



Who IS ON THE FARM

Jeff and Connie Peddle of Lethbridge on the Bonavista peninsula run a diverse commercial farming operation which has been in business for over forty years. Its roots go back to the 1950s, when Jeff's grandfather began a small vegetable and beef farm; his parents ran it as a vegetable farm, before he and Connie branched out into a green house and dairy operation.

Growing up on a farm, Jeff has always been drawn to farming, and sees it as "more of a lifestyle than a job." Among the hats he wears are those of farmer, mechanic, and salesman. After finishing school, Jeff began working



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Federation of Agriculture**

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Who IS ON THE FARM



Outside profile of the barn at Riverbend Dairy.

full-time on the family farm, and in 1995 he and his wife, Connie, began Bayview Gardens with one greenhouse. Today, Bayview has six greenhouses and a retail operation. The focus is on garden landscape products such as annuals, perennials, and hanging baskets.

Jeff describes Bayview Gardens as offering "everything the home gardener is looking for." Beyond the standard products found at any garden centre, Bayview also offers products like custom take-home planters which are ready to use and allow for a longer season since they get their start in the greenhouse. In addition to this retail operation, Bayview also sells wholesale, and has an exclusive supplier contract with a local contractor.

Bayview Gardens isn't the only part of the farm keeping Jeff and Connie busy. Three years ago they took advantage of an opportunity offered through the Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador New Entrants' program. It took some time to get through the process with financing, regulations, and all the other prerequisites, but in April 2011 construction began on the new dairy barn



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Who IS ON THE FARM



Inside profile of barn.



Kelsey herding the cows to be milked.

and in November Riverbend Dairy was open with cows in the barn.

Riverbend Dairy is a clean, modern facility, and the first in Newfoundland and Labrador to use the compost-bedded pack design. This type of barn is a variation on a free stall barn, which is more geared toward cow comfort. While the design calls for a bigger barn for fewer cows, it provides the closest environment to a pasture possible indoors and allows for more social behaviour amongst the cows.

Jeff and Connie thoroughly researched the compost-bedded pack system and visited a farm in Ontario before taking on this venture. They found that the benefits of the system include healthier cows and greater longevity – cows get an extra 1-3 lactations on average; have more secure footing; and they generally provide an extra year or two of milk production.

Jeff and his two daughters, Kelsey and Courtney, along with a couple of staff, are involved with the dairy operation. Jeff is hoping that someday his daughters can take over the farm. Jeff and Connie's youngest daughter, Kelsey, while still in school works at the farm during summer vacations; she wants to become a large animal vet.

The only major challenge Jeff now faces is getting good, reliable labour. He likes having a big enough operation to be able to hire people, so that he and his family can get a break from time to time.

Jeff would like to grow his greenhouse and dairy operation farm a little more - but not a lot. Right now he finds his business provides a good balance, as he can still be hands-on and do everything from bottle



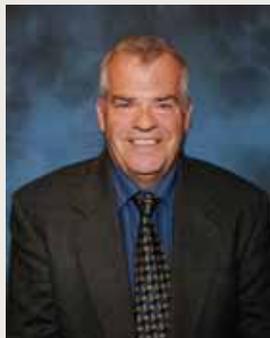
Kelsey getting ready to milk cows in the parlour.

feeding a calf to management work in the office. He says that he wouldn't want to get so big that he would be playing a constant management role and lose the hands-on work that he enjoys so much.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture is pleased to profile Jeff and Connie Peddle. We wish the Peddles continuing success in the future at both Bayview Gardens and Riverbend Dairy.

By Matthew Carlson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eugene Legge
President

What a difference a year makes. It was only last summer that farmers were having a rough season because of the cool, wet weather. This year, the sun is shining, the temperatures are generally between warm and hot, and last year's problems are far from the minds of most people. But, at the same time, new challenges are emerging.

The warm sunny days are certainly needed for growing, but we also need rain, and it is fast becoming a problem in itself. This is especially true on the west coast. Farmers in places like Cormack and the Codroy Valley are experiencing hotter temperatures, and even less rain than we are getting on the east coast.

