

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

May 2015

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ThinkFARM Barriers to Growth Survey

Do you want to grow your farm?

Are there barriers preventing you from achieving the size of farm you would like to have?

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA), through its THINKFARM program, would like to hear about the barriers that you face in trying to grow your farm, and are requesting that you complete an anonymous survey to tell us.

The survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete and will help us to better understand the issues you are facing. It is the hope that with your input, the NSDA can assess its current programs and services to address some of the barriers that you identify.

Please note that this survey is voluntary and all information you provide will be kept confidential. Whether or not you complete this survey will not affect the services you receive through THINKFARM or the NSDA. To complete the anonymous survey please go to THINKFARM's webpage: novascotia.ca/thinkfarm and click on the "Barriers to Growth" survey link.

The deadline to complete the survey is June 12, 2015 and you may see this survey advertised through multiple channels. For more information about the survey, please contact Jaclyn Biggs, THINKFARM Coordinator, at the contact information below.

Jaclyn Biggs, THINKFARM Coordinator
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture



SMALL FARM EXPO

July 20, 2015
(See page 7 for details)

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Wildlife Compensation for Blueberry Growers and Bee Keepers

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

- Be a registered farmer under the Farm Registration Act.
- Report the damage to the Commission within 72 hours.
- Experience damage to crops affecting at least (2) acres or experience a loss of at least \$250.
- Follow industry production and protection standards (e.g., fencing or caging of bee hives).
- Have damage that is readily identifiable, recent and measurable.

Policy for Bumble Bee Quads

The following is the Commission's policy for bumble bee quads. Provided all other requirements for compensation are met, damage to bumble bee quads will be covered according to the following:

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

As an exception to 1, 2, or 3; compensation may be paid in the event the quads were intended for another use after the blueberry bloom if:

1. The producer can provide a contract for the sale of quads; or
2. A statement by another party about the intended sale; or
3. Are able to show Commission staff the new destination field requiring pollination.

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

Policy for Honey Bees and Hives

The following shall be the Policy of the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission for the compensation of losses due to wildlife occurring on Honey Bees and Beehives.

Provided that all other requirements are satisfied for a compensation payment, the following chart will be used to determine the maximum claim payment for Honey Bees and Honey Beehives.

MONTH	HIVE COMPONENTS	BEE COLONY	HONEY	TOTAL VALUE
January				
February	Up to \$200	\$170		Up to \$370
March				
April				
May	Up to \$200	\$170	Up to 30 lbs of honey at current published price	Up to \$500
June				
July				
August	Up to \$200	\$170	Up to 30 lbs of honey at current published price	Up to \$500
September				
October				
November	Up to \$200	\$170		Up to \$700
December				

Claim calculations will be made based on the actual parts of a honey beehive lost to eligible wildlife damage up to the maximum values noted above.

Beehives must be protected from wildlife as per industry best management practices and hive owners must be registered as a farm under the *Nova Scotia Registration Act*.

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Value of Honey

\$3.00/lb.

Value of Beehive Components

ITEM	VALUE
Bottom Board	\$20.75
Standard Super	\$20.50
Standard Frames	\$3.00
Medium Super	\$18.50
Medium Frames	\$3.00
Small Super	\$16.50
Small Frames	\$3.00
Queen Excluder	\$14.50
Inner Cover	\$12.95
Outer Cover	\$26.75

Forage Producers:

Forage Establishment Plan

The forage establishment plan protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes. This plan covers losses from such things as winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from 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 2 for grasses.

The deadline date to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply at seeding time, your coverage can begin immediately. If you apply at some point after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered.

Coverage and Cost Options 2015

Option	Coverage	Producer Cost
A	\$300/acre	\$9.25
B	\$200/acre	\$6.25
C	\$100/acre	\$3.25

Crop Insurance Reporting Reminders

Crop Insurance clients are reminded of the following reporting requirements:

- File a seeding report no later than 10 days after planting.
- **Report damage when it occurs and within 5 days of any potential loss or damage. File this report regardless of whether you believe you may have a claim. If damage is not apparent until harvest you must provide a Notice of Damage either while harvesting or within 5 days of harvest. You can mail, fax, or phone in these reports.**
- File accurate yield information within 30 days of harvest.
- If you believe you have an insurance claim, apply using a Proof of Loss within 30 days of the harvest or the end of the crop year (whichever is earlier).

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 Perennia Contact App

Perennia has developed a team contact app that can be downloaded from iTunes/Apple online for iPhone users and from Google Play for Android users. Search for 'Perennia'. The app enables the user to select team members by name, division and location. Each team member profile notes their areas of specialty and they can be e-mailed directly from their profile. The call button on each profile connects users directly to the team member's cell number.

Food Safety Fundamentals Five Session Series

Perennia will be holding five one-day long sessions in both Kentville and Truro between the end of May and the end of October. Each of the five sessions will be held twice for a total of 10 sessions. 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. The sessions are:

- Premises and Equipment
- People, Product Handling and Storage
- Sanitation and Pest Control
- Product Traceability and Recall
- Developing Your HACCP Plan

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 need guidance to successfully complete it.

Some details are still being worked out, but visit www.perennia.ca for more information.

This Food Safety Outreach Program is funded under *Growing Forward 2* and cost shared 60/40 between the federal and provincial governments.

New Fact Sheets

Perennia has posted three new fact sheets in the past couple of weeks. Visit www.perennia.ca and visit their page links at toward the bottom of the homepage under **News and New Resources**. They are: Which Limestone Should You Use? ; Do You Have Blueberry Stunt? and Fire Blight Management in Nova Scotia.

Soil Compaction Testers Now Available!

Soil compaction is an issue on Nova Scotian farms, however, you can't manage what you can't measure. Perennia and the Department of Agriculture have teamed up to provide soil compaction testers.

Each Department of Agriculture Regional Office will have a tester which can be signed out on loan for a couple of days so producers can assess soil compaction on their farms. Each tester will have an accompanying fact sheet on how to use the tester and a short video will also be available that will demonstrate how to use the tester.

Although the testers are good at detecting frozen ground, they are intended for when soils are at field capacity (the amount of soil moisture or water content held in the soil after excess water has drained away and the rate of downward movement has decreased.) These testers will be in each office this spring and will be available for use throughout the growing season. Contact your regional agriculture office or Perennia (902) 678-7722 or (902) 896-0277 for more information.



