

Agriculture Ministers Make Progress on Key Issues Facing the Sector

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture met in Winnipeg, July 8-10, to discuss key issues facing the agricultural sector, including the status of the cattle and beef industry, animal health practices, and progress on the implementation of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF).

Ministers reviewed the state of the agricultural industry since the detection of a single case of Bovine Spongiform

Encephalopathy (BSE), met with industry members to discuss current challenges, and discussed the report of the International Team that reviewed and commended Canada's BSE investigation. Ministers agreed that reinstating

access to key markets remains their top priority. Ministers discussed Canada's extensive efforts at all levels with the United States and other key trading partners to reopen borders to the Canadian beef industry. Provincial and territorial ministers agreed these efforts need to be intensified and expressed their support for the federal government's strong leadership in this area to date. Ministers also agreed to adjust the payment schedule to ensure a national BSE Recovery Program, which is providing temporary assistance to producers, and make

commitments to continue to work with industry to ensure effective operation and equitable access for all producers.

On discussing the challenges facing Canada's beef industry, Ministers called for the suspension of further issuance of supplementary import permits, with a view to ensuring maximum opportunity for Canadian producers.

Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lyle Vanclief agreed to follow up immediately with his colleague, the Minister of International Trade, on this issue.

Ministers explored options in areas such as feed

practices, comprehensive food safety plans, tracking and tracing systems, and disease surveillance. Agreeing that these efforts should be co-ordinated with the U.S. and other key trading partners, Ministers emphasized the need to move forward quickly and directed officials to further assess implications and accelerate development of action plans. In discussing further enhancements to food safety, Ministers endorsed the need to implement new measures to completely remove Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) from food, as

recommended by the International Team.

Ministers discussed progress on programs under the APF, an initiative to improve the profitability of the agriculture and agri-food sector, and help Canada to be the world leader in food safety and quality, environmentally responsible production, and innovation. Ministers also reviewed details for the delivery of the new Business Risk Management program - the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (CAISP). These details will be communicated to producers over the course of the summer.

In addition, Ministers reviewed the status of WTO agriculture negotiations and Canada's drive for a level international playing field that promotes fair competition among producers and processors from all countries. Canada is seeking the elimination of agricultural export subsidies, the substantial reduction or elimination of trade-distorting domestic support, and real and substantial market access improvements for all agricultural and food products. Mr. Vanclief also reiterated the Government of Canada's commitment to maintain supply management.

In concluding the meeting, Ministers underlined the need to continue to meet regularly in the weeks ahead as the current situation unfolds.

Ministers agreed that reinstating access to key markets remains their top priority.

District Agricultural Offices

O'LEARY DISTRICT OFFICE

West Prince Regional Services

Centre

P.O. Box 8, O'Leary, PE C0B 1V0

Telephone: 902-859-8841

Fax: 902-859-8709

Email: jwharris@gov.pe.ca

SUMMERSIDE DISTRICT OFFICE

East Prince Regional Services

Centre

120 Harbour Drive, Summerside

PE C1N 5L2

Telephone: 902-888-8040

Fax: 902-888-8023

Email: slmacneil@gov.pe.ca

CHARLOTTETOWN DISTRICT OFFICE

Agricultural Research and

Extension Building

440 University Avenue, P.O. Box 1600,

Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N3

Telephone: 902-368-4145

Fax: 902-368-5663

TOLL-FREE: 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276)

Fax: 902-368-5729

Email: peiextension@gov.pe.ca

MONTAGUE DISTRICT OFFICE

Southern Kings and Queens

Services Centre

P.O. Box 1500, Montague

PE C0A 1R0

Telephone: 902-838-0600

Fax: 902-838-0624

Email: dwsutherland@gov.pe.ca

SOURIS DISTRICT OFFICE

Johnny Ross Young Regional

Services Centre

P.O. Box 550, Souris, PE C0A 2B0

Telephone: 902-687-7040

(Access PEI)

Email: remacdonald@gov.pe.ca

Department Web Site Address:

www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb

Future Farmer Program

..... believing in a thriving future for agriculture in Prince Edward Island
..... working with future farmers to help them succeed

The Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Forestry is investing in the future of Island agriculture through its new Future Farmer Program. Program details and application forms are now available. The Program is expected to be refined and further developed as the needs of applicants become more clearly defined.

The Program has five components:

1. Skills Assessment and Learning Plan - applicants do an assessment of their skills and from that develop a Personal Learning Plan. Some training activities will be offered by the Department, based on demand, and there will be some financial support for other training.

2. Business Advisory Service - applicants develop a viable business plan, which must indicate a projection of gross farm sales of at least \$25,000 per year

3. Risk Management - the minimum first-year deposit for the disaster portion of NISA will be provided, up to a maximum reference margin of \$100,000

4. Interest Rebate - there will be an interest rebate for new loans, for a five-year period, based on the applicant's education level and progress made on the Personal Learning Plan

5. Extension Assistance - each applicant will have a district agricultural ex-

ension worker assigned to him or her, to work closely with the applicant in the first years of the business.

