

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



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Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 8 No. 2

The Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia announce the results of our Buy Local Challenge Survey

From June through October 2006, Women's Institutes members from across Nova Scotia distributed the W.I. Buy Local Challenge Survey to the public. Members attended fairs, farmers' markets and many other public events to promote the 'buy local' theme while collecting more than 2400 surveys. The goal was not only to collect valuable data on the public's food buying behaviours, but also to encourage people to think about how purchasing local food benefits people's health, the economy, the environment and social well-being. If Nova Scotians want to see more local food products on grocery store shelves and on plates in restaurants, they have to 'Be Vocal and Buy Local'.

The majority of respondents were female, aged between 31-75. Two-thirds of the respondents had some form of post-secondary education. Income was fairly evenly distributed with one-third reporting an income of over \$60,000. Almost one half of

respondents lived in a community of under 2,000 people.

What Factors Influence the Types of Food We Purchase?

Survey respondents indicated that taste and nutritional value are the two most influential factors on the food they buy. Locally grown product was identified as the third most influential factor, followed by price, ease of preparation and finally, organic.

Several factors were considered under the following categories; sex, income, community size, education and age. Women consistently rated each factor higher than men, with the exception of organic. There was little difference by income level, although price was more of an issue for those earning less than \$40,000 per year.

Those living in smaller communities tended to report that whether food was locally grown had a larger influence on their food purchasing behaviour, whether food was organic had a smaller influence. As education level rose, respondents were less worried about the cost of food, or ease of preparation. They were also slightly more likely to consider whether food was organic.

Under the age category, it was found that as age increased, nutritional value and whether the

product was locally grown became stronger influences on food buying behaviour.

What is 'Local'?

Over 90 per cent of respondents considered food grown in Nova Scotia to be local.

Where Can I Buy Local Foods?

Respondents believed the best places to buy local foods were from farmers' markets, directly from the farm, or small fruit and vegetable markets. Large grocery stores and family-style restaurants were listed next, followed distantly by convenience stores and fast-food restaurants.

Beliefs, Attitudes and Propensity to Buy Locally Produced Food

Respondents reported that they like to buy locally produced food whenever possible and that they do consider the place of origin when purchasing. The survey showed respondents strongly believed that buying local food is good for the local economy, that local food is fresher, buying local food helps the environment and that buying locally produced food means more money goes to the farmer. The survey also showed respondents felt that they only had little to moderate control over their ability to obtain local foods and in knowing whether or not the

food was grown locally.

Respondents strongly agreed that the government should promote buying locally produced food. They also indicated that they would buy more locally produced foods in grocery stores and restaurants if the foods/menu items were clearly marked with a logo.

Women's Institutes feels that the completion of this project and survey will be of benefit to the Nova Scotia agricultural and agri-food sector through the enhanced knowledge of consumers local food issues. The more savvy the consumer, the more benefits to the industry. Consumer purchasing power and sector knowledge is increasingly important to gauge as the public's thirst for knowledge about the food they are eating continues to grow and develop. It is clear - more emphasis on 'Buying Local' is needed.

The W.I. Buy Local Challenge Survey and the survey report was prepared by Steven Dukeshire, PhD, and Renée Garbes, B Sc., of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Rural Research Centre. Funding support for this project has been provided by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



For a copy of the complete survey report go to www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi or please contact:
W.I.N.S. Office, Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3 ☎ 902-893-6520
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Maritime Shelterbelt Program Looking for Additional Demonstration Sites

The Maritime Shelterbelt Program is aiming to help hog and other livestock producers better understand the benefits of planting shelterbelts around livestock barns. Shelterbelts can serve a number of purposes, benefiting producers, their neighbors and the environment.

Shelterbelt Benefits

- Reduced energy costs
- Improved snow distribution
- Increased crop yields
- Reduced GHG emissions
- Increased biodiversity
- Reduced odour, dust and noise from farm

The Atlantic Swine Research Partnership and the Canadian Pork Council have been working to provide shelterbelt training in the Maritimes. Over the course of the program, a number of workshops have been held instructing participants on all aspects involved in establishing and maintaining shelterbelts. As

part of the training, participants have designed six demonstration shelterbelts: two in Nova Scotia, two in New Brunswick and two in Prince Edward Island. One additional site is to be installed at the Atlantic Swine Research Partnership research barn in the spring of 2007. To date over 5500 m of shelterbelt, consisting of over 1800 trees have been planted as part of this program.

To facilitate future activities, a plastic mulch applicator, plastic mulch, brush mower and basic soil preparation, as well as tree maintenance equipment have been purchased. They are available for use by interested producers and agronomists.

Trained professionals throughout the Maritimes are available to design and assist with establishing your shelterbelt for FREE

The program is now providing support for establishing shelterbelts throughout the Maritimes. Farmers who are interested in shelterbelts for their farm properties can access funds through the National Farm Stewardship and Greencover Canada Programs, which will provide 50 per cent of the establishment costs up to a maximum of \$10,000. To access funding or to obtain assistance in planning a shelterbelt, please contact Sabrina Ellsworth at (902) 890-7637.

