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## *PEI ADAPT Council Agri-Newsletter*

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Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

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### **Preserving P. E. I.'s Agricultural Land: Investment Options, Trusts & Ownership Structures**

The PEI ADAPT Council invites you to join us, on Thursday November 13, 2008, for an important day of discussion on preserving the land that feeds us; Prince Edward Island's agricultural land.

Agriculture is an important part of PEI's economy. One of every 5 jobs in PEI is agriculturally related. Farmland also offers environmental benefits including wildlife habitat and the potential for groundwater recharge. Local agriculture helps to meet sustainable development goals; and the aesthetic landscapes are important for attracting visitors and for maintaining our high quality of life.

Over the past 20 years there has been a consolidation of PEI farms resulting in a 40% decrease in the number of farms. Although the average size of remaining farms has increased, resulting in a fairly stable amount of total acreage being farmed, the vast majority of farmers are nearing retirement age and few of them have a succession plan in place. Today, approximately, 90% of new Canadian farmers are small diversified, direct marketing entrepreneurs. This situation poses a question of an emerging issue. Who will continue to farm, own and control the land?

We will review the history of land ownership on PEI, various options for preserving the land and ways of attracting new investment to help support Island agriculture.

We hope you will join us on Thursday November 13, 2008, listen to our guest speakers, offer your comments and help contribute to an action plan for preserving the land we cherish. The day's schedule runs from 9:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. There is no fee and a light lunch will be provided. Please call the ADAPT Council office (902-368-2005) to reserve a space and confirm your participation.



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**Preserving P. E. I.'s Agricultural Land:  
Investment Options, Trusts & Ownership Structures**

**Agenda**

**Where:** Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

**Date:** Thursday November 13, 2008

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

**9:30 - 9:35 a.m. - Welcome**

Elmer MacDonald, Chair PEI ADAPT Council

**9:35 - 9:45 - Greetings from PEI Government**

Hon. Wesley J. Sheridan, Provincial Treasurer

**9:40 - 10:10 - Prince Edward Island History Lesson on Land Tenure**

Boyde Beck, Island Historian

PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation

Questions

**10:15 - 10:30 - How Land Trusts and Agricultural Easements Can Protect Farmland**

Phil Ferraro, Executive Director PEI ADAPT Council

Report on The Land Trust Alliance, 2008 Conference & Training Seminar

**10:30 - 10:45 - Coffee and Nutrition Break**

**10:45 - 11:15 - Attracting Investment Capital for Island Farmers:**

**Real Estate Income Trusts (REITs)**

Tim Carroll, Associate Professor, Business UPEI

Questions

**11:30 - 12:45 - Lunch with Special Guest,**

**Chris Payne, Nova Scotia Economic Development**

**Investing in Local Economic Development**

Nova Scotia's Community Economic Development Investment Fund

Questions

**1:00 - 1:30 - Working with a Local Investment Group (REIT's in Action)**

Norman and Laura Shoemaker,

2007 Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers Award Winners

Questions

**1:45 - 2:15 - Panel Discussion, Questions and Answers & Next Steps**

### **Carbon Credit Project for Livestock Producers**

As words like climate change and greenhouse gas emissions become part of everyday language, Maritime livestock producers are hoping to improve both the environment and their bottom lines through a carbon credit project co-ordinated by Pork Nova Scotia.

Agri-Futures Nova Scotia, P.E.I. ADAPT Council and the New Brunswick Agricultural Council are contributing a total of \$140,350 to the project through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Foods Program.

The project will see farms throughout the region evaluate current greenhouse gas emissions and compare them to the baseline year in 1990. Henry Vissers of Pork Nova Scotia, said the this will suggest management practices that can be used to increase the potential carbon offsets created on the farm, and explore ways the offsets can be sold as carbon credits.

"This can become potential revenue source for hog producers in this region," said Vissers.

MacLeod Agronomics in Fredericton has been hired to co-ordinate the project. Company spokesman Cedric MacLeod is a nationally recognized specialist in this field. MacLeod said the current downturn in commodity prices for the hog industry has resulted in slower progress than he had hoped, but he is confident the industry will see the long term benefits of the idea.

For example, he cited the fall manure application as one of the baseline practices at which the study will look. "If manure was spread twice a year what would the implications be for greenhouse gas emissions— these are the kinds of things we want to find out."

MacLeod also cited the important role feed plays in the gas emissions of hogs. He said care must be taken to find the balance between the maximum meat yield per kilogram and an acceptable methane gas result.

