

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

December 2016

Highlights Inside

- 3 Select Nova Scotia/ Regional Staff list
- 4 NS Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission
- 6 Perennia /Extended Learning – Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 7 Programs and Business Risk Management Update
- 8 Agriculture Education/ Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia
- 9 Inaugural Beef Conference Report/ NS Farm Loan Board Rates
- 10 4-H Provincial News
- 12 Regional News
(custom pages)



Minister's Message

I had the great pleasure to speak to participants at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's 2016 Annual General Meeting on December 1. I appreciated the opportunity to connect with Nova Scotians who have worked so hard to grow and innovate in an industry that is so important to communities across our province.

The message I carried to them was that government and the department are working with the agriculture sector to achieve innovation and growth. And we're listening to their concerns and acting on their advice so we can be successful.



Nova Scotia's Farm and Food Events Calendar

<http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com/>



Strengthening the relationship between the department and the agriculture industry has been a priority for me as Minister and something that department staff have worked very hard to do. It hinges on maintaining a strong client-centred approach to delivering services and we have been diligently reviewing our practices and making changes to make sure that we are meeting the needs of the stakeholders and communities we serve.

My remarks to the federation's annual meeting provided an opportunity to profile the next step in that client-centered approach to service. I was excited to announce the opening of applications for programs for the 2017-18 fiscal year – the earliest we have ever been able to do that.

I have heard from many members of the federation encouraging us to open the application process earlier so I was very pleased to be able to act on this desire for industry. Our commitment to sharpening our focus on client services means we take their input very seriously.

Moving the program intake period to early in the calendar year means we can complete all the administration processes during the winter and allow clients to receive their notification of program approvals early in the spring, once the 2017-18 budget has been passed in the legislature.

The 2017-18 fiscal year is the last year under the current Growing Forward 2 bilateral agreement between the provinces and the federal government. Through this \$37.5 million five-year agreement, the department offers a number of programs focusing on innovation, competitiveness and market development to help producers grow their business and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

In 2017-18 the Environmental Management and Innovation area of the Home Grown Success Program will focus on supporting two key priority areas:

- Outdate Fuel Storage Replacement; and
- Sustainable Agriculture Water Supply.

Outdated fuel storage continues to be an environmental risk that the sector needs to address. During the 2016-17 program year, cost shared assistance was increased to 75% to encourage and support producers with the installation of new fuel tanks with electric pumps. As a result, requests for funding support in this area tripled. I am pleased to be able to announce that the 75% cost-shared assistance for fuel storage will continue in 2017-18.

The summer of 2016 was a particularly dry summer in some parts of the province. For farmers, the dry conditions made it more difficult to irrigate their crops and care for their livestock.

It was a historic water shortage for our province and a catalyst for the second priority area – sustainable agriculture water supply. The fund provides up to \$10,000 for the construction of a new well or pond, or the expansion of an existing pond. Cost shared assistance for these initiatives has been increased to 50% for the 2017-18 program year.

Adapting to climate change and protecting our environment are priorities for government and the agricultural sector and these two programs will contribute to our efforts to lessen the impact of climate change on our province.

Program staff welcome your inquiries regarding any projects that you are interested in pursuing for your farm operation or agri-business to determine the best program for your needs. For information on submitting an application or proposal to Programs, please visit the following website: <http://novascotia.ca/programs/>, call the Programs office at 902-893-6377 (Toll free: 1-866-844-4276) or your regional office.

If we continue to work together to promote innovation and celebrate the hard work of our farmers, I know we will be successful in helping agriculture to grow and provide jobs for our rural communities.

As we approach the holiday season, I extend best wishes to you on behalf of government and department staff and a wish for continued progress and success as we move into a new growing season in 2017.

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Agriculture



Select Nova Scotia

Select Nova Scotia is a program developed by the province of Nova Scotia to encourage Nova Scotians to shop and buy locally. Select Nova Scotia promotions and campaigns raise consumer awareness about Nova Scotia food, food products and seafood, locally made goods and locally owned and operated businesses.



Select Nova Scotia recognizes that when you buy local, more money stays in the local economy, supporting good jobs, strengthening local businesses, and supporting local communities.

Our aim is to be the site consumers visit to find local, Nova Scotia products.

Don't miss out - make sure your agricultural, food or beverage business is listed! Let consumers know who you are, and where to buy your products.

To receive a registration code, or for more information, contact:

Claire Hanlon Smith
Coordinator, Select Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Phone: 902-893-4491
e-mail: Claire.HanlonSmith@novascotia.ca
<http://www.selectnovascotia.ca/>
<https://www.facebook.com/selectns/>

Visit <http://www.selectnovascotia.ca/> to see enhancements in the recipes section. One seasonal recipe posted there is:

Four Season Arugula Salad

Chef: Bee Choo Char / Sina Wagner & Owen Roberts
Source: Gio Restaurant / Four Seasons Farm

Salad:

1 each, Purple, Yellow, and White Carrot (shaved)
½ lb Arugula
½ cup Sunflower Seeds
½ tsp Chili Powder
½ cup Dragon's Breath (or another local blue cheese)
1 Parsnip (large) (shave and deep fry in 350°F oil until crispy)

Roasted Red Pepper Shallot Dressing

2 Red Peppers, seeds removed and roasted
1 small Shallot, soaked until soft
3 tbsp Molasses
2 tbsp Grainy Mustard
4 tbsp Sherry Vinegar
½ cup Vegetable Oil
Salt and Pepper, to taste

Method:

Roasted Red Pepper Shallot Dressing

Purée dressing ingredients in blender. Emulsify in oil to right consistency.

Your Regional Agricultural Offices

Extension and Outreach

Ruth Grant, Manager

Truro Office

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

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

Karley Hewitt - Admin. Assistant
Michael Kittilsen - Agricultural Resource
Coordinator

Jacqueline Hoyt - Agriculture Leadership
Coordinator

Danny Small and Christina Jones
- Business Development Officers

Rebecca Sooksom - Agricultural Transition Officer

Antigonish Office

**Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough
Counties:**

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

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

Terri MacPherson - Agricultural Transition Officer
Adam Wile - Agricultural Resource Coordinator

Sydney Office

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

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

Catherine Plumridge - Admin. Assistant
Gary Koziel - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
Marina Gillis and Rhonda MacDougall -
Agriculture Leadership Coordinators
Jeff Hennessey - Business Development Officer
Cheryl Chandler - Resource Coordinator (Mabou)

Kentville Office

**West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and
Queens Counties:**

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

Cheryl Theriau, Admin. Assistant
Brian MacCulloch - Agricultural Resource
Coordinator

Ross MacNeil - Agriculture Leadership
Coordinator, South Shore

Colin Hirtle - Agriculture Leadership
Coordinator, Valley

Ronald Young - Agricultural Transition Officer
Jeff Wentzell - Business Development Officer

**Cornwallis Office Annapolis,
Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne
Counties:**

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

Gina Chapelhow - Admin. Assistant

Kari Brown - Agriculture Leadership Coordinator
Terry McKay - Agricultural Resource Coordinator
Elizabeth Garrett - Agricultural Transition Officer

Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Why Should I Have AgriInsurance?

