

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

We weathered a hot, dry summer, so can only hope for a cooler fall approaching! The NSCP have a busy fall planned, as we continue to schedule future industry events and workshops.

The 2019 Canadian Beef Industry Conference (CBIC) was held in Calgary, Alberta from August 12th-15th with the theme 'Securing our Future.' This featured speakers related to consumer demands, focusing on current and future opportunities, the growing protein market and production challenges and opportunities. There were focuses on genetic selection and improvement, pasture and forage management related to drought and several presentations on animal health, focusing on vaccinations and safe handling techniques.

CBIC is also the host of several industry meetings including the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-off Agency annual meeting, the Canadian Cattlemen Association (CCA) and Young Cattlemen Council semi-annual meetings. Nova Scotia was well represented at the Conference with five participants.

The 5th Annual Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo was once again a part of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition this past August. This featured more than 60 animals from 10 exhibitors from across the Maritimes.

The Maritime Beef Testing Society (MBTS) will have a test once again this year, with consignment forms available on the website. Bulls will arrive at the Station November 1st and 2nd. The MBTS annual meeting will be November 22nd at the AAFC Pavilion. The Test Station is also happy to announce that they have worked with the NSCP and SPANS to secure funding to enhance the testing program at Nappan. Starting in 2020, they will offer ram evaluations (details to follow) and will be reviewing the bull testing program for any changes to the 2020-21 testing season.

The NSCP have secured funding for both the Nova Scotia Multi-Species Ultrasound Enhancement Project and Feeder Cattle Vaccination Screening through the CAP Program. It has been proven that carcass quality genetics can be improved by utilizing ultrasound technology, so by having this service available to producers it is our hope to see an increase in overall regional carcass quality.

We would like to remind producers of the changes coming to livestock transportation regulations, beginning February 1st, 2020. Some of these changes include the transportation of young animals that have not yet been weaned, as well as distance and travel time revisions, to allow livestock to have adequate rest periods. For a complete listing of all transportation regulation changes to come, please visit <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/humane>.

Recently, we have formed a working group with the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia to further evaluate the impact that changes to the Transportation of Animal Regulations will have on the cattle industry in Nova Scotia. Proposed changes could have a severe negative impact on our ability to market cattle outside of the region. NSCP and DFNS have agreed to work on short term activities such as lobbying governments for a longer implementation period and producer and transporter education as well as longer term solutions such as alternative production systems and markets.

For Canada's upcoming 43rd Federal Election, we recommend producers express any concerns within the beef industry with candidates and Members of Parliament (MPs). For further information, such as talking tips, please visit <http://www.cattle.ca/>.

The NSCP teamed up with Amy Higgins, Maritime Beef Council, and Jonathan Wort, Perennia, to deliver workshops regarding VBP+ and the changes within the transportation regulations. These are being held October 1st, 2nd and 3rd throughout the province. Also, along with SPANS, we are hosting information sessions where Jonathan Wort will be discussing forage feeding with both beef and sheep components. These will be occurring throughout the fall at farms across Nova Scotia. Please keep an eye out on our website, as well as our Facebook/Twitter, for more information of these upcoming events!

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

2019 NS Elite Beef Expo Results



Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo

This year, the NSCP organized the fifth annual Nova Elite Beef Expo held at the NS Provincial Exhibition. This year's Expo featured 63 animals from 10 different exhibitors with over \$5,000 awarded in prize money. We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped organize the show and 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 Sandy Reid named Linden Hill Ms Raven 18E Supreme Female Champion. The two year old cow was bred and exhibited by Linden Hill Cattle Co. from Antigonish, NS.



Judge Sandy Reid named Linden Hill Sensation 9F Supreme Male Champion. The yearling bull was bred and exhibited by Linden Hill Cattle Co. from Antigonish, NS.

2019 Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo Breed Grand Champions

Breed	Male	Female
Limousin	Balamore Guillotine 930G - Calf Balamore Farm Ltd.	Balamore Formula 837F - Heifer Balamore Farm Ltd.
Angus	Linden Hill Sensation 9F- Yearling Linden Hill Cattle Company	Linden Hill Ms Raven 18E- 2 Year Old Linden Hill Cattle Company
Charolais	N/A	Moyer's Fine'n'Dandy 4F - Heifer Golden Brook Farms
Pure Bred Commercial	N/A	DTCC Gem 4G Double Trouble Cattle Company

Test Station Now Accepting Bull Applications for 2019-2020

Maritime Beef



Testing Society

The Maritime Beef Testing Society (MBTS) is now accepting applications for the 2019-20 winter test. We are entering the fifth season using the GrowSafe feeding system to evaluate bull performance. This year's consignment forms have been added to the MBTS website and are due back in October. These can be found at www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/consignment.