Last year we experienced some firsts, like farmers having to bring in pumpkins from Nova Scotia to sell because they had lost their own pumpkin crop due to all the wet, cool weather. This year too, we are seeing firsts that are weather related, albeit very different ones. We are hearing about farmers having to water crops that have just been planted, like cabbage, for the first time ever.

At the same time, some farmers are having a fantastic season. Honey production is apparently having a record year, and anyone with an irrigation system has all they need for a record harvest.

Of course we've been hearing for years about climate change and how it would bring more extreme weather, and the trend, this year and last, sure seems to fit the bill. If this is the new normal, farmers will have to adapt and be ready for dry seasons and seasons with too much rain. Extremes may be the new normal.

This year at the Federation, we're working on some new initiatives. Our agriculture in the classroom program is preparing for a busy fall with the launch of a pilot project in five schools. The program, called Little Green Thumbs, allows Grade 2-3 students to plant and grow vegetables in their classrooms. This program has been used successfully in other parts of the country and we believe it will be a great fit in classrooms across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Additionally, the Federation will be taking on the Agrifood and Garden Show again this year. A coordinator will be hired to organize and oversee the event, which is happening this October at the Pepsi Centre in Corner Brook.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the producers in the province a successful and safe growing and harvest season.

FEATURE

AgriVantage Membership Program Returning in September

The AgriVantage membership program will soon enter its sixth year and is better than ever! In addition to all the great services offered by the Federation of Agriculture, members also receive benefits through offers from partner businesses. This year, we are very pleased to announce the return of Irving Oil to the program.

Members on the Avalon Peninsula can once again save on furnace oil and ULSD diesel through Irving Oil. These discounts are based on fuel consumption,



NLFA is very pleased to welcome Irving Oil back to AgriVantage.





specifically on usage of more or less than 50,000 litres. Members have been asking for a return of the offer from Irving Oil, and we are very pleased to be able to deliver this benefit to our members.

Those members outside of the Avalon Peninsula can still avail of special rates through Western Petroleum.

Outside of fuel savings, we also have many other returning offers for our members. These include equipment offers through Kubota, airfare discounts through Travelcuts, building supply offers from Kent, great car rental rates through Avis and National, clothing and gear discounts at Marks through

Imagewear, great farm insurance rates through Cal Legrow, reduced hotel rates through Steele within NL and Choice for hotels outside the province, and great leasing rates through National Leasing.

All these offers are fully confirmed to be on our program this September. There are other offers which are not yet fully confirmed and finalized that we are also hoping to have on the program. We cannot confirm all of our offers at this time, due to the final deadline for all offers being still weeks away as of print time.

With all the great benefits highlighted above, it is easy to see why members have expressed high satisfaction levels (in excess of 80%) consistently on our satisfaction surveys.

Our members see a lot of benefit beyond the great discounts. NLFA is the voice of the industry and represents your interest with government. We are committed to delivering beneficial programs for the industry, such as the Canadian Agriculture Adaptation Program (CAAP) and the Advance Payments Program (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.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

4-H Launches Video Contest in Partnership with FCC

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is sponsoring the centennial public speaking program, and as part of the program is hosting a video contest in conjunction with 4-H. Contestants will submit a video celebrating 4-H and agriculture.

The program, titled "Shout out for Ag", will feature a 30 second or less video that applicants can record on their own equipment and upload to



the 4-H website. Another way to enter is to visit the 4-H booth at any agricultural show or expo this year and record a video on-site. This will be launched in Newfoundland and Labrador at Farm Field Day August 11, 2012.

Eligible topics include:

1. My favorite thing about 4-H is...
2. Farm Life
3. Somebody in agriculture that I look up to is...
4. I think agriculture is important because...
5. I am passionate about agriculture because...
6. My most exciting 4-H project or experience was...
7. I joined 4-H because...

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

8. My favourite job to do on the farm is _____ and here's why...
9. My proudest accomplishment in 4-H has been...
10. Agriculture is exciting because...
11. Growing up on the farm has taught me...
12. Agriculture gives me the chance to...
13. I want to pursue a career in agriculture because...
14. How has 4-H changed or impacted your life?
15. Technology and Agriculture?
16. Canadian Agriculture and our Growing World?
17. My biggest learning about agriculture that I have gained by being involved in 4-H is...
18. Compare the leadership skills between an agriculture business owner and a CEO of a major company. How are they similar? How are they different?
19. How does a background in 4-H prepare you to lead an organization or business?
20. Agriculture in 2020
21. In 20 years, future 4-H members will be...

