

Table of Contents

	Printed Page #'s	Acrobat Reader Page #
Main Newsletter (for all regions)		
Funding for Energy Projects	1	2
Dead Stock Collection Fee Increase	1	2
New Insurance Program for Maple Producers	2	3
Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board – Interest Rates	2	3
Celebration of Small-Scale Farming	3	4
NS Federation of Agriculture - Upcoming Meetings	3	4
Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)	4	5
The Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum Mentorship Program	4	5
2010 Atlantic Agrology Workshop	5	6
Staff Relocation	5	6
Continuing Education, NSAC	5	6
You Can Make a Difference	5	6
Programs and Business Risk Management	6	7
Agriculture Service Branch Priorities: An Update	7	8
4-H News:		
– Nova Scotia 4-H Members to Attend Royal Winter Fair	8	9
– 4-H Member Wins Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition	8	9
– Show Your 4-H Colours and Celebrate National 4-H Month	8	9
– Nova Scotia Delegates to Attend National 4-H Conference	9	10
– 4-H Member to Attend the International 4-H Judging Seminar	10	11
Custom Newsletter Pages (for individual regions)		
West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg and Queens counties	11	12
East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester and Halifax counties	11	13
Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness and Richmond counties	11	15
Pictou, Antigonish, Inverness and Guysborough counties	11	17
Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties	11	20

Agriculture Services

NEWSLETTER



October 2010

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Volume 11 No. 4

Funding for Energy Projects

Julie Baily, NSDA



There are a number of funding programs available for energy conservation and renewable technologies for Nova Scotia farmers, all with eligibility requirements and levels of funding. Farmers can access up to 80 per cent funding for energy saving opportunities.

The following are three examples:

- Programs and Business Risk Management Division, NS Department of Agriculture, administers federal and provincial funding under the Farm Investment Fund (FIF). Up to 50 per cent funding assistance (up to \$20,000/yr, \$40,000 maximum, depending on gross farm income) is available for various energy conservation and renewable energy technologies for the farm. Up to 75 per cent federal funding (up to \$2000) is available for energy reviews. Farms must have a completed Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to receive funding for energy conservation items, but the EFP only needs to be initiated for most of the renewable technology items. Although the fund is now closed for 2010, it will reopen in the spring of 2011. Phone 1-866-844-4276 or visit <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/programs/fifguide.shtml>
- Nova Scotia Power Inc. provides up to 50 per cent funding for measures that reduce electrical consumption under their Commercial and Industrial Custom Program. Funds available include up to \$1,000 for an audit, up to \$15,000 for a feasibility study and up to \$500,000 for implementation. The total project should save at least 20,000kwh/yr. Typically, this program is for medium and large industrial customers, but any farm operation not billed on residential rates may qualify. Contact: cicustom@nspower.ca Visit: www.nspower.ca.
- Nova Scotia Power Inc. provides up to 80 per cent funding for efficient lighting upgrades through the Small Business Lighting Solutions Program. A free lighting review is included in this program. This program is intended for businesses that use less than 300,000kwh/yr in electricity. Farms on residential meters also will be accepted into the program. Phone 1-800-428-6230 (choose option 3 for business, then option 4 for energy advisor), or email lighting.solutions@nspower.ca Visit: www.nspower.ca

There are many other programs available to access funding. Fact sheets with more information can be found on the NS Department of Agriculture website:

Dead Stock Collection Fee Increase

From NSFA Newsletter Aug 30, 2010

The dead stock collection system in Nova Scotia has a long and successful history. As in the rest of Canada, the handling of dead stock has changed dramatically since the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Alberta in 2003. One outcome of this discovery is that

certain portions of cattle carcasses must be kept out of the human food chain and the animal feed chain. These tissues, known as Specified Risk Materials or SRM's, have greatly added to the costs of dealing with cattle carcasses.

- Renewable Energy Funding <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/rs/envman/renewablefunding.pdf>
- Energy Management Funding <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/rs/envman/energy-mgmt-fund.pdf>
- Farm Energy <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/thinkfarm/fsh/eets/09-farm-energy.pdf>

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Funding continued...

For further information and assistance, contact Julie Bailey, PEng, Farm Energy Specialist, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Phone (902) 896-4473, cell (902) 956-1734, baileyja@gov.ns.ca. Nova Scotia farmers can contact the Farm Energy Specialist for information on energy conservation/efficiency options, renewable energy options, energy audits, programs and funding. This initiative is supported by Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



New Insurance Program for Maple Producers

Nova Scotia



Maple producers in the province will be better able to manage risks with maple syrup production as Nova Scotia becomes the second province to offer an insurance program.

“With sales of about \$1 million each year, Nova Scotia maple producers are creating jobs and growing the economy,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell. “We are showing genuine leadership by working with the maple industry to provide an insurance program that reflects the needs of the sector.”

The maple insurance plan, developed in consultation with industry, helps producers manage risks such as disease, weather, and wildlife.

“Extending insurance coverage to include maple production is a ‘sweet’ boost to Nova Scotia maple producers

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Dead Stock Collection continued...

Without the costs of dealing with SRM’s, the current dead stock collection system would be operating on a cost-recovery basis, with users of the system paying over \$0.065 per pound for the pick up and disposal of animal carcasses. In addition to the portion of the cost covered by service users, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency currently provides some funding for collection of cattle specimens for BSE testing. Even with this additional revenue going into the program, the Dead Stock Collection Services Committee has determined that the actual cost for disposal is between \$0.095 and \$0.10 per pound, a difference of at least three cents per pound.

Over the past few years, federal and provincial programs were in place to look for ways to properly dispose of SRM’s. This included research into composting methods and developing disposal sites capable of properly dealing with these materials. Now that this funding has ended, the full

cost of disposal must now be dealt with. As the program has accumulated a small surplus over the past few years, that money is currently being used to cover the shortfall.

Rather than wait for this money to run out, the Dead Stock Collection Services Committee has approved a fee increase to users of \$.01 per pound, bringing the cost to producers and other service users to \$0.075 per pound. For a 750 pound carcass that would mean an increase of \$7.50, for a total cost of \$56.25 for the pick-up and disposal of that carcass. This increase is scheduled to go into effect this November.

As outlined in this article, this is not a complete solution. The Dead Stock Collection Services Committee will continue to look for ways to address this shortfall, while continuing to ensure that animal waste in Nova Scotia is dealt with in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner.

NS Farm Loan Board Interest Rates

Effective October 1, 2010

Rates for most terms have decreased slightly. New interest rates have been set effective October 1, 2010 as follows:

Term Length	Interest Rates		
	Full Amortization	5-year Term	3-year Term
	Rate	Rate	Rate
1 - 5	3.40%	3.30%	3.00%
6 - 10	4.10%	3.60%	3.10%
11 - 15	4.85%	3.75%	3.30%
16 - 20	6.30%	3.80%	3.35%
21 - 25	6.60%	3.80%	3.35%
26 - 30	6.70%	3.85%	3.35%

For more information contact:

Maria McCurdy
Senior Loan Officer
Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board

Telephone (902) 893-6505
Fax (902) 895-7693



New Insurance continued...

having to deal with problems like ice storms, drought, insects or fire,” said federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. “This cost-shared program will add to the suite of stable, bankable and predictable tools to help manage the risks of farming.”