Agriculture Education

Now that spring has finally arrived, our staff are looking forward to our summer programming. Our Agriculture Ambassador group is filling out and we expect they will be a big help as we plan events. If you are interested in becoming an Agriculture Ambassador – contact our office at AgEducation@novascotia.ca for more information.

Canadian Agriculture Literacy Week – A big thank you to all who stepped up to volunteer for this reading program in Nova Scotia schools. At last count, about 145 reader packs were sent out to volunteers. Positive feedback from schools is coming in steadily, as the readers and elementary students connect. Please consider volunteering for next year.

On May 20-22, about 475 students and teachers from eight junior high schools will converge on Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro for AgZone, a day of friendly competition while learning about agriculture. The Amazing AgZone Race is a science enrichment program designed for Grade 8 students. A new workshop topic this year is *A Time to Sow and a Time to Reap*. This interactive session highlights the new Agriculture and Agri-food Canada weather website that gives information about climate risk to farmers. Another new session is the *Agricultural Trivia Game*. This session will show students the wide range of knowledge and skill sets needed by the industry while introducing them to people who work in agriculture. By partnering with county federations of agriculture, AgZone can be hosted in communities around the province. If your county is interested contact our office at 902-893-6598.

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Exhibition Time!

Once again we plan to support exhibitions across the province with resources to help get the good word out about Nova Scotia agriculture. This year, our team of two summer assistants will be visiting many exhibitions with our new *Take a Fresh Look at Agriculture* booth. This booth helps educate about the economic importance of farming in our rural communities.

Some Statistics

Last year our programs reached more than 690,000 Nova Scotians. We provided more than 3,200 books and resources to teachers and worked directly with 754 teachers. Through them we reached more than 16,000 students and worked directly with 2,818 students. Every year we hope to improve our reach so contact us with your suggestions.



The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association Offers Online Farm Safety Training



The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) is pleased to offer three online farm safety training courses free of charge until May 31, 2015 courtesy of Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and the Canadian Fertilizer Institute (CFI).

Each year, CASA and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) partner to present Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW). CASW is an annual public education campaign focusing on the importance of safe agriculture. The 2015 theme "Be the Difference" encourages all Canadians to make a difference for farm safety.

However, CASA acknowledges that farm safety isn't just about one week. Farm safety is important 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. That's why CASA continues to "Be the Difference" and has developed three different online farm training courses.

"Farmers and farm workers can access this training directly from their home computers," says Marcel Hacault, executive director of CASA. "We know that removing barriers to training is an important part of improving the safety of Canadian farmers."

Additionally, CASA has teamed up with FCC and CFI to make all three training courses available at no cost until May 31, 2015.

"We are committed to helping producers and the agriculture industry achieve success, and that includes keeping people safe when doing farm work," says Brenda Stasuik, FCC director of corporate social responsibility. "We're pleased to offer these training courses to empower farmers and their families to stay safe on the farm."

"The safe and responsible storage, distribution and use of fertilizer products supports global food production. Our industry is proud to work with organizations including CASA to raise the profile of safe agriculture practices, and fertilizer safety year-round," says Clyde Graham, acting president of the Canadian Fertilizer Institute.

The three training courses available are:

- Seasonal Agricultural Workers Health and Safety Orientation
- Agricultural Machinery Safeguarding
- Working in Confined Spaces on the Farm.

Once registered, participants have the option of taking one or all of the courses offered. Each course takes about 45-60 minutes to complete and offers a quiz at the end of the learning experience. Currently, the online training is available in English.

After May 31, 2015, the courses will still be available, but at a charge. To access the new on-line training courses, please visit www.casa-acsa and click Training.

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Farm Environmental Stewardship Award Nominations Now Open!

2014 Finalist – A seventh generation farm, Out to Pasture Farm has seen a lot of changes over the years, but the Veinotte family's dedication to sustainability and the environment has been continuous. Kevin Veinotte and his family farm 110 acres of pasture and hay land and 21 acres of Christmas trees. The farm has a herd of 75 beef cattle, 50 sheep and free range chickens. A truly diverse operation, Out to Pasture Farm also has 350 acres of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified woodland and 17 acres of ponds, wetlands and areas dedicated for wildlife habitat.

Although not certified, the farm follows organic practices in the management of their Christmas trees and livestock. Kevin uses beneficial insects to control pests within the Christmas trees and the barn yard. Rotational grazing, frost seeding and applying the farm's manure based on soil fertility tests and a nutrient management plan helps ensure productive pastures and forage fields.

The family has worked hard to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat on the farm. Livestock are fenced from the two streams that flow through the property, except for one well-maintained access point in a remote pasture. Large buffers and riparian zones are left along the streams and the farm works closely with the Adopt-a-Stream Project to continuously improve stream bank health and fish habitat. The farm developed an Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) Plan with the Department of Natural Resources and, based on recommendations from that plan, worked with Ducks Unlimited to construct a large wetland in the middle of the farm. The wetland not only provides significant habitat for numerous types of wildlife, it also helps treat runoff from farm fields. Nest boxes have been placed around the wetland to encourage nesting ducks and bird boxes are located along the edges of the fields and through the woodlot and Christmas trees. When hay is harvested, a raised cutter bar helps to avoid harming nesting birds.

The farm's woodlot is a significant component of the farm. Horses are used when selective cutting takes place, which reduces the amount of damage to the forest floor. The farm is dedicated to maintaining an uneven age stand, employing many practices to ensure adequate regeneration. Because of their woodland management practices, Kevin won Provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year in 2007.

The Veinotte family's dedication to farm stewardship is one of the reasons Out to Pasture Farm won the 2014 Farm Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is part of the Environmental Farm Plan Program created through a partnership of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan Team and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture.

The award recognizes producers who make land, water and habitat stewardship a significant part of their farm operations. To be eligible for the award, farmers must have an environmental farm plan. The voluntary plan helps them identify, assess, and reduce environmental risk on their farms. Since the program's inception in 1999, more than 1,750 farmers have developed Environmental Farm Plans for their operations.

Nominations for the Farm Environmental Stewardship Award are now open. To nominate a farm, contact the NSFA office at (902) 893-2293 or check out nsfafane.ca/efp.

The Environmental Farm Plan Program is supported under Growing Forward 2, a five-year agricultural agreement between the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia.



