

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #	Acrobat Page #
<u>Main Newsletter</u> (for all regions)		
Minister’s Message	1	2
Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission	2	3
Perennia News	4	5
– New Extension Specialist with Perennia	4	5
– 2015 Perennia Food Safety Training Courses	4	5
– 2015 Bee Line Up and Running	4	5
– Perennia Project Profiles	4	5
– Nova Scotia’s Farm and Foods Events Calendar	5	6
SCIANS Advance Payment Program	6	7
Welcome Spring with Extended Learning - Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture	6	7
Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week	7	8
ThinkFARM	7	8
Select Nova Scotia Events	7	8
Farm Safety Nova Scotia – Safe and Efficient Use of Pesticides Workshop	7	8
Programs and Business Risk Management Division Updates	8	9
4-H Provincial News:		
– 4-H Members Can Apply for Scholarships	9	10
– 4-H Canada Volunteer Leader of the Year - 2014	9	10
– Atlantic 4-H Conference to be Held in Debert	9	10
– Annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour Heads to Cape Breton	10	11
– Summer Jobs at Camp Rankin	10	11
– 4-H Annual Chocolate Fund Raiser Set for March	11	12
– 4-H Members Travel on National and International Awards	11	12
Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board	12	13
<u>Custom Newsletter Pages</u> (for individual regions)		
Cape Breton Region News	14	15
Eastern Region News	14	17
Central Region News	14	20
Valley/South Shore Region News	14	22
Western Region News	14	24

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

February 2015

Highlights Inside

- 2 NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission
- 4 Perennia News
- 6 SCIANs Advance Payments Program
- 6 Extended Learning – Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 7 Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week
- 7 ThinkFARM
- 7 Select NS Events
- 7 NS Farm Safety – Pesticides Workshop
- 8 Programs Updates
- 9 4-H Provincial News
- 12 NS Farm Loan Board
- 13 Regional News
(custom pages)

Nova Scotia's Farm and Food Events Calendar

<http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com>
(See page 5 for details)

Minister's Message

The Department of Agriculture is committed to helping Nova Scotia's agricultural communities develop, with a view to long-term sustainability.

We need to grow the economy and this year the department will pay particular attention to the wine sector, investing in this promising industry in ways that will benefit the province's agricultural industry and economy for years to come.

It's an exciting time for Nova Scotia wine as we move from an infant industry to an expanding economic contributor in the agri-food sector. Nova Scotia's Grape and Wine Industry has grown from a single winery in 1980 to 18 wineries today.

We know that Nova Scotia has unique soil and micro climates that create conditions for some of the most distinctive grapes in North America. This industry has the potential to reach well beyond our provincial borders, and showcase the work of our grape growers and wine makers internationally.

I felt it was important to create the Nova Scotia Wine Development Board to provide a roundtable for government and industry to come together to identify development opportunities to guide strategic industry growth.

The Nova Scotia Wine Development Board works to highlight opportunities, identify barriers and advise government on legislation, regulation and policy development.

To date, this forum has facilitated valuable discussions among the wine and grape experts in our province, and we're making progress. For example the Tourist Attraction Signage Policy has been amended to remove barriers for new wineries, a viticulture specialist will soon be hired at Perennia, and work towards a crop insurance program for grape growers is underway.

I believe with the industry's scale, organization, infrastructure and expertise evolving at a rapid rate, it is imperative that we work together to ensure growth and long term sustainability in this promising and dynamic sector.

I hope that you share my enthusiasm for this initiative, and I thank you for your commitment and hard work to this end. Please join me and choose Nova Scotia wine when making your wine purchases.

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture



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 22,000 acres, 9,472 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 a tax-deductible premium that is cost-shared with government.

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines 2015

- 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 Options letters(s) before the beginning of the crop year, for most of the above plans, except for Weather Derivative which must be applied for annually. This gives you an opportunity to choose your 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 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 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 2015-16 crop year (the Feb-Mar 2016 harvest season). The deadline for application is April 30, 2015. 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 the 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 to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply 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 - \$5.00/acre) and \$100/acre coverage (producer premium = \$2.50/acre).

Weather Plan for Forage

This plan targets crop losses related to weather events. It guarantees 80% 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% of the long term average rainfall (30 year averages). A producer can choose 2, 3 or 4 months of drought coverage between May 1 and August 31. Any or all of the managed forage and/or pasture on your farm can be insured for up to \$288 per acre.

With the Quality Rider, when three consecutive days of rainfall of at least 5mm are recorded, a payment of 20% 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 even 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.

Both the Weather Derivative Plan for Forage and the Forage Establishment Plan require 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 2014?

To provide accurate coverage to our clients, the Commission needs your harvested yield report for 2014. If clients do not report their actual yield, the Commission assumes you have 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 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

New Extension Specialist with Perennia

Perennia has been working with the newly-formed Wine Development Board on their needs. As a result of those discussions and with the Minister, a new position has been created for Perennia for a Viticulture/Oenology Specialist based in the Kentville office. Stay tuned for an announcement on this position.

Nova Scotia Free-Range Poultry Conference Learning from Experts, Learning from Each Other

March 9–10, 2015
Rm. 214, 90 Research Drive,
Bible Hill

Are you a licensed free-range chicken or turkey producer or thinking of becoming one? Or, a commercial producer of free-range eggs? You won't want to miss this conference! Learn from the experiences of Ron and Sheila Hamilton of Sunworks Farm in Armena, Alberta, who have been raising organic, pastured chickens, turkeys, and eggs since 1997. They are currently in the process of constructing their own on-farm, provincially inspected abattoir.

Other topics include poultry nutrition, welfare, biosecurity, and on-farm food safety.

Cost: \$50+HST/person | Register online at:
<https://www.esourceevent.com/register/register.aspx?EventName=THINKFARMPoultry>

Registration deadline: March 2, 2015

For more information, contact Becky Sooksom at 902-896-1288 or Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca

2015 Perennia Food Safety Training Courses

Perennia has been providing high quality food safety training in Atlantic Canada since 2006. Both public and private training is available. Our public courses vary each year depending on what is important to the food processing industry. Our full **2015 Course Calendar** is available online at <http://www.perennia.ca/training.php>

2015 Bee Line Up and Running

At the request of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association joint pollination committee, Perennia manages a Bee Line that is a volunteer listing of beekeepers and their available hives for pollination. The list will help connect blueberry growers who need bee hives to pollinate their blueberry fields with beekeepers who have available hives to rent. For more information on this service go to <http://www.perennia.ca/beeline.php> or call the hotline at 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free).

