

December 2019 Newsletter



Message from the Chair

Fall arrived early in Nova Scotia, hopefully not impacting harvesting and preparing forages too much for anyone. The upcoming winter months have NSCP busy planning events such as the Zone and Annual meetings and working towards the completion of ongoing projects.

Throughout the year, we have been working on the Nova Scotia Multi-Species Ultrasound Enhancement Project, which we have secured funding for through the CAP Program. We sent participants to Kansas and Iowa to be trained and certified as ultrasound technicians earlier this fall and are eager for them to begin working with the ultrasound technology. By having this service available, the goal is to see increases within overall carcass quality and subsequently carcass quality genetics within the region.

Another project we have been working on is the Dairy/Beef Value Chain Coordination in regards to bob calves in Nova Scotia. The changing transportation regulations (coming into effect February 1, 2020) decrease drastically the amount of time young animals who are not yet weaned are able to travel. This in combination with changes to the Code of Practice for both Dairy and Veal create an opportunity to grow and finish bob calves as beef. There have been ongoing industry meetings to implement a strategy for this production chain amongst dairy and beef producers for a changing market.

The NSCP are also working on and have secured funding for the Feeder Cattle Vaccination Screening Project. We partnered with Atlantic Stockyards, Fundy Veterinarians and the Atlantic Veterinary College to conduct vaccination screenings on feeder cattle during fall and winter 2019-20. The objectives are to determine the effectiveness of different vaccination protocols in feeder cattle and improve the quality of feeder cattle sold through ASL. We are expecting to sample 500 random cattle who have been identified as vaccinated and non-vaccinated. Samples will be used to test whether or not expected antibodies are present. All data will be combined, with no individual results shared publicly.

As these three projects continue to develop, producers will be updated along the way and notified accordingly.

Throughout the fall, five Forage and Winter Feeding workshops were held throughout the province. Jonathan Wort, Livestock Specialist with Perennia, delivered a presentation discussing the importance of forage sampling and testing and how producers should be aware of their forage quality. Feeding adequate forage to ensure animal requirements are met, as well as strategies to combat forage shortages were discussed. Local forage tests were distributed, to demonstrate how to effectively and efficiently interpret forage testing results.

These workshops were held in conjunction with Safe Handling courses that the NSCP, along with SPANS, put on for producers requiring a Safe handling certification. These courses were instructed by Jane Morrigan, Animal Welfare and Humane Handling Trainer, Integrity Livestock Services and Miriam Gordon, Program Coordinator for the Animal Welfare Certificate and Professor at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture.

The NSCP are currently planning a presentation by Steve Kenyon, Greener Pastures Ranching, for February 8th, 2020 at the NSFA building in East Mountain, NS. Steve will be discussing pasture plans, cell design, rejuvenation, fencing and residue grazing. More information will be available through email, as well as on our website and social media accounts as the date approaches.

The Maritime Beef Conference will return to Moncton March 20th and 21st, 2020. Early in the New Year, more information, including the agenda, speakers and registration will be available at: www.maritimebeef.ca. **The NSCP will pay for 15 registrations to the conference. If you would like your name entered into a draw, please contact Ashley at 902-893-7455 by January 31st, 2020.**

The poster features a red and white color scheme. At the top left is a circular logo with a red checkmark and the text 'HEALTHY GRAZING' and 'HEALTHY CATTLE'. To the right of the logo is the text 'Maritime BEEF CONFERENCE'. Below this, in large bold letters, is 'MONCTON, NB' and 'MARCH 20 & 21, 2020'. A central image shows a man, Cody Creelman, with the text 'FRIDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER' and 'Cody Creelman COW VET'. At the bottom, it says 'FIND ALL THE NEWS AND UPDATES AT WWW.MARITIMEBEEF.CA' and includes the Maritime Beef Council logo.

On the **purple inserted form** you will find the 2020 license application and verification of levies paid for 2019. It is important that this form is completed and sent back to the office to ensure that you remain in good standing with NSCP, receive industry updates, have access to industry events and are eligible to cattle specific programs. These forms are due back to the office by January 15th.

In closing, I would like to wish all producers and their families, as well as all other stakeholders, a happy and safe holiday season. 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, Chair

NSCP Seeking Nominations for Producer of the Year Award

The NSCP is now accepting nominations for the Kings Mutual Producer of the Year Award. The objective of the award is to annually recognize a Nova Scotia beef producer or dealer for the outstanding contributions they make to the provincial cattle industry. Nomination forms are available by visiting www.nscattle.ca/awards or by contacting the office at 902-893-7455. Completed nomination forms are due to the NSCP office by January 31, 2020 and the winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on March 7, 2020. The winner will be presented with a plaque, as well as a NSCP jacket and hat.

NSCP Zone Meeting Notice

The Zone Meetings will once again feature a presentation by Dr. Claire Windeyer from the University of Calgary. This coming Zone Meeting season, Claire will be speaking on early calf management and perinatal care.