The plan falls under AgriInsurance, a business risk-management program supported through Growing Forward, a federal-provincial agriculture initiative. AgriInsurance provides protection to 35 commercially grown crops in Nova Scotia.

Maple syrup producers in the province will be eligible for coverage beginning with the 2010-11 production season.

“Maple producers have had to deal

with significant weather events and other conditions in recent years that have impacted their operations and production levels,” said Murray Johnson, president, Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia. “We are pleased to have an insurance program for our producers which will help us manage some of the risks we face as an industry.”

The Nova Scotia maple industry includes 36,000 acres of maple trees and 300,000 taps. About 70 commercial maple producers make more than 100,000 litres of maple syrup each year.

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission manages crop and livestock insurance programs in Nova Scotia.

NS Federation of Agriculture Upcoming Meetings

- Antigonish/Guysborough County Federation of Agriculture
November 3, 7:30 p.m.
St. Ninians Place, Antigonish
- NS Young Farmers Tour and Social
November 6 and 7
TBA, Antigonish area
- Kings County Federation of Agriculture
November 8, 7 p.m.
Cornwallis Rm. Kentville
Agricultural Centre, Kentville
- Lunenburg/Queens County Federation of Agriculture
November 9, 7 p.m., TBA
- Inverness/Victoria County Federation of Agriculture
November 13, 10 a.m.
Skye Glen Community Hall, Skye Glen
- Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture
November 15, 8 p.m.
Demonstration Building,
Lawrencetown
- Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting and Trade Show
November 25 and 26, 9 a.m.
Best Western Glengarry, Truro
- Nova Scotia Young Farmers Semi-Annual Meeting
November 26, TBA
Best Western Glengarry, Truro
- NS Fruit Growers Association
December 8, 2 p.m.
Cornwallis room, Kentville
Agricultural Centre, Kentville
- Hort Congress
January 24 and 25,
Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville

Contact: Wanda Hamilton,
Communications Officer, NSFA,
332 Willow Street, Suite 201, Truro,
NS B2N 5A5
Telephone: (902) 893-2293



Celebration of Small-Scale Farming

Rebecca Sooksom, NSDA

The contribution of small-scale farmers to the province’s rural economy was celebrated on Sunday, September 12 at the Halifax County Exhibition Grounds in Middle Musquodoboit.

The Celebration of Small-Scale Farming event was organized by the department’s THINKFARM Working Group and Central Regional Office in partnership with AgraPoint. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Economic and Rural Development.

Farmer-led workshops covered topics like small farm equipment, soap making, meat quality, seedling management, irrigation systems, buying used tractors and other farm equipment, livestock health, pastured

livestock, farming with horses, beekeeping and cheese making. There was also a women’s panel on farming and rural life. The keynote address was given by Ed Belzer, a farmer from Middle Musquodoboit who does all his field work with draft horses.

Local vendors O’Connell’s Family Farm, Nature’s Script Farm, and Spicy Cravings provided lunch. Children’s activities were available, along with child care provided by the Halifax County 4-H Council.

Over 100 participants from across Nova Scotia attended the event. Some currently operate farms, while others were interested in starting up a farm.

To see a list of the workshop presenters, visit gov.ns.ca/thinkfarm

Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)

November conference kick-starts new program centered on value-added agriculture, farm business skill development

The Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with The Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship and Morton Horticultural Associates, is hosting a *New Opportunities in Value Added Agriculture Conference* November 18 at the Old Orchard Inn in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

The conference is part of the *New Opportunities in Value Added Agriculture Program* (NOVAA) aimed at making it easier for Nova Scotia's agriculture producers to develop innovative new products, learn new business growth skills, and become more profitable – all by adding value to their farm output.

The one-day value-adding event will include an exciting line-up of guest speakers, expert-led workshops, and panel discussions about value-added agriculture. Following this conference, farmers, producers and processors will be invited to apply for a place in the Agri-Business Skills Training program – the second phase of the NOVAA program.

In phase two of the NOVAA project, a small group of entrepreneurs (15-20) will have the chance to get hands-on in developing new agri-business management skills in marketing, financial analysis, opportunity evaluation, market research, exporting, technology and more. Participants will interact with other Nova Scotia value-adders and learn from industry experts, facilitators, and entrepreneurs as they develop their own plans for adding value to their current businesses.

Gary Morton, from Morton Horticultural Associates is providing expert advice in the design and development of the NOVAA program.

To register for the program or to find more information please visit www.acsbe.com/ (see "Cultivating Your Future - Conference")

Funding for the NOVAA project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Nova Scotia, this program is delivered by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia. The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a five-year (2009-2014), \$163 million program aimed at helping the sector adapt and remain competitive. CAAP provides an industry-led innovative and cooperative approach to funding projects at the national, multi-regional and regional levels. Find out more about the CAAP program online at www.agr.gc.ca/caap.

For more information, contact: Joel Stoddart, Project Manager
Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship, 1-866-654-4499 or joel.stoddart@acadiiau.ca or visit www.acsbe.com/



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

The Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum (NSYFF) Mentorship Program

Young farmers in Nova Scotia and nationally have identified many challenges in the past year. An emerging challenge is a desire for learning and skills development, particularly relating to practical training. The Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum (NSYFF) is launching a pilot project this month that will begin to address this gap.

From October 2010 through to March 2011, this new mentorship initiative will match young farm operators with successful business people from the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce to provide advice and skills in areas such as financial and human resource management.

Nathan Greeno, President of Nova Scotia Young Farmers Forum says, "We have worked diligently at creating a program that will give young farmers the advice and skills they need to succeed and are pleased to partner with the Chambers of Commerce." He adds, "The intent of this program is to partner a small group of three or four young farmers with experienced business people who will provide us sound business advice. We hope this is the beginning of a successful mentorship program that can benefit many generations to come."

This initiative is a partnership between Nova Scotia Young Farmers' Forum, the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. To learn more about this initiative contact Krista Vroegh at 902-893-2293 or email youngfarmers@nsfa-fane.ca

Staff Relocation

Alexander Shalin, Pest Management Regulations Coordinator, Resource Stewardship Division, has relocated his office from Truro to Kentville. If you need to reach Dr. Shalin, please see his current contact info below:

Agricultural Centre
32 Main Street
Kentville, NS B4N 1J5
Ph.: (902) 679-6005
Cell: (902) 890-6727
Fax: (902) 6796062
E-mail: shalinay@gov.ns.ca

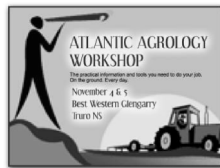
Continue your Education at NSAC



NSAC is pleased to offer the following continuing education courses in the fall and winter semesters:

- Online Master Gardener Training – Start dates in October, January and March
- Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture (Online) – Start dates in January
- Pesticide Applicator's Certification – November 2–5, 2010
Update courses for Pesticide Applicator's License – October 2010 and February 2011
- Introductory Welding – November 16 – December 2, 2010 (Tuesday and Thursday evenings)
February 25–27, 2011 (daily)

Update your skills or learn something new! For more information, visit us at nsac.ca/cde or call (902) 893-6666.