Perennia Project Profiles

The extension, food safety and product development specialists at Perennia have been hard at work on research and client-based projects. Offering support in such a wide variety of areas - from the field to fork - means there are a lot of great stories to share. Here are just a few!

The food scientists and technicians at the Perennia Innovation Centre have been experiencing a high demand from industry for consultations and project work. A recent project with *All Sauced Up*, a Nova Scotia-based sauce, salad dressing and marinade company, saw owner Vicky Gourley working with the Centre to fine tune formulas for four of her best-selling products in preparation for increased production due to retail sales. Gourley also worked with another food scientist affiliated with Perennia, who has worked with clients like VH Sauces, to help perfect her recipes and ensure uniformity.

New packaging options were the key reason the owners of *Made with Local* started working with the team at the Centre. They wanted to improve the shelf-life and stability of their all natural snack bars. Perennia's food scientists offered them a new foil film option that tripled the ambient shelf life of their products. This opened up a whole host of new retail options and markets for the Halifax-based company.

The Centre has a variety of packaging equipment, such as a tube sealing machine which can be used for plastic laminated tube sealing of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and foods; a vacuum bag sealer which can also be used for dry packaging applications on trays; a modified atmosphere tray sealer to optimize shelf life; and a skin pack machine creating a retail-ready vacuum skin package with film-to-tray, film-to-board and film-to-film options.

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Our production specialists have also been working on some exciting projects with real impact for producers. In 2013 and 2014, a Pumpkin Seed Oil Production Project was undertaken to test varieties from Austria and New Zealand. Weed control options and other agronomic characteristics were also assessed. All varieties of oilseed pumpkin performed well in Nova Scotia, yielding 425 - 837kg of dry seeds per hectare.

A Perennia specialist travelled to Austria with Theo and Rosalie Hogeterp (two of the producer co-operators on the project and winners of the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce 2014 Innovation Accelerator Award) to do research on value-added pumpkin seed products. This crop represents an interesting opportunity for the production of oil and snack foods. Ten acres of commercial production is scheduled in the province for 2015.

In the dairy sector, our specialist has been working with a number of dairy producers to determine if rehydrating a cow directly after calving, with a drink containing various nutrients and minerals, would have an effect on metabolic disease and, potentially, milk production. For the last two years, cows have consistently produced an average of four additional litres each day, which, over the course of a lactation is worth approximately \$300 per cow.

Perennia also worked on ketone testing with nine co-operating dairy farms to determine the extent to which fresh cows (cows within the first four weeks of lactation) become ketotic as a means to treat them quickly before health and production are compromised. The co-operating farms were given hand-held testers. In most cases, cows not exhibiting symptoms were found to be ketotic and, thus, were able to be treated quickly before the condition became apparent.

On the food safety front, Perennia's specialists have been all over the province working with food companies that are processing everything from cheese to lamb to all varieties of seafood. *Cedar Bay Grilling Company Ltd.* produces planked salmon products. In 2014, our team worked with Cedar Bay, located in Hubbards, to attain BRC certification. BRC is a globally recognized food safety program and the certification has opened doors for the company to sell their products in global markets like the United Kingdom and Australia. Perennia's food safety team continues to work with Cedar Bay on a regular basis.

The team also worked with *Holmstead Cheese Sales* in the Annapolis Valley to assist in the development of a Safe Quality Food (SQF) program, another globally recognized program that more and more large retailers are requiring of their suppliers. Holmstead recently asked Perennia for further assistance and they successfully achieved recertification, ensuring they can maintain their current markets and expand into more.

For more information on the work being done at Perennia, visit www.perennia.ca or call 902- 678-7722 or 902-896-0277.

Nova Scotia's Farm and Food Events Calendar

A joint public calendar has been created to advertise all industry-, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture- and Perennia-related events at <http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com/>

The calendar has been created for ease of use. All staff of NSDA, Perennia and industry-related groups are welcome to add upcoming events to the calendar. On the site, scroll down the page and you will see where it says: + Add Event. Fill in the information there and submit. All events will be reviewed and approved (as soon as possible) before posting to ensure they are appropriate and relevant to the agri-food industry.

Links for the calendar can be found on the NSDA website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/> and <http://novascotia.ca/agri/activities-and-events/>.

Perennia's current calendar link will be redirected to this new shared calendar, and it can be found at <http://perennia.ca/>

Please feel free to add agricultural related events to this calendar and to check it frequently to see what's happening in your community. If you have any questions please contact Lynne Godlien, Director of Marketing and Communications, Perennia at 902-678-7722, Ext 229 or by email lgodlien@perennia.ca.

SCIANS Advance Payment Program (APP)

Once again, the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia (SCIANS) has been asked by the federal government to administer the Advance Payment Program for 2015-16. The purpose of the program is to improve marketing opportunities for agricultural products by extending an advance to the producers as a means of improving cash flow.

Any individual or farm business can receive an advance of up to \$100,000 interest-free. Producers repay the advance by December 31, 2015 for the spring portion of the program. If crops are in storage, an individual or farm business may participate in the fall portion of the program with repayment of advances by September 30, 2016. Crops usually covered are barley, corn, oats, rye, hay, soybeans, and spring and winter wheat.

Producers must have crop insurance to be eligible for the spring portion of the program. Also, producers must allow SCIANS to conduct a credit check, done by a third party. Producers must provide SCIANS with an assignment on the crop insurance policy. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged to producers to cover the cost of administering the program.

To learn more about the program, contact Carol Versteeg at 902-758-3530 or by email at carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca.

Welcome Spring with Extended Learning Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

Modern Beekeeper Module 1: The Busyness of Bees

In this two-day module, you will become familiar with the Atlantic Canadian Bee Industry including pertinent regulations. You will gain a good understanding and application of bee biology and look at business costs surrounding successful and profitable production. ***On-campus Saturday and Sunday March 28 and 29, 2015. Cost is \$295.00***

NEW!!! Project Management Essentials

Improved and updated, this course provides new project managers and project team members the essential tools they need to deliver successful projects. ***On campus April 8-10, 2015. Cost is \$1395.00.***

Pesticide Applicator's Certification

This four-day 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 13-16, 2015. Cost is \$375.00***

Modern Beekeeper Module 2: Bee Hive and Health

This module is filled with critical information on maintaining hive health, pest identification and management. You will learn how to safely open and evaluate a hive in the bee yard. ***On-campus May 9 and 10, 2015. Cost is \$295.00.***

Bulk Milk Grader's Course

The Bulk Milk Grader's course provides the training necessary for both Bulk Milk Tank Drivers and Dairy Receivers to be licensed by the NS Department of Agriculture. This course is offered over a three-day period with a combination of theoretical and hands-on learning. Participants must achieve a 70% on both the written and grading exams to receive certification. ***On Campus, May 20, 21, 22, 2015. Cost is \$373.75 (\$325 +HST)***

All info can be found on our website at dal.ca/exl.

