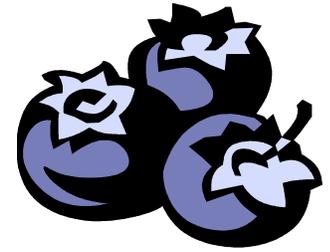




MARCH 2019

dispatch



Nova Scotia's Provincial Berry

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

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Frost Relief

By now everyone should have heard about the Nova Scotia government's frost loss program to help growers recover from the shocking frost of June 4, 2018. It is very welcome news which the WBPANS Board, Executive Committee and staff have been working on closely with Minister Colwell and Department staff since the day of the frost. The timeline for applications is short, with a **deadline of March 15**, because the funds must be drawn from the government's 2018-2019 fiscal year, which runs to the end of March. It is also first-come, first-served in terms of application approvals and the program is available to all agricultural commodities. The link to the program page and contact details for NSDA Programs are in this newsletter.

Winter Information Meeting

The agenda for this year's pre-season information meeting, **Thursday, March 28** at the **Best Western Glengarry in Truro** is in this newsletter. As always, the topics are focused heavily on providing growers with timely information to help guide their management decisions for the coming season. Obtaining pesticide applicators recertification points has also been a priority. We've also sort of expanded the winter meeting to two days, by collaborating with Perennia to provide and additional **wild blueberry producer workshop on Friday, March 29** at the same location. Peter Burgess has put together an excellent and practical program. It's a separate but connected event, limited to 75 people, so please pre-register to secure your spot.

The Winter Meeting will be a full day, with updates on WBPANS activities in industry strategic planning, promotion, value-added product development along with the roll out of some new initiatives. There will be a report on all of the work done this winter on renewing the industry's WBANA global promotion and health research program. Peter Burgess' presentation on bringing resting fields back into production will lead off an afternoon session full of field management topics, including Dr. David Percival on disease management, Dr. Scott White on key strategies for sheep sorrel and fescue control and Dr. Deb Moreau on climate change related to issues around blueberry maggot fruit fly and spotted wing monitoring. The second half of the afternoon will feature a researchers' panel on fruit quality from the perspectives of our leading scientists, with an opportunity for audience discussion.

WBPANS WINTER INFORMATION MEETING

March 28, 2019

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

AGENDA

Morning Session: Chair: Barron Blois, President

- 8:00 am **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *FARM CREDIT CANADA***
- 9:00 am **Welcome** – Barron Blois, President
- 9:15 am **WBPANS Executive Director Report** – Peter Rideout, Executive Director, WBPANS
 - **Market Trends & Outlook, WBPANS Projects & Priorities**
- 9:45 am **WBANA-Canada Update** – John Cameron, President, WBANA-Canada
 - **Building WBANA 2.0**
- 10:15 am **WBPANS AGM Planning Session Report**—Colleen Cameron
- 10:45 am **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *EASTERN DRAINAGE***
- 11:00 am **Terra Beata Cranberries** – David & Evelyn Ernst
- 11:30 am **Wild Blueberry Innovation Challenge Report**
- 12:00 pm **LUNCH** - provided in the Salon ABC sponsored by
 TRURO AGROMART LTD., KOPPERT CANADA & BAYER CROPSCIENCE

Afternoon Session: Chair: Peter Van Dyk, Vice-President

- 1:00 pm **Pest Control Products & Fertilizers for 2019** – Tim/Sandra Fisher, Truro Agromart Ltd.
- 1:20 pm **Bringing Fields Back Into Production**—Peter Burgess, Perennia
- 1:40 pm **Climate Change Impacts on Fruit Fly & Spotted Wing Drosophila**
 Dr. Debra Moreau, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- 2:00 pm **Sheep Sorrel Management at Reduced Costs & Ignite Affects on Fescue**
 Dr. Scott White, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 2:30 pm **Disease Management With Minimal Control Measures**
 Dr. David Percival, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 3:00 pm **NUTRITION BREAK SPONSORED BY *CAVENDISH AGRI-SERVICES LTD.***
- 3:15 pm **Fruit Quality Effects – A Researchers Perspective**
 Dr. Travis Esau, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
 Dr. Scott White, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
 Dr. David Percial, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
 Dr. Chris Cutler, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture
- 4:30 pm **ADJOURN**