Prizes will be awarded to the most liked videos. The deadline for submitting videos is January 31, 2013. For more information visit www.4hnl.ca.

National Farm Safety Conference Coming to St. John's

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) will be holding its annual conference at the **Delta Hotel in St John's, Newfoundland October 10 - 12, 2012**. This year's theme is **FARMSAFE!** to kick off CASA's new National Farm



Safety Strategy.

Visit casa-acsa.ca to check out the program, and register today. Book your accommodations at the Delta by September 9, 2012 to receive the special conference rate.

For more information, contact Diane Wreford at (204)275-8874.

Annual Farm Field Day *Come and Learn About Agriculture*

Atlantic Cool Climate Research Centre
308 Brookfield Road
St. John's, NL

Saturday, August 11, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine

Bring your family and friends and find out more about the fascinating research taking place in your community.

- Visitors will be able to talk with scientists about their innovative research projects that are helping create new opportunities for farmers.
- Displays will highlight research in native berries with higher level of antioxidants, pesticide-free techniques to help combat agricultural pests, new ways to grow corn in cool climates, manure management and drainage techniques.
- Check out 4-H calf showmanship and Cattle Show in action
- Learn about farm animals
- Enjoy a chicken barbecue
- Free parking and admission

For more information, please call (709) 772-0461.

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2012 Newfoundland and Labrador Agricultural Events

The following are the planned agricultural events and festivals taking place in the province this year:

July

Deer Lake Strawberry Festival Days
 July 20-22nd, 2012
 Deer Lake Power Company Field
 Poplar Road, Deer Lake

Floral Art Show
 July 14-15th, 2012
 MUN Botanical Garden
 306 Mount Scio Road, St. John's

St George's Blueberry Festival
 July 27th-29th, 2012
 Blueberry Hill, St. George's