For more information on our courses and programs please visit our website at dal.ca/exl

Extended Learning Faculty of Agriculture

Agricultural Campus
PO Box 550, Truro NS
B2N 5E3 Canada
902.893.6666
extended.learning@dal.ca



Faculty of Agriculture



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia

March 1–7, 2015

This year marks the 4th Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week and the 8th Agriculture Literacy Week in Nova Scotia. This year we are offering a Canadian farm book to grade 4 classrooms.

In Nova Scotia, Ag Literacy Week is simply a time when school children are encouraged to celebrate agriculture in our province by reading books about farming. Last year 85 volunteers from the agricultural community across the province visited 125 elementary school classrooms to read to students, and donate books and other educational resources about farming.

If you would like further information please contact the Agriculture office at 902-863-4705 or call Rick Hoeg, Agricultural Education Liaison at 902-893-7495 AgEducation@novascotia.ca.

THINKFARM has a wealth of resources for beginning and transitioning farmers, which can be accessed at www.novascotia.ca/thinkfarm. A list of upcoming workshops can also be found here. Recent workshops have included mushroom cultivation, four-season farming and farm financing.



THINKFARM partnered with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture to create a succession planning website. This tool is now available for farmers and can be found at www.nsfarmsuccession.ca. This tool is meant to help guide you through the succession planning process, but it will not replace the need for accountants, lawyers or farm advisors.

Safe and Efficient Use of Pesticides Workshop

Farm Safety Nova Scotia and Perennia are partnering to offer a Safe and Efficient Use of Pesticides Workshop. Presenters will be Peter Burgess and Carolyn Van Den Heuvel. This workshop will focus on understanding the risks associated with pesticide use, ensuring necessary safety precautions are taken and highlighting efficiencies for pesticide application. There will be an opportunity for troubleshooting discussions as well.

There will be pesticide recertification points available! For more information or to RSVP, contact info@farmsafetyns.ca or 902-893-2293.

Select Nova Scotia Events



Select NS is pleased to announce that the summer Local Days program will extend into the winter season. We are planning three local days at 15 Sobeys and Foodland stores across the province. There will be one event a month for February, March and April in the following stores:

- Foodland - 124 Main Street, Tatamagouche
- Foodland - 4115 Nova Scotia Trunk 3, Chester
- Sobeys - 76 Starrs Rd, Yarmouth
- Sobeys - 45 Keltic Drive, Sydney River
- Sobeys Bedford South - 55 Peakview Way, Halifax

The event will run from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. and will include local vendors, in-store sampling, music and much more. Watch the Select NS website at www.selectnovascotia.ca for details on the other upcoming events.

Select NS is also pleased to announce we will be at the Saltscapes Expo, April 24-26 at Exhibition Park in Halifax. Once again, we are partnering with the Farmers Market Association to bring an exciting array of local products to the public. Our booth will include chef and farmer presentations.

A photo booth is new this year and will add some excitement and interest around buying local. Join us at Saltscapes Expo and have your picture taken at the Select NS booth.

Workshops will run 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dates and RSVP deadlines are as follows:

RSVP by March 5 for:

- March 10 - Best Western Glengarry
- March 11 - Berwick Fire Hall
- March 12 - Oxford Lion's Den

Programs and Business Risk Management Division Updates

Under the *Growing Forward 2* bilateral agreement the Department of Agriculture offers a number of programs focusing on innovation, competitiveness and market development to help producers grow their business and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

The Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) division changed the intake model last year (2014-15 fiscal year). Staff listened to feedback, reviewed the administrative process and are implementing administrative changes to provide better service to our clients. Programs for the 2015-16 fiscal year are opening through the late winter/ early spring season. Please watch the Department of Agriculture website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/> and NSFA e-news for notice of upcoming program announcements and messages.

New Program – Building Industry Capacity

The Building Industry Capacity Program is a three-year program commencing in 2015-16 fiscal year. The program is expected to support projects with sector-wide benefits. The objectives are to enhance, develop and diversify agri-business infrastructure and improve competitiveness. The intent is to optimize and accelerate growth and development of the agriculture and agri-food industry. The ultimate objective of the fund is to promote winning conditions within the provincial industry that are based on sound business case analysis and strategic priorities. The ability to enhance the domestic and international competitiveness of the overall sector through collaboration and partnering is an integral component of the Building Industry Capacity Program.

This program has two streams. Stream one will support sector level strategic development and implementation initiatives as identified by industry and/or government. Stream two will assist in building the strategic infrastructure needed to address barriers to development in Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food industry. The priorities in these two streams will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted accordingly.

The Building Industry Capacity Program is proposal based. Proposals must include a business case and the financial impact of your project must be clearly identified as they apply to your industry or agri-food business, as well as to the rural economy of Nova Scotia. Please contact a Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) staff person to discuss your proposed project and whether it meets the eligibility criteria. This initial consultation will help you decide if you should invest valuable time and effort in completing a project proposal. PBRM staff can only provide their initial assessment of the project based on the information provided. Funding decisions can only be made by the Review Committee based on an assessment of the full proposal. The program guidelines and applications detailing how submissions are rated are on the Department of Agriculture web site at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/innovation>.

Business Risk Management Programs

Under *Growing Forward 2*, Nova Scotia producers have an effective suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs which includes AgriInvest, AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriRecovery to help farmers manage risk due to severe market volatility and disaster situations. For more information on AgriInvest or AgriStability contact Agriculture and AgriFood Canada toll free at 1-866-367-8506. The AgriInsurance program is offered provincially through the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Commission. AgriRecovery is not a program but a framework which forms the basis by which federal, provincial and territorial governments can work together when natural disasters occur to assess the impacts and determine whether there is need for an AgriRecovery initiative.