Pesticide Applicator Refresher Session for Wild Blueberry Producers

March 29th, 2019 – Best Western Glengarry, Truro
(9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

WBPANS and Perennia are partnering on a pesticide applicator refresher session to review the importance of proper pesticide application with the unique challenges of the wild blueberry industry in mind.

You must pre-register to attend this course. Space is limited, contact the WBPANS office to secure your spot: 902-662-3306 or info@nswildblueberries.com

(PRCP points pending)

Agenda:

9:00 – 9:15 am	Introduction – setting the plan for the day
9:15 – 9:45 am	Pesticide application in the wild blueberry sector, an overview
9:45 – 10:30 am	Spray quality 101 (Pressure, boom height, nozzle selection etc.)
10:30 – 10:45 am	Stretch legs (break)
10:45 – 11:30 am	Pesticide Safety for wild blueberry
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Optimizing pesticide efficacy
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Pesticide mixing
2:00 – 3:00 pm	New technology and the future of pesticide application in wild blueberry
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Final questions, feed back



NOVA SCOTIA FROST LOSS PROGRAM 2018-2019

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture recently announced the Frost Loss Program. The Frost Loss Program helps Nova Scotia farmers recover from crop and financial losses from the frost/freeze event in June 2018.

The program will provide financial assistance in consideration with other business risk management programs that are available, like AgriInsurance and AgriStability.

You can apply for the program if you:

- are at least 19 years of age
- have a commercial farm operation with a current Farm Registration
- are enrolled (or show proof of new enrollment) in either AgriInsurance or AgriStability

You must apply by 15 March 2019.

Complete the Frost Loss program application form and include the required production and financial records.

- Submit your form to Department of Agriculture Programs and Business Risk Management by 15 March 2019

If you're new to the program, you must complete the Program Funding Registration (PFR) form. If you're a returning client, update the PFR form as needed.

To obtain a copy of the complete program guidelines and application forms go to:

<https://novascotia.ca/programs/Frost-Loss-Program/>

or call NSDA Programs & Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6377 toll free: 1-866-844-4276, email: prm@novascotia.ca for further information.

Renewing your Pesticide Applicators Certificate of Qualification

For those currently holding a certificate, you are able to renew without writing the pesticide exams **provided you have accumulated enough pesticide points prior to expiry**. There is a requirement to have a minimum of 15 points over a 5 year period, with no more than 10 points collected in any one year.

Please note: **If you hold a certificate, it is your responsibility to know when it will expire and to keep track of the recertification points you have accumulated.** The expiry date for your certificate is indicated on the certificate itself. If your certificate has expired and you have not accumulated sufficient points, you will be required to write the exams again.

Nova Scotia Environment is no longer sending out reminder letters when your certificate is about to expire. To apply for a recertification, you can find the forms at the following link: **<https://novascotia.ca/nse/resources/permits.asp#pests>** or contact your local office for more information.

For a complete list of the 2019 Nova Scotia Pesticide Certification Exam Schedule please go to

<https://novascotia.ca/nse/pests/docs/Pesticide-exam-schedule.pdf>

or contact your local Dept. of Environment office at:

Kentville:	902-679-6086	Amherst:	902-667-6205
Bridgewater:	902-543-4685	Sydney:	902-563-2100
Yarmouth:	902-742-8985	Port Hawkesbury:	902-625-0791
Bedford:	902-424-7773	Antigonish:	902-863-7389
Truro:	902-893-5880		

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

PO Box 119 Debert, NS B0M 1G0 Tel: 902-662-3306 Email: info@nswildblueberries.com

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia Board, Executive & Committee Updates:

