

February 2012

PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry

PEI Wild Blueberry Newsletter

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association



Annual General Meeting Notice

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association & Information Session



Thursday, April 12, 2012

Red Shores Casino & Raceway Amphitheatre

Agenda to Follow

Retiring Directors & Call for Nominations

This year, there are two Directors whose terms are expiring. They are Richard Farmer and Kenneth Lewis. This is a call for nominations to replace these two seats on the Board. All nominations are to be submitted to Richard or Kenneth any time up to and including the day of the AGM on April 12. Please contact either Richard Farmer (566-4021) or Kenneth Lewis (853-3726) with your nominations.

Events of Interest to You

February 23-24 (Truro, NS)

Precision Agriculture Conference

March 9 (Red's Corner, Pooles Corner, PE)

Basic Fire Suppression Course for Blueberry Growers

March 13 (O'Leary Fire Hall, O'Leary PE)

Basic Fire Suppression Course for Blueberry Growers

March 30-31 (Moncton, NB)

NB Blueberry Agency Annual General Meeting

April 12 (Charlottetown, PE)

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Assn AGM & Information Session

October 24-26 (Fredericton, NB)

WBANA & WildBREW Meeting

Fire Suppression Course

"The PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association Board of Directors are encouraging all blueberry growers to attend one of the two course offerings as a show of support towards our ongoing negotiations with Forestry for more flexibility with burning regulations" . . . Board of Directors, PEIWBGA

Course Details Attached



Visit the Calendar of Events page
PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry

www.peifarm.ca

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association Website

www.peiwildblueberrygrowers.com



Agriculture and
Forestry



Attention Blueberry Growers

One Day Basic Fire Suppression Course March 9 (Pooles Corner) or March 13 (O'Leary)

Having training in fire planning and suppression is one of the ways growers can manage risk in their blueberry operations.

This is a one day introductory course on suppressing wildfires i.e. fires in burnable vegetation such as forests, marshes, grasslands, blueberry production areas, etc. The course is being taught by staff of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture & Forestry. All instructors are both trained and have experience in forest fire suppression.

This course provides basic information on the various factors that influence the speed with which fires spread and the ways to use ground fire fighting techniques to extinguish fire. The topics include: fuel types, forest fire weather behaviour, fire permits, effectiveness and use of hand tools, pumps and hoses as well as how to use them, fire planning and crew organization, bulldozers and excavators in fire suppression, danger factors, and other aspects. Participants will be expected to participate in one to three mock fires where they utilize the information from the course content to work in a team. Each team will develop a plan to combat an escape fire and then describe their rationale for equipment and personnel use and then these will be reviewed by the instructors.

Locations: **Two locations & Dates** (*same material covered on each day*):
(1) Friday, March 9 - Red's Corner Restaurant Meeting Room at Pooles Corner
(2) Tuesday, March 13 - O'Leary Fire Hall

Time: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Dress: Dress comfortably. There will be some hands-on use of equipment.

Registration: **There is limited seating available so you must pre-register.**

The deadline to pre-register is 4:00 pm on Friday, March 2, 2012. To pre-register, please call the Agriculture Information Desk at **1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276) or direct 368-4145.**

When registering, please indicate which location you would like to attend (i.e. Pooles Corner or O'Leary Fire Hall) and provide a phone number at which you can be located should the course have to be cancelled or rescheduling in the event of an actual fire or some other unplanned event.

Cost: **There is no fee to register.** However, should you have to cancel your registration, please let us know as soon as possible so that someone else can have a seat on the course. Please bring note paper and a pen or pencil.

Lunch: Light refreshments provided in the morning and afternoon breaks. **Lunch is not provided** so, either bring your own lunch or purchase a lunch nearby that allows you to get back in time for the afternoon part of the training.

The Acadia Blueberry Price Report Has Ambitions

By David Robinson, Price Analyst and Publisher

The Acadia Blueberry Price Report is an important new service that has been offered to growers in Maine and Eastern Canada since 2010. Our publication aims to increase the general understanding and knowledge about prices in your industry. At the grower level wild blueberry prices are set in an imperfect market and that situation appears to be worsened by misinformation and widespread misunderstandings. In our assessment this has been very costly for growers. Growers need to take a more professional business-like interest in the prices they are paid. They also need regular access to reliable information and analysis.

In our first two years 50-60 growers reached into their own pockets to subscribe to a service which is of potential benefit to all growers. Their support is appreciated. Nevertheless to have a future beyond 2012 (and to have more impact) we need more subscribers.

Our ambitions regarding earnings are modest but our objectives are very ambitious. Over the past 10-12 years the prices paid to wild blueberry growers have fallen relative to frozen product prices and compared to the processing prices paid to cultivated blueberry growers. We aspire to be part of the positive changes that corrects this underperformance. Those that saw our Fall Report may recall that a recent USHBC evaluation of promotional activities estimated that grower benefits were between \$5.40 and \$15.40 per dollar paid. If we are successful, in our greater ambition, the returns to independent blueberry growers in Maine and the Maritimes would surpass \$1,000 per dollar paid for our services. We offer a very high value product at low cost. This is particularly so when those costs are broadly shared by those who stand to benefit such as is done for product promotion.

The arrangement we have this year with the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association is very encouraging and a promising step forward. Association members can subscribe and receive the Acadia Blueberry Price Report without any charge. To help new subscribers get up-to-speed this winter we'll immediately send one of our 2011 back copies to those that sign up before March 20th. Our Spring Report will be mailed to all subscribers in April, our Summer Report in mid-July and our Fall Report in November.

