



Who IS ON THE FARM

Paradise Farms Inc. is a honeybee operation run by Aubrey and Viola Goulding in Paradise on the Avalon Peninsula. They've been involved in the agriculture industry since getting their start in 1984. At that time they had five acres and wanted to make a homestead. They started with fruit and berries, but soon wanted to expand into another area, initially planning to add hens or dairy goats.

After giving it further thought, the Gouldings decided against adding any livestock, because it would have tied them to the land. They had been reading a lot about beekeeping, and decided to give it a try. Soon they had their first hive, which came from New Zealand. They kept a couple of hives for domestic use until 1998, when they decided to take their option commercial.

They incorporated in 2001 with 12 hives, which has since expanded to today's level of 25-30 hives. These hives produce products ranging from honey to furniture polish to body care products. While the honey is only sold within the province, the other products are sold across the country and beyond.

To take care of the



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Federation of Agriculture

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Who IS ON THE FARM

hives and produce all the great products appearing under the Bee Natural name, Paradise Farms employs two full-time and one part-time staff. What keeps these staff busy depends on the time of the year. Through most of the season, a typical day will start at about 8am and go on for 6-8 hours. During that time the hives are checked, looking for any diseases that may have been encountered, looking for overcrowding; splitting hives where needed; and making sure there is enough honey and bee pollen.



It is during harvest time that the farm is truly abuzz with activity. This is when the work becomes much more time consuming and physically demanding. Honey must be removed from the hive, bottled and

A winterized bee hive at Paradise Farms.



Some products from Paradise Farms.

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Who IS ON THE FARM

labelled. The process usually goes from morning to midnight. This goes on from about mid-September to mid-October. The farm work then shifts to making the value-added products like beeswax candles later in the season when the bees prepare to cluster for the winter.

Aubrey cites the Newfoundland climate, and operating near an urban area as the primary challenges impacting on the farm. The long Newfoundland springs, delaying the arrival of summer make it tough on the bees at the beginning of the season. Additionally, operating in an urban environment means that there are less open areas with available nectar and pollen for the bees – each pound of honey requires about 2 million blossoms! Additionally, some of the public has a phobia of bees and don't like to have them in close proximity.

Looking toward the future, Aubrey sees the biggest opportunity in value-added products. This allows for the maximizing of the available honey. The Gouldings are quite content with their current production level, and plan to stay at the 25-30 hive output, because it produces plenty and is still

manageable. This means a stronger focus on value-added. Aubrey and Viola get a lot of ideas for great new products by attending trade shows like the North American Honey Bee Conference. One of the big growth areas Paradise Farms is looking at is pet products. There is a large and growing demand for products like pet shampoo made from honey.



During the holiday season, beeswax candles are by far the best selling product from Paradise Farms, and a popular gift to receive in a stocking or under a tree. The candles and many other bee products from the Gouldings' farm are available at many retailers across the province, including Bidgoods, Belbin's, the Downhome Shop, in addition to many other gift shops and health shops.

To get more information about any of the products from Paradise Farms, find a retailer near you, or place an order online, please visit: www.beenatural.ca

By Matthew Carlson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eugene Legge
President

With the crops harvested for the season and Christmas fast approaching, I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for the season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Over this past year, there have been lots of exciting new developments in our industry.

The Federation started our new Growing Forward project, which will see work being done in the areas of agriculture awareness, agriculture in the classroom, and agribusiness development.

We also partnered with the Department of Natural Resources on the organization of the Agri-Food and Garden Show, which set record attendance with its return to the metro region.

A very recent development for our industry would be the departure of the Minister of Natural Resources, Kathy Dunderdale, who has gone on to replace outgoing Premier Williams.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture would like to thank Minister Dunderdale for the support she gave to our industry during her tenure as Minister. We really appreciate all the hard work she did on behalf of our industry and the concern she showed for seeing it develop closer to its full potential.

I would like to congratulate Ms. Dunderdale on being appointed Premier of the province and wish her all the best in her new role.

We look forward to working with the new minister responsible for Agrifoods Agency, who has not yet been named as I write this.

The Federation also continues to deliver great services and discounts to our members through the AgriVantage program, which is now in its fourth year. There is an overview of the current

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

offerings of the program, including the addition of discounts at Kent Building Supplies, in the New and Exciting section. We would like to encourage producers who are not yet members to sign up for this very valuable program.

