

NSFGA Apple News



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May 10, 2012

NSFGA Board of Directors

The May Board of Director's Meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday May 24 at 7:00 PM** in the Cornwallis Room of the Kentville Agricultural Centre. Members are invited to attend. NSFGA members wishing to receive Board minutes should request a copy from the office.

NSFGA Management Team

The next regular Management Team Meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY May 15, 2012 at 10:00 AM** at Blair House.

Changes to Crop Insurance Averaging Period

(by Mona Hennigar, Business Risk Management Committee Chair)

The NSFGA Business Risk Management Committee is pleased to report that after a number of meetings with the NS Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission (NSCLIC), as of 2012, the averaging period for calculating producers' "average insurable yield" will be based on a "stable" 10 year average.

In order to better reflect current production, NSCLIC has also updated its orchard tree densities for estimation of immature yield data. Two new categories (in green text) have been added, with production to start at year 3 and a graduated rise in production to reach maturity as follows:

Low density 155 trees/acre mature @ 12 years
 300 trees/acre mature @ 12 yrs
 600 trees/acre mature @ 8 yrs
High density 900 trees/acre mature @ 6 yrs

These figures have been implemented for the 2012 crop. They will be monitored by NSCLIC and adjusted if necessary.

Codling Moth Traps are Here

Codling moth traps will be ready for pick up next week. Office hours are 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday - Thursday and some Fridays. May 21 is Victoria Day and the office will be closed.

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NSFGA Bursary

The NSFGA is offering a Bursary of \$500, for the school year beginning Sept. 2012, to a student entering or already in a post secondary educational program in the field of Tree Fruit Production or a related science program which could include the following: Biology, Chemistry, Food Science, Plant Science, Environmental Science, Business or Agri-Business. Priority will be given to a member, or a child of a member, of the NSFGA. The Bursary will be awarded to a deserving student based on:

- ◆ academic achievement
- ◆ participation in school & community activities
- ◆ interest in the tree fruit industry

Applicants may receive the bursary once during a study program at the undergraduate level and once during a program at the graduate level. Applications are available from the NSFGA office, the NSFGA website (What's New & More) or from the Guidance Office of NS high schools. The deadline for applications to be received at the NSFGA office is May 29, 2012.



Peter van Oostrum presents the NSFGA Bursary to Garrett Pearson in June 2011.

April Storage Holdings-Canada

as at **Apr. 1, 2012**

Prov.	CA	Co/Co	Total
Nova Scotia	21358	1287	22645
NB & PEI		not reported	
Quebec	53142	709	53851
Ontario	76722	2059	78781
British Columbia	34893	9338	44231
Total	186115	13393	199508

as at **Apr. 1, 2011**

Prov.	CA	Co/Co	Total
Nova Scotia	23482	180	23662
NB & PEI		not reported	
Quebec	46158	353	46511
Ontario	54830	1409	56239
British Columbia	42064	5680	47744
Total	166534	7622	174156

Apr. Storage Holdings- Nova Scotia

By Variety and Use - **Apr. 1, 2012**

Variety	Fresh	Juice	Peel	Total
Ambrosia	94	0	0	94
Cortland	922	0	0	922
Empire	184	0	0	184
Gala	397	0	0	397
G Delicious	761	0	227	988
G Russet	3	0	0	3
Honeycrisp	8	0	0	8
Idared	616	0	3218	3834
Jonagold	966	0	29	995
McIntosh	5163	0	0	5163
N Spy	23	0	8279	8302
R Delicious	1314	0	0	1314
Spartan	180	0	0	180
Other	261	0	0	261
Total	10892	0	11753	22645

By Variety and Use - **Apr. 1, 2011**

Variety	Fresh	Juice	Peel	Total
Ambrosia	0	0	0	0
Cortland	2640	0	0	2640
Empire	364	0	0	364
Gala	0	0	0	0
G Delicious	934	0	94	1028
G Russet	0	0	0	0
Honeycrisp	1	0	0	1
Idared	475	0	3980	4455
Jonagold	958	0	0	958
McIntosh	4396	0	0	4396
N Spy	1	0	8041	8042
R Delicious	1043	4	0	1047
Spartan	404	0	0	404
Other	168	0	159	327
Total	11380	0	12278	23662

Legend: Quantities in '000 lb Units CA = Controlled Atmosphere Co/Co = Cold/Common

Source: INFOHORT

www.agr.ca/misb/infhort/infhort_e.html /

Nominations now Being Accepted for the Farm Environmental Stewardship Award

The award showcases outstanding stewardship efforts of farms. To be eligible for the award a farm must have an environmental farm plan, be a registered farm in NS, and be a member of the NS Federation of Agriculture. The award includes up to \$2000 for activities that further enhance their farm operation and a painting of the farm by a local artist. This will be the fourth season for this annual award. Information and nomination forms are available online at www.nsfa-fane.ca/EFP or from the NSFGA office.