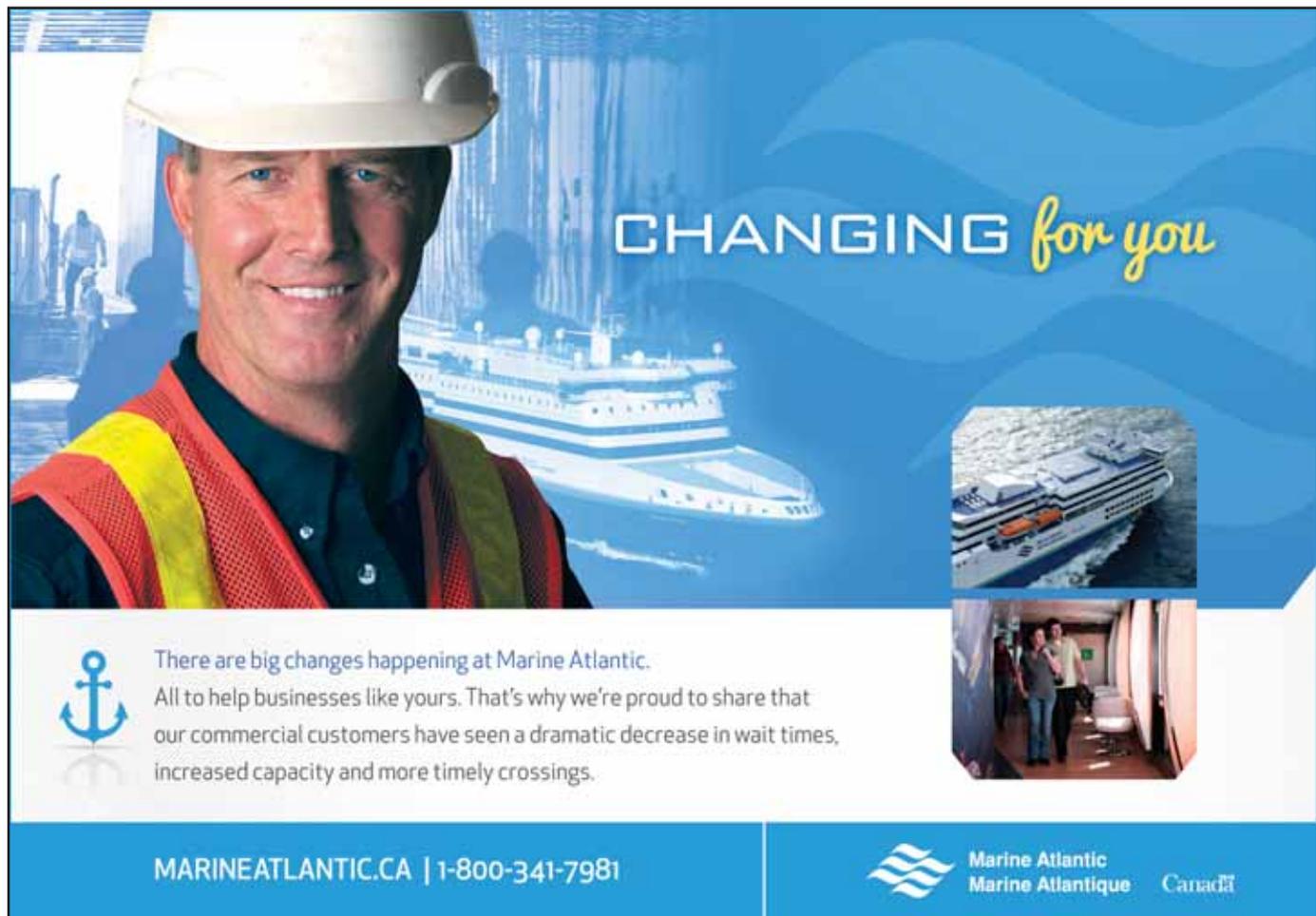
August

Garnish Bakeapple Festival
 August 4-12th, 2012
 Community Centre
 Garnish

Brigus Blueberry Festival
 August 9-12th, 2012
 Water Street, Brigus

Annual Farm Field Day
 August 11th, 2012
 308 Brookfield Road, St. John's

Bakeapple Folk Festival
 August 12-14th, 2012
 Forteau, Labrador



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EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

September

Humber Valley Agriculture Home/
Handicraft Exhibition
September 14-15th, 2012
Hodder Memorial Stadium, Deer Lake

Labrador Straits Craft and Agriculture Fair
September 15-16th, 2012
Labrador Straits Arena, L'Anse au Loup

Trinity-Conception Bay Agriculture Fall Fair
September 20-23rd, 2012
Harbour Grace, Conception Bay North

Roots, Rants and Roars Festival
September 21-23rd, 2012
Elliston, Bonavista Peninsula

Eastport Agricultural Exhibition
September 28-October 18th, 2012
Beaches Heritage Centre, Eastport

Port au Port Agricultural Fall Fair
September 29-30th, 2012
Our Lady of Mercy Church
Port au Port West

October

Fogo Island Partridgeberry Festival
October 5-7th, 2012
Iceberg Arena, Fogo Island Central

Agrifood and Garden Show
October 12-14th, 2012
Pepsi Centre, Corner Brook

AGRI-ADAPT COUNCIL INC. UPDATE



Canada

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

Helping Chicken Producers Adapt to Changing Market Demands

This Nova Scotia-based project seeks to look at the use of lysozyme as an alternative to antibiotics for chickens in the broiler industry.

Antibiotics have been included in poultry diets for the past forty years to protect the birds from harmful bacteria and to improve the growth performance of broiler chickens.

With increasing public concerns about the use of antibiotics in poultry production, there is a growing interest in finding alternatives that will ensure the health of chickens while meeting the needs of consumers.

Various approaches have been recommended including improved management practices with increased biosecurity and various feed additives such as probiotics, prebiotics, enzymes, minerals, herbs and oligosaccharides. However, research evaluating the use of these potential alternative feed additives has been limited.

This project will evaluate the effect of lysozyme on the growth performance of broiler chickens and determine the optimal periods during the growth cycle in which to include lysozyme in the diets.

