

Who IS ON THE FARM

Martin and Beverley Walsh run Walsh's Blueberry Farms Limited in Colliers. The Walshes are not rookie farmers by any measure, having started commercial blueberry farming in 1990. Prior to that, Martin was also involved with the blueberry industry as a buyer; all in all he has been involved with blueberries for about 30 years!

The Walsh's farm is located on 400 acres of leased land, 120 acres of which are developed for mechanical pruning and harvesting. Half of the acreage is harvested each year, as blueberries operate on a two-year cycle, where the first year is a growth year and the second year is a fruit year. The area devel-



inside Agriview

Who is on the Farm.....	1
Presidents Message.....	3
Media Release:	
It's easier to bury a tradition than a child.....	4
Feature:	
Federation of Agriculture Launches Stable Funding Program.....	5
Agricultural Member Profile:	
Hammond Farm: A Diverse Farm Operation on the West Coast.....	6
ACAAF Reports:	
Cranberry Tour a Success.....	8
Federation of Agriculture Hosts Land use Symposium.....	9
Labrador Report:	
Labrador Liquids - Milk & Water.....	10
Events & Happenings:	
Circumpolar Conference to be hosted in Labrador.....	11
Notice of Food Security Conference.....	11
Announcement:	
Canada's New Government Announces more than \$516,000 for Farmland Water Supply Projects.....	12
New & Exciting.....	13
Classifieds.....	14



Newfoundland and Labrador
Federation of Agriculture.

Please direct inquiries to
John Moores
jmoores@nlfa.ca

Andrea Bourne
Executive Director

Kim Brewer
Administrative Assistant

Paul Connors
Business Development Officer

John Moores
Research Coordinator

Chan Wiseman
HR Planner

Matthew Carlson
Communications Officer

Advertising sales and
publication managed by



Division of The Navigator Inc.

Magaging Editor: Jim Wellman

Sales: Madonna Stewart

Design: Melanie Bromley

For advertising deadlines,
advertising rates and publication
information, contact

Madonna: **709-754-7977**

Toll Free: **1-877-754-7977**

or send an email:

mstewart@thenavigatormagazine.com

ISSN 1911-2297

Who IS ON THE FARM



oped for mechanical pruning and harvesting is laid out much like a lawn; it is flat and free of any protrusions from the ground, such as stumps and rocks. The purpose of land leveling is to cut down on production costs, by paying \$1,000 dollars an acre initially, \$150-\$200 an acre can be saved annually, creating a long term savings.

The Walshes have just received a new piece of equipment to aide in the harvest. The new addition is a walk-behind harvester, which is a little larger than a snow blower. This type of harvester allows smaller farms to better compete with larger operations where they use bigger ride-on harvesters. Martin Walsh has calculated the savings of using the mechanical harvester at 20 cents a pound! Rake harvesting, the more traditional harvesting method, costs about 35 cents a pound, but using the mechanical harvester, the cost is only 15 cents a pound. The harvester was funded through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. The need for a harvester has been increasing over time due to labour concerns. While the farm employs between 25 and 30 people at its peak, finding employees becomes more difficult every year.

Labour costs are not the only challenge for Walsh's farm. The changing climate is also a major concern. Due to these climate changes, the stages of blueberry growth are taking place at different times recently compared with the past. Spring has been non-existent, with an abrupt jump from winter to summer. There has also been frost in June, which can wipe out parts of the crop. To better face these challenges local blueberry producers, including the Walshes, are banding together.

Martin Walsh is one of the founding members of the Blueberry Industry Co-operative. The group was formed as a marketing cooperative to collectively market fresh berries. The cooperative allows producers to collectively distribute their own product instead of going through a separate processor. The cooperative has not yet begun marketing the fresh berries, but it is in the plans for the future.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture is pleased to profile Walsh's Blueberry Farms Ltd., and to recognize the hard work and dedication of Martin and Beverley Walsh towards the advancement of agriculture in our province.

Index of Advertisers

Agribusiness	Back Cover
NL Eggs	Page 5
Stone Valley	Page 7
NL Chicken	Page 8
Norman Doyle	Page 9
Canada Lime	Page 11
Country Ribbon	Page 13
Navigator	Page 15





Mervin Wiseman
President

The Food Security Network of Newfoundland & Labrador (FSN) will hold the first-ever conference on food security in this province from October 18-20, 2007. All of us in the public domain and especially farmers, should mark this event on our calendars. There can be no disputing that food security represents the most basic and fun-

damental need in one's life. It can also be said that nothing has been taken more for granted than the source of our food: where it comes from, who produces it, and how safe it is to eat.