As a producer, you are constantly faced with factors that are beyond your control. Things like adverse weather, disease, wildlife, and insect infestations can have a serious impact on your production and your income.

AgriInsurance, also referred to as Production Insurance or Crop Insurance adds some predictability to your business. It protects you against the effects of yield reductions and crop losses caused by insured perils. Last year there were more than 29,000 acres, 15,000 dairy animals, and over 20 million birds insured annually in Nova Scotia.

AgriInsurance helps you:

- Maintain your cash flow in poor crop years with claim payments that offset losses caused by crop damage or low yields.
- Manage your operation with a more predictable cash flow.
- Provide collateral required to secure loans.
- Stabilize your AgriStability program reference margin over time.
- Gain affordable peace-of-mind by paying a tax-deductible premium that is cost-shared with government.

Crop Insurance Application Deadlines for the 2017 Crop Year.

- Grape - November 14
- Blueberry - November 30
- Tree Fruit - November 30
- Vegetable - March 14
- Spring Grain - March 14
- Potato - April 19
- Corn - April 30
- Vegetable Acreage Loss - March 31
- Maple - April 30
- Weather Plan - April 30
- Soybean (includes Canola and Sunflower) - May 19

All producers who hold an active contract of insurance will receive a Coverage Options letters(s) before the beginning of the crop year. This gives you an opportunity to choose your price and coverage level options for the upcoming growing season. Please note that this also now applies to the Weather Derivative Plan which no longer requires an annual application.

Advanced Payments Program

Reminder: If you are planning to apply for an advance through the Advance Payments Program (APP), keep the above application deadlines in mind. In many cases, the APP requires participation in Crop Insurance (or AgriStability) as a security for the advance. Late applications for Crop Insurance cannot be accepted after the noted dates.

Dairy Producers

The Commission is able to write new coverage for Dairy Livestock at any time during the year. If you are interested in insuring your animals against disease, as well as loss of income from milk as a result of disease or fire, and building collapse due to ice and snow it is not too late to apply for Dairy Insurance (includes all reportable diseases, as well as shipping fever and IBR, but does not include BSE and Foot and Mouth). To find out more give the Commission office a call.

The Commission is now offering insurance coverage for Dairy heifers (prior to first calving) and calves for losses from insured diseases to both farmers licensed to produce milk as well as to unlicensed farmers. This will allow anyone who only raises replacement heifers to participate in the program.

Vegetable-Acreage Loss Plan

This plan was introduced in 2016 and includes coverage for insured acreage of a wide variety of vegetable crops based on the cost of producing the crop rather than the actual yield and market price received for the crop. The following are crops covered under this insurance plan: Beets, Carrots, Green Onions, Parsnips, Lettuce, Radish, Rutabaga, Summer Turnip, Summer Squash, Winter Squash, Zucchini, Fresh Beans, Yellow Onions, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Kale, Spinach, Eggplant, Field Cucumber, Field Tomatoes, Melons, Peppers and Pumpkins.

Wildlife Compensation

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program for Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock or crops as a result of predation by specified wildlife. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit our website at <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>

The Department of Natural Resources has valuable information on best practices to reduce damage from wildlife. This information can be found at: <http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/>.

Maple Producers

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission offers crop insurance for maple syrup production. This plan is available to all commercial maple producers to help them manage the risk of reduced yields due to natural perils. Any producers not currently signed up in the program can apply now for coverage for the 2017-18 crop year (the February-March 2018 harvest season). The deadline for application is April 30, 2017. Since spring harvest time is a very busy time in the maple woods, we encourage you to apply now to avoid missing the deadline. Last year the Commission paid indemnity claims totaling almost \$170,000 to most of our insured maple clients, due to adverse weather.

Forage Producers

The Commission offers two plans for forage producers to help manage the risk in their crop from natural perils. These plans are a Forage Establishment Plan and a Weather Derivative Plan for forage production.

Forage Establishment Plan

The forage establishment plan protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes. This plan covers losses from such things as winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from the time of seeding up until May 31 of the following year. Seeding must be completed by July 1 for legumes and legume/grass mixes and by September 1 for grasses. The deadline to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered. This plan offers three levels of coverage which are \$300/acre coverage (producer premium - \$9.90/acre), \$200/acre coverage (producer premium = \$6.60/acre) and a \$100/acre coverage (producer premium=\$3.30/acre).

Weather Plan for Forage

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

With the Quality Rider, when three consecutive days of rainfall of at least 5 mm are recorded, a payment of 20% of your guarantee is triggered. Producers can receive up to two payments under this quality rider during the month of June. For the weather plan, rainfall measurements are based on the recorded rainfall from sites around the province, primarily at Environment Canada weather stations. Producers select the site nearest to their farm. This plan differs from other insurance plans since there are no yield measurements required. Once a drought or excess rainfall event occurs, based on Environment Canada weather statistics, a payment is triggered.

Have You Reported Your Yield For 2016?

To provide accurate coverage to our clients, the Commission needs your harvested yield report for 2016. If clients do not report their actual yield, the Commission assumes you have harvested at least the guaranteed production listed on your Certificate of Insurance. In years where you had very good production and where you do not report to the Commission, you are missing an opportunity to have this reflected in your yield history. What this means for you is that in a future claim year, your claim may not be as much as it could have been if your good experience was properly reported.

To ensure you have the best coverage possible, be sure to accurately and in a timely manner report your yields.

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

You can also visit our offices at

74 Research Drive
Perennia Innovation Park
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2.

Or

Agricultural Centre
Kentville, NS B4N 1J5

Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative


NOVA SCOTIA


Canada



Perennia Innovation Centre New Online Tour and Informational Website

Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc. has launched a new website for the Perennia Innovation Centre to provide anyone, anywhere the ability to 'visit' the centre and learn about its amenities and equipment.

The new website address is www.perennia.ca/tour

The site has a video tour of the centre from the lobby through all the labs, an example of tenant space and the pilot plant. It also has room tabs where visitors can select photos and see tagged captions describing the equipment.

