



Who IS ON THE FARM

Stoney Ridge Farms is a mixed farming operation focusing on turkeys in Portugal Cove on the province's Avalon Peninsula. Stewart and Daphne King operate the 260 acre farm, which, in addition to turkeys, produces forage, Kentucky Bluegrass sod, and brown shell eggs.

Stewart has always had an interest in farming, ever since he was a small boy chasing his father around the farm as he worked. Stewart began keep-



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Who IS ON THE FARM

ing his own cattle when he was about ten years old, caring for two or three cows of his own, in addition to helping his father with his cows. After finishing high school in 1981, Stewart went to work full time on the farm, first establishing it as a pork farm, before focusing on turkey.

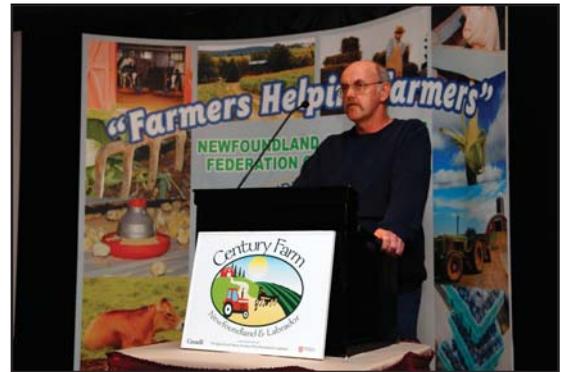
The primary markets that Stoney Ridge Farms caters to with its turkey are the seasonal markets during the Christmas and thanksgiving holidays. In addition to supplying their product at those times, the farm also sells to restaurants year-round. In the course of an average year, Stoney Ridge Farms produces anywhere from 8,000 to 10,000 turkeys.

Another aspect of the business at Stoney Ridge is a processing service offered to nearby farms. Both commercial and hobby farmers have been availing of this service and using the modern poultry processing facilities, which are entirely stainless and feature an overhead conveyor tray for eviscerating and a Cryovac system for vacuum packing.

Despite what the modern processing facilities may suggest,



Front (L-R): Daphne King, Stewart King, Harry Harding, MHA. Background: Kevin Aucoin, Agricultural History Society.



Stewart King speaks at the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting after receiving the Century Farm designation.

Stoney Ridge Farms is a family farm with a long history. The farm can trace its development back to the 1880s when Jacob King began farming vegetables and dairy cows in Goat Cove, Conception Bay. The farm was established at its current loca-

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tion at around the turn of the 20th century.

In recognition of their farm's long history, at the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture's Annual General Meeting in March, Stoney Ridge Farm was recognized as a Century Farm by the Agricultural History Society. The Society has been recognizing and cataloguing provincial farms that have been in continuous operation for 100 years or more through their Century Farm program.

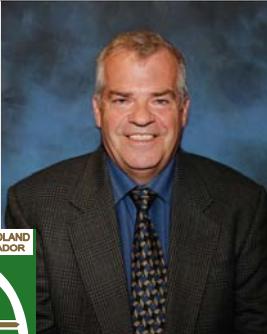
Even when he is not on his farm, agriculture is often not far from Stewart's mind as he has been active with various agricultural associations in the province for years. This has included involvement with the provincial Hog Producer's Association,

and Stewart has also sat on the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture. Currently, Stewart represents value-chain producers on the Board of the Agri-Adapt Council Inc. Through his involvement in these organizations, Stewart tries to play an active role in the provincial agriculture industry and promote it wherever possible.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture is pleased to profile Stoney Ridge Farms, and to recognize the hard work and dedication of the King family towards the advancement of agriculture in our province.

By Matthew Carlson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eugene Legge
President

As the newly elected President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, I would like to thank the members of the federation who attended the Annual General Meeting and elected me to this position. I would also

like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you whom I have not yet had the chance to meet.

I am a chicken farmer from Harbour Main and I have been involved in the agriculture industry since 1966. Agriculture, and the Federation of Agriculture, has been an important part of my life as I have held the position of NLFA President in the past, and I am currently serving as the Chair of the Agri Adapt Council Inc.

Throughout my career in agriculture I have worked on many issues including bio-security, soil and water conservation, supply management, land issues and disease management. I look forward to continuing work on these issues as well as the many other challenges that will come our way over the course of the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Merv Wiseman, for the hard work and dedication he provided throughout his tenure. He was, and continues to be in his new

role as Past President, a pleasure to work with and a strong voice on the board of directors. His contribution to the Federation, and the industry, is invaluable.