All those who apply on or before July 31, 2003 will share equally in the available funds. After that date, the Program will be on a "first come, first served" basis. As of August 1, some applicants could be turned away from the Program if the funding becomes fully committed.

Program details and application forms are available at the District Agricultural Offices or from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry web site: www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.

- Are you a new farmer or did you start farming in the last five years?
- Do you need assistance to help you be more successful?

If so, the Future Farmer Program might be useful to you. Now accepting applications...

To apply, contact the Extension staff in your District Office. Completed applications must be submitted to the Extension staff in the District Office. Applicants should make an appointment to meet with the Extension staff as part of their application process.

O'Leary District Office: 902-859-8841

Summerside District Office:

902-888-8040

Charlottetown District Office:

902-368-4145

Montague/Souris District Office:

902-838-0600

BUY A TICKET TO FARMERS HELPING FARMERS BEEF BARBECUE AND SUPPORT FARMERS IN KENYA AND TANZANIA

August 9, 2003 4:00-6:30 pm

Research Station, Charlottetown

Barbecue includes T-bone steak, all-you-can-eat salads, homemade rolls and Strawberry Shortcake.

\$20 per adult or \$5 per child.

For tickets call:

Noreen Shaw (672-2216)

Teresa Mellish (368-5605)

Janice Whalen (651-2167)

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Editor: Wayne MacKinnon
Assistant Editor: Daphne Crosby (902) 368-4838
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Canada - Prince Edward Island BSE Recovery Program



The Canada - Prince Edward Island BSE Recovery Program was recently announced as a temporary measure to assist the cattle industry to continue to operate while borders are closed to Canadian cattle and beef products. The Program provides immediate financial assistance to cattle producers who have suffered losses in the market since May 20, 2003 due to border closures, and encourages the continued shipment of animals ready for slaughter.

The Canada Prince Edward Island BSE Recovery Program provides assistance on cattle owned by Prince Edward Island residents, that were in inventory prior to May 20, 2003, that have subsequently been sold for slaughter and have suffered a loss due to border closures. Finished steers and heifers, cull cows and cull bulls are eligible for assistance. Please keep all verifiable records (auction and packer slips etc) as they will be required to process your applications. The pricing formula has been established and we are awaiting confirmation of weekly market prices to allow for payment processing. Program terminates either when the United States border opens or when ever the money allocated for the program runs out, which ever occurs first. For cull cows and bulls irrespective of money in the program this component will terminate on August 21, 2003.

The following is an example only and is subject to change.

Weekly, Av United States 5 slaughter price lagged four weeks = \$1.248
 x exchange rate = \$1.433
 = United States Price in Canadian dollars = \$1.7895

Adjust for the basis (traditional difference between the United States price and the Canadian price for the same animal and dressing percentage between US/Can) = * 63/60 + \$0.0325

= REFERENCE PRICE = \$1.911
 - the actual weighted Canadian plant weekly average price = \$1.45

= price gap (cents per pound) "Market Loss Differential" = \$0.461
 x the average deficiency payment rate on sliding scale = 90%
 = deficiency payment (cents per pound) = \$0.415
 x the market weight per head = 850 lbs
 = Government payment per head = \$352.75

Application forms are available by:
 1. printing them off the Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture &

Forestry website at www.gov.pe.ca/go/BSE
 2. contacting the local District Agriculture Office
 3. contacting Rhonda via - **e-mail** at rrbellefontaine@gov.pe.ca
phone at 1-866-734-3276, Ext 0339 or direct at 894-0339
fax at 902-368-5661
mail at
 Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture & Forestry
 PO Box 1600
 Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N3

BSE Options for Consideration

General

- Stay current on BSE information facts - check out the Department's web site www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3
- Take stock of your current situation
 Cattle - number, type, weight
 Feed - how much feed do you have on hand - silage bales, grain tonnage etc.
 Finances - operating line of credit, cash flow projections, bank obligations

Cow/Calf Operations

Feedlots may be slow to accept feeders this fall so you might consider carrying them longer.

- Contact feedlots and discuss options with them
- Consider backgrounding your calves - either on pasture or in the barn
- What are the feed requirements - do you need to source extra pasture, grain or silage.
- Work with a nutritionist to develop economical rations
- Review herd health programs - Use documented health protocols as a selling tool.
- Consider retained ownership - source feedlots which are willing to accept cattle on gain.
- If you have facilities, consider finishing them yourself

Feedlot Operations

The best option(s) can only be made with good information. Do you know your cost of production? Cost of production budgets are available to help you calculate your actual costs. You can access this information by calling an Agriculture Information Officer at 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276) or visit the web site www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.

- In the short term, review the BSE compensation package to determine if you should market cattle
- Work with a nutritionist to determine whether you can economically reduce gains to 1pound per day to extend days on feed - increase forage levels consider switching to oats. CAUTION : Reducing gains to less than 1 lb/day can result in lower marbling grades.
- Consider different by-product feeds to extend forage supplies or reduce gains but not carcass grade. Avoid changing rations too quickly to prevent cattle going off feed.
- Work with veterinarian on ration additives to prevent liver and rumen health problems
- Extend background phase
- Consider taking feeders in on gain - share market risk with cow/calf producer.