2010 Atlantic Agrology Workshop

Best Western Glengarry, Truro, NS
November 4 – 5, 2010

Hosted by: Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists

Registration form and workshop agenda available at:
<http://nsagrologists.ca/AAWS-2010-Agenda-Registration-Form.pdf>

Member: \$100

Non-member: \$150

Students: \$75

*Please note: The welcoming reception, hot breakfast, sessions and lunch are included.

Send registrations to: Bob Vair

nsagrologists@eastlink.ca

NSIA, P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Fax: (902) 893-4592

Phone: (902) 897-NSIA (6742)



You Can Make a Difference

The Province of Nova Scotia is an equal opportunity employer. Through the Employment Equity Policy, the Government of Nova Scotia is creating a Service which is representative of the diverse public it serves. Government is committed to ensuring diversity in the workplace by supporting initiatives that promote the equitable participation of Aboriginal persons, African Nova Scotians and other racially visible persons, persons with disabilities and women in positions where they are under represented.

All applicants who are members of an employment equity group are encouraged to self identify. By serving on one of Nova Scotia's adjudicative agencies, boards and commissions you can play a vital role in the administration of government.

Adjudicative agencies, boards, and commissions serve various roles and diverse interests. Adjudicative boards have quasi-judicial functions.

Opportunities presently available:
Agriculture

- Crop and Livestock Insurance Arbitration Board
(2) Chair + Member
- Farm Practices Board (1) Member
- Natural Products Marketing Council (2) Members

Closing Date: **November 12, 2010**

For more information about the adjudicative process, board position profiles, current opportunities and how to apply, visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/exec_council/abc or contact the Executive Council Office at (902) 424-4877 or toll free 1-866-206-6844.

Programs and Business Risk Management

AgriInvest and AgriStability

AgriInvest and AgriStability are business risk management programs designed to help producers protect their income and manage risks such as drought, flooding, low prices, and increased input costs.

AgriInvest provides farmers with flexible coverage for small income declines as well as support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income. Farmers deposit money into an AgriInvest account and receive matching government contributions. If you receive an AgriInvest deposit notice you have 90 days to respond by making your deposit.

2009 AgriInvest Deposit Notices

2009 AgriInvest Deposit Notices are starting to be mailed out with information on how to make your 2009 deposit.

For 2009 you can make your AgriInvest deposits at a participating bank of your choice. Once you have received your 2009 deposit notice you can open an account at your financial institution and make the 2009 AgriInvest deposit by the deadline indicated on their Deposit Notice to receive a matching contribution from governments.

Existing funds currently held by the federal government will be transferred to your AgriInvest account with the financial institution. Producers can request a withdrawal from their AgriInvest account through their financial institution at any time throughout the year.

AgriStability is a margin-based program that provides support when a farmer experiences larger farm income losses. AgriStability covers declines of more than 15 per cent in a

farmer's average income from previous years.

If you participated in AgriStability 2009 you will automatically be enrolled for 2010 and will receive a 2010 enrolment notice soon. If you have not received your 2010 enrollment notice and have not heard from AgriStability you should contact them at the number below.

New Participants or Farmers - AgriStability 2010 Enrolment

Producers who did not participate in 2010 AgriStability and wish to participate in 2011 must request a New Participant package before April 30, 2011. To request an AgriStability New Participant Package or for more information, visit the AgriStability website at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or call AgriStability toll free at 1-866-367-8506.

AgriStability 2010 Interim Applications Are Available

The Interim Application is available for producers who would like to apply for an advance for the 2010 program year. As a program participant, you cannot receive your full 2010 AgriStability payment until your 2010 program year is complete. By using the Interim Application, you can estimate your 2010 income and expenses and receive a portion of this payment early. The deadline to apply for the interim is March 31, 2011.

AgriStability/AgriInvest 2009 harmonized form final deadline

If you missed the September 30, 2010 deadline, you can still submit your form until December 31, 2010 with a \$500/month reduction to your payment.

AgriStability 2010 final fee deadline

Fees paid after April 30, 2010 will have a 20 per cent penalty added. You must pay your fee by December 31, 2010 or you will be ineligible to

participate in AgriStability for the 2010 program year.

To contact the AgriInvest or AgriStability administration call 1-866-367-8506 or visit the website at www.agr.gc.ca/AgriStability or www.agr.gc.ca/AgriInvest

For more information on any of the above the Programs and Business Risk Management office (NSDA) toll free at 1-866-844-4276.

Programs Update

It is claiming time for the Farm Investment Fund (FIF). You are encouraged to claim projects as they are completed, which may help you cash manage for multiple approved projects. There is no limit to the amount of claims you may submit. The final claiming deadline is March 1, 2011.

The **Agri-Food Industry Development Fund (AFIDF)** program is currently open and applications are still being accepted for AFIDF program categories A through C.

The **Innovation Fund** Category A: Technology Development is currently open on the PBRM website with one remaining call date of December 1, 2010. Category B: Supporting the Innovation Capacity of Farmers and Category C: Innovation and Commercialization of New Opportunities for Agri-Based Products are closed.

The guidelines and application forms for the Farm Investment Fund, Agri-Food Industry Development Fund, and the Innovation Fund may be accessed at the following web site: www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm. Questions? Contact Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) office at (902) 893-6510 or toll free 1-866-844-4276. <http://www.gov.ns.ca>

Agriculture Services Branch Priorities: An Update

Alan Grant, Executive Director

In December 2009, I highlighted the Agriculture Services Branch's strategic priorities for 2009-2010, which included: regional field services; industry transition initiatives and land stewardship. Since that time, I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress in these areas. I would like to highlight a few of our accomplishments in addition to providing an update on how the Agriculture Services Branch is exploring ways to improve our delivery of services.

Over the past year, we have seen some positive progress towards integrating and enhancing regional field services capacity. Our plan is to create regional field service clusters in five areas of the province designed to bring together expertise to work on regional development opportunities. Teams are comprised of agricultural resource coordinators, transition officers and rural leadership coordinators. Teams are supported by other department staff. They are working to collaborate and form networks with other government departments, stakeholders and partners.

So far we have restructured our office in Truro, which serves the Central Region and established a new office in Cornwallis which serves the South – West Region. Our staff in Cornwallis are co-located with the local Regional Development Authority. We feel this is a positive move in terms of providing better coordination and linkages between agriculture and other development partners.

In addition to our office restructuring, our regional service capacity has been enhanced with the addition of two new transition officers to serve the South – West Nova and

North - Eastern regions. We are currently in the process of filling a similar position for the Valley region, as well as a transition officer serving Central Nova Scotia. In addition to our office moves, Agriculture Services staff are involved in numerous initiatives designed to improve service delivery to our clients.

Our Service Delivery Improvement Committee has initiated a client satisfaction survey which will provide valuable feedback to the Department on priorities for improving service. The group is also partnering with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the development of a 'single window' to federal and provincial programs, which includes a diagnostic tool that will make it easier to match programs and services to identified client needs.