Looking forward to 2011, we see more exciting new opportunities for our growing industry, which will continue to see tremendous support from government through initiatives like the Growing

Forward Program and CAAP Program.

The Federation looks forward to the opportunities our industry will see over the next year. We will be continuing to work toward priorities like awareness that we have worked on in the past, as well as new initiatives that we will surely embark on. I would like to close by saying all the best and stay safe in the coming year.

FEATURE

Federation of Agriculture Hosts Labour Market Symposium

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA), in partnership with Growing Forward, the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment and the Department of Innovation Trade and Rural Development hosted a Labour Market Symposium in St. John's from October 26 - 28.

The Symposium brought together our agriculture industry and various government departments and industry stakeholders to discuss the current and future labour needs of the industry.

About 70 attendees listened to informative panel discussions and participated in workshops on subjects including Temporary Foreign Worker Programs and Business Succession.

The Honourable Susan Sullivan, Minister of Human Resources, Labour, and Employment provided the keynote address during the President's Reception on October 26, 2010. Other speakers included Sean Wiltshire, CEO of Avalon Employment Inc., and motivational speaker and humorist Pete Soucy.



NLFA President Eugene Legge and Min. Susan Sullivan at the President's Reception.



Pete Soucy speaks at the reception at Lester Farms Inc.





Delegates listen to a presentation at the Symposium.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Pesticide Applicator Training Programs Available

The Department of Natural Resources will be offering the pesticide applicator's training course again this coming winter and spring at various locations across the province. The schedule is as follows:

- Conception Bay South, Dec. 7-10, 2010
- Codroy Valley/Stephenville, Jan. 11-14, 2011
- Clarenville, Jan. 15-28, 2011
- Grand-Falls-Windsor/Gander, Feb. 8-11, 2011
- St. John's, Feb. 22-25, 2011
- Springdale, Mar. 8-11, 2011
- St. John's, Apr. 19-22, 2011
- St. John's, May 10-13, 2011

For further information call (709) 637-2672 or 637-2046. Information is also available by fax : (709) 637-2365.

Upcoming Agriwebinars

Agriwebinars are web-based conferences, hosted by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, which bring the ideas and expertise of agricultural leaders to producers wherever



er they may be located. They are designed to inform and inspire producers from the comfort of their homes or offices or even barns. All that is required is a computer and an Internet connection. A broadband connection is not required and computers connected by dial-up service can participate.

The sessions last one hour and can be joined at any time throughout that hour. If you miss the entire session, or are interested in a past session, they remain available via the archive section.

The webinars are available by registering at www.agriwebinar.ca

The following is a listing of upcoming Agriwebinar sessions:

Farm Management Advisory Services Making Informed Choices

November 29, 2010, 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Terry Betker

Theme: Business Management

This Agriwebinar will look at the evolution of farm management, where and how to find advisors, what to look for in an advisor, their role in managing a farm and how to use an advisor.

Marketing to Today's Consumer

December 6, 2010, 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Jane Eckert

Theme: Marketing

Learn how successful agritourism operators in

North America continue to grow their businesses with effective marketing methods in light of today's economy.

It's never easy to stay ahead of your competition but you can learn to differentiate yourself. Don't be a copy cat – be a leader!

Learn how to maximize the free tools of the Internet to stay ahead. Recognize that your employee is your most important product. Get ready to recharge your batteries and recharge your business in 2011 with proven marketing strategies.

Connecting with the Consumer – Creating an Experience

December 13, 2010, 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Brent Warner

Theme: Marketing

This Agri-Webinar discusses opportunities for established farms and new entrants to connect with the consumer. It will also look at the challenges that come delivering those consumer experiences.

Motivating your Staff with Emotional Intelligence

January 17, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Pierrette Desrosiers

Theme: Human Resources Management

How do you communicate with your employees? What is your attitude towards them? This webinar will help to understand how to build on your employees' skills by using your emotional intelligence.

Farming the Web – How to Use the Internet, Social Media, and Smartphones on Your Operation

January 24, 2011, 12:00 PM NL Time

Presented By: Andrew Campbell

Theme: Technology in Agriculture

Imagine walking up to the parts counter and getting the part you need without saying a word. What about up-to-the minute weather, market, pest and issue updates. Would you believe you can get it with a smartphone, Facebook and Twitter account?

Tools that teenagers use everyday, are also tools that farmers can use to stay up-to-date on issues

that effect their bottom-line. Find out how these new technologies can help your farm and business in this webinar.

