



Who IS ON THE FARM

Cathy Whitehead and Ed Hutchings run a different kind of farm with a different kind of product. Their farm, located in Felix Cove on the Port-Au-Port peninsula, sells alpaca products. Their company, Alpacas of Newfoundland, is a farm and retail operation which began operating in 1998.

Alpacas, a member of the camel family, are farmed exclusively for their fibre, as the meat is not consumed in most parts of the world. The fibre is of tremendous quality at four to six times the warmth of sheep's wool. It is lightweight, hypoallergenic, and non-absorbent.



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Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture

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Who IS ON THE FARM

The alpaca farm can trace its beginnings to when Cathy wanted a llama as a pet. While making plans to acquire one, she saw a picture of an alpaca in a magazine. This led to visits to alpaca farms in the United States to better understand what is involved in raising the animals. Ed and Cathy were quickly convinced that this was an endeavour they wanted to pursue and they set out getting the farm started.

After clearing several regulatory hurdles concerning the importation of animals into the province, in September of that year the alpacas arrived and the farm was in operation. Ed and Cathy started with five alpacas and a llama. Today, this has grown to 23 alpacas, two llamas, and two pygmy goats. At the beginning, the plan was to raise the animals strictly for breeding and selling. However, with limited markets available in Newfoundland and Labrador, their focus quickly shifted to secondary processing and selling products made from alpaca fibre.

The secondary processing started when a lady requested some fibre for knitting. When she was finished, Ed and Cathy quickly discovered



Ed and a couple of their alpacas in front of the craft store



Ed and Cathy selling their products at the 2011 Agrifood and Garden Show in Corner Brook

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Who IS ON THE FARM

that the finished product was an easy sell. Their craft store actually started in the hayloft of their barn, and then moved to their living room. Soon after, they built a 1,200 square foot dedicated craft shop to sell their products. At the craft shop hats, mitts, gloves, scarves and sweaters are sold, all made from alpaca fibre, as well as several non-alpaca products. The alpaca products are created by up to 13 different knitters, while the socks are made by a Montreal company.

In addition to selling at their craft store, Ed and Cathy sell their products at various trade shows around the province and beyond. This includes agricultural shows like the Agrifood and Garden Show, craft shows like 'Christmas at the Glacier', and two shows a year in Halifax.

Luckily for Ed and Cathy, the animals are low maintenance, allowing them to spend more time at the craft store and trade shows. During a typi-



cal day on the farm, the biggest task is making sure the animals have enough hay and water. Additionally, every four to six weeks, the alpacas' toe nails must be cut. The biggest job on the farm though, without a doubt, is shearing. This takes about a week every time it must be done to work through all the animals. The only other regular task is a check of animal health every few months.

Those interested in purchasing alpaca products can visit the Alpaca of Newfoundland Craft Store, located 20 minutes from Stephenville, in Felix Cove, or buy online. For online sales, hours of operation, and directions, please visit www.alpacasofnfld.ca. Alpaca of Newfoundland can also be reached by telephone at (709) 648-9414, or you can find the company on Facebook.

By Matthew Carlson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eugene Legge
President

Harvest time is once again upon us (and mostly behind us) and the holiday season is again fast approaching. This is a time when farmers really start to realize to what degree the year has been a success or a challenge, and for many this year has been a tough one.

Recently we saw farmers on the Avalon bringing in pumpkins from Nova Scotia to sell instead of selling local pumpkins as they have done

for all of recent memory. Wet weather was mostly to blame, since the blossoms got taken off many of the pumpkins in early August, resulting in very few of them actually getting pollinated.

Many crops were not entirely destroyed, but had a poor yield and were delayed. This meant a later and lesser harvest for many due to these poor growing conditions. The weather was actually record-breaking in all the wrong ways. Environment Canada came out with data indicat-

ing that June was the coldest in 20 years, and July was the wettest in almost as long.

This was also not a localized issue, as it affected every corner of the island and Labrador saw its own problems with its growing season. The early part of the summer saw an extended freeze-thaw cycle in Labrador that kept farmers guessing when the cold and frost was actually over for the season.