What does it take to achieve food security and do we have it in this province? Literature on the FSN website says "food security means that everyone, at all times, has access to enough food this is affordable, safe, healthy, culturally acceptable, meets specific dietary needs, is obtained in a dignified manner, and is produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just." This definition covers a very broad spectrum and while it appears we have an abundance of food, I would have to seriously challenge the concept of food security for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The people of this province have a proud heritage and culture of food self sufficiency. From a subsistence perspective, there was never a question of there being enough agricultural products (livestock and horticulture) to feed everyone, and of course, it was all produced here at home. Historical literature tells of as many as 75,000 breeding ewes, 29,000 head of beef cattle, and enough pork to meet the needs of the provincial population – all disease free like nowhere else in the world. There was also an abundant supply of dairy, chicken, and egg products. Yes, we also cultivated and grew all the vegetables we needed!

Historically, we seemed to have met the FSN test of food security. There was always enough, and if someone could not quite afford it, generous neighbours would do their part to make sure no one went hungry. Food was safe, healthy, and nutritious. While the food was not officially certified as organically produced, you can bet that it met the test and we are certain of the environmental safeguards that existed at the time. The social and cultural values around this very dignified activity speak for itself.

So what do the farmers of NL bring to the food secu-

rity safetynet today? Because of a system of supply management, the agriculture industry is very proud of the fact that farmers can make a decent living by making this province self-sufficient in milk, eggs, and chicken. While we are short on the economic benefits that can accrue from secondary processing that produce value added products in this sector, we are well on our way to fixing this situation.

On the other hand, we are seriously deficient in the production of agriculture food products outside of the supply managed commodities. Farmers in this province currently produce only about 10-12 percent of vegetables consumed in NL. It is far worse in the red meat sector where this province's livestock producers provide less than 2 percent of the products consumed in NL. There are only three small-to-medium pork producers left in the province. Where we produced from 75,000 breeding ewes in the past, today we are only producing from slightly more than 3,000. And, where we once produced from 29,000 beef cattle, today we will be lucky to find 1,500.

But we do seem to have lots of agricultural food products, and they are relatively cheap too! It is true that we get a fair amount of safe beef from other provinces and relatively safe vegetables from our neighbours in the Maritimes. Do not bet, however, that it is organically grown and free of pesticides, herbicides, and growth supplements. We also have to consider the mode of transportation that burden our highways and affects our environment as the big transport trucks strain to get the product here.

Outside our borders we are seeing more and more Boeing jets belching pollutants into the atmosphere as it transports agriculture food products from places like Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. We can only guess at food safety and food quality standards in these countries, not to mention food preservative treatments applied to extend shelf life. Little wonder these products are so cheap since farm workers in most of these countries work for wages as low as \$20 to \$30 per month. Social justice, dignity, food safety, environmentally sound means, and other operatives that the FSN deems to constitute food security rings a little hollow against this backdrop.

Meanwhile, farmers at home in NL and indeed throughout the country, are struggling with the highest debt load since post war commercial farming started in the 1950s. Issues of public good such as food safety, food quality, animal welfare, environmental standards and other farm management systems have been downloaded on farmers without financial remuneration

from the market place to pay for it. The latest farm census reported that 48 percent of farmers must have an off-farm income to support their farming activity. Farmers are subsidizing cheap food for the Canadian consumers.

Faced with high debt and diminishing returns, people are leaving the farms for urban wages and urban lifestyles. Farming enterprises are facing serious human resource issues and with the average age of farmers near 55, agriculture production as we know it is nearing a crisis. As the age bubble works its way towards the end and the population shift continues to re-shape rural demographics, it is not hard to envision the consequence of empty farmlands.

The inability of our province to feed its population with agriculture products represents a serious threat to food security. Dependency on imported foods for any reason creates vulnerabilities and even in the face of an abundant supply of cheap food, this province is living under a veil of false security with its food supply. This apparent paradox unravels as the rationalization for local agriculture food production increases.

The linkage between agriculture food and health is becoming obvious. More and more, the safety and quality of our food is becoming a function of proximity to the market place. New dynamics associated with the Life Science Economy are changing the face of agriculture. Commodities in the grains and oil seeds sector are being diverted into more lucrative returns from the production of bio-fuels. As commodity prices rise in this sector, other products that depend on grains and oil seeds, such the red meat industry, are affected. If this trend continues, not only will there be shortage of livestock feed, but competitive pricing will put the cost of imported meat products out of reach of the ordinary consumer in this province.

Meanwhile, as environmental sustainability comes under scrutiny from the transportation systems employed to import food, and as the threat of terrorist intervention in the food distribution system become imminent, the concept of food sovereignty is becoming prominent within the agriculture policy development of nations and regions. In the process of implementing policies of sustainability and self sufficiency, the creation of health rural economies from agriculture activity becomes a sudden reality.

When the FSN convenes its conference on October 18th to explore the multi-dimensional issues surrounding food security, the role of agriculture and agriculture producers must be recognized as key components within the provision of a food safety net for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Let us also hope that this conference represents a crossroads to the implementation of public policy that ultimately makes agriculture development a necessary gateway to the real benefits of food sovereignty for this province.