Canadian Agriculture Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program Processing and Payments

For the 2005 CAIS program year, 90 per cent of all applications have been processed. Processing for the 2006 program year is underway. Applications are processed on a first-come first-served basis. The earlier you submit your 2006 Harmonized Statement of Farming Activities, the sooner it will be processed. Please make sure your files are complete before submitting.

In regards to your Calculation of Benefits (COB). It is important to check the information in your COB for errors when you receive it. You have 90 days from the date on your COB to make adjustments and appeals to the CAIS Administration. If you require assistance, please call the Programs and Business Risk Management at 902-893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

CAIS FEE deadline for the 2006 program year is April 30, 2007. The deadline to pay the fee amount was December 31, 2006 for the 2006 CAIS program year. If you have not paid the fee, you may still participate. Participants have until April 30, 2007 to pay with penalty (FEE + 20 percent). The fee is now owing if you did not officially opt out of the 2006 program year by September 30, 2006. You will not be able to participate in the 2006 program year if you do not pay your fee by April 30, 2007.

CAIS FEE deadline for the 2007 program year
For the 2007 program year, those who have previously participated will be enrolled automatically however, Options Notices (ON's) (including the fee requirement) have not been mailed out yet. You will be informed when these will be available and any other updates pertaining to the 2007 program year.

New Entrants for 2007

If you have not participated in the CAIS program before and are interested in participating for the 2007 program year you will need to request a 2007 CAIS New Participant Package. To request a package, please contact CAIS at 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram>.

For more information on any of the above points contact Steve Tattrie, Programs and Business Risk Management (NSDA) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Farm Investment Fund (FIF) Information Sessions:

If you are considering on-farm development projects, come out and learn what projects are eligible for funding on a cost-shared basis for 2007. The session will highlight what is new to the program for the 2007-2008 program year. The program is scheduled to be released May 1, 2007.

Presentations will be made at the dates and locations listed below.

April 19	Baddeck	Knox Church Hall, Baddeck, 7 p.m.
April 20	Amherst	Wandlyn Inn, Salon A 2 p.m.
April 23	Bridgewater	Wandlyn Inn, Bridgewater 7 p.m.
April 24	Digby	Digby Curling Club 7 p.m.
April 25	Kentville	Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre 7 p.m.
April 26	Antigonish	Keating Millenium Centre 7 p.m.
April 27	Truro	Best Western Glengarry 2 p.m.

Agri-food Industry Development Fund

The Agri-Food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF) is scheduled to be released mid-May, 2007. There will be two new categories under the AFIDF program.

One category will address the Specified Risk Materials (SRM) separation and containment for slaughter/processing facilities.

The second category will be used to deliver the Strategic Infrastructure Investment funding that was announced in December 2006. The objectives are 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, strategy development, and/or supported by research.

For more information, contact Programs and Business Risk Management, at (902) 893-6510 or, 866-844-4276.

Successful Acadian Seaplants Customized Training Workshop Hosted by NSAC

Continuing Education hosted intensive two half-day customized training workshop for employees from Acadian Seaplants in February. The workshop focused on techniques for rearing marine microalgae, incorporating classroom and practical learning. The workshop was instructed by Audrie-Jo McConkey, Shellfish Technician/Algologist at NSAC.

The participants were very pleased with the training and information they received.

“I am extremely impressed with the willingness of NSAC’s Continuing Education program and the Aquaculture Department for working with local industry to custom design a course with a very specific focus knowing the target audience is very limited in number. Thank you for a quality job-well done,” Program Participant, Techniques for Culturing Marine Microalgae.

Continuing Education works with industry groups, not-for-profit organizations, and government clients to build partnerships and provide innovative training solutions to meet the educational needs of the industry.

Upgrade your knowledge and skills!

Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture

Learn more about the rapidly expanding industry of organic production. The Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture, taken online through distance education, provides you with the unique opportunity to approach agriculture from your area of interest. The courses are available for both credit and non-credit. Enroll now for September 2007.

Pesticide Applicator Certification
April 10-13, 2007

Garden Centre Training
April 24-25, 2007

Environmental Stewardship
May 12, 2007

Contact us at (902) 893-6666 for more information on our courses and programs, or visit our website at nsac.ca/cde

Farmers of the Future

Justin Beck - NSAC Student

Most people would think 50 young farmers released in Ottawa for a four- day conference would be a recipe for disaster, but the truth is quite the opposite. Last month, the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF) held their Annual General Meeting and Workshop for young farmers across Canada. Each of the 10 provinces as well as the Yukon Territory were represented at the CYFF conference. Producers at the conference ranged from 18 to 40 and farms as small as four acres up to 17,000 acres and encompassed most commodities.

CYFF is a national group that represents the voices of young farmers across the country. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the group. CYFF has acted as an information source for policy makers, provincially and federally, on issues concerning many young farmers in Canada.