Business Risk Management

A new income stabilization and protection program, which will establish the first permanent system for disaster assistance, has been designed to offer Canadian farmers comprehensive and equitable protection for both large and small income declines. The new program, undertaken as part of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), will provide affordable levels of coverage that producers can tailor to their particular circumstances. It would target government funds effectively to those in need, while conveniently combining in one program both income stabilization and disaster assistance previously provided by the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) and Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP).

It is one of two core business risk management programs whose costs would be shared by the two levels of government under the APF. The other proposed program would provide expanded production insurance that includes more commodities and more options than the current crop insurance scheme. While some provinces have already begun introducing additional production insurance plans, most of the work will be done over the next two years.

Subject to agreement by federal and provincial governments, the new program would be in place for this production year. Most farmers should expect a letter in the fall a letter inviting them to participate in the new program and to select a level of protection from income declines for the 2003 production year. Farmers in such sectors as dairy and poultry, who are governed by the more tightly regulated supply management system, would be eligible only for the component of the program providing protection for losses exceeding 30 per cent (disaster coverage).

Benefits under this new program will be calculated using data from your NISA applications for 1998 to 2002. If all years are not on file, you will re-

ceive a letter later this summer asking you to submit the missing information. If you did not participate in the NISA program you will have to sign up and submit farming income and expense information for those years. The information is required to send you an Options Notice which will explain your coverage options. Options Notices for 2003 will be mailed to current NISA

participants beginning in November 2003, and the 2004 Options Notice will be issued in January 2004.

For additional information about the proposed new program, please visit the APF Web site, www.agr.gc.ca/puttingcanadafirst, or call 1-800-665-6472 (for French, 1-800-665-2776).

“Cultivating Agri-Science in your Classroom” Educator Workshop

It is back to school for some keen educators across Prince Edward Island, as the Prince Edward Island Agricultural Human Resources Development Council plays host and coordinator of a workshop for interested Island educators. The workshop is used to help enhance and promote agriculture in the classroom.

This year's workshop is entitled “Cultivating Agri-science in your Classroom” and will be held August 7th, 2003, at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Harrington Farm, located on the Brackley Point Road. This workshop will be for educators who teach students in grades K-12. There will be guest speakers addressing various topics ranging from “Biodiversity in Soils” to exciting new swine research. A detailed, guided tour will be given of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada - Harrington Farm complete with demonstrations from technicians and scientists. Classroom resources will also be available for educators at no charge.

The workshop is an event designed to help educators incorporate some agricultural ideas in their everyday work. It is an opportunity for educators to treat themselves to an interesting workshop, free of charge, so that they can enlighten both themselves, as well as their students, on the importance of understanding and appreciating agriculture.

Any educator interested in attending this worthwhile workshop should contact Dr. Rose Mary Garrett at the Agricultural Human Resources Development Council, 892-2591 or email agried@auracom.com.

PEI Agriculture Awareness Committee Hires Summer Student

Crystal Bysterveldt has been hired as the summer student for the Prince Edward Island Agriculture Awareness Committee. Crystal will be visiting various fairs and exhibitions across the Island.

During Old Home Week, there will be children tours and an activity center will be open to the public, where you can learn about various aspects within the agriculture industry. All are welcome to visit Crystal and the Agriculture Awareness display at the fairs and exhibitions across Prince Edward Island. Also, keep your eye open for our new calendar, coming out in the beginning of 2004! Crystal can be reached at 892-1091.

OrbeSeal™ The Future of Dry Cow Therapy

by Carolyn Sanford D.V.M.

No doubt as summer is here a lot of you are experiencing frustration with dry cow mastitis. There is nothing worse than having a cow freshen with a new case of mastitis or to flare up with an infection during the dry period. This results in significant milk losses to the producer throughout the entire following lactation which means dollars.

By now many of you may have heard the name OrbeSeal™. It is an internal teat sealant that is infused into the teat on the day of dry off and it is expected to revolutionize dry cow management in Canada. I have been working with this product for the last year performing the Canadian Experimental OrbeSeal™ Trial.

OrbeSeal™ is not a new product, it's been in use in Ireland since the late 1970s and is also used in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and very recently (June) the United States. It will be available to Canadian dairy producers, through their veterinarians, in the fall of this coming year.

As previously mentioned OrbeSeal™ is an internal teat sealant made of a paste-like bismuth subnitrate and has no antibacterial properties. It is applied from an infusion tube just like any intramammary antibiotic. It lasts inside the teat cistern during the dry period for up to 100 days and acts as a physical barrier that keeps bacteria outside of the udder which is instrumental in the dry period especially during the hot and humid days of the summer. It never hardens in the teat but keeps a paste-like consistency and is very easy to strip out at the first milking. It is also safe for the calf to ingest if the calf makes it to the quarter before you do. It is a great improvement to the external teat sealants that have been on the market for several years because they all seem to peel off after just a few days after application, whereas the OrbeSeal™ is actually within the teat.