It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) would like to remind all agricultural workers that farm safety should constantly be on their minds at this busy time of year. As the United States launches their National Farm Safety and Health Week from September 16th - 22nd we would like to take this opportunity to remind Canadian agricultural producers that we need to ensure safe practices are being followed on our farms every day.

This year's US Farm Safety and Health week message, It's Easier to Bury a Tradition than a Child was developed by the Children's Agricultural Safety Network (CASN). Glen Blahey, a member of CASN and Chair of CASA's Board of Directors explains "We wanted to develop a message that was clear and to the point. If your children are younger than 12 years of age, they should NEVER be on or near tractors or other machinery. Taking young children for tractor rides or permitting them to help operate a piece of equipment is not a rite of passage; it is an opportunity for tragedy."

"Over 80% of agricultural deaths of Canadian children are machinery-related" said Holly Brownlee, CASA Programs Coordinator. "These child deaths are preventable. It is imperative that anyone doing agricultural work know who is around them and that they not allow children to be around or on tractors or other machinery."

CASA is committed to having a safe and healthy agricultural work environment in Canada. Through co-operative and supportive work we can achieve this goal. Television and radio PSAs and visual posters have been developed and are free to use. Please visit www.childsafety.org.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association is a non-profit organization funded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Renewal chapter. Our mission is to have Canadian agriculture free of workplace injuries and illnesses.

For further information:

Glen G. Blahey, CRSP
CASA Chairman
(204) 945-2315

Holly Brownlee, PHEC., BSc.
CASA Program Coordinator
(204) 275-8874



Federation of Agriculture Launches Stable Funding Program

By Matthew Carlson

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) officially launched the new stable funding program on September 1st. The primary component of this program is a member benefits package called AgriVantage. The package is available to paying members of the NLFA, with the exception of associate members. Memberships are sold on a one year set-date basis.

The program is intended as a revenue generator for the NLFA. The yearly membership fees will provide secure funding which can be counted on from year to year. Of course, the members paying these fees will see benefits from the program as well in the form of savings at businesses throughout the province, as well as having the NLFA representing their interests. The program is about reinforcing the value of being part of an organization that promotes the interests of Newfoundland and Labrador's agriculture and agri-food producers through leadership at the provincial and national level.

The program's benefits for members include discounts and other perks at businesses throughout the province. The discounts are available at a variety of businesses encompassing a variety of goods and services that a farmer would use while conducting business. The companies offering discounts for the 2007 / 2008 year are Air Labrador, Avis, Choice Hotels (outside NL), Irving Oil, Marks Work Wearhouse, National Car Rental, Newfoundland Kubota, Orkin Pest Control, Steele Hotels (includes The Capital Hotel, Sinbad's, The Albatross, and The Glynmill Inn), and Western Petroleum. Every year the agreements will be re-negotiated in an attempt to get the best possible deal for members. This means that the companies offering NLFA discounts may change from one year to the next.

Membership runs from September 1st to August 31st of the following year, as this is the term for discounts negotiated with any companies involved, as it is a set-date program. It is important that anyone wanting to maximize their savings utilizing the NLFA discount buy their membership early on, as the offers from the companies for this year will expire at

the end of August 2008, regardless of when a membership card is issued.

The benefits of an NLFA membership extend beyond business expenses! These cards are not restricted to business purchases. A stay at the Glynmill Inn is the same price regardless of whether the stay is for a meeting or a personal trip. Marks Work Wearhouse will give the same discount on a pair of boots for work or a polo to be worn on personal time.

For any inquiries concerning this exciting new program, including the cost structure, please contact the Federation office at 747-4874 or by email, info@nlfa.ca.

Taste the Healthy Side of Eggs



Newfoundland Eggs Inc.

Site 4, Box 7, R.R. #1, Roaches Line, NL A0A 1W0

T (877) 4NF-EGGS F (709) 528-4596

1 (877) 463-3447

Hammond Farm: A Diverse Farm Operation on the West Coast

By Matthew Carlson

Bruce Simmons, along with his brothers Keith and Wayne, operate Hammond Farm in Little Rapids, just outside of Corner Brook. The farm produces eggs, pullets, milk and forage. Bruce and his brother Keith took over the Hammond Farm operation, from their father, Scott Simmons in 1989. They were later joined by their younger brother Wayne in the late 90s. The Simmons brothers grew up with farming, as their father operated Scosim Farms limited. Scosim started as just a summer cabin when the Simmons family first acquired the property but eventually it grew into a 96,000 bird broiler chicken operation.

The egg production component of Hammond Farm is made up of a 35,000 bird layer operation, a 35,000 bird per year pullet operation, and an egg grading station. They grade and market over 1 million dozen eggs per year which are sold in all major grocery stores and to wholesalers across Western Newfoundland. The farm manages a herd of 230 milking cows, producing 6,000 litres of milk a day. The farm also produces corn silage from 100 acres of corn and grass and legume silage from 450 acres providing feed for the dairy herd with surplus to sell. The farm employs 18 people, including Bruce's son David, who works full time on the farm.

