



Some local 4-H members have been busy preparing calves for the Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show. This National event will be held at Balamore Farm Ltd. in Great Village August 1st - 4th. (photo submitted)

Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show Coming to Balamore Farm

By Linda Harrington

The Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show has been held all across Canada for a number of years, but this is the first time it will be held in Nova Scotia. This year's National event is being hosted August 1st- 4th by the Maritime Junior Limousin Association at Balamore Farm, Great Village.

Carolyn Cooper, of Balamore Farm Ltd., is looking forward to having close to 300 people visit their farm and spend some time in the surrounding area this summer. "Most of the people have never been here and they are planning on turning this event into their vacation, so we want them to have a great time," she says.

The event schedule is packed with everything from ice breaker activities, judging and conformation to a trip down the Fundy Shore with a visit to a fish wier and clam digging demonstration. "The Impact Show is all about personal growth for the juniors, learning new skills and then putting the skills to use but at the same time we want them to relax and make new friends," says Carolyn adding, "I am excited for our Maritime juniors to be able to take the skills they have learned to the next level."

William Cooper, son of Carolyn and Joe Cooper has attended the Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show previously in Alberta and Ontario and he says, "The best part is getting to meet people with similar interests. I have made great friends through the

Impact Show and I am looking forward to having them come here this year."

Most of the local 4-H Beef Project members will be attending the Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show and many have been helping prepare calves for the event. "Not everyone can bring their animals with them, so we make sure there at cattle ready for them," says Carolyn.

The juniors in attendance will be competing for awards and prizes at the Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels which will be presented a banquet on Friday Night. Events such as Team Fitting and Oral Marketing will have points assigned and added to points for showmanship, judging, photography and conformation.

Team Fitting has members working as a team to prepare an animal for a show while Oral Marketing, similar to a public speaking contest, has members research the genetics of their calf and prepare a speech as if they were going to try and sell their animal to a potential buyer. The Grand Champion awards will be presented on Saturday.

The public is welcome to attend the Canadian Junior Limousin Impact Show at Balamore Farm Ltd., 9036 Hwy 2, Great Village on Friday, August 3rd for Showmanship Classes, from 9:30AM until Noon, and for Conformation Classes on Saturday, August 4th from 9AM until early afternoon.

May was Judging Month at OB 4-H Club

By Abby Thompson

Hi everyone! I have many things to report this month.

One big thing going on this month is judging. Every 4-H member has to judge a class of something related to their 4-H project. For example, if you were in the foods project you may have to judge a class of chocolate chip cookies. Each year there is a day when all the 4-H members in Colchester County come together and complete their judging.

This year judging day was held on May 21st for Beef, Dairy, and Light Horse and on the 22nd for all life skills and small animal projects. There was a judging workshop held on May 9th where newer 4-H members could learn the basics of judging.

At the May Onslow Belmont 4-H meeting the

4-Hers judged some cookies. We got to eat the cookies afterwards and the experience was quite enjoyable!

There were many project meetings held over the past month. The exploring 4-Hers went to the foods meeting where they made cottage cheese pancakes! At the poultry meeting they practiced judging eggs. At the photography meeting they went to Victoria Park and did a photo scavenger hunt. At the dairy meeting they practiced judging dairy heifers.

The 4-Hers of Onslow Belmont have been very busy working hard this past month. That concludes my article for this month, I hope you learned a thing or two about 4-H today, and stay involved in your community!

Abby Thompson is reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club

NSFA the Voice of Farmers

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ference to protect agricultural land and the Annapolis Valley Farmland Trust placed its first easement on agricultural land. These are no small feats. These are positive signs in our industry's tireless efforts to protect agricultural land.

As you may be aware, NSFA President and NSDA Minister of Agriculture meet on a monthly basis to discuss current industry issues. Some challenges we've talked about include the transition of inspectors from Agriculture to Environment. While this certainly isn't a new issue, the same concerns continue to linger.

We've also had discussion around the BRM Review that's underway nationally and emphasized the importance of a full, comprehensive review to maximize farmer participation and commitment in BRM programs like AgriStability and AgriInvest. We've also discussed strategies for protection of agricultural land, provincial CAP programming and Public Trust.