So far the prices paid for the 2011 crop present us with a great opportunity to demonstrate why we deserve your support. It is certain to be an interesting year for us and for Island growers.

Subscription Form for PEI Blueberry Growers Attached

Subscription Form for PEI Blueberry Growers

To: Acadia Blue Publishing

I wish to subscribe to the **Acadia Blueberry Price Report**. In addition to the three regular 2012 reports I understand that a free back copy of one of the 2011 reports will be immediately mailed to me as an Introductory Bonus. I will look forward to receiving it this winter as well as the Spring Report in April, the Summer Report in July and the Fall Report in November.

X	2012 Subscription Rates
	Regular Rate \$99.95
	Special Grower – Contact Rate \$69.95 **
	PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association Member (No Payment Required)
** Grower – Contacts may be contacted for information on crops, markets and industry developments.	

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

When payment is required (i.e. subscriber is not a PEIWBGA member) cheques should be made payable to: **Acadia Blue Publishing**.

Please mail to:

Acadia Blueberry Price Report
6755 Peter Lowe Ave.
Halifax, NS
B3L 1Y7

For further information: Phone: (902) 455-7120



An International Workshop on Opportunities for Precision Agriculture Technologies, February 23-24, 2012

Workshop Event

The Precision Agriculture Research Program at the NSAC, led by Dr. Qamar Zaman will host a two day workshop on the NSAC campus. Workshop participants will include individuals from high value crop producers, academia, industry, government and non-governmental organizations that work on or interested in the sustainable development and adoption of PA technologies. This will be an inaugural event for the NSAC PARP and its related sector participants. The overall goal is to advance the sustainable development and adoption of PA technologies. The focus will be on how to integrate these technologies into current production systems so site-specific management decisions can be made to improve crop productivity and reduce agrochemical use.

Program

February 23, 2012

2:00 – 3:00 PM Arrival of the guests

Location: Banting Building, 39 Cox Road, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

3:00 – 4:00 PM Demonstration of Precision Agriculture Technologies

Location: Banting Building, 39 Cox Road, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

4:00 – 5:00 PM Reception + Early Registration

Location: Jenkins Hall, 62 Cumming Drive, NSAC

5:00 – 7:00 PM Dinner and Keynote Speaker

Hosted by Dr. Richard Donald, Vice President Research, Extension and Outreach

SPEAKERS

- Keynote Speaker - **Dr. Viacheslav I. Adamchuk**, McGill University, Canada
- Greeting from **Hon. John MacDonell**, Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture

Location: Jenkins Hall, 62 Cumming Drive, NSAC.

Dinner will be provided

February 24, 2012

8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration

Location: Alumni Theatre, NSAC

9:00 – 10:30 AM Framing the Opportunities

Chair: Dr. Richard Donald

- 1) Dr. David Yarborough, University of Maine, USA
- 2) Dr. Arnold Schumann, University of Florida, USA

10:30 – 10:45 AM Nutrition Break and View Posters

Location: Alumni Theatre, NSAC

10:45 – 12:05 PM Research and Technology Development

Chair: Dr. Arnold Schumann

- 1) Dr. David Percival – NSAC
- 2) Dr. Qamar Zaman – NSAC
- 3) Mr. Bill Craig – Agrapoint.
- 4) Speaker – TBA

12:05 – 1:00 PM Lunch (will be provided)

Location: Jenkins Hall, NSAC

1:00 – 2:40 PM Precision Agriculture from Industry Perspective

Chair: Mr. Doug Wyllie

- 1) Mr. William Malay, Bragg Lumber Co. Ltd.
- 2) Speaker – Fruit Growers Association Representative
- 3) Speaker – Progressive Grower
- 4) Mr. Peter Swinkels, Doug Bragg Enterprises
- 5) Mr. David Fullerton, NSAC

2:40 – 3:00 PM Coffee Break and View Posters

Location: Alumni Theatre, NSAC

3:00 – 4:00 PM Panel Discussion - PA Technology Development and Adoption (Questions, Answers/Discussion)

Chair: Dr. David Percival

- 1) Dr. Arnold Schumann
- 2) Dr. David Yarborough
- 3) Dr. Qamar Zaman
- 4) Mr. Gary Brown
- 5) Dr. Viacheslav I. Adamchuk

4:00 – 4:30 PM Summary Panel

The way forward short summaries from selected speakers and question, answers/ discussion facilitated by Dr. David Percival.

4:30 – 4:45 PM Next Steps and Wrap up

Workshop Objectives

- To learn about the collective experience of PA technologies, in particular what has been successful in comparable jurisdictions of North America.
- To provide a networking/learning opportunity for workshop participants.
- To address the economic and environmental issues associated with the development/adoption of PA technologies.
- To provide regulatory officials with the most current information on best practices for this emerging sector.

Registration

Please [sign up](#) for the workshop using our online web registration:

<http://nsac.ca/paworkshop>

Please visit our [Precision Agriculture Research Program Website](#) for more information:

<http://nsac.ca/pa>

OR/

Contact:

Qamar Zaman, PhD
Associate Professor and Precision Agriculture Research Chair
Department of Engineering, NSAC
Tel: 902.893.5426
Email: qzaman@nsac.ca