Ag Weather Atlantic

AgWeather Atlantic is offering producers more localized weather and climate information, along with new and exciting tools to aid producers and crop advisors in improving on-farm business risk management. To find out more information about AgWeather Atlantic please visit our website: <http://atl.agrometeo.org/index.php/weather/local>

To view the webinars click on the AgWeather Atlantic Webinar icon located on the left-hand side of the home page.

Webinar 1 will provide producers and crop advisors with an overview of what AgWeather Atlantic is, what it can offer your farming operation, and it will help users navigate around the website.

Webinar 2 and 3 will provide specifics on the AgWeather Atlantic tools available (i.e., bioclimatic models to help manage pests, a hay drying index, an alfalfa fall harvest tool, corn heat units, etc.). Webinar 2 and 3 will explain how to use and interpret these tools, and will explain how they could potentially benefit your farming operation.

Recently three weather stations have been added to the AgWeather network in Nova Scotia with collaboration of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association and Perennia. And we are also currently working on the integration of an Apple Fire Blight model that will be posted on the website soon. More pest models will also be added in the coming weeks so stay tuned and check out the website.



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

University Credit Courses (Online):

Issues in Agricultural Health and Safety - Winter Semester, January-April

Organic Field Crop Management - Winter Semester, January- April

Organic Livestock Production - Winter Semester, January- April

Agriculture, Food and Well-Being - Winter Semester, January- April

Professional Development Courses:

Nutrient Management Planning Certificate (Online) - Winter Semester

Master Gardener Training Program (Online) - November/February class intakes

Bridging the Gap – Step up to Success Workshop for Farm Families - February 9-10, 2017

Innovate for Value Chain Development Workshop for Atlantic Young Farmers - February 10-11, 2017

Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers (pesticide recertification point course) – Tuesday February 21, 2017

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers (pesticide recertification point course) – Thursday February 23, 2017
Module 4: Sat/Sun Sept 9-10

If you are interested in any of the three courses listed below please contact the [NSFA](#) office to include your name on the pre-registration list. Courses will be confirmed pending funding through the Workplace Innovation and Productivity Skills Incentive and your successful completion of the Business Information Form.

Livestock Medicine Course for Beef and Dairy

Mabou - January 14, 2017 (Mabou Fire Hall)
Truro - February 18, 2017 (Dalhousie Agricultural Campus)
Kentville - February 21, 2017 (Location TBA)

Introductory Welding - February 22-24, 2017

Tractor Safety Course (April/May 2017 TBA)
Commercial Queen Rearing June 2017 TBA

Modern Beekeeper 2017

Module 1: Sat/Sun March 18-19
Module 2: Sat/Sun May 13-14
Module 3: Sat/Sun Jun 17-18

Post-Harvest Management

Baddeck – February 24 - 25, 2017
(Location TBA)

Red Meat Cutting Basics

Truro - February 20-22, 2017

DAL AC

Website: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses.html>

E-mail: extended.learning@dal.ca

Phone: 902.893.6666

Programs and Business Risk Management

The 2017-18 Programs opened for application intake on December 1, 2016. Moving the program intake period to early in the calendar year will facilitate the completion of all the administration processes during the winter and allow clients to receive their notification of program approvals earlier in the year.

Program Name:

Farm Innovation ; Agri-Products Innovation and Commercialization; Building Industry Capacity and Market Development and Investment Attraction - Submission type: Letter of Intent . **Open:** December 1, 2016/ **Closed:** January 27, 2017.

Homegrown Success ; Lowbush Blueberry Development; Pollination Expansion - Submission type: Application.
Open: December 1, 2016/ **Closed:** February 3, 2017.

Business Development and Industry Capacity - Submission type: Application. **Open:** December 1, 2016/ **Closed:** December 31, 2017

Vineyard Expansion and Development - Submission type: Application. **Continuous intake**

For information on submitting an application or proposal to Programs, please visit the Programs website at: <http://novascotia.ca/programs/> call the Programs office toll free: 1-866-844-4276 or contact your regional office. If you would like to receive regular updates on programs offered by the Department of Agriculture by email contact prm@novascotia.ca.



Journey 2050

Journey 2050 is a new project, developed by Agrium that is available to schools here in Nova Scotia. It has been presented to one school in Halifax and the concept was presented to the Atlantic Science Teachers Conference held in the fall of 2016. The Agricultural Education staff look forward to being a resource to teachers and classrooms that wish to become involved in this program.

Its goal is to answer the question, "How will we sustainably feed nine (9) billion people by the year 2050?"

By the year 2050 there will be over nine billion people and food production needs will rise by over 60 per cent. Journey 2050 takes grade 7-12 students on a virtual simulation that explores world food sustainability.

Agricultural experts and farm families from Kenya, India and Canada guide students to farm sustainably while balancing social, economic and environmental factors locally and globally. Animated videos, interactive games and inquiry-based activities engage users while showcasing best management practices, innovations and the ripple effects of choices. Lesson plans are provided in this free, curriculum-based program.

For more information check out the website:
<http://www.journey2050.com/>



Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month is just around the corner. What began as a day to celebrate agriculture has become a month long event! This marks the 10th anniversary for this event happening in Nova Scotia and it will be the sixth year for the program across Canada. Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month is made possible through the support of Farm Credit Canada.

The focus of this event is to make agriculture come alive in classrooms by allowing elementary school children to **learn** about Agriculture, **connect** with a farmer or an agriculture industry person and better **understand** the role Agriculture plays in our lives.

In 2016 we reached 100 classrooms, approximately 2500 students, with the cooperation of 44 volunteer readers from across the province.

Agricultural Education staff with the department welcome returning volunteer readers as well as those new to Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month who would like to connect with school children in their community! To register as a volunteer reader go to <http://novascotia.ca/agri/Documents/education/ag-literacy-week-volunteer.pdf>, complete the form and return it to the address listed at the bottom of the page.

Tis the Season For A Real Local Christmas Tree.

The Christmas tree and greenery industry is vital to the economy of rural Nova Scotia and it is one of the top four agricultural exports for the province valued at \$12 million dollars a year.

Over 1100 Nova Scotian families depend on the Christmas tree industry for all or part of their income. The industry provides full and part-time employment to over 4000 people in the province. What a better way to support local producers at Christmas time than to source your festive focal point from someone in your neighbourhood? Find the location nearest you to buy a tree or visit a choose-and-cut retail lot:

<http://iloverealtrees.com/find-your-tree/>

The predominant species of Christmas tree grown in Nova Scotia is the balsam fir. Balsam fir is native here and grows in abundance across the province. Balsam fir trees are known and loved for their beautiful dark green colour, their natural Christmas tree shape, and most of all, their rich fragrance. The aroma of a balsam fir is difficult, if not impossible, to imitate.

