



D e c e m b e r 2 0 1 4 N e w s l e t t e r

Message From The Chair

Here we are at the first of December and though the weather hasn't been the easiest for cattle with up and down temperatures and lots of rain we have managed to stay away from snow so far. In my first update as Chair of the Cattle Producers, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the family and friends of past Chair Jim Fraser. Jim was a strong leader in the cattle industry over the past several decades and was a strong advocate at the provincial, regional and national levels for his fellow farmers.

We have seen feeder continue to be strong across the Maritimes and central Canada and there seems to be more animals moving through the feeder sales than in past years. At the most recent sale more than 1,100 animals averaging 569 lbs averaged \$2.19. The premium paid on vaccinated cattle was \$0.20, which works out to about \$162 per animal; this more than pays for the cost of the vaccination.

The Board of the NSCP regrets to announce that Boyd Crouse has resigned his position as Director at Large. Curtis Moxsom has been appointed by the Board to fill the position until the annual meeting, at which time there will be an election for the position for the remaining two years of the term.

It will soon be time for our annual Zone and Annual Meetings, the dates and locations for the meetings are provided later on in the newsletter as well as on the back of the orange registration form. We encourage everyone to participate in the Zone Meetings. We will once again be working with Jonathan Wort at Perennia as well as Dr. Montanholi from Dalhousie to provide a good overview of what is happening in the industry. This year we will also be reviewing the proposed changes to the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Marketing Plan.

The Maritime Beef Council will be hosting the inaugural Maritime Beef Conference on March 27 and 28 at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton, NB. We are pleased to be parting with the other provinces to build on the great event the NB Cattle Producers have been hosting over the past few years. The agenda features Jeff Fitzpatrick from McDonalds Canada, Paul DeJonge from Atlantic Beef Products as well as Fawn Jackson from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. Dr. Montanholi will also be presenting his results from the summer heifer test as well as update on the winter bull test at the Test Station.

We are happy to announce that the NSCP is now accepting applications for the Safe Handling of Cattle Program. This is a program that we have developed with the provincial Minister to address the need for improved cattle handling systems in the Province. The application is included with this newsletter on the blue sheet. Applications must be completed and returned to the office before December 31, 2014. For more information, please visit www.nscattle.ca/handling.

I would also like to remind everyone that is once again time to renew your NSCP registration. This form, on the orange page, is included with the newsletter as well. Please complete the form and send it back to the office by December 31, 2014. We are also working with the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia to start our second year if the DFNS / NSCP Levy collection program. This was a successful program last year and we hope to continue to increase participation this year. If you have any questions, please visit www.nscattle.ca/register.

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

Larry Weatherby, Chair of NSCP

Jim Fraser Passes



Jim was a well-known and respected member of the cattle industry in Nova Scotia and the Maritimes. Jim was involved in the agriculture industry for more than 40 years as a producer, input salesman and management specialist. Most recently, Jim was Chair of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and represented his fellow farmers at the provincial, regional and national level with his involvement with the NSCP, Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Maritime Beef Council and Canada Beef Inc.

Please join the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers in sending our sincere condolences to Jim's wife Donna Langille and children Jamie and Tyler as they mourn the loss of their husband and father.

NSCP Winter Meeting Dates Announcement

Annual Zone Meetings have been booked as described below. This year is an election year in Zone 1 (Vlad Mudra) and Zone 4 (Larry Weatherby), a Member-at-Large (George Smith). There will also be two by-elections at the Annual Meeting for Member-at-Large (Curtis Moxsom and Jim Fraser). Members are reminded that they can attend any of the Zone Meetings but will only be able to vote (where applicable) in their Zone.

Zone	Date	Time	Town	Location
1	January 19	1:00 pm	Baddeck	Telegraph House Inn
2	January 19	7:00 pm	New Glasgow	Museum of Industry
3	January 20	7:00 pm	Oxford	Oxford Lion's Den
4	January 20	1:00 pm	Middle Musquodoboit	Forestry Complex
5	January 21	7:00 pm	Berwick	Berwick Fire Hall
6	January 26	7:00 pm	Bridgewater	Best Western Bridgewater

The 2015 NSCP Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday February 21, 2015 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro. Registration will start at 9:30am and the meeting will start at 10:00am.

New Cattle Handling Program Announced

From Chronicle Herald

Government funding for the beef industry indicates that elected representatives are paying attention to farmers, the chairman of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers said Saturday.

"We've been trying to get this for a long time," Larry Weatherby said of the Safe Handling of Cattle Program announced at the Maritime Beef Testing Station in Nappan.

Nova Scotia Agriculture Minister Keith Colwell and Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong announced a combined federal and provincial government contribution of \$89,100, split 60-40. Farmers are contributing more than \$130,000 to the program, said Weatherby, who farms at Harmony, near Truro.

The program will help beef farmers purchase equipment that will improve animal health and farm safety, as well as increase income for cattle producers. The equipment will include head gates, cattle squeezes and crowding tubs, which help move and transport cattle and or hold them in place for various procedures. Producers may receive 40 per cent of the cost of such equipment, up to \$1,000 per application.

Using the proper equipment is less stressful on the animals and human handlers, which makes it safer for both, Weatherby said. Workers who are unaccustomed to handling large animals translate their fear to the cattle, he said. Early and stress-free contact with humans makes the animals easier to handle as they mature.

The new fund will also help farmers afford equipment to prepare animals for the available market, which will add \$30 to \$40 to each animal's selling price, Weatherby said. "This is the program we've asked for," Weatherby said. "They are starting to listen." He hopes the program continues so farmers can gradually increase their production. "It's a start."