Summer Jobs

The NSFGA's applications for Summer Students were accepted. We are looking for two students who will be returning to University in the fall. The jobs will end at the end of July, but there is potential for the students to do apple maggot inspection in August. Interested students should send their resumes to Helen at harenburg@nsapples.com

indicating whether they are interested in the Museum Interpretive Guide job or the Apple Maggot Eradication job by Wednesday May 16, 2012. Both jobs are Monday to Friday for the most part, with 1 or 2 weekend days and 1 late evening.

Nova Scotia Fruit Tree Sector to Innovate and Grow with Support from the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia

(from an ACOA press release)

The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), announced today, that it will provide \$47,500 in assistance to develop a growth and development strategy. The project will identify opportunities and actions that can advance the tree fruit industry by increasing efficiency through innovation and technology transfer. This will increase production in order to meet growing export demands, with the ultimate goal of increasing profitability and sustainability for Nova Scotia's tree fruit growers. "Our support for the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association will help the creation of jobs throughout the value chain, the

stimulation of investment and export opportunities, and the establishment of a sustainable business environment that encourages continued innovation and growth,” said West Nova MP Greg Kerr when he announced the funding on behalf of Hon. Bernard Valcourt, Minister of State for ACOA.

“The Nova Scotia tree fruit industry has grown in both size and market share over the last decade. My Department is pleased to support this development strategy through an investment of \$20,000. This funding will help take the industry to a new level and aligns closely with the Department of Agriculture’s Homegrown Success Strategy for development of good jobs in rural Nova Scotia,” said Agriculture Minister John MacDonell.

Reports of Frost/Freeze Damage to Apples in Other Areas

A hard freeze (temperatures below 28 F) in the Midwest US on April 12 was one of a number of cold events that dealt a hard blow to growers in many States. Temperatures of 25F were common in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota that day. Temperatures in Central and Southern Minnesota dropped to the mid - low 20's F on April 10.

In Illinois, low temperatures around April 11 and 12 hit peach very hard. Jonathan and Empire suffered 30 - 60% losses and one block of Honeycrisp suffered a 60% loss. In western Illinois there was an 80% loss to grape.

Earlier, Michigan suffered serious damage to tart cherries after a hard freeze in March which killed 80 - 90% of the buds. There was 40 - 60% bud kill on apples at that time.

The first sentence of the April 30 Scaffolds out of New York paints a gloomy picture for that State, “The continuous series of frost and freeze events across the region over the past several weeks has left most growers with dismal prospects for any type of normal fruit crop this season, or at best, a pronounced uncertainty over what actually does remain in the orchards that can carry on growing into something worth harvesting this fall.”

The picture painted by the Ontario Apple Growers is equally as gloomy, as their press release indicates that the damage is widespread, with some farmers having 100 percent loss in their orchards. In the Georgian Bay area where 25 percent of Ontario’s apples are grown, growers have lost 80% of their

crop, according to Brian Gilroy, Chairman of the Ontario Apple Growers.

In Nova Scotia, Tree Fruit Specialist Bill Craig, estimates damage to blossoms at + or - 10%.

Mounding soil around graft union of Honeycrisp

Researchers at Michigan State found that mounding of soil above the graft union of Honeycrisp planted in sandy or gravelly soils helped prevent the trees from running out. The mounds of soil were removed after two or three years. The intent of the research was to see if mounding the soil would protect newly planted trees from dogwood borers and the improved vigor on weak soils was an observation. Dr. Ron Perry made a presentation about this work in January at the Northwest Michigan Orchard and Vineyard Show, the presentation can be found online in video and PDF format at www.hrt.msu.edu/ronald-perry/pg3.

Brown Marmorated Stinkbug (BMSB)

Two BMSB were found at a UK airport in 2010 in passenger luggage on a flight from the US. It seems like these bugs are good hitchhikers!

Nova Scotians are again invited to drop off suspected BMSBs at one of three collection sites around the province: the Kentville Agricultural Centre - Attn: Suzanne Blatt, the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History - Attn: Andrew Hebda, and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College - Attn: Chris Cutler. Please keep your eye open for stinkbugs when working in the orchards. (In 2010 18% of the apple crops in the mid-eastern US were damaged by BMSB, so we know they like apple!)