What does WBPANS do for me? Is this a question that you've pondered? WBPANS Board of Directors, Executive, Committee members and staff hear this question being asked by members. We recognize the importance of good communication and admit that time restrictions do not always allow us to keep the lines of communication as strong as possible. Updates on staff and Board activities are always provided at Winter Information Meetings, Twilight Meetings, Field Days and the Annual Meeting, hopefully by including these updates in our newsletter, growers who are unable to attend these meetings will have access to this information in a timely manner. We will strive to keep you informed of the hard work that the staff and many dedicated volunteers do behind the scenes on behalf of wild blueberry producers in Nova Scotia.

Who are your Board members? Your 2019 Board includes: Barron Blois (President), Peter Van Dyk (Vice-President), Jeff Orr (Past President), John Cameron (WBANA-Canada representative), Art Sargent, Jeff Perrin, Jim Baillie, Mark Austin, Jonathan Millen, Peter Swinkels, Don Mingo, Alice Pugsley (Promotion Committee Chair), Joe Slack (Finance Committee Chair). WBPANS Executive committee includes: President, Vice-President, Past President and Executive Director. Contact information for staff and your Board can be found on our website (www.nswildblueberries.com). A complete list of Board and Committee members is also published each year in our AGM booklet. WBPANS Committees include the Finance Committee, Promotion Committee, Research Committee & the Industry & Sustainability Committee. These committees meet on a regular basis to deal with related issues. Feel free to contact staff, Board or Committee members if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.

Your Board and Committee members are all volunteers and provide many hours of service to the industry, all in addition to commitments to their "other jobs". They attend many meetings and provide valuable insight and discussion into the many issues affecting the wild blueberry industry in Nova Scotia.

Each January your Board meets for a Board meeting and a full day of planning for the upcoming year. They discuss and identify the priorities (both short and long term) that they feel are the most important.

In addition to the many administrative duties and numerous behind the scenes meetings that require staff and Board attention, here are some of the important issues your Board and Committees have identified and continue working on, on your behalf:

Financial Assistance for the 2018 frost event - Staff, Board and Executive members have had many meetings with NS Department of Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell, and staff to address the financial loss incurred by wild blueberry producers as a result of the June 2018 frost event. The loss to the wild blueberry industry is estimated to be over \$14 million. A Frost Loss Program was just announced by the NS Department of Agriculture. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2019 so don't delay getting your applications submitted. For more information please contact NSDA Programs & Business Risk Management office at 902-893-6377 or toll free 1-866-844-4276, Email: prm@novascotia.ca or you can download the guidelines and application at <https://novascotia.ca/programs/Frost-Loss-Program/>.

Agri-Stability & Crop Insurance for wild blueberry growers – Staff, Board and Executive members have met with NSDA staff and had discussions on how these safety net programs could better serve wild blueberry growers. WBPANS Executive in addition to John Cameron, Neri Vautour, and Curtis Millen met recently with Mark Eyking, MP and Chair of the Standing Committee on International Trade as well as MP Bill Casey in Debert. Discussions with Mark & Bill included safety net programs and international marketing programs for wild blueberries. WBPANS Board will continue to lobby all levels of government to improve the safety net programs.

Field Price, Farm Profitability & Fruit Quality - The Board recognizes that field price, farm profitability and fruit quality are major issues facing the industry. Discussions continue with processors, government officials and other provincial wild blueberry associations and commodities to forge a path forward for the wild blueberry industry. There are no easy, quick fixes for these issues but they are in the forefront of all discussions at WBPANS Board and Committee meetings.

Strategic Planning Strategy - WBPANS received a grant of \$5,000 from ACOA to develop a strategic planning framework that will lead to an initiative to address and map out a long term plan for the wild blueberry industry. Stuart Stratheed, Knightsbridge Marketing Consulting, has been hired for this initial project. Stuart has been working with a committee (Barron Blois, Peter VanDyk, Jeff Orr, Neil Erb, Joe Slack and Peter Rideout) to review the current structure of the industry and the development of recommendations for a long term plan. A final report on this initial project will be delivered at the Winter Information meeting on March 28th.