Extended Learning Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

Introductory Queen Bee Rearing Workshop

July 7 - 8, 2015

Extended Learning is pleased to welcome members from the Ontario Tech Transfer Team to offer this workshop. This queen bee rearing workshop consists of classroom sessions and demonstrations with hands-on lessons in the bee yard. Participants are required to have prior beekeeping knowledge and experience in maintaining colonies. Topics include queen biology, methods of rearing queens, preparing a cell builder colony, grafting techniques and care of cells and queens. Each participant will receive a copy of the Ontario Queen Rearing Manual.

For more information please contact Extended Learning at Extended.learning@dal.ca 902-893-6666 .



Faculty of Agriculture

Pig and Wild Boar Traceability

Traceability systems can be used to identify and locate animals anywhere in the supply chain in the event of an emergency or livestock disease outbreak. These systems benefit industry, government and the public in helping to limit the economic impact of animal health emergencies. It is a three-pronged system that includes livestock identification, premises identification and livestock movement reporting.

As of July 1, 2014, pig movement reporting became a mandatory part of livestock traceability in Canada and wild boar movement reporting will become mandatory on July 1, 2015.

If you are not yet reporting pig movement activity, you can get information on identification and reporting requirements from Pork Nova Scotia at 902-895-0581. Premises identification is a way of linking livestock and poultry to geographic locations for the purposes of movement reporting and responding to emergencies. Premises identification:

- Allows for rapid notification of livestock and poultry owners and stakeholders
- Helps prepare for animal health and food safety emergencies (e.g., disease, flooding)
- Helps track animals in an emergency
- Reduces the impact of an emergency
- Helps to sustain or increase market access.

A unique premises identification (PID) number can be assigned to each parcel of land used to grow, keep, assemble or dispose of livestock. There is no fee associated with applying for a PID number. You can get information and an application form on the Department of Agriculture web site at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/industry-protection/#pid> or by calling 902-890-3377.

SMALL FARM EXPO Start Small. Think Big.

Bridgewater Exhibition Grounds, July 20, 2015

Calling All Farmers: Join us in celebrating small-scale farming
Interactive Sessions: From raising livestock, to growing crops, to value-added you'll learn from Nova Scotia's best.
Networking: Build beneficial relationships with both experienced and new farmers.

Admission (includes a \$5 on-site lunch voucher)
Student: \$15 Single: \$20 Family: \$40
Children under 12: Free

To register or get more information visit: novascotia.ca/thinkfarm



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 Dec. 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 Sept. 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 carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca or 1-902-758-3530.



EastGen Showcase Trains 4-H Members for Livestock Careers

For 26 years, EastGen has been hosting a popular showcase where Atlantic 4-H members learn the finer points of livestock management and showmanship techniques. On July 10 – 12, 75 young people will participate in interactive sessions, educational presentations and a cattle show at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill.

On behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Agriculture Leadership Coordinators with the Department of Agriculture help make the showcase possible. In partnership with EastGen staff, leadership coordinators teach the participants the latest techniques in show preparation for beef and dairy cattle, health of the show calf, livestock judging, showmanship, clipping, display design, and herd management. This year's special guest is Dr. Tim Henshaw, a veterinarian employed by EastGen. His presentations center on the health and well being of calves at home and during shows; and the estrus cycle in the cow and heat detection.

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

After two full days of training, 4-H members show their own calves at the beef and dairy show on Sunday, July 12, at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Awards will be presented to the winners in showmanship and confirmation, as well as those who excelled in session work over the two days of instruction. The cattle show is open to the public.

43rd Season for Camp Rankin Season

Camp Rankin, the provincial 4-H camp, will welcome 200 4-H members and their friends to five one-week summer camps beginning July 7. The Camp Rankin 4-H Association in partnership with the Nova Scotia 4-H Council provides skills training, leadership, and healthy living activities during the camp program.

“The volunteers and board of directors are excited for another wonderful summer at Camp Rankin. The camp came through the winter in very good shape and our volunteers are preparing the camp for the season”, said Doug Landry, chairman of Camp Rankin 4-H Association. “Camp Rankin is also available to rent to any group or organization. There is some space available for 2015 and we are now taking bookings for 2016.”

Camp Rankin offers 4-H members from 9 - 15 years of age opportunities to learn canoeing, crafts, drama, nature and outdoors, exploring 4-H, recreation and healthy living, and to socialize with youth with similar interests. Many 4-H members have had a great camping experiences and come back each year as campers or as camp staff.

In addition to providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin

provides employment for seven camp counsellors aged 16 or older, a camp director and an assistant director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions, ensuring 4-H members carry out the motto “Learn to do by Doing”. For more information on Camp Rankin check out <http://novascotia4h.ca/camp-rankin/>.

4-H Members Win Scholarships

Young people can gain more than confidence, technical skills and friendship from the 4-H program. 4-H members who are 16 years of age and have been a 4-H members for at least two years can apply to win university entrance scholarships or travel awards if they are from 18 - 30 years of age.

These travel awards offer more than just a trip. They offer the 4-H member the experience of a life time, living with a host family, learning about a new culture and getting a different perspective on agriculture in another country.

Bridget Wilson from the Brook Village 4-H Club, Inverness County saw one of her biggest dreams come true thanks to 4-H. “The 4-H AgriVenture Scholarship gave me the opportunity to travel to New Zealand where I worked on a dairy farm for 6.5 months and traveled the country extensively. I was able to learn about agriculture in a different part of the world while also learning about another culture, landscape and traditions.”

Bridget said the trip really gave her a different perspective on a lot of things in life, including a greater appreciation for the place she comes from, and it has inspired her to use what she learned about New Zealand, and about herself, to live each day to the fullest and always keep an open mind. “I made friends from all around the

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world on this trip and I can't wait to travel again and learn more about the world and agriculture by learning to do by doing.”

Brittany Brydon from the Western Kings 4-H Club in Kings County will travel for two weeks in July 2015 to Wales and England on the Going Global Exchanges Program.

“The Going Global Exchange opportunity will be an opportunity to be immersed in a new culture, create new network connections and gain a new perspective on agriculture and food security. I will explore the countries and agriculture within through the assistance of a host family and through independent exploration”, said Brittany.

Brittany will host an exchange 4-H member from the UK who will spend two weeks in Nova Scotia with her.

“This will provide the opportunity for me to be a local advocate for the 4-H program as well as Nova Scotia and Canadian agriculture. The experience and skills gained through opportunities like the Going Global Exchange will be applied in my career to build a strong future within the agricultural sector.”