Home Grown Success Program – Claim Deadline

The March 1, 2015 claim deadline for individuals and organizations that received funding for the 2014-15 fiscal year is fast approaching. All claims must be postmarked or received by the PBRM office by March 1, 2015. When a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it moves to the next business day. Late claims will not be processed. Copies of all invoices with proof of payment (canceled cheques, credit card statement, debit slips, or invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier) are required to support claims. Where applicable, additional documents such as building permits for manure, pesticide or fertilizer storage must accompany your claim. The claim form can be found on the Department of Agriculture website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/growing-forward2/>.

Contact Programs and Business Risk Management at 902 893-6510 or toll free at 1-866-844-4276 if you required additional information on any of these initiatives.



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. Check out the General Leader Kit online at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/4h/general-leader-kit.pdf>.

4-H members are encouraged to keep checking on the Canadian 4-H Council website for national 4-H scholarship opportunities available in 2015 at <http://www.4-h-canada.ca/programs-and-events/national-programs/grants-scholarships-and-awards>

4-H Canada Volunteer Leader of the Year - 2014

Each year 10 provincial 4-H leaders from across Canada are honoured for their dedication to youth and presented with the *4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year Award*.

The award was created through a partnership between The Co-operators and Canadian 4-H Council to celebrate the dedication shown by 4-H volunteers and recognize the significant and pivotal role volunteer leaders play in the 4-H program. More than 25,000 4-H Members across the country depend on more than 7500 volunteer Leaders to run clubs and oversee projects.

The call for nominations for the **4-H Volunteer Leader of the Year Award** took place in the fall of 2014 and was driven by member reference letters and recommendations. A total of 11 provincial winners were recently selected from the pool of applicants.

Sharlene Carter-Earle from Cumberland County was the leader selected from Nova Scotia as one of the provincial winners. “The best thing about this award is that I was nominated by the 4-H members in my club, it's an amazing tribute,” said Sharlene. “It's a privilege to work with such amazing young people and to see them grow and develop.”

The selection criteria for this award include club and community participation, length of involvement in 4-H, and impact on 4-H members. Each and every one of this year's winners has not only met the selection criteria, but they have also shown true passion and commitment for the 4-H movement, and we could not be more grateful for their contributions,” said 4-H Canada CEO Shannon Benner.

Sharlene has been a leader for 12 years with the Double “D” 4-H Club in Amherst and is presently the General Leader for this club of 53 young people. Sharlene has been the Cumberland County 4-H Council president, was co-chair of the 2012 Nova Scotia 4-H Show hosting committee and has been a part of a variety of committees over the years.

The provincial winners were then put forward to a national judging panel, who selected the national winner, Jeanette Gallant from Prince Edward Island. Each provincial winner received \$100, as well as a prize package. The national winner, received \$1000 and an invitation to the 2015 4-H Canada Leadership Summit that was held in Ottawa in February.

4-H Canada's proven ability of building responsible, caring and strong Canadian youth who effect positive change would not be possible without the passion and dedication of our volunteer leaders.

Atlantic 4-H Conference to Be Held in Debert

On March 27 - 29, 100 senior 4-H members and adult volunteer leaders will attend Passport 2015 - *Leading, Learning & Living Your 4-H Journey*. This interactive Atlantic conference is designed to energize and inspire the participant's 4-H experience. The conference will be held at the Debert Hospitality Centre.

“This year we are jointly running two conferences, one for senior 4-H members, ages 14 - 21 and the other for volunteer 4-H leaders. At this conference delegates will learn skills and tools needed to make their club and community the best it can be.” said Ruth Grant, Senior Agricultural Leadership Coordinator. “The Atlantic 4-H Committee is pleased to host such an exciting event”.

Whether they are involved at the club, community or national level, the delegates will be able to take something home. Amazing professional speakers, interesting tours and hands on activities will provide both the 4-H members and leaders with a weekend filled with thought provoking ideas.

The 4-H senior members will learn about entrepreneurship and participate in *uFit* – a fitness program designed to energize them to new heights. They will also tour the DAL AC campus and participate in activities while on campus.

The volunteer leaders will hear sessions on recreation, board governance, financial planning and enjoy a floral inspired session with Neville MacKay from My Mother's Bloomer's.

Both groups will hear sessions on mental wellness, time management and goal setting, following your dreams and making a difference in their community.

The key note speaker for both groups is Dave Carroll, an award winning singer-songwriter, professional speaker, author and social media innovator from Halifax. Dave will speak on *The Power of One - Social Media and Selling Yourself*. Dave made headlines when faced with a difficult customer service issue with United Airlines in 2009. He used his ability as a master storyteller to share his issue with the world.

The resulting You Tube music video called "United Breaks Guitars" became an instant viral hit and today, over 150 million people have been introduced to his story.



Annual Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour Heads to Cape Breton

From March 16 - 18, ten 4-H members will participate in the seventh 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 Cape Breton Region.

The three day tour's purpose is to present 4-H members, between the ages of 14 -17, with opportunities to hear speakers and participate in tours with a business, agriculture and industry format. By visiting a part of the province they aren't from gives them a broader perspective on career opportunities and in turn they can 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, 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 2015 Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour are: Matthew and Michael Mac Donald, Cape Breton County; Grant Cook and Julia Riley, Lunenburg County; Keegan Henry, Annapolis County; Luke Ettinger- Hants County; Tyler Mac Eachern, Kings County; Mikaela Rhodenizer, Yarmouth County; Michael Congdon and Beth O Connell, Colchester 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 July 5 and ending August 7, 2015. 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; check with your General Leader for an application or see the General Leader Kit online at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/documents/4h/general-leader-kit.pdf>.

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 a 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.

4-H Members Travel on National and International Awards

Developed in 1972 as a way to unite 4-H members from across the country, the 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress gives 4-H youth knowledge and insight about Canada, its history and its systems.

Nine 4-H members from Nova Scotia will gain a better understanding of the political process in Canada during the 42nd annual conference in Ottawa from April 29 - May 3. Delegates explore and develop skills related to civic engagement, governance, parliamentary procedures, citizenship and politics.

The 4-H members selected for this national travel award are: Emily Gravel, Annapolis County; Isaac Grant, Hants County; Leah Rhodenizer, Lunenburg County; Lindsay Anderson, Cumberland County; Jenna MacPhail, Inverness County; Sidney Patten, Allyssa Millar and Ashley Higgins, Colchester County and Kendra Vigneau from Pictou County.

