

September 2018 Newsletter



Message from the Chair



Spring planting season started off very slow and many of us were late with first cut due to cool and wet weather but it turned out to be one of the hottest, driest summers in recent memory. Some areas of the province experienced more severe weather than others, leaving some either feeding early or bring animals in from pasture sooner than usual.

The NSCP has spent a considerable amount of time over the past several months working with veterinarians, beef specialists, industry partners and the Department of Agriculture to find suitable solutions to challenges to changing regulations of accessing antibiotics. We realize that there are numerous producers across the province who do not have an established vet-client relationship either because of farm management or access to a veterinarian. Specifically, we have

encouraged the NSDA to ensure the Cattle Herd Health Assistance Program as we expect there to be an increased participation in the program. We have also begun to monitor drug costs by conducting surveys across the region.

In August, we also hosted the fourth annual NS Elite Beef Expo which feature more than 90 animals from 16 exhibitors from across the region. This proves to still be a very popular event and we have committed to making this part of our annual events.

We once again partnered with the NS Young Farmers Forum to participate in their annual summer tour and social. This year we are continuing our support for youth in agriculture by making a contribution to the Nova Scotia Royal Beef Team which will be participating at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto in November. With this newsletter you will find a request for support **(the green paper)** from the team and we encourage you to help out in any way that you can.

NSCP would like to congratulate Pat and Larry Ward from Willow Pond Farm in Middle Musquodoboit for being a finalist of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association national environmental stewardship award as part of the Canadian Beef Industry Conference in London, Ontario.

It is gearing up to be a busy fall and winter season for NSCP. In October, we will be partnering with the Canada Beef, Maritime Beef Council and Atlantic Beef Products to promote beef at the Pinty's Masters Championship being held in Truro from October 23rd to 28th. In November, we are partnering with Dr. Frank Schenkels, Dr. Dave Kelton and Boehringer-Ingelheim to host a Bob Calf Health workshop at the Onslow-Belmont Fire Hall on November 13th. We are also getting ready for our Zone and Annual meetings which are scheduled for January, the complete schedule is printed later in the newsletter.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Ellen Crane on her new position with the Beef Cattle Research Council as Extension Coordinator. Ellen has been a key driver of the development of the Maritime Beef Industry Development and Expansion Strategy over the past two years while working with the Maritime Beef Council. 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

Changes to Newsletter Distribution

Please note: **only selected NSCP newsletters will be mailed in the future.** Mailed newsletters will be timed with annual registration and membership card. In an effort to improve our communication with members we will be focusing on more timely information sharing through our website, social media and direct emails. The most current NSCP Newsletter will also be available for viewing on our website (www.nscattle.ca/newsletter/), as well as posted to our social media accounts of Facebook and Twitter.

2018 NS Elite Beef Expo Results



Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo

This year, the NSCP organized the fourth annual Nova Elite Beef Expo held at the NS Provincial Exhibition. This year's Expo featured 92 animals from 16 different exhibitors with more than \$6,800 awarded in prize money. We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped organize the show as well as those who helped during the show. We would also like to thank our many sponsors who provided prize money for the show, particularly Presenting Sponsor- Atlantic Beef Products from PEI. Congratulations to all of the exhibitors who brought great animals to Truro.



Judge Jamie O'Shea named Fusion Foolish Girl, Supreme Female Champion. The mature cow was exhibited by Linden Hill Cattle Company from Antigonish, NS.



Judge Jamie O'Shea named Balamore Electron 744E Supreme Male Champion. The yearling bull was bred and exhibited by Balamore Farm Ltd. from Great Village, NS.

2018 Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo Breed Grand Champions

Breed	Male	Female
Hereford	CHB Eldorado 1E- Yearling Bentville Farms	Brendale Premier Sunshine 202E- Yearling Bentville Farms
Limousin	Balamore Fully Auto 806F - Calf Balamore Farm Ltd.	Balamore Famous 832F- Calf Balamore Farm Ltd.
Angus	Linden Hill Sensation 9F- Calf Linden Hill Cattle Company	Fusion Foolish Girl- Mature Cow Linden Hill Cattle Company
Simmental	WKF Gladiator 38E- Yearling Windy Knoll Farm	Windy Knoll Bevie 5D- 2 Year Old Windy Knoll Farm
Charolais	Balamore Electron 744E- Yearling Balamore Farm Ltd.	Balamore Electra 740E- Yearling Balamore Farm Ltd.

Hurry Hard to the Canada Beef Curling Community Beef Picnic



The Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling is coming back to Truro, N.S., during the 2018-19 season.

