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Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



August 2005

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Volume 6 No. 3

Nappan Research Station to Continue Work

The agricultural community will continue to benefit from research at the Nappan Agricultural Research Centre in Cumberland County.

“I am extremely pleased that the federal government acknowledges the important research work being done at the Nappan centre and will continue the centre's operation until a review is complete,” said Chris d'Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Andy Mitchell, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,

announced on June 23, that the Nappan centre will remain open while a national science review into the country's current investment in science is being carried out.

The review will take into account regional initiatives by government partners, universities and industry to ensure researchers and the research facilities are working together to achieve a common goal.

This review will include consultation with communities, stakeholders,

industry representatives, provincial and territorial governments, universities and research institutes. It will take place over the next several months and will identify key priorities and strategies that will maximize investments.

The Nappan centre has a long history of supporting the Nova Scotia beef sector. Founded around 1896, the Nappan centre is one of the first agricultural research stations to be established by the federal government. Its geographical

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Farmers' Markets Good for Nova Scotia's Economy

Farmers' markets are good for Nova Scotia's economy, suggests a survey of customers and sellers.

The survey, conducted at 11 farmers' markets, shows that between 10,000 and 15,000 customers are served weekly in the summer and between 4,000 and 6,000 per week in winter. Our province's markets have annual sales of more than \$15.6 million, with the Halifax Farmers' Market generating about 75 per cent of this total.

The study was conducted for the Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia Cooperative Limited and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Saint Francis Xavier Enterprise University Development Centre. It measured the impact farmers' markets have on the economy, including the number of customers served, businesses involved in the industry, and jobs created, as well as the value of sales.

The Farmers' Markets of Nova Scotia Cooperative Limited, founded in 2004, is a co-operative of 10

community markets in Hubbards, Wolfville, Lunenburg, Halifax, Dartmouth, Truro, Tatamagouche, Antigonish, Amherst, and Sydney. The group helps local producers, communities and government build networks in local communities and find distinctive ways to market their products.

The study is available on the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/marketing/research/abstract.shtml

position, located on the border of three Maritime provinces and with land holdings of upland and marshland typical of the region, make it an ideal centre for Maritime research and technical exchange.

During the national review, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be putting a moratorium on all recently announced science location closures, including Nappan, St. John's, NL; Kapuskasing, ON; and Winnipeg, MB.

Agricultural Services Staff Updates

Farm Loan Board: Pam Fraser has been appointed to the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board as Loan Officer for Kentville. Pam is a graduate of the technical program at the NSAC and is in the final stages of completing her B.B.A. at Acadia University. Pam brings strong technical, analytical and sound client service skills to the position. Pam will continue to provide lending and financial services for the Board in its continued effort to advance, encourage, and support the development of rural business in Nova Scotia. Pam resides in Berwick with her family and has worked with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for the past 17 years in farm management and extension.

Pesticide Risk Reduction Program

During the next few months, several growers in Nova Scotia will be asked to participate in discussions on pest management as part of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program.

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program is a joint initiative of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). The program is designed to support the development, availability, and adoption of sustainable pest management tools and practices for agriculture. Specifically, this program will:

- help address growers' needs for sustainable pest management,
- develop and implement strategies to reduce environmental and health risks,
- support research to improve pest management tools,
- facilitate the registration of reduced-risk pesticides, and
- develop comprehensive information on best Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

The program focuses on pest management needs chosen by growers. A crop profile, identifies the pest management practices, issues, and needs for the crop. This is produced in consultation with growers. A document summarizes issues and needs. Stakeholders are then consulted to see which needs should be addressed and how. Solutions may include applied research, registration of reduced-risk products, and promotion of IPM tools and practices. A steering committee of stakeholders will set an action plan to implement the solutions.

Involvement of growers and other stakeholders is essential to ensure the success of the risk-reduction strategy. This is a grower-led program in which PMRA and AAFC collaborate and consult with stakeholders.

For more information about the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program, visit the AAFC website www.agr.gc.ca/prrmup and/or PMRA website www.pmra-arla.gc.ca, or call AAFC 1-800-622-6232 and/or PMRA 1-800-267-6315.

NB Beef Expo "Bringing the Beef Industry Together"

On September 24 and 25, at the Princess Louise Park Show Centre, Sussex, NB there will be a purebred beef show, auction sale of saler cattle, junior beef show, supreme beef championship, educational seminars on beef production, agri-business/ commercial exhibits, and an antique tractor display

A completed entry form must be in the Secretary's office no later than **August 26, 2005.**

Don't miss being part of this fun filled and informative weekend.

