place on machinery and in buildings.

• Make sure your slow moving vehicle signs are on equipment and can be seen.

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## **Western Region 4-H News**

Leah Hancock was hired by the Annapolis county 4-H Leaders Council as the Summer Worker for Annapolis County. Leah is attending Acadia University and has been a 4-H member of the Clarence Club.

### **Provincial Show Reminders:**

Any cancellations for 4-H Shows must be received by noon on Monday September 21.

Substitutions can be made by Friday, Sept 18 (4:30 p.m.) which allows another member to take your place.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**Life Skills** items must be on the grounds and in their spot no later than **5:00 p.m.** on Friday, October 2.

**Livestock** must be on the grounds before 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 2.

Market Steer, Lamb and Goat weigh in is from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Livestock members are reminded that they have to care for their animals all weekend long and assist with the county display and cleaning of the area.

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## **4-H Dates to Remember:**

- Nova Scotia 4-H Show meeting – September 2, 7:30 p.m., Livestock 4-H Barn, Lawrencetown
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - September 9, 7:00 p.m., Middleton
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council - September 16, 7:00 p.m., 4-H Office.
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - September 17, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library
- Nova Scotia 4-H Show - October 2-4,Windsor
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council - October 14, 7:00 p.m., Middleton
- Digby County 4-H Awards Banquet - October 15, location TBA
- Annapolis County 4-H awards Banquet - October 18, 4:00 p.m., Nictaux
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council - October 21, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office
- Digby County 4-H Council meeting - October 22, 7:00 p.m., Library
- Yarmouth County 4-H Awards Banquet - October 25, location TBA

### ***Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!***

