

AGNEWS



Agriculture & Food Operations
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

May 2016

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Nova Scotia's Farm and Food Events Calendar

<http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com/>



Minister's Message

Spring is truly a time of rebirth for many things. The weather is getting warmer, the rain, and sunshine help the grass turn green and the blossoms emerge and seeds sprout. As we welcome spring, many of our agriculture industries are working toward a bountiful harvest.

In Nova Scotia, the food landscape is growing and shifting and the buy-local food movement is expanding at the same time. Consumers are seriously considering the health and environmental benefits of their food. We are fortunate to have local produce, fresh vegetables and fruits so close to home and farmers and producers who have made it their life's work to ensure this continues.

For example, our province's wild blueberries continue to be in demand because, beyond being tasty, their health benefits include being high in anti-oxidants. Our wild blueberries actually account for half the value of fruit production in Nova Scotia; our wild blueberries are the largest agri-food export in the province; and accounted for nearly \$123 million in exports in 2014. The wild blueberry industry is reaching markets outside of Nova Scotia and steadily developing more and more export markets each year.

The provincial government continues to create opportunities for growers to lease crown land to support wild blueberry production, and access to pollination is very important to the growth potential of wild blueberry production. That brings me to our province's bees, which are integral to the success of Nova Scotia's crops.

The Department of Agriculture is working with the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association and the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia to support pollination through a number of approaches that:

- Address pollination services through a maritime pollinator working group;
- Increase the number of hives available for pollination through the pollination expansion program, which acts as an incentive; and
- Support the development of a beekeepers course offered at Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus.

We know these measures are working well as beekeeping is a growing industry, with approximately 50 more bee keepers since 2011 and 2152 new hives in Nova Scotia in 2015-16. That, in turn, is good news for our wild blueberry producers and one more way we are supporting them and our other partners in agriculture, who depend on bees for pollination of crops, in achieving growth.

We are also ensuring bees are protected from the small hive beetle so they meet the pollination needs of our entire agriculture sector and keep our beekeeping industry strong. To that end, an inspection team with members from the Beekeepers Association of Nova Scotia and the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia will travel to Ontario in early May to inspect every hive being imported to Nova Scotia this year to ensure there is no evidence of small hive beetles. This is the first initiative of its kind.

Our wine industry continues to be an important growth area for our province and offers economic opportunities that can specifically benefit rural communities. There are currently 23 wineries and 94 grape producers in Nova Scotia and the industry accounts for \$7.3 million in wages annually so it's no surprise how important wineries are to tourism. In 2014, 100,000 people visited Nova Scotia's winery properties.

Last winter, Premier Stephen McNeil and members of the wine industry met at Avondale Sky Winery in Newport Corner to announce \$1 million for the Vineyard Development and Expansion Program. So far, the program has funded the planting of 139 more acres of grapes.

Earlier this spring, a wine analysis lab was announced with our federal partners that will be located in the chemistry department at Acadia University.

The lab will be used for both academic research and industry collaboration, with potential research partners including food scientists, dietitians, biochemists, plant physiologists and producers of food and beverages. The lab will look at chemical composition and flavour patterns of food and beverages, the impact of soil, water, climate, along with processing and storage, among other things. This lab is important to the growth of the industry because having quality lab services in province means tests and research can now be conducted locally, rather than incurring additional costs when sending samples to Quebec or Ontario, especially as we look to the future of export to help grow Nova Scotia's economy.

In the recent provincial budget speech, Government announced an additional \$3.5 million dollars to continue to assist this sector's growth through research, support for developing and expanding grape growing, market development and quality certification. As this industry grows, our government is pleased to support its efforts.

The warmer weather is also the time for fairs and exhibitions that have been part of the fabric of Atlantic rural communities for more than 250 years. These events showcase the best of our agricultural sector, while giving residents a wonderful social, community experience and visitors a chance to see our industry up close. I was excited recently to participate in the announcement of the Atlantic Agricultural Fall Fair for this coming October at the Halifax Exhibition Centre. This new fair will reconnect an urban audience with agriculture and give us an opportunity to help school children understand where their food comes from. It will also support agri-tourism, the "Buy Local" movement, direct market sales and export market development. I am excited that there is another way to showcase the technological and product innovation happening now in Nova Scotia's agriculture industry.

There are about two dozen fairs and exhibitions hosted in the province throughout the spring, summer and fall, which feature everything from livestock, food and horticulture and are always lots of fun. There's something for everyone at our fairs, and I encourage everyone to get out and support their local farmers and producers in any way they can.

In closing, I want to wish Nova Scotia's farmers good growing weather with a focus on safety as you plant, cultivate and begin to harvest your crops.

For more information on our funding programs or to reach a staff member, please visit our website <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/>.

Honourable Keith Colwell,
Minister of Agriculture



Programs and Business Risk Management

Growing Forward 2 Programs

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) Division has intake periods for a variety of application and proposal-based programs for the agricultural industry for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Program staff welcome your inquiries regarding any projects that you are interested in pursuing for your farm operation or agri-business.

Important Changes for 2016-2017

NEW for the 2016-17 program year, clients must sign and return their Letter of Agreement within **60 days** of the date on the Letter of Agreement. This applies to all programs. It is extremely important to meet the 60 day timeframe. Failing to return the signed Letter of Agreement within 60 days could result in the loss of funding for your project.

Lowbush Blueberry Development Program closes to applications May 31, 2016.

Market Development and Investment Attraction will accept proposals until May 31, 2016.

For information on submitting an application or proposal to Programs, please visit the following website: <http://novascotia.ca/programs/> or call the Programs office at 902-893-6377 (Toll free: 1-866-844-4276).

AgriRecovery Programs

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) would like to remind **tree fruit** and **maple** producers of two important **AgriRecovery** Initiatives that were launched in January of this year and are still **currently accepting applications**.

The **Canada-Nova Scotia Fire Blight Initiative** offers tree fruit producers assistance in recovering from a fire blight outbreak as a result of Post-Tropical Storm Arthur that hit the province in July of 2014. This initiative is helping Nova Scotia tree fruit growers recoup the cost of managing and preventing future spread of fire blight on their orchards. Up to \$2.2 million will be invested together by the federal and provincial governments to support affected tree fruit producers.

Depending on eligibility, assistance includes a payment of up to \$300 per acre for the purchase of eligible chemical sprays (Streptomycin, Copper, Apogee, Kasugamycin, and Blossom Protect for organic growers), reimbursement of up to \$400 for the cost of the industry-initiated inspection, \$400 per acre reimbursement for additional labour costs for moderate to severely infected blocks, and a payment of \$8 per tree to replace nursery trees and trees less than ten years of age that are indicated as moderate to severely infected (minus a 3% deductible).

Invoices and proof of payment of eligible chemical sprays must be provided and sprays must have been **purchased between August 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015**.

The deadline to apply to this initiative is July 29, 2016.

The **Canada-Nova Scotia Maple Sector Initiative** offers maple producers assistance in recovering from the costs to re-establish sap collection systems damaged by the unusually heavy and repeated snowfalls in the winter of 2015. Up to \$850,000 will be invested together by the federal and provincial governments to support affected maple producers.

Depending on eligibility, assistance includes 90% reimbursement for eligible components of the sap collection system up to \$5.50 per affected tap. Eligible components include food-grade mainlines/lateral lines, fittings, connectors, manifolds, spiles, t's, support posts and wire for mainlines. Invoices and proof of payment of eligible collection system components must be provided and components must have been **purchased between February 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016** and installed by December 31, 2016.

The deadline to apply to this initiative is September 30, 2016.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

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The deadline to apply to this initiative is September 30, 2016.