From April 11 - 16, Ella Lentz, Hants County will attend the USA National 4-H Conference in Washington. As part of the Canadian delegation, 4-H members attend this week-long program along with over 1,000 US 4-H members.

There they are able to share information about 4-H in Canada and actively participate in an entirely youth-led conference. Delegates develop leadership skills, build new networks and friendships, and return to their home communities with a greater sense of 4-H in the US and as a global movement.

For more information, check out their website: <http://www.4-h.org/4-h-conference/>



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

As of January 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	2.85%	–	2.85%	2.65%
6 – 10	3.40%	3.40%	3.10%	2.65%
11 – 15	4.00%	3.80%	3.15%	2.85%
16 – 20	4.45%	4.20%	3.10%	2.85%
21 – 25	4.80%	4.25%	3.25%	2.85%
26 – 30	5.05%	4.25%	3.25%	2.85%

* 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

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street

novascotia.ca/farmloan



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 Theriau, 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

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

Pesticide Re-Certification Course – Sydney and Skye Glen

A course could be offered in mid-April if enough people are interested.

This course is eligible for five points under the Nova Scotia Department of Environment pesticide recertification program. Participants are asked to bring pencil/pen, a calculator and their current pesticide license.

Please contact Jim to register at 902-538-7101 or email marbicon@eastlink.ca.

Pesticide Certification Course to Prepare for Writing Pesticide Exam

The full course normally runs 1 1/2 days, with the exam offered on the afternoon of the second day by a Nova Scotia Environment representative. Otherwise, the candidates would have to set up writing the exam on their own time. A minimum of ten people is required for the class to run.

The cost per person is \$150, including HST. Instructor provides all learning materials, including manual. The instruction can be modified to suit most certificates (agriculture, landscape, greenhouse, forestry, etc.), depending on who is registered. The course usually runs 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Instructor Jim Jotcham has been professionally working with pesticides since 1979 and has been offering pesticide training courses and workshops since 1990. Jim is knowledgeable about the latest products and has the necessary hands-on experience to make this a most entertaining and instructive course.

For more information or to register, contact the NSDA office at 902-563-2000.

Creating Local Food Connections – March, 2015

Bringing together restaurant owners and food producers - Baddeck 1:00-4:00 p.m., by invitation only. If you would like more information contact Jeff Hennessey at 902-563-2418 or by email Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca

Soil and Water Sampling

The Strathlorne Forest Nursery is now accepting soil and water samples for delivery to our lab 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.

Farm Financial Planning - Inverness

Through the Inverness/Victoria County and Nova Scotia Federations of Agriculture and sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Advanced Education, we will be offering training in business management skills for farmers in Inverness County.

Topics may include: Basic bookkeeping, Business planning, Strategic planning, Managing growth, Leadership, Human resource management, Marketing, Time management, Budgeting, Data tracking and reporting, Purchasing land and equipment, and Managing generational differences.

- The course will be free to all participants.
- The course will be tailored to the participants' needs. For example, if everyone enrolled would like to spend more time on a specific subject, and less on another, the course will be adjusted to fit these needs.
- An instructor with experience in adult education and business management will teach the course.
- Federation members, their family and employees can sign up for this free course.
- We are planning on holding this course in late February to early March in the Inverness area. We need at least 10 interested individuals to run the course. The days of the week and timing of the course will be decided based on the needs of the interested participants.
- You will receive a completion certificate at the end of the course during the closing ceremony.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Jeff Hennessey 902-563-2418 or by email Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca. Feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested.

Upcoming Agriculture Workshops in Cape Breton

Beefing up your Forages - March 9, St Mike's Hall, Baddeck,
Improved Sheep Handling - March, Baddeck
Farm Labour Workshop - March 23, TBD
Cow Comfort and Barn Design - March, Mabou
Silage Quality - March, Mabou
Blueberry Marketing - late March, Strathlorne
Farm Financial Training - March - Inverness County

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

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

- March 11, April 22, May 20 and June 17 - 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Grand Lake Fire Hall, Sydney

Seats are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis when registrations are submitted with payment. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link: <http://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 are also available at www.traincan.com

Cape Breton 4-H News

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

Small Steps, Great Distances 4-H Workshop

4-H junior members from all over Cape Breton will be having junior member workshop sessions. The final session will be at the Sydney YMCA on Friday, February 27. These workshops will give our junior members the opportunity to polish their team-building and leadership skills to help them through their 4-H year.

The workshops focus on “hands on” activities and lots of opportunities to meet other youth from all over the island. Topics include learning about project judging, entrepreneurship in action, team-building through games, agriculture awareness and physical recreation time. The workshops are open to 4-H members, and those outside the program, 7 to 13 years old.

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. This is our 4-H camp that has held many memories over the years and will continue to do so well into the future. Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach.

Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada. 4-H members between the ages of nine to 15 spend six fun-filled days with fellow 4-H'ers. There are a variety of educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Each day ends with a chapel service by the campfire, sing-song, and lunch. What members can learn at camp include sessions on Drama, Nature Studies, 4-H Trivia, Canoeing, Recreation Activities, Arts and Crafts and much more.

New this year will be online registration, so watch for it on the 4-H websites. Acceptance is on a first-come-first-serve basis, so apply early! Members can apply for any camp week and application deadline is May 1.

Giant Rutabaga Competition – Nova Scotia 4-H Show

This year, 4-H members will take on the challenge across the province to grow their own giant rutabaga (winter turnip). The rutabaga will be judged by weight. Junior and senior members from each county are permitted to enter this competition at county level. Members do not need to be in the garden project to get involved. Top junior and senior members will be able to represent their counties at this year's Provincial Show in Truro. Let's get those seeds in the soil and see what we can grow!

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour

The Kevin Lewis Grant Rural Memorial Youth Leadership Tour will be hosted for this year in the Cape Breton Region. 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. This tour will be held March 16-18. There were many great applicants this year.

Special congratulations to Michael and Matthew Mac Donald from the Grand Mira 4-H club in Cape Breton County who has been selected as our regional participants this year.