The coming year will represent both renewal and a new direction in the agriculture industry with the recent announcements of the Growing Forward program and Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

Growing Forward is the successor to the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) Program and CAAP is replacing the outgoing Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program. These programs will present new opportunities for innovation and growth in the Newfoundland and Labrador agriculture industry. The NLFA looks forward to their announcements as we are anxious to avail of their services and continue to advance the industry in this province.

I eagerly anticipate the challenges that our industry will face in the upcoming year and look forward to the opportunities that will help us prosper. Thank you to our members for your support and I am happy to provide you with a strong voice for the industry that has become synonymous with our organization.

Eugene Legge
President, NLFA

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week Launched in Gander

Newfoundland and Labrador was given the honour of hosting the launch of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) 2009 on March 12th in Gander. The event took place as part of the Federation's Annual General Meeting at the Hotel Gander. About 100 delegates were in attendance for the launch.

The theme of this year's safety week was "Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) only works if you use it!" The theme focuses on the use, fit and access of personal protective equipment in agriculture.

Paul Lomond, a berry producer from Steady Brook on the province's west coast, spoke about the innovative safety initiatives ongoing at his farm which help keep himself and his workers safe.

Harry Harding, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister Responsible for Forestry and Agri-Foods Agency was on hand to sign a proclamation declaring Canadian Agricultural Safety Week in this province. Representatives from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Farm Credit Canada, and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association also took part in the ceremony.

The NLFA had lots of copies of the children's farm safety storybook, *Safety First: Farm Safety for Children*, available for safety week as well. *Safety First*, written by Mary Kelsey, with illustrations by Nicole Williams, is the latest in the Jacob the Farmer series. The book was available free of charge to anyone attending the NLFA's AGM and the safety week launch.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) deliver CASW in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

The CASW campaign has grown over the past few years and now has a network of over 700 contacts and a reach of one in three Canadian farmers. The success of the 2008 CASW campaign was recognized with a Bronze Award from the Canadian Farm Writer's Federation, press release division.

Photos by Denise Dunne Photography



CASA's display showcasing chemical look-a-likes.



Farmer Paul Lomond receives recognition for his role in the ceremony and his ongoing farm safety initiatives. L-R: Harry Harding, Paul Lomond, Merv Wiseman.





(L-R): Merv Wiseman, NLFA Past President; Harry Harding, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Responsible for Agri-Foods Agency; Christine Wheaton, Farm Credit Canada; Billy Woods, Canadian Farmers with Disabilities & CASA; Paul Lomond, Lomond Farms.

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Setting Up From Scratch on the Port-Au-Port Peninsula

By Matthew Carlson

Nathan Dennis is a vegetable and forage producer in Piccadilly, on the Port-Au-Port peninsula, where he operates Dennis Farms. Nathan is the first person in his family to tackle a commercial farming operation. That meant that, when he decided farming was the best career option for him, he had to start from scratch!

Nathan always had an interest in farming and decided to try it on a hobby-level when he was eleven years old. He began with one horse and a few vegetables and expanded it into a commercial-scale operation about two years ago. The farm currently has 75 acres of forage and one acre of vegetables, as well as some horses which have proven themselves very useful to the operation, as Nathan used to use horse-drawn equipment on his farm.

Most of the vegetables grown at Dennis Farms are traditional Newfoundland varieties like carrots, turnip, potatoes, and beet. Broccoli, cauliflower, and sweet corn are also grown on the farm, and Nathan will try growing something new each year to test the market.

The hay produced at Dennis Farms is primarily small square bales sold to other producers in the region. But in recent years Nathan has also been producing round wrapped bales, after having lost some of his hay to bad weather two years ago. It was that incident which prompted him to buy the round baler to protect his product.

A typical work day for Nathan varies a lot depending on the time of the year. During spring, summer, and fall he works at his own farm on



tasks including getting the ground ready, planting, and harvesting. In the winter, Nathan's farm work continues as well, as he works at Cornerstone Farm in Cormack, a dairy farm operated by Eric and Michelle Spears. Nathan's parents tend to the horses in the winter, because Nathan stays in Cormack while working there.

There are also some challenges for Nathan at his operation. He operates his farm primarily on his own, meaning that he must face many of the challenges by himself. Having started the operation from scratch also meant that financing was difficult for someone just beginning, and there was a lot of overhead involved. Increasing prices pose challenges as well at Dennis Farms, with increases in the price of fuel last year, and fertilizer this year.