Guidelines and application forms for both AgriRecovery initiatives can be found online at <http://novascotia.ca/programs/> or may be requested by mail from the PBRM Division by contacting:

Programs and Business Risk Management
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
60 Research Drive, Suite A
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2

Email: prm@novascotia.ca
Tel: 902-893-6377 Toll free: 1-866-844-4276

If you have any questions regarding these initiatives, please contact Laura Boudreau, Program Administration Officer, via email at laura.boudreau@novascotia.ca or by phone at 902-893-6374. For information on submitting an application or proposal to programs, please visit the following website: <http://novascotia.ca/programs/>.

Growing Forward 2 

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative


NOVA SCOTIA

Canada 



Ag Zone 2016

Ag Zone is coming!

A curriculum enrichment day is planned for Grade 8 students on June 7 - 9 at the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Truro. This program aims to enhance the students' knowledge of agriculture so that they can better understand and appreciate food production within our province and potentially consider it as a career choice.

While competing against their classmates in a friendly "Amazing Ag Race" format, Grade 8 students will attend seven mini-workshops based on the school curriculum.

The mini-workshop sessions will be presented by researchers, agricultural educators and agrologists, each delivering a different topic - ranging from protection of agricultural marshlands to DNA extraction from strawberries. The program is presented by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture.

Agriculture in the Classroom Canada Delegates Experience a Mini Ag Zone

Nova Scotia is hosting the Agriculture in the Classroom Canada national meeting in June. This brings together the AITC Canada Board, provincial staff as well as representatives of member and partner organizations from across the country.

In addition to the AITC Canada meetings, participants will be provided with a showcase of local agriculture, meet with the Nova Scotia Agriculture Awareness Committee, visit an Open Farm site, and experience Ag Zone as hundreds of Grade 8 students do across Nova Scotia on an annual basis.

Small Farm Expo

Start Small. Think Big

Calling all Farmers. Join us in celebrating small scale farming.

Interactive Sessions

From raising livestock, to growing crops, to value-added, you'll learn from Nova Scotia's Best

Networking

Build beneficial relationships with both experienced and new farmers.

JULY 25, 2016

Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Bible Hill, NS

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

Admission

Student \$15 - Single \$20 - Family \$40

Children under 12: Free

Advance Payment Program (APP)

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

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

Producers must have crop insurance to be eligible for the spring portion of the program. Also, producers must allow SCIANS to conduct a credit check, done by a third party. Producers must provide SCIANS with an assignment on their crop insurance policy. An administration fee of 1.5 per cent of the total advance is charged to producers to cover the cost of running the program. To learn more about the program, contact Carol Versteeg at carol.versteeg@ns.sympatico.ca or 1-902-758-3530.



Soil & Crop
Improvement Association
of Nova Scotia

RR No 1, Milford Station, Nova Scotia B0N 1Y0
Tel: (902) 758-3530 • Fax: (902) 758-2974

Canadian Produce Marketing Association Annual Trade Show 2016

Calgary Recap and Recruiting for 2017 Toronto

Are you interested in exporting?

If you are a farm looking for new markets for your product, you should consider participating in next year's Nova Scotia Pavilion at the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) Annual Trade Show.

The 2016 CPMA trade show in Calgary has just wrapped up and the planning for 2017 in Toronto has begun. The show is Canada's largest event dedicated to the fruit and vegetable industry. It provides a unique opportunity for Nova Scotia growers to experience an exceptional combination of education and networking opportunities. This event attracts participants from all segments of the produce supply chain and showcases produce from around the world.

The Nova Scotia Pavilion is a partnership between Horticulture Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Nova Scotia Business Inc. to provide marketing assistance to Nova Scotia's horticulture sector.

Calgary's pavilion included booths from Kings Produce, Novi Agri, Scotian Gold, Van Meekeren's as well as space for new participants to experience the show; Stokdijk Greenhouses and Haskapa took part under the Nova Scotia brand.

If you are interested in finding out more about this project, please contact Jeff Hennessey, NSDA Business Development Officer, at 563-2418 or jeff.hennessey@novascotia.ca

NSDA Staff Profile

Jeff Hennessey, Business Development Officer, Cape Breton Region

With a Bachelor of Business Administration (Marketing) from Cape Breton University, Jeff Hennessey joined the department in October 2013 as a Business Development Officer in the Sydney office. In this position, Jeff works on a variety of tasks such as supporting Select Nova Scotia Local Days and Canadian Produce Marketing Association Nova Scotia Pavilion projects, program applications and proposal development as well as individual farm business coaching and enquiries.

Jeff grew up in Glace Bay and his career in retail business began after school working in a grocery store. Shortly after graduating from university, he was introduced to agriculture when he accepted the job as Coordinator for the Think Cape Breton First Agriculture Promotion Project. That project's goal was to raise awareness of local food products with Cape Breton consumers in grocery stores, restaurants and festivals. He continued to work with agriculture and food producers when he became marketing coordinator for Cape Breton University's Resource-Based Extension Program. After a few years he decided to return to the grocery business where he worked in management for a large retailer in Cape Breton and New Brunswick.

Jeff enjoys being part of the Value Chain Development and Cape Breton Regional Teams and finds his job presents him with different challenges each day.

He and his wife live in Glace Bay with their son who is attending NSCC and daughter who is graduating from high school in June.

Contact information for other Department of Agriculture staff is found at <https://novascotia.ca/agri/contactus/staffdir/>

Select Nova Scotia Website Upgrade

Select Nova Scotia has upgraded its website!

Visit <http://www.selectnovascotia.ca/> to see enhancements in the recipes section. We've also added a search option, changes to the map feature, and the site is more mobile-device friendly.

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.

For more information, contact:

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



Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission

Forage Producers

Forage Establishment Plan

The forage establishment plan protects against establishment failure in the first year of growth for grasses, alfalfa and other legumes. This plan covers losses from such things as winter injury, drought, insects, diseases, floods, excess moisture, frost and wind. The plan covers your new forage crop from time of seeding up until May 31 of the following year. Seeding must be completed by July 1 for legumes and legume/grass mixes and by September 2 for grasses. The deadline date to apply for this insurance is October 15, but you can apply as soon as your crop is seeded. When you apply at seeding time, your coverage can begin immediately. If you apply at some point after your seeding date, an inspection is required before coverage will be offered.

Coverage and Cost Options 2016

Option/Coverage/Producer Cost

A - \$300/acre - \$9.90

B - \$200/acre - \$6.60

C - \$100/acre - \$3.30

Crop Insurance Reporting Reminders

Crop Insurance clients are reminded of the following reporting requirements:

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

New Crop Insurance Plan for Vegetable Growers

Beginning with the 2016 crop year the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission is pleased to be able to offer a new crop insurance option for vegetable growers. The Crop Insurance Plan for Acreage Loss provides a larger number of vegetable growers with access to insurance for their crops. This plan is a non-yield based plan which provides coverage on a per acre basis for vegetable crops based on the cost of production for the crop rather than the actual yield and market price of the crop. The plan is suited to smaller (minimum of at least 2 acres of all eligible vegetables) as well as larger growers.

The Commission accepted applications for this plan up until April 15, 2016. The vegetables covered under the plan in 2016 include: beets, carrots, green onions, parsnips, radishes, rutabagas, summer turnips, yellow onions, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, lettuce, spinach, eggplants, field cucumbers, field tomatoes, melons, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash/zucchini, winter squash and fresh beans.