Hammond Farm has undergone major expansions over the years. It started out as an egg-only operation with some hay production, but has since expanded into pullets, dairy, egg grading, and silage production. The expansion into egg grading and marketing was perhaps the most difficult venture to embark upon. It meant



that Hammond Farm would be taking on a secondary processing type of business and would be marketing products as an independent egg grader and take on a well established egg supply business in the marketplace. One grocery chain gave the Simmons a very limited window of opportunity by making shelf space available for the Hammond Farm eggs in two of their stores. The Simmons had two months to outsell the competition or it would be 'game over'. Marketing would play a key role in the outcome. Hammond Farm advertised a lot with local media and came up with the catchy slogan "Have you had your *Hammond Eggs* today?" The campaign was a huge success and within two years *Hammond Eggs* were the only eggs market-

ed in the Western Newfoundland market.

Recently the farm has continued to expand. Two years ago the dairy operation expanded with the construction of a new free-stall dairy barn and increasing the number of dairy cows from about 70 cows to the current level of 230. Within that expansion, a large three section concrete horizontal silo was constructed as well as a massive concrete manure storage tank, which is perhaps the largest in the province. The old dairy barn was converted into another egg production barn last year. This year saw further expansion as land was leased in Pasadena and Hughes Brook, more than doubling the land base of Hammond Farm.

There have also been some recent innovative improvements on the farm. This year GPS equipment was installed in selected tractors, and GPS technology is also being used to guide fertilizer and spray equipment. This technology has increased spray and fertilizer application accuracy to within six

inches! New technology is always employed at Hammond Farm when it is available, deemed to be cost effective and results in increased efficiency.

There have been some challenges as well in operating Hammond Farm. Labour availability is seen as an emerging issue, as the labour pool in the area is shrinking, labour costs are rising, and skilled agricultural labour is scarce. Environmental stewardship is always a challenge with the farm business situated next to a major tourist development, a salmon river and a community. While these are concerns, they have not interfered with the expansions at the farm.

Hammond Farm is a major success story, having successfully undergone many expansions over the years, one of which meant taking on a giant in the industry and prevailing. The willingness of this farm to take on new challenges and embrace new technology means that their success is sure to continue well into the future.

328 O'CONNELL DRIVE
CORNER BROOK, NL
CLYDE SIMMONS (709) 639-3005



969 TOPSAIL ROAD
MOUNT PEARL, NL
WAYNE VALLIS (709) 747-9292

THE PICK OF THE CROP!





COAST TO COAST NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR'S ONLY AUTHORIZED NEW HOLLAND DEALER

Poultry Disease Prevention

Government and the local poultry industry are continuing to work together to prevent and detect poultry diseases such as Avian Influenza (bird flu). It is recognized that small flock owners may need assistance or be looking for information, so technical advice is being offered to small flock owners.

If you require help or information concerning your poultry flock you can contact the Department of Natural Resources:

Poultry veterinary help please contact Dr. Robert Hudson at
ph. 709-945-3237 or
roberthudson@gov.nl.ca

Poultry management please contact Lloyd Barnes Poultry Development Officer at ph. 709-729-6816 or
lloydbarnes@gov.nl.ca



Agri-Adapt
Council Inc.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

The
Advancing
Canadian
Agriculture
and
Agri-Food
(ACAAF)
Program was
developed
as the
successor to
the Canadian
Adaptation
and Rural
Development
(CARD II)
Fund, whose
mandate
expired
March 31,
2004.
The ACAAF
Program
continues the
innovative
industry-led
approach
employed
under the
CARD II
program, with
projects
delivered at
both the
national and
regional level.

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

Cranberry Tour

a Success

By Matthew Carlson

A delegation of cranberry producers, government officials, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, and representatives from Ocean Spray, Atoka Cranberry and Fruit d'Or toured cranberry farms in the province in August.

Local cranberry growers wanted to show off the progress made in the early stages of cranberry farming in the province, which is still in its infancy as a pre-commercial product. This type of farming is particularly well suited to Newfoundland's cooler climate and boggy terrain.

The tour was organized by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture with funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Food (ACAAF) program.

The industry has already progressed a lot since a cranberry pilot project was launched in the late 1990s. At that time, most believed Newfoundland's climate and terrain were not suited to cranberry farming.

But it turns out the province is very well suited to cranberry expansion, with an abundance of soggy bog that is not suitable for other kinds of farming but which is great for cranberries.

The tour raised awareness of the cranberry industry in Newfoundland and Labrador, and created momentum for further development of the industry by bringing a wealth of expertise to the province that would otherwise not be available to local cranberry growers.

The tour attracted delegates from primary Canadian and US cranberry growing regions including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Massachusetts.

ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

To submit applications to the ACAAF council, please contact Andrea Bourne at 747-1759 or andrea@nlfa.ca.