One area where Nathan is lucky is that of labour. Since Nathan primarily works on his own, and only hires on some part-time workers during his busier times, he has few concerns with labour, which is a major concern for most of the agriculture industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

With great enthusiasm for agriculture and a





drive to face the challenges that come with starting a new operation from scratch, Nathan Dennis has proven he has what it takes to make it in this

unforgiving industry. The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture wishes Nathan continued success in future.

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.

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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

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

51st Annual Farm Field Day



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be hosting Farm Field Day on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 10am - 5pm.

The 51st Annual running of the event is set to take place at the provincial agriculture complex; located at 308 Brookfield Road in St. John's and it will feature research displays, agricultural displays, tractor rides, calf showmanship, cattle auction, and farm animals. Admission and parking are free.

Other activities and features of the day will include horse rides, scavenger hunts, face painting, hay rides and even line dancing. Visitors will also have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists about their research, including their work in small berries, corn, manure management, integrated pest management and drainage. Industry representatives will be present to provide information on their activities and help the general public learn more about agriculture.

Agriculture Expos and Trade Shows:

North West River Beach Festival

North West River
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St. George's Blueberry Festival

St. George's
July 31st - August 2nd (Tentative)

Garnish Bakeapple Festival

Garnish
August 2nd - 8th, 2009

Brigus Blueberry Festival

Brigus
August 6th - 9th, 2009

Bakeapple Folk Festival

Forteau
August 7th - 9th, 2009

Big Land Fair

Happy Valley - Goose Bay
September 10th - 12th, 2009

Springdale Craft and Trade Show

Springdale
September 10th - 12th, 2009

Trinity-Conception Bay Agriculture Fall Fair

Harbour Grace
September 15th - 21st, 2009

Lewisporte and Area Annual Craft and Trade Show

Lewisporte
September 17th - 19th, 2009

Humber Valley Agriculture Fall Fair

Deer Lake
September 18th - 19th, 2009 (Tentative)

Partridgeberry Festival

West St. Modeste
September 22nd - 23rd, 2009

Southern Labrador Craft and Agriculture Fair

L'anse au Loop
September 22nd - 23rd, 2009

Port au Port Agricultural Fall Fair

Port au Port West
September 26th - 27th, 2009



The Successor to ACAA: Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program

The Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) is a five-year, \$163 million program that will support industry-led initiatives at the national, regional and multi-regional levels. The program is the successor to the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAA) program, which ended on March 31, 2009.

CAAP will be focusing on three key areas to advance Canadian agriculture:

- Seizing opportunities
- Responding to new and emerging issues
- Pathfinding and piloting solutions to new and ongoing issues

The overarching objective of the program is to help the agriculture industry to adapt and remain competitive.

The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) will continue its work with the delivery of the new program in Newfoundland and Labrador, as it did with the ACAA program. Further details of CAAP will be available in the AACI Update in the next AgriView.

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

Developing and Promoting a Greenhouse Gas Calculator

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) have been a major concern for Canadians and the agriculture industry. To address this concern, farmers in Newfoundland and Labrador and across the country have been adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help reduce these emissions.

With this in mind, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) researchers developed a greenhouse gas calculator to calculate a farm's greenhouse gas emissions and overall environmental impact.

This project will allow the current calculator to be adapted into a more user-friendly tool for the field.

Agrologists from each participating province have identified farmers who will work with the calculator and collect information. The data will be used to make it simpler to determine the economic and environmental benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As the project progresses, additional farmers will be added to the project.

Funding is being provided by a collective outcome project through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAA) program. The Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan Inc. is the lead on this collective outcome project. The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) approved \$30,000 for the project.

The Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAA) Program was developed as the successor to the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD II) Fund, whose mandate expired March 31, 2004.

The ACAA 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 ACAA program is delivered by the Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI)

Managing Farm Waste

Managing farm waste has been and continues to be a major priority for many farmers in the province and across Canada. With increased consumer awareness and concern for the environment, farmers are continuously looking for innovative ways to manage farm waste.

To help farmers further advance in this area, a workshop entitled "On-Farm Composting of Agricultural Waste" was recently held in St. John's, NL. The workshop provided training for farmers and other industry representatives on the process of composting manure and animal carcasses, and how to utilize this economically valuable nutrient source on the farm.