Rath Eastlink Arena will once again host the Masters, the first major of the year, running Oct. 23-28 and featuring 15 of the top men's teams and 15 of the top women's teams in the world. Title sponsor for the event is Canada Beef

Truro held the Masters in 2015 featuring action-packed, thrilling events with Team McEwen topping Team Cotter for the men's title and Team Homan prevailing over Team Sweeting on the women's side. Winners of the Masters will qualify for the season finale Humpty's Champions Cup taking place April 23-28, 2019, at Saskatoon's Merlis Belsher Place.

Canada Beef is also a title sponsor of two of the best curling teams in the world- Team Kevin Koe from Edmonton and Team Rachel Homan from Ottawa.

As a title sponsor of major sporting events, Canada Beef will be working with the Maritime Beef Council (NS, NB and PEI Cattle Producers) to promote beef to the thousands of consumers who attend the events. As part of the event, there will be a beef information booth as well as a community beef picnic on October 25th from 4pm to 6pm at the Rath Eastlink community Centre. The picnic will include talks from sponsored curlers on why they choose beef as their preferred protein.

Bull Bonus Program Update

Over the past number of months we have heard from several producers from across the province about the continuation of the bull bonus program. On May 2, 2018 the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers submitted a proposal to the Department's Programs & Business Risk Management division based on discussion we had with them in April 2018.

The proposal was very similar to the prior program, including funding for testing bulls at home as well as the Test Station, bull purchase, including bonuses and added management software and training. The total funding requested for the program was \$89,500. Below is the budget breakdown as submitted in the proposal.

Activity	Expected Uptake	Funding Level	Total Funding
Test Station Testing	40	\$300 per bull	\$12,000
Home Testing	25	\$150 per bull	\$3,750
Bull Purchase	45	\$1,000 per bull	\$45,000
Bull Bonus	40	\$100 per bull	\$4,000
Performance Data Software	45	\$400 per farm	\$18,000
Software Training & Data Entry	45	\$150 per farm	\$6,750
Program Payments Subtotal			\$89,500

In September, NSCP was notified that the Department was not willing to fund a program which paid for the purchase of animals. We then met with Department staff to discuss how a genetic improvement program could be designed and implemented, which we are currently working on another proposal. If you are interested in seeing the full proposal to present to your local MLA, please contact the office.

Test Station Now Accepting Bull Applications for 2018-2019

Maritime Beef



Testing Society

The Maritime Beef Testing Society is now accepting applications for the 2018-19 winter test. We are entering the fourth season using the GrowSafe feeding system to evaluate bull performance. Please visit the MBTS website to access the 2018-19 consignment forms at www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/consignment.

We also invite all MBTS members and beef producers to attend the Annual General Meeting on Saturday November 17, 2018 at the Nappan Pavilion. The meeting will start at 10:30 am and will include updates from the Test Station.

Fall Feeder Sale Dates

Saturday October 13 (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

Saturday November 17 (10am)

Saturday December 8 (10 am)

Vaccinated cattle must be accompanied by a vaccination declaration and a receipt for the vaccine used. Vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified, all cattle will be sold by order of arrival.

September Feeder Sale Results

Top Single >500lbs – Red steer weighing 510lbs @ \$2.15, owned by Kevin Moran, bought by J.T. Anderson Holdings Ltd. 2nd top - LM steer 680lbs @\$2.03, owned by Wally Ross, bought by Cowtown Cattle Co. Inc.

Top Group >500lbs– 3 red steers weighing 527lbs ave @ \$2.48, owned by Carrondale Cattle Co. Inc., bought by K.B. Kinsman and Son. 2nd top – 3 char steers weighing 595lbs ave @ \$2.34, owned by Donald J MacLellan bought by J.T Anderson Holdings.

Sale Summary

642 head 689 lb average 182 cents per lb average Gross Return \$1254/hd
357 steers (\$195.0 @ 695lbs), 271 heifers (\$167.0 @ 682lbs), 13 bulls and stags (\$145.0 @ 616lbs)
139 unvaccinated cattle sold for 179.0 cents per lb at 572lbs for a gross return of \$1024
502 vaccinated cattle sold for 183.0 cents per lb at 718lbs for a gross return of \$1314 (\$290 premium)

Female Breeding Stock Funding Draw

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers support the Maritime Beef Industry Development and Expansion Strategy as a blueprint for prosperity in the regional beef industry. The strategy focuses on professionalization of the industry, improved pasture and forage management, genetic improvement and industry expansion. The NSCP are committed to program development and delivery to support the goals of the Strategy. To show support, the NSCP will support the purchase of heifers and/or cows to eligible producers who participate in eligible industry events. The objective of the NSCP Female Breeding Stock Funding Draw (“Program”) is to encourage participation in cattle industry workshops by providing support for Nova Scotian producers for the purchase of heifers and/or young cows. This program supports the training and expansion pillars of the Strategy. Please see www.nscattle.ca/heiferdraw for further information regarding program guidelines, producer eligibility and eligible industry events.