In the fall of 2010 New York launched a similar statewide monitoring program. In the fall of 2011 they changed the program a bit and requested that the public submit digital photos taken with GPS equipped phones. This allowed the co-ordinates of the confirmed BMSB’s to be mapped.

Advance Payment Program Update

The spring portion of the Advance Payment Program is underway. If you wish to participate please contact Teresa Rooney.

NSFGA and NSTFRF meetings are on the **Calendar of Events** found on the ‘What’s New and More’ tab of our website www.nsapples.com

May Storage Holdings-Canada

as at **May 1, 2012**

Prov.	CA	Co/Co	Total
Nova Scotia	15933	1033	16966
NB & PEI		not reported	
Quebec	41509	0	41509
Ontario	59773	1291	61064
British Columbia	15420	8046	23466
Total	132635	10370	143005

as at **May 1, 2011**

Prov.	CA	Co/Co	Total
Nova Scotia	17260	115	17375
NB & PEI		not reported	
Quebec	35230	296	35526
Ontario	38082	762	38844
British Columbia	24142	5145	29287
Total	114714	6318	121032

May Storage Holdings- Nova Scotia

By Variety and Use - **May 1, 2012**

Variety	Fresh	Juice	Peel	Total
Ambrosia	8	0	0	8
Cortland	263	0	0	263
Empire	81	0	0	81
Gala	153	0	0	153
G Delicious	565	0	179	744
Idared	431	0	2563	2994
Jonagold	546	0	29	575
McIntosh	3497	0	0	3497
N Spy	0	0	7151	7151
R Delicious	1200	0	0	1200
Spartan	98	0	0	98
Other	202	0	0	202
Total	7044	0	9922	16966

By Variety and Use - **May 1, 2011**

Variety	Fresh	Juice	Peel	Total
Ambrosia	0	0	0	0
Cortland	1436	0	0	1436
Empire	297	0	0	297
Gala	0	0	0	0
G Delicious	699	0	95	794
Idared	446	0	3377	3823
Jonagold	655	0	0	655
McIntosh	3019	0	0	3019
N Spy	0	0	6320	6320
R Delicious	664	0	0	664
Spartan	253	0	0	253
Other	114	0	0	114
Total	7583	0	9792	17375

Legend: Quantities in '000 lb Units

CA = Controlled Atmosphere

Co/Co = Cold/Common

Source: INFOHORT

www.agr.ca/misb/infohort/infohort_e.html /

Bee Informed

A new consortium, the BEE Informed Partnership (BIP), was formed with funding (\$5 million for 5 years) from the US Dept. of Agriculture. This is extension based and aims to help beekeepers identify and adopt methods to reduce the number of bee colonies that die over winter. BIP plans to communicate new information to beekeepers through it's website beeinformed.org and Facebook page. If you are interested in bees you might find something to interest you there.

Honey Bees Exhibit Acute Poisoning Symptoms

(from a Ontario Beekeepers' Assoc. Press Release)

By May 1, the Ontario Beekeepers' Association had received more than 50 reports of honey bees observed with acute poisoning symptoms. These reports involved more multiple hives per location and in all cases surrounding fields had been air seeded with corn.

The Incident Reporting Program of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency is working on this issue and has circulated a request through the NS Dept. of Environment for individuals to report any bee kills in our province. Information can be sent to pmra-incident-arla@hc-sc.gc.ca.



Ice encased orchard block at Andy Parker's on the morning of May 1, 2012.

NS Fruit Growers' Assoc.

Kentville Agricultural Centre

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***FOR THE THIRD YEAR, THE NS FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION AND SCOTIAN GOLD ARE
CO-HOSTING THE BATTLE OF THE PIES!***

There is 1 major rule: Pies ***MUST*** be made with Nova Scotia grown apples
and
1 other rule: ***NO TREE NUTS*** may be used

WHO CAN ENTER? You Can!

THERE ARE 2 CATEGORIES:

General Public
Apple Industry

WHEN DO THE PIES NEED TO BE READY?

Pies will be judged by Chef Adam Langille of Brigadoon Children's Camp &
Chef Tim Leamont of Heart's Delight Café at Scotian Gold Fun Day
Sunday June 3, 2012

HOW DO I ENTER:

Contact Helen Arenburg at 678-1093 or harenburg@nsapples by May 30 to register