Throughout the two-day workshop, participants had an opportunity to listen to experts in composting and nutrient management, and were engaged in discussions on how these best man-

agement practices could be used on their own farms to reduce costs and help the environment.

The workshop was organized by the Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador. Funding was provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program. The Agri Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) approved \$35,275 for the project.

Strengthening Agriculture in the Atlantic Region

Agriculture in the Atlantic region faces many challenges, as it does for many regions across Canada.

Two significant trends affecting the agriculture industry today include the lack of young people seeking a career in agriculture, and competition from global markets. As a result, many farmers end up leaving the agriculture industry.

With an increased emphasis on the environment and food safety and quality, the agriculture industry is looking at innovative ways that will build on the strengths of the sector to meet challenges and create new opportunities.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Nova Scotia and PEI Federations of Agriculture, and the Agriculture Alliance of New Brunswick, have enlisted GPI Atlantic, an independent, non-profit research and education organization to develop a green paper on the future of agriculture in Atlantic Canada.

The overall objective of the report will be to seek out new opportunities and advance the industry in an innovative economical manner.

Funding for this project is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program.

The NL Agri Adapt Council Inc., as well as the Councils of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have all approved \$17,500.00 towards the project.



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The Capital Coast Development Alliance (CCDA), with cooperation from the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture (NLFA), has recently released its final reports titled "A Demographic Profiling and Skill Gap Analysis of the Northeast Avalon Agriculture Industry" and "Demographic Profiling of the Northeast Avalon Agriculture Industry: Best Practices Manual." Despite having difficulties acquiring a large percentage of the regions' farmers to participate, the report portrays an overview of the issues facing the industry with strong recommendations as to how we should move forward. This piece of research has found that some of the issues facing the Northeast Avalon are unique to NL, while many are similar in scope to the issues facing the agriculture community nationally. This research is available at the NLFA office.

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource

Council (CAHRC) is involved in a number of initiatives that will benefit farmers in this province. CAHRC has recently completed a website containing a database of agricultural training programs across Canada (www.agritalent.ca); as well, CAHRC is completing a comprehensive list of human resource needs of farms across the country. For more information on CAHRC's various activities please visit: www.cahrc-ccrha.ca.

Another important piece of research is from the NLFA and College of the North Atlantic titled "A Plan for Human Resource Development". This, along with the projects listed above and additional regional and national research on human resources in agriculture, provides the NLFA with a great amount of information that will allow us to develop HR programs and resources for the industry.

The NLFA has recently structured a planning committee to enhance the industry's human



Growing Forward

The Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, is now accepting applications for Growing Forward programs in Newfoundland and Labrador. Growing Forward is a federal/provincial agreement providing \$29.58 million to Newfoundland and Labrador's agriculture and agrifoods industry. The funding is provided on a 60 per cent federal (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and 40 per cent provincial cost-shared basis.

Provincially - delivered Growing Forward programs include:

- Agriculture Innovation Program
- Agriculture Land Development Program
- Agriculture Opportunities Program
- Agriculture Sustainability Program
- New Farm Investment Program
- Mitigating Agriculture Risks Program

For more information, please contact:

Department of Natural Resources
 PO Box 2006, 4 Fortis Towers
 Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8
 Tele: (709) 637-2679 or 637-2095

Copies of applications and Growing Forward Program Guide can be found at www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/

For more information on Growing Forward, including federal programs, please visit <http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward>

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resource capacity and knowledge of human resource management. This planning committee will be responsible for designing programs to address the identified issues:

- Aging Workforce
- Low Number of New Entrants
- Lack of Skilled Labour
- Availability of Training Programs
- Public Perception of Agriculture Industry
- Career Profiling of Industry

Updates about the activities being conducted by the committee will be available through the NLFA website and newsletters such as the Agriview. Also, our Labour Market Coordinator, Chris McCarthy, will be making arrangements to

visit individual farms over the upcoming months to discuss the programs in order to ensure the project is moving in the right direction and is of benefit to the industry.

All members of the agriculture community are welcome to contact Chris to give input into the project or to arrange a meeting on your farm. While career profiling is a major part of what is needed in agriculture, he is willing to visit your farm to learn first-hand the day to day activities of the members of the industry, as well as speak to you directly about the project. The NLFA needs the support of its membership if we are going to improve human resources for agriculture in Newfoundland and Labrador.