Our ThinkFarm Working Group have been busy on a series of initiatives designed to attract and support new entrants to the agriculture sector. The ThinkFarm campaign and website www.thinkfarm.ca were officially announced by Minister MacDonell in August at the Provincial Exhibition and includes information for new entrants such as; credit opportunities; support for farm business development and innovation; educational resources and other topics.

Agriculture Services staff have also strengthened our partnerships within the department and with other government departments, as well as the private sector, to enhance the effectiveness of our programs and services. The continued development of partnerships with stakeholders in rural communities will also increase the branch's capacity to deliver

information, programs and services to clients as well as building new relationships to address critical issues.

Work in land stewardship continues to be a priority for the Agriculture Services Branch. One of the key challenges we face is to find ways to help Nova Scotians understand the value of dykelands, the service that we provide and development of new partnerships for maintaining the dykelands. Agriculture Services staff are in the process of compiling an analysis of our dykelands which will provide us with a better picture of the infrastructure that is being protected.

Review selection committees, established to review and assess applications to the Department's grant programs such as the Agri-Food Industry Development Fund and Innovation Fund programs, have been reorganized to include representation from the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Nova Scotia Agricultural College and other post-secondary institutions, etc. This new committee structure has improved administration of development funding and has had very positive results on engaging new partners in support of agriculture initiatives.

I joined the Agriculture Services Branch a couple of years ago and continue to be impressed with the quality of our programs and service. I am also extremely proud of the dedication of our Branch staff to developing Nova Scotia agriculture and the support of our partners.



Nova Scotia 4-H Members To Attend the Royal Winter Fair

During the Nova Scotia 4-H show 17 4-H livestock



members with the highest caliber dairy and beef heifers were selected to be on the Nova Scotia teams participating in two prestigious cattle shows at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The Royal Dairy Classic and the Royal Classic Beef Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show selections were made based on the quality of their calf on Saturday, October 2.

Eight 4-H dairy members will compete against 4-H members from across Canada in the Royal Dairy Classic in November. The Nova Scotia 4-H dairy team members are: Sara MacInnis, Abbey MacInnis and Sarah MacGillivray, Antigonish County; Carolyn MacDonald, Cynthia Campbell and Lauren van Zutphen, Inverness County; Andrew Eikelenboom, Halifax East Hants and Magan Hudgins, Annapolis County.

Carolyn MacDonald also won the Versteeg Memorial Award. This award is presented to a 4-H member based on a 50/50 split for the conformation of the calf and their showmanship ability.

The dedicated work of the Royal Dairy Classic Committee and the Royal Classic Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Show 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.

The nine members representing Nova Scotia with their beef heifers at the Canadian Junior Beef Heifer Classic are: Connie van den Heuvel and

Randy Angevine, Antigonish County; Kelsey Boone, Jacy MacInnis and David Siddall, Cumberland County; Sarah Morse and Breagh Ross, Kings County, Alex Parsons, Annapolis County and Becky Lowe, Inverness County.

4-H Member Wins Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition

4-H members had the opportunity to speak about their enthusiasm for agriculture at the provincial Young Speakers for Agriculture competition during the Nova Scotia 4-H Show in Bridgewater on October 2. Melody Sanford, Kings County, won the provincial competition and will represent Nova Scotia 4-H at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, November 6, 2010.

The winner of the provincial competition is sponsored by the Nova Scotia 4-H Council. Winners must be 16 - 24 years of age, as of January 1, 2010, to enter the national contest. During the competition each contestant will give a five to seven minute prepared speech on one of five

selected topics and have to introduce and thank another speaker. Melody's speech was titled, "Who Will Feed the World in 50 Years?"

4-H members are encouraged to do public speaking and demonstrations along with their project work during the 4-H year. Each spring 4-H clubs, counties and regions hold communications competitions. In an Ipsos Reid survey commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, 74 per cent of 4-H alumni said their experiences as a 4-H member were very beneficial in terms of contributing to personal or career experiences later in life. In particular, they indicated that the 4-H program contributed to developing public speaking and presentation skills.

Show Your 4-H Colours and Celebrate National 4-H Month

Show Your 4-H Colours! All 4-H members, volunteer leaders, parents, family, supporters and alumni across Canada are encouraged to wear green on November 4 to celebrate National 4-H Month. The month-long celebration provides an opportunity to showcase the many benefits of the 4-H program, which continues to help thousands of youth in Nova Scotia reach their full potential.

In 4-H the focus is on fun, friends, and learning cool new skills like creating crafts, building a website, learning all about animals, building a small engine or making a prom dress!

"When I started out in 4-H I mainly focused on the life skills projects", said Magen Hudgins, an 18-year-old member with the Mountain Ridge 4-H Club in Annapolis County. "The title of these projects really does describe

them well. They give you many of the skills you will need in life and 4-H is a fun and interesting way to acquire them. You can compete with other members in your age category and receive positive feedback on your completed project. I've taken the foods, crafts, photography and woodworking projects. I've learned skills that I will use everyday!"

Young people from nine to 21 years old can be a member in 4-H. 4-H encourages leadership development, care and responsibility for our resources and builds positive life skills to secure the future of rural communities. Originally the 4-H clubs consisted mainly of farm children and livestock projects. Today the 4-H program still has an agriculture base but prides itself with moving with the times, developing projects to meet the needs of modern youth.

Kyla Sweeney, an 18-year-old 4-H member from the Brookfield 4-H Club in Colchester County, has been a 4-H member for nine years and believes 4-H has helped her to learn important skills she can use for employment. "One thing I am most grateful for about 4-H is my job I obtained at a local grocery store bakery. I obtained this job because the store owner knew that through 4-H I learned how to bake and decorate cakes. He knew I was a hard worker, had food safety training and would have a high productivity level because he saw my results from cake decorating competitions at exhibitions," said Kyla. "Everything I learned from 4-H is going to be with me for the rest of my life and I am grateful because of it."

4-H members can choose from over 40 projects and still learn to do by doing. Projects help develop technical and record keeping skills in youth while teaching them responsibility. They take pride in doing their best, making decisions and seeing projects through to completion. Youth grow up with

confidence in their own skills, talents, and the caring and sharing of community spirit. 4-H members also have the opportunity to travel on national and international exchange programs, participate in cutting-edge provincial and national conferences, as well as apply for more than \$100,000 in national scholarships.

Nova Scotia Delegates To Attend National 4-H Conferences

Eleven members and seven leaders from Nova Scotia have been selected to attend the National 4-H Members and the National 4-H Leaders conferences in Toronto November 3 – 7. Each year Nova Scotia selects and sponsors a group of 4-H members and leaders to attend these two prestigious 4-H events hosted by the Canadian 4-H Council.

National 4-H Members Conference is a five day leadership and agricultural based program involving 60 4-H members aged 16 – 21 from across Canada and two from the United Kingdom. The theme of this year's conference is "Embracing Change." The overall goal of the conference is to impart knowledge to delegates on the "agriculture and agri-food continuum" and the importance of leadership.

Throughout the week, members will have an opportunity to participate on tours to a variety of agri-food or other related businesses; share 4-H information and meet new friends; participate in a variety of discussion sessions of special interest; meet and visit with 4-H council members/representatives and program sponsors and visit points of interest in Toronto such as the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and experience live theatre.

