



MARCH 2016

# dispatch



## Nova Scotia's Provincial Berry

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

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Who knows what March will bring, but up until now it's been a fairly easy winter with milder than normal temperatures. Let's hope that continues and we can avoid a deep freeze in March and head toward an early spring, especially after The Winter That Wouldn't End in 2015!

Your WBPANS Board and committees have been busy with a number of projects since the Annual Meeting, all aimed at improving the productivity, efficiency and profitability of your farms and our overall industry. In mid-January, the board met for an all-day planning session, as we have been doing for a couple of years, to look at some of the new challenges and opportunities for our industry over the next couple of years and to establish plans for industry growth and development. In early February, we hosted an informal meeting in Debert with representatives from the New Brunswick and PEI wild blueberry associations and some of our research partners, to discuss and compare research priorities and identify areas for closer cooperation and cost-sharing. Some excellent ideas were developed and new projects identified, which you will be hearing more about in the coming months. We have also been working closely with the Beekeepers Association, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, the Bragg Lumber Company and others on a plan for temporary importation of honeybees for pollination of wild blueberries this spring.

WBPANS Board has been discussing options for crop insurance for wild blueberries and will be meeting with crop insurance representatives in the next few weeks. We would like your comments and opinions on the crop insurance program as it now stands and recommendations for changes or improvements. Please contact Peter Rideout at 902-899-6253 or email: [peter@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:peter@nswildblueberries.com)

**On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our WBPANS Winter Information Meeting at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel & Convention Centre, in Truro.** The program will have a heavy emphasis on new tools to help you manage your crop and your farm business better, at a time of very tight margins for wild blueberry farmers. A strong research program is vital to the long term sustainability of our industry and many of our leading researchers and extension specialists will be on hand during the morning session to update us on their recent program work, outline some of the new activities coming together for this season and, to hear your comments and questions. **Ronda Bellefontaine**, a well-known farm business management consultant from Kensington PEI, will be giving us an overview of **AgExpert software**, that more wild blueberry growers are starting to use. **This session will be a lead-in to a detailed day-long training seminar we are planning for April 14 in Debert and pre-registration will be happening at the registration desk.** Land development and improvement will be a theme in the afternoon session, with a detailed presentation by **Peter Burgess**, wild blueberry specialist with Perennia, on **Optimizing Land Development Strategies**, followed by a presentation from **Mark TeKamp**, DNR, on a revamped Crown Land Pilot Project. We will also be having **trade show exhibits** for the first time at a Winter Meeting and a **light lunch will be provided** in the trade show area. Also, there will be a chance to meet the various researchers and presenters over the lunch hour to discuss your questions and ideas one-on-one.

Please see the agenda for the meeting on the following page. We're looking forward to seeing you March 19 in Truro.

## **WBPANS Winter Information Meeting**

**Saturday, March 19, 2016**

**Best Western Glengarry Hotel & Convention Centre, 150 Willow Street, Truro, NS**

### **Morning Session: Chair: Barron Blois, President**

- 8:00 am      **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *TRURO AGROMART LTD.***
- 8:45 am      **Welcome – Barron Blois, President**
- 8:55 am      **The Importance of Application & Timing to Pesticide Effectiveness**  
Peter Burgess, Perennia
- 9:30 am      **Recommended Pest Control Products & Fertilizers for 2016**  
Katherine Benedict, Cavendish Agri-Services
- 9:50 am      **Precision Agriculture Update & Plans for 2016–**  
Dr. Qamar Zaman, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 10:10 am     **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *CAVENDISH AGRI-SERVICES & EASTERN DRAINAGE***
- 10:30 am     **Bees & Pests: Research & Recommendations**  
Dr. Chris Cutler, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 10:50 am     **Update on Current Weed Research & Plans for 2016 –**  
Dr. Scott White, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 11:10 am     **Beyond Berry Yields—Why Is Berry Quality Important and What Can Be Done**  
Dr. David Percival, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 11:30 am     **From Data to Decision Using AgExpert Software**  
Ronda Bellefontaine, Like Nobody's Business
- 12:00 pm     **LUNCH - provided in the Salon ABC sponsored by**  
***SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION, KOPPERT CANADA & FARM CREDIT CANADA***

### **Afternoon Session: Chair: David Atkinson, Vice-President**

- 1:00 pm      **Wild Blueberry Global Market Update**  
Peter Rideout, WBPANS Executive Director
- 1:20 pm      **WBANA Canada Update**  
Tom Matheson
- 1:40 pm      **Land Development & Improvement...in 2016**  
Peter Burgess, Perennia
- 2:40 pm      **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *RBC DOMINION SECURITIES***
- 3:00 pm      **A New Approach to the Crown Land Pilot Project**  
Mark Tekamp, Dept. of Natural Resources
- 3:15 pm      **Review of Land Development Program – NSDA Programs Division**
- 3:35 pm      **Increasing Domestic Opportunities for Wild Blueberries: Thinking Outside the Blueberry Box—**  
Perennia Innovation Centre
- 4:00 pm      **ADJOURN**