Bob Calves- What to do with Them and How to Maximize Price

Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health – Continuing Education Present:
Bob Calves- What to do with Them and How to Maximize Price

With presentations by:

Dr. David Kelton - “Picking the best calves to survive and thrive”

Dr. Schenkels - “What’s in the Code of Practice – What are the Expectation?”

Tuesday November 13, 2018 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the Onslow-Belmont Fire Hall (12355 Highway 2, located near former Green Diamond location). Please RSVP by contacting Nathalie Newby by emailing Nathalie Newby at nathalie.newby@boehringer-ingelheim.com or calling 289-921-6009 by Friday November 2, 2018.

Willow Pond Farm- CCA TESA Award Finalist

Larry and Pat Ward, Willow Pond Farm, 2017 recipient of Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture’s Environmental Stewardship Award.

Located in Higginsville, Halifax County, Willow Pond Farm is comprised of 33 Hereford cows and their calves, 25 acres of pasture, 100 acres of hayfields, 100 acres of woodlot and three wetland areas.

The Wards bought the farm in 1973 and since then have made numerous farming decisions that have contributed greatly to the surrounding environment. Over 35 years ago, the Wards cooperated with Ducks Unlimited to create a large wetland on the farm property. This wetland provides habitat for numerous water fowl, shorebirds, raptors, fish, amphibians, turtles and small mammals.

The farm recently completed an Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation plan through the Department of Natural Resources, which identifies wildlife habitat on the farm and provides recommendations on how to make enhancements.

A Nutrient Management Plan helps manage manure, fertilizer and lime application rates to improve soil fertility and crop production while not contributing to nutrient buildup or losses to the environment. Cattle are rotationally grazed, which improves pasture productivity and reduces over-grazing. The pastured cattle access water from a water tub which is gravity fed from a large dug pond, allowing the Wards to fence cattle from watercourses. The farm uses a no-till seeder to renovate pastures which improves the health and productivity of the fields and helps prevent soil erosion.



Why are the Rules to Access Antibiotics for Livestock Changing December 1, 2018?

In the last newsletter there was an article reminding everyone that the regulations surrounding the access to Antibiotics for livestock were changing: *As of December 1st this year antibiotics will no longer be available for use on farms unless they are prescribed by a Veterinarian.* As a farmer in Canada you will have to have a working relationship with a Veterinarian in order to get a prescription for an antibiotic, purchase it and administer it to your livestock. You will no longer be able to purchase antibiotics and products containing antibiotics over the counter in feed and farm supply stores.

It is important if you don't have a veterinarian that you currently work with. That you develop a working relationship with a veterinarian before the regulations change on December 1st.

These changes are being driven by concerns about the increasing number of bacteria that are no longer controlled by the antibiotics that we have available to combat disease in both the human and animal populations. This is called Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and it is becoming an increasing problem around the world. You don't need to spend much time in a hospital before you will hear about things like MSRA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). Bacteria like MSRA are already resistant to many of the common antibiotics that we have available.

In response to AMR, governments and industry around the world are responding; there is education and implementation of new regulations that encourage responsible antibiotic use in all sectors. In human medicine we expect our doctor to use a prescription for antibiotics and doctors prescribe antibiotics based on careful diagnosis.

The livestock industry in Canada as of December 1, 2018 will require a veterinarian to prescribe antibiotics also. This will not mean that the vet will have to administer the drugs or depending on the situation see the animal in question. However it will require that the Vet and the farm have a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). In an established and working VCPR the vet visits the farm and understands the animals, management, and general health of the livestock on the farm. The vet and the farmer share their knowledge of the livestock, the health status and use this information to develop management plans, including health plans. These plans will help to ensure that the herd maximize the productive potential. As part of this process the vet can look at the overall health issues on the farm and work with the farmer to establish protocols to support improved livestock health and treat common problems.

An example of this might be recommendations for vaccination programs for improving the overall health of the animals. Or in the case of a sickness like pink eye the vet could prescribe a treatment protocol or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to treat the problem.

Effective VCPR's take time and effort to develop and require commitment by both the vet and producers to establish and maintain. Yes! That costs money and time!! However effective VCPR can result in improved herd health, improved productivity and profitability.

The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture supports herd health program to assist Nova Scotian farms to develop health programs. Information on these programs is available at <https://novascotia.ca/agri/programs-and-services/farm-animal-welfare/> If you have any questions contact your veterinarian, commodity association, or livestock specialist. Jonathan Wort. Beef and Sheep Specialist; Perennia Office 902-896-0277 ext 232 or Cell 902-890-0303

2019 NSCP Zone and Annual Meeting Dates

NSCP is pleased to announce that Dr. Claire Windeyer will be back in Nova Scotia in January to participate in all Zone meetings. Dr. Windeyer will follow-up on her early calf health presentation from last year in an interactive workshop designed to help producers solve real life calf health challenges.