The Nova Scotia members who won travel awards are: Sarah MacDonnell, Inverness County; Neal Broome,

We have so much to celebrate! A national survey of 4-H alumni conducted by Ispos Reid and commissioned by the Canadian 4-H Council, found that 88 per cent said the key goals and objectives of 4-H are relevant to today's youth and 85 per cent of former 4-H members would recommend 4-H membership to young people.

Leah Cook, and Hillary Gear, Lunenburg County; Anna MacNeil, Antigonish County; Rebecca O'Connell and Anna Works, Colchester County; Scott Butler, Antigonish County; Brittany Veinot, Annapolis County; Jasmine Pick, Hants County and Jordan Daniels, Kings County.

Forty outstanding volunteer 4-H leaders from across Canada will attend the National 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference, "Leading Together.. Embracing Change" that runs concurrently with the 4-H member conference. The program is designed to strengthen leadership qualities, to better equip leaders to creatively meet the needs of their 4-H members, promote personal development in leaders, provide an opportunity for an exchange of program ideas and provide recognition for volunteer 4-H leaders through an enjoyable and educational experience.

Nova Scotia 4-H leaders attending this conference are: Eva Landry and Raymond Ferguson, Richmond County; Wanda Batson, Annapolis County; Ruth Anne Greenough, Hants County; Margaret Congdon, Colchester County; Donna Simpson, Lunenburg County; Dorothy Peacock, Shelburne County; Gerald Eisnor, Todd Greene, and Debra Eisnor, Pictou County.

4-H Member to Attend the International 4-H Judging Seminar

Kayla Graham, a 4-H member from Pictou County, will represent Nova Scotia at the International 4-H Judging Seminar during the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Saskatchewan.

From November 21 – 23 Kayla will attend the International 4-H Judging Seminar along with as many as 80 delegates from across Canada and the United States. This competition fosters the future development of young judges for the agricultural industry and provides a high profile and competitive judging experience.

During the Grand Champion Judging competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Show, Kayla placed three livestock and three life skills classes and gave oral reasons on four to win the title of Grand Champion Judge.

During the 4-H year members learn to judge the projects in which they are enrolled. Each member compares four 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.

At the International 4-H Judging Seminar Competitors must be 17 - 21 years of age and will compete in judging livestock classes and provide oral reasons to a judge in those classes identified. A total of 12 minutes per class is allotted to judge each class.

Aggregate scores will be based on total scores of the classes plus scores of the oral reasons. Prizes will be awarded to the Grand Aggregate and the highest placing Canadian competitor.

Your Agricultural Resource Coordinators

Acting Senior Agricultural Resource Coordinator:

Arthur Pick – Truro
Tel: (902) 893-6587
Fax: (902) 893-2757

West Hants, Kings, Lunenburg & Queens counties:

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

East Hants, Cumberland, Colchester & Halifax counties:

Michael Kittilsen –
Tel: (902) 893-3645
Fax: (902) 893-0244
kittilma@gov.ns.ca

Pictou, Antigonish & Guysborough counties:

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

Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness & Richmond counties:

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

Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth & Shelburne counties:

Dennis Moerman –
Tel: (902) 638-2396
Fax: (902) 638-2389
moermade@gov.ns.ca

Western Regional Office Move

The Weymouth Department of Agriculture and the Lawrencetown 4-H office have merged to form the new Western Regional Office of the N.S. Department of Agriculture located in Cornwallis Park.

Also joining us in this new office is Mark Durkee of the Food Protection and Enforcement Division.

Our new address is: 86 Atlantic Avenue, Box 278, Cornwallis Park, NS B0S 1H0

Our phone numbers are:

Gina Saulnier (main number)
Admin Support
(902) 638-2395
(800) 639-7030

Dennis Moerman
Agriculture Resource Coordinator
(902) 638-2396

Nicole Burkhard
Transition Officer
(902) 638-2397

Jean Ward
Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator
(902) 638-2387

Mark Durkee
Manager, Policy and Programming
Food Protection and Enforcement Division
(902) 638-2383

Our fax machine is (902) 638-2389

All email addresses remain the same

Annapolis County Federation Livestock Sales

Cattle sales at the Lawrencetown Exhibition Grounds for the remainder of the year are: October 23, November 6 and 20. Selling of miscellaneous items will begin at 10:30 a.m. Selling of livestock begins at 1 p.m.

County Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meetings

Hants Co. Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Fire Hall on October 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture will hold their annual general meeting on Monday, November 8 in the Cornwallis Room, Agricultural Centre, Kentville at 7 p.m.

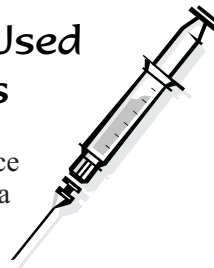
Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture's annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in Bridgewater (location TBA). For additional events and information about Lunenburg Queens Federation of Agriculture, please contact any board member. Also watch for their fall newsletter coming out in early October.

Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture Dinner and Dance

The Kings Co. Federation of Agriculture will be holding their fall dinner and dance on November 20, at the Union Street Café in Berwick. For more information and tickets, please contact one of the directors.

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.



Updating Mailing List

We are constantly updating our mailing list. If your address has changed, you no longer would like to receive this newsletter, or you would prefer to receive by e-mail, please contact Cheryl at (902) 679-6021 or by e-mail ctheriau@gov.ns.ca. We have had a number of Lunenburg County newsletters returned to us due to incomplete/wrong addresses so please advise us of your new address.



Valley Region 4-H

Fall marks the beginning of another 4-H year! Clubs are now starting to take registrations. This is a great time to get involved with this rewarding program. The Valley region, consisting of Hants and Kings Counties, boasts a very strong 4-H program with 15 clubs that offer a wide range of Livestock and Life Skills projects. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the 4-H program, do not hesitate to get in touch with Beth Trueman, your Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator for the Valley Region. The 4-H office is located in Kentville and can be reached at (902) 678-6027. You can also visit the Nova Scotia 4-H website at <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h/> to find more information about the 4-H program and youth movement.

4-H clubs in communities all across Canada are gearing up for the month of November, which is National 4-H month. Throughout the month, clubs will be celebrating being a part of Canada's most prominent youth organization with fund raisers, socials and fun events.

Growing Your Farm Profits

Growing Your Farm Profits is an educational tool designed to help farmers improve their business planning and maximize their long-term farm business goals. There is no charge for this event.

- Do you need to improve your profits?
- Have you started planning for succession?
- When was the last time you were in a room with your peers and had the opportunity to share new ideas?
- Do you have an action plan for each priority of your farm business?

Growing Your Farm Profits will help.

While excellent production is important to the farm, planning is required to help farmers successfully

meet their business and personal goals. Growing Your Farm Profits can show you how. You will learn how pro-active planning can influence effective decision making today and bring you closer to the success you deserve. Give yourself every chance of reaching your goals by attending the Growing Your Farm Profits workshop. This one-day workshop will give you the tools necessary to assess where you are now and where you could be in the future.