CYFF is not a lobby group, and thus has gained a tremendous amount of respect from all levels of government. During the 2007 meeting, the group met with both the Federal Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Federal Standing Committee on Agriculture. These round table discussions allowed the voice of young farmers to be heard and provide feedback on issues they are facing.

The CYFF has also been asked for their input into all the APF II consultations and had representation at the Uruguay International Federation of Agriculture Young Farmers

Committee meetings.

CYFF's mandate is to foster and build skills of young farmers to become the next agriculture leaders in their community as well as their country. This is accomplished through networking and the free exchange of ideas among the participants. The CYFF also provides workshops on topics

and challenges that young farmers face in agriculture today. These include succession planning, financial planning, and many others. By introducing and discussing these issues, young farmers become more informed of ways to deal with and overcome these challenges to increase their success.

The roots of the CYFF are established at the provincial and local levels. Nova Scotia is currently building and developing a young farmers program affiliated with this national organization. The goal of this group will be much the same as that of the CYFF; to create an atmosphere that fosters and develops the next generation of agriculture leaders.

If you are a Nova Scotian between the ages of 18-40 and would like to find out more about this group you can send an email to nsfawanda@eastlink.ca subject Nova Scotia Young Farmers with your contact information or contact Wanda by phone at (902) 893-2293.

AgraPoint Pesticide Recertification Points exam.

The topic for this fourth installment is titled 'Field Sprayer Calibration'. It will be made available on April 1, 2007 and left posted until the June 1. It can be accessed from the AgraPoint website (www.agrapoint.ca).

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

We would like to announce that Bill MacLeod has accepted the position of Acting CEO for the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission. Bill has worked with the Department of Agriculture for 20 years in the positions of 4-H Representative, Agricultural Representative and Agricultural Resource Coordinator in various parts of the province.

Spring Crops

2007 Application Deadlines:
Corn - April 30
Soybean- April 30

Weather Plan (forage) - This plan focuses on crop losses related to weather events rather than to weather. The final details have been completed -

please call the numbers below if you wish to sign up.

Forage Establishment - Farmers may want to consider this plan which covers newly seeded legume and legume, grass mixes against drought, winter damage and other perils. Forage is insured from time of seeding until May 31 the following year.

For more information on this or any of the other insurance plans contact us at 1-800-565-6371- Truro or Kentville (902) 679-6015/6028.

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day Sunday, Sept. 23rd, 2007

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 6th annual Open Farm Day on Sunday, September 23, 2007. This is an Atlantic Canada event and a tremendous opportunity to showcase your farm.

Open Farm Day 2006 was a tremendous success with more than 9500 consumers visiting the 52 farms that were open in Nova Scotia and more than 23,000 visitors across the Atlantic region. Through this event consumers learn first hand about the high quality and diverse food supply produced locally in Nova Scotia.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is inviting you to participate in Open Farm Day 2007. We are pleased to have Sobeys back once again as

presenting sponsor for this worthwhile event. We will provide all producers with training and promotional materials for handouts on your farm. For many consumers this is their only opportunity to visit a farm.

Let's work together to make Nova Scotia Open Farm Day 2007 an outstanding success. It is a great opportunity to show the public the Amazing World of Agriculture and demonstrate the value of supporting local producers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Coordinator NS Department of Agriculture PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Phone: (902) 893-6598
Fax: (902) 893-2757
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca



Amendments to the Livestock Health Services Act

Acting Agriculture Minister Ron Chisholm introduced amendments to the *Livestock Health Services Act* on March 19 in the legislature.

The proposed amendment will give the minister of agriculture authority to make changes to the travel and service fees paid to veterinarians who look after large farm animals.

"Veterinarians provide a key service to farmers who are not able to transport their animals to veterinarian clinics," said Mr. Chisholm. "We want to make sure that they are adequately compensated for this service."

The proposed legislation does not affect the fees that are charged by veterinarians for their services.

New Position for 4-H

Ruth Grant has accepted the position of Senior 4-H Program Coordinator in the 4-H and Rural Organizations Section of the Agricultural Services Branch effective April 2, 2007. This is a new supervisory position. Ruth's office is located in DeWolfe House, NSAC, Truro.

Ruth has worked for the department for 23 years, starting as a Regional 4-H Representative in Western and Valley Regions. She has been the Agricultural Awareness Coordinator since 1995.



Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

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4-H Provides Summer Jobs for Youth

The Nova Scotia 4-H program has several summer jobs to offer to youth. Whether it's facing the challenge of providing 4-H members with judging classes, instructing craft or livestock workshops, or teaching members water safety, the camp counselors and summer assistants with the 4-H program play versatile and important roles throughout the summer months.

Six summer assistants have been hired to work in the six 4-H regions in the Yarmouth, Kentville, Nappan, Truro, Antigonish and Mabou offices.

Summer assistants work with the 4-H specialist to conduct the seasonal program and are often involved in doing judging clinics, organizing member tours, judging at Achievement Days, conducting livestock showmanship clinics, planning for exhibitions and county days in their area and coordinating the regional program.