Researchers at the Atlantic Veterinary College (Drs. Greg Keefe, Ian Dohoo, Herman Barkema and Carolyn Sanford) are coordinating the country wide study. We are examining 1000 Holsteins from sixteen commercial dairy herds in Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Quebec. These herds vary in size from about 35 to 300 milking cows and represent a mixture of both tie and free stall housing.

These cows are milk sampled and cultured two weeks before they are due to dry off. If the sample comes back free from infection then the day of dry off, the cow is re-sampled and after she has been milked, she is dried off using Dry-Clox® in one side of the udder (either right front and right hind or left front and left hind) and OrbeSeal™ in the opposite side. During the first week of freshening we take a third milk sample from the cow and then we are able to compare the incidence of new infections in the Dry-Clox® versus the OrbeSeal™ quarters.

If, on the other hand, the first milk sample comes back infected, then the day of dry off the cow is re-sampled and after she has been milked, she is dried off using Dry-Clox® in all four quarters with the addition of OrbeSeal™ in one side (either right front and right hind or left front and left hind). During the first week of freshening we take a third milk sample from the cow and then we are able to com-

NEGATIVE COWS	INCIDENCE OF NEW INFECTIONS
OrbeSeal™	9.8%
Dry-Clox®	15.5%

POSITIVE COWS	INCIDENCE OF NEW INFECTIONS
OrbeSeal™ & Dry-Clox®	22.2%
Dry-Clox®	27.5%

pare the incidence of new infections in the Dry-Clox® alone versus the Dry-Clox® OrbeSeal™ combination quarters.

Preliminary results from 500 cows have been very promising and are shown in the tables below.

So as you can see OrbeSeal™ used either in combination with Dry-Clox® or alone substantially decreases the number of new infections from occurring during the dry period.

This internal teat sealant has a place in most dairy herds. In some, it may be used as an add on to the current dry cow antibiotic therapy. In others, producers may be interested in gradually switching to a selective dry cow program (in consultation with their herd health veterinarian). OrbeSeal™ certainly will have a substantial place in selective dry cow programs.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about this research you may contact me at the veterinary college at 566-0995.

Tax Exemptions for Farmers

by Kathy Toole, Tax Administration, Provincial Treasury

Part-time farmers may apply for a Marked Gasoline Marked Diesel Fuel permit as soon as they report income from the sale of products from the farm on their income tax returns. Once the farmer meets the required qualifications of a full time farmer then they may apply for a Revenue Tax Exemption Permit. The Minister may refund the tax paid to a farmer in possession of a valid Revenue Tax Exemption Permit where the goods were purchased five years of the date of application, providing the goods were exempt to a farmer at the time of purchase. For additional information or clarification, please contact Kathy Toole at 569-7542.

Memorial Planting Held in Watervale

The annual Batesville Memorial Planting was held this year on Provincial Property # 184705, located on the White Road in Queens County. The "Living Memorial Planting" is sponsored by the Batesville Casket Company of Canada. Under this plan one tree is planted for every casket that has been sold on the Island and represents a memorial to the deceased. Relatives and loved ones are encouraged to come out and plant a tree in memory of their departed loved ones but in the event that they are unable to attend the Montague Area 4-H Clubs do the planting.

This year approximately 30 people attended the planting ceremony. Allan Good of Moncton, New Brunswick, represented Batesville Canada, while 3 local funeral directors were in attendance as Island representatives. The coordinator for the event was Isobel McCormack, the District 4-H Officer.

After a brief introduction by Mr. Good, the ceremony which included a short reading followed by a prayer and a moment of silence were conducted by Brittany Oulton of the Uigg-Kinross Newcomers 4-H Club.

The Provincial Forest Section, who was the host of the event was represented by Terry Gauthier of the Central District Forestry Office. The white spruce seedlings were supplied by the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery.



Terry Gauthier gives some last minute instructions.

Lynda & Brittany Oulton, Alexander Beattie of the Uigg-Kinross 4-H Club.



Strong Interest in Future Farmer Program

There has been a strong show of interest in the new Future Farmer program, announced earlier this spring. As of mid-July, more than 40 applications have been received, and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry anticipates that other will be coming forward.

Government and industry have long recognized the need to attract new farmers to the industry. The average age of farmers is approximately 49 years, and steps must be taken to

ensure the continuation of a dynamic and growing industry in the province.

Eligible applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and a resident of Prince Edward Island. They may apply as individuals or as a member of a corporation, partnership or co-operative. They must not have filed farming income on a tax return for 1997 or any prior year with gross farm sales over \$10,000 and they must not have owned more than 10 percent of shares in a farming corporation prior to 1998.

Applications to the program reflect a wide variety of circumstances.

There are applications from those who are already farming less than five years, and there are those who are still looking for a farm to buy. Some plan on joining or taking over family farms, while others are starting separate operations, with or without family involvement.

(continued on page 10)

Cooperation at New Zealand Fire Typical

On May 21 a fire on the New Zealand Road in Eastern King's County was a great example of how much cooperation and support there is available in an emergency situation. The smoke was spotted before noon on Wednesday and minutes later the Souris Fire Department was dispatched with the forestry fire truck that is stationed there.