In early March, NSFA was asked to present at the Sustainable Agriculture Working Group meeting in Cumberland. We were able to highlight some of the policy priority areas of NSFA. Land, red tape and farm succession were key points of the presentation; however, extension services were seen as a major gap. Extension provides benefits to rural economy and consumers in general. A perfect example of the benefits of extension is food safety.

Farmers and agri-food producers are required to adhere to a significant amount of regulations which are best to be navigated with the support of an extension specialist. Yes, the farmer and Agri-food producer directly use the extension service; however, Nova Scotia consumers benefit by knowing the food they eat is safe. In the essence of recruiting new farmers to Nova Scotia, knowledge support for livestock and plant production as well as other elements of agriculture like soil health is a resource that farms in other regions have access to and may be a reason that new entrants opt to settle in these other regions. Extension wasn't always an issue in Nova Scotia. In 2000, extension services

along with \$8 million were cut from the Nova Scotia budget and Perennia was developed with an annual budget line of \$2.2 million which has not been increased since.

In April, NSFA made a donation to Feed Nova Scotia. After our 'Beef Up the Food Bank' initiative ended, we still had a sum of money remaining. The meeting heard a presentation from Nick Jennery, Executive Director of Feed Nova Scotia. During the presentation, Nick emphasized the impact of the generous donations made by farmers: "Farmers across the province donated more than 320,000 kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, and poultry and dairy products to Feed Nova Scotia in 2017 - an increase of 30% over the previous year." The donation of \$1,500 equates to about 2,200 meals.

As you likely heard by now, NSFA had expressed concerns about the cost-shared programs under CAP. On April 16, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture announced five programs to "support sustainable growth of Nova Scotia's agriculture and agri-food sectors". A couple red-flags went off following review of the programs' criteria once released. The most obvious change from past programs is the increase of farm revenue minimum to \$30,000 from \$10,000. We were disappointed to see that a program to support the growth of farms with gross revenue under \$30,000 wasn't available for the spring release of programs. Since this release, the Minister opted to suspend programs until further consultation. Thank-you to those who have highlighted their concerns.

NSFA has been working actively on regulatory burden. In April we met with Minister of Environment, Honourable Iain Rankin. We've heard concerns from our members regarding Meat Inspection and Animal Welfare Inspection. Significant changes were made when the inspection moved from Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture to Department of Environment. Without inspectors dedicated to Agriculture, there is an apparent knowledge gap of industry practices and what can be inferred from regulation.

The meeting also discussed the importance of an MOU between Departments of Agriculture and Environment and the accompanying appendices. In the past, the majority of concerns that overlapped the two departments were related to water and other aspects of the environment. Now with the inspection connection between Department of Environment to the Agriculture Industry, defined appendices to the memorandum of understanding between the two departments is more important than ever. NSFA looks forward to further collaborating with Minister Rankin and others within the Department of Environment to ensure the needs are met.

Since 1895, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has represented the interests of Nova Scotia's agricultural community. With an organizational structure that includes representation from 13 county and regional federations and 28 recognized agricultural commodity groups, the Federation brings together over 2400 individual farm businesses representing all aspects of primary agriculture in the province.

Moving forward, NSFA will continue to lobby on our members behalf. Hopefully we make further progress on the aforementioned issues and check some more boxes.

Wishing all a safe and productive cropping season.

Maxine MacLean is Policy and Communications Coordinator, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

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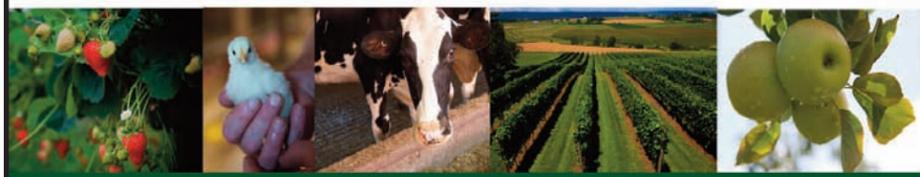
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