The 4-H Summer Assistants begin work on April 23. The staff are:
Michelina Medicraft, Western Region; Rosalind Best - Eastern Region; Merilee Yuill - Nappan Region; Rebekah Melvin - Valley Region and Sheena Savoie - Cape Breton Region.

Seven camp counsellor jobs with Camp Rankin, the provincial

summer camp located in Richmond County, are available to 4-H members who are 16 or older by July of the current year. The counselor positions include canoeing, water safety, drama and arts, crafts, recreation and nature study and are for the duration of the camping season.

4-H Members Speak Up at Annual 4-H Weekend

From May 4 - 5, 2007, 250, 4-H members will attend 4-H Weekend at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. This two-day event is an opportunity for 4-H members to compete in public speaking and demonstration competitions at a provincial level.

As well as communication contests, 4-H members compete in the woodsman competition and the Nova Scotia Horse Classic. On Saturday May 5, the NSAC Alumni Theatre will be the venue for 4-H Night in Nova Scotia, a finale that showcases talented 4-H members and presents the top overall communication winners and county entertainment as part of the evenings program. Members and leaders who have won National 4-H Travel Awards and the winners of the provincial competitions are recognized. The public is welcome to attend the weekend events and view the 4-H members in action.

4-H Members to Meet at Atlantic EBI Showcase

Seventy 4-H members from Atlantic Canada will participate in the annual Eastern Breeders 4-H Showcase June 27-29, 2007 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill.

Eastern Breeders Incorporated has sponsored the training event for the past 17 years with the goal of providing intensive training in the most current livestock techniques for 4-H beef and dairy members from Atlantic Canada. Along with financial assistance, they provide the Atlantic event with qualified staff to ensure 4-H members learn proper animal management and preparation skills for showing cattle. It prepares them to be better contenders in the showing and leaders in the agricultural industry. Staff with the Department of Agriculture partner with EBI to provide organizational skills on behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee.

During the two-day workshop, specialists from Eastern Breeders Incorporated will teach the finer points of show preparation to the participants and the members will then prepare their own cattle for the beef and dairy show at 10 a.m on June 28 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Awards will be presented to the winners in each class at that event. The public is welcome to attend the cattle show to see the skills these young people have learned.

Royal Bank to Host 4-H Interprovincial Exchange Program

Six Nova Scotia 4-H members will experience customs and lifestyles in other provinces as they travel on the 45th annual Royal Bank of Canada 4-H Interprovincial Exchange beginning July 4. While on this two week National 4-H Award Program, 4-H members also have the opportunity to exchange ideas and information on agriculture with other rural youth.

The Nova Scotia delegates winning this travel award were selected through an interview process based on their 4-H and community involvement. The Atlantic 4-H delegates travelling to the various parts of Canada celebrate their achievement at a send off banquet hosted by the Royal Bank.

The 4-H members participating in the exchange program are:
Nicole Lennerton - Colchester County; Allie Crouse - Lunenburg County; Amanda Lowe - Inverness County; Melinda G. Butler - Antigonish County and Tyler Fraser - Cumberland County.

This travel program is designed to provide delegates with the opportunity to experience customs and lifestyles in another province. It also provides a forum to exchange ideas and information on agriculture in their home province. Nova Scotia 4-H members will host a reciprocal two week exchange with their billets in August.

Your 4-H Specialists

Senior 4-H Program Coordinator:

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Back issues of this newsletter are available on-line at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/rs/fs/arcs/>

Local Doctoral Student receives 2007 Canadian Meat Council Associate Members Scholarship

Rob Michitsch, a doctoral student at Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), was recently awarded the 2007 Canadian Meat Council (CMC) Associate Members Scholarship. The scholarship is intended to promote quality education and development of meat science research in Canada. He recently traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia to attend the Canadian Meat Science Association (CMSA) Technical Symposium, where he received the award and gave a presentation on his doctoral research to government and industry leaders.

Mr. Michitsch's research is part of a project titled "Management of Slaughterhouse Waste Materials" through NSAC and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture being led by Dr. Rob Gordon, Canada Research Chair and Director of Research at NSAC. The research is part of an industry initiative with partial funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through Agri-Futures Nova Scotia and the New Brunswick Agricultural Council/Conseil Agricole du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Mr. Michitsch is researching on-farm composting of both livestock mortalities and slaughterhouse waste materials. This is an alternative method to

traditional rendering and burial. The management and disposal of these materials (carcasses and offal) is a necessary aspect of animal production, which needs to be quick, cost-effective and safe, especially to reduce the risk of disease.

The potential of this management practice for additional waste treatment opportunities has recently been identified for the slaughterhouse industry. "We already know that biopiles work" says Mr. Michitsch. "However, there is little research on the persistence and movement of bacterial and viral pathogens in these biopiles." Given the recent CFIA ban on specified risk materials (SRM's) and deadstock in animal feed, pet food and fertilizers, on-farm composting is especially attractive since regulatory permits are not required for safe disposal of these materials on the farm of origin.