Another call to Beach Grove in Charlottetown put the Department's Muskeg (all terrain tracked vehicle) on the road with operators from Upton Road and the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery.

Provincial Forest personnel from the Central District added to both the Provincial Forest and Private Land staff of the Eastern District.

Water being the vital element in fighting a fire was in short supply on the site itself, so additional units from the Souris Fire Department were dispatched along with a pumper unit from the St. Peter's Fire Department.

The Souris detachment of the R.C.M.P. were on hand to handle the traffic situation and to investigate the cause of the fire. Local volunteers from the community rounded out the team of firefighters while on the logistics end of things, a phone and radio relay was handled by the staff of the Eastern District and the Information Officer from Upton Road handled requests for infor-

mation on the status of the fire. One bulldozer was on standby in case the fire threatened to get out of hand.

In all 17 people responded to the immediate threat of the fire while 12



Danny Birt and Wayne Larkin load the Muskeg.

others provided support behind the scenes. Because of the fast action of all concerned the fire was considered extinguished by 6 pm. A second crew was dispatched to the area on Thursday to check for hot spots and to handle the task of cleaning and replacing the equipment used at the fire.



Kevin Brothers of the Eastern District

P.E.I. Open Farm Day 2003

Sobeys proudly presents the second annual Prince Edward Island Open Farm Day, to be held on Sunday, October 5, 2003. This is a day where the Island agriculture and forestry industries welcome visitors to view and learn about their operations.

Open Farm Day is one way in which Atlantic Canada participates in the Canadian Agriculture and Food celebration, being held throughout the month of October. Prince Edward Island has joined other Atlantic Canadian provinces in an effort to increase agriculture awareness. The idea of Open Farm Day is to provide the public with an opportunity to view and tour some farm and forestry operations across the Island, so as to gain a better understanding of the farming community on Prince Edward Island.

Sobeys is the major sponsor for this year's event and encourages the general public to visit some operations to gain some more insight into the agriculture and forestry sectors. Various commodities will be represented to show how the agriculture community on Prince Edward Island is striving for a stronger, more sustainable industry. This year's theme, "Farming for the Future", allows both the host and the visitor the opportunity to discuss some important topics such as technology, markets, sustainability and other issues of interest. Many tour destinations will also have special educational activities to be enjoyed by everyone.

Mark your calendar for **October 5th** and discover the agriculture and forestry community on Prince Edward Island.

For more information contact project coordinator, Robert Holmes at 675-3358, (Toll Free) 1-877-675-3358 or e-mail: openfarmday@hotmail.com

Farmers Helping Farmers Receives Further Funding

Farmers Helping Farmers has received further funding from the Canadian International Development Agency to continue its work in east Africa. The recently approved project involves the economic development of two of the groups that the Island organization has been working with in Kenya over the past several years.

The Minister for International Cooperation, Susan Whalen, yesterday announced a new policy for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on Expanding opportunities through private sector development of developing countries. The Farmers Helping Farmers project is profiled on the CIDA Web site as an example of a project that promotes self-reliance in east Africa.

The Muchui Women's Group in Kenya, which has received 60 water tanks from generous Island donations, will now be starting tree seedling nurseries using a small portion of the water from their tanks. The trees will be sold for cash, needed by these farm families, in addition to being planted locally to provide food, lumber, shelter and firewood. Farmers Helping Farmers will assist them with the training and start-up costs associated with the tree seedlings.

The project that was recently recognized by CIDA for its success and garnered the Farmers Helping Farmers organization with a national award for its volunteer activities in international development is also receiving more assistance. The Wakulima Self-Help Group Dairy consists of 3,500 farmers with one or two cows each. They work cooperatively to ship their milk to a plant where it is cooled and sold for further processing in the capital city, Nairobi, Kenya. The milk is cooled by a milk cooling tank purchased by Farmers Helping Farmers, which has enabled the farmers to dramatically increase the value and amount of milk they sell.

When the Islanders visited this group in January, 2002, they were impressed by its business and adminis-

tration. The group was well-organized and had the potential to achieve greater goals if given the opportunity. The Islanders identified that they needed assistance in credit, because the interest rate of 25 percent made it difficult to improve their livestock or farming operation. They also required better access to veterinary services, better quality control for their milk, higher productivity from their cows, and assistance in product development.

The Farmers Helping Farmers' new project addresses all these issues. The new funding will help these farmers set up a credit system called SACCO, with an interest rate of 10 percent. It is also lining up specialists to send to the Kenyan community to work with them in improving production and product development. The Island organization is pleased to be partnering with the local Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) to begin the initial phase of this three-year project.

Three veterinary students going into their last year of Veterinary Medicine have been selected to visit Kenya for three weeks as part of their final year of education. The students will have an opportunity to learn about international agriculture and veterinary medicine while helping to diagnose problems in their dairy cattle and give the African dairy farmers some technical assistance with regards to herd health management.

The students will be traveling with a supervisor from the Department of Health Management at the AVC, who has previous experience in international veterinary medicine. This opportunity will be available to the students for the next three years and will provide some continuity in monitoring the progress of dairy cattle management in this area. In exchange, Wakulima's veterinarian will also come to Prince Edward Island to learn about dairy cattle management in Canada.