Results from 2018 AGM Planning Session: At the 2018 AGM, an Association planning session was held on Saturday afternoon. Members discussed what WBPANS does best, what WBPANS can do better and what sustainability of the industry might look like. Comments and recommendations from members were documented and forwarded to the Board. WBPANS Board reviewed and discussed the comments & recommendations at the January Board meeting and asked the Industry & Sustainability Committee to review and bring recommendations for priorities and action to the February Board meeting. A sub-committee met and prioritized the recommendations and reported to the Industry & Sustainability Committee on. A report will be presented to the WBPANS members at the Winter Information Meeting, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge - During the 2017/2018 fiscal year, WBPANS committed \$60,000 for a value-added product development project. NS Dept. of Agriculture committed \$80,000 additional funds to this project. A committee of entrepreneurs, NSDA staff, ACOA staff and WBPANS representatives received, reviewed and scored 14 submissions from businesses across Nova Scotia. As a result of the incredible uptake for this program, NSDA has committed additional funds for the development of the product chosen for second place. WBPANS has successfully lobbied NSDA to have this program extend for another two years.

Harvester Efficiency Program and other wild blueberry programs - WBPANS staff and Board members and wild blueberry researchers worked with NSDA staff to develop the 2018 Harvester Efficiency Program to assist growers with upgrades to existing harvesters to make them more efficient. There has been large uptake with this program and WBPANS continues to lobby to have it extended for another year. WBPANS staff and Executive have lobbied Minister Colwell and NSDA staff for financial assistance for domestic promotion and other programs to assist wild blueberry growers as well. 2019 NSDA programs will be announced in February / March 2019.

Other Priorities - Some additional priorities that WBPANS staff, Board & Committees have been addressing include:

- Planning of 2019 meetings: Winter Information Meeting, Twilight Meetings, Field Day & Annual General Meeting.
- Development of a Policy & Procedures manual for the Board of Directors.
- Representation on Joint Pollination Committee
- Presentation at NS Beekeepers Conference, Feb. 15 & 16, Truro.
- Domestic Promotion program for 2019 which includes attendance at 2019 Saltscapes Expos, April 26-28 in Halifax and November 8-10 in Masstown; maintenance of displays and advertising at Visitor Information Centre, Amherst and Stanfield International Airport, Halifax; and planning for promotional events targeted toward chefs, restaurants' culinary students & retail grocery managers, to increase awareness of the potential uses of wild blueberries, health benefits and the wild blueberry industry in Nova Scotia; maintenance of social media sites.
- Collaborative research priorities with Bleuets New Brunswick Blueberries & PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association. WBPANS continues to work through the Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research & Development Institute (CWBIRDI) to access federal research money via a Pan-Atlantic proposal for collaborative wild blueberry research in Atlantic Canada.

Feel free to contact Peter or Janet at the WBPANS office with any questions or concerns.
168 Dakota Road, PO Box 119 Debert, NS B0M 1G0 Tel: 902-662-3306, Fax: 902-662-3284 or
Email: info@nswildblueberries.com Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm.



WBANA-CANADA UPDATE

Since the WBANA Symposium in Fredericton in October 2018, WBANA Canada representatives John Cameron, President and Neri Vautour, Executive Director, have been meeting in person and via conference call with all wild blueberry industry representatives, producer associations and processors. This was in response to the decision by Oxford Frozen Foods to withdraw from the WBANA program for the 2018 crop and a desire by the WBANA funding partners to review the program and develop a new plan and budget for global wild blueberry promotion and health research going forward.

In these many discussions with all of the WBANA stakeholders and funding partners, it was agreed that the Health Research program and the important wild blueberry health story were key components that everyone wanted to keep in place and that we had to have the resources to get the wild blueberry health message out to the trade and to consumers.

