

WBPANS Annual Field Day held at Millen Farms in Great Village



Millen Farms hosted the Field Day and many of the family were on hand to help out for the day. Left to right- Vanessa Rushton, Nathan Millen, Ann Millen, Curtis Millen, Megan McCully, Jonathan Millen with Lila, Brandon Millen, and Clarisa Lindsay.

By Linda Harrington

Close to 400 people attended the 2015 Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia (WBPANS) Field Day on July 18th. Millen Farms hosted this year's event at Little Dyke Road, Great Village.

Researchers, extension specialists and machinery

exhibitors were on site to talk to producers from across the province.

Following a morning of visiting stations and chatting with specialists, producers enjoyed a pulled pork lunch, followed by a wild blueberry shortcake dessert, with entertainment by Andy Crossan and friends over the

lunch hour.

WPBANS President Jeff Orr, welcomed everyone to the event, thanked the Millen family and introduced the guest speakers. Jeff mentioned the success of the first Harvester Operators Course, which graduated 16 new harvester operators.

Curtis Millen welcomed

everyone to his farm and noted the "mixed farming" that takes place. He said the FieldTours would give everyone a bit of an overview of this later in the day.

Minister of Agriculture Keith Colwell spoke to producers about how excited he was to work with people in the Agriculture industry, complementing the innovation and ideas that keep the industry moving forward. He says it is, "an exciting time for Agriculture in the Province of NS", noting the Premier support for Agriculture and adding, "This is the first time in the history of this Province, that we can find, that the key economic development tool in this province is going to be agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and natural resources. This is very important to us."

Peter Burgess, of Perennia, cautioned producers to be diligent in monitoring for spotted wing drosophila and fruit flies in their fields, as the harvest time grows closer. Crop prediction was an "average crop", down from the record crops of last year.

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WBPANS Executive Director, Peter Rideout, gives a Market update.



Alice Pugsley gives an update on the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival, while sporting her new "Rick Mercer" hat she received at the Field Day.



Peter Burgess, Perennia explains the field conditions at one of the Field Tour locations at Millen Farms.



Syngenta staff were happy to answer any questions about their products. There was an impressive display of various insects at the booth, as well.



Buses carried producers on the Field Tours to several local locations.

The Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival is being held August 14th to 29th from Amherst to Truro, Parrsboro to Tatamagouche and Kempt Shore to Oxford. Enjoy a huge schedule of events including live music, community picnics, teas, suppers and pancake breakfasts, farmers markets, pie eating and baking contests, quilt fairs, exhibitions, children's activities, U-Picks, processing tours, blueberry wine fest, beer garden, kitchen parties and more! Find more info at <http://www.wildblueberryfest.com>.

See Page 16 for more information.

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