Federation of Agriculture Hosts Land Use Symposium

By Matthew Carlson

On July 5th and 6th 2007, The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA) hosted a symposium on Agriculture Land Use in Corner Brook. The symposium brought together industry leaders, primary producers, processors, government officials, interested stakeholders, municipal leaders, and academic experts. There were more than fifty industry stakeholders in attendance. Participants discussed current land use issues and each commodity and sector group gave an update on specific land use issues affecting that commodity or sector.

Although the loss of agricultural land and the sustainability of the industry were the primary topics of discussion, participants had an opportunity to discuss all land use issues. The objective of the event was to initiate a discussion on the development of a comprehensive and proactive land use policy that will advance the agriculture industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

It was clearly stated during the discussion that in order for our growing agriculture industry to successfully expand, productive land must be available to producers, and a land use policy must set out guidelines for land use for all stakeholders. NLFA President Merv Wiseman stated, "Land use has always been an issue with municipalities, developers, forestry, recreation, and other interest groups wanting developed and undeveloped agricultural land in the province. As a result of different interests there is a need for accurate and reliable information to be available, so as to develop a comprehensive land use policy in Newfoundland and Labrador. This is one of the main goals of the symposium."

During the first day speakers gave a synopsis of current agricultural land use in the province. This was followed by presentations from commodity groups. Later there were briefings on current efforts relating to land-use. This included discussion of the recently formed Humber Valley Regional Planning Advisory Authority. At the end of the first day there were presentations by non-agricultural

and non-governmental interests, including representatives from regional economic development boards, forestry, and environmental groups. During dinner that evening, Felix Collins, the Legislative Advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources, delivered greetings from Premier Williams. Dr. Ivan Emke from the Grenfell College was the Dinner Speaker. Dr Emke provided those in attendance with a very enlightening and informative yet entertaining view of Agriculture Land Use issues.

The following day Dr. Karen Beazley of Dalhousie University, discussed the possible conflicts between agricultural land use and other interests. She also provided valuable information concerning the prerequisites of developing a land use policy. Participants then divided into smaller working groups to discuss the issues and points raised throughout the symposium.

Funding for the symposium was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.



CANADA LIME INC.

DEER LAKE, NL

TEL: 709-635-5996

Supplying the Agrifoods Industry with quality bulk agricultural lime.

To order please contact the Agricultural rep.
in your area or call
CANADA LIME INC. in Deer Lake at
709-635-5996.

Labrador Liquids - Milk & Water



It has often been said that we are studied to death. However, there are two important studies related to agriculture occurring this summer in Labrador which have been urgently requested from the

local level.

One of these is a study of the feasibility of establishing a dairy industry in Central Labrador. Back in 2001, in its Long Range Plan for Food and Feed Sustainability in Central Labrador, the Lake Melville Agricultural Association requested feasibility studies related to the supply managed commodities. The Northern Agrifoods Development Strategy recognized the importance of these commodities as the pillars of economical agricultural development and recommended a feasibility study. Our local Association insisted that each commodity must be investigated separately, and last Fall, Terms of Reference were formulated by the Agrifoods Division in consultation with the Association. Following a Request for Proposals earlier this Spring, a contract was awarded by the Agrifoods Division to the Whey Group of Gander. The study is in progress and should be completed in the next few months.

Some preliminary facts emerging as the study proceeds are very interesting. Basic to the situation is the reality that all milk entering Central, Northern, and Western Labrador, and Eastern Nunavut comes from Quebec. Consumption figures for Labrador indicate a need for 1.3 - 1.5 million liters annually. The establishment of a dairy industry in Central Labrador will require a processing plant, and the development of more than a thousand acres of farm land. It is not surprising that the final report of this study is awaited with anticipation and optimism by the local farm community.

The second study being carried out in the Lake Melville area this summer is related to farm water supply. The Lake Melville Agricultural Association applied for and received funding from the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program. The study



CBCL's sub contractor Logan Geo-Tec drills a monitor well along side of the experimental irrigation pond excavated by the owners of Grand River Farm.

has three objectives for five existing farms in the region; (1) to identify water sources to supply the requirements for livestock, vegetable preparation, and/or irrigation, (2) to confirm the absence of contamination in the identified water supplies and their surrounding vicinity, and (3) to identify the most practical and economical method(s) of making the water supplies available to the farms.

The fur farm operated by Jim Shouse was not included in the study because this operation is connected to the Happy Valley-Goose Bay town water supply system. The Association awarded the contract to carry out the study to the Halifax based engineering firm CBCL, Ltd.

This study is of vital importance to the farmers in a region in which the word "contamination" has taken on such massive connotations. The perception of the proximity of contamination from the Air Force Base has stigmatized and closed all food production in the Churchill River Agricultural Zone. Allegations of contamination made last summer have caused more than a year's delay in the allocation of new agricultural leases in the new Mud Lake Road Agricultural Development Area. It is absolutely essential that the farms in the region will be able to verify the purity of the water they are utilizing for their human food production. First reports from monitor wells on each farm are expected by mid-September.