Wildlife Compensation for Blueberry Growers and Bee Keepers

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

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

Policy for Bumble Bee Quads

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

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

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

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

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

Policy for Honey Bees and Hives

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

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

MONTH	HIVE COMPONENTS	BEE COLONY	HONEY	TOTAL VALUE
January February March	Up to \$200	\$200		Up to \$400
April May June July August September	Up to \$200	\$200	Up to 60 lbs of honey at current published price	Up to \$500
October November December	Up to \$200	\$200		Up to \$400

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

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

Value of Honey

\$3.00/lbs

Value of Beehive Components

ITEM and VALUE

- Bottom Board - \$20.75
- Standard Super - \$21.95
- Standard Frames and Foundation - \$3.65
- Medium Super - \$18.50
- Medium Frames and Foundation - \$3.00
- Small Super - \$18.50
- Small Frames and Foundation - \$3.00
- Queen Excluder - \$14.50
- Inner Cover \$12.95
- Outer Cover \$28.00

To apply for the 2017 crop year or for information on any of our crop insurance plans contact the Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission at 1-800-565-6371 or via email at NSCLIC@novascotia.ca. Visit our website at: <http://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/financial-funding/crop-livestock-insurance/>

You can also visit our offices at

60 Research Drive, Suite A
Perennia Innovation Park
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2
(Until June 17, 2016)

After June 17, 2016 we are moving our Truro office next door to the Edward F. Lorraine Building (Northumberland Building)

74 Research Drive, Perennia Innovation Park , Bible Hill

Or Agricultural Centre
Kentville, NS B4N 1J5

Extended Learning Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

Commercial Queen Production

This 3-part course will provide the experienced beekeeper with various techniques to produce honey bee queens for their own use and to sell to others in the industry. This introduction will include discussions of honey bee genetics and development of a breeding program to meet individual objectives, as well as demonstrating the techniques and equipment required to produce healthy, productive queen bees.

Prerequisites: Participants will be required to have at least 5 years of beekeeping experience and have a minimum of 20 current colonies.

Dates:

Session 1: Introduction to the Practice of Queen Rearing: July 9 and 10, 2016

Session 2: Summer Session (participants implement queen rearing process)

Session 3: Wrap Up and Winter Preparation: August 20, 2016

Register by June 17, 2016

Basic Spanish Level 1

Hola, mis amigos! Interested in learning conversational Spanish? This six week course has all the basic Spanish you will need for various activities including, but not limited to, ordering food, paying your bill, shopping for groceries, setting the table, describing items, learning the culture and so much more!

Date and Time: Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm from May 24th- June 30th, at the Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill.

Gardening Workshop

Interested in learning how to grow fruits and vegetables? This six week course will walk you through the basics of growing in a greenhouse.

Date and Time: Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm from May 24- June 30, Agricultural Campus

Woodworking Workshop

Experience woodworking first hand as you make your very own wooden drinking tankard! This five week wood working course will guide you through wood shop safety and basic wood construction techniques

Date and Time: Thursday evenings from 6:00-9:00pm from May 26- June 23 – Agricultural Campus

Master Gardener Summer School Level 1

This summer school encompasses a week of great learning activities for the classroom and outdoors and is open to anyone with an interest in expanding his or her gardening knowledge and skills.

Date: July 4th- 8th 2016,
Agricultural Campus

For more information contact:

DAL AC

Web: dal.ca/exl

E-mail: extended.learning@dal.ca

Phone: 902.893.6666



Faculty of Agriculture

THINKFARM Can Help!

**Do you need advice
about...starting a farm?
operating a farm? bringing
your products to market?**

Our resources are for aspiring, new,
or transitioning farmers and include:

- Guides and fact sheets for beginning farmers
- Videos of Nova Scotia farmers with perspectives on starting a farm
- Commodity profiles
- A business planning workbook
- Regulation handbooks

**Don't miss out. Sign up today to
receive notifications about
workshops, conferences,
seminars, and more!**

To sign up for our email notifications of upcoming events and training opportunities, please email join-bfs@lists.gov.ns.ca and put "subscribe" as the subject line.

**We'd also love to hear from
you. Send us your beginning
farmer events for inclusion in
our email notifications.**

Submit your beginning farmer upcoming events to the THINKFARM Coordinator at thinkfarm@novascotia.ca or [facebook.com/Thinkfarmns](https://www.facebook.com/Thinkfarmns) or call -

Dawn Barrington-Hodgson
THINKFARM Coordinator
NS Department of Agriculture
Truro – Harlow Building
Phone: 902-893-5649



Perennia Resources Updated for 2016 Season

Specialists at Perennia have been busy preparing for spring. All the fruit (<http://www.perennia.ca/fruit.php>) and vegetable (<http://www.perennia.ca/vegetables.php>) pest management guides have been updated to reflect new uses for previously registered products and the addition of new products. A new *Hops Pest Management Guide* has been written and is available online http://www.perennia.ca/production_other.php.

A number of fact sheets have been updated and the *2016 Cereal Guide to Cultivar Selection* has been published. The Beeline, a voluntary listing of beekeepers with hives available for rent, is up and running for the season and the Hayline, a hay and forage listing to connect farmers with hay to sell with those who need to purchase some, is available as always. Links to all of these can be found at <http://www.perennia.ca/>.

The *Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Best Management Practices* have been updated, along with other wild blueberry resources, and the Perennia YouTube channel houses a new video about mowing methods for wild blueberries. The Perennia YouTube channel is easy to access from <http://www.perennia.ca/>.

With the growing season upon us the horticulturists at Perennia are blogging about this year's crop development; a list of available blogs is located at <http://www.perennia.ca/blogs.php>.

With a new crop season comes opportunity for in-the-field workshops, vineyard walks and twilight meetings. To make sure you hear about these events check the Nova Scotia Farm and Food Events Calendar (<http://nsfarmandfoodevents.com>) regularly or sign up to receive direct e-mails from Perennia at <http://www.perennia.ca/stayconnected.php>

New Research Technician at Perennia

Perennia is pleased to announce that Caitlin Congdon has joined its team in the Kentville office. Caitlin will be supporting specialists with field work and applied research on horticultural and field crops as well as livestock.

If your farm co-operates with Perennia on field trials you may see Caitlin and the summer students in a plot on your farm soon! Caitlin has a BSc in Agriculture from the former Nova Scotia Agricultural College where she majored in Plant Science and minored in Pest Management. She has worked on both crop and livestock (dairy and weaner pig) farms.



EXHIBITIONS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Exhibition Dates – 2016

South Shore Exhibition, <i>Bridgewater</i>	July 26 - 31
Western Nova Scotia Exhibition, <i>Yarmouth</i>	August 3 - 7
Shelburne County Exhibition, <i>Shelburne</i>	August 9 - 13
Annapolis Valley Exhibition, <i>Lawrencetown</i>	August 15 - 20
Halifax County Exhibition, <i>Middle Musquodoboit</i>	August 17 - 20
Cape Breton County Exhibition, <i>North Sydney</i>	August 15 - 20
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, <i>Bible Hill</i>	August 22 - 27
Digby County Exhibition, <i>Bear River</i>	August 24 - 27
Cumberland County Exhibition, <i>Oxford</i>	Aug. 30 - Sept. 3
Eastern Nova Scotia Exhibition, <i>Antigonish</i>	Aug. 31 - Sept. 4
Pictou/North Colchester Exhibition, <i>Pictou</i>	Sept. 7 - 11
Hants County Exhibition, <i>Windsor</i>	Sept. 16 - 18 Sept. 23 - 25
Queens County Fair, <i>Caledonia</i>	Sept. 20 - 24
Nova Scotia 4-H Show, <i>Truro</i>	Sept 30 - Oct 2
Atlantic Agricultural Fall Fair, <i>Halifax</i>	October 6 -10
Community Fairs - Tentative Dates	
New Ross Community Fair	August 19 - 20
Barrington Municipal Exhibition	August 19 - 20
Dalhousie Community Fair	August 25
West Kings Community Fair	September 3
Victoria County Fair	September 10
Christmas Island Fair	September 10
Mira Ferry Community Fair	September 17
Port Morien Fair	September 12

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

Jillian Garland - 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

Lauren Boyd - Admin. Assistant
Rhonda MacDougall - 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 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
Kari Brown - 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
Jean Ward - Agriculture Leadership
Coordinator
Terry McKay - Agricultural Resource

Provincial 4-H News

EastGen Showcase Trains 4-H Members for Livestock Careers

For 27 years, EastGen has been hosting a popular showcase where Atlantic 4-H members learn the finer points of livestock management and showmanship techniques. On July 15 - 17, 4-H members will participate in interactive sessions, educational presentations and a cattle show at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill.