Nappan, Pavillion: November 10, 2010, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Truro, AgriTech Park: December 8, 2010, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information contact Michael at (902) 893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca

NSCC International Business - Student Internships

Good people are hard to find! Is your business involved in importing or exporting, trade-related services or part of the transportation sector? Need an extra hand? Are you overworked on certain projects? Do you have back burner projects that never seem to make it to the top of the pile? Are you planning for growth? If so, have you considered an NSCC international business student internship?

Between January and April of 2011, 25 job-ready students who are finishing their third year at NSCC will be seeking a four month internship to complete their credit requirements for the Advanced Diploma in International Business program. This program was identified as one of Nova Scotia's top ten most innovative programs and these students are keen to work and capable of working in almost any aspect of your company's business. A lot can be accomplished in four months so express your interest early if we can help. For more information you can contact Barrie Reid, Faculty International Business at: Barrie.reid@nsc.ca or: (902) 893-5352.

Typical projects include

- customer service support
- sales and marketing assistance
- logistics coordination and support
- market research
- inside sales
- newsletter/website development
- trade-related administrative support
- consulting and planning support

Cumberland Local Food Directory

Cumberland county producers, do not miss the opportunity to have your product(s) on the minds of all Cumberland county residents, restaurants and retailers. Whether you do direct sales, or wholesale to grocery chains, all producers can benefit by promoting their operation.

The Federation of Agriculture, The Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association, the Cumberland Health Authority and the Department of Agriculture are in the planning stages of creating a county level, local food directory.

This new guide will promote the benefits of buying local and direct from Cumberland producers

(agriculture and seafood) - freshness, quality, and meeting the increasing consumer demand for locally produced foods. The guide will also educate chefs and food buyers about the seasonal availability of Nova Scotia products and provide useful information about the producers who supply them.

We will be gathering information from all producers for the guide. A direct mail out to registered producers will contain information about the process, application form and a sample of another local county directory. Look for your opportunity to promote your operation in a mail box near you soon!

Do You Have the Proper Driver's Licence?

If you have a farm tractor trailer combination over 14,000 kg you need a Condition 23 Endorsement. If you are hauling any trailer (with a truck or tractor) that has a weight over 4500 kg you need a Condition 15 Endorsement on your licence to legally drive on Nova Scotia roads. These regulations apply to class 5 licence. If you are interested in obtaining these endorsements contact Michael Kittilsen at (902) 893-3645 or kittilma@gov.ns.ca.

Process for Cond 15:

1. Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$47.68 (HST Incl.) This can be purchased at an Access Nova Scotia Center or online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

Process for Cond 23:

- Complete a Condition 23 application prior to testing
- Have driver's medical exam completed by your doctor
- Purchase a Road Test Receipt which costs \$46.85 (HST Incl.). This can be purchased at an Access Nova Scotia Centre or online at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/rmv/licence/>

You must register with the Central office first and have a valid drivers license ("N" removed) to be eligible for testing. The Condition 23 application, the form for the medical exam and more information is available by calling (902) 893-3645 and speaking to Michael.

County Federation Meetings

Cumberland County AGM, Monday, November 10, 8 p.m., Pavilion
Halifax East Hants AGM, Monday November 8, 8 p.m., Carrols Corner Center



Central Region 4-H News

Hello 4-H Enthusiasts!

The Central Region is happy to have been the hosts for a very successful Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H Show this year! The 33rd Annual NS 4-H Show was held October 1-3, 2010 in Truro, NS. I would like to thank the 2010 Hosting Committee members for all of their hard work over the past year to put on such a great show! I would also like to thank all sponsors who helped make the event happen. 4-H events like this are not possible without your generous support! A final thank you goes out to all members, leaders, 4-H families and volunteers who attended the show. It keeps getting bigger and better each year and the 4-H spirit at this show was incredible! Thank you!

Registration for 4-H will be happening throughout the fall. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H member this year please contact me to help locate the 4-H club nearest you! Registrations are due by December 1, 2010 at the central region 4-H office.

County awards banquets are happening in October. This is a great way to celebrate a 4-H year with your county.

I have enjoyed my year with the 4-H program as Central Region Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator. Best wishes to all members, leaders and 4-H supporters for the upcoming year!

Yours in 4-H, Janette

Upcoming 4-H Council Meetings

Colchester County 4-H Leaders Council meetings: October 25, and November 22, upstairs at the Agridome at 7 p.m.

Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Council meetings: November 2 and Dec. 7, at the Shinimicas Fire Hall at 8 p.m.

Halifax-East Hants County 4-H Leaders Council meetings: November 9 at Hants East Rural High School at 7 p.m.

County Banquets

Colchester County Annual 4-H Scholarship Auction and Awards Banquet – October 23, 2010, 6:30pm, Bible Hill Elementary School.

Halifax East-Hants Awards Banquet-October 21, 2010, 6:30 p.m., Campbell Hall, Shubenacadie.

Provincial Events

November 1-30 – National 4-H Month!

For further information on any of these events or the 4-H program, please contact:

Janette McDonald, at (902) 893-6586 or mcdonajk@gov.ns.ca, Central Region Agriculture and 4-H Leadership Coordinator.

Disposal of Used Farm Sharps



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

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

Attention: Recycling Used Pesticide Containers Here's What to Do:

1. Allow the formulation to drain from the container for at least 30 seconds.
2. Add at least 20 per cent of the contents of water to the container, replace lid, and rotate so that the interior of the container is rinsed.
3. Empty the rinse water into the spray tank and drain for 30 seconds.
4. Repeat the above procedure twice more.
5. Render containers unuseable by puncturing.
6. Leave label on the container.

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

The United Farmers Co-op on Keltic Drive in Sydney River is now accepting properly cleaned pesticide containers for recycling. You can drop off containers at the Co-op Country Store for recycling. Please see staff prior to dropping off containers.

No five-gallon buckets or plastic bags accepted.

Hay for Sale?

The Cape Breton agricultural office is gathering a contact list of individuals who have or will have hay for sale this 2010-11 season. Each year the regional offices receive numerous calls from livestock owners who are looking to purchase hay and other feeds. If you would like to have your name added to the contact list please call our office at (902) 563-2000.

Reminder:

A "Growing Your Farm Profits" workshop is being held March 2, 2011 from 10:00-3:30 p.m., at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck. Call (902) 563-2000 to register. For more information, visit <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/bde/>.

Employment wanted:

Experienced dairy worker seeks employment in Cape Breton, contact (902) 563-2000 for more details.

Upcoming Food Handler Course 2010

Please pre-register for food handlers courses by contacting Catherine at the NS Dept. of Agriculture office in Sydney at (902) 563-2000. Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link: <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandlerSyd.pdf>

North Sydney

Wanda Timmons,
at the Bras D'Or Hall
November 23
December 14

Sydney

Doreen Mackley,
at the Grand Lake Road Fire Hall
October 27
November 24
December 8
January 26
February 23
March 30

Federation General Meetings

The Inverness Victoria Federation has scheduled its annual general meeting for Saturday, November 13, starting at 10 a.m., at the Skye Glen Hall – all members are encouraged to attend.

The Cape Breton Richmond Federation has scheduled a general meeting for Wednesday, November 10, at 7 p.m. – all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Watch for future notifications of these very important meetings in your mailbox or contact your local Federation board members for more information.