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. He represents the Lake Melville Agricultural Association on the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture.

Circumpolar Conference to be hosted in Labrador

By Matthew Carlson

This fall, Canada is hosting the 6th tri-annual Circumpolar Agricultural Conference. The conference is set to take place from September 30 – October 3, 2007 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador. The international event is returning to Canada this year, as we hosted the first Circumpolar Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon in 1992. Since then, there have been conferences held in Norway, Alaska, Iceland and Sweden. The title of this year's conference is "Northern Agriculture - Evolving with a Changing World".

Hosting the conference in Canada provides a fantastic opportunity for Northern Canadian agriculture producers and industry. The information shared between northern regions on agricultural developments and experience should lead to significant advancements for northern agriculture in Canada. The conference also allows Canada to showcase agricultural progress occurring in its Northern region.

Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) has provided \$106,000 for the conference from Collective Outcomes. The conference is being organized by the Circumpolar Agricultural Association (CAA), a non-governmental organization which aims to be a forum for people involved in Northern Agriculture. Partnered with the CAA for the organization of this conference is the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce.

ACAAF is a national funding program designed to help implement innovative projects that will benefit the production and processing sector, bolster the industry's capacity to address current and emerging issues and position the agriculture and agri-food industry to seize new market opportunities.

For more information on the conference, please visit the Circumpolar Agricultural Association website or call Ms. Shelley Clemens at (709) 896 3405 ext. 222. The website address is <http://www.caa-cac.org>.

Notice - Food Security Conference

This is a notice to inform any producers that they are welcome to submit information about their farm business to be displayed at the Food Security Conference. This is a valuable opportunity to promote your farm at no cost to you.

Submit details to:

**Newfoundland and
Labrador Federation
of Agriculture**

Phone: 747-4874

Fax: 747-8827

Email: info@nlfa.ca

***Norman Doyle, MP
St. John's East***

For information or Assistance:

Telephone: 772-7171

E-Mail: doylen1@parl.gc.ca

Canada's New Government Announces More Than \$516,000 for Farmland Water Supply Projects

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland and Labrador, August 20, 2007 - The Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Environment and Conservation, on behalf of Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources for Newfoundland and Labrador, today announced \$516,393 for seven projects that will provide important information on water resources in agricultural areas of the province.

"By investing in these projects, Canada's New Government is helping Newfoundland's agriculture community to have detailed, local information on water resources," said Minister Hearn. "This investment will help producers in the province expand and improve business opportunities, and also ensure the effective long-term use of our natural resources."

All seven projects are being funded under Tier Three of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program which is administered under the National Water Supply Expansion Program (NWSEP). Tier Three is 100 percent federally funded.

In many areas of the province, the size of the water supply is an unknown. These projects are seen as important strategic building blocks for the agricultural industry.

"Supporting farmland water supply projects is significant in the evaluation and study of water supplies in farming areas in Newfoundland and Labrador," said Minister Jackman.

The NWSEP runs until March 31, 2008 and applications may still be submitted under Tier One for on-farm water supply projects.

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Supply Expansion Program (CNLWSEP) supplies funding and technical support to group agricultural water supply projects and strategic studies that



lead to long term secure water supplies for agriculture.

For more information, please contact the provincial Department of Natural Resources, Land Resource Stewardship Division, at 709-637-2081, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at 709-772-4063, or visit the program website at www.agr.gc.ca/h2o.



Working together for food security in Newfoundland & Labrador

By Sherril Gilbert, Executive Director, Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador

"Food security" is a term that we hear a lot these days, but what does it mean? In fact, there are several ways of defining it; for the Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador, "food security" means that everyone, at all times, has access to enough food that is affordable, safe, healthy, culturally acceptable, meets specific dietary needs, is obtained in a dignified manner, and is produced in ways that are sustainable, environmentally sound, and socially just.

The two determinants of food security

Given this definition, we can see that the determinants of food security involve two key areas: access to food and food supply. *Access to food* requires that food be available close to where people live, and that people have sufficient financial resources to buy food. It also means that people have the knowledge to produce their own foods, identify healthy food choices and prepare foods safely.

Food supply indicators that impact food security include the level of health of our agricultural and fishing industries, and the food retail, service, marketing, processing, packaging, distribution and transportation systems. In a healthy food system, all types of operations are supported and have the opportunity to be sustainable, including smaller family farms. A secure food system provides a diversified, open and self-reliant supply of food, and maximizes connections between local customers, producers and processors to keep dollars circulating within the community or region.

