

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

Spring has officially sprung and with it we have so far been blessed with relatively warm, mild weather. As the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers prepare for a busy upcoming season, I hope this newsletter finds you in good health.

We had overall good turnout at our Zone Meetings this past January, which for the first time ever occurred virtually. Likewise, attendance at the Virtual Annual Meeting last month was similar to that of last year, with hopefully more producers attending in future years. This year's meeting consisted solely of the business meeting portion, with no election having occurred. We wish to thank everyone who came to these meetings and hope you found value in attending.

I would like to congratulate Andrew McCurdy, and his family and employees, for being named the 2021 Kings Mutual Producer of the Year. Andrew and his family have been farming in Old Barns for nearly 145 years, where animal care is their top priority.

We partnered with cattle producer organizations throughout Eastern Canada to deliver a virtual transportation regulation workshop mid-March: *Clarification of the New Transportation Regulation*. This focused on training for carriers and auction centers targeting the transportation of culled dairy cows and dairy calves. This recording link can be made available; please contact the NSCP office if you are interested in viewing this presentation.

In preparation of bull season, the NSCP, along with the Maritime Beef Testing Society, hosted a virtual Bull Selection workshop with Jasper Munro, AgSights, mid-March. This workshop covered the topic of *Strategies for Selecting Your Next Herd Sire*, with a recording available at shorturl.at/zEKQ3.

We hosted a *Feeder Calf Market Outlook* workshop virtually in March, which included Ab Carrol, Ontario Stockyards Inc., Douglas Brooks, St. Isadore Livestock Auction, Scott Dixon, Atlantic Stockyards Ltd. and Bruce Andrews, Atlantic Beef Products Inc. (ABPI). This session focused on the above livestock market panelists discussing cost comparisons of selling cattle within various markets in Eastern Canada, including commissions, trucking, prices, etc. Bruce Andrews discussed finished cattle, with comparisons of ABPI and Ontario (Cargill) pricing. A recording of this well attended presentation can be found at shorturl.at/cenT9.

Maritime AgCast has covered many beef cattle topics lately, such as *Episode 14: Beef Cattle Disease Management*, *Episode 13: Understanding the Benefits of Live Beef Carcass Ultrasound* and *Episode 11: Bull Selection*. These feature such guests as Dr. Wilma Schenkels, Chief Veterinary Officer for Nova Scotia, Jonathan Wort, Perennia, Jasper Munro, AgSights, and Amy Higgins, Maritime Beef Council. These recordings can be heard at www.anchor.fm/maritime-agcast, or wherever you listen to your favourite podcasts!

We have been hosting a Virtual Farm Tour Series, where we have been releasing monthly videos to membership since November 2020. A new "tour" focusing on a different beef operation in the province is released each month, with March's tour of Wild Pasture Farm in Lower Onslow. These videos can be viewed by visiting: www.nscattle.ca/virtual-farm-tours.

The Canadian Beef Industry Conference will occur virtually again this year: August 31st – September 2nd, 2021. Additional information will be posted as it released and can be found at: www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com/

We would like to congratulate both Joe Cooper at Balamore Farm Ltd. and the Maritime Beef Testing Society on successful breeding stock sales this Spring. With the current conditions, both of these sales were held as online auctions, similarly as last year.

A reminder that Nova Scotia has a certified technician who can perform ultrasound services for carcass quality imaging available to beef producers in the Maritimes. For further information, such as pricing, scheduling requirements or a biography of Technician Laura Parsons, please visit www.nscattle.ca/ultrasound/ or phone Ashley at 902-893-7455.

We are once again providing funding for applicable bull purchases with our fully industry funded, bull bonus program. The Nova Scotia Elite Sire Program provides funding for the purchase of superior bulls. The application can be found at: www.nscattle.ca/members/programs/. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2021.

A reminder that the NSCP office has livestock transport manifests available at the office for \$10, for 50 triplicate copies. If you would like customized books made, please contact ASE Print at 902-895-8804. There will be a fee of \$25.00 for customization.

On behalf of the Board and the whole cattle industry, I would like to congratulate Liz Crouse on her announced retirement after more than 40 years working with the Department of Agriculture. We will miss Liz's expertise, industry understanding, and support she has shown over the past decade, not to mention the positive influence she has had on hundreds of colleagues and thousands of producers and 4Hers over the past 40 years.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Brad at the office, office@nscattle.ca or 902-893-7455.