Dates to Mark on Calendar

- Junior 4-H Member workshop - February 27, YMCA, Sydney
- Cape Breton County 4-H Council Meeting - March 3, 7:00 p.m., Fisheries office, Sydney
- Richmond County 4-H Council Meeting - March 11, 7:00 p.m., Mac Eachern's
- Inverness County 4-H Council Meeting - March 12, 7:00 p.m. Mabou 4-H office
- Atlantic Intermediate 4-H Member's Conference - March 27 – 29, Debert
- Deadline for dairy and beef members to apply for EastGen 4-H Showcase - March 31
- Camp Rankin Scholarship deadline - April 1
- Inverness County 4-H Rally- April 11
- Cape Breton Regional 4- H Rally- April 18, 10:00 a.m., Baddeck

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

Rural Safety Day

As spring approaches, rural youth (8 - 14 years of age) and interested adults (15 and older) from across the Cape Breton region will be invited to a Rural Safety Day Camp. The workshop will be coordinated in conjunction with local community organizations, with focus on safety around the home. Plan for the family to attend. This workshop will be held in early April with date and location to be announced.



Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

New Agricultural Transition Officer for Eastern Region

We are pleased to welcome Terri MacPherson as the new Agricultural Transition Officer in the Eastern Region. Terri holds a Masters in Agriculture, and has spent the last four years executing forage and ruminant animal research projects for Agriculture Canada and the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. Terri brings a wealth of experience in her research capacity and project management skills.

"I'm inspired by the transformative role agriculture plays in invigorating rural communities in Nova Scotia," Terri says. "It's my belief that a connection to local agriculture enhances our sense of community and this makes us more resilient when faced with challenges or transitions. I look forward to supporting and promoting regional agricultural initiatives by connecting innovative ideas to the resources that can make them a tangible success."

Terri's contact information is 902-863-4705 or email: Terri.MacPherson@novascotia.ca

Beefing Up Your Forages Workshop:

March 3, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., River John Fire Hall, River John
March 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., St. Mike's Hall, Baddeck

Beefing Up Your Forages is a two hour session that will help you make pasture and grassland management decisions.

Pasture, hay and forage crops are a central part of any livestock operation in Nova Scotia and, with higher beef prices, you may be thinking about renovating some of your fields. Knowing where to start and how those field renovations will translate into better livestock production is important.

Bill Thomas (Perennia) will speak about pasture, hay and forage production and give you some pointers on renovating fields, timing of soil amendments and cuts, and increasing quality of production.

Jonathan Wort (Perennia) will speak about breeds of animals that will do well on forages, feed efficiencies, animal handling, rotational grazing and fencing. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and questions following each of the presentations. Light refreshments will be provided.

These sessions are provided by the Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture, Perennia and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

To register please call: 1-902-863-4705. There is no cost, we just want to make sure there is enough tea and coffee for everyone!

Farm Labour Information session:

March 24, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., St. Ninian Place, Antigonish, NS

Hiring farm labour can be a challenging task, especially if you're exploring the temporary foreign worker program. This session will help provide the tools and contacts you need to work through the process of hiring a temporary foreign workers. Speakers will discuss what programs are accessible to producers to meet their agricultural labour needs when Canadian citizens are not available. This session is hosted by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

To register please call: 902-863-4705. There is no cost, we just want to make sure there is enough tea and coffee for everyone!

Growing Successful Market Gardens

February 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., West River Fire Hall, Salt Springs, Pictou, NS

Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture is hosting an information and planning session that aims to help market gardeners get more out of what they are putting in. This winter workshop will help small farmers decide on crops and plan rotations. This session will provide a great opportunity to interact with other market gardeners and meet the people who can provide further extension services to you throughout the growing season.

This workshop will feature Rachel Cheverie (Perennia) and offers plenty of time to ask questions, discuss options and get advice on the upcoming cropping season!

This session is provided by the Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture, Perennia and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

It is free to attend, but please register by phoning Lorenda at 902-657-3420 or email meadowbrook@seasidehighspeed.com so we can keep you updated should we need to cancel or reschedule.

Greenhouse Tour

Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture is also organizing a tour on April 18 which will include a visit to Stokdyk's greenhouse, Masstown Market and Joe Coupar's Balamore Farm in Great Village. Meeting time and location details will be announced nearer the date.

For further details and updates as they are confirmed, visit the Federation website at <http://pncagr.ca/index.php>.

Anyone wishing to participate in these activities should phone or email Lorenda at 902-657-3420 or meadowbrook@seasidehighspeed.com

Nova Scotia Free-Range Poultry Conference

Free-Range Poultry Conference being held on March 9 -10 in Bible Hill is now open for registration! The registration fee is \$50+HST = \$57.50

To see a draft agenda and for a link to the on-line registration form, please visit: <http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/support/#page=workshops> (Scroll down the page.)

Please note that due to limited space, registrations will not be accepted at the door.

For more information about the conference, please contact Becky Sooksom at 902-896-1288 or Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca

Pesticide Training

If you require pesticide certification or re-certification contact the Agriculture office at 902-863-4705 to have your name put on a list.

2015 Upcoming Food Handlers Course

- March 18, April 23 and May 28, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Museum of Industry, Stellarton (max. 40 participants)
- March 26, May 7 and June 11, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Room 021, St. Ninian's, Antigonish (max. 40 participants)

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 are also available at www.traincan.com

REMINDER

Homegrown Success Claim deadline - March 1

A reminder to those with current year funding: All claims must be received by the Department of Agriculture by March 1, 2015. Late claims will not be processed.

Include copies of all invoices with proof of payment (ie. cancelled cheques, credit card statements, debit slips or official invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier) to support completed approved project activities as well as any required support documents.

Eastern Region 4-H News

Welcome new members and parents... *Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team!*

Congratulations! 4-H is a fun and exciting organization. You'll have a chance to meet lots of new people and take part in a wide range of activities.

Parents: Please try to take an active role in your son or daughters club. We are sure most 4-H leaders would be happy to have you sit in on general club monthly meetings. A lot of information goes out at these meetings, and it is easy for younger members to forget. If you cannot make it to the meeting, call a leader and find out if there are any dates, information or events you should be aware of. You may also find some fun ways you can participate and get involved.

Feel free to ask questions of your leaders and the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Dawn Barrington-Hodgson 902-485-7161 or 902-863-7501 or by email Dawn.Barrington-Hodgson@novascotia.ca.



Welcome New Leaders

Thank You and Welcome to the 4-H Team!! We are sure you will enjoy the experience of being a 4-H leader. Many new leaders say they learn just as much as the members do!