The only thing we're missing is you.



Your picture here

Don't miss out on the fun!

Join 4-H today ...



www.pei4h.pe.ca

2003 Registration Week - September 15 - 21

Young Farm Workers Receive Training

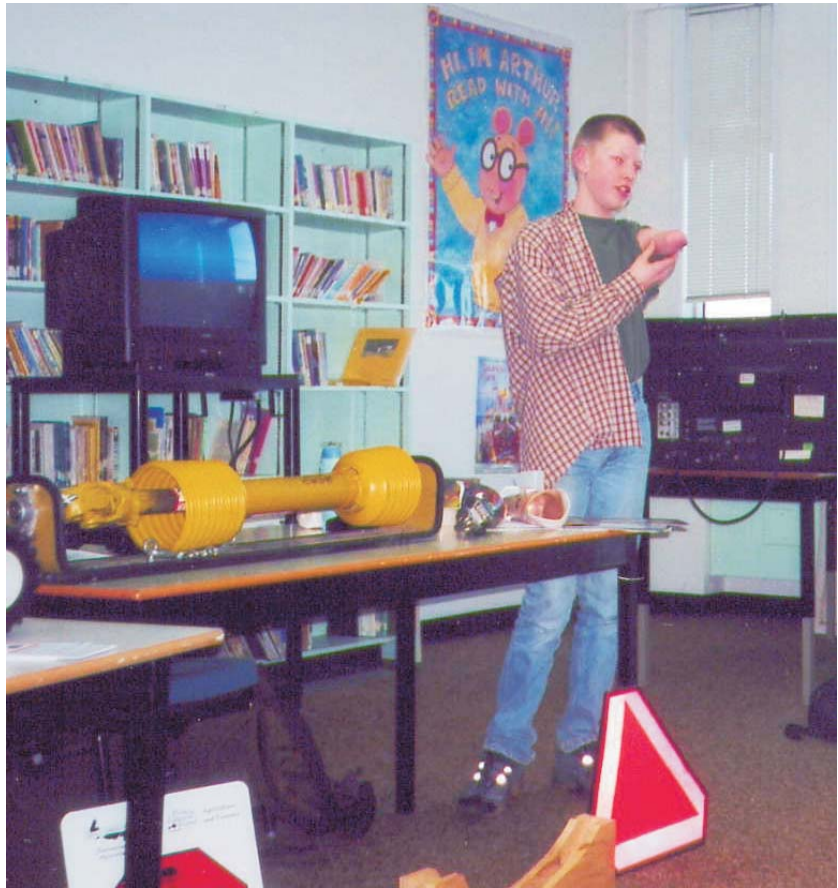
Small groups of farm workers met in five regions of Prince Edward Island the last week of June for Farm Safety Training. Safety Training is an essential tool for getting a job done right.

The ultimate goal of these courses is to educate and inform participants of safe farm practices in order to reduce on-farm incidents resulting in severe injury or fatality. While the course would be of value to every farmer only a few farmers participated in the training. However, having said that, the practical experience already gained by farmers is an invaluable education tool for new young workers. This course will help workers learn safe work strategies that should be recognized and enhanced by all employers.

As farm owners and farm managers, it is inherently your responsibility to ensure that your farm is safe for your family members, employees and visitors. It is also important that family members and employees have the proper safety training to do the job right. Accordingly, it is a good first step to ensure workers have farm safety training prior to working on a farm. However, it would be in everyone's best interest to enroll farmer, farm family members and farm employees in farm safety training. It has to be everyone's responsibility to ensure safety.

The Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture's Farm Health and Safety Program has partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to offer the Farm Safety Training to students employed or a student seeking employment on Island farms. The training was made available, as well, to farm employees (full time or seasonal) and farm owner/operators.

Most of the participants were students who were working on a farm during the summer. Students ranged in age between 13 and 19. At two of the courses a parent took the training with their son. A farm couple, a



Mark Arendz speaks at Farm Safety Training sessions.

farmer, several long time farm employees and ten employees from one farm took the training in their area. Pamela Edmunds, Summer Employment Officer of the Souris Human Resource Centre for Students initiated and organized the Farm Safety Training in Souris.

Mark Arendz a dynamic speaker who lost his arm in an auger incident when he was seven was special guest at the session in Charlottetown. Mark is a War Amps CHAMP. He talked about how and why he was injured; showed participants his prosthesis and the attachments he uses to ski and bike. Lisa Getson a young lady from West Prince, spoke to the group in O'Leary about the incident on a po-

tato harvester that resulted in severe injury to her hip and the loss of her lower arm.

Prior to the potato harvest season, The Farm Health and Safety Program will offer a series of Farm Safety Training courses in locations across Prince Edward Island. Have a safe farming summer!

If you would like information about the Farm Health and Safety Program, please contact Marilyn Affleck at (902) 368 7289 or by e-mail at marilyna@peifa.ca or at 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7Z5.