Mr. Rick Williams, Executive Director of Agri-futures Nova Scotia, agrees. "This topic is on the forefront of issues currently being examined by the meat industry. It is exciting to see an industry initiative presented at a national arena." As the sole recipient of the scholarship, Mr. Michitsch says, "I feel very fortunate to have received this scholarship and to be able to present Maritime-focused research at a national symposium."

NSAC Graduate Student is Recipient of ECO Canada Student Award 2007

Julie Bailey, a graduate student at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC), has been selected for one of 15 Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) Canada Student Awards. Julie will receive a \$1,000 prize and the opportunity to showcase her poster at Americana 2007 (www.americana.org), a biennial conference on environmental business held in Montreal, Quebec.

Julie is currently working on a Masters Degree through Dalhousie University and NSAC. She is conducting her research under the supervision of Dr. Rob Gordon, Canada Research Chair and Director of Research at NSAC. Julie is from Earltown, Nova Scotia and has a Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia. She is also the recipient of several scholarships, including a prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Canada Graduate Scholarship, the Robert P. Longley Scholarship and the Canard Conservation Scholarship.

Julie's research utilizes a survey to identify the interest in and potential for energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy alternatives and energy audits for Nova Scotia farmers. The primary objectives are to gain baseline data on a cross section

of farms with respect to energy usage and energy efficiency renewable energy options currently in use; to gain awareness of farmers' desire and ability for implementing energy efficiency or renewable upgrades, and to determine if farmers would be interested in participating in an energy audit program and the scope of the program.

ECO Canada is an organization that develops programs that help individuals build meaningful environmental careers, provides employers with resources to find and keep the best environmental practitioners and informs educators and governments of employment trends to ensure the ongoing prosperity of this growing sector.

Dr. Gordon says that events such as this offer valuable networking opportunities for students. "Julie has a very unique and challenging project that she now has the opportunity to showcase at a high profile North American event. "This experience will prove invaluable not only for her studies, but her future career. We congratulate Julie on being selected for this award."

CFIA ADVISES NOT TO USE CHEMICALLY-TREATED WOOD NEAR LIVESTOCK FEED AND ANIMALS

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is advising livestock producers across Canada not to use chemically-treated wood structures near livestock feed or food-producing animals because they can transfer potentially harmful levels of chemicals into animal products, such as meat, milk and eggs.

As part of the CFIA's residue monitoring program, dioxin levels higher than background were detected in raw milk from two British Columbia dairy operations. The dioxin was found at levels that are not considered an immediate health risk by Health Canada. The levels found did, however, trigger follow-up action to identify and eliminate the source of contamination, in line with Canada's approach to managing dioxin in the food supply. Dioxins are released into the environment through natural and industrial processes and are commonly found in low levels throughout the food chain around the world.

The CFIA and the Province of British Columbia are collaborating on this issue. The CFIA is also working with other provinces and territories to ensure this advice reaches all livestock producers. The investigation indicated that chemically-treated wood used in some silage bunkers (animal feed containers) may, in large part, be the source of the dioxin detected. Exposure to wood treated with chemicals,

such as pentachlorophenol (PCP), has been shown to result in higher than background levels of dioxins in livestock feed, which can then transfer into animal products. Further follow-up after precautionary measures were implemented indicated lowered levels of dioxin.

Producers should ensure that livestock feed is not stored where it can come into direct contact with chemically-treated wood structures. Animals should also not be allowed to come into contact with chemically-treated wood, including sawdust or shavings that could be used for bedding. At a minimum, bunker silos containing this wood should be lined with a plastic tarp and untreated lumber. Gloves should be worn when handling any treated wood and scraps must be disposed of in accordance with provincial/territorial and municipal regulations. For more information on dioxins, visit the Health Canada Web site at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/envIRON/dioxin_e.html or the CFIA Web site at www.inspection.gc.ca.

Pesticide Certification Course

ProAgri Consulting Ltd. will be offering a Certification Course on April 25 and 26 at the Agricultural Centre from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.. The cost for the Certification Course is \$185 (tax and manual included). To register for this course, please contact Sarah or Traci at (902) 798-2114.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds will be held on the following dates this spring: April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 11 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture Cattle Sale

Cattle Sale at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds will be held on May 26, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a machinery auction. Contact Peter Morine, Dave Moore, Tom, Wayne Slauenwhite or Wayne Silver for booking.

Equipment for Rent

The Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture has a lime spreader for rent. Contact Wayne Silver for info. There is also a no-till seeder available for rent. Contact Wayne Slauenwhite for more info.

Tractor Safety Training

The Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture are sponsoring a Tractor Safety Training Course this spring. Details are not finalized. If interested, contact Ella at (902) 678-4043.

Kings Co. Farm & Rural Women's Day

The Kings Co. Farm and Rural Women's Day is being held on Thursday, April 26 at the Aylesford Fire Hall. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$20 (includes turkey lunch). For further info contact Ann Palmeter at (902) 542-3204.

