

PEI New & Young Farmer Initiatives

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Food Secure Canada Conference/2012

PEI Young Farmer's Association

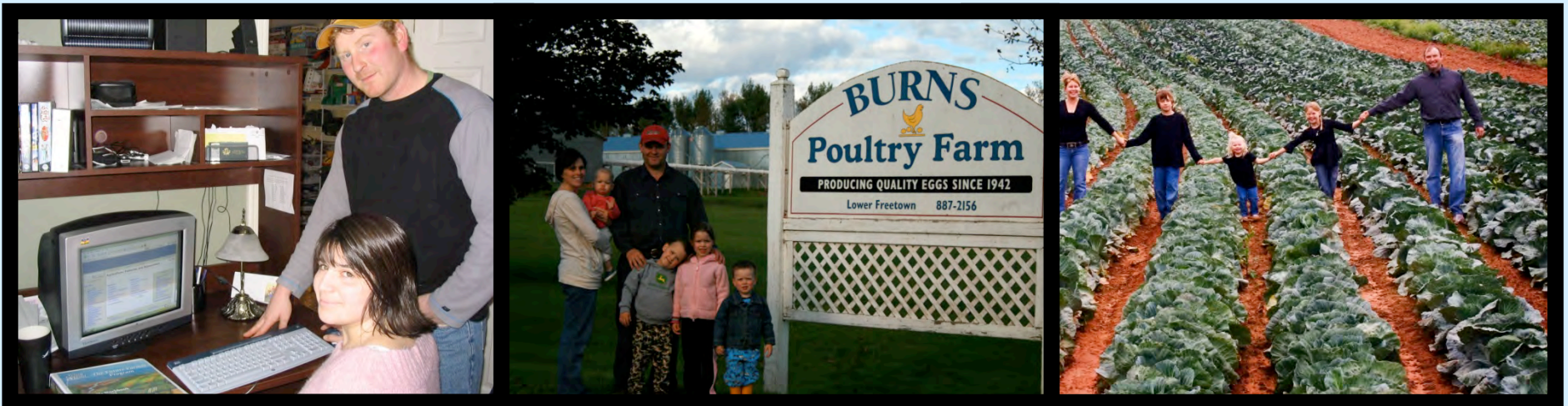


Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF)



Future Farmer Program

*...believing in a thriving future for agriculture in PEI
...working with beginning farmers to help them succeed*



Agriculture and
Forestry

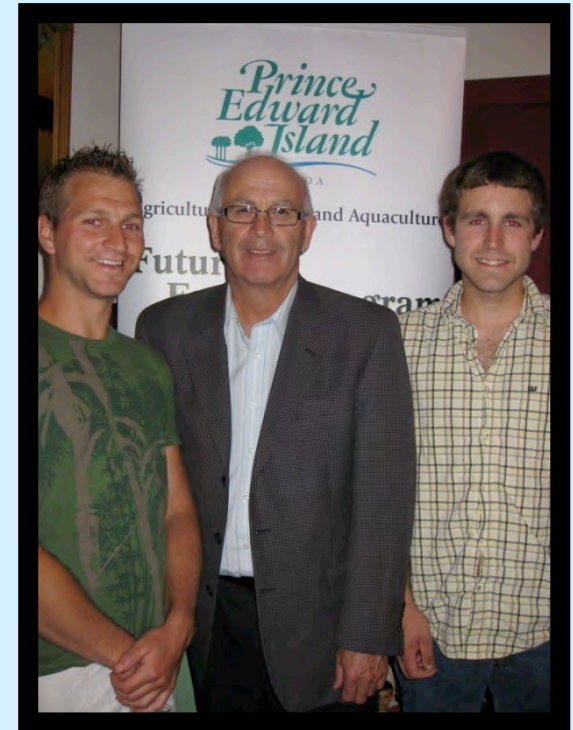
Background

- Originally announced in May 2003
- “Investment in the future of agriculture, the economy and rural communities”
- Considered one of the best “New Entrant” program
- Program was recently renewed for another five year term



Participants

- 352 applications since 2003
- 131 in the current program
- Average age 37
- Across commodities
- Mixed experiences
- Large percentage with post-secondary education – 63%



Program Components

- **Future Farmer Advisor**

Benefit:

- provides guidance throughout 5 yrs
- provides detail & explanation about Department programs/services
- unbiased opinion



- **Skills Assessment & Learning Plan**

Benefit:

- identifies management skills
- assists with identifying training requirements
- stronger farm management skill set



Training Component

- **Training Assistance**

Benefit:

- continuous learning to remain competitive
- networking and sharing
- new perspectives

Assistance:

- **\$4,000** over 5 years
- 50% sponsorship
- can be shared with farm partner(s)
- used for on or off Island training e.g. workshops, courses, tours



Examples of Training Sessions

- Basics of Book Keeping/Accounting
- Governance Training
- Media Training
- Motivating Farm Employees
- “New to the Farm”
- Social Marketing



Business Planning Component

- **Business Planning**

Benefit:

- provides structure to the planning process
- formalized farm business plan
- establishes fixed/operating expenses
- reality check

Assistance:

- cost of business plan up to \$14,000*

* Canada – PEI Business Development Program



Interest Rebate Component

- **Interest Rebate Assistance**

Benefit:

- available cash
- motivation to have Grade 12/equivalent
- linkage to training – 15 points/annually
- emphasis on learning

Assistance:

- up to 3% interest rebate on farm loans
up to \$250,000
 $\$7,500 / 3 \text{ years} = \text{maximum } \$22,500$



Business Risk Management

- **Business Risk Management Assistance**

Benefit:

- incentive to understand BR programs
- decrease BR costs on farm for year

Assistance:

- Maximum of \$2,000
 - 50% costs associated with enrollment in the PEI AgriInsurance program and/or 50% of an applicant's program fee in the AgriStability Program



Analytical Lab Testing

- **Analytical Lab Testing**

Benefit:

- decrease lab testing costs – soil, feed, greenhouse, manure, seed germination
- understanding of lab reports
- encourage testing of samples and benefits

Assistance:

- Maximum of \$500
 - 50% reimbursement for samples submitted to the PEI Analytical Laboratory



Program Successes

- Succession planning accelerated
- Capital available
- Training /Skills development
- Life-long learning
- GED completion
- Networking







I know of no pursuit
in which more real
and important
services can be
rendered to a
country than by
improving its
agriculture

George Washington

International Institute for American Cooperation (IIAC)



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