NEW & EXCITING

Organic Farming: Interest Burgeoning in Newfoundland & Labrador

By Alison Dyer

The local organic farming sector has experienced impressive growth this past year. And with experienced farmers, new entrants and apprentices located across the province – from Goose Bay to the Avalon, from Fogo Island to Deer Lake – this interest and energy shows no sign of abating.

In fact, for the first time ever, 12 delegates from this province attended the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN) 2009 conference held in Truro, Nova Scotia in March. With almost 500 participants it was the largest conference to date and, as ACORN's Executive Director Beth McMahon says, "it speaks volumes about the energy of organics in Atlantic Canada."

Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador contingent concur. "The Trade Show was a great opportunity to learn what is happening in the Atlantic Region, and by the number of young people in attendance it shows that organic farming is alive and well," observed Martin Walsh, a blueberry farmer from Colliers, Conception Bay, who is interested in transitioning to organic.



The Organic Farm in Portugal Cove.

ACORN-NL

Enthusiasm from the returning conference delegates translated into furthering the goals for the recently formed ACORN-NL, a provincial subgroup of the not-for-profit organization ACORN. Activities of ACORN-NL over the past year have included organic workshops, farm visits, participation in the Canadian Organic Grower's workshop (on the



soon-to-be implemented national organic standards), participation in the NLFA and NL Horticultural Producer's Council Conferences, the hiring of a part-time coordinator and the setting up of a new blog (<http://acornnl.wordpress.com>). The group has the support of the Department of Natural Resources to move its priorities ahead. DNR's commitment also includes the assigning of a new organic crop specialist portfolio held by Jane White, whose knowledge and support to date have been invaluable to the fledgling organization.

Organic Agricultural Industry Survey

ACORN-NL is currently completing its first ever survey. The provincial Organic Agricultural Industry Survey will help the group better understand the current status of the organic agricultural community in the province, develop an industry profile and identify specific challenges.

"Results of the survey will help guide the growth of this sector," says Mark Wilson, an organic farmer and NL's only organic inspector. "ACORN-NL will use it to address informal training needs, like workshops in organic methods, market access and seed saving, as well as looking at ways to remove barriers to certification and, in general, promote consumer awareness."



Hard at the Books: Kathy Gillam (DNR), and farmers Stan Tobin and Don Bragg (right) at Certified Organic Workshop, March 2009.

Call for nitrogen inputs:

A common challenge identified by most organic farmers in this province is the lack of suitable nitrogen inputs. While the type, amount and availability of inputs (such as shrimp meal, crab shells, fish offal, various livestock manures, etc.) vary considerably across the region, knowledge of available sources, and in some cases transporta-



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tion costs, remain a barrier for our organic farmers. To that end, ACORN-NL is in the process of developing a mini-directory of allowable inputs. We encourage all readers of this article to help us by providing the name and location of possible inputs (please use contact information below).

As organic moves from niche to mainstream, and more local farmers become aware of the organic potential of this province, the future – while not without its challenges – looks particularly bright for organic farmers in this province.

Alison Dyer is the part-time co-ordinator for ACORN-NL. Contact her at (709) 576-1312, or by email: acorn-nl@acornorganic.org. For additional information about the organic agricultural sector in NL, see: <http://acornnl.wordpress.com>. Or check the ACORN website: www.acornorganic.org.

NL Federation of Agriculture Participates in Launch of AgriTalent.ca - Training Program Database

On June 10, 2009 in St. John's, the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council launched AgriTalent.ca—the first national on-line database of agriculture training programs. The launch took place in St. John's on the eve of the Council's annual general meeting; an event which was sponsored in part by the NL Federation of Agriculture.

AgriTalent.ca is an easy-to-use search engine for people looking for training in agriculture-related fields. Training resources range from full-time degree and diploma programs to continuing education courses. Each institution listing includes contact information, the number and type of programs offered, and a Web site address. Each course description includes the days/hours of instruction, method of instruction, program duration, and cost.

Put simply, AgriTalent.ca links people to institutions and training providers in Canada that offer programs in agriculture. Visitors to the Web site may browse by training subject, commodity group, or keyword in English or in French. AgriTalent.ca also features advanced search capabilities for users to combine keywords with training subjects, method of instruction, region of delivery, and commodity. The results of each search may be stored in an individual short list for

easy reference.

The Council collected information on more than 1,000 agriculture-related courses from 228 training institutions from across Canada in order to develop AgriTalent.ca. This on-line resource is expected to become an essential tool for youth considering a career in agriculture and for agriculture employers and employees who want to advance their skills and training. It is also expected to help guidance counsellors and educational institutions promote courses that are essential to some of the jobs available today in agriculture.