On a much more positive note, the Federation is continuing to deliver great services and discounts to our members through the AgriVantage program, which is now in its fifth year. There is an overview of the current offerings of the program, including the addition of discounts at Travel Cuts and Cal Legrow, 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 at the road ahead, with a new minister taking the reigns for agriculture, we are encouraged by the new vision this will bring. We are looking forward to working with the new minister responsible for Agrifoods, the Honourable Jerome Kennedy.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Agriculture would also like to thank outgoing minister Shawn Skinner for the support he gave to our industry during his term as minister. We really appreciate all the hard work he did on behalf of our industry and the concern he demonstrated for seeing it develop closer to its full potential.

The Federation looks forward to the opportunities our industry will see over the next year, and

we hope the coming year is more prosperous for producers in the province. We look forward to working with our members over the coming year and we hope to see you all in Gander for our Annual General Meeting and Workshop, January 25-26. Since this is the last newsletter for this year, I would like to close by saying all the best and stay safe in the coming year.

FEATURE

AgriFood and Garden Show Returns to Corner Brook

After partnering with Department of Natural Resources' Agrifoods Agency for last year's show, this year, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture took the lead on the annual AgriFood and Garden Show. The event was held at the Pepsi Centre, Corner Brook from September 22-25. A steady stream of visitors attended the show, which featured exhibits from all aspects of the province's agriculture industry.

The AgriFood and Garden show is the largest show of its kind in the province and continues to experience high levels of growth and interest. The show's key objective is to promote our agricultur-

al industries and increase awareness of the importance of the industry to our province, especially in rural communities.

This event provided the NLFA with a tremendous opportunity for the public to meet farmers, see what the agriculture industry has to offer, and educate children about where their food comes from.

The farmers' market at the show featured fresh vegetables, eggs, berries, preserves, and pork, all produced locally. The event also featured lots of attractions for kids including a petting farm, kids activity centre (new this year), and chick hatchery.



A customer visits Lomond Farms at the show's farmers' market



Students get a healthy treat from Chef Keith King of Cuisine Consulting





Kids enjoying the farm-themed fun at the Kids' Activity Centre



A calf at the petting farm area of the show

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

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 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:

Thoughts on Managing Financial Ratios, Debt and Financial Risk

Broadcast Date: Nov 14, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Larry Martin
Theme: Financial Planning & Management

This presentation will start by identifying some key financial ratios, and how they relate to the

operating statement and balance sheet. This will include the way they can be calculated and the ways they can be interpreted from a strategic management perspective. This will lead into a discussion of the relationship between operations, leverage and debt.

2011 COYF National Recognition Event: The Environment and Its Impact on Agriculture

Broadcast Date: Nov 18, 2011, 11:30 AM NL Time
Series: Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program Webinars
Theme: Health & Environment

This Agriwebinar is a broadcast of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' Program National Recognition Event that will take place from 11:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. NF Time on November 18, 2011 in Brandon, Manitoba.

The broadcast will begin with a forum discussion entitled "The Environment and its Impact on Agriculture," airing from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Forum presenters include Daniel Bezte, climatology specialist, and Andrew Dickson of the Manitoba Pork Council.

Global Economic Impacts on the Farm & Ranch

Broadcast Date: Nov 21, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

Presented By: David Kohl
Theme: Trends & Ag Outlook

Twenty-first century agriculture has many more global interconnections than ever before. This webinar will focus on the new mega trends impacting producers' profitability and lifestyles.

Traceability - What You Need to Know & What's Happening

Broadcast Date: Nov 28, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Brian Sterling
Theme: Health & Environment

This talk will look at food traceability, centering on practical steps that need to be considered by industry and government to create a viable system that will work "From Farm Gate to Dinner Plate".

Winning Web Sites That Mean Business

Broadcast Date: Dec 5, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Jane Eckert
Theme: Marketing

Find out about website design from farm marketing expert Jane Eckert, who has literally studied hundreds of farm websites. She'll teach you how to use photographs, links and make a user-friendly home page that will make guests return to your site again and again.