Forestry Programs for Farmers

Forests cover a portion of most Island farms. However, most farmers do not realize an economic return from their forest land except when markets are good for traditional forest products such as lumber.

Yet Island forests are among the most productive in Canada and can with some time and attention contribute to the economic potential of the farm operation. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry offers several assistance programs to farmers and woodlot owners who want to realize more from their forest lands. These programs provide financial assistance and technical advices designed to help landowners manage their forest lands for a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

The Hedgerow/Riparian Zone Planting Program is available to farmers who have a completed Environmental Farm Plan. This program provides incentives for the planting of tree seedlings. Landowners can do the work themselves or hire a planting contractor, but they must agree to protect the planted seedlings for a period of 15 years. Staff from the Forestry and Land Resource Modeling Division will visit the site prior to planting to review options with the landowner.

The Forest Enhancement Program (FEP) was created to provide forest owners with information on their forest management and harvest options to help them make decisions which are right for themselves and their woodlands. FEP provides incentives for the preparation of forest management plans and, once the plan is approved, additional incentives for selected, non-clearcut forest improvement treatments such as regeneration cutting, crop tree release, commercial thinning, patch cutting, pre-commercial thinning, and strip cutting.

The Province covers 2/3 of the anticipated cost of the FEP, and incentive rates are capped at a fixed value for each treatment procedure. Forest owners are responsible for any additional costs. For more information on the Forest Enhancement Program visit: www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/forest_enhancement/index.php3

The Forest Renewal Program focuses on the reforestation of cut over and poorly stocked sites which are at least 1.0 ha (2.5 acres) in size. Over the past 20 years, several thousand Island land owners have planted approximately 28 million trees on their land because they realized that this

program was a good investment for themselves and their land.

Participating land owners pay \$40/ac to have the area site prepared, and planted. This fee also covers any fill planting or replanting which might be required and one maintenance to reduce competition on the site. Incentives are also available to help cover the cost of thinning young healthy stands. However, both treatments require the land owner to protect the treated area for a 15 year period.

For more information on putting your forest to work for you, visit or call your local Forest District Office.

Strong Interest in Future Farmer Program

(continued from page 6)

Applicants are from across the four major commodities, and others plan to begin vegetable, cranberry, standard-bred and fox production. The applicants also include value-added, conventional and organic production.

The age of applicants ranges from 19 to 51 years, and education ranges from Grade 10 to bachelor's degrees.

There are four main elements to the program. It begins with a skills assessment and learning plan, which will lead to the development of a personal learning plan for each applicant. The department will provide training for priority skills, and it will pay up to 75 percent for tuition fees or similar costs, to a maximum of \$200 per pre-approved training event.

Applicants will also have access to the Canadian Farm Business Advisory Service, which will provide consultants free of charge to develop a business plan. In addition, specialized business planning services will be cost shared 50/50.

To help offset the risk associated with start-up operations, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry will provide funding to the applicant's NISA account to cover the minimum deposit for one year for the disaster portion of the account up to the reference margin of \$100,000.

The department will provide funding to reduce interest costs for a five year period on operating capital and/or term capital loans. The level of interest rebate will be based on educational achievement.

For more information on the Future Farmer Program, contact your District Office or go to the web site at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/index.php3?number=74482&lang=E>.

Accessing Agriculture Information

The Prince Edward Island Department of Agriculture and Forestry has established a new agriculture and forestry website to allow people easier and more convenient access to information.

The newly designed website www.peifarm.ca plays a pivotal role in assisting people to access information when required. It contains comprehensive and reliable information concerning sustainable practices to help ensure the economic viability of agriculture and forestry, the health of the environment and the well being of Islanders and visitors alike. The website has been built with a focus on well-organized content.

There are five main areas to serve clients:

WELCOME - visitors can read about key departmental policy, recent presentations made by Minister Murphy, and a easy staff reference guide

WHAT'S NEW - provides easy access to recent news releases, current issues affecting agriculture, calendar of events, the newest editions of newsletters and pest updates.

AGRICULTURE - information and support is provided in many areas of farm management including livestock, field crops and horticulture production, financial, environment, human resources, computers and more. As well, details on department programs and services, results from the Soil and Feed Lab/Dairy Lab, a calendar of agricultural events, recent and archived market reports, newsletters, publications, maps and legislation related to agriculture.

FORESTRY - includes a broad range of topics on public and private forests that are of interest to woodlot owners and industry, conservation and environmental groups, school children and teachers and people interested in Provincial Forest lands, the J. Frank

Gaudet Tree Nursery and demonstration woodlots.

CONSUMER - provides information on food safety, organic agriculture, biotechnology, the impact of agriculture and forestry on the environment, animal welfare, nutrient management, pesticide use and more. As well, links to local farm markets, recipes and agricultural sites for children are included in this section of the website.

Those who would like to talk with agriculture staff can contact the Agriculture Information Centre. The Centre is staffed with professional agrologists who provide a first point of contact for timely information on a wide variety of agriculture issues. Requests for information can be delivered by phone, mail, fax or e-mail. In 2002, the staff answered over 3300 inquires/requests.