Larry Weatherby

Larry Weatherby, Chair

Cattle Appreciation Day

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia have teamed up to celebrate cattle producers in the province, delivering a Cattle Appreciation Day at the Atlantic Stockyards Ltd.!

At the Atlantic Stockyards Ltd. Spring Breeding Stock Sale, Saturday, May 15th, 2021, there will be free hamburgers and ice cream bars provided for lunch by the NSCP and DFNS. This is in celebration of all cattle producers as a thank you for your hard work. We invite all producers to attend this celebration and hope to see you all there!



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**NOVA SCOTIA
FARM LOAN BOARD**

NSCP Board Member Announcement

At the 2021 Virtual NSCP Zone Meetings, Danford Murphy was re-elected as the Zone 1 representative, and Larry Weatherby re-elected as the Zone 4 representative. There remains a vacancy in Zone 6, with no representative on the Board presently. At the Dealer Zone Meeting, Bert Meyer was re-elected as the Dealer Director representative. The Executive remains the same, with Larry Weatherby as Chair, Victor Oulton as Vice Chair and Dean Manning as Secretary-Treasurer. A complete list of the 2021-22 Board is as follows:

Zone 1 (2024) – Danford Murphy
Zone 2 (2022) – Derek Gladney
Zone 3 (2023) – Brian Trueman
Zone 4 and Chair (2024) – Larry Weatherby
Zone 5 (2022) and Secretary-Treasurer – Dean Manning
Zone 6 (2023) – Vacant

At Large, Vice Chair and CCA Rep (2022) – Victor Oulton
At Large (2023) – Geoff Larkin
Dealer Director (2024) – Bert Meyer
Past Chair – Vacant
DFNS Rep – David Bekkers
NPMC Rep – Carol Versteeg

Heifer Draw Winners

We would like to wish congratulations to the winners of the Heifer Draw, announced at the 2021 NSCP Annual Meeting:

- George Baxter
- Roland Lynds
- Peter Roosje

Nova Scotia Elite Sire Program

The Nova Scotia Elite Sire Program is now open for producers and must be submitted by June 30, 2021. This is a one-step process. No applications will be reviewed before the application deadline so there will be no follow-up on missing documents. Applications will only be considered if all necessary information is provided. Please call the office prior to submitting if you have any questions. The application form can be found on our website at: <http://nscattle.ca/members/programs/>



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Was Your 2021 Grower Card Received?

Your 2021 NSCP Grower License card was included in this envelope, if your 2021 Grower License Application was received with all required information completed. You are required to submit your Grower License Application annually to remain in good standing with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers. For any questions on this, please contact the NSCP office or you can find the 2021 Grower License Application on our website at www.nscattle.ca/register



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Kings Mutual Producer of the Year Profile



Andrew McCurdy (far left), owner/operator of Bidalosy Farms Ltd., receiving the Kings Mutual Producer of the Year award from Brad McCallum (right), Managing Director, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers

Bidalosy Farms Limited is located along the shore of the Cobequid Bay in rural Old Barns, Nova Scotia. Origins of the farm can be traced back to 1876, with Andrew McCurdy being the 6th generation owner/operator. This family operation has 400 head of dairy and beef livestock, with the cattle being born and raised in open, spacious barns and farm fields.

The animal feed requirements are all grown on 900 acres of cultivated lands. All feeds fed to the cattle are grown on the farm, such as native and improved forages, barley, corn, and soybeans. Bidalosy's milk and meat products are processed and sold locally. Andrew says he "takes prides in the fact we are a Nova Scotian family farm that is innovative with animal care, as our primary focus".

A neighboring property was acquired in 2018 which provided an opportunity to increase livestock numbers. Andrew started breeding dairy cattle with beef genetics to meet consumer demands. Knowing there would be plenty of space and feed available, he diversified the farm by adding a dairy beef enterprise. Since then, the business has grown to 400 animals with 60% of the dairy herd bred to Angus, Hereford, Limousin and Speckled Park breeds. Andrew says he has diversified with dairy and beef offspring to meet two distinct market areas, which has created synergies for animal care, feed production and efficient usage of the farm's resources.