Now that you've found your perfect tree, it's time to take it home and enjoy it. To maximize freshness and quality, follow these tips for caring for your tree:

Protect your tree from sun, wind and salt on the drive home.

- If you won't be decorating for a few days, keep the tree in an unheated garage or porch. If this is not an option, keep the tree outdoors but away from the drying effects of wind and sun.
- Before bringing your tree indoors, make a fresh cut of at least 5 cm (2.5 in) off the base of the trunk so the tree can absorb water easily. Care for your tree as you would fresh flowers!
- Place your tree in a stand that holds at least 5 litres (1 gallon) of water.
- Water your tree daily with tap water. No additives are needed! Some, like sugar, can be detrimental.
- Don't let the water level drop below the base of the tree or the trunk could seal over, minimizing further water uptake.
- Don't place your tree near heat sources.
- Use only CSA approved lighting sets and when purchasing new ornaments, check the labels to determine flame retardant ratings. Check lights and sockets every year. A well-watered tree will never burn, but faulty lights cannot make the same claim.
- Turn your tree lights off at bedtime and when you leave the room.
- Last but not least, enjoy the beauty and fragrance of your tree!

Once the season is over trees can be recycled into mulch or donated to wildlife rehabilitation centres or local farms as food/shelter for animals and birds. Christmas trees produced and sold in Nova Scotia are renewable, reusable, and biodegradable.

For more information related to buying a local Christmas tree contact: Sarah Weston, Industry Coordinator/ Executive Director of the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia at sarah@ctcns.com. Check out the website: <http://iloverealtrees.com>

Inaugural Canadian Beef Industry Conference Brings Industry Together

In August 2016, Alicia King travelled to Calgary, Alberta for the inaugural Canadian Beef Industry Conference. The conference was designed to create a national meeting place to bring together all facets of the industry involved in beef production, from the grass roots level through all parts of the supply chain, including everyone from the cow-calf producer with 20 cows to the feeder with 20,000, head, and to help move forward the National Beef Strategy. For those that are not aware of the strategy that has been developed, it includes four pillars: Beef Demand, Productivity, Connectivity and Competitiveness. You can find out more at <http://beefstrategy.com/>

The pre-conference tour included visiting Western Feedlots' High River location, with the capacity to finish 30,000; a presentation from the Waterton Biosphere in regards to predator controls and programs they have implemented and a lovely meal put on by the Alberta Beef Producers in the community of Stavely.

Next there was a tour of VXV Ranch in Claresholm, a third generation ranch where they are developing and maintaining a 400 head cow-calf operation fed almost exclusively on pasture. The 4000 acre ranch has the benefit of native prairie grass and very little snow cover allowing year round grazing. They are using rotational grazing and feed a minimal amount of hay/grain. They are also member of the nearby Waldron Ranch, a 44,000 acre native grass grazing co-op. Cows and Fish, the Alberta riparian habitat management society, gave a presentation on the need to work together with farmers, as they have done in Southern Alberta, to maintain and improve riparian areas.

The three days featured meetings, panel discussions and networking opportunities with people from all different aspects of the beef industry in Canada, USA and Mexico. Speakers addressed each of the National Beef Strategy's four pillars. Arlene Dickinson, entrepreneur and former Dragon's Den star, was one interesting speaker at the conference. In addition to covering a wide range of important developments and current issues, the event also recognized several outstanding contributors to the industry.

Approximately 20 people from NS, NB and PEI attended the conference of 650 delegates. The Maritimes certainly has a place at the national table when it comes to beef production.

The inaugural conference was a joint collaboration of four organizations – the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) <http://www.beefresearch.ca/>, , Canada Beef <http://www.canadabeef.ca/>, the Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC) <http://www.canadianbeefbreeds.com/>, and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) <http://www.cattle.ca/>

The 2017 conference is in the planning stages now and will be hosted again in Calgary.



Nova Scotia
Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

As of October 1, 2016 (applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Length (years)	Full Term	*10-Yr. Term	*5-Yr. Term	*3-Yr. Term
1-5	2.85%		2.85%	2.75%
6-10	3.20%	3.20%	3.05%	2.85%
11-15	3.80%	3.55%	3.15%	2.90%
16-20	4.25%	3.85%	3.15%	2.90%
21-25	4.70%	3.90%	3.20%	2.90%
26-30	5.00%	3.90%	3.20%	2.90%

* 3, 5 and 10 year term rates available to clients meeting risk, cashflow, and collateral requirements.

The Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board supports agricultural development such as: property purchase / improvements, construction, machinery / quota / stock purchase, financial restructure, and farm transition. The Board is committed to helping you with your individual financial needs.

A Loan Officer will also have information concerning programs and other services offered by Nova Scotia Agriculture.

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 893-6506

74 Research Drive, Bible Hill

Kentville 679-6009

Kentville Agricultural Centre, 32 Main Street

novascotia.ca/farmloan



4-H Provincial News

4-H Member Places Second in the Canadian National 4-H Judging Seminar

Connor Morse from Kings County Nova Scotia placed second at the Canadian National 4-H and Youth Judging Seminar in November. This event is held annually at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Connor was selected to represent the Maritimes in September during the Grand Champion Judging Competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show. He had to place three livestock and three life skills classes and give oral reasons on four to win the trip to Agribition.

Connor attended the Canadian National 4-H Judging Seminar along with as many as 80 delegates. This competition fosters the future development of young judges for the agricultural industry and provides a high profile and competitive judging experience.

To participate in this international judging competition competitors must be 17 - 21 years of age. They judge livestock classes and provide oral reasons to a judge. A total of 12 minutes is allotted to judge each class.

Aggregate scores were based on total scores of the classes plus scores of the oral reasons. Cash prizes were awarded to the Grand Aggregate up to the fifth placing. For placing second Connor won a \$1250 scholarship awarded by John Deere and a belt buckle.



During the 4-H project year Nova Scotia 4-H members learn to judge the projects in which they are enrolled.

Each member compares four (4) items or animals (related to their project topic), places them from best to worst and give reasons for their placing. Besides developing confidence in 4-H members the judging exercise teaches them decision making, communication skills and how to deliver their opinions with conviction.

Hope's Cake and Cupcakes Creations Ventures into Business

Nova Scotia Community College student, Hope Burke, has recently ventured into the world of entrepreneurship with the skills she has honed as a 4-H member. *Hope's Cake and Cupcakes Creations* formally started in October 2016, and so far, her quality work and creative designs have been a hit with her customers.