Hants Co. Rural Women's Day

Hants County Rural Women's Day will be held on Saturday, April 21 at the Vaughan's Fire Hall. Cost for this "Spring Tune-Up" theme is \$15. Speakers include foot and skin care, "What Not to Wear", women's fitness. In the afternoon there will be a tour of Baldwin's Nursery in Falmouth. Contact Catherine Manning, (902) 798-4541 or Wanda Hamilton, (902) 369-2282 for more info.

Farm Investment Fund Roadshow

The Programs and Business Risk Management Section of the Dept. of Agriculture will be hosting a Farm Investment Fund (FIF) roadshow in our area. It will be held on April 23 at the Wandlyn Inn in Bridgewater. On April 25, the session will be in the Kentville area at the Agricultural Centre. Both meetings start at 7 p.m.

4-H Junior Member Judging & Team Building Workshop

Junior 4-H members in Kings and Hants are invited to a Junior Member Workshop that will be held on April 17 at the O'Brien Building in Windsor starting at 4:30 p.m. The evening will be filled with hands on activities and lots of opportunity to meet other members. We will be using decision making, communications, co-operation, leadership and judging skills. The workshop is open to 9-13 year olds, as of January 1, 2007. Supper will be provided. For more info please contact the 4-H office at (902) 679-6027.

Valley Region 4-H Activities & Announcements

April 21: Regional Rally 1 p.m., Port Williams Community Center
April 22: Hants County Woodsman Competition, Noel Fire Hall
April 22: Kings County Woodsman Competition, 2 p.m., Harmony Hall
April 23: 4-H Weekend Residence Applications Due
April 25: 2007 Provincial Show Hosting Committee Meeting, West Hants Middle School
May 1: Camp Rankin Applications Due
May 4-5: 4-H Weekend, Truro
May 7: Kings Co. Council Mtg. (7:30 p.m.), Judges Meeting (6:30 p.m.),
Joint Achievement Day Mtg. (6:45 p.m.) Kentville Agricultural Centre
May 14: Hants County Council Meeting 7 p.m. West Hants Middle School
May 18-20: Fluff-n-Buff, Lawrencetown
May 23: 4-H Judging Day, Hants Co. Exhibition Grounds, Windsor
May 29: 4-H Judging Day, Kings Co. Sweets Horse Center, Billtown

2007 Hants Royalty Night Results

Congratulations to all 4-H members who participated in the 2007 Hants County Royalty Night.

Miss: Bailey Corkum-Avon

Master: Jacob Greenough- Newport

Hostess: Jennie Pick- Rawdon 2-Way

Host: Michael Withrow- Rawdon 2-Way

The new 2007 Host and Hostess will be representing Hants County at the Regional 4-H Rally.

4-H Weekend

This year 4-H weekend will be held May 4 and 5 at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. Woodsman competition, Horse Classic, demonstrations and public speaking are a few of the events taking place. To apply to stay in residence you can find an application online or contact the 4-H office. Members can stay in residence for \$30. Valley region applications are due April 23 at the Kentville 4-H office.

Community Pastures

Community Pastures will be starting up for this pasture season. Most pastures can always use additional cattle numbers to help keep the pastures viable operations. As the summer continues, you may find you need extra feed or pasture, so consider placing cattle on a community pasture. The following are community pasture contacts for Cape Breton.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cape Mabou		(902) 563-2000
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mira	John MacPhee	(902) 727-2542
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maplebrook	John P. MacDonald	(902) 756-2671
<input type="checkbox"/>	Little Harbor (L'Ardoise)	Arthur Sampson	(902) 587-2276
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheticamp Island	Eli Joe Chaisson	(902) 224-2417

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. In addition to the many spring jobs that have to be done, 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.

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the Agriculture Office.

Food Handler's Certification Program

The purpose of the course is for you to understand the fundamentals of sanitation and safety with regard to the service of food to the public. Included in this workshop are the laws, rules, and procedures related to healthy food service and operations

Contaminated food, eaten by your customers, could cause serious illness or even death. This could be financially disastrous to your operation.

What Can You Do to Protect Your Reputation?

The Foodhandler's Certification Program course provides the theory and practical information needed to ensure your food is prepared, handled, received, stored and served safely, using the HACCP Safe Food System.

Protect your customers from food-borne illness. Register now!

These courses are put on periodically throughout the year by the Food Safety Section of the Department of Agriculture. To place your name on the registration list please call (902) 563-2000.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Garry Vanden Heuvel and all his family at Pine River Farms in Mabou for winning the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists Outstanding Farmer of the Year Award. Garry and his family are richly deserving of this honour for their numerous accomplishments and contributions to the agriculture industry and to the community. The awards were presented April 12, 2007 in Truro at the Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Banquet of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists.

2007 CAPE BRETON COMMUNITY FAIRS

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.

