

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

We are now into the first week of December and haven't seen any snow on the ground so far, but I am sure it will happen soon. As you read through the newsletter, you will notice the number of initiatives the NSCP has been working on over the past few months, many which will continue into the winter months.

We have already started working on several initiatives outlined in the Strategy including the Beef School and risk management tools. In mid-September, the MBC held the first module entitled 'Feedlot School' at the Nappan Pavilion. This module featured sessions on ration balancing, feed management, carcass grading and marketing and was attended by almost 30 participants from across the region. MBC is also working with a consultant to evaluate the possibilities of a prices insurance program for the region based on the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, for more information on this program visit: www.wlpij.ca.

We have partnered with the sheep and pork producers on a project with the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC), being led by Brad McCallum and Matt Taylor to develop and emergency preparedness plan for the livestock sector in Nova Scotia. The project will develop producer guidelines and an organizational plan to manage emergencies such as severe weather, border closures and animal health concerns. Stakeholders participated in a consultation back in October and, later this month, will be reviewing the draft plan and participating in mock emergency scenarios to test the plans.

On the national scene, there is a lot of activity related to trade negotiations, especially NAFTA and TPP. Both of these trade agreements are important for the Canadian agriculture sector. The NSCP stance on trade is that any agreements cannot have undo harm to our other farm partners. Through the Maritime Beef Council we are currently investigating the opportunities that exist for producers in this part of the country to access the European market under the CETA agreement. We have had initial conversations with CFIA on production and processing requirements, which we will provide a more in depth update in the coming months.

We are also working very closely with our provincial partners and the National Check-off Agency on full implementation of the new national check-off amount. Currently Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are the only two provinces who have completed all of the regulatory requirements for implementation. It is expected that New Brunswick will complete the progress later this year, or in early 2018 and the remainder of the provinces will be completed in early to mid-2018.

As we move closer and closer to traceability implementation, this file is getting more and more attention at the provincial and national levels. NSCP continues to work with the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to ensure that producers will be well informed and prepared for traceability implementation for when it comes into effect in the near future. Premises identification is one of the key barriers in Nova Scotia. We have jointly (with the sheep and hog producers) requested that the NSDA investigate the possibility of incorporating the PID application with the farm registration application, to capture a significant amount of farms all at the same time, while making the process easier for farmers.



On the **pink inserted form** you will find the 2018 license application and verification of levies paid for 2017. 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 prior to January 15th.

NSCP is currently accepting nominations for the 2018 Kings Mutual Cattle Producer of the Year, for more information or to nominate a producer, please visit: www.nscattle.ca/awards. This award will be presented at our Annual General Meeting.

I also want to encourage everyone to attend the 2018 Maritime Beef Conference which will be held on March 16th and 17th at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton, NB. This will definitely be the biggest and best conference to date, with special keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin making an appearance on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. As part of the conference, there will also be a workshop focused on farm financial management with a focus on financing from traditional and non-traditional farm lenders. Early in the New Year, there will be lots more information including the agenda, speakers and registration available at: www.maritimebeef.ca. **Once again this year, the NSCP will be paying for 15 registrations to the conference. If you would like to have your name entered into the draw, please contact Ashley 902-895-0581 by January 31st.**

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

Larry Weatherby, Chair

NSCP Zone Meeting Notice

The Zone Meetings will feature a presentation by Dr. Claire Windeyer from the University of Calgary on cow-calf health management and biosecurity.

This year is an election year in Zone 1 (Danford Murphy) and Zone 4 (Larry Weatherby). A Livestock Dealer will be elected to the Board at the dealer 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 8 th	7:00 pm	Whycocomagh	Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre
2	January 9 th	7:00 pm	Stellarton	Holiday Inn
3	January 11 th	7:00 pm	Wentworth	Wentworth Education Centre
4	January 9 th	1:00 pm	Stewiacke	Stewiacke Fire Hall
5	January 10 th	1:00 pm	Berwick	Berwick Lion's Den
6	January 10 th	7:00 pm	Bridgewater	Best Western Bridgewater
Dealer	February 1 st	11:00 am	Truro	NSCP Office

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. She was also involved with the Healthy Yak Project along the trekking route to Mount Everest. Claire joined the Department of Production Animal Health at UCVN in 2011. She was a participant in the Cattlemen's Young Leaders program in 2013. 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 3, 2018
at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro starting at 10:00 am.**

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, 2018 and the winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on March 3, 2018. The winner will be presented with a plaque, as well as a NSCP jacket and hat.

NSCP Continues to Lobby for Beef Strategy Implementation

On November 27th, four representatives from the Maritime beef sector travelled to Ottawa to participate in a lobby day with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. The objective of the day was to meet with Members of Parliament, as well as political staff, to discuss several challenges and opportunities for our region. The group of four partnered with John Masswohl and Brady Stadnicki from the CCA to meet with almost twenty different MPs throughout the day including Bill Casey, Colin Fraser, Rodger Cuzner, Mark Eyking, TJ Harvey (NB), and several others.