Hope is a first year student at NSCC in Port Hawkesbury. She could have opted for a part time job to pay tuition but decided to run a business in her own home giving her a more flexible schedule with less travel while studying. She had always enjoyed cake decorating as a 4-H member, and her seven years in the cake decorating project provided her with the technical skills needed to take on a creative task that she loved and turn it into a business.

But technical skills alone are not all that are needed to start and succeed at business. Hope is quick to point out: "My years as a 4-H member, and the years I spent as a junior leader for the cake decorating project with the Lakeside 4-H Club gave me the confidence to create quality decorated cakes." She also notes that the 4-H program taught her communications, social and time management skills and a willingness to try new things. Those life skills, combined with her ability to decorate cakes, have been critical in getting her business off the ground. She developed a Facebook page and business cards and has been attending craft shows to promote her cake decorating business. Her success so far has made her confident that this business is one that she will continue to grow while pursuing her post-secondary studies.

Hope's story may be an inspiration to many 4-H members in Cape Breton, Eastern and Central Nova Scotia who see the technical skills they've developed in their 4-H project work as an opportunity to start a small business.

This past summer many of those 4-H members were recognized with *the Business Sense Award* at county 4-H Shows and exhibitions. Those members were invited to attend a workshop on December 10, in Antigonish at St. Ninian's Place and St. Francis Xavier University where they will had the opportunity to learn more about entrepreneurship, business and turning a business idea into reality.

This workshop was organized by the department's Agriculture Leadership Coordinators in conjunction with Cape Breton Regional 4-H and with support from ThinkFARM, Cultiv8, Enactus X, and St. F.X.'s Service Learning Students.

Sessions offered at the day-long *Business Sense* workshop were marketing, budgets/purchasing, idea development, innovation, and planning. There was also opportunities to network, socialize with peers, and to hear a panel discussion featuring local agricultural producers who turned their agriculture passions into business realities.

Nova Scotia 4-H Members Show Cattle at the Royal

Twenty 4-H livestock members with the highest caliber dairy and beef heifers represented team Nova Scotia at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in early November. They competed in two prestigious cattle shows - The Royal Dairy Classic and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic. Selections for this competition were made based on the quality of their calf at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show.

While at the Royal, 4-H members competed in the 4-H showmanship and conformation cattle classes, participated in a provincial display contest and spent a day seeing the rest of the events at the exhibition.

Nine 4-H dairy members competed against 4-H members from across Canada in the Royal Dairy Classic: Andrew Green, Pictou County; Emily Moxsom, Lane Yuill, Riley Masters and Cole Yuill, Colchester; Laura Ackerman, Halifax-East Hants; Lynden Bacon, Cumberland County and Logan Vroegh, Hants County.

Dylan Parker from Halifax East Hants won the Versteeg Memorial Award. This award is presented to a 4-H dairy member based on a 50/ 50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability.

The spare was Allison Dill, Hants County.

The eleven members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic were: Haylee Rafuse, Hants County ; Katie Stokes, Connor Morse and Mitchell Best, Kings County; Ashley Higgins and Jenna Matlatal, Colchester County; Beverly Booth, Nic Goodwin and Allison Booth, Cumberland County; Peter Bekker, Antigonish County and Eben Bruce, Annapolis County.

The dedicated work of the Royal Dairy Classic Committee and the Royal Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic Selections committee results in the 4-H members being able to attend the Royal Winter Fair and compete in the 4-H cattle classes.

The Nova Scotia committee members obtain funding sponsorship and organize this event on a provincial and national level. Annual financial support from major sponsors, producers, individuals and businesses, provide the 4-H delegates with this tremendous opportunity.

4-H Christmas Greeting

Snowflakes swirling, and carols playing,
Signs of Christmas are in the air,
As we bring greetings of the season,
To family and friends, both far and near.

With another year drawing to a close,
And a new one about to start,
It's a time to reflect on what we have done,
By pledging head, hands, health and heart.

4-H projects have been completed,
And the ribbons have been won,
Speeches, judging and record sheets,
With extra care, have all been done.

Leaders have taught projects,
With endless patience and skills,
Teaching all of the values
The 4-H program so competently instills.

4-H has developed youth, and leaders,
Since Heatherton, in 1922,
With the dedication of so many,
From garden and calf, this program grew.

Training, baking, welding, planting,
By doing, they have learned,
By setting goals and working hard
Into leaders, they have turned.

So Christmas greetings, one and all,
Leaders, members, and supporters, too
The very best of this season
Is being wished for each of you.

By: Rhonda MacDougall, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator,
Cape Breton Region



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

On Cape Breton Island we have an enthusiastic team working to help the agriculture industry grow. The team consists of the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Agricultural Transition Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinators, Business Development Officers, Resource Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. If you have an agriculture question concerning anything in the counties of Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness and Victoria feel free to contact us at either of our office locations in Sydney or Mabou.

The Cape Breton Regional Agriculture Team:

Gary Koziel, Agriculture Resource Coordinator, 902-563-2003
Gary.Koziel@novascotia.ca

Jeff Hennessey, Business Development Officer, 902-563-2418
Jeff.Hennessey@novascotia.ca

Marina Gillis, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-563-2003
Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca

Rhonda MacDougall, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, 902-945-2901
Rhonda.MacDougall@novascotia.ca

Cheryl Chandler, Resource Coordinator, 902-945-2902
Cheryl.Chandler@novascotia.ca

Catherine Plumridge, Administrative Assistant, 902-945-2000
Catherine.Plumridge@novascotia.ca

Cape Breton Island Farming Facts

Registered Farms on Cape Breton Island:

Cape Breton Island Total -231
Cape Breton County - 68
Richmond County - 16
Inverness County - 128
Victoria County - 19

In 2016 the number of registered farms in all of Nova Scotia was 2,482.

Cape Breton Island Farms:

Egg Farms - 10
Poultry Farms -21
Dairy Farms - 19
Beef Farms - 120
Sheep Farms - 21
Swine Farms -14

New Agriculture Entrants to Agriculture:

Cape Breton total - 32
Cape Breton County - 10
Richmond County - 1
Inverness County - 17
Victoria County - 4

Workshops, Conferences, Information Sessions

The Cape Breton Regional Agriculture Team hosted, facilitated or contributed to over 30 workshops in Cape Breton over the last year on a wide variety of topics relating to: New Entrants, Farm Safety, Production Workshops, Pesticides, Livestock, 4-H Leadership Development, etc. If you have suggestions for future workshops we are always interested in hearing what topics are of interest to the farm community.

Homegrown Success Programs 2016

Several programs are still available:

Sustainable Agricultural Water Supply – New; Vineyard Development and Enhancement; Farm Next Program; Commingling Site Traceability; Traceability Pilots; Business Development and Market Enhancement.