Looking Forward Through a Rearview Mirror: Planning for the Future

Broadcast Date: Dec 12, 2011, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Merle Good
Theme: Financial Planning & Management

This Session will describe the options and strategies that are available to you in consultations with your family and your private sector professional advisors, in solving the very complex puzzle of operating and transferring inter-generational farm businesses.

Why Farmers Love Carrots: How to Change Your Family Dynamics to Help Founders Let Go of Farm Ownership and Control

Broadcast Date: Jan 16, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Elaine Froese

Theme: Health & Environment

Many next generation farmers are frustrated with the lack of certainty for their future ownership of farm assets. As a farm family coach Elaine Froese sees a great need to shift thinking about "letting go" of being the ultimate decision maker on the farm. Founders need to recognize the successor's need for equity, not simply being an employee for a decade with the "proverbial carrot" of "someday this will all be yours."

"Why farmers love carrots" has generated heated discussions to fuel effective family business meetings. Join Elaine Froese to find out more tools to have influence in shifting the founder's thinking, so actionable agreements can be finally produced and signed over to a grateful next generation.

The SmartFarm - How Social Media and Smartphones are Helping Farms

Broadcast Date: Jan 23, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Andrew Campbell
Theme: Trends & Ag Outlook

Thanks to smartphones, farmers have access to more real-time information than ever before. But how can you wade through the junk to get the knowledge you really need? In this webinar, Andrew will go beyond the basics, and talk about how social media and smartphones together can and are producing more knowledge and income on Canadian farms.

Agriculture Without State Support: The Case for New-Zealand farmers

Broadcast Date: Jan 30, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Richard Robert
Theme: Trends & Ag Outlook

How did New Zealand producers cope with the 1984 government cuts? How did this loss end up benefitting them today et what are the challenges they have to deal with? What can we learn from this? This presentation will consist of a narrative of stories learned during encounters with New Zealand farmers at the International Farm Management Congress in March 2011.

A Life of Duties & Lessons

Broadcast Date: Feb 6, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series



Presented By: Maria Labrecque Duchesneau
Theme: Health & Environment

Having spent over 30 years working on numerous community projects, Ms. Maria Labrecque Duchesneau is a graduate of the Université du Québec à Montréal in psychosocial intervention.

Proud of her roots, she says that farming is in her blood. She likes working with passionate people, which is why she launched the "Au Cœur des Familles Agricoles" (ACFA) organization, a support network for the farming community.

Our lives are sprinkled with the "I must" of duties and the "I learn" of lessons. "A life of duties and lessons" will make you question our ability to successfully face the risks and challenges that life brings.

The Five Keys to Planning Success

Broadcast Date: Feb 13, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Kevin Spafford
Theme: Succession Planning

In this session, participants will learn the five keys to preserving the farm, and passing a successful farming operation to a well-prepared next generation. The five keys to planning success include: Good communication, Common objectives, Ready for succession, Proven planning model/process, and Action.

Cooperating for Success

Broadcast Date: Feb 27, 2012, 1:30 PM NL Time
Series: 2011/2012 CFBMC Agriwebinar Series
Presented By: Colette Lebel
Theme: Business Structures & Agreements

For more than a decade, agricultural cooperation has been the springboard towards a fairer market for Quebec producers. A true tool of sustainable development, cooperatives work through crisis, bring social cohesion and structure territories by allowing producers to be involved in all aspects of their farm's value chain. Participate in this Agriwebinar to discover the collective heritage of Quebec farmers.



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Mark Your Calendar – 2012 Annual General Meeting

The 2012 NLFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) time and location has been finalized:

January 25-26, 2012
Hotel Gander
Gander, NL



Keep an eye on our website, www.nlfa.ca for further details as they become available.

Thousands Turn Out for the 53rd Annual Farm Field Day

Close to 6,000 visitors took advantage of the first sunny day in weeks to get out and learn about research and agriculture at the 53rd annual Farm Field Day at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Atlantic Cool Climate Crop Research Centre in St. John's, NL.