We also invite all MBTS members and beef producers to attend the Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 22, 2019 at the Nappan Pavilion. This year's guest speaker is Jasper, from AgSights and he will be discussing bull evaluation and selection. The meeting will start at 10:30AM and will include updates from the Test Station.

Fall Feeder Sale Dates

Tuesday, September 24 (10AM)	Producers are encouraged to pre-register all feeder cattle as early as possible. Atlantic Stockyards Limited (ASL) will be listing pre-registered cattle on their website.
Tuesday, October 22 (10AM)	
Tuesday, November 19 (10AM)	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.
Tuesday, December 10 (10AM)	

Safe Handling Course

Safe handling certification and premise identification (PID) numbers are required for select Nova Scotia programs. For additional information regarding PID, please contact Daniel Muir, Traceability Coordinator, at Daniel.Muir@novascotia.ca.

For all who require a safe handling course, please see the below dates and locations for options:

Date	Location	Time	RSVP Date
September 28 th	Kintail Farms Mabou, NS	10AM-1PM	September 25 th
October 19 th	TO BE DETERMINED **	TBD	
October 26 th	Six Maples Farm Antigonish, NS	9AM-12PM	October 23 rd
November 9 th	AAFC Pavilion Nappan, NS	9AM-12PM	November 6 th
November 16 th	Kevin and Sonia Baker Centreville, NS	9AM-12PM	November 13 th
November 23 rd	NSFA Boardroom East Mountain, NS	12:45-3:30PM	November 20 th

**October 19th location will be distributed amongst email, social media and website once it has been confirmed.

For all courses aside from the November 23rd option, please bring a lunch and a lawn chair, beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or office@nscattle.ca by the above date to ensure your spot. Please inquire about the address upon RSVP if you require the location.

Upcoming Workshops

“Forage and Winter Feeding”

In combination with the safe handling courses, we will be offering forage workshops immediately following at select location. Jonathan Wort, Perennia, will be discussing the importance of feeding forages, especially winter feeding, with both beef and sheep components. Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or office@nscattle.ca prior to the day of if you would like to attend.

- September 28th 1-2PM
- October 26th 12-1PM
- November 9th 12-1PM
- November 16th 12-1PM

“VBP+ and Changes to Transportation Regulations”

Amy Higgins, Maritime Beef Council, and Jonathan Wort, Perennia, will be discussing Verified Beef Production as well as changes to the existing transportation regulations. There are three options to attend:

7PM-9PM

- October 1 – NSFA Conference Room (7 Atlantic Central Dr., East Mountain)
- October 2 – Windsor Fire Hall
- October 3 – Antigonish NSDA Conference Room

Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or office@nscattle.ca by September 28th.

Please stay tuned to our social media pages and website for further information on these workshops.

Atlantic Beef School

November 1st & 2nd, 2019· Nappan, NS

Friday Nov 1st- Pasture Feeding Systems Module
10:00 AM- 6:00 PM

Saturday Nov 2nd- Feeding & Nutrition Management
8:00 AM-3:30 PM

TUITION FEES:

SINGLE MODULE Tuition: \$86.96 + HST= \$100

BOTH MODULES Tuition: \$152.17 +HST= \$175
(includes lunch & take home materials)

REGISTRATION will open September 24th and close
on October 26th, 2019

www.maritimebeef.ca



Time to Start Thinking About Winter! How is Your Feed Supply?

For many producers in Nova Scotia the last two years have presented some challenges in terms of weather and managing livestock feeding. Last year was not an exceptional year with late frost and dry conditions, which in some cases, limited the amount of winter feed harvested. This year has had its own challenges with a late spring, delayed pasture season and in some areas of the province dry conditions that have limited winter feed supplies again and late summer pastures.

With all these things in mind, the cattle and sheep producers, with Perennia, are hosting a series of workshops to talk about forage quality and feeding plans to maximize the value of the forage you have. (See the notices in this newsletter)

As we move through fall and winter approaches, you should take an inventory of you winter feed supplies and decide if you have enough for the winter. If not, you should consider purchasing extra feed early and make sure that you have enough. If this is not an option for you, then you need to consider carefully what you are going to do: Preg check your cows and sell any open cows and cull cows or ewes that are in poor body condition (these are going to need extra feed). Animals that are not productive are an extra drain on your valuable feed supply. If you have feed to sell or you are looking for feed, consider visiting the Perennia's Market place on the website: <https://marketplace.perennia.ca/> or visit the Perennia home page and click on the Marketplace icon in the blue bar at the top of the page.

Take the time to test your forage and use the feed test to sort your forage and feed it to its best advantage. Match the forages to meet the feed requirements for various stages of production of your animals. Forage testing and feeding the forage based on the test results can reduce or eliminate money spent on supplementary grains.