Approximately 100 Atlantic 4-H members will attend this event with approximately 70 Nova Scotia 4-H members participating. 4-H beef and dairy members who are 13 - 21 years of age are eligible to attend EastGen. Those selected to attend will be expected to bring the information back to their 4-H club.

On behalf of the Atlantic 4-H Committee, Agriculture Leadership Coordinators with the Department of Agriculture help make the showcase possible. In partnership with EastGen staff, Leadership Coordinators teach the participants the latest techniques in show preparation for beef and dairy cattle, health of the show calf, livestock judging, showmanship, clipping, display design, and herd management.

After two full days of training, 4-H members show their own calves at the beef and dairy show on Sunday, July 17 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill. Awards will be presented to the winners in showmanship and confirmation, as well as those who excelled in session work over the two days of instruction. The cattle show is open to the public.

Camp Rankin Set to Open for 44th Season

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



CANADA
4-H Nova Scotia

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

In addition to providing a positive experience for campers, Camp Rankin provides employment for seven camp counsellors aged 16 or older, a Camp Director and an Assistant Director. Trained camp counsellors lead 4-H members through all traditional camp activities and educational sessions, ensuring 4-H members carry out the motto "Learn to Do by Doing".

For more information and to register for Camp Rankin on-line check out <http://novascotia4h.ca/camp-rankin/>

Friends of 4-H Awards presented at Annual 4-H Weekend

Each year, at 4-H Weekend, the Nova Scotia 4-H Council recognizes individuals or groups that have provided outstanding support to 4-H Nova Scotia with the presentation of Friend of 4-H certificates.

This year presentations were made to Ruth Grant, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia and the Anthony Van Oostrum Memorial Fund.

Ruth Grant started her connection with 4-H Nova Scotia as Ruth Withrow, member of the Rawdon Goldfields 4-H Club.

From these early beginnings, Ruth has continued to give to 4-H. Her 30 year career with the NS Department of Agriculture has allowed her to be a 4-H Specialist in the Western and Valley regions, Provincial 4-H Coordinator and Regional Coordinator supervising the 4-H and agriculture staff. She is currently the Manager of the Extension and Outreach Branch.

Ruth's vision for the future of the 4-H program always kept the contributions of the volunteers and the ideals of the 4-H program in the forefront. She believes that the volunteers are the backbone of the program and that through leadership development opportunities 4-H teaches many life skills to future community leaders. 4-H has always been a family affair for Ruth as her two boys, Caleb and Isaac, are 4-H members and she is a poultry leader.

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia (DFNS) is the provincial organization that is the voice of all dairy farmers in NS. Since its inception in 2001, DFNS has been a generous supporter of our 4-H program in several ways.

On the provincial level, DFNS has been a long time sponsor of the dairy team that attends the Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair each November. They also contribute annually to the Nova Scotia 4-H Show. At the county level they provide yearly funding to 4-H councils in counties that have a registered DFNS producer. Locally, they support several exhibitions with the sponsorship of 4-H awards.

However, the real support provided to 4-H is from the in-kind donations that each local dairy farmer provides to our 4-H program at the grassroots level. That level of support is almost immeasurable. Whether they are alumni members or not, many give of their time, leadership, animals, equipment, facilities and financial support in their communities. This benefits hundreds of 4-H members, which is the heart of our 4-H program.

Anthony Van Oostrum Memorial Fund - Anthony Van Oostrum passed away in 2009 as result of injuries sustained in a car accident. As a memorial to his legacy his family established a fund with the Nova Scotia 4-H Council. From this year forward this fund will be presented to the provincial 4-H Host and Hostess at 4-H Night in Nova Scotia as they move forward to be ambassadors of the Nova Scotia 4-H program. Anthony was a successful beef and orchard farmer in Grafton, Kings County, a Past President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and longtime supporter of the 4-H program. He was a dedicated 4-H parent for his three children and for several years he served as chairman of the Market Steer and Lamb committee.

Anthony was known for contributing innovative problem solving techniques and keeping members abreast of changes in industry standards through sharing of his knowledge and commitment to the agricultural industry. His pleasant personality, calm demeanor, smile and his interest in every member is greatly missed.



Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Interest Rates

As of January 1, 2015 (applicable to loans approved on or after this date while these rates remain in effect)

Length (years)	Full Term	*10-Yr. Term	*5-Yr. Term	*3-Yr. Term
1-5	2.70%		2.70%	2.50%
6-10	3.15%	3.15%	2.95%	2.65%
11-15	3.80%	3.55%	3.05%	2.75%
16-20	4.30%	3.90%	3.10%	2.75%
21-25	4.70%	3.95%	3.15%	2.75%
26-30	5.05%	3.95%	3.15%	2.80%

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

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

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

Call or visit a Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board office:

Truro 902-893-6506

Dalhousie University Agricultural College Campus,
137 College Road

Kentville 902-679-6009

novascotia.ca/farmloan



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

Community Pastures

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

Upcoming Food Handler Courses 2016

Antigonish - June 15, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., St. Ninian's Cathedral

Port Hawkesbury - June 21, 9:00a.m- 4:00 p.m.,
Port Hawkesbury Civic Center

Sydney - June 22, 9:00a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Grand Lake Rd Fire Hall

Seats are filled on a first come first served basis when registrations are submitted with payment.

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link or you can register on-line at:

<http://novascotia.ca/nse/food-protection/food-hygiene-course.asp>

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. In addition to the many spring jobs that have to be done, be sure to make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family. Now is a good time to:

- Check fencing around ponds and manure storages.
- Ensure PTO guards are in place.
- Take extra precautions to guard against manure gas in liquid manure storages.
- Check your farm first aid Kit(s) to ensure they are fully stocked and ready for use.
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and in place on machinery and in buildings.
- Make sure your slow moving vehicle signs are on equipment and can be seen.

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the agriculture office.

Cape Breton Community Fairs

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

SEPTEMBER 5

Christmas Island (C.B. County) - September 5 -
Kevin MacKenzie- 902-622-2667

SEPTEMBER 12

Mira Ferry (Albert Bridge) -
Cheryl MacIntyre (Chair)-
902-562-1056
Gladys Lever (Treasurer) -
902-562-6310/902-562-2089

Port Morien (Glace Bay) -
Margie MacQueen - 902-737-2478

Cape Breton Regional 4-H - “Let’s All Be Green in 2016”

The Cape Breton Region 4-H communities are busy with their programming and project work. Many of the programs staff can coordinate help our membership to grow in the areas of agricultural awareness, leadership, meeting managements, communications and entrepreneurship skills.

Spotlight on Camp Rankin

Bordering the Bras d'Or Lakes at Cape George, eight miles from St. Peter's, Camp Rankin is situated on 60 acres of land. 4-H camp has given young people many memories over the years and will into the future.