The popular open house once again provided staff with an opportunity to highlight agriculture research and for the Newfoundland and Labrador agricultural community to raise awareness of the industry.



A boy examines ticks at the Farm Field Day animal health display



Hay rides at Farm Field Day 2011



Hector Williams presents a 4-H award at Farm Field Day

"It's great to see so many people on field day," said entomologist Dr. Peggy Dixon. "It's one day we get to chat to the public about what we do here on the farm.

"We get lots of questions at our display, and some really funny faces when they see all the insects, but it is always a hit."

Staff were out in full force to display their work in small fruits, corn, nutrient management, integrated pest management, cereal and forage crops and drainage.

A hay ride around the research grounds drew long lines. Visitors got a guided tour of field trials on nutrient management, corn and forage crops and insect research.

In addition to science demonstrations, the day included farm animals, a BBQ and children's activities hosted by the local 4-H clubs and country line dancing.

More than 30 farm organizations, including the NL Federation of Agriculture, joined federal and provincial departments in the day.

"It's the teamwork and dedication of organizers, staff, volunteers, industry and exhibitors that help make Farm Field Day a success," said Research Manager Sandy Todd. "It gives us great pride to open our doors to the public, showcase our research and raise awareness of the agriculture industry.

"We look forward to the event every year."

An Evening with Century Farmers

"Never, never give up."

"Keep your eyes on the prize".

This was the advice of Century Farmers Leonard and Lena Ruby and Jim and Michelle Lester at an event hosted by the Agricultural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, August 13th, 2011.

About forty people gathered to hear what these Century Farmers had to say and they were not disappointed. Both Leonard Ruby's Westvale Farms and Jim Lester's ancestry link back to the mid-nineteenth century. Pulling on the history of family experience, but always planning ahead, Ruby and Lester told how the experiences of the past have fed into their ability to manage their farms today and to plan for a successful future.

Both Ruby, who farms on his ancestral land, and Lester, who is developing a new farm property,

spoke eloquently of their experience with weather, disease, labour supply, markets, government policy, consumer expectations, technological change. Sometimes these factors have been obstacles; other times they have opened opportunities. But they have always meant adaptation. Century Farms have survived because they have excelled at innovative management of their resources in the face of challenges.

The conversation ranged from the memory of childhood farm chores to nostalgia for the lively competition at the All Newfoundland Agricultural Exhibitions held years ago, from the experience of brucellosis to the sudden loss of a market, from the achievement of founding a Purebred Herd of Holsteins to the excitement of building a niche in the growing agro-tourism industry.

This event, held at Lester Farms Inc., 92 Pearltown Road, was part of a series of events in the Seeds to Supper Festival sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Agricultural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Contact Kevin Aucoin: aucoin89@nl.rogers.com



L to R Michelle Lester, Jim Lester, Leonard Ruby, Lena Ruby, Jake Melendy

AGRI-ADAPT COUNCIL INC. UPDATE

The following is an example 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):

Investigating Alternative Uses for Cracked Eggs

Health Canada's regulations prohibiting the sale of cracked eggs (Grade "C" – Cracks) from federally inspected egg grading stations is having a direct and immediate impact for egg producers since coming into effect in April 2011.

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).

Egg Producers of Newfoundland and Labrador (EPNL) is addressing this emerging issue by hiring a consultant to complete a study of alternative uses for Grade "C" eggs. The objective of this study is to identify viable options for the marketing of Grade C eggs and which will provide direct benefits to egg producers in the province. A final report and the results of the

study will be provided at the end of the project.

Funding to conduct the study is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) is the regional council which acts as the delivery agent for CAAP. AACI approved \$39,000 towards the project.

LABRADOR REPORT



This spring and summer went so fast it seems like yesterday that the last of the snowbanks melted.

We usually make up for the snowy winter with long, sunny days with warm weather. We really are experiencing climate change here. This summer seemed to be rainy or overcast with only about 5 or 6 of those nice hot days, those 30 degree ones.

