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### Chairman's Report

- **Dr. Derek M. Anderson**

Research is really a test of resolve. The great news is that studies with laying hens began in the new Atlantic Poultry Research Centre (APRC) during August. With the current flock of hens, four projects are to be carried out. Research with broiler chickens began in October but had to be scaled down as penning promised for July has not been received. The delayed projects will be started in December with the meat wing of APRC full of projects related to nutrition and feeding. The processing wing will have a test run during November and should be an integral part of the research capability in time for the December flocks.

News on the poultry scientist front is excellent as Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) has hired a new poultry professor. Ms. Michelle Jendral will arrive at NSAC from the University of Alberta in January/February, 2008. She will be an excellent addition to the team of researchers on site at NSAC. In other people news, the NSAC has funded a second poultry unit staff position. Funds from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation that were awarded to the NSAC in support of the operation of the new research infrastructure (APRC) are being used to help ensure enough technical support is available for proper function for the APRC. We need to actively support initiatives that ensure

that Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC) provide an adequate level of support in APRC to meet the needs of the research activities of our AAFC scientist. APRI has settled into the office area of the Atlantic Poultry Research Centre and the staff and I invite you to drop by for a visit, enjoy a coffee and share your interests with us the next time you are in Truro and have a spare few minutes.

These are exciting times for poultry research in the region. Thanks for being part of the support for research focused toward poultry industry.



### APRI Profile on Kristen Doncaster

In January of 2007, Kristen transferred from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada in Kentville to join Dr. Bruce Rathgeber's federal research program at the NSAC in Truro. Kristen has a BSc (Animal Science) from NSAC (2002) and an MSc (Biology) from Dalhousie University (2004). She is experienced in a variety of laboratory techniques related to food chemistry and animal nutrition. In the past, she has been involved in research with dairy, swine and fish,

as well as fruits and vegetables. Kristen is new to the poultry research world, but is enjoying the challenges and opportunities her new position involves. Originally from St. Andrews, NB, Kristen currently resides in Thomson Station on a commercial beef and blueberry farm with her partner Kenny. Away from work, she enjoys spending time outdoors, working with animals, and visiting family and friends.

***We have moved!!***  
 The APRI office is now located in Room 106 of the Atlantic Poultry Research Centre building.  
 Please feel free to stop in for a visit!!

## FACT SHEETS

Since the last reporting of published fact sheets, we have produced the following:

FACTSHEET # 29	(May 07)	Improving Shell Quality for Late-cycle Laying Hens
FACTSHEET # 30	(Aug 07)	YBG in Broiler Chicken Diets - Revised

\* These and other fact sheets are available at [www.nsac.ca/apri/](http://www.nsac.ca/apri/) or at the APRI office \*

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Upcoming

- Triticale for Broiler Chickens
- Improving Broiler Chicken Meat Quality Through Nutritional Management of Stress
- Carcass Quality and Skin Integrity of Toe Trimmed Broilers
- Stress and Fear Level of Toe Trimmed Broilers
- The Structural Integrity of Skin from Broiler Chickens Reared with Continuous or Increasing Photoperiod Length

### Ongoing Research Projects – Trial Component - Completed

- Yeast Beta-Glucan for Layers
- Alternatives to Antibiotics for Broiler Turkeys (Biomos trials complete, Lysozyme trials in progress)
- Development and Evaluation of Value-added Poultry Feed from Apple By-products
- Prevention of Necrotic Enteritis in Broilers with Beta Glucan and Mannan Extracts
- Local Alternative Calcium Sources for Laying Hens

### Trials - in Progress - Initiated

- Whelk Shells for Laying Hens
- Yellow Seeded Canola Products for Poultry
- Evaluation of Marine By-Products for Broiler Chickens
- Blue Mussels for Laying Hens
- Uterine Protein profiles related to shell formation
- Use of Beta Glucan to Improve Immune Response in Chicken Vaccination

## Manuscripts

- Whole Wheat for Laying Hens (Accepted)
- Plant-Based Diets for Heavy Hen Turkeys (In Preparation)
- Feeding Turkeys a Highly Digestible Supplement during Preslaughter Feed Withdrawal. Poultry Science 86:2029-2083
- Growth Performance and Immune System Organ Weight of Broilers Fed Yeast Beta-Glucan. Submitted to Canadian Journal of Animal Science (In Preparation)
- Weight Gain and Feed Efficiency of Microwave Toe-Treated Broiler Chickens Grown with Two Photoperiod Programs (In Preparation)
- Carcass Quality and Skin Integrity of Microwave Toe-treated Broiler Chickens Grown with Two Photoperiod Programs (In Preparation)
- The Stress and Fear Levels of Microwave Toe-treated Broiler Chickens Grown with Two Photoperiod Programs (In Preparation)
- Nutritionally Supplemented Tryptophan in Broiler Chickens: Effects on Growth Performance and Stress Response (In Preparation)