As a new leader in your club you must complete a screening process which includes a child abuse registry check, a police record check and a new leader training session. If you have any questions about the screening process or about any aspect of being a 4-H leader, contact Dawn Barrington-Hodgson at 902-485-7161 or 902-863-7501 or by email at Dawn.Barrington-Hodgson@novascotia.ca.

Public Speaking

Participating in a 4-H Public Speaking Rally is an opportunity for our members to learn public speaking skills by either giving a short speech or demonstration at the club level and then possibly going on to compete at the county, regional or provincial levels. If you ask any former 4-H member what the most valuable skill they have taken away from 4-H, public speaking is almost always at the top of the list.

Many of our clubs ask local community members to assist at these rallies by volunteering their time as a judge. If you receive a call to help out we ask that you consider being a part of this worthwhile event!

Fundraising

The annual provincial 4-H fundraising campaign will be underway during the month of March. Members will be selling World's Finest Chocolate Bars, for the price of \$2.00 each. Please support your local 4-H members when they arrive at your door!

Upcoming Pictou 4-H Events

- Junior 4-H member workshop - March 6, location TBA
- Pictou County 4-H Council meeting - March 11, 7:00 p.m. Northumberland
- Swimming, YMCA - March 14, time TBA, New Glasgow
- Pictou County 4-H Rally - March 27, 6:00 p.m., Northumberland (Storm date April 10)
- Pictou County Woodsmen Competition - April 11, 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Antigonish 4-H Events

- Antigonish County 4- H Council meeting - March 10, 7:00 p.m. Agriculture Office
 - Antigonish County 4-H Rally - April 4, 9:00 a.m., Antigonish Education Centre
 - Antigonish County 4- H Council Meeting - April 14, 7:00 p.m., Agriculture Office
-

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

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
- Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-893-6586
Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca
- Rebecca Sooksom, Agricultural Transition Officer, 902-896-1288
Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca
- Claire Hanlon-Smith, Business Development Officer, 902-893-4491
Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca
- Jillian Garland, Administrative Assistant, 902-893-6575
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 call Jillian at 902-893-6575 or by email at Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter rather than the paper copy please email Jillian with your request.

Nova Scotia Free-Range Poultry Conference

Free-Range Poultry Conference being held on March 9 -10 in Bible Hill is now open for registration! The registration fee is \$50+HST = \$57.50

To see a draft agenda and for a link to the on-line registration form, please visit: <http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/support/#page=workshops> (Scroll down the page.)

Register online at:

<https://www.esourceevent.com/register/register.aspx?EventName=THINKFARMPOULTRY>

For more information, contact Michael Kittilsen at Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca or 902-893-3645

Do You Have the Proper Driver's License?

If you have a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg, you need a Condition 23 Endorsement 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 license to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 license.

If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements, contact Michael Kittilsen at 902-893-3645 or email Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca or Jillian Garland at 902-893-6575 or email Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca at the Central Office.

Upcoming dates for Condition 15/23 Information and Testing sessions are:
Information Session (recommended) - Tuesday, April 28
Testing Session - Thursday, April 30

CONDITION 15 PROCESS:

Purchase a Road Test Receipt (\$51.43 HST Incl.) at Access Nova Scotia or online <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/drivertest.asp>.

CONDITION 23 PROCESS:

1. Have Driver's Medical Exam completed by your Doctor
2. Purchase a Road Test Receipt (\$51.43 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 license ("N" removed for Condition 23) to be eligible for testing. The form for the medical exam and more information is available by calling 902-893-6575 and speaking to Jillian Garland.

2015 Upcoming Food Handler Courses

- March 18, April 14 and May 27, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Perennia Innovation Park, Bible Hill

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 are also available at www.traincan.com

Central Region 4-H News

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

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 month of February and March. Public speaking is an important part of the 4-H program and a great learning experience. I encourage everyone 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!

National Award Winners

I am very pleased to announce that two 4-H members from the Central region were chosen for 4-H National awards. Lindsay Anderson from the Bay Vista Conns Mills 4-H Club, Cumberland County and Sidney Patton from the TNR 4-H Club, Colchester County will attend the very prestigious 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress which will be held in Ottawa during the month of April.

The rest of the awards will be announced at 4-H weekend in May. Congratulations goes out to both members and we wish them the best of luck on their travels. I would also like to let the members know if they did not receive an award this year they should apply next year as their chances improve with more experience.

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Award

Michael Congdon from the Onslow-Belmont 4-H club, Colchester County and Beth O'Connell from the Stewiacke Valley 4-H Club, Colchester County were selected to attend the Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership tour along with eight other 4-H members from across the province. The delegates will travel to Cape Breton during March break to participate in events and tours with a business, agriculture and industry format within that region.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Council Meetings:

March 23, and April 27 location TBA at 7:00 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:

March 3 and April 7 at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8:00 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meetings:

March 17 and April 21 at Hants East Rural High School at 7:00 p.m.

For Further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact:

Jacqueline Hoyt at: 902-893-6586 or email

Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the Central Region.

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

Hants County Federation of Agriculture Dinner and Dance

There is a dinner and dance at the Brooklyn Civic Center on Saturday, February 28. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner is served 6:30 p.m. and dance is from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. \$20.00/person.

Please contact Cameron Taylor for tickets at millacrefarm@eastlink.ca, phone: 902-757-3840

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Dinner/Dance/Silent Auction

Once again this year the KCFA is holding its Dinner/Dance/Silent Auction. It will be held at the Waterville Fire Hall on Saturday, March 14 with the doors opening at 6:00 p.m. This year the guest speaker will be Breagh Ross. She will be speaking on her trip to the UK as part of a 4-H exchange. Cost of the ticket is \$20.00 and can be picked up from any director or at the Perennia office in Kentville.

For more information you can either go to the website <http://kingscountyagriculture.com> or call Gail Walsh at Perennia, 902-678-7722. This is the main fundraiser for KCFA and any support is greatly appreciated.

Farm Opportunities – Craft Beer, Wine, Spirits and Cider

Come learn about the opportunities, markets, and regulations associated with the Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Cider industries. An information session is being held March 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Louis Millet Community Centre, New Minas. There is no charge for attending, however pre-registration is required to properly plan for lunch and sampling. Please RSVP to Cheryl Theriau at 902-679-6021 or by email Cheryl.Theriau@novascotia.ca.

Upcoming Food Safety Courses

The Department of Agriculture is offering Food Handler Courses for foodservice facility owners, operators, managers and staff.

The following courses have seats available:

Kentville - March 4, April 8 and June 3
Bridgewater - March 19, May 14 and June 18

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.