The price that is paid for food and the value that the customer receives impacts food security. The pricing system must be just and transparent, ensuring that all participants, such as producers, processors and retailers receive fair wages for their products, investment, time and labour. A secure food system also ensures that there is adequate infrastructure for pro-

cessing. A secure food system satisfies both the supply of and the demand for diverse and accessible retail options for consumers and suppliers. A wide variety of retail options - from traditional grocery stores to farmers markets and Community Shared Agriculture subscriptions - offer consumers choice, value and a variety of affordable and nutritious foods within reasonable proximity. These retail options provide opportunities for producers and processors to market their products and connect directly with the consumer. A secure food system also recognizes and addresses the impact that food transportation has on the quality of the food, the economy and the environment.

The situation in Newfoundland and Labrador

This province, with its unique food traditions, geography, population distribution and demographics, faces a number of serious food security challenges in terms of both access to food and food supply. Many of the specific issues faced by communities or regions can be effectively addressed through supportive healthy public policy.

Over the past two years, the Food Security Network, through federally- and provincially-funded projects, has conducted consultations in all nine Rural Secretariat regions of the province, meeting with individuals, community groups, other organizations, trappers, hunters, farmers and fishers, and government representatives. Participants in these consultations identified numerous issues of food insecurity, including:

- the *high cost* of food - particularly produce, milk



P.O. Box 803, Bldg, 902/907
E. Whitehills Road
St. John's, NL A1C 5L7
Tel: (709) 722-3751 ext. 232
Fax: (709) 722-6010

and meat - in remote regions or isolated communities

- the *low quality* of food (in particular meats and produce)

the *quantity* of food available (in some communities where food is shipped/trucked/flown in, milk and fresh produce sells out literally in hours, meaning they are not available until the next shipment)

- unhealthy foods are easily available and often *cheaper than healthy food*

- the closure of small farms in isolated areas (with a related issue being the loss of farming and gardening skills)

- the *distance to travel* to get to grocery stores carrying healthy food choices

- no public transportation to get to grocery stores

- insufficient income to afford healthy food purchases

- hunting and fishing restrictions

- freight subsidies to retailers (Food by Mail program) that only cover certain food items

In 2001, the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs undertook a survey on food quality in six isolated communities in Labrador.² The results showed there were five main reasons explaining why people were not buying more fresh fruit and vegetables: these foods cost too much (80%), they often are not available (77%), their quality is poor (69%), there is not enough variety (56%), and customers say they cannot afford them (41%). Now, in 2007, it is clear that things have not changed for the better, and, indeed, these same five issues appear to apply to remote regions and isolated communities throughout the province, not just in Labrador.

Government actions towards increasing food security

With the recent release of "Eating Healthier in Newfoundland & Labrador", the province's Food and Nutrition Framework and Action Plan, the Food Security Network wishes to acknowledge the commitment of the provincial government to promote food security in this province. The Framework mentions "the need to develop a plan of action to address provincial food insecurity through consultation with governmental departments and agencies who are involved in the following areas of food security: food

access, availability and cost, food safety, self-reliant food production, income support, supplemental food programs, community education, water quality and sustainability of food supply." (Strategy 2.1)

The Food Security Network supports Strategy 2.1 as well as Strategy 3.4, which refers to the promotion of economically and environmentally sustainable practices which protect food-related resources. We appreciate the government's recognition of the complexity and the varied nature of the food system in this province.

It is critical, however, that the focus of change efforts *not* be limited only to initiatives aimed at individual consumers and personal choice, since research has shown that these initiatives can actually have a *negative* impact on food security. Campaigns focusing on personal choice are less effective with lower income populations who have fewer options to choose from, and tend to *increase* the health gap between the rich and poor. Food security is much more than an issue of personal choice. *Unless people have access to healthy food through the food supply, strategies aimed at encouraging Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to develop healthy food habits will have very limited impact.*

Putting food first: a food security policy lens

Food security is the goal towards which all levels of government, communities, and community organizations need to work. We want to see our provincial government "put food first" – we believe that a vigorous, ecologically-sound food supply and access to healthy food for all must become the central objectives of our government. In order to accomplish this, government policy in all areas would need to be seen through the lens of food security. Healthy public policy involves collaborative planning between, among, and across all levels of government, and includes communities, community organizations and citizens in policy planning and development. The Food Security Assembly, to be held at the Capital Hotel in St. John's from October 18-20, 2007, is an event that was conceived by the Food Security Network of Newfoundland and Labrador to address this vision.

We believe that there is an urgent need at this time for informed citizen participation in important decisions dealing with issues of food supply and access to



food. This conference will bring together concerned individuals, community groups, farmers, food bank workers, policy-makers – representatives from every region of the province – for networking and for developing strategies for increasing Newfoundland & Labrador's commitment to food security. The three conference themes are Zero Hunger and Food Aid; Sustainable Food Systems; and Healthy and Safe Food. This event is our Call to Action, an opportunity for us all to work together to develop a broad-based, multi-sectoral action plan for provincial food security. We hope that many agricultural sector workers will participate so we can include your voices in the Call to Action. For more information, please visit our website, www.foodsecuritynews.com.