- Dr. Bruce Rathgeber

We are all happy to be conducting research in the new Atlantic Poultry Research Centre at the NSAC. The centre has been the location for meetings of the APRI directors and weekly meetings of the graduate students and research staff. Although each production wing has birds housed for research the facility is not yet fully operational. The developments of rooms that can provide extreme environments under precise computer control are still in the development stage. We are working towards having these rooms operational by the time the next flock of laying hens arrives. These rooms are an expensive but key feature of the APRC.



The last of NSAC's previous generation of poultry buildings has been demolished (Poultry II in picture left) and the foundation for the new feed mill has been started on that site. Following the feed mill the final phase in construction will be the completion of a new hatchery. We will continue to keep the Atlantic poultry industry informed of developments involving the ongoing renewal of infrastructure at the NSAC in subsequent newsletters and on our APRI website.

### Reader's Reward!!

Please return this entry with your name, phone number and mailing address or you can email [lmcnutt@nsac.ca](mailto:lmcnutt@nsac.ca) with Reader's Reward in the subject line to be eligible for the draw.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Feed Mill Workshop - February 20, 2008 at the NSAC, Truro, NS



The Agricultural Community of the Atlantic Region is invited to take part in our first Feed Mill Workshop put on through the partnership of APRI, NSAC and AgraPoint.

This one day workshop is targeted to those in our agricultural industry whose daily work involves commercial and on-farm feed manufacturing or mixing / supplying feed ingredients / grain handling and/or the sale of feeds and rations.

This workshop will provide an interactive forum where feed industry experts will inform/challenge and update our Atlantic counterparts on current, relevant topics of concern in the feed industry. Some of the topics will be: feed mill planning, use of ethanol bi-product in feeds, sourcing feed ingredients, SRMs, what medicated feed regulations mean to the feed industry, verifying feed mixers, bio-security, making safe feed, improving feed milling/mixing efficiencies, etc.

For more information contact: APRI/NSAC – (902) 893-6657 or AgraPoint - (902) 896-0277  
Or visit: [www.agrapoint.ca](http://www.agrapoint.ca) or [www.extensioncentral.com](http://www.extensioncentral.com)

### Seating is limited

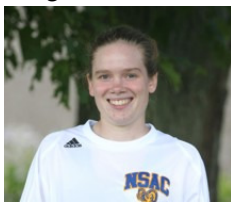
To express an interest in attending and get your name on a list of registrants, please call AgraPoint at 1-866-606-4636 (toll-free).

As soon as formal registration forms and the final agenda are available, you will be contacted to confirm your attendance.



... On our students

APRI would like to introduce two graduate students. **Rena Currie** is working under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Rathgeber, while **Balachandar Jayaraman** (Pondicherry, India) will be under the supervision of Dr. Derek Anderson.



**Annelies Schuurmans** (Milford, NS) and **Tanya McLaughlin** (Margaretsville, NS) are Dr. Rathgeber's under graduate student. (pictured left). **Jason Lewis** (Sydney, NS), **Holly Evans** (Main-A-Dieu, Cape Breton, NS), **Jennifer Eustace** (Torbay, NF) and **Meredith Leier** (Port Williams, NS) are all Dr. Anderson's under graduate students.

This newsletter is a publication of the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute (APRI). Its role is to keep those interested in poultry research activities in Atlantic Canada informed on the Institute's plans, activities and achievements.

The purpose of the Atlantic Poultry Research Institute is to further the interests of the regional poultry industry through research. It will endeavor to do this through the following objectives: 1. To serve as a vehicle for consultation amongst all stakeholders in the Atlantic poultry industry regarding research and development needs; 2. To encourage joint participation by industry and research institutions in setting research priorities; 3. To integrate the poultry research and development activities of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Atlantic Veterinary College into one strong regional program; 4. To solicit funds for poultry research development.

To be added to our Newsletter list or for comments & or suggestions please contact Lynn McNutt, PO Box 550, 25 Farm Lane Road, APRC, Truro, NS B2N 5E3 Phone: (902) 893-6657 Fax: (902) 896-2482 or [lmcnutt@nsac.ca](mailto:lmcnutt@nsac.ca)