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Provincial Forest Crew Supervisors Management Workshop

The field season is once again upon us and the bulk of the Forestry crews have been called back for another season. This year in preparation for the event a two day workshop was held for all of the Provincial Forest Supervisors as well as some members of the Nursery staff from Upton Road and Dover. The two day course was held on June 3rd and 4th and was facilitated by Craig McDowall.

As indicated by the course outline, the topics for discussion were many and varied.

The Role of the Supervisor

- Skills assessment
- Accountability
- Organizing work and managing people

Managing Performance

- Setting expectations
- Goal setting
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Situational problem solving
- Handling difficult situations
- When to delegate and when not to

Value-Centered Leadership Model

Creating Motivating Work Environments

- Recognition



Front Row L-R Doug MacMaster, John Gallant, Paul Sudsbury, Ron Bradford, Joe Hughes, John Keoughan
Back Row L-R Craig McDowell, Instructor, Robert Savoie, Dana Cahill, Charles Campbell, Kenny Gass

The feedback from the participants has been very positive. A one day follow-up course will be offered this autumn.

Thanks go out to Craig McDowell and George Coade for putting this course together.

Coming Events

To list your upcoming dates, contact Suzanne MacNeill (Agriculture Information Officer) at 888-8040 or e-mail slmacneil@gov.pe.ca. A complete list of events can be found on-line at the Agriculture and Forestry Information Center web site http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/agweb/events_calendar/index.php3

POTATOES

Contact: 892-6551

- **September 19**
PEI Potato Board's Annual Meeting & Banquet. Contact PEI Potato Board, 892-6551

DAIRY/BEEF

- **August 13-16**
Canadian Cattlemens Association Semi-Annual Meeting and Convention. Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. Contact: (613) 233-9375
- August 29
Prince Edward Island Farm Equipment Simmental Futurity. L'Exposition Agricole et le Festival. Contact: Shelley Ployer 583-2015
- November 1
Prince Edward Island. Simmental Association Fall Sale. Craswall's Sale Barn. South Rustico. Contact: Mel Crane 836-4119 or Shelley Ployer 583-2015

FAIRS and EXHIBITIONS 2003

Contact: 368-4848
website:

<http://www.peiaexhibitions.org/>

- July 26
Crapaud Exhibition
- July 31-Aug.2
Prince County Exhibition (Alberton)
- Aug.1-2
PEI Tractor Pull Championship (Crapaud)
- Aug.8-16
Provincial Exhibition Inc. (O.H.W.) Ch'town
- Aug.22-24
PEI Plowing Match & Agr. Fair (Dundas)
- Aug.28-31
L'Exposition Agricole et le Festival Acadien de la Region Evangeline (Abram Village)
- Sept. 13-14
Eastern Kings Exhibition (Souris)

- Sept.5 eve-6
4-H Rural Youth Fair (Abram Village)

Festivals/Carnivals

- July 24 eve-July 27
Northumberland Fisheries Festival (Murray River)
- July 23-27
PEI Potato Blossom Festival (O'Leary)
- Aug.1-3
Tyne Valley Oyster Festival
- Aug.16-20
Kensington Harvest Festival

EDUCATION/TRAINING

PEI Agricultural Human Resource Development Council

Contact 892-1091 or toll free 1-866-892-1091 or email: agrihrdc@auracom.com.

- **August 7**
Agriculture educator workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Harrington Farm. Open to all educators and free of charge. For more information or to register, contact Rose Mary Garrett at 902-892-2591 or agried@auracom.com.

4-H UPDATE

Contact: 368-4833

- **July 26**
Crapaud Exhibition - 4-H Show
- August 1
4-H Day at Prince County Exhibition
- **August 11 & 14**
CIBC 4-H Livestock Judging Competition at Old Home Week
- **August 13**
4-H Day and P.E.I. Mutual Insurance Clipping Competition at Old Home Week
- August 11 & 14
CIBC 4-H Livestock Judging Competition at Old Home Week
- August 13
4-H Day and Prince Edward Island. Mutual Insurance Clipping Competition at Old Home Week
- August 18
4-H Day at Kensington Harvest Festival
- August 23
4-H Day at Dundas Exhibition
- August 29
4-H Day at L'Exposition Agricole et le festival Acadien de la region Evangeline

- September 5 & 6
4-H Rural Youth Fair. Exhibition Grounds - Abram Village

AGRI-CONFERENCES

- **September 9-11**
Outdoor Farm Show. University of Guelph Research Station, Woodstock. <http://www.outdoorfarmshow.com/>
Contact: 1-800-563-5441
- **September 17-21**
International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show. Near Carleton Place, Lanark County, Ontario. <http://www.ruralexpo2003.ca/> Contact: (613) 253-7569

Accessing Agriculture Information

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If Centre staff are unable to answer a request, referral is made to an appropriate department individual. Staff also play an intergal role in bridging the gap between farmers and non-farm residents by providing factual agriculture information.

The Agriculture Information Centre has a toll-free line 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276). The line is staffed 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday except for statutory holidays. Messages can be left during evenings and weekends and will be answered early the next working morning.