4-H Fall Update 2010

National Members /Leaders Conference - Winner

Congratulations is sent to our national award members and leader attending the National Conferences to be held at the beginning of November. Our regional winners will get an opportunity to attend the Royal Winter Fair and tour the Toronto and surrounding agricultural areas. Delegates attending are:

Winners	County
Eva Landry	Richmond
Raymond Ferguson	Richmond
Sarah Mac Donelle	Inverness

Jack Pemberton Bursary - Winner

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in partnership with 4-H Canada, is pleased to offer the Jack Pemberton Youth Development Bursary to an outstanding senior 4-H member residing outside of the province of Ontario with a keen interest in agriculture and a desire to attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. This year's successful applicant will be awarded a \$3,000 bursary to be used to attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair held in Toronto for two nights. Rural youth from all across the province have submitted applications. The winning applicant must be a member in good standing

with plans for post-secondary education in an agriculture related program and who demonstrates involvement in agriculture.

This year's provincial winner is Sarah Mac Donnell from Port Hood, Inverness County. Sarah is an active dairy member in the region. She was also awarded earlier in the year the title of Grand Champion Dairy member at Eastern Breeders Showcase held in June. Congratulations to Sarah on her win and her future plans in Nova Scotia agriculture.

Important Dates

- Richmond County Council meeting – October 18 – 7 p.m.
- Cape Breton County Council meeting – October 20 – 7 p.m., Fisheries office.
- Victoria County Council meeting – October 26 – Peterson's.
- Richmond Co. Banquet – October 24.
- George MacNeil Scholarship fund raiser – 4-H Grocery Bagging Day - November 6 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (North Sydney, Sydney River and Sydney Sobey's stores).
- George Mac Neil Scholarship fund raisers – Auction – November 6, – 7 p.m.
- Cape Breton Regional New Leader training session – November 30 – 6 p.m. – Civic Center.
- Cape Breton Regional National award interviews – November 30 – 4:30 p.m. – Civic Center.
- Annual meeting – November 19–20 Truro.
- Life Skills workshop – November 20, 9–4 p.m. – Evergreen Seniors Club.
- National Members awards – deadline for November 15.
- November – National 4-H Month.
- Cape Breton annual meeting and banquet – Sunday November 21 (Arm of Gold hosting).
- Inverness Sign-up, church service and banquet – November 28 (Margaree).
- 4-H Annual registration for all leaders and members due in 4-H office for December 1.
- Leaders Travel award – deadline is December 15 – Truro 4-H office.

As the 4-H season winds down, the we would like to recognize the efforts of our 4-H leaders, members, parents and friends of 4-H. On behalf of regional staff, the Sydney staff would like to thank all for your energy and dedication this year. Your efforts are obvious in the quality of the members that our region is showcasing locally and at a provincial level.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the regional office in Sydney at (phone) (902) 563-2000; (fax) (902) 563-3435; or the Mabou office at: (phone) (902) 945-2901; (fax) (902) 945-2858.

Alternative Farm Energy Information Sharing

Wednesday, November 24, St. Ninian Place, Antigonish at 7:30 p.m. Want to save money? Improving sustainability through efficiency, conservation and the adoption of renewable energy options can reduce farm operating costs. There are many feasible options for farmers from efficient lighting to solar space heating.

Farmers can access funding for energy-saving opportunities, in some cases up to 80 per cent. There are several funding programs available to farmers. Fact sheets with more information can be found on the NS Department of Agriculture website <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/rs/envman/pub.s>

[html](#). There are fact sheets on Renewable Energy Funding, Energy Management Funding and a Farm Energy Resource Kit.

For further information and assistance, contact Julie Bailey, PEng, Farm Energy Specialist, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Phone: (902) 896-4473, cell. (902) 956-1734, baileyja@gov.ns.ca. Nova Scotia farmers can contact the Farm Energy Specialist for information on energy conservation/efficiency options, renewable energy options, energy audits, programs and funding. This initiative is supported by Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

Extension News

Producers in the area are being encouraged to come together and form a group or club to share information, problem solve and develop common themes for program planning.

Recently a group of established and potential apple growers came together for an orchard tour along with Bill Craig, Horticulture Specialist, from AgraPoint. The group agreed on a topic for a spring workshop and are planning a tour in the early spring to investigate value-added opportunities.

The organic producers also participated in a farm tour with Rachael Cheverie, Horticulture Specialist, AgraPoint, to discuss common production problems and improved production methods.

Producers are encouraged to come together as a group to provide leadership to their peers, facilitate training, discuss new ideas, workshop topics or other extension needs that can be facilitated in the months ahead. If you have an idea for a group or club to be formed or an extension session you would like us to help facilitate please contact your local agriculture office. We're working on program planning for the upcoming year and would benefit from feedback from the various commodity groups.

Important Dates:

October 18, 2010 Pictou North Colchester Federation of Agriculture

Ham Dinner and Annual General Meeting, West River Fire Hall
Meet and Greet at 6 p.m.

Dinner served at 6:30 p.m., with AGM to follow
\$8/person. An RSVP would be appreciated, call Lorenda
at (902) 657-3420

Guest Speakers:

Richard Melvin, President NSFA

AgraPoint presentation on their services available
to producers

November 3, 2010 Antigonish-Guysborough Federation of Agriculture

Annual General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. St. Ninian Place

November 6, 2010 Federation Fall Dinner/Dance and

Local Food Celebration

Tickets available through Board members, the agriculture office,
MacLeod Farm Machinery, Antigonish Farm and Garden Co-op
and Shur-Gain Feeds' N Needs.

• \$25/person

• St. Andrews Community Centre

• 7-8 p.m., Happy Hour

• 8 p.m., Dinner featuring local food prepared by Jeffrey MacNeil
and dance to follow.

November 25/26 Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Annual General Meeting, Glengarry Inn, Truro

New Staff

The Antigonish staff welcomes Marion MacAulay, Agriculture Transition Officer, to our team. Marion will provide project-specific support to agricultural organizations, federations and industry stakeholders in both the Antigonish and Cape Breton regions. Marion was raised on a dairy/potato farm in PEI and holds a B.Sc (Agr) from McDonald College of McGill University. Along with experience in project management, she brings great enthusiasm for local agriculture. Please drop by and introduce yourself to Marion the next time you are in the area.

Local Food Strategy

A group of producers, public, community organizations and key stakeholders are working on local food initiatives. The group is currently working on a quick success that all participants can see value and encourage further momentum. A meeting connecting with the community is being held Thursday, October 21, 2010, Assembly Hall, Bethany at 6:30 p.m., where the quick success will be pitched and the group asked to complete. Anyone interested in local food is encouraged to attend this meeting. Please contact the local office.

Biomass

A group of interested producers will meet in November in Antigonish to review current information and begin to investigate the feasibility of growing grass to produce pellets as a form of biomass in this Region. AgraPoint, the Antigonish Regional Development Authority (ARDA), and the Pictou Regional Development Commission (PRDC) are resources for the committee. The committee is only in its infancy and we are expecting great progress this Fall. Anyone interested in attending this meeting please contact the local office.

