

ISLAND FARMER

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SIGN OF THE TIMES

It seems even the hay bale characters that have become a fall fixture at Kool Breeze Farms in Summerside have to take measures to protect themselves against COVID-19. The field where the hay bale statues is normally filled with children during Open Farm Day in September but this year the event had to be scaled back. However, families have been dropping by since the mid-September celebration to view the hay creations.

(Andy Walker photo)



Island farmland values remain steady despite pandemic

By Andy Walker

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Farmland values in Canada's smallest province have remained steady during the first half of 2021, according to the mid-year review conducted by Farm Credit Canada.

The study shows Island prices increased 0.4 per cent during the first six months of the year and there was a 1.5 per cent increase in the period from July 2020 to the end of this June. Last year, Island farmland increased 2.3 per cent, less than half of the national average of 5.4 per cent. It was a far cry from 2019, when the province led the country in

the rate of farmland growth at 22.6 per cent.

In 2020, Kings County saw the greatest increase in land values at 8.6 per cent with an average value of \$4,100 an acre. The value range, which represents 90% of the sales in each area and excludes the top and bottom 5%, was \$2,600 to \$5,600.

Values in Queens County increased 2.4 per cent with an average value of \$4,800 and a value range of \$2,400 to \$5,500. There was no change to farmland values in Prince County with an average price of \$4,300 and a value range of \$2,800 to \$6,000.

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John and Albert Ready receive recognition from Maritime Angus Association

The Maritime Angus Association recently announced Albert and John Ready of Covehead are this year's recipients of the Maritime Angus Commercial Breeders award.

The award recognizes a farm committed to sustainability and

incorporates angus influenced cattle in their herd. John and Albert have farmed together for over 33 years. While each family has its own land base and cattle, they share equipment and work together at planting and harvesting.

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Albert Ready (left) and his brother John (right) receive the 2021 Maritime Angus Commercial Breeders award from Ronnie Ford President of the PEI Angus Association. (Submitted photo)



Carleigh MacLeod first Island winner of Outstanding Young Farmer Scholarship

One of the co-founders of Ag in the Field has been named the first Island winner of an Outstanding Young Farmers Memorial Scholarship.

Carleigh MacLeod of Kinkora was recently named winner of the \$1,000 award along with Emily Robb from Brandon, Manitoba. As part of the awards process, applicants are asked to write an essay about why they are passionate about agriculture in Canada.

Carleigh and Jillian Ferguson

from Spring Valley established "Ag in the Field" in 2018 with a mission to tell the general public about food and farming practices on PEI. The pair were named winners of the 2021 Food & Farming Champion Award from Farm and Food Care PEI earlier this year.

Carleigh joined the Agriculture Diploma Program in Grade 10 at Kinkora Regional High School and took an Agriscience course in high school.

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Carleigh MacLeod



Late Dr. Bob Curtis to be enshrined in Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame

The late Dr. Bob Curtis will be enshrined later this month in the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame.

The other inductees will be Anne Beaumont from New Brunswick, Gerard Cormier of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia's Jack Sibley. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at the event is invitation only.

Dr. Curtis, who passed away on December 8, 2019, was a founding member of the faculty at the Atlantic Veterinary College. Born in Orangeville, Ontario, in 1931, Dr. Curtis came from an agricultural

background. He worked on his home farm during his early schooling and went on to operate his own beef farm.

In 1956, he entered the doctor of veterinary medicine program at the Ontario Veterinary College, graduating first in his class in 1961. Subsequently, he was appointed to the College's Department of Clinical Studies and Ambulatory Clinic. After receiving his master of science degree in 1968, he was promoted to associate professor and, in 1975, to full professor.

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