The focus of these meetings was on a five year, \$17 million ask for beef producers in the Maritimes to support the implementation of the Maritime Beef Sector Development and Expansion Strategy. The strategy was launched in May 2017 by the MBC as a collaboration between the cattle producer organizations in NB, NS and PEI. Programs outlined in the strategy will support producers in the expansion of the Maritime cow herd to 20,000 cows over the next 10 years.

VBP+ Launched in Nova Scotia



The Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program is a nationally recognized program for beef producing operations that provides recognition for good on-farm practices that are followed by producers everyday. The VBP+ program is recognized by both consumers and retailers. The program involves standard operating procedures which cover food safety, animal health, biosecurity and environmental sustainability.

In 2017, NSCP was granted project funding through the GF2 program to implement the VBP+ program for Nova Scotia beef operations. In November, the first Nova Scotia beef operation became a VBP+ Registered operation. Dean and Catherine Manning of Oakdale Farms in Windsor, NS were the first to complete the requirements to become a VBP+ Registered operation.

"We decided when we looked at VBP that were we already doing all of the components of it; record keeping, environmental farm plan, humane livestock handling, etc., so it was a natural process to tie it altogether and have it third party verified. The other part of it, we felt that consumers being so many generations removed from the farm are now asking more information on how their food is raised. We can provide that now, and if there are value chains or brands that are looking for niche markets using verification protocols then we are setup to do that too." Dean Manning.

If you are interested in learning more about the VBP+ program, please contact the NSCP or the Maritime Beef Council at maritimebeefcouncil@gmail.com or 902-969-1632.

Commit to Local for the Holidays

The holidays are upon us, and this year we're issuing a challenge - give a gift that gives back to our entire province by committing to spending some of your holiday shopping budget locally. It's easy to do! It's a unique shopping experience and when you spend locally, you help support local businesses, local jobs and the local economy.

Local gifts have a richer story. They're often one-of-a-kind and made by talented and creative Nova Scotians who love what they do. There's something special about finding that perfect gift and knowing that the person you're giving it to will appreciate the story as much as you 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 to make 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. Also, 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!

**2018
MARITIME
BEEF
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 16-17, 2018
DELTA BEAUSÉJOUR
MONCTON, NB

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
TEMPLE GRANDIN, PH.D.,

Dr. Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She has also been featured on the BBC special "The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow", ABC's "Primetime Live", "The Today Show" and more.

WWW.MARITIMEBEEF.CA

Atlantic Cow-Calf Survey

The Atlantic Cow-Calf Survey is being conducted by the Maritime Beef Council in cooperation with the Provincial Beef Associations and Perennia as part of a larger overall study project. The purpose of the overall study project is to gain a better understanding of the management practices, economics, and disease rates on Maritime cow-calf farms and to determine how well Maritime producers compete in a global economy.

The survey will obtain basic information on production practices, management choices, disease rates, and rate of technology adaptation in the provinces. Questions in this survey have been adapted from the Western Canadian Cow-Calf Survey 2014 and Ontario Cow-Calf, 2017 Production Survey. Information about your operation, management and marketing strategies will be collected as they relate to your 2017 calf crop.

After completing the survey, you may enter for a chance to win two free registrations to the 2018 Maritime Beef Conference in Moncton, NB. This year the conference keynote speaker will be Dr. Temple Grandin.

The last day to participate in this survey has been extended to January 31, 2018. You can complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017-ATL-cow-calf



November Feeder Sale Results Very Strong

It was a very strong November sale, with Buyer preference for quality 6-8wt vaccinated steers.

Sale Summary:

1107 head @ 606 lb average, 184 cents per lb average. Gross Return \$1115/hd
500 steers (\$195 @ 642lbs), 444 heifers (\$169 @ 582lbs), 153 bulls and stags (\$185 @ 551lbs)

350 unvaccinated cattle sold for 174 cents per lb at 602lbs for a gross return of \$1047
747 vaccinated cattle sold for 188 cents per lb at 607lbs for a gross return of \$1141 (\$94 premium)

Winter Feeder Sale Dates

Tuesday January 16th: 10 am
Tuesday March 6th: 10 am
Saturday April 14th: 10 am
Saturday May 5th: 10 am

Producers are encouraged to pre-register all feeder cattle as early as possible; ASL will be listing pre-registered cattle on our 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.

Upcoming Dates

- Zone Meetings: *Zone 1*: January 8th
Zones 2 & 4: January 9th
Zones 5 & 6: January 10th
Zone 3: January 11th
- Dealer Meeting: February 1st, 2018
- Atlantic Stockyards Feeder Sales: January 16th, March 6th, April 14th, May 5th, 2018
- NSCP Annual General Meeting: March 3rd, 2018
- Maritime Beef Conference: March 16th & 17th, 2018
- Balamore Farm Bull and Heifer Sale: March 26th, 2018
- Nappan Spring Breeding Stock Sale: April 7, 2018
- Next NSCP Newsletter will be April 2018

NOVA SCOTIA CATTLE PRODUCERS

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