The study will also look at factors like manure storage. A covered manure storage area can have a tremendous impact on the volume of greenhouse gases a farm produces.

As the battle for climate change heats up around the world, MacLeod predicts the carbon offset market could become a significant income source for Atlantic producers. In a tight price market like the one producers now find themselves, he said such income could be an important part of the farm equation.

Adopting these kinds of best practices pays benefits to all areas of farm operation. "In my experience the more efficient the farm operation, the less greenhouse gases it will produce," said MacLeod. He also believes that the project will position producers in the region to take full advantage of other federal or provincial programs that may be introduced to help reduce emissions.

### **Soil Matters Workshops with Fred Magdoff; Charlottetown (Nov. 10, 2008)**

In the last of ACORN's Building the Soil workshop series, Fred will address the application of ecological principles to agriculture, soil organic matter (what it is and why it's so important), an overview of ecologically-based soil health management, and soil testing—why so much confusion over results and interpretation? Fred is a recently retired professor of plant and soil science at the University of Vermont in Burlington and co-author of "Building Soils for Better Crops", available for free download (large PDF file).

<http://www.soilandhealth.org/03sov/0302hsted/030218bettersoils.pdf>

## **Energy Solutions for Our Farms and Communities**

Hotel Beausejour, Moncton, NB; November 18-19 , 2008

Description: This is the first conference solely dedicated to finding energy solutions that will work for the agriculture industry in Atlantic Canada. The possibilities and opportunities to help manage and generate energy are real. The agriculture industry in Atlantic Canada will play an increasingly important role in the development of energy solutions for their operations and their communities. Be part of the solution.

Workshop topics:

- \* Energy Conservation
- \* Heating Alternatives
- \* Biogas Systems
- \* Wind & Solar Energy Options
- \* Biofuel Technologies
- \* Energy Crops Options
- \* Selling Carbon Credits

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## **Australians Urged to Eat Kangaroo**

Source: BBC News On-Line; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7645969.stm>

An Australian government adviser on climate change has urged Australians to ditch beef and lamb for kangaroo steaks to help save the planet.

Sheep and cows produce a high amount of environmentally unfriendly methane gas through belching and flatulence.

But economist Ross Garnaut noted in a report on global warming that kangaroos produce virtually no methane.

He predicts a change in farming and eating habits with the introduction of a national carbon trading scheme.

In a 600-page study commissioned by the Australian government, Professor Garnaut calls for the agricultural industry to be included in the emissions trading scheme to be set up by 2010.

This would mean landowners would have to buy permits for their greenhouse gas emissions if they go beyond the recommended limits.

Many health-conscious Australians have been won over by its lean red meat.

## **On-line Resources**

Cultivating the Web book online edition:

[http://www.eatwellguide.org/downloads/pubs/080811\\_CultivatingTheWeb.pdf](http://www.eatwellguide.org/downloads/pubs/080811_CultivatingTheWeb.pdf)

Cultivating The Web gives a terrific overview of the many ways that such digital tools as social networking, YouTube, and wikis have helped promote an alternative food system. There are anecdotes and quotes highlighting the many ways that cutting edge technology is being used to

revive our local communities, help folks find fresh, healthy foods, and support sustainable agriculture. Regardless of what information you seek, you're likely to find pages of resources in Cultivating The Web to steer you to the websites with the information you're seeking.

Declaration for Healthy Food and Agriculture Read the 12 Principles for developing a strong healthy food and agriculture policy globally unveiled by Roots of Change and Slow Food Nation and endorsed by food and farm advocates worldwide: <http://fooddeclaration.org/>

Slow Food Nation—On Labor Day weekend in San Francisco, over 60,000 people attended the Slow Food Celebration. Check out the website to watch videos of the Food for Thought discussions with Alice Waters, Carlo Petrini, Michael Pollan and others. : <http://slowfoodnation.org/>

New Food website:

CITIZEN Shift, a participatory social issues website for videos, photos, audio and articles has a dossier called FOOD FOR THOUGHT about important issues affecting our food. Check out a video profile of the See More Green Collective Garden on the Dalhousie University Campus in Halifax, Nova Scotia. <http://citizen.nfb.ca/see-more-green-collective-garden>

Free Produce Profitability Calculator: This online calculator helps producers create scenarios to help make decisions about what and how much to plant as well as sales decisions such as how, where, when and setting a price. Read all about it at: <http://wallacesfarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=32100&fpstid=2>