

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair

Unlike previous summers, we weathered a fairly wet season this year, delivering an overall plentiful forage season. Throughout this past summer, the NSCP were busy planning upcoming events and working on current projects.

The 2021 Canadian Beef Industry Conference (CBIC) was held virtually again this past August, featuring great presentations from Dr. Robert Thirsk and John F.T. Scott, as well as many interesting panel discussions.

Congratulations are extended to NSCP Board Member Dean Manning, who along with his wife Catherine and their family, was the Canadian Cattleman's Association 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA) recipient. Manning Family Farm had previously been announced as the regional recipient, with the national award presented at the virtual CBIC. This is only the second time this national award has been presented to a Maritime farm, with the David Francis Farm of Lady Fane in PEI as the 2017 recipient, and the first time in TESA's 25-year history awarding a Nova Scotian farm with this honour.

The Nova Scotia Elite Beef Expo was unfortunately postponed for another year because of Public Health restrictions with COVID-19, but will hopefully be back in August 2022 at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition (NSPE) grounds. Planning for next year's Expo will begin in late winter/early spring so please keep a look out for that.

The NSCP once again offered a producer program to encourage genetic selection in the industry this past year. The Nova Scotia Elite Sire Program (Bull Bonus) was awarded to 17 producers as funding for bull purchasing, with an overall total of nearly \$9,000 awarded in our fully industry funded program.

Due to drought and wildfire conditions producers are experiencing out west, there are severe forage and hay shortages. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture is assisting the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in organizing a HayWest movement to send much needed forages to the West. If you have hay to send, complete the NSFA HayWest form at: www.nsfa-fane.ca/hay-west

I encourage everyone to attend the NSCP workshops occurring over the next couple of months, such as the *Culling Cattle – Timing & Markets* webinar occurring October 26th at 7PM via Zoom. This webinar features Bruce Andrews, Atlantic Beef Products Inc., and Dr. Trevor Lawson, Fundy Vets Ltd., discussing cull cow condition and culling decisions, relating to market dynamics. Please register in advance on our website – www.nscattle.ca. Additional workshops will be distributed shortly.

The 7th Annual Maritime Beef Conference takes place October 29th and 30th. This year, the program is designed to be presented both in-person (at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton) and online. If you purchase an in-person ticket, you will have access to all virtual content live and the recordings afterwards. Tickets are available on the Maritime Beef Council website - www.maritimebeef.ca

Health Canada has issued a Public Advisory, advising Canadians against the unauthorized use of either the veterinary or human drug versions of Ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. There is no evidence that Ivermectin, in either formulation, is safe or effective when used for those purposes. The human version of Ivermectin is authorized for sale in Canada only for the treatment of parasitic worm infections in people. More information can be found on the NSCP website News section.

I would like to remind producers of the live animal carcass ultrasound technology we have available in the region. If you are interested in having this service performed on your cattle, please visit the NSCP website for pricing, booking forms and scan requirements.

The NSCP office has livestock transport manifest books available at \$10.00 each, for 50 triplicate copies. To place a customized order, please contact ASE Print at 902-895-8804. There will be a fee of \$25.00 for customization.

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

Call for Nominations

The NSCP are seeking nominations for three positions to be elected in 2022 for Zone 2, Zone 5 and Member at Large. The Zone Directors will be elected at their respective Zone meetings, with the Member at Large being elected at the **NSCP Annual General Meeting on March 12th, 2022** (location to be determined).

The nomination period will be open from November 1st – 30th, 2021, with nominees being announced in the December 2021 NSCP newsletter. Please contact the office for a nomination form.

Cattle Appreciation Day

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia teamed up to celebrate cattle producers in the province, delivering a Cattle Appreciation Day at the Atlantic Stockyards Limited!

At the **Breeding Stock Sale, Saturday, October 30th, 2021, free hamburgers and ice cream bars will be provided for lunch by the NSCP and DFNS.** This is in celebration of all cattle producers as a thank you for your hard work. We invite all producers to attend and hope to see you all there!