Some features of the camp are a large playing field, a campfire hearth, hiking trails, and a beach. Camp Rankin is the first 4-H camp to be built in Atlantic Canada. 4-H members between the ages of nine to fifteen spend six fun-filled days with fellow 4-H'ers. There are a variety of educational activities for campers. In addition, 4-H'ers are responsible for housekeeping chores. Acceptance is on a first-come-first-serve basis, so apply early!

Members can apply for any camp week and application deadline is early May. Applications are available online at:
<https://www.esourceevent.com/event/group.aspx?EventName=CampRankin2016>

Camp Rankin Scholarship

The Nova Scotia 4-H Council provides a scholarship to one member per county who is eligible for junior camp at Camp Rankin. This scholarship covers the cost associated with participating in a junior camp week at Camp Rankin. Congratulations to Maria Meagher (Inverness) and Avy Campbell (Richmond). Cape Breton and Victoria County scholarship winners will be announced at local council meeting pending council review.

Clover Day

Cloverbuds and Junior 4-H members that have not attended camp are invited to come to Camp Rankin on Tuesday, June 28.

This day will provide younger members with the chance to experience a day in the life of a camper. The program will be facilitated up by former camp counsellor and Cape Breton Region Summer Assistant, Nicole MacEachern, with help from the Summer Assistants in Eastern Region. As well, Richmond County Senior members who are eager to share their beloved Camp Rankin with a new generation of 4-H youth will help.



This day camp is perfect for cloverbuds who are keen to go to camp, and for junior members that are a bit hesitant to stay away from home over night. Younger members may be accompanied by a parent or older sibling.

Parents that join us for the day at Camp Rankin will attend a session with Rhonda and Marina on the 4-H year including roles and responsibilities, project work, record sheets, opportunities for parents, members and leaders, and a Q and A session. Applications will be going out in late May, watch for them and get them in fast. Last year over 75 participants attended.

Does your summer job include being self-employed?

The ALC would like to know what small business initiatives 4-H members on Cape Breton Island are involved with - throughout the year, for the summer, part time or full time. If anyone would like information on the business loans, training and counselling available to help students start their own business, please contact Marina at Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca or 902-563-2000/ 902-945-2901.

4-H Weekend Results

Several Cape Breton 4-H members and leaders won awards at the annual 4-H Weekend in May. Congratulations to all the 4-H members that participated in this provincial communication event.

- Senior Handrawn Poster - Alison Holmes, Victoria
- Junior Double Demonstration - Chloe Peterson and Chloe Knickle, Cape Breton
- National 4-H Members Forum - William Marsh, Cape Breton
- Citizenship Congress - Madison Martell, Richmond
- U.S National 4-H Conference - Janine Lock, Richmond County
- Kevin Grant Tour - Matthew D MacDonald, Michael Blair MacDonald, Cape Breton and Chance Blackstone, Victoria
- National 4-H Leadership Summit - Amy Levesconte, and Dianne Cox, Inverness

Giant Tomato Competition-2016

This year 4-H members will take on the challenge across the province to grow their own giant tomatoes. The tomato will be judged by weight. Junior and senior members from each county are permitted to enter this competition at county level.

Members do not need to be in the garden project to get involved. Top junior and senior members will be able to represent their counties at this year's 4-H Show in Truro. Let's get those seeds in the soil and see what we can grow!

4-H Dates to Remember

Cape Breton Make Up Judging - June 7

- North Side Achievement Day - June 27, Exhibition Grounds
- Camp Rankin Clover Day - June 28
- Richmond Council Meeting - June 30, 7:00 p.m., Landry's
- Grand Mira Achievement Day - July 6, Grand Mira Hall
- East Gen Showcase - July 15-17, Truro
- Cape Breton County Exhibition work night - August 2, North Sydney
- Richmond Livestock Day - August 10, Adrienne Smith's
- Cape Breton County Exhibition - August 14 - 20, North Sydney
- Inverness County Show - August 18-20, Brook Village

For more information about the 4-H program, to start a club in your area, or to have us arrange training/workshops, please contact Marina Gillis in Sydney at (phone) 563-2000; (fax) 563-3435 email Marina.Gillis@novascotia.ca

Regional News Eastern: Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou Counties

Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists 2016 Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet

The Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists (NSIA) Annual General Meeting took place April 28, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in Truro. Each year the NSIA recognizes the life achievements, dedication and outstanding commitment to agriculture of members with awards at a banquet following the AGM. This year's recipient of the Outstanding Young Agrologist award was none other than Eastern Region's Agricultural Resource Co-ordinator, Adam Wile! The four other recipients honored April 28 were: Andrew Hammermeister (Distinguished Agrologist), Donna Langille (Distinguished Life Member), Leo Cox (Honourary Member), and Cornwallis Farms Ltd. (Outstanding Farmer Award).

Dairy Focus Review

Dairy Focus 2016 was full of great production information and it was good to see many producers from the Eastern Region in attendance. Speakers were brought in from several U.S. states as well as overseas and all were very excellent. Day One presentations focused on animal nutrition during pregnancy and just after calving, young stock signals, bovine calving interventions, forage digestibility and optimizing dry matter intake. Day two focused on udder health, evaluation of manure, variation in feed composition, and dealing with deadstock.

The take-away messages included:

- Farms should begin thinking about developing calving protocols for their farms, including the use of mobile birth monitoring.
- Laydown time is of significant importance for fetus development as well as general milk production.
- The practical interest of analyzing manure for its composition as an indicator of what's been digested providing an idea of what might be missing or is in too high a concentration in the diet.

Proper sampling of stored feeds when developing feed rations was another topic covered. Variability in quality of stored feed makes formulating a feed ration based on one or two samples very hit or miss. The message was to sample forages more frequently, avoid sampling from bunker faces, and collect the samples with a scoop as opposed to using your hands.

Should you have any questions about any of the presentations please get in touch with Adam Wile.

Saltscapes

Saltscapes Expo is Atlantic Canada's ultimate 'Buy Local' consumer show. The expo this year took place April 22, 23 and 24 at the Halifax Exhibition Centre. Select Nova Scotia supports local agriculture and agri-food vendors who wish to participate in Saltscapes to showcase their products to tens of thousands of attendees who are interested in seeing what the Maritimes have to offer.

This year there were three themes on the Ideas and Inspiration stage: Blooms (Humble Burdock, Barefoot Blooms and Tulipwood), Fibre (Taproot Farms Upperbrook Farms, Salmontail Farm), and Sauces (Ma Bell's, Pepperhead, Komatiq Farm). Three producers transfixed our taste buds on the Culinary Stage: locally raised meat from Getaway Butcher Shop, Hillcreek Family Farms camelina oil, and Howard Sellig's Valley Flax Flour.

Twelve producers were sponsored by Select Nova Scotia with a booth for a day to get some exposure to a broader customer base without the staffing commitment needed for an entire weekend.

Select Nova Scotia staff from the Department of Agriculture were on hand to increase awareness of local products with cookbooks, recipe cards and other interactive materials.

Buying Nova Scotian connects our families to delicious local food, benefits rural communities and strengthens our provincial economy.

We hope that all involved vendors had a great year and made connections that will endure beyond Saltscapes weekend.

Attention Blueberry Producers - Twilight Tours

The annual twilight tours put on by the Wild Blueberry Producers' Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) are now scheduled, with the Eastern region tour happening on May 31 at John Cameron's Receiving Shed in East River St. Mary's.

These tours are well attended by growers, researchers and other industry partners. They are a chance to catch up on the latest production technologies and information as well as check in with other growers on the progress of the season.