On Mud Lake Road we did manage to ripen some sweet corn and tomatoes outdoors (we did start them inside, I'll admit) but an early, killing frost put an end to those and the potato tops with -3°C for at least 8 hours.

In Labrador we are always pestered by mosquitoes and black flies but this summer there was an 'attack' on Grand River Farm by army worms. These eating machines 'march' by the thousands and eat every green thing in front of them. They did a lot of damage in a short time. Frank and Joyce Pye were able to win the 'war' however, by plowing a 'trench' in front of their march and it seems they can't climb up out of one. Their grandson squashed hundreds and hundreds in the 'skirmish' and the rest died of starvation in the trench. We'll all be on the lookout for them next year.

There were plenty bears around this summer to contend with, they seem to like using the black plastic mulch where we set out strawberries, as a pathway. The foxes are a real nuisance; always looking for an 'easy' meal and the moose wandered around and even laid down in our potato field. They didn't eat any, just flattened some

places a bit. I believe they were there to get a break from the blackflies, it's always a breeze back there, it's flat and open.

Ironically, we did make some progress on having domestic animals on Mud Lake Road. It has been an issue for a while with the belief that ground water would be contaminated by manure. Water contamination can be a problem, that's for sure; if feedlot situations are the case and normal cattle pasture populations aren't the norm. We certainly have to be aware of manure spreading rates and fertilizer applications as well.

I would like to see more four-legged livestock on the farms over here but it's just not a matter of buying them and bringing them here. There isn't much pastureland or hayland, there is no vet and no slaughterhouse and no machinery to harvest, store, handle and mix/grind grain for feed. The few that are here are mainly for pets I guess!

The Agricultural Representative Problem - An Ag. Rep. or at least an Ag. Rep. office with someone in it is normal wherever there are a few farms or agricultural activity of any sort. Maybe I'm generalizing; but our Labrador Ag. Rep. is in Newfoundland and our office is closed and has been for years. Occasionally, someone from the NL Ag. Department comes over for one or two or three days and sees some of the people here who are involved with growing food. Sometimes these visits are announced ahead of time.

Calling St. John's or Corner Brook, during regular business hours (and there aren't many of those hours) can be daunting. All of the farmers in Labrador rely on poor cell phone service from the farms where they are working 14 to 20 hours in a summer day. So you leave a message...

This Ag. Rep. 'thing' has got to be resolved, we need our office open, we need a fulltime ag. rep. *and* someone in the office. We are trying to grow



food which people want and need three times a day. Listen government: no one wants Labrador wood!

I guess I'm cynical today but I see and read how the price of food is going up, up ,up. But in this province, Labrador too, we are importing more and more meat and produce whose prices are inflated by trucking costs. Food doesn't cost more folks, trucking does!

I have one bright-side thing to speak about - our

Farmer's Market! Central Labrador Economic Development Board (Carol Best), the Food Security Network (Jill Airhart), and volunteers organized and sourced a nice big tent structure and a venue for us producers to sell from. It was a great success for farmers and customers alike. Thanks for all that work and dedication!

Jim Purdy — Labrador Delegate to NLFA

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.

NEW & EXCITING

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agriculture Research Initiative

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agriculture Research Initiative is a three-year federal/provincial cost-shared program funded under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador AgriFlexibility Agreement.

The initiative is designed to develop applied research capacity in Newfoundland and Labrador's private and public sectors to promote the competitiveness of the province's agriculture industry.

Investments are to be made in the following areas:

Soil, land and water resource management;

Development of crop and livestock management practices which enhance yields and reduce production costs;

Northern agricultural practices;

Testing and evaluation of new crops and varieties in the horticulture sector, and,

Other agricultural and agri-food related areas.

Submissions are being accepted. Priority will be given to those involving partnerships between agricultural producers, processors, industry associations, public and private sector research agencies and universities within Atlantic Canada; demonstrate the leveraging of additional resources, provide direct benefits to the agriculture industry and have a strong science-based approach.