FAIR	DATE	CONTACT	PHONE
MIRA FERRY	SEPT. 15	GLADYS LEVER CHERYL MACINTYRE	(902) 562-6310 (902) 562-2089
CHRISTMAS ISLAND	Sept. 15	KEVIN MACKENZIE	(902) 622-2667
PORT MORIEN	SEPT. 15	MARGIE MACQUEEN	(902) 737-2478
MARION BRIDGE	Cancelled 2007		
BADDECK	Sept. 8	ANGUS NICHOLSON	(902) 295-3139

Community fairs are excellent opportunities for rural communities to get together for a fun and entertaining day and to show off some of their talent. Anyone can enter articles from homemaking, garden, woodworking to livestock (check with fair for specifics). If you have never been to a fair, why not plan to attend this year.

Reminder

The Programs and Business Risk Management section of the Department of Agriculture will be hosting an information session on the Farm Investment Fund for the upcoming 2007-08 season. The presentation will take place on April 19, 2007 at the Knox Church Hall in Baddeck from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All producers are invited to attend and find out what is new for the upcoming program season.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture offices in Sydney and Mabou still have a supply of sharps containers available at no cost for producers. Remember, sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage, sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with

tightly secured lids. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours or for more info contact (902) 563-2000.

Sprayer Calibration

The Environmental Farm Plan team will be putting on a workshop for all those interested in calibrating their spray equipment in preparation for the upcoming farming season. Anyone who uses a sprayer should have it properly calibrated at least once per season in the spring prior to its first use. Rick Hoeg will be in the Mabou area to provide this information and a refresher course on sprayer calibration on April 26, 2007 from 10 - 12.

Anyone who is interested in attending must pre-register so that we have accurate numbers to proceed. There is no charge for this session. Rick Hoeg can take appointments to work with

producers individually to calibrate all of their equipment.

To register or for more information please contact the Sydney Agriculture office at (902) 563-2000

4H News

Welcome back to another busy 4-H year. Workshops, project meetings and many other activities are under way in our region. A special welcome is extended to our 4-H clubs and in particular our new clubs in 2007. These include the following:
-Chapel Island 4-H Club
-Margaree Riverside 4-H Club
-Judique 4-H Club

Leaders, members and 4-H families are encouraged to contact the 4-H office in the upcoming months for any resource materials or program considerations.

Finishing Touches-Senior Members and Leaders Workshop

Looking to learn more about completing and displaying 4-H projects in the most appealing manner possible? Wonder exactly what the judges are looking for and considering in making their placing? Wanting to learn more about exhibiting projects, and about making displays and posters? Then plan to attend a “Finishing Touches” session on April 28 at the Evergreen Club, Port Hawksbury from 10 - 3:30 p.m. Additional topics include recreation ideas, building stronger clubs, dealing with personalities and individuals in a volunteer setting and project breakaway sessions for sewing, foods, woodworking, Scrapbooking, and garden/floriculture.

Contact your local 4-H office for application information.



4-H Website - Great Place to Visit

4-H leaders, members and families are encouraged to visit the 4-H websites for all sorts of great information. Our provincial website has loads of information on general questions on starting a 4-H club, 4-H around the province, leader and member resources including project newsletters, provincial workshops and much, much, more! You can find the Provincial 4-H website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/. Our national website through Canadian 4-H council offers various resources materials, national scholarship, program grants and funding and links to all that is 4-H on a national level. This site has something for everyone especially our senior members. You can visit the site at www.4-h-canada.ca/.

* Please note that the our website address will be changing in May. You will be able to find our 4-H resources at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/4h_

Rally Time

Public speaking is one of the most important skills 4-H members can learn. It will serve them well in school, university, interviews, community volunteer organizations and their careers. Throughout March and April, 4-H members across the island will be improving their speaking skills at club, county and regional rallies.

Every year 4-H members get an opportunity to work on their public speaking skills. At these events, members will do public speaking, demonstrations, poster competitions and Host and Hostess Competitions. 4-H members are divided into categories based on age. Score sheets and guidelines for participating members are available in the general leader kit or on the NS 4-H website. This component of the 4-H program promotes life long communication skills and builds confidence. 4-H members compete at club, county, regional and provincial levels. All events are open to the general public and 4-H families are encouraged to promote these events.

Inverness County Rally	hosted by Port Hood Club, St. Peter's Church Hall	April 14 at 9 a.m.
Richmond County Rally	check with your General Leader	April 14
Cape Breton County Rally	hosted by Arm of Gold, North Sydney Exhibition Grounds	April 14 10 a.m.
Cape Breton Regional Rally	Baddeck Academy (hosted by Victoria Co.)	April 21 10 a.m.

Cape Breton Regional Judging Days 2007

Judging days are fast approaching and are a major part of Achievement Day competition. Each member in Cape Breton County must complete the judging component of their project areas. Leaders are encouraged to practice judging with project members to build confidence. Practice judging boxes are available upon request to your 4-H office.