Land Consolidation Program

In 2010, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Land Consolidation Program will mark the 25th year that it has played an important role in the protection and development of the province's precious agricultural land base. In the early 1970s the St. John's Agriculture Development Area was established to protect farms from the rapid urbanization of the Northeast Avalon Peninsula. The zoning of agriculture lands controlled development by restricting residential and other urban developments. As a result, landowners had fewer opportunities to sell or develop their land.

The introduction of the Land Consolidation Program in 1985 provided an opportunity for non-farm landowners and retiring farmers in the St. John's Agriculture Zone to sell their agriculturally-zoned land to the Province. Properties acquired under the program were subsequently transferred to farmers as agriculture Crown land leases. The combination of these programs provided a stable environment which allowed farms to invest with the confidence that farming would remain a part of the Northeast Avalon landscape. From 1985 to 2005 the land banking program acquired 1500 acres of land which helped farms expand and consolidate their properties in the St. John's area.

Although the program was successful in the St. John's area, offshore oil related development increased the expectations of the landowners which resulted in a decline in the purchase of properties. Concurrently, it was acknowledged that it was timely to expand the program throughout the province as there were many areas where granted land owned by non-farmers remained idle.

In 2005 the Province increased its commitment



to the Land Consolidation Program from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000 per year for five years. The enhanced program allowed the Province to increase the amount paid for land which had remained about the same since 1985. As a result the Province has been able to acquire 72 properties totaling 2600 acres.

The program continues to acquire strategically-located properties in the St. John's Agriculture Zone. As a result, the enhanced program has increased confidence of the Province's zoning policy and continues to allow farms to consolidate their farms. In addition, properties have been purchased in many other regions of the province.

Next year will be the final year of the Province's current five-year commitment to the Land Consolidation Program. Application packages, including a detailed information package are available from the Land Resource Stewardship Division at the Provincial Agriculture Building on Brookfield Road. Information can be found on line at: http://www.nr.gov.nl.ca/agric/prog_serv/soil_land/land_consolidation.stm. If you are aware of someone who might be interested in selling their granted land to the Province, please encourage them to contact the Agrifoods Branch at (709) 729-6758 for an application package or to discuss the program.

Insurance Savings for AgriVantage Members

By Matthew Carlson

At the Federation's Annual General Meeting in March, it was announced that a new discount had been added to our AgriVantage membership package. Pippy Insurance and Financial is offering a reduced rate health and dental plan for our membership with coverage through Medavie Blue Cross.

A package with information and an application was recently sent out to our membership, and we urge any members who are interested to sign up now to begin saving money on insurance.

As the second year under the AgriVantage membership program is drawing to a close, the NLFA is gearing up for the coming year, and we want to know your opinions on the program.

The second annual membership survey has been sent to all members and to all non-member producers to gauge impressions of the membership program and see how we can improve it. If you have not yet completed your survey, please take a few minutes to fill it out and send it in.

We would like to extend our thanks to all the members who have helped to make our second year of our membership program an ongoing success!

CLASSIFIEDS

Farm and equipment for sale:

42.5 acre farm located on Kippens ridge forest access road 8 km from Roberts Arm to South Brook highway. Sandy loam soil with few rocks. Suitable for vegetables, strawberries, hay, sods, animals. Going at a bargain price. Also some farm equipment for sale at the end of this farming season, including a 2004 DK 45 Kiote tractor equipped with a 5 ft snowblower with approx 1000 hours usage. Contact Lloyd Colbourne at 652-3431 or e-mail colbourne@eastlink.ca

Aluminum pipe irrigation system for sale:

Consists of 114 -3" aluminum pipes and 5- 4inch intake pipes all 30 feet long. System fitted with sprinklers and 4 inch risers and covers approx 5 acres which can be set up as a single unit or several separate units. System powered by pump attached to tractor's power take off. System has had very little use. Asking price \$14,000. Contact Lloyd Colbourne 652-3431 or e-mail colbourne@eastlink.ca.

To submit articles to the classifieds section, NLFA members may contact Matthew Carlson at 747-4830 or by email at mcarlson@nlfa.ca



Notice of Information Session: Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP)

The Agri-Adapt Council Inc. (AACI) is inviting all industry associations and producers to attend an information session about the successor to the ACAA program called the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

WHERE: Ramada Hotel, St. John's **WHEN:** September 10, 2009 @ 10 AM