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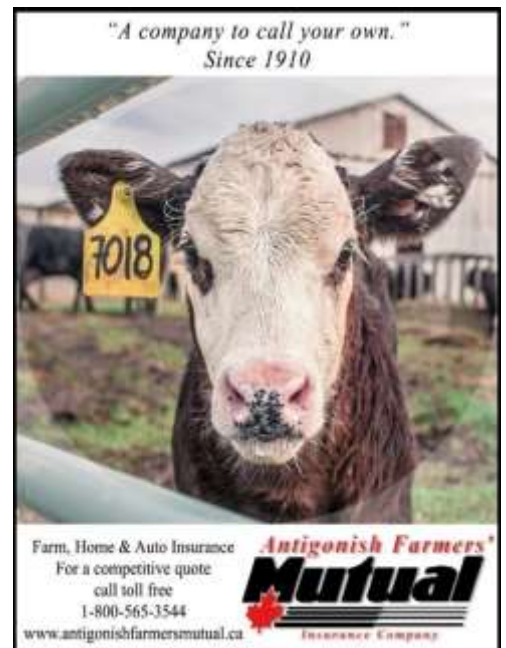
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Test Station Now Accepting Bull Applications for 2021-22

Maritime Beef



Testing Society

The Maritime Beef Testing Society (MBTS) is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 winter bull test. We are entering the seventh 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 October 15th, 2021. These can be found at www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/consignment.

The MBTS Annual General Meeting will be held November 23rd, 2021 at 7:30PM via Zoom. Please register in advance at www.maritimebeefteststation.ca. Please stay tuned to the MBTS website, as well as the NSCP website and social media channels for updates.

Cattle and Sheep Industry Development Program

The Cattle and Sheep Industry Development Program seeks to improve industry competitiveness and resilience by providing funding assistance which gives producers the opportunity to make investments that increase livestock numbers. The program helps to address tight cash flow when livestock numbers are increasing.

The program is open for applications until February 28th, 2022.

For additional information, such as eligibility, program guidelines and how to apply, please visit www.novascotia.ca/programs or contact Programs and Business Risk Management directly at 902-893-6377 or prm@novascotia.ca.

Soil, Pasture, and Forage Management Program

Pasture and forage management and improvement is a key area of focus in the Maritime Beef Industry Development and Expansion Strategy. Specifically, managing soil fertility to enhance productivity and strategically targeting feed type to cattle type and ration balancing.

The NSCP Board is happy to announce the Soil, Pasture and Forage Management Program to help beef producers take the first step of improving quality- testing and analysis to form a baseline of their farm.

The objective of the NSCP Soil, Pasture, and Forage Management Program is to support farm practices that improve fertility management and to enhance pasture and forage productivity for cattle growth and performance.

For the program application form, please visit www.nscattle.ca/members/programs, or contact the NSCP office. **This program application deadline is November 30th, 2021.**



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Fall Feeder Sale Dates

Tuesday, October 5th (10AM)

Tuesday, October 19th (10AM)

Tuesday, November 9th (10AM)

Tuesday, November 23rd (10AM)

Tuesday, December 7th (10AM)

Producers are encouraged to pre-register all feeder cattle, which Atlantic Stockyards Limited (ASL) will list on their website.

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.

There will be a Breeding Stock Sale on Saturday, October 30th, beginning at 12PM.



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On-Farm Cattle Preconditioning Pilot Project

Fall 2019 to Winter 2020, NSCP conducted a Feeder Cattle Vaccination Screening Project at the Atlantic Stockyards Limited (ASL), with the assistance of Fundy Vets Ltd. The objective of this project was to determine the effectiveness of different vaccination protocols in feeder cattle sold through the ASL and to improve the quality of feeder cattle sold through the ASL. This project illustrated there was a need for preconditioning services, including tagging, vaccination, dehorning, castration and weaning, in the province.

Throughout Spring and Summer 2021, we have been preparing for the *On-Farm Cattle Preconditioning Pilot Project*, funded by the Nova Scotia Government and the Beef Cattle Research Council. The objective of this project is to improve cattle herd health in the province by increasing the quantity and quality of vaccinated brood cows and pre-conditioned feeder calves. Specifically, the project will focus on recruiting farms identified through previous projects, who do not currently have an on-farm preconditioning program. The project will also recruit farms who want to enhance their preconditioning program by adding specified practices.

Producers will be able to book any combination of available on-farm services through the NSCP office, once services are available this fall to Nova Scotia producers. Available services include:

- Handling equipment and help
- Tagging
- Age verification
- Vaccination administration
- Castration
- Dehorning
- Weighing

For producers to participate in these on-farm services, they must:

- participate in workshops and training,
- have a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR),
- participate in the Herd Health Program
- have a valid Premise Identification (PID)
- complete age verification
- be in good standing with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers

Services will be performed by technician Scott Dixon and his team at the Atlantic Stockyards Ltd.