The Importance of Financial Analysis and How to Use It

January 31, 2011, at 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Dave Engdahl

Theme: Business Management

This presentation will focus on uses and users of financial statements, what users are looking for, the most prevalent deficiencies in financial statement data, and what is needed to provide relevant information.

10 Best Management Practices

February 7, 2011, at 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Danny Klinefelter

Theme: Business Management

Danny Klinefelter will present us with the 10 things any producer can do to practice best management. If you're looking for an edge or ways to get better, these would be a good place to start.

Do the Tough Things Right

February 14, 2011, at 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Elaine Froese

Theme: Human Resources Management

Session outcomes:

- Working knowledge of the key challenges audit: fairness, finances, fulfillment, family codes of conduct and failure
- Points of resistance in client's head, heart and gut
- Knowing how to express intent, curiosity and common interest to navigate conflict
- Insight on how to start the tough conversations around succession issues

Farm Management Groups: The Formula for Profitability

February 28, 2011, at 1:30 PM NL Time

Presented By: Denis Larouche

Theme: Business Management

What is an Agricultural Advisory Group? Agricultural Advisory Groups (CAG) are groups of autonomous agricultural enterprises (all production sectors combined) administered by agricultural producers who collectively establish a net-



work of experts qualified to receive management consulting services.

A management consulting group means staff expertise, specialization of management tools and the result of a network that cooperates on the overall performance of the farm.

Annual Celebration of Science and Agriculture Draws More than 5,600

"We're on the farm," yelled a little girl with delight as she and her mother walked by a display of farm machinery at the 52nd annual Farm Field Day at the Atlantic Cool Climate Crop Research Centre in St. John's on August 14.

She may not have realized that she was really at an Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research centre rather than a typical commercial farm.

But on this day, she wasn't far off the mark. After all, the sights and sounds of the farm were everywhere on the research facility, from the mooing of cows to the chugging of tractors.

More than 5,600 people came out under a spectacular summer sun to learn more about science and agriculture at what has become the department's annual showcase of agricultural pride and potential in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"I think this is just fantastic," said Barbara Ridgely of Mount Pearl, as she toured research displays on corn, insects and berries with her daughters Faith, 6, and Hope, 11, the third generation of the family to attend the open house.

"Our family has been coming out to this open house for years. I like it because it dispels the myths that we can't grow much in Newfoundland and Labrador. It gives people an awareness of what we are capable of when it comes to agriculture in this province."

That sentiment is music to the ears of St. John's



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

research manager Sandy Todd.

"That's exactly the kind of impression we want to leave with people," said Todd. "Yes, we have a challenging climate and challenging soil but our scientists are working with farmers to achieve some really remarkable agricultural production in this province."

The centre focuses on improving crops and crop production technologies that reduce costs while ensuring efficient production. The goal is a successful crop and profitability for the farmer.

One of the challenges is growing corn in the heat-deprived province. As a tractor towed a wagon of visitors past a field of metre-and-a-half-high corn, tour guide Fabian Murphy explained how new hybrid varieties and the use of biodegradable plastic to warm cold spring soil is allowing dairy producers to grow corn as high-energy feed.

That corn is increasing the milk supply and fueling the production of new processed dairy products in the province.

Other exhibits showcased the latest in environmentally-friendly insect and disease control, new varieties of berries that have been developed with growing health markets in mind and techniques to protect water quality and drainage systems that are turning water-logged land into productive fruit and vegetable fields.

But it was also a day for the research centre's partners to cheer on agriculture.

More than a dozen agricultural and rural organizations participated with exhibits, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture. A local farm supplied a petting zoo of young farm animals, 4-H held a calf showmanship competition and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources and the Farm Women's Association hosted a chicken BBQ.

And from its weather station on the Research Centre's front lawn, Environment Canada officials released three weather balloons and explained how the data is helping researchers and farmers improve agriculture in the province.

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In a crowd where baby strollers were everywhere, the overwhelming sentiment was that this open house was a teaching moment and an opportunity for consumers to link the food they eat to the farms where it is grown.

"I think it's important for children to know where their food comes from, that it doesn't just come from a plate," said Chris Waring of St. John's.

Jaime Snow-Parson, a special education teacher from Goulds, agreed.


"It's definitely important to expose our kids to

this and let them see what happens in agriculture."