## WBANA CANADA UPDATE

JANUARY 2016



One of WBANA's key roles behind the scenes on behalf of the wild blueberry industry is working closely with Canada's trade negotiators and our federal trade commissioner representatives overseas, to improve access to developing markets through reduced tariffs and streamlining other import regulations. We recently attended the Market Access meetings in Ottawa to get up to date information on the various Free Trade negotiations now underway and recently-signed agreements. The meetings involved a broad cross section of organizations such as ours, representing the full scope of Canada's huge agriculture and agri-food exporting sector. We work closely with many of these other organizations and the federal and provincial governments, to build and refine effective trade development programs. Up to 90% of our annual wild blueberry production is sold in the export market and WBANA Canada views such achievements as the recently announced European Union and Korean trade deals as positive steps for our industry's future. We also believe that the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) will be generally positive for our industry, through the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers in some of our prospective markets in Asia. Of course, greater access to China through reduced tariffs is a top priority for us and we continue to work through various means to open that door for Canadian Wild Blueberries.

WBANA Canada has also requested a meeting with our new Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. This meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss opportunities for continued growth and development of our unique regional wild blueberry industry and its important role in the building of the rural economy of eastern Canada. We will also discuss the role of WBANA, our marketing and research strategies and priorities and the fundamental differences and qualities which add value to wild blueberries in the marketplace.

**WBANA Symposium:** This important bi-annual conference is coming up Thursday- Friday, **October 20-21<sup>st</sup>**, at **the Fredericton Convention Centre**, Fredericton New Brunswick. The symposium is our major industry-wide gathering and will include the Wild BREW researchers and extension workers, members of the industry's health research network, all of the international marketing agencies who work for WBANA overseas and in North America, as well a broad cross-section of growers, processors and industry representatives. It is the top event to hear about new developments in all aspects of our unique industry and to provide input to future marketing and research programs. The conference program and hotel details will be available in the next few weeks.

Check out this great new recently-released consumer video: search for "Wild Blueberry Health Heroes" in YouTube.

Neri Vautour, WBANA Canada  
Tel: 506-363-3606  
Email: neri.vautour@nb.aibn.com

### WBPANS RECOGNITION BOOK

WBPANS' Recognition Book Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for individuals to be recognized at the AGM Banquet for their outstanding contribution to the Nova Scotia wild blueberry industry. The Committee is currently seeking names for consideration for this honour. Please contact a committee member if you have a recommendation for them.

Jeff Orr, 902870-1578  
Peter Van Dyk: 902-682-3116  
John Quinn: 902-783-2834

## WILD BLUEBERRY HARVESTER OPERATOR COURSE

WBPANS is partnering with Farm Safety Nova Scotia, Perennia and Doug Bragg Enterprises to offer a second Blueberry Harvester Operator Course on July 11, 12, & 13, 2016. The course will be offered over two days and include both theory and practical components– participants will be sure to get time in the harvester seat! The objective of the course is to train safe and competent harvester operators, building the capacity of skilled labour in the wild blueberry industry. The cost to Nova Scotia participants is \$200 with a limit of 20 spots available so register early!

This course will:

- Promote operator safety, food safety and product quality.
- Teach proper harvesting and production techniques while minimizing wear and tear on equipment.
- Explain the optimal balance between quality, safety and volume.
- Improve productivity and profitability through effective training.

Participants will be required to have basic tractor operator skills, which will be gained through previous experience or successful completion of a Tractor Operator Course. Please contact Carolyn Van Den Heuvel, Farm Safety Nova Scotia to for information on their Tractor Operator Course, telephone: 902-893-2293 or [cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca](mailto:cvandenheuvel@nsfa-fane.ca)

More information or to register for the Harvester Operator Course, contact:

WBPANS office

Tel: 902-662-3306

Email: [info@nswildblueberries.com](mailto:info@nswildblueberries.com)



## Tractor Safety Course

This course is designed to increase awareness and test competency of tractor operators with regards to safe operation and use of farm tractors and implements.

Who should attend?

- 14-16 year olds with a valid Nova Scotia Class 8 driver's license who want to be able to haul equipment on Nova Scotia roads and,
- Others who have a valid class 5 driver's license and want to increase their tractor safety knowledge and skills.

This course is not intended to teach tractor driving. You must have at least 10 hours of supervised tractor driving experience before taking this course.