The NSCP office will coordinate farms by geography to reduce costs and travel redundancy. Producers will be provided with a barn sheet with all information on completed procedures.

The cost structure for this service will be the same as the carcass ultrasound:

- Flat call fee (TBD)
- Hourly chute service fee – \$35.00
- Travel (\$0.4585/km)

****For this pilot project, only the chute service fee of \$35/hour will be charged to the producer.***

If you are interested in having preconditioning services performed on your farm, please visit www.nscattle.ca/preconditioning or contact the NSCP office.

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In the future, the NSCP plan to redo the Feeder Cattle Vaccination Screening Project, with larger sampling sizes so more determinants can be made for results. We encourage producers to have a vaccine discussion with their veterinarian, to ensure administration is being done effectively and efficiently.

Agency Elects New Members and Marketing Committee at AGM

The Canadian Beef Check-Off Agency (the Agency) held their Annual General Meeting virtually again this year, occurring August 17th, 2021.

Larry Weatherby, NSCP Chair, was announced as a returning Agency Member, as the Primary Producer representative for Nova Scotia, as well as Chair of the Governance Committee.

If you were unable to catch the AGM live, a recording can be found on our website - www.nscattle.ca.

Maritime AgCast

Ensure you subscribe to *Maritime AgCast*, as this local podcast, hosted by NSCP Managing Director Brad McCallum, showcases discussions from local, regional and national guests speaking on important topics within the industry.

Many season one topics are relating to beef and/or the farm as a business. Season two began September 7th, 2021, and will run until late Summer 2022.

Subscribe through your favourite podcast platform, such as Spotify, iTunes or Google, or listen online at: www.anchor.fm/maritime-agcast.



Simply Verified Beef – the Podcast



Please also check out the Verified Beef Production Plus podcast, *Simply Verified Beef – the Podcast*, which just launched July 2021.

This podcast is co-hosted by Maritime Beef Council and New Brunswick VBP+ Coordinator, Amy Higgins and British Columbia VBP+ Coordinator, Bree Patterson, and focuses entirely on beef content.

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Looking to Make the Most of Forage Quality? Consider These Factors

Beef Cattle Research Council – September 14th, 2021

Forage quality is an important factor to consider when feeding cattle. While this may seem obvious, maximizing forage quality is sometimes not the focus when management decisions are being made. Yet focusing on quality might enable producers to save costs by getting more out of the forage they have and reducing reliance on expensive concentrates and feed additives.

Forage quality and yield variations in a field depend on a variety of factors including the stage of maturity of the forage, growing conditions, species composition within the field and/or harvest timing decisions. Harvest considerations also include dry down time, or time laying in the windrow, which is impacted by chop length, the use of conditioners and swath width behind the mower. Post harvest management also affects forage quality and is impacted by decisions such as whether to wrap bales in plastic or not and how baled forage is stored. Being aware of these range of factors allows producers to make pre-harvest, harvest, and storage decisions that can optimize forage quality.

To maximize the use of available quality forage, an inventory and quality testing system should be implemented. Notes should be taken on fields which include information such as plant species, maturity at cutting, and age of field. This will allow baled forage to be grouped together based on the same cutting timing (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th cut), forage that was cut and/or baled at a similar time, or that has a similar forage composition.

In addition, feed should be stored to allow access to any group at any time, taking into consideration facilities and limitations. Forage quality testing each feed group provides a better understanding of what quality of feed is on-farm and whether supplies are adequate to meet the herd's requirements for the year. Early assessment allows time to plan for shortfalls in yield or quality. Testing can begin once stored forage has stabilized, prior to the sale or purchase of forage, or prior to feeding out to animals. Ensure samples are sent to the lab to allow enough time to get results back so that they can inform ration decisions.

Once forage quality test results are received, they can be provided to a nutritionist or producers can use BCRC's Feed Value Estimator tool to identify how well the tested forage will meet the requirements of different classes of cattle in their herd and their production demands. With this information, producers can better match their forage groups to the production cycle of their animals and more accurately identify the amount of concentrates and feed additives required to meet nutritional needs not fulfilled by forages in the ration.

Please visit the Beef Cattle Research Council blog post webpage (www.beefresearch.ca/blog) to read this full article, featuring Nova Scotia cattle and sheep operation Kintail Farms, where ways to optimize feed harvest, inventory, and storage in order to place priority on feed testing and ration development are discussed.



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