Cape Breton Co. Judging Day	Tuesday, May 22 3 - 7 p.m.	North Sydney Exhibition All projects to be judged except horse project
Cape Breton Co. Horse Judging	Wednesday, May 23 5:30 p.m .	at Mountain Crest Stable
Victoria Co. Judging Day	Tuesday, June 5 4:30- 6 p.m .	Baddeck Forks Hall
Richmond Co. Judging Day	May 31 3:30-5:30 p.m .	Lakeside Community Hall-Sampsonville
Inverness Co. Judging Day	May 17 3 - 6 p.m..	Dalbrae Academy
Inverness Co. Livestock Judging Day	May 17 3 - 6 p.m.	Cox's Mabou Cape Breton

Make up Judging Dates (by appointment only)

Cape Breton Co.	June 6 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	4-H office Sydney
Victoria Co.	June 12 3:30-5:30 p.m.	Baddeck Forks Hall
Inverness Co.	May 30 2:30-4:30 p.m.	Mabou 4-H office
Richmond Co.	June 7 5 - 5:30 p.m.	Camp Rankin

- There is no judging for Heritage, Vet Science, and Junior Leader.
- Exploring 4-H members can judge any project and must note that they are exploring 4-H on their judging card.
- Livestock class, with the exception of horse, will be a quiz.

DATES TO MARK ON THE CALENDAR

Finishing Touches-Leader/Senior Member Workshop	April 28 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Port Hawksbury
Cape Breton Co. Council Mtg	first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.	Civic Center
Poster deadline -	April 23 Judged on April 24	Truro
Junior Member Workshop-Richmond Co.	April 27 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	West Bay Hall
Summer Assistant -tentative chick delivery for poultry members	April 24	
4-H Camp Rankin deadline applications	May 1	
4-H Weekend	May 4-5	Agricultural College- Bible Hill application due April 24
Craft Co-op Workshop	May 12 9:30 p.m.	WWI building Point Edward
Scotiabank Dairy Pre-registration forms	due May 15 (attached to dairy newsletter)	
Richmond Co. 4-H Show	June 7 - drop projects off June 8 - 4-H Staff Judge June 9 - County Competitions/Awards	
E.B.I event	June 27-29	
Holstein Picnic	July 28	Inverness at Dianne and William Cox's
Richmond Co. Livestock Show	August 7	
Cape Breton 4-H Day	August 13	
Inverness Co. Show	August 23-25	

Feel free to contact your local 4-H offices if you have any concerns or questions. Your 4-H Specialists can be reached through the Mabou office at (902) 945-2901 (Rhonda) or the Sydney office (902) 563-2000 (Marina)

Preparing for Safety

Spring activities will soon start on the farm. Are you ready? Is your new employee ready? Do you have an up to date First aid course, Remote Access Plan, and Environmental.

First aid courses expire after three years. There should be at least one member on the farm with these qualifications, plus first aid kits available. A visible map of the farm, showing field locations is helpful if you ever have to call 911. You are lying in field 14, it would be helpful if someone could find it. Bringing your staff up to speed about safety at the beginning (ie ear protection, eye protection, are they capable of operating a power saw, tractor, basic WHIMIS training, etc.) is important.

Environmental Awareness

Often new employees are keen to spread manure and perform other spring activities. Make sure they are aware of the set backs from brooks, wells, etc. before they start spreading on a particular field. Transporting equipment on the road takes extra caution as well, as does increased time to stop large manure tankers. Transporting wide loads or unstable loads such as too many round bales on a wagon, can be dangerous. Let's have a safe farm season and make it the first thing on the list this spring.

Buying Local

There is a tremendous variety of local products available in our area. Recently lots of discussion has focused on increasing the marketing and demand for local produce. Programs have been announced to encourage these opportunities. Producers should consider how they may take advantage of marketing products locally and what infrastructure is needed to create this.

Is there interest in branding a local beef, fresh produce, selling to St. Francis Xavier University, Farmers Market, growing - organic food, etc. Ideas and leadership are certainly needed to transition the agricultural sector. Who is up for the challenge?

Farm Investment Fund

There will be a Farm Investment Fund information session at the Keating Millennium Center in Antigonish on April 26, 2006 at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact the Department of Agriculture in Antigonish at (902) 863-4705.

Upcoming 4-H Dates

Antigonish County

Council Meeting	April 10	7 p.m.
Ant/Guys/Pictou Regional Rally	April 24 (storm date April 28)	5 p.m.
Exhibition Committee Meeting	April 17	7 p.m.
NS 4-H Weekend Truro	May 4 and 5	
Council Meeting	May 8	7 p.m.
Ant/Guys Judging Day	May 15	2:30-4:30 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.
C.A.C.L. Collection Evening	May 22	Or during week of May 21

Upcoming 4-H Dates

Pictou County

Woodsman Competition Day	April 14	10 a.m.
Regional Rally Antigonish	April 24	6 p.m.
Executive Council Meeting	April 25	7 p.m. location TBA
4-H Weekend	May 4-5	Truro
Council Meeting	May 23	7 p.m. 4-H office
Saltsprings Achievement Day	May 25	