This year is an election year in Zone 3 (Leon Smith) and Zone 6 (Wayne MacKay). A Director at Large will be elected to the Board at the Annual Meeting. Members are reminded that they can attend any of the Zone Meetings but will only be able to vote (where applicable) in their Zone. Annual Zone Meetings have been booked as described below. Storm dates will be the first week of February. Please check www.nscattle.ca for updates.

Zone	Date	Time	Town	Location
1	January 6 th	7:00 pm	Whycocomagh	Whycocomagh Fire Hall
2	January 7 th	7:00 pm	Stellarton	Holiday Inn
3	January 9 th	7:00 pm	Wentworth	Wentworth Education Centre
4	January 7 th	1:00 pm	Truro	NSFA Boardroom
5	January 8 th	1:00 pm	Berwick	Berwick Fire Hall
6	January 8 th	7:00 pm	Bridgewater	Best Western Bridgewater
Dealer	January 16 th	11:00 am	Truro	Atlantic Stockyards
AGM	March 7th	10:00 am	Truro	Best Western Glengarry



About Dr. Claire Windeyer

Dr. Claire Windeyer attended UofG, where she completed her BSc, followed by her DVM degree. After graduation, she went into rural mixed practice in southern Alberta. Claire then returned to OVC to do her DVSc in Ruminant Health Management. Her thesis examined bovine respiratory disease in dairy heifer calves. She won the D.F. Forster medal, a convocation award for academic achievement, motivation, leadership, and citizenship. Claire then volunteered in Nepal with the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation, Veterinarians Without Borders, and the Lalitpur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union. Claire lives on a small acreage near Dogpound, AB with her partner Bruce and their 4 horses.

NSCP Annual Meeting Notice

The NSCP Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro starting at 10:00 am.

Winter Feeder Sale Dates

Thursday, January 16th: 10 am
Thursday, February 20th: 10 am
Thursday, March 19th: 10 am

Producers are encouraged to pre-book all feeder cattle as early as possible. The Atlantic Stockyards Ltd. will be listing pre-registered cattle on their website. Vaccinated cattle must be accompanied by a vaccination declaration and a receipt for the vaccine used. Additionally, vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified. All cattle will be sold by order of arrival.

Commit to Local for the Holidays

The holidays are upon us and we're issuing our annual challenge - give a gift that gives back to our whole province by committing to spending some of your holiday shopping budget locally. It's so easy to do! You'll benefit from a unique shopping experience as you help support local businesses, local jobs and the local economy by spending locally!

Local gifts have a richer story and are often one-of-a-kind and made by talented and creative Nova Scotians who love what they do. When you shop at local businesses or buy from local craftspeople, or food and beverage producers, you can't beat the customer service. They know their products like nobody else and are more than happy to spend the time making sure you find the ideal gift.

This holiday season, commit to local in your community. Start with one gift or one business at a time! Don't forget that it's not just about gifting; you can also shift your holiday spending to local meats, produce, preserves, baked goods, even local Christmas trees and other holiday décor. You'll be surprised by how many local choices you can make once you start looking. Happy local holidays!

November Feeder Sale Results

November 5th, 2019 Sale Summary:

267 head 583 lb average 1.50 per lb average Gross Return \$874.50/hd
77 steers (\$1.64 @ 608lbs), 134 heifers (1.35 @ 571lbs), 56 bulls and stags (\$1.61 @ 572lbs)
108 unvaccinated cattle sold for 147 cents per lb at 549lbs for a gross return of \$807.03/hd
159 vaccinated cattle sold for 151 cents per lb at 611lbs for a gross return of \$922.61 (\$115.58 premium)

November 19th, 2019 Sale Summary:

888 head 575 lb average 138.0 cents per lb average Gross Return \$794/hd
457 steers (\$153.0 @ 598lbs), 366.0 heifers (\$123 @ 551lbs), 65 bulls and stags (\$123.0 @ 556lbs)
240 unvaccinated cattle sold for 130.0 cents per lb at 568 lbs for a gross return of \$ 738
648 vaccinated cattle sold for 143.0 cents per lb at 579 lbs for a gross return of \$828 (\$90 premium)

Upcoming Important Dates

- Zone Meetings:
 - Zone 1: January 6th, 2020
 - Zones 2 & 4: January 7th, 2020
 - Zones 5 & 6: January 8th, 2020
 - Zone 3: January 9th, 2020
- Dealer Meeting: January 16th, 2020
- Atlantic Stockyards Feeder Sales:
 - Winter: January 16th, February 20th, March 19th
- Steve Kenyon Presentation: February 8th, 2020
- NSCP Annual General Meeting: March 7th, 2020
- Maritime Beef Conference: March 20th-21st, 2020
- Balamore Farm "Thickness Sells" Bull & Female Sale: March 21st, 2020
- Nappan Spring Breeding Stock Sale: April 4th, 2020
- Next NSCP Newsletter: April 2020



The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers proudly present
Steve Kenyon, Greener Pastures Ranching,
Saturday, February 8th, 2020



Join the NSCP and Steve as he discusses:

- Pasture plans
- Cell design
- Rejuvenation
- Fencing
- Residue grazing

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, NS
10am-2:30pm

Additional information to follow.