4-H Canada provides many opportunities both nationally and globally. Through these travel opportunities young people develop leadership and life skills and pursue new experiences while gaining knowledge in many fields.

For more information on global travel awards from 4-H Canada check out <http://www.4-h-canada.ca/programs-and-events/national-programs/global-opportunities> .



4-H Canada Scholarship Opportunities

4-H members are encouraged to check the 4-H Canada website for national 4-H scholarship opportunities available now at www.4-h-canada.ca/grants-scholarships-awards.

Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction - Deadline July 3, 2015

The Leadership Excellence Awards of Distinction (L.E.A.D.) honours the accomplishments of four special 4-H senior youth members who represent 4-H youth empowerment. This \$20,000 (\$5,000 annually for 4 years) scholarship will acknowledge and honour confident, accomplished 4-H members who have gained critical life skills through their 4-H experience. The award winners will also demonstrate how they positively impact their community through their 4-H experience. Selections will be based on how well the applicant demonstrates personal impact, community impact and leadership excellence in one of the following award categories:

Community Engagement and Communications; Environment and Healthy Living; Science and Technology and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security.

The following four scholarships are available with a deadline of June 1, 2015.

1. Weston Family 4-H Agricultural Scholarships

The Weston Family 4-H Agricultural Scholarship program will be offered to 4-H members who will be an undergraduate or postgraduate student in an agricultural-based certificate, degree or diploma program at a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution in the fall of 2015. 4-H members can be in their final year of highschool or currently attending college or university.

Successful applicants will receive one full year of tuition at their institution in the appropriate program. The number of scholarships that are available depends on the value of the program in which they are enrolled. Applicants can re-apply each year to receive additional funding

2. TD 4-H Agriculture Scholarships

Through the generosity of TD, 12 scholarships - valued at \$2,500 each - are available to 4-H members who plan to pursue a post-secondary education at a Canadian college or university in agriculture, ag-science or agri-business in September 2015. Nova Scotia will receive one scholarship.

3. John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarships

Through the generosity of John Deere Canada, 15 scholarships – valued at \$1,000 each – are available to 4-H members who plan to pursue a post-secondary education at a Canadian college or university in a degree, certificate or trade-based program in September 2015. 4-H members can be in their final year of high school or currently attending college or university. Nova Scotia will receive one scholarship.

4. CIBC 4-H Post-Secondary Education Scholarships

Through the generosity of CIBC, eight scholarships – each valued at \$1,000 – are available across Canada to 4-H members who plan to pursue a post-secondary education in the field of engineering, arts, science, business or health in September 2015.



Exhibitions Association 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>	October 8 – 12

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

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 Chapelow, 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

CB Community Fairs 2015

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

September 12:

MIRA FERRY (Albert Bridge) - Jane Lewis - 902-562-1065

CHRISTMAS ISLAND (Cape Breton County) - Kevin MacKenzie - 902-622-2667

PORT MORIEN (Glace Bay) - Margie MacQueen - 902-737-2478

BADDECK (Victoria County) - Wendell MacPhee - 902-295-2494

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time 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.



2015 Upcoming Food Handler Courses

- June 11, 9:00 a.m., St. Ninian's, Antigonish - Rm. 021, (max 40 participants)
- June 17, Grand Lake Fire Hall, Sydney - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Last course until fall of 2015)

Seats are filled on a first come first served 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/>

Online courses are also available at www.traincan.com

Cape Breton Region 4-H News

On Cape Breton Island there are 11 registered 4-H clubs in four counties with 262 active members, 31 of them being Cloverbuds (youth age 7-8 years old) and 77 volunteer leaders.

4-H members are enrolled in 16 different livestock and 17 different life skills projects. Fifteen percent of our volunteer leaders come from farms, 73 percent from rural communities and 12 percent reside in urban areas. Thirteen per cent of our youth membership comes from farms, 69 percent from rural communities and 18 percent come from urban areas.

These stats are similar to our showing from the previous years. Girls are 69 percent of our youth membership and boys number 31 percent.

The 4-H program offers youth an opportunity for leadership development, agricultural awareness, travel, livestock and life skills training. We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members in the region and encourage them to take advantage of all this fantastic program has to offer.

4-H Summer Assistant

Hello Cape Breton 4-H members, leaders, parents and friends. My name is Nicole MacEachern and I am the 2015 4H Summer Assistant for Cape Breton Island.

I attend school at the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture where I just completed my second year in the Animal Science Program with a minor in Business and worked as a Residence Assistant. I am an 11 year member of the County Line 4-H club in Richmond County where I am currently enrolled in the light horse project.

Throughout my time in 4-H I have also taken scrapbooking, dog obedience, cake decorating, crafts and the junior leader project just to name a few. I was honored to be the recipient of the George MacNeil Memorial Scholarship in 2013 and the John Deere 4-H Scholarship in 2014.

Being a 4-H member has allowed me to have many wonderful opportunities, my favorite memories include making many new friendships while working at Camp Rankin as a counselor, attending annual general meetings, various workshops and conferences.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you throughout the summer and am very excited for this new opportunity.

2015 4-H Weekend Winners

Congratulations to all the Cape Breton Region participants that took part in the annual 4-H Weekend in Truro May 1-2. Below is the list of the provincial winners.

- **2015 Leonard G. Best Memorial Hostess Award: 1st** Emma MacLean, Cape Breton
- **NSDA scholarship:** Riley van den Heuval, Inverness
- **George MacNeil Scholarship:** 2015 Recipient - Brooke K McNeil, Hants
- **Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship:** Emily van den Hoogen, Inverness
- **Friends of 4-H:** Peter LeBlanc, Richmond
- **Senior Freehand Poster: 2nd** Hannah MacDonald, Cape Breton
- **Senior Computer Poster: 2nd** Genevieve Andrea, Cape Breton
- **DAL AC seed competition:** Drew Hood, Cape Breton; Nathan Cox, Inverness and Sophie Symmonds, Richmond
- **Junior Thanker: 2nd** Chloe Knickle, Richmond
- **Senior Speaker: 1st** Emma MacLean, Cape Breton
- **National 4-H Member's Conference:** Darcie Wilson and Morgan Morrison, Inverness
- **Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour:** Michael MacDonald and Mathew MacDonald, Cape Breton
- **4-H Canada Leadership Summit:** Carmelita Shea, Cape Breton

4-H Weekend is a provincial 4-H event that is held in Truro each May. The focus of this event is the Provincial Public Speaking and Demonstration Competition. Also included is a provincial poster and woodsman competition, a showcase of regional entertainment and the selection of the provincial host and hostess. Winners from the regional rally can compete in this event.