Organizing Agriculture in the Community

In partnership with the Antigonish Guysborough Federation a series of Call To Action meetings were held this past spring. To effectively move the agricultural agenda forward, producers need to be in the driver's seat in building effective partnerships between farmers, community members and government service providers. A plan was developed with five priorities:

- making farms profitable
- market opportunities
- culture change – opinions of farmers and consumers.
- leadership – getting producers in the drivers seat.
- loss of knowledge and experience with people exiting the industry

The group decided that the two areas of focus should be local food and biomass. Project teams were developed for both topics. Please contact the local office if you wish to get involved. The Pictou Regional Development Commission attended the workshops and the goal is to incorporate the same model into the Pictou strategy this fall.

Farm Safety Pilot

A pilot project in partnership with the Antigonish/Guysborough Federation was initiated to engage farmers in discussion of safety in their local communities and to create a sustainable model.

Project partners also included AgraPoint and two local fire departments: St. Andrews and Pomquet, Antigonish County. Meetings were held in each community inviting farmers and firefighters, a needs assessment was developed and a commitment to work towards the following list of safety topics was established:

- farm safety canisters – providing farm maps and hazards during fire
- tail gate meetings
- safety day
- first on the scene training
- farm safe work procedures

A summer student was hired to develop a plan, conduct farm visits and complete the information to be contained in the canister for each farm. A presentation on the pilot project is planned for the Federation AGM. We are currently working on setting up a followup meeting in the fall to move forward on the other topics.

November – National 4-H Month

“Join the 4-H Trend in 2010” Want to learn more about 4-H? Interested in joining?.. contact the 4-H office at (902) 863-7501 or visit <http://gov.ns.ca/agri/4h>

Upcoming 4-H Events

Antigonish

October 18 – Council meeting
October 24 – Awards program, St. Andrew's Community Centre, 2 p.m.
November 9 – Annual general meeting, 7 p.m.
November 20 – Craft workshop in Port Hawkesbury for leaders and senior members. Please call the 4-H office to register.

...continued on next page

Pictou

October 28 – Council meeting 7 p.m.,
4-H office

November 10 – Pictou County
Celebrate 4-H Night, 7 p.m., WA
MacLeod School

November 17 – Annual general
meeting, 7 p.m., Northumberland

November 19/20 - NS Council annual
meeting – Truro

November 25 – Council meeting and
set 2011 date – 7 p.m. 4-H office

December 5 – Leaders Christmas
social, 7 p.m., Ming's in New
Glasgow

Antigonish Farmer's Market... a Saturday morning experience!

Come visit the Antigonish Farmer's Market at the 4-H building on the Exhibition Grounds until October 30. Drop in on October 30 to check out the Pumpkin Carving Contest. Cast your vote for the best pumpkin.

The Market will move to its fall location at the Antigonish Education Centre on Saturday, November 6 and will continue every Saturday until December 18. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

More than 50 vendors display their products every week. There will be lots to see and try — everything from the Arts to Zucchini, with many unique gift ideas for Christmas.

- handcrafted customized jewelry pieces
- many food and wine products only available at the market
- woolens
- beautiful handcrafted wood pieces.....plus so much more

Western Region 4-H Dates to Remember:

October 20	Yarmouth County 4-H leaders council
October 21	Digby County 4-H Awards Banquet and Leaders Council meeting
November	National 4-H Month with November 3, Show Your Colors
November 3-7	National Member and 4-H Leaders Conference Toronto
November 7-8	Royal Dairy and Beef Classic Royal Winter Fair in Toronto
November 10	Annapolis County 4-H Leaders Council and annual meeting
November 17	Yarmouth County 4-H Leaders Council annual meeting
November 18	Digby County 4-H Leaders Council annual meeting
December 1-3	National 4-H Awards Interviews. Listen each Saturday at noon for 4-H News on AVR

Call the 4-H office at (902) 638-2387 for information on any of these events or programs.

Upcoming Events

Yarmouth Fall Harvest Gathering – A Celebration of Local Food ~ November 6, 2010

Local food producers and consumers from all over the tri-counties will gather once again to celebrate the fall harvest. This event also observes what many believe is a growth in our local food system. It will be the second year for the Tri-County Fall Harvest Gathering.

The Tri-County Local Food Network is hosting the event dubbed Fall Harvest Gathering – A Celebration of Local Food. The purpose of the event is not only to celebrate the increase in availability and accessibility of local food in the tri-counties, but also to bring together local producers and consumers to learn and enjoy more about food.

In the Tri-Counties we have grown from two farm markets in 2008, five in 2009, to eight including a farm to workplace market in 2010. The farm markets are located in Digby, Belliveau Cove, Yarmouth, Argyle, Shelburne, Sable River, Barrington and Yarmouth Hospital Worksite Market. Vendors and producers from all markets are being invited to sell

their wares at the Fall Harvest Gathering on Saturday, November 6 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Beacon United Church Hall, Beacon Street, Yarmouth.

Admission to the event is free, so come out and enjoy fresh local food while supporting the local food producers. For more information, please visit the Tri-County Local Food System Web Site at www.TCLocalFoodNet.com or contact the Network at email@tclocalfoodnet.com

Yarmouth County Federation of Agriculture annual meeting

October 19, at 7 p.m. - NSCC Burridge Campus - Yarmouth

Annapolis County Federation of Agriculture annual meeting

November 15, at 8 p.m. - Agricultural Demonstration Building - Lawrencetown

New Western Region Agriculture Services Office

As of September 1, 2010, the Western Regional office is now located in Cornwallis Park. See page 10 for further details.

New Appointment

The Western Regional office welcomes Nicole Burkhard as a new addition to our team. As Agricultural Transition Officer, Nicole will be focusing on project-specific support for agricultural organizations, federations and industry stakeholders in the region. She holds a Master's degree in Agriculture from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and brings an enthusiasm for farming and rural sustainability. Nicole is a new arrival to Annapolis County. She and her husband just bought their first farm and will continue to grow their vegetable business through a community supported agriculture program. Please feel free to contact Nicole in English or French at (902) 638-2397 or burkhane@gov.ns.ca

Farm Calls

I am currently making visits to farms around the region. If you would like me to visit your farm please call me at the office at (902) 638-2396, on my cell at (902) 749-6601 or drop me an e-mail at moermade@gov.ns.ca

Upcoming Food Handler Courses – Fall/Winter 2010

October 26	Three Mile Plains Community Hall
October 26	Yarmouth NSCC
October 28	Middleton NSCC
November 10	Kentville Research Station
November 16	Lawrencetown NSCC
November 23	Yarmouth NSCC
December 7	Shelburne NSCC
December 9	Bridgewater Fire Hall
December 9	Digby Curling Club
December 9	Kentville Research Station
December 14	Yarmouth NSCC



If you wish to register and are in need of a registration form, please contact Gina Saulnier at the NS Department of Agriculture office in Cornwallis at (902) 638-2395 or by e-mail at saulnigl@gov.ns.ca

Registration forms can be downloaded and printed from this link:

http://gov.ns.ca/agri/foodsafety/pdfs/FoodHandler_West.pdf