Lysozyme is an enzyme used to break down bacterial cell walls to improve protein or nucleic acid extraction efficiency. The enzyme occurs naturally in plant and animal tissues and in secretions such as tears, saliva and mucus. It is especially abundant in egg whites, which is the primary source for commercial supplies.

Determining the critical periods during the growth cycle of broiler chickens for which lysozyme may have the greatest impact would potentially have an economic benefit for the producer through decreased feed costs and improved life expectancy of chicks.

The results of this research will be provided to the poultry industry in the form of a detailed final report as well as a fact sheet.

Funding for this research is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). This Nova Scotia-led collective outcome proposal received \$150,064.00 in CAAP funding. The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) approved Newfoundland and Labrador's \$25,060.69 contribution towards the project.



Important Notice from Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI)

On April 11, 2012 the Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) of Newfoundland and Labrador was informed by senior managers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) that after 2014 there will be no role for any provincial or territorial council in the delivery of the next generation of adaptation funding.

What this means is that when the current agreement expires in March of 2014, should the program be renewed, its administration will be consolidated and centralized within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Notwithstanding the decision of AAFC, AACI will continue to administer the current Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) until 2014 in the same effective and efficient manner as in it has the past. **Applications are still**

being accepted in the current program and funding decisions will continue to be based on expert industry knowledge, through an elected board of directors, representing the entire agriculture, food and rural value chain.

The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. is a success story. It has functioned for years as an industry-led, arms-length delivery agent that has responded quickly, appropriately, and efficiently to the regional needs and priorities of the agriculture and agri-food sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. AACI is resolved to find other sources of funding to continue the work of making those in agriculture in this province more prosperous, and looks forward to the continued service of our industry in the remaining administration of the CAAP program.

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 ACAAF 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).

LABRADOR REPORT

Large Scale Co-operation



Almost fifty years ago I was a student Minister working my way through theological college in a role known then as "weekend supply". The United Church of Canada Pastoral Charge to which I was appointed was in the Musquodoboit Valley, a thriving center of dairy farming in Nova Scotia. I remember well a conversation with a young farmer, Ken Streach, who shortly afterward became the youngest President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. He was pointing out the difficulties farmers experienced in raising

the funds for the purchase of equipment. He used the example of a hay bailer, which was a costly, but necessary, piece of equipment. While it is used only for a couple weeks, it requires loan repayments every month of the year. My Newfoundland ignorance was quickly corrected when I suggested that maybe several farmers could co-operatively purchase and own shared equipment. Ken quickly responded that given the manifest logic that hay must be made while the sun shines every farmer would want to use the bailer on the same fine day. To conceive that twenty five years later I would be homesteading in Central Labrador was beyond the wildest stretch of my imagination, but such are the preambulations of life. As Joyce and I grew our tiny operation beside the Grand (Churchill) river as a retirement lifestyle activity, I came to personal-

ly appreciate the wisdom Ken had expounded. The list of essential equipment, which must be at hand and available for immediate use, grew with our expanding endeavour. But there was another lesson to learn and to share.

In 1999, with the support of the Central Labrador Economic Development Board, the Lake Melville Agricultural Society, a rather loose gathering of the few part time farmers in the Goose Bay area, incorporated as the Lake Melville Agricultural Association. During a Planning Seminar organized and held in January 2001, a Federal/Provincial duo, Paul Dunphy and Wayne Molloy, brought forward (from a recent demonstration they had attended) an enthusiastic presentation on a new technology for land clearing, the Scandinavian Meri-crusher. This equipment, a very heavy duty roto-tiller equipped with carbide teeth rather than conventional tines, would grind the surface material and incorporate it into the sand which composes the entire area of the Grand River delta on which Happy Valley-Goose Bay sits.

Before the end of 2001, a Meri-crusher was in place and being tested as a Soil-Augmentation trial. This endeavour stumbled on for a couple of years, hampered by the reality that a suitable tractor was not available in the area.. Fortunately, during 2004, Labrador had the benefit of the best Minister for Agriculture in its history, past and present, Ed Byrne. Understanding our needs and our potential, he made funding available to our Association to acquire a 160 hp Valtra tractor. Our Association members soon realized that "Meri-crushing" is only a first stage of land clearing, and through a contribution from the APF program and a loan we added a five ton bulk lime spreader and a Power Harrow. This Winter, with the support of the Growing Forward program and funds from the farmers who hire the equipment, we have purchased a three bottom mold-board plow.