Bidalosy Farms Ltd. has, on average, 12 newborn cattle every month. All cattle are kept on site until they are ready to be sold. To date, sales have been made to Atlantic Beef Products Inc. in PEI and to local meat markets in Nova Scotia.

"We are constantly learning from our mistakes and successes" says Andrew, in a 2018 interview with the Environment Farm Plan staff at the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. He continues with adding "at Bidalosy Farms Ltd. we have been fortunate in being able to develop our business by adopting best practices and new technologies".



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Maritime Beef Testing Society Sale Results

The 48th Annual Breeding Stock Sale was held as an online auction once again this year due to COVID-19 regulations, occurring on April 3rd, 2021. In total, there were 51 bulls offered, which averaged \$4,516. A heifer sale also occurred for the first time in two years, with 21 heifers offered, averaging \$1,898.

The top selling bull was a Simmental, purchased by Godfrey Farms Inc. for \$7,750.00, consigned by Lobster Point Holdings Ltd. The top selling heifer was also a Simmental, purchased by Tom MacLellan for \$2,550, consigned by Orchard Hill Farm.

For a complete summary, including individual lot sales, a summary of the bulls by breed and historical prices, please visit <http://maritimebeefteststation.ca/mbts-sale/>

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Atlantic Stockyards Limited - Spring Feeder Sales

Tuesday, April 13th: 10 am
Tuesday, April 27th: 10 am
Tuesday, May 11th: 10 am
Tuesday, May 25th: 10 am

Producers are encouraged to pre-book all feeder cattle as early as possible. Pre-registered cattle will be listed on their website. Vaccinated cattle must be accompanied by a vaccination and a receipt for the vaccine used. Vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified.

Special Upcoming Sales:

Saturday, April 17th: 10 am **Spring Equipment Sale**
Saturday, May 15th: 10am **Breeding Stock Sale**

**This will include cows, heifers and bulls. To book animals for this sale, please contact Scott at 506-364-9464*

Breeder Responsibility

Canadian Charolais Association Charolais Banner – December 2020
Craig Scott, General Manager

Far too often we get calls in the office with problems to register calves. nine out of ten problems are because the sire or dam do not have the DNA required. That is where breeder responsibility comes into play. All DNA requirements are up on our website and have not changed in a few years. The staff at the CCA are very knowledgeable on the regulations and requirements and are here to help.

If you are importing or thinking about importing semen or embryos and are not 100% sure on what is required, please reach out to the office and we will be happy to help.

Be proactive on these requirements. When you introduce a new walking bull into your program, we suggest that you do the DNA testing before you turn him out. Again, being proactive could eliminate problems down the road. We all know things happen, and it seems the good ones are always getting into trouble. Having females bred to a bull that does not have the DNA requirements complete makes registration difficult, if not impossible.

These regulations are in place to not only protect our members but to keep the integrity of the Canadian herd book intact.

Canadian Charolais Association DNA Requirements:

- Walking sires must have DNA on file
- ALL AI sires, including semen from on-farm collection, must be Parent Verified (Sire AND Dam)
- ALL Full French animals (male and female) must be Parent Verified
- Embryo Transfer calves must be Parent Verified
- Donor Dams must have DNA on file



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Change to AgriStability Program a Positive Step for the Beef Industry

Action News: The Blog

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has been steady in our advocacy to make changes to the AgriStability program. On March 25, following a Federal-Provincial-Territorial meeting, FPT Ministers agreed to the removal of the reference margin limit (RML) within AgriStability. Removing the RML will go a long way in making AgriStability more predictable and equitable for beef producers and better position the industry to contribute to Canada's economic recovery. CCA is also encouraged that with the announcement, the April 30 enrollment deadline has been extended to June 30, 2021 and the removal of the RML is retroactive to 2020.

While CCA is disappointed governments could not yet agree to the compensation rate change, we understand that the original Federal government's offer of an increase to the rate from 70 per cent to 80 per cent remains on the table for cost-shared improvements to the compensation rate. CCA encourages all FPT Ministers to continue productive discussions on changes to agriculture risk management programs in Canada.

Please visit shorturl.at/bfBVV for additional information on AgriStability.



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