Visit our website for the full listing all dates and times of courses. 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 are also available at www.traincan.com

South Shore Agriculture Day

A day devoted to celebrating agriculture in the South Shore region of Nova Scotia will take place on March 28 at the Best Western Plus in Bridgewater. This free admission, day-long event will allow new and transitioning farmers to learn, network and sample some successful agricultural products. Speakers will inform and inspire participants by focusing on small scale farming activities and feature a mix of trending techniques and encouraging success stories. For more information please contact:

- Dave Waters, Economic Development Officer, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, 902-530-3043, dwaters@modl.ca
- Marianne Gates, Senior Economic Development Officer, Municipality of the District of Chester, 902-275-2599, mgates@chester.ca
- Richard Lane, Economic Development Officer, Region of Queens Municipality, 902-354-5741, rlane@regionofqueens.com

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Mentoring Program

The Kings County Federation of Agriculture is moving forward with its mentoring program. If you are interested in participating either as a Mentor or Mentee, please go to the KCFA website. When you get there, you will see a form to fill out and an explanation of how the program works.

Small Farm Expo

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! July 19, 2015 -- Small Farm Expo at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds in Bridgewater. Join us in celebrating small scale farming – Start Small. Think Big. More information to follow.

Email Addresses

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

Valley/ South Shore 4-H News

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

South Shore 4-H News

Successful Member Executive Training and New Leader Screening Workshops were held in all three counties on the South Shore. This provided the new member executives training on *Roberts Rules of Order*, explained their role as executives, and gave them tips on conducting effective meetings, organizing meeting agendas, and making motions.

I was pleased to attend the Bridgewater Elementary School *After-School Introduction to 4-H Program* Mini-Achievement Day, put on by the South Shore Family Resource Association staff, who are also leaders of the BBHH 4-H Club. Eleven members successfully completed the program, which runs for 10 weeks during the school year. The members were introduced to many aspects of the 4-H program including crafts, club contribution, judging, public speaking, the 4-H

pledge, etc. A second year program is also running that takes place every second Wednesday for the rest of the school year.

Upcoming 4-H Events

- South Shore Junior Workshop - March 20, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Wileville Fire Hall
- Lunenburg County 4- H Rally - March 28, 10:00 a.m. Wileville Fire Hall
- Queens County 4-H Rally - March 29, 10:00 a.m., Westfield Hall
- Shelburne County 4-H Rally - April 12, 10:00 a.m., Ohio Community Hall
- South Shore Regional 4-H Rally - April 25, 10:00 a.m., Wileville Fire Hall

Lunenburg County Council meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Wileville Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Queens County Council meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every other month starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Westfield Hall, Caledonia. Shelburne County Council meetings are held the first Monday of the month. Check with a member of the County Executive for the time and location of the meeting.

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

Valley 4-H News

The Nova Scotia 4-Show is coming to Hants County! The volunteers are busy fundraising and making plans to host Canada's largest independent provincial 4-H show. This event will be held October 2 - 4 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds in Windsor.

This year, the Hants County Exhibition will celebrate its 250th Anniversary as home to the *Oldest Agricultural Fair in North America*. Also this year, the Nova Scotia 4-H Show will be 38 years old. It began in 1976 at the Hants County Exhibition Grounds.

The 2015 Nova Scotia 4-H Show will be truly different than the 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.

Upcoming 4-H Events

- Valley Junior Member Workshop - March 18, location TBA
- Hants Skills/Woodsman Competition - March 28
- Nova Scotia 4- H Show meetings - Wednesday March 4, April 1, and May 6, location – TBA
- Hants County Council meetings - Monday March 9, April 13, May 11, Brooklyn Middle School, 7:00 p.m.
- Kings County Council meetings - Monday March 2, April 6, May 4, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook at 7:30 p.m.

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.

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

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. 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

The Department of Agriculture is offering Food Handler Courses for foodservice facility owners, operators, managers and staff.

The following courses have seats available:

Kentville - March 4, April 8 and June 3
Yarmouth - March 10, April 9, May 19 and June 10
Shelburne - March 17 and May 12
Digby - March 18, and May 27
Bridgewater - March 19, May 14 and June 18
Lawrencetown - April 15

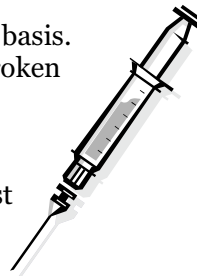
Course seat availability is filled on a first-come first-served basis upon receipt of registration and payment. Register well in advance for upcoming courses, as courses fill quickly. Confirmation letters are sent out one week before the course date.

Visit our website for a full list of course dates and times. 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 are also available at www.traincan.com For more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 902-638-2395.

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 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.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Spring cattle sales will be held May 9 and 30 at the Annapolis Valley Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown.

Farmers Market Introduction Course

An introduction to producing crops and selling at Farmer's Markets will be held at the CBDC Boardroom in Yarmouth on Saturday February 21, 2015 from 1:30 - 4:00p.m. Norbert Kungl, a producer with 28 years of experience will be presenting. To sign up or for more information contact Nicole Burkhard at 902-638-2397 or Nicole.Burkhard@novascotia.ca

Fur Industry Regulations

We have less than a year until the deadline 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

Western Region 4-H News

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

Congratulations to the travel award winners from the Western Region: Mikaela Rhodenizer from Yarmouth County and Keegan Henry from Annapolis County will be attending the Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour in Cape Breton March 16-18 and Emily Gravel of Annapolis County will be attending the 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress in Ottawa on April 29-May 3.



Dates to remember:

- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council - March 11, 7:00 p.m., Community Services Boardroom, Middleton
- Western Region Junior 4-H Member's, Small Steps Workshop - March 16, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., NSDA office, Cornwallis
- Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour - March 16 - 18, Cape Breton
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - March 18, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - March 19, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library
- Atlantic Senior 4-H Members and Leaders Conference - March 27 - 29, Debert
- Annapolis County 4-H Rally - April 11, 12:30 p.m., Lawrencetown
- Digby County 4-H Rally - April 11, location TBA
- Yarmouth County 4-H Rally - April 12, 1:30 p.m. Yarmouth North Baptist Church
- Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - April 15, 7:00p.m., 4-H Office
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council meeting - April 16, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library.
- Western Region 4-H Rally - April 18, 1:00 p.m., location TBA, Yarmouth