We believe that our Association is providing an example and model for farmer co-operation, which

may not be matched anywhere else in the Province. Each of us owns his/her equipment suited to our individual needs and operations. Meanwhile, all of us have access to the Association's land clearing and enhancement equipment, valued now at approximately three hundred thousand dollars, for an hourly rate. The rate is determined annually by our membership to cover the operating costs, including depreciation and investment in additional equipment. It is based on each previous season's income and expenses.

Two adopted policies have made this very advantageous endeavour work for the benefit of the whole agricultural community in Central Labrador. On one hand, any agricultural operation in the area can utilize the equipment on the basis of an advance payment determined by the farmer's estimate of the time the equipment will be required, and the equipment is never rented out for non-agricultural activities. Membership in the Association is not a requirement, but cash up front is!

On the other hand, the equipment is operated and maintained by a qualified operator, whose salary is included with the other operating costs, and paid from the hourly fee. The Association has remained adamant that the equipment is not simply passed from farmer to farmer, in recognition that such a process would quickly lead to misuse and abuse.

The success of this sharing process may be highlighted by the increasing use of the Association's equipment for land conditioning and enhancement beyond initial land clearing.

Any farmer who has utilized a drop limestone spreader for spreading the Department's prerequisite 32 ton shipment of bagged product will appreciate the use of a combined loader, tractor, and bulk spreader which can spread 32 tons of bulk lime in three hours at a total cost of \$210.00.

The moral of this story: Well planned co-operation can work wonders when farmers really are helping farmers.

Frank Pye is an ordained United Church Minister who was engaged as an Adult Education Administrator with the Labrador College for ten years prior to his "retirement into farming" in 1996. He and his wife Carole Joyce operate Grand River Farm at Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and have now been homesteading and farming for 25 years in Central Labrador. He represents the Lake Melville Agricultural Association on the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture.



Symbols for Safety

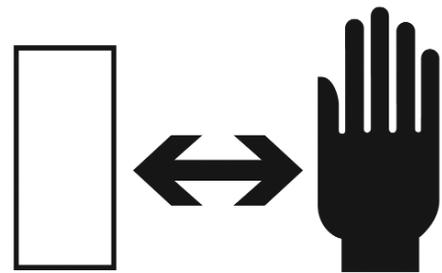
There are dozens of hazard and safety symbols that you may encounter around your farm. Below are some pictograms that can appear on heavy machinery or in your work area. Each one is industry-recognized internationally, and remembering what they mean may help you prevent an accident or injury.



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NEW & EXCITING

Events at O'Neill's Gardenland for Students and Fundraising

O'Neill's Gardenland (OGL) in Spaniard's Bay, NL, hosted a number of educational outings at their greenhouses for over 400 students from June 8th to June 18th. In partnership with local schools, OGL introduced upcoming generations from seven different classes at area schools to the wonders and magic of horticulture.

The students learned about where their food and flowers come from through understanding stages of plant growth, the role of pollinators, and the importance of water and nutrition to plant life.

Area MHA Glenn Littlejohn was also on hand to read the story *Jack and the Beanstalk* to children as part of the June event.

"We're thrilled that the teachers from the Eastern School District consider us the place to go and enjoy life learning skills experiences" concluded OGL owner/operator Anthony O'Neill. "At OGL, We chose to look at the future by inspiring and encouraging children to experience, with all their senses, the plant world and its connections to the environment, our health, our communities and our planet."

Mary Hutchings, a teacher from Harbour Grace Primary says "O'Neill's Gardenland does an excellent job of tailoring hands-on activities to enrich the curricular outcomes prescribed for our students. Tony and his staff enjoy working with the children in a stimulating environment which brings learning to life. My students have always enjoyed their adventures at O'Neill's and it has become a "must-do" part of our school year."

Another educational program offered at O'Neill's



MHA Glenn Littlejohn reads to students at O'Neill's Gardenland.



Members of the Sprouts Club work on a terrarium.

Gardenland is the Sprouts Club. The program, which is returning this fall, features two groups of children who meet on alternating Saturdays and participate in plant growing activities like "spuds in tubs". The program keeps the groups small, so each child gets lots of instruction and guidance.

In addition to the activities focused on students, OGL is also involved in the breast cancer fundraiser, 'Pink Days in Bloom' this July. The event takes place at garden centres across Atlantic Canada in support of Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – Atlantic Region. With special events ranging from barbeques to tea parties, Pink Days in Bloom brings the beauty of flowers to the forefront of raising funds, and focuses on the therapeutic nature of gardening.

O'Neill's participated in the event on July 22nd with a Pink Day at their facility featuring face painting, violinists and more. This unique fundraiser was the brainchild of Linda Ryan, a breast cancer survivor from Newfoundland and Labrador.

Food Security Network Launches Food Skills Workshop Kit

The Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador (FSN) launched a Food Skills Workshop Kit on July 4th, 2012 as part of its Root Cellars Rock project. The Workshop Kit is a new resource for community groups across the province to host hands-on workshops building local food skills and preserving traditional food knowledge.



To celebrate the launch, groups across the province are hosting workshops in July. Workshops on Container Gardening, Edible Wild Plants, Composting and Canning are happening in St. John's, Corner Brook, Stephenville and Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Food skills take on an added importance in this province, where we have the lowest rate of consumption of fresh vegetables, while importing approximately 90% of the fresh vegetables sold in stores.

FSN created the workshops using the framework of the 4Ps of local food – Planting, Picking, Preparing and Preserving. "The workshops highlight how food skills have been passed down in this province and the rich knowledge that still exists here that is a valuable asset going forward," said Ferber.

The Foods Skills Workshop Kit provides all of the information, resources, and activity plans that local community groups will need to offer hands-on workshops on eight topics: Container Gardening, Composting, Edible Wild Plants, Seed Saving, Preparing Local Vegetables, Using Culinary Herbs, Canning/Bottling, and Root Cellars.

Root Cellars Rock is an ongoing project of FSN that aims to encourage production and consumption of healthy local food across the province by celebrating Newfoundland & Labrador's agricultural heritage and stimulating growth in agriculture and local food self-sufficiency through citizens, community groups, and agricultural producers.

Local champions were interviewed to contribute their knowledge about the eight workshop topics and an extensive literature review was conducted to gather content that reflects up-to-date best





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practices. Health and food safety are emphasized throughout the new resource.

For a schedule of events see the Root Cellars Rock blog (www.rootcellarsrock.ca/launch-events/). The workshops are available for free download on the Root Cellars Rock blog (www.rootcellarsrock.ca/workshops/) and Food Security Network NL website (www.foodsecuritynews.com/resources) as of July 4th.

This project was made possible through the Provincial Wellness Grant Program, Health Promotion and Wellness Division, Department of Health and Community Services, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

NL Student Among Winners at Dairy Challenge

Robyn Walsh of St. John's, along with her teammates from the University of Guelph, won the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. The challenge was hosted by Virginia Tech and North Carolina State University and took place at the end of March this year. It featured 128 students from 32 schools and is based around practical skills which can be used in the dairy industry. This year marks Guelph's third win after the university won competitions in 2005 and 2006.

Every member of the University of Guelph had an area of expertise, for which they were in charge throughout the challenge. Robyn's role was to focus on herd health and cow comfort. Her teammates, Wade Deaken, Chris Bartels, and Mark Wynands were in charge of nutrition, reproduction, and herd management, respectively.

The two-day dairy challenge took place in Roanoke, Virginia. It started with a walk-through of a dairy operation, followed by farm data analysis, and also included a question and answer session with a farm owner.

Each team was allotted two hours on-farm, followed by six hours to compile a plan, and 20 minutes to present the proposal to the farmer. They were then evaluated by a panel of five judges, made up of dairy producers, veterinarians, farm



DairyChallenge
Tomorrow's Dairy Leaders

Front row (left to right): Christopher Bartels; Robyn Walsh; Mark Wynands. Back row (left to right): Coach John S. Walton; Wade Deaken.
Photo courtesy of dairychallenge.org

finance specialists, and other industry personnel.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture would like to congratulate Robyn Walsh and all the members of the University of Guelph team for their impressive victory at the competition.