But first-time visitor Joan Cheeseman of Adeytown says it's not only the children who are getting the education.

"I'm babysitting a 21-month-old and I came out here for the young one but I've found the research really interesting myself. Agriculture is changing all the time and it's interesting to see what's happening."

LABRADOR REPORT



As I write this, central Labrador has only had a half inch of snow so far, that was in October and it didn't last all day.

We're well into November now and our first snowstorm is only in forecast form!

It makes it easier to get those last few jobs done before winter sets in. We managed to do a few things that I had figured would be done in the snow; new roofing on the 'little' henhouse where we start our new chicks in the spring and a good 'porch' on the rootcellar.

The weather has been 'warm' for this time of year, just barely freezing some days. I guess global warming is here in Labrador, for sure. Another thing I notice with the warmer weather is that the 'warm' river water gives those of us who farm on Mud Lake Road a few extra degrees that are obvious, especially in the early hours. For instance, the other morning there was no frost on the truck top at the farm. I drove through town and to our house up on the airport level. The frost got progressively heavier as I got further away from the river and at the higher elevation there was a 1/4 inch on car roofs. Our mini climate at Mud Lake Road beside the big river does make a difference, a few degrees at least.

We are looking forward to an 'organic farming' workshop for some of us with an interest in starting or transition to certification. The workshop will be headed up by Jane White and will cover, in part, 'Organics in NL', 'Transitioning to Organic', cover crops and organic farm produce. Organic certification of a farm has to be the goal for being able to grab that very valuable market. The demand is certainly there, satisfying that demand is another thing, but we need to get the most value out of our work and expertise.

In Labrador we have a unique problem - our Ag. Rep. has to fly in from Newfoundland to do what he is able to do in the time allotted. It's a shame that us Labrador farmers don't have the service that used to be available to us; a resident Ag. Rep. The resident department individual is sorely missed and needed. We realize we only produce a small percentage of the food consumed in this province but we do produce and our farms are growing in size and in number and this is uncommon.

When some of us make the transition to certified organic, we will need the service of not only a regular Ag. Rep. but one who is well versed in organic farming. Now that is a tall order so hopefully Santa Claus is reading this!

So like Santa says, "Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"...from the Big Land.

Jim Purdy

James (Jim) Purdy lives in Happy Valley - Goose Bay, central Labrador. He grew up on a 17th century Acadian pioneered, mixed farm. Jim has always farmed and mostly had an off-farm job to make a living. Jim grew non-certified organics for several years in Nova Scotia, and worked for many years at a Massey Ferguson equipment dealership. His plan is to retire to the farm with Marge Goudie and grow lots of good food.

ASK THE SAFETY EXPERT

Terry Noseworthy is an Occupational Health and Safety Officer with the Department of Government Services' Occupational Health and Safety Division.

Q Am I required to have a first aid kit on my farm and, if so, what should be included in the kit?

A Yes, every workplace is required to have a first aid kit with the required content determined by the number of employees. Section 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety First Aid Regulations deals with workplaces in general, Section 17 deals with more than one and less than 15 workers and Section 18 of the regulations deals with workplaces that have more than 15 workers. Section 17 (which will apply to most farms) states: "Where there are more than one but less than 15 workers at a workplace, that workplace shall have at least a #2 first aid kit containing supplies as specified in Schedule C."

Schedule C:

- 1 emergency first aid safety oriented manual
- 1 first aid record book
- 12 safety pins
- 1 splinter tweezers, blunt nose
- 1 pair scissors, 10 cm

DRESSINGS (Each item to be individually wrapped to maintain sterility.)

- 2 sterile bandage compresses, 10cm x 10 cm
- 16 sterile pads, 7.5 cm x 7.5 cm
- 16 sterile adhesive dressings, 2.5 cm x 7.5 cm
- 6 – triangular bandages, 95 cm x 95 cm

ADHESIVE TAPE

- 1 roll – 2.5 cm x 5 cm

ANTISEPTIC

- 100 ml bottle peroxide

To submit a question for a future *Ask the Farm Safety Expert* section, please contact Matthew Carlson at 747-4830 or mcarlson@nlfa.ca



NEW & EXCITING

New On-line Database Connects Agricultural Associations

A new on-line, bilingual directory of Canadian agricultural associations was officially launched on November 18, 2010, at an event attended by members of the Council's Board of Directors and key stakeholders from the agriculture industry.