All projects must be completed by **February 28, 2014**. The program will end on March 31, 2014.

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NEW & EXCITING

For information and program guidelines please visit www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/agrifoods/research/ or contact the Department of Natural Resource Forestry and Agrifoods Agency at 709-637-2564.

Please forward the completed application and project proposal to the address below:

Agriculture Research Initiative

Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Department of Natural Resources
Fortis Bldg, P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 6J8
ATT: Colin Walsh



Two New Partners Join AgriVantage Membership Program

The Federation of Agriculture is pleased to announce that two new partners have signed onto the AgriVantage membership program to offer discounts and other special offers to our members.



Travel Cuts offers members savings on airfare both within the province and nationwide, and Cal LeGrow is offering great rates on farm insurance to our members.

Travel Cuts was founded with the purpose of providing discounted travel to students and has since expanded to serve the general public as well. Travel Cuts is offering great airfare packages on well known and trusted airlines like Provincial and WestJet.

Cal LeGrow Insurance purchased Baine Johnston Insurance Limited in 2009 and now offers the full Baine Johnston Insurance line of business insurance products, including farm insurance.

These new partners join all the returning discounts already available to our members, including the popular Kent building supplies discount introduced last year, in addition to partners offering discounts on hotels, farm equipment, heating oil, equipment leasing and much more!

These new program additions come as the AgriVantage membership program enters its fifth year and has been seeing increasing success every year and consistently high levels of member satisfaction.

While survey results tell us that our members love getting discounts and special offers, most see even more value in the Federation's services such as advocacy, industry promotion, and administering valuable programs like CAAP, and APP.

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.

Do You Have a Root Cellar? Send us a Photograph!

Root cellars are everywhere! All across the province, root cellars are evidence of the long history of gardens and farms in food production in this province.

Root cellars went hand in hand with gardens. And gardens went hand in hand with the fishery in the hundreds of outports along the coast. Fish from the sea and food from the land. A fishing family could not survive without gardens to provide a supply of root vegetables for the winter.

The early mixed farms which grew vegetables for the growing industrial towns and to supply schooners had large root cellars.

The Agricultural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador surveyed root cellars this past summer. Even in a small area, virtually on the outskirts





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 Tel: 738-8911, Fax: 738-8944



of St John's, we found dozens of root cellars. As many as several dozen in a single community. Alas, many have been abandoned, marked only by their stone walls collapsed into the cellar hole. But others have been carefully preserved to use for general storage. And a few still function in their traditional role. More recently, some owners have discovered that root cellars are excellent for forcing bulbs in the early spring!

Root cellars have a basic engineering: a dark cool cellar, cleverly insulated to maintain a temperature which is cool in summer and above freezing in winter, and provision for ventilation to take off accumulated moisture. Root cellars have been built in a variety of designs in different parts of the island. Two popular types are a rock-lined dugout in the side of a hill and a rock-lined earthen mound topped by a neat shed with an entrance hatch down to the cellar below. Insulation can be by a covering of turf, or hay piled in the shed above the hatch. Some cellars are built under a house with either indoor or outdoor access.

The oldest root cellars which we have found date from the 1830s: Government House and Murray's Garden Centre and Horticultural Services.

If you have a root cellar, give a nod to its magnificent rock walls and its clever engineering. It is a heritage feature, a visual marker on the landscape of the long history of food production in Newfoundland and Labrador.

To view our root cellar collection, follow : Memorial University-Queen Elizabeth II Library-Special Collections-DAI-ICH Knowledge and Practices Concerning Nature and the Universe-root cellars. We invite you to send a photograph of your root cellar, noting its location, to Kevin Aucoin aucoin89@nl.rogers.com to add to our collection.

Melvin Rideout 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. Melvin Rideout was inducted into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame this October at a ceremony at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, Nova Scotia.



Born in Cormack in 1944, Melvin Rideout received his education in Deer Lake and graduated from Queen Elizabeth School in Foxtrap. He worked in the forestry and construction industries between 1962 and 1966 before he found his true profession in farming.



