

October 24-26, 2012

Fredericton Convention Centre, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Blueberry producers have a unique opportunity to learn how wild blueberries are promoted in key international markets and in the domestic market; to hear the latest in health research; and to discuss production issues with the Wild BREW group. Representatives from promotional agencies in Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, the USA and Canada will be delivering talks. Leading food researcher Dr. Willy Kalt will be presenting along with Wild BREW productions researchers. This one-of-a-kind wild blueberry industry event is being organized by WBANA in partnership with grower associations and agencies in Quebec and the Maritimes. Producers, buyers, processors and researchers from Canada and Maine are invited to attend, making this a key learning and networking event for the entire industry.

Detailed agenda and registration form can be accessed at the following link, or by contacting the Agriculture Information Desk at 1-866-PEIFARM (734-3276) or local (902) 368-4145:

[http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/aqweb/events\\_calendar/displaylinks.php3?event\\_id=2607](http://www.gov.pe.ca/af/aqweb/events_calendar/displaylinks.php3?event_id=2607)

PEI Fall Evening Information Session for Blueberry Growers

November 8, 2012

Farm Centre, Charlottetown, PEI

Please reserve Thursday evening, November 8 to attend an information session for PEI blueberry growers. One main speaker will be featured to present the results of research on Hawkweed species which was conducted over the past two production seasons in PEI. The newly revised PEI Blueberry Growers' Association website will also be highlighted. Time will also be set aside for open discussion from the members. This evening meeting will take the place of the annual Fall Information Day. *More details to follow.*



PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association Website

[www.peiwildblueberries.com](http://www.peiwildblueberries.com)

November 8, 2012

Farm Centre, Charlottetown, PEI

The PEI Wild Blueberry Growers' Association website has been revamped and updated. There is now a Public Section and a Members' Section. As a member of the Association, you can access the 'PEIWBGA Members' Section with a password. This password can be obtained from Board members, or by attending the evening information session on Thursday, November 8, 2012.

## WBPANS / Wild Blueberry Producers' Association of Nova Scotia - Fall Meeting

**November 16 & 17, 2012**

Best Western Glengarry, Truro, Nova Scotia

<http://www.nswildblueberries.com/>

Nova Scotia's blueberry convention and AGM are fast approaching. Details can be found on their website or by calling the WBPANS office at (902) 662-3306.

## Crop Insurance Deadline - November 30

The deadline for Blueberry Crop (Production) Insurance is **November 30, 2012**. Growers are encouraged to participate in the program as part of the wider safety net options available. If a crop insurance agent does not contact you in the next few weeks, please call the Agriculture Insurance Corp. at (902) 368-6677.

## Blueberry Pollination Plan - Survey

The PEI AgriAlliance Inc. is currently soliciting input from PEI blueberry growers and beekeepers regarding the supply of honey bees for blueberry pollination in PEI. Your direct input is critical for the development of a plan which will ensure that an adequate supply of honey bees are available to blueberry growers allowing them to maximize yield potential and support the future sustainability of the bee keeper sector in the province. Growers are encouraged to participate by completing the attached survey and returning no later than October 12, 2012 or by completing the online survey link:

Link to the Blueberry Growers' Survey-Pollination survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PEI-Blueberry-Growers-Pollination>

## Text Message Updates - *Chris Jordan*



I have been trying a new service this year with text messaging. Periodically, I have been informing PEI blueberry growers of upcoming events, short notices, and reminders via text messaging. It started in May during the Blight Monitoring Program where I notified growers when the blight forecast had been updated and posted. I have received positive feedback from growers. If you would like to participate in this service and receive text messages from me, please let me know via a text or phone call to (902) 314-0816 indicating that you want to be added.



Please send us your email address so that you can receive information quicker & more often. Simply send to [cwjordan@gov.pe.ca](mailto:cwjordan@gov.pe.ca)

*Visit the PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry's*

*Calendar of Events page at*

[www.peifarm.ca](http://www.peifarm.ca)

## PEI Blueberry Growers' Survey - Pollination

The PEI AgriAlliance Inc. is currently soliciting input from PEI blueberry growers and beekeepers regarding the supply of honey bees for blueberry pollination in PEI. Your direct input is critical for the development of a plan which will ensure that an adequate supply of honey bees are available to blueberry growers allowing them to maximize yield potential and support the future sustainability of the bee keeper sector in the province. A separate survey is being distributed to PEI beekeepers as well. **All individual responses will be kept confidential.** We ask that you provide your name on the survey to ensure only one response is provided per farm/operation. We would appreciate it if you could complete this survey by October 12, 2012.

Name & Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been growing blueberries in PEI? \_\_\_\_\_ years

How many bearing acres did you have in 2007? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

How many bearing acres did you have in 2012? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

How many bearing acres do you plan to have in 2015? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

### The following questions all pertain to 2012:

Did you use honeybees for blueberry pollination in 2012? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, how many hives in total did you use? \_\_\_\_\_ hives

If yes, what number of hives/acre did you use? \_\_\_\_\_ hives/bearing acre

Were you able to access the number of honeybee hives you wanted for 2012?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If no, how many additional hives did you want that you could not access in 2012?

\_\_\_\_\_ hives

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you used honeybees in 2012, how many were:

- your own honeybees? \_\_\_\_\_ hives

- rented from PEI beekeepers \_\_\_\_\_ hives

- rented from off-Island sources \_\_\_\_\_ hives

### General:

In your blueberry operation, are you able to move hives from one field to another, ie. do you have early and late blossoming fields? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, how many hives do you use in more than one location in a normal season?

\_\_\_\_\_ hives

If you rent honeybees, do you rent from the same beekeeper year after year?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a formal "agreement" or "contract" with a beekeeper which outlines the expectations of both parties with regards to pollination services?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you use other pollinators for your blueberries? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many of the other type of pollinators do you use?

- purchased bumblebee quads \_\_\_\_\_ quads
- leaf cutter bees \_\_\_\_\_ gallons
- other \_\_\_\_\_ units

Are you a beekeeper? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not, have you considered keeping bees yourself in order to ensure you have access to an adequate supply of honeybees for pollinating your blueberry crop?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you're not a beekeeper, have you considered forming partnerships with other blueberry growers to meet your pollination requirements (ie. support a beekeeper to provide bees for you and/or your partners)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many honeybee hives/acre is the ideal stocking rate for pollination of your blueberry operation? \_\_\_\_\_ hives/acre

Are you currently at that ideal rate? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If no, why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If available, how many honeybee hives per bearing acre will you use next year? \_\_\_\_\_  
If available, how many honeybee hives per bearing acre will you use in 2015? \_\_\_\_\_

If you currently rent honeybees for pollination, do you have them inspected for hive strength before they arrive on your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think that hives should be inspected for strength before they are placed on your farm? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to pay for this service? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to the types of information and/or training that you need to make your blueberry operation as successful as possible? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If no, please advise as to what type of information and/or training would you like to access? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have comments or views relating to the review of the Bee Health Regulations, ie. whether the current regulations should be maintained as is, or whether the regulations should be revised to allow the importation of colonies and/or genetics from a broader geographic area?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide other comments or concerns you would like to share with us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input. **Please send your completed survey by October 12, 2012.**

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