If you would like more information or assistance with these programs please contact our regional office. Cape Breton regional staff are accessible and will assist with program applications.



County	# Registered Farms	#Applications Approved last year	Money Approved
Cape Breton	68	7	\$61,425.00
Inverness	128	23	\$260,700.00
Richmond	16	3	\$43,300.00
Victoria	19	5	\$32,987.00
		38	\$398,412.00

REMINDER:

March 1 is the claiming deadline for Home Grown Success project claims.

For more information on the *Growing Forward 2* agreement visit <http://www.agr.gc.ca/> and for more information on the Homegrown Success Program visit <http://novascotia.ca/agri/>.

Upcoming Agriculture and 4-H Workshops and Events

- Small Steps Great Distances Junior Member Workshop - February 2 and 25, 2017, Port Hawkesbury and Sydney
- Cape Breton County Leaders Council Meeting - January 3, NSDA office , Sydney
- Livestock Medicine Course for Beef and Dairy - January 14, 2017, Mabou Firehall, Mabou
- Post-Harvest Handling and Storage - February 24 - 25, 2017, Baddeck
- Soil Preparation for Crop Production - Winter 2017, Mabou
- Workplace Education (Sage 50 Accounting) - 2017 based on interest

For more information on any of these events please contact the agriculture office in Sydney at 902-563-2000.

Cape Breton Region 4-H News

The Cape Breton Regional 4-H program wraps up another successful programming year. A huge thank you goes out to all the leaders and volunteers within the 4-H community who made the events so successful! Also, a big congratulation goes out to all the 4-H members within the Cape Breton region whose project work showed business potential.

This year there were 248 active members, 43 of them being clover buds (youth age 7-8years old) and 77 volunteer leaders from the four counties. This is an increase in our clover bud aged program and speaks to the growth in the program that we hope to see for years to come. We had 11 registered 4-H clubs running in the four counties on the island. There is project enrollment in 35 different livestock and life skills projects across the region.

Seventeen per cent (17%) of our volunteer leaders come from farms, 74% from rural communities and 9% reside in urban areas. This is showing a slight increase for leadership coming from our farming community into the program.

Thirteen per cent (13%) of our youth membership comes from farms, 71 % from rural communities and 16% from urban areas. These stats are similar to previous years.

Sixty-seven per cent (67%) of our youth membership comes from girls enrolling in the program but it is nice to see that 33 % of enrollment for boys this year, an increase that speaks to the great programming that is offered to both.

The 4-H program offers youth an opportunity for leadership development, agricultural awareness, travel, livestock and life skill project training.

We would like to extend a welcome to a new membership in the region and encourage you to connect with your 4-H communities to get the full benefit of being a part of this fantastic program. With our new theme, **“Let the clover be seen in 2017”**, it looks like we are going to have a very 4-H **green** year ahead!

For more information about the 4-H program, to start a club in your area, or if you have an idea for a workshop, please contact Marina Gillis in Sydney at 902-563-2000 or Rhonda MacDougall in Mabou at 902-945-2901.



Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee ... Congratulations To One Of Our Own

The Eastern Team of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture would like to congratulate Casey Van de Sande and his family on his induction into the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Anyone who has met or worked with Casey knows this induction is well deserved. His continued interest and passion for agriculture is evident when you visit his expansive vegetable farm, one of his many retirement projects. The rows of meticulously maintained beans, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables are back-dropped by the dairy farm he helped build.

Outside of the farm Casey has served on several community and agricultural boards including the Antigonish/ Guysborough Federation and, currently, as President of the Antigonish Farmers Market Association. His involvement in those boards is another case where Casey leads by example and continues to provide guidance, influence and support to the community of Antigonish. Casey joins the late Frank Thompson also from this area who was inducted in 2011.

Holiday Wishes

The Department of Agriculture staff in the Antigonish Regional office send their best wishes for happy holidays and good health and much success in 2017!



Eastern Region 4-H News

Fall is a busy time of the year for 4-H members and leaders across Nova Scotia. As the school year begins, 4-H members also focus on learning something very different, but equally important, technical and life skills.

Whether they are spending time learning how to sew, bake or scrapbook; training a calf, making wooden creations or learning how to use a compass, members are learning valuable tools which will stay with them for a lifetime.

Along the way, members are also learning about time management, cooperation, decision making and a variety of other life skills. As 4-H clubs reorganize for another year many members are looking ahead to what they may do as project work in 2017.

This is a great time for clubs to start thinking about future projects, securing leaders, and helping members reach their potential. If you need information on what is available for resources through the agriculture office, please get in touch. We can help new clubs get started or new 4-H families learn more about the program, and provide additional information to members and leaders returning for a new 4-H year. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact the ALC or Lauren Boyd. Best of luck as you close out the 2016 4-H year and look forward to a new 4-H year.

Making Business Sense Out of Your 4-H Project Work

4-H members are a keen group of young people with some tremendous skills. Many 4-H members have accomplished a varied skill set during their years in 4-H, including strong communications and organizational skills, the ability to make decisions based on knowledge and facts, and time and people management skills.

On top of that, many have excellent technical skills - from cake decorating to dog training, from computer to cattle show preparation and breeding, and from cooking to growing veggies and flowers. These skills make 4-H members excellent employees, but also make them strong contenders for running their own business. 4-H members are great at creating their own opportunities and creating their own success.

At county shows this past summer, members with project work demonstrating business potential were identified. These members received a certificate for a free registration to the Business Sense workshop on December 10. The workshop was open to all 4-H members and leaders, however, those who received the Business Sense Award attended free of charge. Thanks to our Business Sense judges in Eastern Region- Tommy Chisholm and Paul Van de Wiel.