The new database, www.agriguide.ca, available November 24th, contains information on national, provincial and territorial farm-related associations.

Each listing includes contact information and a brief description of not-for-profit and publicly-funded farm organizations and commodity groups across Canada.

"This valuable reference tool is a one-of-a kind, easy to use resource that provides an opportunity for regular networking, partnering and outreach within the industry," said Merv Wiseman, CAHRC's Chair, during his remarks at the launch event. "Agriguide is a comprehensive directory for anyone interested in agriculture, including members of the agricultural community, educational institutions,



governments and the media.”

Agriguide: The Directory of Canadian Agriculture Associations, the hard copy version of the directory is also available for purchase in a downloadable PDF format. For information on obtaining a copy of the directory, please contact Debra Hauer at 1-866-430-7457, Ext. 227 or hauer@cahrc-ccrha.ca.

Agriguide.ca complements another resource developed by the Council, www.agritalent.ca, a bilingual database launched in 2009. Agritalent.ca lists more than 1,000 training programs and courses in agriculture offered by more than 200 providers across Canada, including those offered by agricultural associations. It was developed for youth, producers, farm managers and other workers in the agriculture sector, as well as those seeking

Kent Building Supplies Joins AgriVantage Program

The AgriVantage membership program has now entered its fourth year and has been seeing increasing success each year. In addition to all the great services offered by the Federation of Agriculture, members also receive additional benefits through offers from partner businesses. This year, we are very pleased to welcome Kent Building Supplies to the program.

Kent is Atlantic Canada’s largest home improvement retailer and has been in operation for over thirty years.

Members can now save at Kent locations throughout the province. The company presently operates stores in St. John’s, Mount Pearl, and Corner Brook. Kent also plans to expand to other parts of the province, with a store in Gander slated to open



soon and more to follow.

This new offer on building supplies comes in addition to the great offers on travel, farm equipment, heating oil, equipment leasing and much more which have been a continuing part

of the program.

With all the great benefits highlighted above, it is easy to see why every year members have expressed satisfaction levels above 80% on our annual membership survey. On that same survey, we also asked what business members would like to see added to the program. Kent was the number one answer, and we made it happen.

Maximize your savings with the AgriVantage program by becoming a member today. Join the satisfied members already enjoying the benefits of the program and in the process build a strong united voice for the agriculture industry in this province.

If you require further program details, please visit our website, www.nlfa.ca and click on the 'Becoming a Member' link. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Carlson at (709) 747-4830 or mcarlson@nlfa.ca.

Dr. Michael Bland Inducted into Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame was established in 1968 and honours members of the agricultural community for outstanding contributions to the industry, community and farm organizations. Dr. Michael Bland was inducted into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame this October at a ceremony at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia.



Dr. Bland was born in 1936 in Yorkshire England. He attended Bristol College of Navigation and received his Masters ticket in 1956. He served in the British Navy until 1959 when he went to work on various farms and veterinary practices. He returned to school in 1963 and received his Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Bristol in 1970.

After practicing veterinary medicine in England,



Dr. Michael Bland

Dr. Bland immigrated to Canada, working for a short time with Agriculture Canada in Moncton, then moving to Newfoundland in 1970 where he worked for the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Agriculture as the first large animal veterinarian in Central Newfoundland. He opened and operated the Exploits Valley Animal Hospital

Ltd. until 2000.

In 1975 he started Hamer Farm Ltd., a commercial egg layer production operation. In 2000, he started Elixir Organics Ltd., which produces 4,000 Sea-buckthorn trees, and in 2005 he began raising organic beef.

From the start, Dr. Bland has been involved in community life, serving on many boards and associations. He has been directly involved with the Newfoundland and Labrador Egg Producers Board for over 35 years as producer, director and chairman. He was Director and Chairman of Newfoundland Egg Marketing Board being chair for three terms, director and president of Mid-Island Egg Producers Co-op, director of Central Newfoundland Farmers Co-op and director of Newfoundland & Labrador Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Bland has been a strong supporter of general agriculture in the province and was directly involved by volunteering his time to many other agricultural boards and committees, serving as president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture and president of Wooddale Agricultural Society. His leadership style has always focused on the growth of the entire provincial agriculture industry.

