

# Slack Farms New Receiving Shed Welcomes WBPANS 2016 Field Day



Slack Farms hosted the WBPANS Field Day in Debert at their newly expanded facility on Middle Road.

By Linda Harrington

The Wild Blueberry Producers of NS Field Day was held at the brand new receiving shed at Slack Farms on Middle Road, Debert on July 16th. A good crowd turned out on the scorcher of a day to visit the displays, socialize and listen current information from guest speakers.

WBPANS President Barron Blois welcomed everyone to the field day and thanked the Slack family for hosting the event.

MLA Karen Casey passed along her good wishes and a thank you to the growers for all they do, saying she was "proud of this industry that helps support the economy of the Province."

Dr. Debra Moreau gave up to date information on the Spotted Wing Drosophila, which at that time had not been seen. She noted the high tem-

peratures had pushed up the heat units to exceed the five-year average so the flies were expected to make their appearance soon. She noted a cold hardiness study is about to begin.

Dr. David Yarborough, Wild Blueberry Specialist from UMaine, said conditions have been fairly good south of the border and with more rain and sunshine the crop is expected to be in the 90-100-million pound range.

Neri Vautour, WBABA-Canada, says there was a meeting this past April with the Minister of Agriculture and the main topic was the need to reduce tariffs. He says there is more funding going to health research and increased promotional activities in the US and Europe. Neri introduced the new WBANA President, Tom Matheson, a producer from PEI.



WBPANS Executive Director Peter Rideout introduces Dr. Debra Moreau.

He reminded everyone of the WBANA Symposium in Fredericton on Oct. 20 & 21st.

Peter Rideout, WBPANS Executive director noted the local crop looks good across the industry despite some unfavorable weather. He said there is a

strong overseas market and movement of the inventory on hand continues to be the main focus.

A delicious lunch was catered by Taco Stiles food truck, complete with wild blueberry dessert.

Field tours took place in the afternoon.



## Celebrating the Wild Blueberry Festival In Tatamagouche

**On August 20, check out the Farmers Market at Creamery Square, as all things blueberry including the famous Wild Blueberry Pie Eating contest are celebrated.**

**Returning for the tenth year and starting at intervals from 10am, competitors and spectators will enjoy the fun.**

**On August 20 and 27, the Wild Blueberry Festival continues at Sara Bonnyman Pottery on Main Street.**

**View the pottery and enjoy the blueberry treats.**

**On August 20, check out the Fraser Cultural Centre on Main Street for wild blueberry desserts, bake sale and new to you from 10am to 2pm.**



Tony McDonald of T. G. Mac Sales Ltd. talks to producers about the latest in mulchers, tromeels, shredders, crushers and more.



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