Business Sense 2016 Award Delegates:

Antigonish

Kenzie MacNeil; Bryce Thomson; Shamus Thomson; Keith Thomson;
Ayana Rennie

Pictou:

Felicia Graham; Chloe MacGregor; Bryden Cameron; Teague MacNeil;
Jaclyn MacLeod; Elizabeth Heighton; Tanner MacLean

Antigonish County 4-H Leaders Council Executive 2016/17

President - Sally VandeWiel
Vice President - Anne Marie MacKenzie
Secretary - Sheri Lambourne
Treasurer - Karen MacDonald
Past President - Angela MacNeil

Pictou County 4-H Leaders Council Executive 2016/17

President - Cathy Lavers
Vice President - Brian Sharpe
Secretary - Madison Baillie
Treasurer - John VanKessel
Past President - Brenda Sharpe

Ag Awareness Competition

Pictou County 4-H members were recognized during the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition for their efforts in portraying agriculture through a photo. Winners included:

1st Connor Langille, River John
2nd Emaleigh Murray, Scotsburn
3rd Keigan Michael Brown, Hopewell

Mark your Calendar

December 1st - 4-H Club Registration - Leader/Member registration due directly to 4-H Nova Scotia

**A special “Thank You” to all the 4-H volunteer leaders in Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties
The 4-H program would not exist without you!!**



Blueberry Maple Scones

Prep Time : 10 Minutes
Cook Time : 12 Minutes
Total Time : 22 Minutes
Yield: 10 to 12 small biscuits

Chef: Renée Lavallée
Source: The Canteen

Ingredients:

1/4 cup Sugar
3 cups All Purpose Flour
1 tsp Baking Powder
1/2 cup Butter
1 Egg
1/4 cup Nova Scotia Maple Syrup
3/4 cup Buttermilk
1 Lemon, zest
1 Orange, zest
1 cup Nova Scotia Wild Blueberries,
fresh or frozen
1/4 cup Dried Blueberries

Method:

In a bowl combine sugar, flour and baking powder. Grate in the frozen butter and mix until it resembles coarse meal. In separate bowl, mix the egg, maple syrup, lemon zest, orange zest and buttermilk.

Add the blueberries to the dry ingredients. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry and mix gently. Pour onto a floured surface and gently bring dough together. Pat down with your hands until 1/2 inch (1cm) thick.

Cut into squares or circles (your choice). Place on parchment sheet lined baking tray. Bake for 10-12 minutes into a pre-heated 400°F (200°C) oven.

For more seasonal recipes check out the Select Nova Scotia website at <http://www.selectnovascotia.ca/>

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

We have a great agricultural team working in the Central Region, including the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax-East Hants. At Perennia Park you can find the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Agricultural Transition Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Business Development Officers and Administrative Assistant in one office. If you have an agricultural questions or opportunities you'd like to discuss, feel free to contact us. Our contact information is below.

Nova Scotia Department of
Agriculture
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

The Central Regional Office staff are located within Suite 114.

- Michael Kittilsen, Agriculture Resource Coordinator,
902-893-3645
Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca
- Jacqueline Hoyt, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator,
902-893-6586
Jacqueline.Hoyt@novascotia.ca
- Rebecca Sooksom, Agricultural Transition Officer, 902-896-1288
Rebecca.Sooksom@novascotia.ca
- Danny Small, Business Development Officer,
902-956-4463
Danny.Small@novascotia.ca
- Christina Jones, Business Development Office,
902-956-2800
Christina.Jones@novascotia.ca
- Marie Williams, Administrative Assistant, 902-893-6575
Marie.Williams@novascotia.ca

Season's Greetings

The Department of Agriculture staff in the Central Region would like to extend a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a New Year of happiness. During this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have participated in the many challenges and progresses of the past year. May the New Year refresh your spirit and bring you renewed inspiration and prosperity. We look forward to working with you in 2017.

And it wouldn't be Christmas without sharing one of our favorite recipes using local products!

Honey Poppy Seed Dressing

Ingredients:

3/4 cup mayonnaise (175 ml)
1/3 cup local honey (75 ml)
2 1/2 Tbsp poppy seeds (37 ml)
1 Tbsp Dijon mustard (15 ml)
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Mix all ingredients well.
Store in refrigerator for up to 48 hours.

For more Christmas recipe ideas visit www.selectnovascotia.ca
Enjoy!



Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers Award

It's always a good time to be thinking of nominees for the Atlantic Region Outstanding Young Farmers award. It's a great opportunity to honor the up-and-coming farmers of the agriculture community.

Anyone can nominate a young farmer or farm couple, provided the nominee meets three basic requirements: they must be between the ages of 18 and 39, be farm operators and derive a minimum of two-thirds of their income from farming.

The next Atlantic event is February 25 - 27 in Charlottetown, PEI. For more information or to obtain nomination forms please visit:
<http://www.oyfatlantic.ca/>

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The Agriculture Office in Bible Hill still has 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. You must check with your municipal waste disposal department for instruction on how to dispose of these sharps once they are in a secured container. Drop in to pick up your containers during our regular office hours. For more information contact 902- 893-3645.

Mail Address Changes

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we may continue to keep our mailing list up to date. If you have an address change, please contact Marie at 902- 893-6575 or contact her by e-mail at Marie.Williams@novascotia.ca with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the AG NEWS than the paper copy, please e-mail Marie with your request.

Central Region 4-H News

The 2016 4-H year is coming to an end, and what a fantastic one it was! Thanks to all the volunteer leaders, sponsors, and parents, who made this year such a success; we couldn't have done it without you!

Now that one year is coming to an end, it's time to start thinking about next year! Many clubs have already or will hold registration/information nights in the coming weeks and months. Please contact me to find out how to join 4-H in year area.

Nova Scotia 4-H Show 2016

A big congratulations goes out to all those members that participated at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show the weekend of September 30 - October 2. Central Region members did very well. Cumberland County was 2nd place in overall points and quite a few beef and dairy members travelled to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto with their heifers. Members from Central Region who were chosen as part of the Royal Dairy Team included: Lane Yuill, Riley Masters, Dylan Parker, Laura Ackerman, Lynden Bacon and Emily Moxsom. Royal Beef Team members included: Ashley Higgins, Jenna Mattatall, Beverly Booth, Nic Goodwin and Allison Booth. Congratulations to all these members for achieving the goal of showing at the Royal!

Upcoming 4-H Meetings:

Colchester County 4-H Council Meeting:
January 23, 7:00 p.m. at the Truro Farmers Market

Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:
January 3 and February 7, 8:00 p.m. at the Shinimicas Fire Hall

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meeting: January 17 at 7:00 p.m.
location TBD

Central Region 4-H Leader Awards 2016

The following leaders received recognition for:

5 years of volunteer service:

Colchester County - Marvin Richardson; Caitlin Congdon; Anne Cossan; Suzanne McCurdy

Cumberland County –

Melissa Thompson;
Karen Foster; Janet Kinnear; David Siddall; Lisa Emery; Mark Wood

Halifax East Hants -

Greg Parker; Janice Cameron; Mila MacLean; Charlie Dingle.

10 years of volunteer service:

Colchester County -

Sarah Taylor; Brian Master;
Angela Master Amanda Chestnut.

Cumberland County -

Alfred King; Shelley Ripley;
Brenda Smith; Tammy Smith;
Judy Milner; Sarah Boss;
Ted Gaudet; Weldon Smith.

15 years of volunteer service:

Colchester County -

Karen Archibald-Waugh;
Maja van den Hoek; Sue Works.