Join us at the workshops and learn more about forage testing and feeding to maximize the value of your forages.

I encourage everyone to visit the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) web site <https://www.beefresearch.ca/>, there is a wealth of information and management tools that can help you make decisions about things like feeding your cattle.

I look forward to seeing many of you at various meetings and workshops this fall.

Jonathan Wort Beef and Sheep Specialist : jwort@perennia.ca 902 896 0277

The NSCP recommend producers are regularly testing their feed to ensure its nutritional properties, so cattle are getting the utmost nutrition from their feed. Additionally, we recommend purchasing feed early, to both avoid running out and ensuring you are getting feed for the best prices, rather than potentially paying more later on.

Advance Payments Program

The Advanced Payments Program (APP) is a Canadian Federal Loan Guarantee Program available through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Agri-Commodity Management Association Administrator).

It offers cattle producers the opportunity to receive 50% of the market value of the cattle inventory to be marketed between April 1st to September 30th of the following year, to be repaid when the animal is marketed. It helps with cash flow and provides the flexibility to better market your product. You can access the first \$100,000 interest free, to a maximum of \$1,000,000 at the interest rate of prime minus ¼%.

To qualify for this program, you must be enrolled in AgriStability (BRM). This provides security in addition to your beef inventory. To find out more, call Kara at 902-895-0581 or visit <http://agricommodity.ca/app/>. There you will find this year's advance rates, important program information and the forms required to submit your application.

Agri-Commodity Management Association
902-895-0581 WWW.AGRICOMMODITY.CA

Advance Payments Program
Cash Flow For Farmers

- Up to \$100,000 interest free
- Up to an additional \$300,000 at prime, minus 1/4%
- Repay as you market product

Available for the following commodities

• Mink	• Blueberries
• Christmas Trees	• Greenhouse
• Cattle	• Apples
• Hogs	• Sheep
• Maple Syrup	• Honey
• Grains	• Oil Seeds

AND OTHERS...

Advances are available in the Atlantic Provinces.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Transportation of Livestock and Poultry Regulations: Changes are coming in February 2020

In the last newsletter there was an article about the changes to the Health of Animal Act and the major changes to the Transport of Livestock and Poultry. These changes are going to have an impact on virtually everyone who has Livestock or poultry in Canada. If you are not aware of these changes you need to check them out and see what you need to do to meet the new requirements. You can look at the previous newsletter or go to <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html> and review the legislation.

Remember that these changes are going to come into place on the 1st of February 2020, that's not that far away.

The previous newsletter looked at an overview of the regulations related to things like transport time, requirements for the transporter, requirements for transport, age restrictions for animals that are transported and mentioned definitions of animals that are Unfit or Compromised for Transport.

Animals that are considered Unfit for Transport: when they are: a) non-ambulatory, b) have a fracture that impedes mobility or causes pain, c) lame in one or more limb, d) lame to the extent that it cannot walk on all legs, e) in shock or is dying, f) has prolapsed uterus or severe rectal prolapse, g) exhibits signs of nervous system disorder, h) pigs that are trembling, with difficulty breathing and skin discoloration, i) laboured breathing, j) severe open wound or laceration, k) injured animals hobbled to aid treatment, l) extremely thin, m) exhibiting signs of dehydration, n) exhibiting signs of hypothermia or hyperthermia, o) exhibiting signs of fever, p) significant hernias, q) in last 10% of gestation or has given birth in the last 48 hours, r) unhealed or infected navel, gangrenous udder, severe carcinoma of the eye, bloated to the extent that it is causing weakness or discomfort, showing signs of exhaustion, or exhibiting any signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates that it cannot be transported without suffering.

Animals that are considered compromised for Transport: when they are; a) bloated with no signs of discomfort or weakness, b) has acute frostbite, c) blind in both eyes, d) not fully healed from a procedure, including dehorning, detusking or castration, e) lame in a way not described in definition of unfit, f) deformed or fully healed amputation that doesn't demonstrate signs of pain resulting from the condition, g) is in peak lactation, h) has unhealed or acutely injured penis, i) minor rectal or vaginal prolapse, j) has mobility limited by a device applied to the body including hobbles, k) wet birds, l) or exhibit any other signs of infirmity, injury or of a condition that reduces the animals ability to withstand transport.

With these conditions in mind, Unfit Animals should not be loaded and transported except under very special circumstances. If they become Unfit during transport, immediate actions should be taken to prevent further problems. (See; <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html>)

Compromised Animals can be transported with special care and consideration under limited conditions: see regulation. The decision to transport any compromised animal should not be taken lightly.