In serving the broader community, Dr. Bland has been director of Canadian Agricultural Safety Association, chairman of Canadian Red Cross Water Safety (Corner Brook), member of Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary in Newfoundland for ten years, on



2010 Inductees: (L-R) Urban Laughlin, PEI, William (Bill) McCurdy, NS, Dr. Michael Bland, NL, and Jean-Paul Losier, NB.

the Board of Management for Bishop Falls United Church, Sunday school teacher at Churchill Methodist Church in England and member of the Grand Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Bland always chooses to take the high road and to do the right thing rather than what is easy. He has the ability to persevere when challenged with bureaucracy in order to achieve a successful outcome. His high standards for animal care have carried into the industry. Dr. Bland's involvement with exploring new and innovative aspects of agriculture shows his commitment to expanding the province's agricultural base. As an example of his dedication to developing the farming industry, Dr. Bland introduced the concept of feeding silage to dairy cows to local producers.

Dr. Bland is married to Jacqueline White and they have two children, Howard and Liesl.

Nominated by the Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador for his contribution to agriculture and the rural community, Dr. Michael James Bland is indeed a worthy inductee into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

NL Chicken Farmer Awarded for Animal Care



L-R Marilyn, Mitchel, Amanda, Andy Larner

Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador would like to congratulate Mr. Andy Larner of Heatherway Farms on being the first chicken producer in Newfoundland and Labrador to achieve certification on the *Animal Care Program*. Mr. Larner achieved certification on the *Animal Care Program* on August 26, 2010.

Raising healthy birds in a humane way is as important to Canadian chicken farmers as it is to those who purchase chicken for their family. The Canadian chicken industry works closely with its partners to ensure that stringent regulations related to the care and handling of our birds are met and followed. After all, it is in the best interest of all industry members to see that all of the birds are raised the best way possible.

Chicken Farmers of Canada has begun implementing an auditable animal care program



designed to demonstrate and maintain the high level and standards of the Canadian chicken industry's on-farm animal care. This program has been supported by many organizations, including the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council, the Further Poultry Processors Association of Canada and the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers.

In addition, farmers follow a national on-farm food safety program that emphasizes health, cleanliness and safety throughout each step of the production cycle, and follow strict biosecurity measures to protect animal health and prevent flock infections from outside sources.

Program to Give a Jump Start to New Forage Land

Dairy farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador should get quicker access to new forage fields, thanks to a joint research project between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador. The project, under AAFC's Developing Innovative Agri-Products initiative aims to show farmers how to speed up production of newly cleared Crown land into fields of forage for dairy cattle.

The Newfoundland and Labrador government committed \$6 million to help dairy farmers develop more land for forage under the Agriculture and Agrifoods Development Fund. The initiative is now in its second year.

The problem with many of the newly cleared parcels of Crown land is low soil fertility. "It takes time to get the land up to a level where it can successfully grow corn for dairy cattle feed," said Dr. Allan Kwabiah, AAFC's lead scientist on the project.

In many cases producers must wait three to five years before newly cleared land can grow energy feed crops such as corn. This research has the potential to cut that time in half.

"The outcome of this research will create a win-win situation for dairy farmers. It will improve soil fertility while providing the much needed forage crops," said Dr. Allan Kwabiah.

Dr. Kwabiah's experiments show that planting the right combination of grasses and legumes is a good way to start building the quality of the soil. This minimizes the waiting period, provides interim for-



Forage research plot on newly cleared land in St. David's on the West Coast of Province.

age feed for cattle, helps control erosion and builds soil organic matter. In addition, residue left after harvesting can put nitrogen back into the soil reducing the need for fertilizers inputs.

Currently, the dairy industry imports approximately 22,000 metric tonnes of forage at a cost of more than \$4 million a year. By encouraging locally grown forage, farmers will likely reap benefits of lower transportation and fuel costs and better profits.

"Our soils and climate are very different, and research on forage varieties suitable for the province is important to the industry. We don't have an adequate agricultural land base in the province and this project will help put newly cleared land into production faster," said Phil MacLean, Newfoundland and Labrador Dairy Farmer.

For more information contact:

Allan Kwabiah

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Scientist
(709) 772-5278

Agricultural History Attracts Attention

The Agricultural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador enjoyed a buzz of attention at this year's provincial Agricultural Show.