**Cost: \$225 + HST**

April 29-30 – Antigonish

April 30-May 1 – Middleton

May 14-15 – Truro

Register with Extended Learning, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture at [www.extended.learning@dal.ca](http://www.extended.learning@dal.ca)

*Extended Learning and Farm Safety Nova Scotia have partnered to offer the Tractor Operator Course.*

## CanadaGAP Food Safety Workshops

Horticulture Nova Scotia is inviting members and potential members to upcoming CanadaGAP Food Safety Workshops. This is a good opportunity for both farmers currently on CanadaGAP and those new to the program. Please note members can send employees at the member rate.

To register, please call Kim Best at 902-670-4397 or email [kimbest@xcountry.tv](mailto:kimbest@xcountry.tv)

Sessions will be held:

Tuesday, March 8 - Waterville Fire Hall (*Storm date March 9*)

Thursday, March 10 - Truro Agri-Tech Park (*Storm date March 11*)

Both sessions are from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Manuals available on request at no charge to attending members. There will be a cost for manuals to non-members.

## 2016 BEELINE

1-866-606-4636 (TOLL FREE)  
[WWW.PERENNIA.CA](http://WWW.PERENNIA.CA)

At the request of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association Joint Pollination Committee, Perennia manages a Bee Line that is a volunteer listing of beekeepers and their available hives for pollination. The list will help connect blueberry growers who need bee hives to pollinate their blueberry fields, with beekeepers who have available hives to rent. The listing and service is offered at no charge. For more information please call the hotline number at 1-866-606-4636 (toll free).

Also check out the NOVA SCOTIA LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY BLOG at:  
<http://www.novascotiawildblueberryblog.com/>

## FARM SAFETY WORKSHOP

Farm Safety Nova Scotia will be hosting a workshop **“Get in the Know: Fueling your safety culture” on March 15 at the Old Orchard Inn**, Wolfville from 9:30am – 3pm. This event takes place during Canadian Agricultural Safety Week, which runs March 13 – 19 with a theme of “Be an Ag Safe Family”. This event is open to farmers, farm employees and industry stakeholders at no cost!

Pre-registration is required by March 11 by contacting [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca) or (902)893-2293.

Workshop will include information on OHS, Safe and Efficient Application of Pesticides, Rules of the road and Protecting your farm.

We are also pleased to announce that **Blueline New Holland, Green Diamond Equipment, Central Equipment Inc. and VanOostrum Farm Equipment** will be offering **20% discounts on safety related items during the month of March!** This includes PTO guards, beacon lights, personal protective equipment and more. Discounts and items will vary slightly between dealers. Drop by your local dealer for more information!

Farm Safety Nova Scotia  
Tel: 902-893-2293  
Email: [info@farmsafetyns.ca](mailto:info@farmsafetyns.ca)



**Truro Agromart Berry Focus**  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 ~ Best Western, Truro

	<i>Morning Coffee: Sponsored by ADAMA &amp; UAP</i>
10:00-10:30	Tim Fisher, Truro Agromart Ltd.: <i>Spraying for Profit</i>
10:30-11:00	Lise LeBlanc, LP Consulting: <i>Foliar sprays: What's the deal?!</i>
11:00-12:00	Rick de Jong, Agro-K: <i>Developing a Successful Foliar Program</i>
12:00-1:00	<i>Lunch: Sponsored by Syngenta</i>
1:00-1:30	Lorraine MacKinnon, Syngenta: <i>What Fungicide &amp; When?</i>
1:30-2:00	Graham Kempton, Bayer: <i>When &amp; How to Use Ignite &amp; Option</i>
2:00-2:30	Amanda Walsh & Dave Essery, ADAMA & UAP: <i>An Overview of the Blueberry Spray Program</i>
2:30-3:00	<i>Refreshment Break: Sponsored by Bayer</i>
3:00-3:30	Blair Fraser, BASF: <i>The Crop Benefits of Pristine</i>
3:30-4:00	Samantha Haley, Engage Agro: <i>Assail for Blueberry Maggot Control</i>
4:00-4:30	Justin Toner, DOW: <i>What to Know to get the Best Results with Kerb &amp; Delegate</i>

\*Pending approval for Pesticide Points.\*



## 2016 MEETING DATES

Canadian Horticultural Council AGM—March 8-10, 2016—Ottawa

WPANS Winter Information Meeting—Saturday, March 19, 2016—Best Western Glengarry, Truro

Bleuets NB Blueberries AGM—April 1, 2016—Caraquet, NB

PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association Information Meeting & AGM: April 4 & 5, 2016, Charlottetown, PEI

Saltscapes Expo—April 22-24, 2016, Exhibition Park, Halifax

WPANS Twilight Meetings— May 30—WPANS Office, Debert, NS  
May 31—Cameron's Receiving Shed, East River Saint Mary's, NS  
June 2—Sargent's Receiving Shed, Parrsboro, NS

WPANS Field Day—Saturday, July 16, 2016—Slack's Receiving Shed, Debert, NS

WPANS Annual Meeting—November 18 & 19, 2016—Best Western Glengarry, Truro