Producers need to recognise the seriousness of an animal's condition and its potential to cause welfare issues. If in doubt, you can consult that Transport Decision Tree in the Beef Code of Practice. <https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle/graphics/appendix-D.pdf>

If you have any doubt in your mind about an animal's fitness to be transported, don't load the animal until it is healthy and can travel safely.

Jonathan Wort Beef and Sheep Specialist: jwort@perennia.ca 902 896 0277

Call for Nominations

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers are seeking nominations for three positions to be elected in 2020 for Zone 3, Zone 6 and Director-at-Large. The Zone Directors will be elected at their respective Zone meetings and the Director-at-Large will be elected at the NSCP annual general meeting.

The nomination period will be open from November 1st to 30th and nominees will be announced in the December 2019 NSCP newsletter.

Please contact the office for a nomination form.

“3% Project” Farm Tour

Wallace Bay, Nova Scotia. May 25th, 2019. I visited Holdanca Farm managed by John Duynisveld and his family. He's won the Governor General Award for his environmental research in farming practices. He's dedicated to managed grazing, regenerative farming, and negative carbon farming.

Managed grazing improves soil health, sucking carbon into the ground, water retention, and how fast grass grows. How? Tall grass sucks carbon to make super deep, thick roots of 3-4 metres! His farm also has plants peppered throughout the pasture that reduces methane production of cows by 30-45%.

John loves and cares for his cows.

He knows each cow by name, and the cows seemed to reciprocate that care with John. We sat on the grass to chat for a while, and the entire herd began to encircle us! One cow named Lucky even brushed its head against me. As I looked around the farm, I didn't only see his herd of sheep, chickens, pigs, and cows, but I saw how they symbiotically coexisted with their surrounding ecosystem of birds, deer, bats, and various species of insects. John seemed to intimately know the relationship between his farm and its surrounding ecosystem, and was proud of his stewardship over the entire ecosystem.

Again, I couldn't help but wonder why other farms aren't like this. Or are they? What's the potential of such practices scaled across Canada?

Canadian beef cows produce 240% less carbon pollution than the global average. According to the CCA, the Canadian grasslands can theoretically suck in 4,000 million tonnes of carbon from the air and put it in the ground. For comparison: 700 million tonnes was the entire Canadian carbon pollution in 2015. There's a huge potential for Canadian grasslands management as a carbon capture and storage solution to the climate crisis with beef as a minor byproduct. Just last week, a UN report on land use and climate change prepared by 107 scientists reported that more effective land use could store more of the carbon emitted by humans.

I don't know how many ranches operate like John and Cedric MacLeod of Local Valley Beef in New Brunswick, but John says that it will take a few years for farmers to try out negative carbon farming practices, and become proficient enough so that it consistently turns a profit. For farmers and ranchers, if you mess up one farming cycle, it's a waste of an investment of time and labour for months, if not the entire year. Capacity-building, sharing best practices, and risk management for farmers venturing into negative carbon farming practices would be helpful. Leading examples from New Zealand and Australia could be helpful, as well.

Carbon negative farming is a fantastic opportunity for the next generation of young farmers who deeply care about climate solutions. Increasing venture capital support for “agtech” or agriculture tech, convening young people from diverse fields on sustainable agriculture, and conducting research into the potential and the practical practices of carbon-negative farming are among many ideas to maximize the stewardship of the Canadian grasslands.

Canada is uniquely blessed with natural resources. We have freshwater, coastal areas, grasslands, and so much more. Canada's natural resources, the mother earth that keeps on giving, might be what saves us after all.

Steve Lee is a climate change activist, policy advocate, global speaker and Executive Director of Foundation for Environmental Stewardship (FES). He started the “3% Project” to raise climate change awareness for Canadian youth.



INTERESTED IN IMPROVING YOUR
GRAZING MANAGEMENT?

Join us for a grazing tour led by an experienced farmer who has implemented an improved grazing management plan on their farm. We are hosting five tours across the province.

For livestock-based farms, making the most of your pastures can have significant economic and environmental benefits. Learn how you can improve your farm's carrying capacity with limited resources.

SELECT ONE OR MORE GRAZING TOURS:

Mabou, Danford Murphy's	Sept 7	1-3 pm
Antigonish, Gabe Chisholm's	Sept 18	6-8 pm
Bridgewater, Kevin Veniotte's	Sept 24	6-8 pm
Yarmouth, Evan Kleiner's	Oct 5	3-5 pm
Wallace, John Duynisveld's	Oct 18	1-3 pm

NOVA SCOTIA For specific farm locations, call 902-863-7500 or contact your local Department of Agriculture office. Perennia staff will also be on hand to help answer questions.

NOVA SCOTIA CATTLE PRODUCERS

www.nscattle.ca

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