Resources

¹ Some of the information in this article was inspired by *Thought About Food? Understanding the Relationship Between Public Policy and Food Security in Nova Scotia*

A Background Paper & Policy Lens. The Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, Nova Scotia Nutrition Council and Collaborating Family Resource Centres/Projects. – Policy Working Group of the Nova Scotia Participatory Food Security Projects

October 2006. Available from Dr. Patty Williams, Principal Investigator. Email: patty.williams@msvu.ca.

² *Survey on food quality in six isolated communities in Labrador.* Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Government of Canada. Available at http://www.aicn-inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/survfoo2001_e.html

Newfoundland Dairy Farmer Terry Williams Wins Horse Race!

Father (Hector Williams) and sons (Terry and Tony) along with many family and friends are shown above with their stable star "Undermind." He won the inaugural Newfoundland and Labrador Standard bred Breeders Association stake race held at the St. John's Racing and Entertainment Center in the Goulds this past Labour Day weekend. Their 3 year old standard bred gelding, with Terry driving, paced right to the front and led throughout to capture the race in a mile time of 2:05.2.

The race is designed to promote young horses with an outlook to having more horses bred and raised locally. This race was locally owned 2 and 3 year old pacers and had been sponsored by the Eastern Farmers Co-op staff. Harness racing in Newfoundland has been on the upswing in recent years with over 60 horses now competing at the local track.

Terry and Tony operate under the name Backriver Stables and currently have three horses racing with several more in their breeding operation. This farming family obviously enjoys the sport of harness racing and encourages others to take in a day at the races to see another side of the Newfoundland Agriculture industry.

NURSERY IN MARKLAND FOR SALE.

Still Meadow Greenhouses is situated on a 1 hectare plot, with 12,000 sq. ft. under plastic, a 50x30 warehouse and other misc. buildings.

Includes some nursery stock, and various pieces of small equipment.

Price:

\$130,000.

Listed with Eric Butler at Royal LePage, Ph. 576-8888

To submit articles in the classifieds section please contact

John Moores at 747-8311 or by email: jmoores@nlfa.ca

For Agriview advertising deadlines, advertising rates and publication information contact

The Navigator
THE VOICE OF THE MARINE INDUSTRY

Ph: 709-754-7977

Toll Free: 1-877-754-7977

or email Madonna:

mstewart@thenavigatormagazine.com



The New **ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM (APP)**

Making Programs Work Better for Farmers: Improvements for 2007 and beyond

- Higher cash advances available
- More money available interest free
- Expanded coverage to include livestock and an additional variety of crops
- More choice and flexibility

www.agr.gc.ca/app

THE NEW ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

The Spring Credit Advance Program (SCAP) and the Advance Payments Program (APP) have been merged into a single program, and a number of significant improvements have been made starting this year.

Program improvements

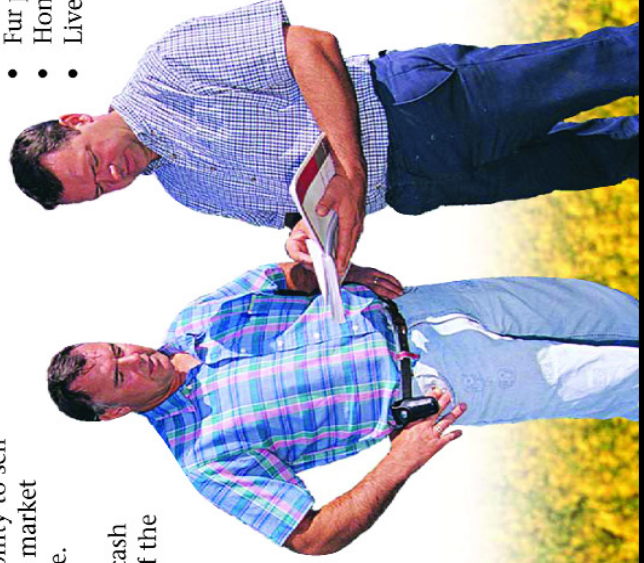
The limit on cash advances has increased to \$400,000.

- The interest-free amount on cash advances has doubled from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Producers now have a longer period of time to get and repay cash advances.

Why participate?

Cash advances help producers access cash flow when they need it most. They also give producers flexibility to sell their products whenever market conditions are favourable.

Producers can receive a cash advance on up to 50% of the expected average market price of the agricultural product or commodity. A portion of cash advances is interest free.



AgriBUSINESS

Paul Connors
Business Development Officer

308 Brookfield Road
P.O. Box 1045
Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 3C9
www.nflfa.ca



tel 709 747 4830 cell 709 687 2908 fax 709 747 8827 email paul@nflfa.ca

Important information about repayment

With the new APP, the production period runs up to 18 months from April to September of the following year. A production period refers to the maximum period of time during which a producer can take a cash advance and repay it

Eligible agricultural products

- Crops
- Field crops (including berries)
- Fur pelt
- Honey, maple syrup
- Livestock