Perennia blueberry specialist, Peter Burgess, will be in attendance to lead the tour and answer production related questions you may have. I highly encourage growers in the area to attend this event as they always prove a great learning opportunity.

Eastern Region 4-H News

Leader and Member Travel

The Eastern Region was recently represented by some exceptional volunteer leaders at the National Leaders Summit, in Ottawa. Congratulations is extended to Sally VandeWiel, St. Andrew's 4-H, and Cathy Lavers, Scotsburn 4-H, who attended this conference.

A number of 4-H members also participated in conferences over the past few months, including:

- National 4-H Citizenship Congress – Will Fraser
- Kevin Grant Tour- Joshua MacMaster
- Atlantic Intermediate Conference - Katie MacNeil, Eric Grenier, Carter Doiron, Shamus Thomson, Bryce Thomson, Patricia Levy, Taleah Kennedy, Alex Lambourne.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day- May 28

With spring activities starting up again, safety on and off the farm is always an important component in having a successful year. All youth aged 9-13 years old are encouraged to register for our upcoming **Progressive Agriculture Safety Day** to be held on May 28 from 10:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the St. Andrews Community Centre in Antigonish. This event is open to Cape Breton and Eastern region participants.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day teaches participants to stay safe around farm sites, equipment, and animals among other topics. Topics for demonstration and discussion will include tractor, chemical, ATV, fire, food, animal safety and much more. During the safety day, safety barriers will be in place, safety rules will be enforced, and participants will be closely supervised by instructors and group leaders.

Registration fee is \$10/ child or \$20/ family. The day includes learning, lunch, snacks and a T-shirt! For more information, and to check availability of space, please contact Lauren, at 902-863-4705.

2016 Regional Communications Winners

A number of 4-H members represented the Eastern Region at the annual 4-H Weekend in May. These members earned the opportunity to compete provincially after winning a regional rally in April.

Antigonish County

Junior Introducer- Bryce Thomson
Junior Speaker - Keith Thomson
Junior Thanker - Andy MacDonald
Intermediate Speaker - Rebecca Van de Wiel
Jr. Single Demonstrations - Maddison Bezaire
Jr. Double Demonstrations - Marissa O'Donell & Mary Kate Burke,
Hostess - Hannah Chisholm
Host - Iain MacLellan

Pictou County

Senior Speaker - Cody George
Sr. Single Demonstrations -
Emaleigh Murray
Sr. Double Demonstrations -
Andrew Greene & Brianna
Sutherland

Some results from the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Weekend are:

Provincial 4-H Hostess -
Hannah Chisholm, Antigonish

Sr. Single Demonstrations -
Emaleigh Murray, Pictou

Sr. Double Demonstrations and
Top Team Demonstration -
Andrew Greene & Brianna
Sutherland, Pictou

Daniel Arnold Memorial Scholarship

Junior Member -Charlotte Boyle,
Antigonish
Intermediate Member -
Alex Lambourne, Antigonish

Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships

Julia Vosman, Antigonish

National 4-H Mers Forum

Julia Vosman, Antigonish
Ryan Dykstra, Pictou

Citizenship Congress

Will Fraser, Antigonish

Kevin Grant Tour:

Joshua MacMaster, Pictou

Cooperators 4-H Leader of the Year

Leslie Klapstein, Antigonish

National 4-H Leadership Summit:

Cathy Lavers, Pictou
Sally Van de Weil, Antigonish

Getting Ready for Achievement Days

Achievement Days are a great opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their project work to their clubs, families and communities. It is a chance to promote 4-H and to receive a non-competitive evaluation on project articles or work.

Upcoming Achievement Days in the Eastern Region include:

Hopewell - June 6
Antigonish Co. Light Horse - June 26
Antigonish County Dog - June 28
Scotsburn - July 5
St. Joseph's - July 6
Heatherton - July 7
Saltsprings - July 18
Middle River - July 19
River John - July 21
Sunrise - July 25
Antigonish Mini Horse - July 26
Havre Boucher - July 27
St. Andrew's - July 28
Sutherlands River - August 3
SBI - August 3
West River - August 4
Landing - August 8



Clover Day

Cloverbuds and Junior 4-H members that have not attended Camp Rankin are invited to come to visit the camp on Tuesday, June 28, for a daylong event. This day will provide younger members with the chance to experience a day in the life of a camper. The program will be led by former counsellor and CB Region Summer Assistant, Nicole MacEachern, with help from the Summer Assistants, Abby MacInnis and Naomi McKay, from the Eastern Region. As well, Richmond County senior members who are eager to share their beloved Camp Rankin with a new generation of 4-H youth will be there.

This day camp is perfect for Cloverbuds who are keen to go to camp, and for junior members that are a bit hesitant to stay away from home over night. Younger members may be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. A session will also be provided that day by the Cape Breton and Eastern Agriculture Leadership Coordinators for parents and new leaders.

The day will also include training sessions for parents and leaders. While the members are participating in camp programming, parents and volunteers are invited to take in sessions with Rhonda and Marina on 4-H roles and responsibilities, the 4-H year, project work and record sheets requirements, opportunities in the 4-H program for parents, members and leaders, and a Q and A session. As such, parents are welcome to join us for the day at Camp Rankin.

Exchanges Canada

A group of 10 members and two chaperones from Antigonish County will be traveling to Alberta this summer as part of the Exchanges Canada Program.

In July, the group will be visiting and staying with host 4-H families in Alberta. Antigonish will be hosting the Alberta group in August. If you have the chance to welcome these Alberta visitors to the Nova Scotia 4-H community, please do so.

The members traveling include Rebecca Van de Wiel, Jeremie Bellemore, Shamus Thomson, John Albert MacHattie, Nella MacHattie, Brianna Stewart, Nathaniel Smith, Juliana Haverkort, Maddy Roberts, and Melissa Delorey. Chaperones Sally Van de Wiel and Tim Bellemore will be traveling with the group.

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

The Central Region offices house the Agriculture Resource Coordinator, Agricultural Transition Officer, Business Development Officer, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, and administrative support. We are your one-stop shop for Department of Agriculture services and information. If you have an agricultural question or opportunity you'd like to discuss, feel free to contact us.

We have a great group of people working here as a team. The Central Region includes the counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax. The office will be relocating to a new location in Perennia Park on June 17, 2016 and may be reached by the contacts below.

Agriculture and Food Advisory Services
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, NS B6L 2R2

The Central Regional Office staff are located in 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
- Jillian Garland, Administrative Assistant, 902-893-6575
Jillian.Garland@novascotia.ca
- Kayleen Holman, Summer Assistant, 902-890-0192
Kayleen.Holman@novascotia.ca

Fencing Resource

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

The Livestock Fencing Guidelines provide a great overview of fencing for all types of livestock and go into more detail about the three main types of fencing used in Nova Scotia: electric, barbed and page-wire fences. Farmers will find these guidelines beneficial.

Crown Lands for Blueberry Lease

The Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) has been working closely with the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture to identify suitable Crown lands in Cumberland County for wild blueberry development. Crown land sites in Chase Lake, Thomson Station, Millvale and Wentworth are included in a recently released Request for Proposals (RFP). WBPANS and the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture reviewed the RFP process and have made the following changes to this latest proposal:

- The lease rate has been changed to an annual rent of \$12/acre;
- A number of smaller 20-30 acre lands have been made available;
- A user friendly template RFP response form has been developed to help streamline the proposal preparation process; and
- The RFP will be open for a longer period, to provide proponents with more time to prepare a proposal.