Zone	Date	Time	Town	Location
1	January 7 th	7:00 pm	Whycocomagh	Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre
2	January 8 th	7:00 pm	Stellarton	Holiday Inn
3	January 10 th	7:00 pm	Wentworth	Wentworth Education Centre
4	January 8 th	1:00 pm	Truro	NSFA Boardroom
5	January 9 th	1:00 pm	Berwick	Berwick Fire Hall
6	January 9 th	7:00 pm	Bridgewater	Best Western Bridgewater
Dealer	January 31 st	11:00 am	Truro	Atlantic Stockyards
AGM	March 2nd	10:00 am	Truro	Best Western Glengarry

Canadian Cattle Prices Stay Strong

Canadian cattle prices generally had quite a strong tone so far in 2018. Feeder and calf prices through to August averaged steady to higher than last year, while fed cattle prices have been a bit lower.

There was some caution heading into 2018 as North America may have record beef production this year, and will have record total production of beef, pork and poultry. Domestic and international demand for beef continues to be strong as cattle and beef prices hold up despite the additional production.

Alberta fed cattle and cull cow prices have been above the United States most of the year, and expanded their premium over Ontario. This resulted in increased feeder cattle imports from the U.S. into Alberta, despite Alberta having higher feed costs than the U.S.

It is interesting that both feeder imports and exports are above a year ago as prices vary between regions and animal types. Overall, Canadian feeder exports remain historically low. The U.S. had a major expansion over the last three years, while the Canadian herd has remained flat, which supported local prices.

Statistics Canada released the July 1 cattle inventory report, and it showed declining cattle numbers. There were declines in both total cattle numbers as well as lower breeding stock inventories. There are 12.4 million head of cattle in Canada, 0.8 per cent below a year ago, and the smallest July 1 inventory since 1988.

Cattle numbers in eastern Canada were generally flat, while numbers declined in the west. Total beef cow inventories were reported at 3.7 million head, down 1.2 per cent but still above the recent 2015 low. Breeding heifers were down 2.6 per cent, which was all due to lower numbers in the west.

Dry conditions in many parts of western Canada over the last couple of years continues to take its toll on Canadian cattle numbers. Cow marketings have been over 10 per cent higher than last year, and given the lower feed stocks and higher feed prices, a higher culling rate through the fall is expected, and therefore a smaller herd and calf crop for 2019.

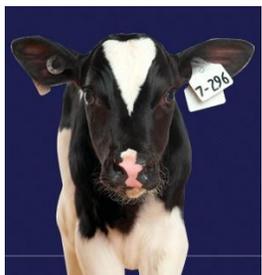
On the other hand, the U.S. herd expansion has slowed or ended, and given the larger numbers to work through the supply chain, North American beef production will likely expand for at least the next couple of years.

Calf and feeder prices at the end of August were mostly \$15 to \$20 per hundredweight higher than the same time a year ago, as 550 pound steers were near \$225 a hundredweight. These are still historically strong price levels, but some caution is warranted heading into the fall run. Rising feed costs, and the fact feedlots are losing money on their current sales could restrict calf demand. The fall run is expected to see a higher proportion of calves come to market due to limited feed stocks and high forage prices. Meanwhile, trade uncertainty continues to hang over the market, and adds foreign exchange risk, which can have a significant impact on Canadian producers.

Canadian cattle prices are strong so far in 2018, with Western Canada often having the highest prices in North America. However, factors like rising feed costs and the subsequent increased cattle to market as a result could restrict calf demand during the fall run.

As the manager and senior analyst at [Canfax](#), Brian Perillat ensures Canfax maintains accurate and relevant market information, as well as provides and oversees market analysis for its members and the industry.

2018 Healthy Calf Conference



Veal Farmers of Ontario's much anticipated biennial conference is back for 2018. This year, the event will be held on November 27th in Stratford, Ontario at the Arden Park Hotel and on November 29th in the Ottawa area (location to be announced). The conference will include a full day of industry expert speakers sharing the newest and best information on care of dairy calves, veal cattle, and calves started for the dairy-beef market. Attendees can also look forward to the unique calf-focused tradeshow and the great networking opportunity for calf raisers. If you only go to one conference this winter, make sure it is the Healthy Calf Conference! All attendees will go home with the knowledge they need to improve calf management on their farm as soon as they arrive home. Visit www.calfcare.ca for speaker announcements, registration, giveaways, and more!

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