The Society unveiled their new exhibit THE PRACTICE OF GARDENS*. This exhibit emphasizes the

NEW & EXCITING

interdependence of the fishery and garden food production in the outport landscape through the 400 years of settlement on the island. Caplin, kelp and cods' heads for fertilizer; garden vegetables and hay for livestock, nutrition, and medicinal cures. The exhibit was further supported by a digital show of root cellars – once a ubiquitous feature of the outport landscape and now falling into disuse. Bill Gilbert, Chief Archaeologist of the Baccalieu Trail Heritage Corporation, was a special guest at the Society's booth where he contributed an exhibit about gardens at Cupids in 1610.

Other special guests at the Society's booth were two Century Farmers: Marjorie Rose of Rose's Dairy Farm, Logy Bay, and Linda Lewis of Fahey Farm, Chapel's Cove, who lent several butter churns to the exhibit. Hilda Chaulk Murray was on hand with her books COWS DON'T KNOW IT'S SUNDAY and MORE THAN 50% both of which include rich material about the history of agriculture in the province. Research into traditional gardening practice was shared with visitors to the booth through quizzes and handouts: Did you ever put salt on your hay

when sorting it in the barn. Do you carry a potato in your pocket to ward off rheumatism?

The Society is growing a collection of visual material and paper documents that record the history of gardening and farming in Newfoundland and Labrador. We welcome digital photographs of root cellars, rock walls, traditional farming practices, equipment and tools still in use today, and old barns (CONTACT: Brian Goldsworthy bgoldsworthy@nl.rogers.com 747-1035). Also, we are looking to collect paper material such as daybooks, farm journals, old advertising and advisory material (CONTACT: Kevin Aucoin 196 Tucker's Hill Road, Portugal Cove- St. Philip's A1M 1N3 aucoin89@nl.rogers.com 895-2450). The Society partners with the Centre of Newfoundland Studies at Memorial University for safe keeping of these materials. Thank you for your participation.

*Funded in part by the Cultural Economic Development Programme, Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

AGRI-ADAPT COUNCIL INC. UPDATE

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) was developed as the successor to the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program, whose mandate expired March 31, 2009.

The CAAP program continues the innovative industry-led approach employed under the ACAA program with projects delivered at both the national and the regional level.

In Newfoundland and Labrador CAAP is delivered by the Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI).

The following are examples of a project recently approved by NL Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) with funding under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP):

Synthetic Amino Acids for Laying Hens

Protein is one of the most expensive feed ingredients for laying hens. In addition, excess dietary amino acids extracted from the protein cannot be stored by the hens and are excreted.

Poultry can only utilize approximately 40% of dietary protein. The study out of Nova Scotia seeks to provide laying hens with a low protein diet using synthetic amino acids more closely matching their nutritional requirements. This will benefit both the producer, through reduced feed costs, and also the environment by reducing the amount of waste excreted.

Corn and wheat are the primary grains used in laying hen diets. These grain sources contribute very different amounts of each essential amino acid to the diet. The research will focus on lowering the protein content and formulating the diet based on the available synthetic amino acids. The study will also assess the effects that it has on the environment, egg production, egg quality and health of the birds.

Synthetic amino acids are commercially available; therefore,



reduced protein diets supplemented with synthetic amino acids could become part of the feeding regime for regional egg producers and reduce farmers' cost of production.

This study will provide benefits to Newfoundland and Labrador egg producers by providing them with information on nutritious and cost-efficient diets for hens and helping the sector remain competitive.

Funding to research supplementing low protein

diets with synthetic amino acids has been provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). This is a collective outcome project involving Newfoundland and Labrador Agri-Adapt Council Inc., Prince Edward Island ADAPT Council, New Brunswick Agriculture Council Inc. and the Agri-Futures Nova Scotia. NL Agri-Adapt Council Inc., contributed \$15,477 to the project's overall \$182,780 CAAP funding.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture

We wish you all the best for the holiday season and a happy and prosperous 2011!

This year, instead of sending Christmas cards to our members and associates, we decided to sponsor less fortunate families and provide fresh local produce hampers as well as donations to be used to purchase

gifts.

We were very happy to receive many generous donations from our members and our friends at Egg Producers of NL, Chicken Farmers of NL, and Dairy Farmers of NL. Thanks to all the generosity, we are able to sponsor 10 families this year!



Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI)



Now Accepting CAAP Applications

The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) would like to notify producers that we are now accepting applications for the Canadian Agricultural Adaption Program (CAAP).

Producers interested in applying should contact AACI:

308 Brookfield Rd.
PO Box 1045
Mt. Pearl, NL A1N 3C9

(709) 747-4874
info@nlfa.ca



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada