

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Dec. 2025 - Apr. 2026 | Perennia - Manure Mondays: Diving into Real-World Manure Management Solutions
 - Register at perennia.ca/learning/agriculture-learning-opportunities/
- Jan. 12-14, 2026 | NSCP Zone Meetings (Various)
- Jan. 21 - Mar. 25, 2026 | Beef Cattle Research Council Webinar Series
 - Register at beefresearch.ca/webinars/
- Jan. 22 - Feb. 26, 2026 | CALP Webinar Series
 - Register at nscattle.ca/climate/
- Feb. 28, 2026 | Atlantic Beef School (Marketing and Value Chain) & Maritime Beef Testing Society Presentation (Nappan, NS)
 - Register at maritimebeef.ca
- Mar. 7, 2026 | NSCP Annual General Meeting (Truro, NS)
- Mar. 16-18, 2026 | Dalhousie University Extended Learning – Hoof Health Training Course
 - Registration deadline: Feb. 14, 2026 (scan the QR code below)
- Mar. 21, 2026 | Balamore Farm Ltd. 14th Annual Thickness Sells Bull Sale (Great Village, NS)
- Apr. 4, 2026 | Maritime Beef Test Station - 53rd Annual Breeding Stock Sale (Nappan, NS)



Scan the QR code for more information or to enrol in the Hoof Health Training Course occurring March 16-18, 2026, available through Dalhousie University Extended Learning.



ATLANTIC BEEF SCHOOL
NEW MODULES FOR 2026



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEB. 7, 2026 | Beef School: Feedlot Management

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM | Carleton County, NB (venue TBD)

Guest Lecturers: TBD

FEB. 28, 2026 | Beef School: Marketing & Value Chain

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM | The Pavilion @ Nappan Research Farm, Nappan, NS

Guest Lecturers: Jaelyn Wilson & Jill Renton

Jaelyn Wilson will also be hosting a FREE session at 2:30 PM at the Maritime Beef Test Station, just across the road - more to follow soon!

EARLY WINTER 2026 | Beef School Virtual Modules

The following Atlantic Beef School courses will be available online and on-demand through the Canadian Cattle Learning Centre:

- Cattle Handling with Reg Steward
- Heifer Retention & Replacement with Sean McGrath

Use code **BEEF** to get **50% OFF**

For more information, contact
AMY HIGGINS at 902-957-2606
or projects@agricommodity.ca



After a season marked by difficult summer conditions followed by an unseasonably warm and wet fall, forage performance remains cautiously optimistic. While some regions are still hoping for more moisture, overall growth has been encouraging.

Throughout the past several months, the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers (NSCP) team has continued to coordinate upcoming activities and move forward with projects that support producers across the province.

Beef Day @ UPEI

On November 8, the Maritime Beef Council (MBC) hosted Beef Day @ UPEI at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PE. NSCP representatives attended this well-received event, which drew strong interest from producers, industry partners, and students. Participants engaged in research updates, industry insights, and practical skill-building sessions designed for today's beef sector. Information on future Atlantic Beef School modules is provided on the back of this newsletter, however, please watch the MBC website and social channels for additional announcements.

NSCP continues to collaborate closely with PEI and New Brunswick Cattle Producers on initiatives related to producer education, production practices, VBP+ adoption, and farm information management.

2026 Grower License

On the **grey inserted form**, you will find the 2026 Grower License Application and Verification of Levies Paid for 2025. It is important that this form is completed and sent back to the NSCP office each year, even if levies were previously collected at the point of sale, to ensure that you remain in good standing with the NSCP, receive industry updates, have access to industry events, and are eligible for cattle-specific programs. These forms are due back by **January 16, 2026**.

Upcoming Zone Meetings

NSCP Zone meetings will be held January 12-14, 2026, offering producers an opportunity to share input on upcoming NSCP priorities and initiatives. All producers are encouraged to attend. Members can attend any of the meetings but will only be able to vote (where applicable) in their Zone. For 2026, there will be elections for Zones 3 and 6. Additional Zone Meeting information can be found further in this newsletter. Any changes will be announced one week ahead via the website and social media.

BCRC Webinar Series

The Beef Cattle Research Council will again hold a Webinar Series from January 21 – March 25, 2026. The BCRC's upcoming FREE webinar series will focus on practical topics that influence profitability, including implant use in calves, effective water management, and strategies to reduce calf losses. Register for the winter sessions (all occurring at 10:00 PM AST) at beefresearch.ca/webinars/.

Funding Programs

With support from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, NSCP continues to deliver the Nova Scotia Beef Herd Renewal Improvement Program (closing February 15, 2026). This program provides funding toward elite sires, heifer development, herd health improvements, preconditioning, VBP+ audits, and monitoring systems.