The WBANA Canada Board has evaluated all of the input from the stakeholders and has come up with a budget and a plan for the 2019-2020 year. This plan and budget is based on all producer groups and all processors, with the exception of Oxford Frozen Foods, contributing a minimum of 0.0025 cent per pound on the 2018 crop. Some members have indicated that they will contribute more than that minimum.

WBANA Canada will participate, as always, in spring and summer events put on by the various producer associations, providing updates and welcoming feedback from all of the industry partners on this new WBANA program.

WBANA will continue to develop new promotion and health research projects and events that will benefit all stakeholders and grow the wild blueberry industry into the future.



BEELINE 1-866-606-4636 (TOLL FREE)

If wild blueberry growers are looking for pollinators this year, they can check on the Perennia "Marketplace" website to source them:

<https://marketplace.perennia.ca/>



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Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia

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WHERE WE'VE BEEN

November 5—CWBIRDI Board meeting in Debert
November 8-11—WBPANS Staff & Volunteers hosted booth at Harvest Greets the Holiday Expo in Masstown
November 15—Pre-Conference Workshop at Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro
November 16 & 17—WBPANS Annual General Meeting at the Best Western Hotel, Truro
November 28—Peter Rideout attended Joint Pollination Committee meeting in Truro
November 29— Peter Rideout attended the NSFA Annual Meeting in Truro
December 13—Planning Committee met with Stuart Strathdee Re: industry strategic plan framework
December 17—WBPANS Promotion Committee meeting in Debert
December 19—WBPANS Executive met with Hon. Mark Eyking in Debert
January 2—Peter Rideout met with NSDA staff in Truro
January 3—Planning Committee met with Stuart Strathdee Re: industry strategic plan framework
January 8—Peter Rideout met with NSDA staff Re: Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge projects
January 14—WBPANS Board meeting in Truro
January 15—WBPANS Board planning session in Truro & met with Stuart Strathdee Re: industry strategic plan framework
January 16—Peter Rideout met with Perennia staff Re: Wild Blueberry Solutions Challenge project
January 17—Peter Rideout & Executive met with Minister Colwell Re: wild blueberry advisory committee
January 22—Peter Rideout & Alice Pugsley attended meeting of Agricultural Awareness Committee in Dartmouth
January 23—Peter Rideout met with Greg Connell for promotion planning
January 28—Peter Rideout & Barron Blois met with NSDA staff in Kentville
January 28 & 29—Peter Rideout attended Scotia Hort Congress, in Greenwich, NS
January 30—Peter Rideout met with Dr. Qamar Zaman & Dr. Travis Esau in Debert
January 31—Peter Rideout attended PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association meeting in Charlottetown, PEI
February 5—Planning Committee met with Stuart Strathdee Re: industry strategic plan framework
February 6—Peter Rideout met with Greg Connell in Kentville
February 7—Industry & Sustainability Steering Committee meeting in Debert
February 12—Winter Meeting planning with Peter Burgess in Debert
February 22—Peter Rideout attended a meeting in Halifax Re: Nova Scotia Europe Strategy
February 25—Industry & Sustainability Committee meeting in Debert
February 26—CWBIRDI Board meeting in Debert
February 28—Peter Rideout & Barron Blois met with Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture in Kentville

2019 MEETING DATES

Winter Information Meeting—Thursday, March 28, Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro

Saltscapes Expo: April 26–28, 2019, Halifax Exhibition Centre, Halifax

Twilight Meetings: Monday, May 27—Millen Farms, 80 Little Dyke Road, Great Village
Tuesday, May 28—John Cameron's Receiving Shed, 648 Sherbrooke Rd, East River St. Mary's
Thursday, May 30—Art Sargent's Receiving Shed, 1480 Smith Hallow Rd, Parrsboro

Field Day: Thursday, July 18— Dr. Carson & Marion Community Centre, Springhill

Annual Meeting: Thursday & Friday, November 14 & 15—Best Western Glengarry Hotel, Truro