



Continuing & Distance Education Newsletter

January 2011 Issue

Continuing Education Involved in International Development

The Continuing Education (CE) group was pleased to contribute time and resources to the Education for Employment (EFE) project in Tanzania this past year. In July, staff from CE helped deliver a two-week workshop on Occupational Gap Analysis at MATI-Ilonga. They also developed and delivered custom workshops for members of NSAC's partner institutes during their visits to the NSAC this past fall. One workshop was a half-day session on "Entrepreneurial Approaches to Short Courses," which was delivered to our MATI-Mlingano partners in September. The other, which was delivered to our Mpanda VTC partners in October, was a four day session on "CBET & Short Course Approaches."

The goal of the EFE project is to help with poverty reduction in Tanzania through continued and quality education support that produces qualified and competent graduates for their agricultural labour force. The NSAC is part of Component B of the project, which focuses on partnering with agricultural institutes to analyze current gaps in skills training at the colleges and to identify the needs of the labour and agricultural markets. To contribute to the development of

relevant and comprehensive curriculum and to increase the employability of our partner's students and local community members, NSAC also offers training in occupational gap analysis, competency-based education, and short course development.



Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of Tanzanians as well as their socioeconomic development. Eighty percent of Tanzanian citizens work either formally or informally in the agricultural sector and while Tanzania has staple crops, there is tremendous potential to improve sustainability, crop diversity, livelihood security, and income generation in both small- and large-scale farming.

The EFE project is funded in part by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC). Substantial contributions are also made by NSAC and our Tanzanian partner institutions.

Recognition of Completion of the PEI Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program

The apprentices of the PEI Farm Technician Apprenticeship Program, the only one of its kind in Canada, are reaching the end of their journey. They are the first to complete the 3 year program, which included 8 weeks of in-school training per year and the remainder of the year working on-farm with a farm mentor. The program is coordinated and administered by Continuing Education and delivered by NSAC staff and faculty, AgraPoint, and other industry partners.

There are five students who will be recognized next month for completing all of the requirements of the on-farm and in-class training. The students will also be preparing to write their PEI Provincial Trade Qualification Exam. The presentation of certificates to the apprentices occurs on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 2 pm and is located at Slemon Park Conference Centre at 30A Aerospace Boulevard in Slemon Park, PEI.

The Modern Shepherd

The goal of this 4-module course is to increase the knowledge and skills of new and existing sheep producers throughout Atlantic Canada. With a practical, hands-on focus, participants will be exposed to all aspects of sheep production right from choosing what breeds of sheep to raise, feeding, breeding, and marketing the results. This course combines tours, in-class, and on-farm training. This past fall brought the success of the completion of the first two module offerings, Module 1 (Husbandry, Handling, Pastures, and Fences) and Module 2 (Nutrition and Breeding).

The following are the upcoming module topics and dates:

Module 3: Health

Saturday and Sunday January 29 and 30, 2011

Module 4: Lambing and Marketing

Saturday and Sunday April 16 and 17, 2011



Teachers Recently Graduated from the Technology Education Program

On October 22, 2010, NSAC graduated the first class of the Certificate in Technology Education Program. Bernie MacDonald, Vice-President of Administration and Co-President of the NSAC, presented certificates to fifteen Technology Education teachers in front of their peers at their annual conference, which was held at the NSCC Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth.

The Certificate in Technology Education Program is intended to upgrade and diversify the technology background of Technology Education teachers presently working in Nova Scotia schools. The Program provides a variety of hands-on experiences and teaching methodologies that strengthen traditional skills and introduce new technologies to better meet the demand for qualified technology educators for the public school system. The Program is an innovative collaboration between NSAC and Nova Scotia's Technology Education Teachers Association, the Nova Scotia Department of Education, and Acadia University.



Exploring the Small Farm Dream Network

In 2009, Continuing Education (CE) first offered the Exploring the Small Farm Dream course. The goal of this course is to help aspiring farmers learn what it would take to start and manage their own commercial agricultural enterprise, as well as decide if this is a path they really want to take.

Tracy Kittilsen from CE recently attended a gathering of Exploring the Small Farm Dream instructors and course sponsors in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Its purpose was to share best practices, as well as build a network among those involved in the course to facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources in the future. Representatives from six states and two Canadian provinces were in attendance.

CE is currently looking at integrating the Small Farm Dream into other beginner farmer offerings.

WINTER COURSES 2011

Modern Shepherd

Module 3 January 29 & 30, 2011
Module 4 April 16 & 17, 2011

Master Gardener

March and October Intake
Summer School Level I: July 4-8, 2011
Summer School Level II: July 7-8, 2011

Introduction to Welding

February 25-27, 2011

Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers

February 26, 2011

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers

March 5, 2011

Livestock Medicines-For Meat and Milk Producing Animals

February 10, 2011

GPS Training for Farm Employees

Level I- Using GPS and GIS Technology on Farm- February 22 & 23, 2011

Level II- Technology for Precision Farming – February 24 & 25, 2011

Other Spring 2011 Course Offerings

Pesticide Applicator's Certification
Bulk Milk Tank Grader
NS Tractor Safety Certification

Please visit nsac.ca/cde

or call **902-893-6666**

for more information
on these and other programs.