Safe Handling of Cattle Program

The objective of the *Safe Handling of Cattle Program* is to provide support to cattle producers for the purchase of neck extending headgates, cattle squeezes and crowding tubs. The use of this equipment has been proven to reduce the stress levels of animals and well as increase the safety of the handlers. Up to 40% of the purchase, to a maximum of \$1,000 per applicant will be provided for the purchase of this equipment.

To be eligible for this program the applicant must:

1. Hold a valid farm registration issued pursuant to the Farm Registration Act at the time of application;
2. Be a Nova Scotia based cattle producer, partnership or corporation that has a minimum gross farm revenue of \$10,000. This requirement may be waived for producers, partnerships or corporations registered for less than five years pursuant to the Farm Registration Act;
3. Be a current NSCP member at the time of application;
4. Be up to date with levy remittance at the time of application; and
5. Agree to abide by the current Safe Handling of Cattle Program Guidelines

The application form has been included with this newsletter on the blue piece of paper. Please complete the application and return it to the NSCP office no later than December 31, 2014.

All claims for eligible expenses must be submitted to the NSCP office no later than February 28, 2014.

Out to Pasture Farm wins Annual EFP Award

From NSFA



Annual Nova Scotia Environmental Stewardship Award was awarded to Kevin Veinotte and family from Out To Pasture Farm located in West Northfield, Lunenburg County at NSFA's Annual Meeting Banquet on November 27th.

"The Veinotte Family are deserving winners of this award." Says Dennis Boudreau, President of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, who was on hand for the award presentation. "They are true leaders in the agriculture community and demonstrate environmental stewardship to their full potential."

"You can't help but be impressed when you visit the Veinotte's farm," Says Environmental Farm Plan Team Manager, Kathryn Bremner. "They have such a deep respect for the farm and the environment. Environmental sustainability is incorporated into every component of their operation."

Out to Pasture Farm is truly a diverse operation in West Northfield, Lunenburg County that consists of beef cattle, sheep, free range chickens, pasture, forage, Christmas trees, a woodlot and several acres of ponds, wetlands and areas reserved for wildlife. Instead of relying on sprays, beneficial insects are used to control pests within the Christmas trees and the barn yard. Rotational grazing, frost seeding and applying the farm's manure based on soil fertility tests and a nutrient management plan helps ensure productive pastures and forage fields. The farm has worked with several organizations to improve stream health, and fish and wildlife habitat on the farm. Streams have been fenced, digger logs installed and a large wetland has been constructed on the farm. The farm's woodlot is FSC certified and their sustainable woodlot management practices won them the 2007 Provincial Woodlot Owner of the Year.

Maritime Beef Conference- Hold the Date

The Maritime Beef Council will be hosting the inaugural Maritime Beef Conference on March 27 and 28 at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton, NB. The agenda features Jeff Fitzpatrick from McDonalds Canada, Paul DeJonge from Atlantic Beef Products as well as Fawn Jackson from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. Dr. Montanholi will also be presenting his results from the summer heifer test as well as update on the winter bull test at the Test Station.

Atlantic Stockyards Winter Feeder Sales

Atlantic Stockyards Limited has completed three feeder sales this fall and there is another scheduled for Saturday December 6th. The November sale featured 365 unvaccinated cattle averaging 553 lbs which sold for \$2.05 as well as 745 vaccinated cattle averaging 575 lbs which sold for \$2.25. The top single was a Charolais bull consigned by Windy Valley Farm and purchased by Balamore Farm. The top group was five Charolais bulls consigned by Rooyackers Farm Ltd and purchased by Balamore Farm. Below is a list of remaining feeder sale dates for the fall and spring.

Date	Start Time	Date	Start Time
Saturday December 6	10:00am	Saturday April 11	10:00am
Thursday January 15	1:00pm	Saturday May 2	10:00am
Thursday February 12	1:00pm	Thursday May 21	1:00pm
Thursday March 12	1:00pm		

Vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified; all cattle will be sold by order of arrival. Vaccinated cattle must be accompanied by a vaccination declaration. Producers are encouraged to pre-register all feeder cattle as early as possible – ASL will be list pre-registered cattle on their website. For more information please visit www.atlanticstockyards.com.

NSCP Producer of the Year

The Board of the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers is happy to announce that starting in 2015 we will be naming an annual “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. The award recipient will be selected by a committee based on the following criteria:

- Nominee must be in good standing with the NSCP
- Nominator must be in good standing with the NSCP
- Details of why the nominee should receive the award
- Details of innovative or special farm practices
- Details of environmental stewardship practices
- Promotion of industry development
- Farm appearance

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 30, 2015 and the winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on February 21, 2015. The winner will be presented with a plaque as well as a NSCP jacket and hat.

Things You Should Know...

- Safe Handling of Cattle Applications must be submitted to the office by December 31, 2014
- Please complete the 2015 Producer Registration and submit it to the office by December 31, 2014
- Test Station On-Test Reports are available at <http://maritimebeefsteststation.com/wordpress/bull-reports>
- NSCP Zone Meetings January 19, 20, 21, 26
- NSCP Annual General Meeting February 21 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro
- Maritime Beef Conference March 27 and 28 at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton
- Feeder Sales at Atlantic Stockyards: December 6, January 15, February 12, March 12, April 11, May 2, May 21
- MBTS Annual Breeding Stock Sale April 4
- Next NSCP Newsletter will be mid-April 2015

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