For information call Darren Moffitt at (506) 366-2195 or Duncan Fraser at (506) 856-2277

Update on Vehicle Licence's for Farmers and Farm Employees From the Nova Scotia Farm Health and Safety Committee

Currently, regulations made pursuant to the *Motor Vehicle Act* permits the holder of a Class 5 driver's licence to operate a single vehicle not in excess of 14,000 kg, or a combination of vehicles not exceeding 14,000 kg where the trailer towed does not exceed 4,500 kg.

In farm work, there are a number of tractor and trailer combinations where the towed trailer exceeds 4,500 kg. A Transportation Committee, comprised of NSFA, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Service Nova Scotia and Municipal

Relations, and the Department of Transportation and Public Works, has discussed solutions to this concern. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles does permit trailers over 4,500 kg to operate, provided the operator obtains a special condition (a condition 15 endorsement) on their driver's licence.

Normally, a road test is required in conjunction with obtaining the special condition. However, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles has informed us that a process will be put in place within the next month to waive the road test. The applicant

must be a bonafide farmer or an employee of a registered farm and been operating such combinations of vehicles for two or more years. All others will be required to pass a road test in order to have the condition added to their licence.

In order to have this special condition added to your class 3 or 5 licence, a special form must be completed and can be mailed directly to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Farmers or their employees will not have to visit a Motor Vehicle office in person to have this endorsement added to their licence.

Please take note that this special provision by the Registry of Motor Vehicles is for a limited time only. The opportunity will end on November 30, 2005.

For more information and to obtain a form, contact the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture or your local Agricultural Resource Coordinator.

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Production Insurance

Application Deadlines:

- Winter Grain – September 1, 2005
- Forage Establishment – October 15, 2005
- Raspberries – November 1, 2005
- Strawberries – November 15, 2005

If you were unable to plant spring grain this year due to the wet conditions, perhaps you are thinking about planting winter grain.

The application deadline is fast approaching – September 1, 2005!

The deadline for planting in Annapolis, Kings and Hants West counties is September 30 and September 20 for all other areas.

The deadline to apply for Forage Establishment is October 31, 2005. Fields of legumes and legume-grass mixes seeded by July 1, as well as grass seeded by September 1 are eligible for coverage.

For further information on these or any of our other insurance plans, please call Kentville (902) 679-6028/6015 or Truro 1-800-565-6371.

Canada


NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture and Fisheries

Canadian Nutrition Labelling Workshops

The NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fish Packers Association of Nova Scotia and Taste of Nova Scotia Quality Food are delivering workshops on Canadian nutrition labelling.

On December 12, 2002, an amendment to the Food and Drugs Regulations (Nutrition Labelling, Nutrient Content Claims and Health Claims) came into effect. The Canadian food industry has been given a transition period to comply with these regulations depending on previous year's sales (period from December 12, 2001 to December 12, 2002). If businesses had less than \$ 1 million in sales during this time frame, they have until December 12, 2007 to comply with the new nutrition labelling regulations. Otherwise, compliance with the new nutrition regulations is by December 12, 2005.

This basic introductory workshop to Canadian nutrition labelling is intended for food producers and importers that sell products within Canada. Topics to be covered include: transition period for compliance; exemptions to nutrition facts labelling; components of a nutrition facts table (core information and nutrients); nutrient claims; diet related health claims; biological role claims; available display surface and how to select an appropriate nutrition facts table using the hierarchy of tables.

Workshops run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A light lunch will be provided. Seating is limited to 25 participants and the registration fee \$35. Workshops are scheduled for:

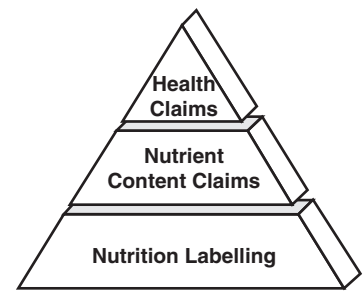
September 7, 2005, Digby (location to be determined)

September 21, 2005, Kentville,
Cornwallis Room, Kentville
Research Station

October 5, 2005, Sydney, Coast
Guard College, 1190 Westmount
Rd.

October 19, 2005, Yarmouth
(location to be determined)

November 2, 2005, Bridgewater,
CFIA Boardroom, 280 Logan Road
(Workshops have already been held
in Halifax and Truro)



For registration information, contact
Taste of Nova Scotia Quality Food at
(902) 492-9286

Programs and Business Risk Management Division

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program Highlights

Changes to the Program

A recent amendment was signed that allows producers to withdraw any funds currently in their CAIS accounts. You can now withdraw some or all of your money on deposit as the deadline has been extended until March 2006 (for 2003, 2004, and 2005 program years). The **only** way to request a withdrawal from your CAIS account is to contact the CAIS administration at 1-866-367-8506.