4-H Judging

May is when many members across the region participate in the judging component of 4-H program. Members place four items or animals in a project area and give reasons on their placing based on project standards. See upcoming dates for judging days.

Tips to remember are:

- Be confident, make good eye contact and know the judging format.
- Compare don't describe, speak clearly, concisely and know the project standards.

Getting Ready For Achievement Days

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

Several clubs in the region host a joint Achievement Day with other clubs, while some hold an individual club Achievement Day. The public is always invited to attend.

Upcoming Achievement Days include:

- Lakeside - June 9 - Lakeside Community Hall
- Richmond County Show (County Line Achievement Day) - June 10-11, Camp Rankin
- North Side - June 29, Cape Breton Exhibition
- Grand Mira - June 30, Grand Mira Hall
- Rising Sun - July 3, Albert Bridge Fire Hall
- Inverness County Horse Show - July 14, Margaree
- Richmond County Livestock Day - August 12, Adrienne Smith's
- Inverness County Achievement Day/ 4-H Day - August 20 - 21, Brook Village Hall
- Margaree Riverside - July 14, Margaree
- Baddeck Valley - September 9 - 12, Baddeck Forks

Does your summer job include being self-employed?

Many senior 4-H members have accomplished a tremendous skill set during their years in 4-H, including strong communication and organizational skills, decision making, time and people management skills.

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.

We would like to know what small business initiatives 4-H members on Cape Breton Island are involved with - either throughout the year or something that you may have in the works for the upcoming summer season. Please let us know what entrepreneurial activities you are involved with, either part or full time. You can get in touch with us at either the Sydney or Mabou office, or e-mail us at Rhonda.MacDougall@novascotia.ca or Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca

Recently, a facilitator from the Students in Business Program met with some 4-H members to discuss the SIB program. If you are at least 15 years old and would like information on the business loans, training and counselling available to help students 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 e-mail or give us a call.

Giant Rutabaga Competition- 2015

4-H members are challenged to grow their own giant rutabaga (winter turnip). Junior and senior members from each county are permitted to enter this competition at county level and do not need to be in the garden project to get involved. The rutabaga will be judged by weight. The best rutabagas at county level will go on to 4-H Show. Let's get those seeds in the soil and see what we can grow!

Dates to Mark on Calendar

- CB County Make Up Judging Day - June 2, by appointment only
- Inverness Make up Judging - May 20, 3:30- 4:30 p.m., Mabou Office
- Inverness Council Meeting - May 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Richmond County Judging Day - May 27, hosted by Lakeside 4-H
- Richmond County Make Up Judging - June 10
- Victoria County Judging Day - June 1
- Cape Breton Make Up Judging - June 2, 4-H office Sydney
- Miss and Master Competition, Cape Breton County – July 7, at the 4-H office in Sydney
- EastGen 4-H Show Case - July 10 - 12

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



Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

Winter Update

The NSDA staff in the Eastern region had a busy winter conducting several information sessions and workshop series both on their own and in partnership with industry associations. Topics covered included Market Farming, Perennia Innovation Center Tour, Beefing up your Forages, and Local Food Connections.

The market farming sessions took place in Antigonish over the course of four weeks. Topics covered were soils, crops, organic practices and marketing/pricing. One session, crops, was put on in Pictou in partnership with the Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture. These sessions provided an opportunity to learn about ways to increase the efficiency of farming on a small scale and to interact with subject matter experts and other peers doing similar things. If you were unable to attend the information sessions but would like to know more about the information that was covered please e-mail Adam Wile.

The Perennia Innovation Centre tour took place in February and included a full tour of the center in Truro and a description of their services. The center is designed to help commercialize products being developed in Nova Scotia and offers customizable spaces to take ideas to the next level. For more information on the Perennia Innovation Center please contact Terri MacPherson or www.perennia.ca.

Beefing up your Forages was an information session held in River John on March 3 and covered information pertaining to improving your pasture and hay lands for livestock production. Topics included timing of fertilizer, lime requirements, estimates on costs and livestock nutrition. Information slides are available if you couldn't make the session but would some of the information. Please contact Adam Wile.

Local Food Connections is an annual event that connects market farmers with local restaurants with the hopes that we can make it easier to get local food in restaurants in the region. Connections were made between several farmers and restaurants and we hope to offer this again next year. If you're interested in taking part, contact the agriculture office in Antigonish.

A cold winter and a late spring meant that many farmers in the region have been dealing with very full manure storage tanks, wet fields and a compressed spring season as they looked to repair fences and get crops in the ground. The late spring, following last year's very dry summer, led to many livestock farmers having dwindling feed supplies and a need to get animals out on pasture as soon as possible. As with any upcoming season, this year presents different challenges than the last and I encourage farmers who have questions to get in touch with their local agricultural extension agents or Perennia staff. There are various resources available to you to help answer those questions.

We look forward to connecting with you over the coming spring and summer months to check in and see how the season is progressing and what challenges you are facing. Our regional extension activities are based on what we hear from farmers in the field so the opportunity to catch up with you is a valuable part of our job.

Feel free to get in touch with Adam or Terri any time, whether you've got a question, a problem or a solution to a problem. We are here to help.
Phone: 902-863-4705

Adam Wile, Agricultural Resource Coordinator: Eastern Region
Adam.Wile@novascotia.ca

Terri MacPherson, Agricultural Transition Officer: Eastern Region
Terri.MacPherson@novascotia.ca

New Glasgow Famers Market

The New Glasgow Farmers Market is located in the Riverfront Dome along the beautiful riverfront, just past Glasgow Square. Open every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until noon, the market boasts over 45+ local vendors each week. From local farm grown beef and pork, free range and organic eggs, fresh veggies and produce to preserves, jams and jellies, chocolate and a wide range of products like soaps, art, scarves, and paintings from local artisans, no matter what you are looking for, you will find it at this market. You can enjoy a variety of snacks and prepared foods and even a home-style breakfast while you sit outside at our family style tables and listen to variety of talented local Nova Scotia musicians. Catch up with friends and meet some new ones...we're what Nova Scotia hospitality is all about! Keep in the loop by following us on Facebook and on Twitter at [@NGFarmMarket](https://www.facebook.com/NGFarmMarket).