The program has been **extended** until February 2029, and several updates will take effect for the 2026 year (opening April 1, 2026):

- \$800 per retained bred heifer (up from \$300)
- Heifers will be eligible once in their lifetime
- Annual marketings will be monitored for multi-year applicants
- Retained heifers must remain in the herd for five years

Program details and application forms are available at nscattle.ca/members/programs.

Save the Date: Annual General Meeting

The NSCP Annual General Meeting will take place on **March 7, 2026**, with elections for the Director-at-Large position. Nominations for the 2026 Producer of the Year Award are open until February 1, 2026, with forms available on the NSCP website. Further details will follow in early 2026.

Producer Services

NSCP continues to provide preconditioning and carcass ultrasound services upon request. Learn more about these services on our website.

Maritime Livestock Price Insurance

Maritime Livestock Price Insurance (MLPI) remains open to Nova Scotia producers seeking protection against market volatility. For more information, please contact Amy Higgins at projects@agricommodity.ca or 902-957-2606, or visit lpi.ca/maritime-livestock-price-insurance to subscribe to updates.

Stay Connected

Visit the NSCP website and social media channels regularly for details on meetings, training opportunities, and program announcements. For inquiries, please reach the NSCP office at 902-893-7455 or office@nscattle.ca.

Season's Greetings

The NSCP Board extends warm holiday greetings and best wishes for a successful year ahead.

Larry Weatherby
Larry Weatherby, Chair

RECENT ATLANTIC STOCKYARDS LTD. FEEDER SALE RESULTS

Nov. 18, 2025, Sale Summary

579 head sold for 515 cents per lb (502 lb average) for a gross return of \$2585.30 per head
264 steers (\$547 @ 513 lbs), 240 heifers (\$488 @ 480 lbs), 74 bulls and stags (\$474 @ 517 lbs)
107 unvaccinated cattle sold for 419.0 cents per lb @ 483 lbs for a gross return of \$2371.53
471 vaccinated cattle sold for 520.0 cents per lb @ 508 lbs for a gross return of \$2641.60 (\$270.07 premium)

Dec. 2, 2025, Sale Summary results available at www.atlanticstockyards.com/feeder-sales/

ATLANTIC STOCKYARDS LTD. WINTER FEEDER SALE DATES

Beginning at 10:00 AM: Producers are encouraged to pre-register all feeder cattle, which Atlantic Stockyards Limited will list on their website.

- **January 15, 2026** Vaccinated cattle must be accompanied by a vaccination declaration and a receipt for the vaccine used.
- **February 19, 2026** Vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified. All cattle will be sold by order of arrival.
- **March 19, 2026** For more information, please visit www.atlanticstockyards.com.
- **Special Sale - March 21, 2026 @ 2:00 PM: Balamore Farm Ltd. Thickness Sells Bull Sale**

NOVA SCOTIA CATTLE PRODUCERS

7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, Nova Scotia B6L 2Z2

www.nscattle.ca | T: (902) 893-7455 | office@nscattle.ca

2026 Zone Meeting Schedule

Featuring presentations from:

- Dr. Claire Windeyer, *Acer Consulting: Maximizing Calf Value*
- Perennia Food and Agriculture

Jan. 12	Zone 1	1:00 PM	Whycocomagh Waterfront Centre 9650 Hwy 105, Whycocomagh, NS	
	Zone 2	7:00 PM	Pictou County Wellness Centre Tim Hortons Room: 2-2756 Westville Rd., Pictou County, NS	
Jan. 13	Zone 3	7:00 PM	Oxford Capitol Theatre 5220 Main St., Oxford, NS	Election
	Zone 4	1:00 PM	NSFA Conference Room 7 Atlantic Central Dr., East Mountain, NS	
Jan. 14	Zone 5	1:00 PM	Super 8 Windsor 63 Cole Dr., Windsor, NS	
	Zone 6	7:00 PM	Greenville Community Centre 724 Greenville Rd., Yarmouth County, NS **Live viewing party & Virtual option (Zoom)**	Election
Jan. 16	Dealer	12:00 PM	NSFA Conference Room 7 Atlantic Central Dr., East Mountain, NS	

Register at: www.nscattle.ca

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The NSCP is now accepting nominations for the Producer of the Year Award. The objective of the award is to recognize a Nova Scotia beef producer or dealer annually for their outstanding contributions to the provincial cattle industry. Nomination forms are available by visiting nscattle.ca/awards or by contacting the office at 902-893-7455.

Completed nomination forms are due to the NSCP office by February 1, 2026, and the winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on March 7, 2026. The winner will be presented with a plaque and an NSCP jacket.

Please note both the nominator and nominee must be in good standing with the NSCP.

←**The virtual option (via Zoom), occurring January 14th at 7:00 PM, is open to producers from any district to attend, however, only members of Zone 6 can vote for their representative at this meeting.