Cumberland County -

35 years of volunteer service:

Sharon Siddall

45 years of volunteer service:

Edith Wood



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

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours; and may the coming year be filled with happiness.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture staff at the Kentville Agricultural Centre would like to wish you and your family much happiness today and throughout the New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2017.



Think Local This Holiday Season

Choose local, in-season, organic and fair-trade certified foods more often. Try to buy directly from the growers. Cutting out the middleman means that more of your food dollar goes to the people who grow your food. Farmers' markets are a good place to start. Ask your favorite grocery stores, restaurants and caterers to offer more local and seasonal options.

Food Safety Courses

Food Safety Courses are held from September to June each year. Visit the Nova Scotia Department of Environment website for a full list of course dates/times and also info on how to register for on-line courses - <http://novascotia.ca/nse/food-protection/food-hygiene-course.asp> more information, contact the Food Safety Office at 1-877-285-5167.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps

The agriculture office in Kentville still has 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. Check with your municipal waste disposal department for instructions on how to dispose of these sharps once they are in a secured container.

E-Mailing Addresses

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

Upcoming Events

- Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia AGM - January 25-26, Best Western Glengarry, Truro
- Scotia Horticultural Congress - January 23-24 - Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich
- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Annual Convention - January 24-25 - Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich

Valley/ South Shore 4-H News

Let the Clover Be Seen in 2017

South Shore 4-H News

Lunenburg County Clubs - 2016-2017

- Hill 'n' Dale
- Branch LaHave
- Livewires
- Two Bays
- Handy Hands
- Lapland
- BBHH

Queens County Clubs - 2016-2017

- 4-Leaf Clover

Shelburne County Clubs - 2016-2017

- Roseway River
- Sou'West



New Agriculture Leadership Coordinator

As many of you already know, Kari Brown, the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the South Shore Region, has recently transferred to the Western Region.

Ross Mac Neil is the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the South Shore Region.

Ross is a graduate of Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture and Aeres University of Applied Sciences where he completed his B.Ag. BBA in International Food Business.

Since graduating, he has worked with LaHave Natural Farms and Haskapa helping to develop supply chains for haskap berries, plants, and value added products.

Ross is passionate about agricultural awareness, food, helping others, and making a difference in his community.

Ross can be reached at Department of Agriculture in the Provincial Building, Lunenburg.

Reminder

National Awards and Scholarship information was sent out in November. Please note the deadlines. Ensure that all applications for National Awards and the Kevin Grant Leadership Tour are into the Lunenburg 4-H Office by the posted deadline. Please refer to each scholarship application for where to send it.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Lunenburg County Council - January 5, Wileville Fire Hall
- Shelburne and Queens County Council Meetings - TBA



Valley 4-H News

4-H Clubs are in the process of reorganizing for another year.

One of the keys to the success of the 4-H program is leaders. Without these dedicated volunteers we would not have the highly successful program that we have here in Nova Scotia! So a big thank you goes to the volunteer 4-H leaders and to the many supportive parents that enable members to accomplish much within the 4-H Program.

Hants County Clubs - 2016-2017

Avon
Border Riders
Burlington Workers
Cobequid
Newport
Rawdon 2 Way

Kings County Clubs - 2016-2017

Central Valley
Cornwallis
East Kings
Harmony Nicholasville
Horton
Western Kings

This year there will be several 4-H workshops planned including interview skills, parliamentary procedure, business skills, public speaking, and a judging clinic.

Good luck to all 4-H members as you begin your projects and learn new skills this year.

Interested In Joining 4-H?

If you are interested in joining 4-H, have any questions as a returning member or leader or are looking for resources please call the 4-H office or email:

Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca,
902-679-6027 (Valley Region),

Ross.MacNeil@novascotia.ca,
902-634-7575 (South Shore Region)

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

Jean Ward Retires

Congratulations and best wishes to Jean Ward! Jean was the Agriculture Leadership Coordinator for the Western Region for many years and previous to that was an Agriculture Representative with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture. We wish Jean all the best as she begins her retirement from this career.

Welcome the region's new Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, Kari Brown.

Kari is a graduate of NSAC with a B.Sc. in Environmental Science. She has worked with the N.S. Forestry Association coordinating the N.S. Envirothon program and with the N.S. Federation of Agriculture doing Environmental Farm Plans.

Most recently Kari was the Agricultural Leadership Coordinator in the South Shore region. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to meet Kari, feel free to stop by the Cornwallis office.

Mail Address Changes

Has your address changed? Has Canada Post requested that you include your civic number in your mailing address? If so, we need to know this information so that we may continue to keep our mailing list up to date. If you have an address change, please call Gina Chapelhow at 902-638-2395 or contact her at Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter than the paper copy, please e-mail Gina with your request.

Need a Sharps Container?

Livestock producers generate medical waste on a regular basis. This includes sharps such as syringes, needles, broken glass tubes, lancets and scalpel blades.

If not disposed of properly they can injure livestock and family members; increase risk of spreading infection; pollute the environment; and put waste handlers at risk. Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage.

Sharp containers have been specifically designed for disposing of sharps. When the container is full of sharps, the contents should still be considered potentially infectious to humans and animals, but the risk is low. For disposal in any municipality, you must first check with your local disposal site to see what they have in place to accept sharps.

Containers are available from the Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis Park. Call 902-638-2395 for hours and information



Western Region 4-H News:

Congratulations to all 4-H'ers as we wrap up another successful 4-H year! National award interviews will be held between December 12 and 16.

2016 National Awards and Kevin Grant Leadership Tour

Congratulations to the following for having been selected to represent the Western Region and Nova Scotia at various 4-H events in 2016:

- Kevin Grant Tour, March 14-16, 2016: Reiley Killen, Digby County; Mikaela Rhodenizer, Yarmouth County and Keagen Henry; Annapolis County
- National 4-H Citizenship Seminar, May 3-8, 2016, Ottawa: Mary Rice and Hannah Bruce, Annapolis County
- National 4-H Conference, November 2-6, Toronto: Layne Sproule Annapolis County

2017 4-H Nova Scotia Show

Planning is underway for 2017 Nova Scotia 4-H Show, hosted by Annapolis County at the Annapolis Valley Exhibition Grounds in Lawrencetown. The planning committee has a lot of great ideas. With all the new upgrades to the Exhibition Grounds, we anticipate an excellent show!

Dates to Remember:

Yarmouth County 4-H Leader's Council meeting - January 4, 6:00 p.m., TBA
Annapolis County 4-H Leader's Council meeting - January 11, 7:00 p.m., TBA
Digby County 4-H Leader's Council AGM - January 19, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library