Eastern Region 4-H News

We are pleased to once again welcome Jane Stevenson back to the Eastern Region as 4-H Summer Assistant. Jane is continuing her studies at St. FX University and she will be actively involved in many 4-H events this summer. Jane will be based out of the office in Pictou. Her contact number is 902-485-7161. As many of you have probably heard the Antigonish Exhibition will not be happening this year. In light of this the Antigonish 4-H council has set dates for a county 4-H Show. The show will be held from August 12-14 on the Exhibition grounds. The 4-H day will be on Friday, August 14. This event will be open to the public. Come see the 4-H members show their animals and the displays of life skills projects. The members who qualify from this show will move on to represent Antigonish County at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in October.

4-H Dates to Remember:

Antigonish County

CACL Collection - May 26

Council Meeting - June 9

Council Meeting – July 14,
Resolutions

Pictou County

Council Meeting - May 20, 7:00 p.m.
Northumberland

Pictou Judging Day - May 21,
Exhibition Grounds, 6:00 – 8:00
p.m.

Council Meeting - June 17, 7:00 p.m.
Fisheries School



4-H Achievement Day Dates:

- Hopewell - June 22
- Antigonish Light Horse - June 28
- St. Josephs - July 6
- Scotsburn - July 7
- Saltsprings - July 14
- St. Andrews - July 16
- Sunrise Trail - July 20
- River John - July 27
- Middle River - July 28
- Heatherton - July 29

4-H Weekend Results (by County)

- Senior Computer Poster: 1st Fiona Mackenzie, Pictou
- Junior Introducer: 1st Keith Thomson, Antigonish
- Top Junior Public Speaker: 1st Ella Gunn, Pictou
- Senior Single Demonstration: 1st Emaleigh Murray, Pictou
- Junior Team Demonstration: 2nd Katie MacNeil and Brooke MacDonald, Antigonish
- Senior Team Demonstration: 1st Brianne Sutherland and Andrew Greene, Pictou
- US National Dairy Conference: Iain MacLellan, Antigonish
- National 4-H Member's Conference: Fiona MacKenzie, Pictou
- 4-H Canada Citizenship Congress: Kendra Veigneau, Antigonish
- 4-H Canada Leadership Summit: Monica Nielsen, Pictou

The Antigonish Farmers Market

The Antigonish Farmers Market, at the Exhibition Grounds just off of James Street, is open for business now on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. It is within walking distance of the downtown and St FX campus, and Antigonish Community Transit has scheduled pickups and drop offs at the Exhibition Grounds.

Over 60 vendors participate in peak season. Patrons can enjoy an open court yard with picnic tables to sit at and enjoy the many prepared foods available on site, everything from baked goods to authentic cuisines. A great place to enjoy breakfast, brunch, or lunch, meet old friends, and make new ones. Fresh local Nova Scotia produce is available from numerous farmers. Check out the unique craft items, personal care items, jewelry, home décor plus so much more.

This June marks 20 years in operation. There will be giveaways and celebrations the entire month of June. Come on over to the market and see what we have in store for you. **SEE YOU AT THE MARKET**

Every Saturday May 2 - December 19, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the Exhibition Grounds, Antigonish.

Phone: 902-867-7479 e-mail: manager@antigonishfarmersmarket.org

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

The Central Region offices house the 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

Jessie Swinamer, Central Region Summer Assistant, 902-896-4471
Jessica.Swinamer@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 with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter please e-mail Jillian with your request.

Colchester County Silage Plastic Recycling Pilot Project Has Been Extended to June 30

In order to ensure that all farmers in Colchester County have the opportunity to take advantage of the no-fee disposal of used silage plastic, much of which has been covered with snow, the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Manager, Jann McFarlane has extended the pilot project to June 30, 2015. Take your "clean" used silage plastic to the MRF at the Kemptown Balefill between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Be sure to tell the scale operator that you are participating in the "Silage Plastic Recycling Pilot". For more information contact Jann McFarlane at (902)897-0450 ext. 101 or e-mail: jmcfarlane@colchester.ca.

Fencing Resource

The Department of Agriculture, NSFA, Perennia, and Colchester Municipality have collaborated to produce a booklet on Livestock Fencing Guidelines. This illustrated 10-page booklet is available for download on the Department of Agriculture website at: <http://novascotia.ca/thinkfarm/documents/fencing-guidelines-2013.pdf> or you can obtain a hard copy by contacting your nearest regional office.

The Livestock Fencing Guidelines provide a great overview of fencing for all types of livestock. The guidelines then go into more detail about four main types of fencing used in Nova Scotia which is electric, barbed and page wire fences. Many farmers will find these guidelines beneficial on their farm.

Upcoming Food Handler Courses

- May 27, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Perennia Innovation Park, Bible Hill
- June 9, 9:00 a.m., Wandlyn Inn, Amherst

Seats are filled on a first come first served 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!

Spring is finally here and so begins 4-H judging, clinics and achievement days! 4-H in the Central Region is gearing up for an eventful and fun spring/summer. As well I am happy to announce that Jessie Swinamer is the summer assistant this year.

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!



4-H County Judging Days:

Cumberland County - May 21,
Nappan Experimental Farm

Halifax-East Hants County - May
20, Hardwoodlands Hall

Colchester County - May 19 - 4-H
Barn, NSPE Grounds

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Jacqueline Hoyt or the Central Region Summer Assistant Jessie Swinamer.

4-H Weekend Award Winners

Congratulations to all the Central Region participants that took part in the annual 4-H Weekend in Truro May 1-2. Below is the list of the provincial winners

Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarship: Cassandra Hayward, Halifax East Hants

Friends of 4-H: Iola Crowe, NS. 4-H Council Office

Horse Classic: 1st Colchester A

Senior Freehand Poster: 1st Sam Smith, Halifax East Hants

Junior Thanker: 1st Tia Augustine, Colchester

Intermediate Speaker: 2nd Marika Schenkels, Halifax East Hants

Senior Single Demonstration: 2nd Kelsey Morehouse, Halifax East Hants

Senior Team Demonstration: 2nd Megan Wynn & Michael Congdon, Colchester

US National Dairy Conference: Ryan Porter, Colchester County

National 4-H Member's Conference: Kelsey Morehouse, Halifax East Hants and Tristan Tulkins, Colchester County

4-H Canada Citizenship Congress: Lindsay Anderson, Cumberland; Sidney Patten, Ashley Higgins and Alyssa Millar, Colchester County

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour: Michael Congdon and Beth O'Connell, Colchester County

4- H Canada Leadership Summit: Peter Giffen, Halifax East Hants and Sue Works, NS 4-H Council

Junior Skills Woodsmen Competition: 1st Halifax East Hants and 2nd: Cumberland

2015 Leonard G. Best Memorial Host and Hostess Award: 2nd Erica Jackson and Michael Congdon, Central Region.

Upcoming 4-H Meetings and Events:

Colchester County 4-H Council Meetings:

May 25 and June 22, 7:00 p.m., Lower Truro Hall, Kent Road.

Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:

June 2, 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meetings:

June 16, 7:00 p.m., Hants East Rural High.

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

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sale

The last Spring cattle sale will be held on May 30 at the Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown.

Small Farm Expo – Save the Date

Start small...think big. Come celebrate farming at the Small Farm Expo happening at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds on Monday, July 20. There will be interactive sessions and live demos. It will be the perfect opportunity to network with local farmers and explore new possibilities.

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Mentoring Program

The aim of the KCFA Mentoring Network is to help beginning and transitioning farmers to set up their new farms better and quicker. It was developed in recognition of the fact that farmers in Nova Scotia are able to acquire lots of good information on farming through courses at Dal AC, Perennia, NSCC etc., but the next vital step is to acquire local, day-to-day advice from experienced farmers. Mentoring has long been recognized as one of the most successful ways to provide such information and guidance.

If you are interested in participating either as a mentor or mentee, please go to the KCFA website - <http://kingscountyagriculture.com/> for more information and to sign up.

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Bursary

Once again this year the KCFA will be offering a \$500.00 bursary for anyone attending Dal/AC. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please e-mail Gail Walsh at gwalsh@perennia.ca or check out the application on the KCFA website - <http://kingscountyagriculture.com/>. Applications are due by June 1.

Hants County Federation of Agriculture

The Hants County Federation of Agriculture hosted two events in March at the central location of the Brooklyn Fire Hall.

On March 13 a one-day workshop was held on Exclusion and Control Methods for Farm Crops. Attendees came from as far away as the Annapolis Valley and included farmers and hunters. Speakers from NS DNR, NS Crop Insurance and Perennia discussed:

- Monitoring and managing deer populations
- Exclusion trials for soybean crops
- Pending changes to control permits
- Wildlife compensation claims and benefits
- Deer fencing and exclusion methods

On March 30 Saint John Ambulance trained 18 students in Emergency First Aid. Seventeen of the students were Hants County Federation members or were associated with local farms in the area.

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time 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.

E-mail Addresses

In an effort to improve communication with clients, we are collecting e-mail addresses. If you would like to occasionally receive remainders, notices, or this newsletter via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address to Cheryl Theriau at Cheryl.Theriau@novascotia.ca.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please e-mail Cheryl or call 902-679-6021.

Atlantic Grower of the Year Award

Congratulations to Vermeulen Farms in Canning for receiving the Atlantic Grower of the Year Award from Loblaw's at their regional growers conference in PEI on April 9. The farm was recognized for its leadership within the produce industry. Job well done!

South Shore Region 4-H News

The South Shore Regional Rally was held on April 25 at the Church of Latter Day Saints on Aberdeen road in Bridgewater. The event was hosted by Hill 'n' Dale 4-H Club. The day included speeches and demonstrations on a wide variety of topics. Lots of fun was had by all participants and everyone in attendance. The winners of this event represented the region at 4-H Weekend May 1-2.

4-H Weekend Award Winners

Congratulations to all the South Shore Region. The winners from the South Shore Region are:

Junior Introducer: 2nd Shaelyn Banks, Lunenburg County

Intermediate Speaker: 1st Mary Raymond, Lunenburg County

National 4-H Member's Conference: Cassidy Eisnor and Seth Freeman, Lunenburg County

4-H Canada Citizenship Congress: Leah Rodenizer and Stephanie Lantz, Lunenburg County

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour: Julia Riley and Grant Cook, Lunenburg County

4-H Canada Leadership Summit: Kathryn Freeman, Lunenburg County



Upcoming 4-H Events County 4-H Judging Days

- Queens Co. 4-H Judging Day – May 21, Westfield Hall
- Lunenburg Co. 4-H Judging Day - May 27, South Shore Exhibition Grounds
- Shelburne County 4-H Judging Day - June 1, Location TBA.

Achievement Days

- Branch LaHave 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 2 - 3, Branch LaHave
- Lapland 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 6
- Roseway River 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 7
- Hill n Dale 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 9 - 10, Wileville
- BBHH 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 13, Bridgewater
- Ocean Breeze 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 14
- Leaf Clover 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 15, Westfield Hall, Caledonia.
- 2 Bays 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 16, Hubbards
- Livewires 4-H Club Achievement Day - August 7 - 8, Maplewood-Parkdale
- Handy Hands 4-H Club Achievement Day - August 21, New Ross

Exhibitions/Fairs

- Lunenburg Co. 4-H Days at South Shore Ex. - Tuesday, July 28 - Wednesday July 29
- Shelburne County 4-H Day at Shelburne County Exhibition - Tuesday, August 11
- Queens County 4-H Day at Queens County Fair - Monday, September 21

Meetings/ Events

- Lunenburg Co.4-H Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 p.m., Location TBA
- Queens County 4-H Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 p.m., Westfield Hall
- Shelburne County 4-H Council Meeting – Monday, June 1, 6:30 p.m., Location TBA
- Lunenburg County 4-H Exhibition Set-up – Thursday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Barn
- Lunenburg County 4-H Exhibition Painting– Saturday, June 6, 9:00 a.m., 4-H Barn
- Lunenburg County 4-H Awards Night – Tuesday, August 25, 6:00 p.m., Michelin Social Club

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

For more information about the South Shore 4-H program, contact Colin Hirtle, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Lunenburg Office, 902-634-7575 or by e-mail Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca

Valley Region 4-H News

Valley Regional Rally

The Valley Regional Rally hosted by the Cornwallis Club of Kings Co. was held on April 18 at the Evangeline Middle School. As a result of the great participation on the part of both Hants and Kings Counties, a full slate of participants represented the region at 4-H Weekend.

Judging for New 4-H Members.....