Melvin Rideout

Melvin is a second generation farmer. His parents Alexander and Clara started a vegetable and beef farm in Cormack as part of the agriculture settlement for veterans returning from World War II. Melvin's father, as a WWII veteran, was awarded 50 acres of land and was required to clear the land, construct a house and barn and purchase livestock. Today Cormack remains a major agricultural community in the province due to the efforts of farm families like the Rideouts.

Melvin is credited with introducing modern agriculture into the Cormack area, encouraging agricul-



2011 Inductees: (L-R) Bill Cairns, PEI, Leah Pryor (for Bill Pryor), NB, Melvin Rideout, NL, and Frank Thomson, NS

tural development in his community and throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. He has been a tireless lobbyist for the formation of agricultural organizations to help improve production, agriculture awareness and overall development of agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador. He has had a special impact on the vegetable sector and is considered a true pioneer and innovator in the industry.

Melvin was a driving force in the formation of



Vegetable Marketing Associates Limited (VMAL) in 1977 to introduce cooperative marketing for the Newfoundland vegetable sector and was also instrumental in the formation of the Vegetable Growers Association. He was a member of the Humber Valley Agriculture Association; member of the Farm Debt Review Board and an active member of the Dairy Transport Committee and New Entrants Committee. He has mentored many farmers in the area sometimes working as many hours on their farms as on his own.

Melvin has always been extremely active in his community. He was a member of Community Recreation and has been a councilor on the Cormack Community Council since the 1970s. He is highly regarded as a community leader and in the most recent municipal election Melvin was elected mayor of Cormack.

In this role he has focused on the promotion of agriculture in Cormack. It was the demands of the agricultural industry and Melvin's leadership that put pavement into his hometown so many years ago. As mayor of the community he has made it a priority to see that vital infrastructure, including the road network, is improved.

Melvin and his wife Anne (Hiscock) have six children: Alan, Rick, Eugene, Stephen, Bernice and Melvin Jr. and 10 grandchildren. He is still active on his dairy and vegetable farm which he and his children operate. The Rideout farm is comprised of 700 acres of forage, 100 acres of vegetables, 360 dairy cows producing 7,900 litres daily and is among the most well-known and successfully operated farms in the province. Melvin strongly believes there is a great future in agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Horticulture Producers Council for his outstanding service to the agriculture industry, Melvin Rideout is indeed a worthy inductee into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Dairy Farmer Wins Entrepreneurial Award

The Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE) honoured dairy farmer Pauline Duivenvoorden at its Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Gala on October 26 in St. John's.

The evening's top honour, the Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, was presented to Headline

Holsteins operator Pauline Duivenvoorden for her work toward developing the agricultural industry and the economy of her community. Specifically, the award recognizes an entrepreneur who has been in operating control of a business for at least 10 years and has made a significant impact on the economy. Headline Holsteins is currently the second largest dairy farm in the province.

"I feel honoured to be part of this dynamic group of enterprising women," said Duivenvoorden. "I am also very appreciative of the recognition it gives to agriculture in this province and to the many women

involved in primary food production here. I am proud of the dairy industry in particular, and grateful for the opportunities it has provided. It is a privilege to accept this prestigious NLOWE award."

Pauline was nominated by the Deer Lake Chamber of Commerce for her economic contributions to the region's economy. As Chair of Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador, Pauline is also heavily involved in the agricultural community.

Almost 200 people attended the gala this year, including Premier Kathy Dunderdale.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Awards have paid tribute to the province's most successful female entrepreneurs for their important contributions to the economy and their communities since 1998.

NLOWE helps women entrepreneurs start, grow and advance successful, leading-edge businesses that capitalize on emerging economic opportunities. The group's mission is to advance the success of women in business through the provision of programs and services that support all stages of business development.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture would like to extend its congratulations to Pauline Duivenvoorden for winning this prestigious award.



Pauline Duivenvoorden speaks at the NLOWE awards gala. Photo courtesy Denise Dunne Photography/NLOWE.

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



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