2005 Interim Available

Do you need quicker access to CAIS benefits for 2005? If you have experienced a projected program year margin decline of greater than 15 per cent, you may be eligible for an advance on your 2005 final CAIS payment. To be eligible you must have completed six months of farming and completed a production cycle. Under some circumstances, these conditions may be waived. The service standard for an Interim is 30 days, so it allows quick access to funds.

CAIS Interim Payments versus Overpayments

Do you want funds quickly but refuse to use the CAIS Interim because you

are worried about receiving an overpayment? Below are some tips to avoid overpayments, while still accessing the benefits of receiving money faster through the Interim. Interim payments represent 50 per cent of the governments' share of your **estimated** CAIS final payment.

- 1) Consult the *Guide to the 2005 CAIS Interim Application*, especially when answering questions about structural change and combining of applications. Disregarding these items on the Interim application can lead to a very different final payment calculation.
- 2) Provide the most accurate estimate possible for your production. Read the guide carefully to ensure you understand the methods for reporting production.
- 3) Payments from other programs may also be considered income. When you are completing the application, report all program payments such as production (crop) insurance payments related to your 2005 program year on the

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form under Other Program Payments. For a complete list of payments refer to the guide.

Upcoming CAIS Deadlines
Supplementary Forms Due:
September 30, 2005

Learn how to conquer your CAIS Supplementary Form

Come to a CAIS workshop — and bring your 2004 forms.

Filling out the CAIS Supplementary Form may *seem* like a daunting task to most producers. The form may be confusing, but in reality it is *not* difficult once you get a grasp of what is required. The process is repetitive and if you can get through it once, you should be able to complete this form year after year with more ease. The way the inventory schedule is filled out varies slightly by your commodity. The key is knowing the reporting information for the “unconventional” commodities. We will walk you through the steps of filling out the inventory schedules for various commodities and answer questions. This will equip you to fill out your own forms and reduce costs of your participation in the CAIS program.

CAIS WORKSHOP: Focusing on the Supplementary Form and Program update

All workshops will be held at 7 p.m.

Locations for CAIS Workshop:

September 6, 2005	Shelburne, Shelburne Fire Hall
September 7, 2005	Baddeck, Inverary Inn
September 8, 2005	Truro, NSAC, Cox Institute, Room 164
September 12, 2005	Antigonish, Green Way Claymore Inn
September 13, 2005	Wolfville, Old Orchard Inn
September 14, 2005	Lawrencetown, Demonstration Building, Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds

For more information contact Christine Moore, Promotion and Education Coordinator at the Programs and Business Risk Management office (NSDAF) at (902) 893-6374 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.

Farm Investment Fund

This program opened to producers on May 25, 2005. As of July 28, 2005 the Programs office has received 445 program applications. Producers have shown a high interest in the new *Canada/Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Stewardship Program – Category G*. If you have any questions about this new program category, please contact the Programs office or visit our website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm/> for complete program information.

Agri-Food Industry Development Fund

This program opened on June 2, 2005. Program changes that applicants will need to keep in mind are maximum government funding from all sources can not be more than 75 per cent of project costs, and only ONE completed application per eligible applicant will be considered for processing.

Technology Development 2000 Program

This program opened on July 12, 2005. The two scheduled calls for *Letters of Intent* are August 15, 2005 and January 16, 2006. There is a new application process implemented for Research Chair Projects. Refer to our website for complete details and note that Research Chair submissions follow the *Letter of Intent* deadlines.

Contact Information:

Programs and Business Risk Management office: (902) 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276.
www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/prm/

New Low Risk Fungicide Against Powdery Mildew in Greenhouse Crops – MILSTOP

BioWorks Inc.’s active ingredient potassium bicarbonate and its associated end-use product MilStop Foliar Fungicide is now eligible for temporary registration in Canada for use against powdery mildew on greenhouse vegetable crops (tomato, sweet pepper, cucumber, and pumpkin), and on greenhouse ornamentals (flowering dogwood, bee balm, African daisy, hydrangea, phlox, and poinsettia).

MilStop serves both as a protectant and mild curative fungicide. No evidence of development of resistance to Milstop has been recorded and based on the mode of action, the development of resistance to potassium bicarbonate is unlikely in powdery mildew populations. Milstop will provide a much needed new reduced risk tool to greenhouse growers who have been facing severe economic losses from powdery mildew.

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New Miticide for Canadian Tree Fruit Industry – ENVIDOR

In May 2005, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) issued temporary registrations for the miticide spirodiclofen and the associated end-use product, Envidor 240 SC Miticide for the control of mites on pome fruit group (Crop group 11) apple, crabapple, pear, oriental pear, and quince; stone fruit including apricot, cherry (sweet and tart), nectarine and peach; and grapes.

These products were reviewed under the North American Free Trade Agreement's Technical Working Group on Pesticides Joint Review Program, resulting in the same pesticides being registered in both countries at the same time with the same MRLs. These products are potential replacement products for pesticides currently under re-evaluation and, because they represent a new mode of action, will be important in resistance management in these crops.

New Product for the Canadian Apple Industry – APOGEE

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has issued temporary registration for BASF's reduced risk products, prohexadione calcium and the associated end-use product, Apogee Plant Growth Regulator, for the control of vegetative growth in apple trees.

Apogee was determined to be a reduced risk compound by the US EPA in part due to its toxicological and ecotoxicological profile. In addition, it has been found that pruning times are reduced significantly after Apogee applications. Summer pruning in particular occurs during the time of year when fungicide and insecticide applications are made. Reduced pruning times may contribute to risk reduction. In addition, Apogee will contribute to risk reduction by reducing the quantity of other fungicide agents required for disease control, such as copper or streptomycin, reducing the possibility for resistance to those products. Since Apogee has an indirect fungicide effect as a result of physiological changes within the plant itself, there is little risk of resistance developing.

Apogee has been shown to improve the plants normal defenses toward fire blight, and has been identified as a component of the risk reduction strategy under development for the long term management of fire blight in apple production.

Atlantic Bioresources TechnoVenture Centre Established

Leading edge technology and advanced research promise to bring new focus to the agriculture and fisheries sector through the new Atlantic Bioresources TechnoVenture Centre.

The centre will develop value-added and non-traditional food and bioscience products and will be led by CEO Richard Ablett, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Chris d'Entremont announced on July 13.

"The TechnoVenture Centre provides an opportunity to pursue a series of new bioresource developments," said Dr. Ablett. "Our intent is to gain a foothold in world markets for new, natural products that meet modern consumer needs. The Atlantic region has many under-utilized agriculture and fisheries' resources that can be directed towards this market."

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Nova Scotia Agriculture College (NSAC), the Office of Economic Development and InNOVAcorp have partnered to stimulate new and innovative economic growth areas. The centre will receive \$250,000 per year for three years to help enhance the health and well-being of humans and animals through the development of new products.

Located at the AgriTech Park in Bible Hill, the Atlantic Bioresource TechnoVenture Centre will be part of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College campus.

Dr. Ablett was most recently director of bioscience development with TechPEI Incorporated in Prince Edward Island.



Eastern Region to Host 4-H Show in Truro

Eastern Region 4-H families and volunteers are working hard to make sure that this year's Nova Scotia 4-H Show from, September 30 to October 2 will be a resounding success. The three-day event will be held at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro.

The 4-H Councils in Antigonish, Guysborough, and Pictou Counties will host the show. 4-H began in Heatherston, Antigonish County in 1922 and since then 4-H in Nova Scotia has grown to 2400 young people and 1000 adult leaders in Nova Scotia. The 4-H program develops a variety of life skills in youth through technical training, soft skills training, leadership development and communications.

The 4-H Show is filled with something to peak everyone's interest. There are over 40 projects to view and 4-H members will show their livestock and participate in a variety of competitions.

The public is welcome to attend and admission is free.

4-H Members Invited to Speak About Agriculture

4-H members have the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for the agriculture industry at the provincial 4-H *Nova Scotia Young Speakers for Agriculture*. This competition will be held on Friday September 30, 2005 at 7 p.m. during the Nova Scotia 4-H Provincial Show at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro. All senior 4-H members and 4-H alumni are encouraged to participate.

The competitors have five agriculture-related topics from which to choose to speak about:

- The Changing Role of Exhibitions in Canadian Agriculture
- More than Just Food — Farming is the Fabric of the Rural Community
- Vast Diversity, Immense Opportunity, Exploring the Canadian Agricultural Landscape
- Do the Demands of a Quality Based Food Market Limit or Empower Farmers?

- The ABC's of Agriculture: A Kindergarten Approach to Where Food Comes From and Why it Matters.

During the year 4-H members are encouraged to do public speaking and demonstrations. Each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions.

The provincial 4-H Council will sponsor the Nova Scotia winner's participation in the *Canadian Young Speakers of Agriculture* competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto on November 5, 2005. Participants must be present or former 4-H members between 16–24 years of age as of the competition date to enter the provincial or national competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. For more information please contact the nearest 4-H office.

Nova Scotia 4-H Members Win Scholarships

Two 4-H members in Nova Scotia have a bit more money to put towards their education as scholarship recipients in the Ivomec and Farm Credit Canada (FCC) 4-H national scholarship program.

Allan Melvin, an 18 year old member with the Cornwallis Project 4-H Club in Kings County, is the Nova Scotia recipient of the 2005 IVOMECEC scholarship. IVOMECEC scholarship selections are made based on the applicant's community and volunteer involvement, as well as a presentation they make on the subject of the national cattle identification program implemented through the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency.

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4-H Scholarships continued...

More than 100 4-H members competed in the 2005 annual IVOMECE 4-H Scholarship contest, with 34 of the nation's brightest youth earning a \$1,000 scholarship each.

Crystal Siddall, a 17 year old 4-H member with the 3-Way 4-H Club in Cumberland County is one of ten winners from across Canada that were chosen as part of Farm Credit Canada (FCC) national \$15,000 4-H scholarship program. Each winner will receive a \$1500 educational scholarship to pursue post-secondary education. The FCC 4-H scholarship program encourages students to submit plans to address farm safety, community improvement or a hunger issue in their communities. Crystal will educate her community on the dangers of farming.

Entries for the FCC scholarship were judged on their benefit to the community, creativity, budget and plan completeness.

For more information on scholarship opportunities please contact the 4-H office or access the web site www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/4h/glkit/



More than you ever imagined!

Irrigation in Action

Join us for an irrigation seminar/tour on September 12, 2005 at Millville Hall, Millville, Cape Breton.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Water Supply Expansion Program irrigation project, organized by the Boularderie Island Water Club, will be featured and include technical presentations and field demonstrations.

8:45 a.m.	Coffee
9 a.m.	Presentations
12 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Field tour

Please contact Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regional office at (902) 563-2000 if you would like to attend.

"TECH DV" Funded Research at NSAC

Leslie MacLaren, VP Academic, NSAC

The NSAC has two key missions: education and the creation of new knowledge through research for the benefit of agriculture, the environment and their related industries.

Research activities at the NSAC have expanded tremendously in the past few years. Our research programs are much more applied than is typical for educational institutions, reflecting our long history of working within the NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with extension agents and primary producers.

Although responsibility of the agricultural sector for producing a safe and abundant food supply for the public has not changed since the NSAC was established, our knowledge base in the sciences of agriculture and the environment, the public's concerns with the safety and sustainability of our food supply, our awareness of the socioeconomic needs of the rural communities and our structures for delivering agricultural research have all changed tremendously.

Research at NSAC has evolved with these changes. Today many of the 40 or so research projects funded through the Nova Scotia Technology Development Program, supported by funding from both the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, involve a combination of modern high tech, innovative science as well as the tried and true testing principles established for the agricultural sector.

The "Tech DV" program is essential for linking the basic science to the applied, and is structured to ensure collaboration with industry and to maximize the impact of research activities on the agri-food sector. It also trains young people in the applied agricultural sciences; approximately one-third of all NSAC graduate students receive financial support through this program. It is critical for the future of our agri-food industry that young people be engaged and recruited, and that they are highly skilled in solving existing and emerging problems in the field. At NSAC, we expect that research and development, spanning the basic to the applied, will continue to be an essential role for us in support of a prosperous and sustainable rural Nova Scotia community.

Organic Agriculture Courses at NSAC

Organic agriculture is expanding rapidly in Canada, with domestic and export markets growing by about 20 per cent yearly. To meet the demand for high-level, scientific training in this sector, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC) and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College have developed five web-based courses. These courses provide valuable support for those making the transition to organic production. Learners from varying backgrounds and perspectives benefit from on-line discussions, current research and hands-on activities that allow them to practice vital skills.

The web-based organic courses being offered this fall include Transition to Organic Agriculture and Composting and Compost Use. Registration for all fall courses should be completed as soon as possible.

Organic Field Crop Management and Organic Livestock Production will be offered in the winter semester. Principles of Organic Horticulture will be offered in the fall of 2006.

All organic agriculture courses can be taken on a credit or non-credit basis. If you want to earn a credit towards a university degree or

receive the Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture, you would enrol as a credit student. As a credit student, you must meet the minimum NSAC admission requirements or take the courses with the permission of your "home" academic institution. Students who successfully complete four organic agriculture courses for credit will be eligible for a Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture from NSAC.

If you are not working towards either a degree or the certificate, then you would enrol as a non-credit student. You are not required to meet admission requirements to NSAC or to write the final exam. The Centre for Continuing and Distance Education has some flexibility with regard to the scheduling of the non-credit courses. If you are interested in taking any of the organic agriculture courses for non-credit, contact Claude Innes at (902) 893-6238 or cinnnes@nsac.ns.ca.

For additional information on these or other courses, contact the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education at the NSAC at (902) 893-6666 or email cde@nsac.ns.ca. All course information is available on our website at www.nsac.ns.ca/cde/courses/.

Nova Scotia Open Farm Day September 25, 2005



The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee is hosting the 4th annual *Open Farm Day* on Sunday, September 25, 2005.

Open Farm Day 2004 had more than 8000 consumers visit 46 Nova Scotia farms and more than 22,000 visitors across the Atlantic region. Consumers learned firsthand about the high quality, diverse foods produced locally in Nova Scotia.

For more information contact:
Ruth Grant, P. Ag., Agricultural Awareness Co-ordinator
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
PO Box 550, Truro Nova Scotia B2N 5E3
Phone: (902) 893-6598
Fax: (902) 893-2757
Email: grantra@gov.ns.ca

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Senior Agricultural Resource Coord.:

Arthur Pick – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-7314
Fax: (902) 893-0244
pickaa@gov.ns.ca

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg,

& Queens counties:

Brian MacCulloch –
Tel: (902) 679-6006
Fax: (902) 679-6062
macculbc@gov.ns.ca

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester, & Halifax counties:

Bill MacLeod –
Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: (902) 893-0244
macleojb@gov.ns.ca

Pictou, Antigonish & Guysborough counties:

Kevin Bekkers –
Tel: (902) 863-4705
Fax: (902) 863-7342
bekkerkf@gov.ns.ca

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness & Richmond counties:

Gary Koziel –
Tel: (902) 563-2000
Fax: (902) 563-3435
kozielgj@gov.ns.ca

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –
Tel: (902) 837-5161
Fax: (902) 837-7696
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Local Thomas Brook Farmers Involved in National Research

A four year, \$5.65 million project led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to study the impact of various beneficial land management practices (BMPs) on water quality is now underway at seven small scale watershed sites across Canada. Thomas Brook, Kings Co. is one of the test sites. BMP's are farming activities designed to help minimize potential environmental impacts, such as sediment or nutrient runoff into water bodies.

At each of its seven study sites, the Watershed Evaluation of BMPs project will collect information on existing farming practices, such as measuring nutrient balances and tracking the costs of BMP application. This information will help determine the economic impact of BMPs on farming in each project area, as well as the general benefits and costs to society.

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Livestock sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition grounds will continue in September. Miscellaneous items must be registered by 10:45 a.m.; selling begins at 11 a.m. Livestock selling begins at 1 p.m. sharp. Following are the dates for the remainder of the year: September 10, 24; October 8, 22; November 5, 19; December 3.

Update of Mailing List

We are once again updating our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter and do not wish to receive it any longer or if your address is incorrect, please notify Cheryl either by phone (902) 679-6021, or email: ctheriau@gov.ns.ca.

Local Agricultural Exhibitions and Community Fairs

August 27 –
Dalhousie Community Fair
September 3 –
Western Kings Fair, Tremont
September 16–18; and 23–25 –
Hants County Exhibition, Windsor
September 20–24 –
Queens County Exhibition,
Caledonia

Kings County Federation Annual Dinner and Dance

November 12 is the date for the **Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture Annual Dinner and Dance** at the **Berwick Lions Club, 6:30 p.m.**

For more information or tickets, contact Ella Taylor at (902) 678-4043 or email kcfa@canada.com.

Valley Region 4-H Update

Joint Achievement Days in Hants County and Kings County are over. Thank you to all the clubs, leaders, members and parents that helped to make the summer programs such a success!

The Hants County 4-H Exhibition is fast approaching with the end of summer drawing near. 4-H days are September 16 -19 at the exhibition grounds in Windsor. 4-H exhibition days mark the end of the 4-H year and allow members to display their achievements.

Meagan Sanford was the recipient of an Inter-provincial award this year. From July 7 through 15 she stayed with a host family in Landenberg, Saskatchewan and is hosting the Saskatchewan delegate from August 10 to 19.

Kings County 4-H members will be hosting Vegreville 4-H members as part of the 4-H Exchanges Canada Program. Vegreville 4-H members will be in Nova Scotia between August 9 and 21.

Upcoming Local 4-H Events

September 6: Kings County Joint Achievement Days wrap up meeting and Council meeting, 7 p.m. at the Kentville Agricultural Centre

September 12: Hants County Exhibition and Council meeting, 7 p.m. at Hants West Rural High school in Brooklyn

September 16 to 18: Hants County 4-H Exhibition, Windsor

September 30 to October 2: Nova Scotia 4-H Provincial Show, Truro

Canadian Agri-food Awards of Excellence Call for Nomination

These national awards recognize outstanding achievements in five areas:

- Environmental Stewardship
- Innovation
- Agri-Food Export
- Agricultural Volunteer
- Agricultural Awareness and Education

Nomination forms are available online at www.agr.gc.ca/cb/awards-prix/ or by calling (519) 837-5867. The deadline for nominations is August 26, 2005.



Exhibitions

- August 17–20
Halifax County Exhibition,
Middle Musquodoboit
- August 23–27
Nova Scotia Provincial
Exhibition, Truro
- August 30 – Sept. 3
Cumberland County Exhibition,
Oxford
- September 7–10
Pictou/North Colchester
Exhibition, Pictou
- September 30 – October 2
Nova Scotia 4-H Show, Truro
- October 7–16
Maritime Fall Fair, Halifax

Two U.S. Groups Tour Region

In late July, two groups from the United States visited the region and several farm operations. Twenty producers from North Carolina and about 30 from Utah visited Nova Scotia farms. A special thank you to the host farms for showing these groups some Nova Scotia hospitality. While in the province, the North Carolina group visited the NSAC, toured Charles Hill and Son Ltd. in Onslow, and visited the Wild Blueberry and Maple Centre in Oxford. The Utah group toured Barneybrook Farms Ltd. in Hardwoodlands. Both groups were impressed and appreciative of the opportunity to tour these farms.

Upcoming Events

- September 3, 11 a.m.
Atlantic Sheep Sale at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Truro. For more information, contact Rosemary Wort at (902) 671-2401.
- September 25
Open Farm Day. – “The Amazing World of Agriculture”. For more information, contact Ruth Grant at (902) 893-6598.
- September 8
CAIS Update and Supplementary Form Workshop,
7 – 8:30 p.m., NSAC Cox Institute, Room #164, Truro
- September 25, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Producer Field Day, Bokma Farms, Shubenacadie

Fall Crop Tours

The following crop tours are planned by AgraPoint specialists for the fall and are open to any interested producers:

- September 13
Corn tour at Winding River Farms, Stewiacke 1:30 p.m., A look at conventional corn and corn under plastic, as well as soybeans and more.
- October 4
Pasture tour at the Cape John Community Pasture at 6 p.m.

NEW LOCATION

We've moved! The Cape Breton regional office of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries which includes the Agricultural Resource Coordinator, 4-H and Food Safety, has moved to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality's Civic Centre in Sydney. Our new address is:
320 Esplanade, Suite 303
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 7B9

Contact numbers remain the same: telephone (902) 563-2000 and fax (902) 563-3435.

Soil and water samples for testing may be dropped off at our new offices in the Civic Centre.



St. John Ambulance Canada

FIRST AID TRAINING

St. John Ambulance offers first aid courses in various locations around Cape Breton several times per month. For more information on First Aid Training near you please call the Sydney office at (902) 564-4189.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps



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, family members, increase risk of infection spread, pollute the environment and put waste handlers at risk.

Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage.

Sharps should be collected on farms in rigid, puncture resistant containers with tightly secured lids. Sharps containers specifically designed for this purpose should be used and should have a bio-hazard label to avoid accidental discarding. To reduce personal risk, used needles should not be recapped but placed directly into containers. Thin-walled containers, pop cans and glass bottles are not acceptable.

Farm sharps containers are available and can be picked up at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries offices in Mabou and Sydney.

The purpose of the course is to understand the fundamentals of sanitation and safety with regard to the service of food to the public. This workshop covers 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. Register now!

These courses are put on periodically throughout the year by the Quality Evaluation, Food Safety Section of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. To get your name on the registration list please call Cheryl at (902) 563-2000.

RECYCLING USED PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Allow the formulation to drain from the container into the spray tank for at least 30 seconds.
- Add at least 20 per cent of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
- Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds.
- Repeat the above procedure twice more.

- Render containers unuseable by puncturing.
- Leave the label on the container.

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

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling.

You can drop off containers at the Co-op Country Store for recycling.

4-H

Jolene MacEachern

Acting 4-H Specialist, Cape Breton Region

The 4-H year is in full swing! In May we welcomed Holly Beaton from Brook Village, Inverness County, back as our summer assistant. She is doing an excellent job keeping 4-H on track on Cape Breton Island and we will miss her when she returns to her studies at St. Mary's University in September.

May began with 4-H weekend held at the Agricultural College in Truro. This was a fun-filled weekend of learning and competition as 4-H members from across the province competed in public speaking, demonstrations, poster contests, square dancing, woodsmen and the Horse Classic. Cape Breton Island was well represented with some of

our members bringing home ribbons in public speaking, demonstrations, posters and square dancing.

From 4-H weekend, we moved right into our judging for project completion and competition to see who would represent their county at the NS Provincial Show in October. I encourage members to keep up the good work as it is a great opportunity to develop your public speaking and evaluation skills.

Achievement days were held in Cape Breton and Richmond counties in June where 4-H members completed their projects and showed each other how much they had learned over the year. Inverness and Victoria counties will be holding their achievement day in conjunction with their county shows in August and September. Check with your local leaders for more information.

In July, a very successful day camp was held in Middle River, Victoria County as we try to expand membership of the 4-H program. Twenty-three children took part in crafts, cake decorating, outdoorsman activities, foods and public speaking.

Preparations are in full swing for county shows, exhibitions and the provincial 4-H show. 4-H members have worked hard throughout the year and would love for you to come and see what they have to exhibit. Contact the 4-H office for more information regarding a 4-H show in your area. We can be reached in Mabou at (902) 945-2901 or in Sydney at (902) 563-2000. Have a safe and productive summer and we'll catch up during harvest time!

BSE Surveillance Program

Increased BSE surveillance testing is being carried out to provide a more accurate estimation of the level of BSE in the national herd and will verify that Canada's animal health measures are limiting the spread of the disease. Canada is hoping to test 38,000 cattle by the end of 2005. The surveillance program is targeting cattle aged 30 months or older which are dead, dying, diseased, or downers (4D's).

The Reimbursement Program in place works as follows:

a) Producers can contact CFIA directly to report an eligible animal for testing. Once contacted, an inspector will be sent out to collect the sample and to have the producer complete the agreement form. Once all conditions are met, the producer will be paid \$75 to assist with carcass disposal costs.

The Antigonish landfill has a carcass composting program in place and a number of the carcasses received there are in the over 30 months and 4D's category. Producers who have animals that fit the criteria for surveillance testing, may call Karen Brenton at (902) 863-7042 or (902) 870-0366. Dr. Al MacAulay, CFIA federal veterinarian, along with Karen, will be attending a meeting to **answer questions on the reimbursement program.**



Upcoming 4-H Dates – Antigonish/Guysborough Counties

August 18	4-H Show Run-off's at 4-H building, Antigonish Exhibition Grounds
August 19	Record Keeping Books due
August 27	Barn Work Day starting at 12:30 p.m.
August 28	Any display painting and building completed (5–10 p.m.)
August 29	Non-Livestock project arrival 6–9 p.m. Tug-of-War weigh-ins 8 p.m.
August 30	Perishable project arrival 8:30–9:30 a.m. (only perishables will be accepted) Livestock arrival 6–9 p.m. Set up of club displays 6–10 p.m.
August 31	4-H DAY! 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
September 4	Livestock Removal starting at 7 p.m. Pick up Non-Livestock projects at 9 p.m.

Pictou County

August 19	Bake Off and Cake Decorating, Northumberland Photography competition, Northumberland Orienteering competition, Northumberland
August 20	Barn Work Day, 9 a.m. – 12 noon, 4-H barn Pictou
September 5	Homemaking and non-livestock project arrival, 6–8 p.m. Non-livestock judging competition, 6–7 p.m. Livestock display set-up, 6–9 p.m. Entries due for Pictou County "Look At Us Now" Contest (Ag. Awareness), 6–8 p.m., 4-H barn
September 6	Perishable items accepted, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Dog obedience classes, 2 p.m. Light Horse Flat classes, 3 p.m. Livestock arrival, 6–9 p.m. Fashion Show practice, 6 p.m. Ag Awareness activities, 6–7 p.m.
September 8	4-H DAY! 4-H Parade and Presentation of Awards, 6:15 p.m.
September 9	Ag Awareness Activities
September 10	Dairy and Sheep Showing Fitting Competition, 9:30 a.m. Ag Awareness activities, 12–6 p.m. 4-H Tug-of-War, 3 p.m. (outside ring) 4-H Tug-of-War, 6 p.m. (arena)
September 11	Project Removal, 7–10 a.m.