Judging workshops designed for **new** 4-H members will be held in both Kings and Hants Counties in May at a location to be announced. The workshop will focus on introducing 4-H judging (why do we judge, the format, filling out the judging card and practice in giving reasons) to new members with no or very little experience in judging. These workshops will be two hours in length and will be free of charge but pre-registration is required. Registration information for this workshop will be e-mailed to General Leaders to distribute to 4-H Members.

Upcoming 4-H Events

County 4-H Judging Days

- Kings County Judging Day - May 20, Bob Best's Farm
- Hants Dairy Judging - May 28, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Greenough Family Farm
- Small Livestock/Horse and Lifeskills Judging Day - June 4, Hants County Exhibition Grounds
- Hants County Beef Judging - June 6, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Lois Brown's Farm

Achievement Days

- Cobequid - July 3
- Rawdon 2 Way - July 6
- Border Riders - July 7
- Hants Light Horse - July 17
- Avon - July 20
- Burlington Workers - July 23
- Newport - July 31, tentative
- Kings County Joint Achievement Day - August 6-8, Apple Dome, Berwick



Upcoming Events

- Kings JAD and Council Meetings - June 1, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition and Council Meetings - June 8, Brooklyn School
- Kings JAD and Council Meetings - July 6, Scotian Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition and Council Meetings - July 13, Hants Exhibition Grounds

Exhibitions/Fairs

- Hants County Exhibition, 4-H Program - September 17-19

4-H Weekend Award Winners

Congratulations to all the Valley Region participants that took part in the annual 4-H Weekend in Truro May 1-2. Below is the list of the provincial winners.

George MacNeil Scholarship:
Brooke K McNeil, Hants County

Larry Milton Campbell Memorial 4-H Scholarship: Brooke MacNeil, Hants County

Theme Competition: Josh White, Hants County

Junior Freehand Poster: 1st Emily Hirtle, Kings County

4-H Challenge: Cassie O'Brien, and Camryn Brown, Hants County

Top Junior Public Speaker: 2nd Thane Morgan, Hants County

Junior Single Demonstration: 1st Emilee Hirtle, Kings County

Junior Team Demonstration: 1st Kathryn Spicer and MacKenzie West, Kings County

Going Global 4-H International Exchange: Brittany Brydon, Kings County

4-H Canada Citizenship Congress: Isaac Grant, Hants County

US National 4-H Conference: Ella Lentz, Hants County

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour: Luke Ettinger, Hants County; Tyler MacEachern, Kings County

Senior Woodsmen: 1st Kings, 2nd Hants County

2015 Leonard G. Best Memorial Host and Hostess Award:
1st Emma MacLean Cape Breton Region & Justin Jamieson, Valley Region

Contact Valorie Skinner, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Department of Agriculture for information on the Valley 4-H program at 902-679-6027 or by e-mail 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 e-mail in the future, please notify Gina either by phone at 902-638-2395 or by e-mail 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:

Yarmouth - June 10
Digby - May 27
Kentville - June 3
Bridgewater - June 18

(Courses start up again mid-September 2015)

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:

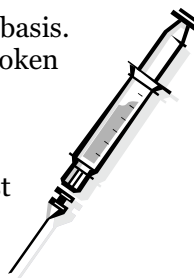
<http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/food-protection/food-hygiene-course/>

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 the 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.



Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

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

Farmers Market Introduction Course

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 e-mail at Terry.McKay@novascotia.ca

These containers can be picked up at the Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis Park. Call 902-638-2395 for hours and information.

Western Region 4-H News

Plant a Seed and Grow With Our 4-H Team! Welcome to Mikaela Marr as the Summer Assistant for the Western Region! Mikaela is a member of the Sissiboo Landers 4-H Club of Digby County. Mikaela will be working out of the Cornwallis office.

Emily Gravel of the Sun Valley Riders 4-H Club of Annapolis County attended the Citizenship Summit in Ottawa from April 29-May 3, 2015. Congratulations Emily!

2015 4-H Weekend Winners
Congratulations to all the Western Region participants that took part in the annual 4-H Weekend in Truro May 1-2. Below is the list of the provincial winners.

Horse Classic: 2nd Annapolis

Junior Computer Poster:
1st Emma Bishop, Annapolis County

Senior Speaker: 2nd
Cara McNicol, Yarmouth County

Junior Single Demonstration:
2nd Samantha Brown, Annapolis County

National 4-H Member's Conference: Melanie Delong, Annapolis County

4-H Canada Citizenship Congress: Emily Gravel, Annapolis County

Kevin Grant Rural Youth Leadership Tour: Michaela Rhodenizer, Yarmouth County and Kegan Henry, Annapolis County

4-H Canada Leadership Summit: Crystal McCormick, Yarmouth County



Dates to remember:

- Annapolis County Lifeskills Judging Day - May 26, Exhibition Grounds, Lawrencetown
- Ag Zone Day - May 29, Lawrencetown
- Yarmouth County Judging Day - May 30
- Islands Seabreeze Achievement Day - June 1, Freeport
- Digby County Judging Day - June 4, Fish and Game Association, Haines Lake
- Annapolis County 4-H leaders Council Meeting - June 10
- Western Region Safety Workshop - June 13
- Yarmouth 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - June 17, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office
- Digby county 4-H leaders Council Mtg. June 18, 7:00 p.m., Library
- Digby County 4-H Camp – June 26 - 28
- Make up Judging and Advanced Achievement Day - June 30, 3:00 p.m., Lawrencetown
- Lt Horse Boot Camp Annapolis County Judging and Achievement Day - July 6 - 9
- Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - July 8, 7:00 p.m.
- EastGen - July 10-12, Truro
- Bear River Trail Blazers Achievement Day - July 14
- Yarmouth County 4-H leaders Council Meeting - July 15, 7:00 p.m., 4-H office
- Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Meeting - July 16, 2015 7:00 p.m., Library
- 4-H days in Yarmouth County - July 17 - 19, Pembroke Hall
- Sun Valley Riders 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 21
- Maple Nuts Achievement Day - July 23, Digby County
- Lucky Stars 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 24
- Clarence 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 27
- Sissiboo Landers Achievement Day - July 30, Digby County
- Mountain Ridge 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 31
- Annapolis County Council Meeting - August 5
- Annapolis County 4-H Days - August 16 - 17, Annapolis Valley Exhibition
- 4-H days at Digby County Exhibition - August 25 - 26