Agriculture in the Classroom Update

The Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program is preparing for a very busy fall. This includes participating in four trade shows and preparing to launch a pilot project in five schools. The pilot program, called Little Green Thumbs, allows Grade 2-3 students to plant and grow vegetables in their classrooms.

AITC launched its own website this April and will be adding virtual farm tours to the site soon. This allows teachers to use the site as an educational tool to show farms and how they work to students.

The AITC coordinator and committee chair attended the Canadian AITC meetings in May. This was another stepping stone in finalizing the framework to establish an official national organization.

The program Chair and coordinator also attended the International AITC conference in Loveland, CO in June. This featured lots of hands-on activities and workshops. It showcased the AITC activities from around the US, and provided bus tours to give the delegates first hand experiences of various agriculture businesses. This conference will be held next year in Minnesota.

For more information on Agriculture in the Classroom, please contact Christa Wright, Coordinator - 747-8311 or christa@nlfa.ca. To visit AITC on the web, go to www.aitcnl.ca.



“One and Half Gallons is the Daily Yield per Cow...”

In 1889, landmark legislation was passed by the Government of Newfoundland: AN ACT FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE. Agricultural Societies were established together with a Board of Agriculture whose responsibility was to send the Societies improved seed, livestock, and advice in an effort to improve the standards of production on the farms. In their turn, each Society was required to make an annual Report to the Board about their success with new seed and livestock, methods of fertilization of soil, and crop rotation.

Report Of The Dildo Agricultural Society 1912

Number of members on the roll: 280

The seed potatoes sent proved satisfactory. The average yield would be fifteen barrels to the one of seed. `Whites' gave the best results. Did not notice whether the `Reds' or the `Whites' were less likely to be attacked by disease. Thomas Smith, of Dildo, had a portion of his crop of potatoes affected by Canker, and three or four others of about the same quantity. There is an increase in the area under potatoes over that of last year, of twenty per cent. About fifty barrels were sold, the best markets were the Banking Schooners.

About twenty bushels of oats were sown and used for fodder. We have about two hundred and eight acres of hay land, the yield from which is about half a ton to the acre... It is customary to take hay from the same ground five years. In broken hay land, potatoes and turnips are planted, and continued for five or six years, after which oats and hayseed are planted.

Chiefly stable manure and seaweed, commonly called kelp, are used in the raw state. No commercial fertilizers are used. The bull given to our

Society by the Board is in good condition... No calves there from as bull arrived too late. One and a half gallons is the daily yield of milk per cow... About 10,000 lbs butter made, 300 lbs sold best price, 25 cents, in local market... Two scrub bulls were at large during the season.

Nine rams [from the Board] distributed [into the care of local farmers]. One perished. Thirteen pigs from the Board distributed into the care of eight farmers under the following conditions: that they be kept for breeding for two years; one pair of pigs from the first litter will be returned to the care of the Society. Society has now in its possession five pigs for breeding purposes.

We have no dogs in this section. Sheep would be more valuable to keep than dogs.

Cash grant has been expended for the purchase of pigs and farming implements, cartage, etc.

There are in this section: 160 horses, 700 cows, 100 sheep, 50 pigs, 2000 barrels potatoes grown, 600 barrels turnips grown.

The agriculture papers and literature have been received and were distributed, and found beneficial.

About five barrels of apples, twenty gallons of plums, two hundred gallons gooseberries, two hundred gallons currants, were grown here last year, all consumed by growers.

The Society suggests a good cow should be kept for breeding purposes, and also a good breed of poultry.

Signed: Martin Smith, Chairman, John Moore, Secretary.

Submitted by Jo Shawyer
jshawyer@mun.ca / 739-5717

Do you have any old descriptions/photos of your farm's practices and production? If so, could you send copies to the Agricultural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. We will deposit them in MUN's library to grow the collection of agricultural material. Contact Kevin Aucoin aucoin89@nl.rogers.com or 709-895-2540

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
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