Similar to the previous RFP, the initial lease agreement will be for a period of 20 years with an option to be renewed for a further 20 years.

The RFP is open now and closes August 5 2016 at 2:00pm. The RFP is available at:

<http://novascotia.ca/tenders/tenders/tender-details.aspx?id=60149339>

Departmental representatives from both Agriculture and Natural Resources will be available in person to discuss the RFP process at the following WBPANS Twilight Meetings:

- May 30, 2016. WBPANS Office. Debert, NS.
- June 2, 2016. Cameron's Receiving Shed. Parrsboro, NS.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark TeKamp at 902-424-3488 or Mark.TeKamp@novascotia.ca

Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!

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

“Let's All Be Green in 2016”

Judging Tips:

Judging for most 4-H members isn't a fun task initially, it's similar to public speaking and a lot of members find it difficult. Here are just a few tips that may help members to prepare:

- Memorize the 4-H Judging Format, this is worth 10 points!!!
- Know the body parts of whichever animal project you're taking/the proper terms for your life skill project (e.g., names of parts of an engine for a small engine project)
- Compare and do NOT describe items/animals
- Look at the four items/animals from a distance, up close and from all angles (sample food items!)
- Fill out your judging card completely
- Memorize your reasons, don't read off your card/notes
- Speak up, be confident, and defend your reasons!!!

National Award Winners:

Some National Awards were recently announced at 4-H weekend. Connor Fullerton of the TNR 4-H Club in Colchester County will attend the very prestigious National 4-H Members Forum which will be held in Toronto in November.

4-H Dates to Remember

Colchester County 4-H Council Meetings:

- May 30, and June 27, 7:00 p.m., Truro Farmers Market.

Cumberland County 4-H Council Meetings:

- June 7, 8:00 p.m., Shinimicas Fire Hall

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Council Meetings:

- June 14, 7:00 p.m., Hants East Rural High.

2016 - Giant Tomato Competition

This year 4-H members will take on the challenge across the province to grow their own giant tomatoes. The tomato will be judged by weight. Junior and senior members from each county are permitted to enter this competition at county level.

Members do not need to be in the garden project to get involved. Top junior and senior members will be able to represent their counties at this year's 4-H Show in Truro.

Let's get those seeds in the soil and see what we can grow!



CANADA
4-H Nova Scotia

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

Kings County Federation of Agriculture Bursary

The Kings County Federation of Agriculture is once again offering a \$500.00 bursary for a student attending a two year program at Dal/AC. The student must be a child of a Kings County farmer. Application forms are available at the high schools in Kings County or by contacting Gail Walsh at Perennia, at 902-678-7722.

Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce – 2016 Agriculture Innovation Accelerator Award

The agriculture and agri-food sector has always been innovative in running their businesses, adapting practices and looking for partners to compete in the local, national and global economy.

To recognize and support this innovative spirit, the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce (AVCC) created the Agriculture Innovation Accelerator Award. This annual award program recognizes outstanding agriculture and agri-food related innovators including producers, processors, suppliers and organizations.

The award is intended to help the successful applicant move their project forward to the next phase of development. The award winner will receive an estimated prize of \$30,000 or more in cash and in-kind services, counseling and other contributions from the sponsors. (These services will include, but not be limited to business planning, legal, mentoring, advisory, etc.)

This award is open to any individual, group or business in the area serviced by the AVCC. For more information, 2016 Guidebook and an application please visit the website at <https://annapolisvalleychamber.ca/committees/committee-4>. **The deadline for applications is July 19, 2016.**

If you would like to discuss your business innovation, please contact Jeff Wentzell, Business Development Officer, at the Kentville Agricultural Centre for inquiries on the opportunity. 902-824-0924 or jeff.wentzell@novascotia.ca

New Staff – Farm Loan Board

Welcome to Heather Montgomery who joined the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board as Senior Loan Officer in the Kentville office on March 1.

Prior to joining the board, Heather spent 18 years working with Farm Credit Canada in their Kentville office. Heather has extensive experience in the Annapolis Valley, working with many of our existing clients in the western end of the province. Heather has supported FCC's Further

Processing Lenders and understands their processes. Heather's experience base is wide, with responsibilities across the lending process - from administrative support to loan officer work within the production side of FCC's lending sector; including appraisal work.

Heather hails from PEI and is a graduate of Acadia University with a business degree.

Regional 4-H News

Let's All Be Green in 2016

South Shore 4-H News

Welcome Kari Brown

Kari Brown has been hired to fill the term position, Agriculture Leadership Coordinator, working on the South Shore.

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.

Kari is passionate about the Buy Local movement, agriculture education and awareness, and the 4-H program.

Kari was actively involved in Annapolis County 4-H throughout her youth and more recently has been a 4-H leader in Kings County. She lives in the Annapolis Valley with her husband Brent and daughter Nora.

South Shore Regional Rally

The South Shore Regional Rally was held on April 23 at the North Queens Community School in Caledonia. The event was hosted by the 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club of Queens County. The day included speeches and demonstrations on a wide variety of topics. Lots of fun was had by participants and everyone in attendance. The winners of this event represented the South Shore Region at the annual 4-H Weekend.

County 4-H Judging Days

Shelburne Co. 4-H Judging Day - June 2, Location TBA

Lunenburg Co. Light Horse Judging Day - June 4
South Shore Exhibition Grounds

Lunenburg Co. Draft Horse Judging Day - June 18,
South Shore Exhibition Grounds

Achievement Days

- Lunenburg Co. Light Horse Project Achievement Day - June 4, South Shore Exhibition Grounds
- Lunenburg Co. Draft Horse Project Achievement Day - June 18, South Shore Exhibition Grounds
- Lapland 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 4, Lapland Community Hall, Lapland
- 2 Bays 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 6, Hubbards
- Hill n Dale 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 7 & 8
- Wileville BBHH 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 11, Bridgewater
- 4-Leaf Clover 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 12, Westfield Hall, Caledonia

- Branch LaHave 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 14 & 15, Branch LaHave Community Hall
- Sou' West 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 19
- Livewires 4-H Club Achievement Day - August 12 & 13, Maplewood-Parkdale
- Handy Hands 4-H Club Achievement Day - August 19, New Ross
- Roseway River 4-H Club Achievement Day - TBA

Exhibitions/Fairs

- Lunenburg Co. 4-H Days at South Shore Ex. - Tuesday, July 26 - 27
- Shelburne County 4-H Day at Shelburne County Exhibition - Tuesday, August 9
- Queens County 4-H Day at Queens County Fair - Monday, September 19

Other Upcoming 4-H Events

Branch LaHave 4-H Club Light Horse Clinic - June 3-5, South Shore Exhibition Grounds

Lunenburg Co. 4-H Council Meeting - Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 pm., Wileville Fire Hall

Branch LaHave 4-H Club Draft Horse Clinic - June 17-19, South Shore Exhibition Grounds

Queens County 4-H Council Meeting - TBA Shelburne County 4-H Council Meeting - TBA

Contact Kari Brown, Agricultural Leadership Coordinator for information on the South Shore 4-H program at 902-634-7575 or by email. Kari.Brown@novascotia.ca

Valley 4-H News

Valley Summer Assistant

I would like to welcome Gillian Davidson as the 2016 Valley Region Provincial Summer Assistant. Gillian brings with her lots of experience from her years in 4-H and from being the Hants County Summer worker for the past two summers. I am looking forward to working with Gillian in the region this summer.

Valley Regional Rally

The Valley Regional Rally hosted by the Avon Club of Hants County was held on April 23 at the West Hants Middle School. The program for the day was full and as a result both Hants and Kings Counties sent a full slate of participants to 4-H Weekend to represent the region. This year's Valley Regional host is Tyler MacEachern and hostess is Nicole Martin both of Kings County. You will see the Regional Host and Hostess at events throughout the current 4-H year representing their Region and 4-H.