FBC We make life less taxing

BCRC – Time For a Back-up Plan – Managing The Impacts of Drought in The Winter

In an ideal world, producers can plan ahead for their feed requirements in the spring and be prepared well before the first snowflake falls. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn't always comply. Dry conditions from the previous growing season or earlier can leave producers feeling worried about forage supplies. What if winter is longer than expected? What if next year is dry again? Coping with drought is a serious reality in many regions across Canada, however beef producers are inventive, resilient, and experienced. If the original plan isn't working, they make adjustments.

When it comes to withstanding drought, the best defence is a good offence. Drought planning and preparation is best done in advance. While that may be little comfort to producers currently coping with dry conditions, there are many strategies that can help farmers prepare for the long-term or help them to recover their drought-ravaged resources in the coming seasons.

- Balance available forage supply with the number of cattle grazing.
- Avoid overgrazing by providing effective rest for pasture plants during the growing season. This helps to maintain a resilient plant community, by allowing the canopy cover – the plant’s solar panels – to capture energy and store it in the root system.
- Combine smaller herds into one or two larger herds that can rotationally graze. This allows more pastures the opportunity to rest.
- Choose to graze pastures that may be better able to resist intense grazing, such as tame plant communities like crested wheat grass.
- Manage grazing to allow for plant litter, or residue, to be left behind after grazing. Litter is sometimes referred to as a “rancher’s insurance policy” and is incredibly valuable particularly during dry conditions. Litter shades and insulates the soil surface, breaks down into valuable nutrients, reduces soil temperatures, increases water retention and infiltration, and minimizes moisture lost to evaporation.
- Test dwindling stock water sources to ensure they are safe for cattle.

For farmers that were challenged with a dry growing season, their efforts are focused on getting the cow herd through the winter feeding period while maintaining the nutritional needs of their pregnant cows. Winter weather is unpredictable and these needs can change as cold weather fluctuates. Sometimes opportunity feed sources arise even as winter progresses and resourceful producers may seek alternative feeds and forages to fill the gaps.

- Frozen or damaged crops, processing by-products, fruit or vegetable waste, and even weeds, can all be sources of feed for cattle in addition to more mainstream alternatives like annual cereals or cover crops.
- Perform a feed test analysis on alternative feed ingredients to determine their nutritional value, and to rule out any potential anti-quality factors such as mycotoxins.
- Work with a livestock extension specialist or nutritionist to balance rations and ensure non-conventional feeds are meeting the nutritional requirements of cattle particular to their age, stage, class, and condition.
- Calculate the cost of incorporating alternative feeds using BCRC’s decision-making tool “Winter Feed Cost Comparison Calculator”

Beef producers may consider an extended grazing season. While it may not be practical for all operations, some producers can reduce costs and labour and manage manure effectively by keeping cattle out of the corral and on the land for longer.

- Cattle can graze crop residue, failed crops, forage on stockpiled grass, or eat bales placed out on fields. Providing conventional or alternative supplements such as pellets, grain, or by-products may be an economical way to meet nutritional demands.
- Make sure cattle have access to fresh water and shelter. Consider infrastructure, such as fencing, windbreaks, or stock water, that needs to be developed to make extended grazing a reality. Can the infrastructure be used or re-purposed in the future?
- Closely monitor the body condition of grazing cattle. Remember that a cow’s winter hair coat can mask her true state and a hands-on body condition score (BCS) is the best way to be sure.
- Extended grazing can work well for mature, dry cows in good condition, but young cows, calves, pairs, or old, thin cows require careful supervision.
- Winter grazing conditions can be highly variable. Too much snow, extremely cold temperatures, or hungry wildlife eating away at forage supplies, can throw a wrench in plans. Producers must have a back-up plan and be prepared to switch gears if necessary.

Drought is often a time to make strategic marketing decisions and free up much needed forage or pen space by deliberately moving some cattle down the trail.

- Consider preg-checking early and selling open cows that will not provide you with a marketable calf. Producers can use our “Economics of Pregnancy Testing” decision support tool to determine the best option for managing open cows.
- Cull older, thin cows while they still retain their value and well before they become a transport risk or a welfare concern.
- If you typically retain ownership in calves, background feeders, or develop replacement heifers, look at your options and pencil out the cost of keeping the status quo.

Managing forage, water, cattle, and soils can be complicated even during good years. Hoping for the best but preparing for the worst is perhaps the only practical approach producers can take when drought has limited resources and the impending winter is uncertain. However, beef producers have been rising to the challenge for generations, and their resourcefulness and adaptability will help them.

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