4-H Weekend Results

2016 Theme - Sarah O'Brien of Noel "Let's All Be Green in 2016"
4-H Challenge - Gretchen Archibald, Hants

Junior Introducer - Lance Hiltz, Kings

Junior Public Speaker and Top Overall -
James Rand, Kings

Overall Junior and Intermediate Public Speaker - James Rand, Kings

Junior Single and Top Overall Demonstration - Kathryn Spicer, Kings

Top Woodsmen Skills - Hants

Top Senior Woodsmen - Kings

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Scholarship - Ella Lentz, Hants

5th Annual George MacNeil Scholarship Winner - Katelyn Stokes, Kings

Nova Scotia 4-H Council Scholarships - Katherine Lahey, Lunenburg

United States National Dairy Conference - Logan Vroegh, Hants

Going Global 4-H International Exchange - Morgan MacNeil, Hants

National 4-H Members Conference - Megan-Rose Whitehead, Hants

National 4-H Citizenship Congress

- Kynlyne Sheffield, Hants
- Shelby Crouse, Lunenburg

Kevin Grant Tour

- Libby Partridge, Hants
- Serena Wile, Lunenburg
- Kyle Rhodenizer, Lunenburg
- Grant Cook, Lunenburg
- Allison Power, Hants
- Jessica Carver, Hants
- Tyler MacEachern, Kings

National 4-H Leadership Summit

- Catherine Manning, Hants
- Jacqueline Melvin, Kings



County 4-H Judging Days

Hants County Judging Day - June 2,
Hants County Exhibition Grounds
Kings County Judging Day - June 7,
Northville Farm Heritage Center,
Steadman Rd. Centreville

Achievement Days

- Newport 4-H Club
Achievement Day - July 7
- Rawdon 2 Way 4-H Club
Achievement Day - July 11,
Upper Rawdon Community
Hall.
- Cobequid 4-H Club
Achievement Day - July 15
- Border Riders Achievement
Day - July 20, Hants County
Exhibition Grounds,
Windsor
- Burlington Workers
Achievement Day - July 21
- Hants County 4-H Light
Horse Achievement Day -
July 22
- Avon Achievement Day -
July 25
- Kings County Joint
Achievement Day - August 4
-6, Apple Dome, Berwick

4-H Dates to Remember

- Making Business Sense
Workshop - TBA
- Kings JAD and Council
Meetings - June 6, Scotian
Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition and
Council Meetings - June 13,
West Hants Community
School, Brooklyn
- Kings JAD and Council
Meetings - July 6, Scotian
Gold, Coldbrook
- Hants County Exhibition and
Council Meetings - July 11,
Hants Exhibition Grounds

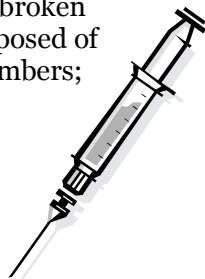
Contact Colin Hirtle, Agricultural
Leadership Coordinator for
information on the Valley 4-H
program at 902-679-6027 or by
email Colin.Hirtle@novascotia.ca

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

Welcome to Allyson Evans as the 4-H Summer Assistant for the Western region. Allyson is a long time 4-H member in Annapolis County and comes with a strong agricultural background.

Need a Sharps Container?

Livestock producers generate medical waste on a regular basis. These wastes include sharps such as syringes, needles, broken glass tubes, lancets and scalpel blades. If not disposed of properly they can injure livestock and family members; increase risk of spreading infection; pollute the environment; and put waste handlers at risk.



Sharps must not be discarded in regular household garbage. Sharps containers have been specifically designed for disposing of sharps. When the container is full, the contents should still be considered potentially infectious to humans and animals, but the risk is low.

For disposal in any municipality, you must first check with your local disposal site to see what they have in place to accept sharps. These containers can be picked up at the Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis Park. Call 902-638-2395 for hours and information

Think Safety

Spring is a busy time on many farms. With the many tasks that have to be done, the opportunity for accidents increases. In addition to the many spring jobs that have to be done, be sure to make time to ensure your farm is safe for you and your family. Now is a good time to:

- Check fencing around ponds and manure storages.
- Ensure PTO guards are in place.
- Take extra precautions to guard against manure gas in liquid manure storages.
- Check your farm first aid Kit(s) to ensure they are fully stocked and ready for use.
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and in place on machinery and in buildings.
- Make sure your slow moving vehicle signs are on equipment and can be seen.

For more information, check the Farm Safety Standards of Practice booklet available from the agriculture 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 by email at Gina.Chapelhow@novascotia.ca with your changes. Also, if you would rather receive an electronic copy of the newsletter rather than the paper copy, please e-mail Gina with your request.

Western Region 4-H News

Let's All Be Green in 2016

Junior Computer Generated Poster - Emma Bishop, Annapolis

Senior Computer Generated Poster - Brad Clark, Yarmouth

Junior Thanker - Autumn Atkinson, Annapolis

National 4-H Members Conference - Layne Sproule, Annapolis

Citizenship Seminar - Mary Rice, and Hannah Bruce, Annapolis

Kevin Grant Tour - Reiley Killen, Digby; Mikaela Rhodenizer, Yarmouth and Keagen Henry, Annapolis

1st 4-H Canada Science Fair - Chase DeViller, Yarmouth

Horse Classic:
Top Team: Annapolis

Giant Tomato Competition-2016

This year 4-H members will take on the challenge across the province to grow their own giant tomatoes. The tomato will be judged by weight. Junior and senior members from each county are permitted to enter this competition at county level.

Members do not need to be in the garden project to get involved. Top junior and senior members will be able to represent their counties at this year's 4-H Show in Truro. Let's get those seeds in the soil and see what we can grow!

4-H Dates to Remember:

Islands Seabreeze 4-H Achievement Day - June 1

Yarmouth County Judging Day – June 4

4-H Light Horse Walk Trot Show - June 4 - 5, Lawrencetown

Annapolis 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - June 8, 7:00 p.m., Lawrencetown

Digby County Judging Day - June 9, Haines Lake.

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - June 15, 6:30 p.m.,
Mariners Center

Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - June 16, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library

Sissiboo Landers 4-H Achievement Day - June 18, New Tusket Fire Hall

Digby County 4-H Camp - June 24 - 26

Annapolis County 4-H Advanced Achievement Day and Make Up Judging -
June 28

Sunset View 4-H Club Achievement Day - June 30

Annapolis County 4-H Light Horse Boot Camp - July 4 - 7

Annapolis and Digby County 4-H Light Horse Judging Day - July 6

Annapolis County 4-H Light Horse Achievement Day - July 7

Yarmouth County 4-H Days - July 8 - 10

Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - July 13, 7:00 p.m., Middleton

Bear River Trailblazers 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 14

East Gen Truro - July 15 - 17

Sun Valley Riders 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 19

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - July 20

Digby County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - July 21, 7:00 p.m., Digby Library

Lucky Stars 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 22

Clarence 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 25

Maple Nuts 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 27

Mountain Ridge 4-H Club Achievement Day - July 29

Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - August 3

Annapolis County 4-H Work Night - August 10, Exhibition Grounds.

Annapolis County 4-H Days -
August 14 - 15

Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council Mtg. - August 17,
Marnier's Center

Digby County 4-H Leaders Council
Mtg. - August 18, 7:00 p.m.,
Bear River

Digby County 4-H Days -
August 23 - 24, Digby County
Exhibition, Bear River.