Please watch NSCP social media, website and e-news for any changes to the schedule at www.nscattle.ca.

MARITIME BEEF COUNCIL UPDATE

The 11th Annual Atlantic Forage Field Day took place on August 6th in Nappan, NS, at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Farm. This year's event welcomed 85 attendees, including farmers, extension agents, and industry representatives. AAFC researchers Dr. Kathleen Glover, Dr. Yousef Papadopoulos, and John Duynisveld shared updates on ongoing research related to bioactives, parasitic nematodes, frost seeding and legume incorporation, and drought management. PEI's Les Holiday spoke on the importance of measuring forage production, followed by updates from the NS, PEI, and NB Living Labs projects. The day also featured equipment demonstrations from Kingston Farm Supply and Leonard Fraser and concluded with a presentation on frost seeding led by Shane Wood from Perennia, Geoff Larkin from Agri-Commodity Management Association (ACMA) and John Duynisveld from AAFC.



VBP+ FREE training is available in both French and English, online and on demand. Scan the code to register!

The Maritime Beef Council recently hosted Beef Day @ UPEI on November 8th at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown. The event drew strong participation, with over 70 producers and industry representatives in attendance. Participants received research updates from UPEI researchers Dr. Bronwyn Crane and Javier Sanchez, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture researchers David Barrett and Paul Manning, as well as AAFC's John Duynisveld. Industry updates were also presented by Ellen Crane of the Beef Cattle Research Council

and Amy Higgins of ACMA. The day also featured a Farmer Skills Session, offering practical, hands-on learning for producers, including a calving simulator, carcass ranking, and subcutaneous injections.

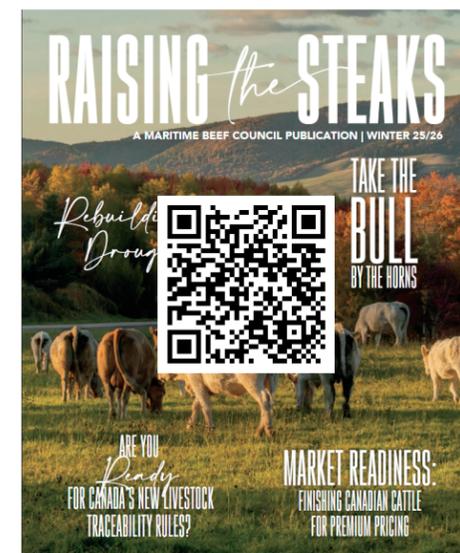
Atlantic Beef School will return in Winter 2026. This year's program will include two in-person modules: Feedlot Management in Carleton County, NB on February 7th and Marketing and Value Chain in NS on February 28th, along with two virtual sessions: Cattle Handling with Reg Steward and Heifer Retention and Replenishment with Sean McGrath, scheduled for early Winter 2026. Participants can also access a series of online modules to complete at their own pace. Additional details will be shared soon.

In 2026, we plan to continue feedlot club meetings. This year, the Calf Club participated in several fall feeder sales at Atlantic Stockyards Limited, and recruitment for next year is underway. Anyone interested in learning more about selling through this group can contact Amy Higgins at 902-957-2606 or projects@agricommodity.ca.

A reminder that Maritime Livestock Price Insurance (LPI) is available to producers in the Maritimes, offering protection against unexpected market price drops. For more information, contact Amy Higgins, or visit maritimebeef.ca. Scroll down to "Sign up! Maritime Livestock Price Insurance" to subscribe to the LPI newsletter, which is sent most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Please ensure you like the MBC Facebook page (@maritimebeef) and/or frequently visit the website (maritimebeef.ca/events) to stay up to date with all upcoming events – you wouldn't want to miss out!

Scan the QR code at right to read this winter's issue of *Raising the Steaks* from MBC! Featured this edition: *Rebuilding After Drought, Take the Bull by the Horns, Canada's New Livestock Traceability Rules and Market Readiness.*



NSCP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, March 7, 2026, beginning at 10:00 AM in Truro (location TBD). Registration will start at 9:30 AM.

Please check NSCP website, social media and e-news for updates.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

As winter settles in and the pace on the farm shifts, many producers use this season to catch their breath and prepare for the year ahead. It is also a good time to connect with new tools and discussions that support thoughtful decision-making. This February, CALP is offering a few ways to help with that.

Our winter webinar series is back, running Thursday evenings throughout January and February, beginning at 7:00 PM. Each session focuses on a practical topic related to livestock production, climate adaptation, or farm management here in Nova Scotia. We will explore ideas like adjusting winter feeding strategies, managing for drought periods, exploring living barns in a silvopasture system, and improving grazing systems to stretch out the season. Recordings will be available for anyone who cannot attend live. For the schedule or to register, please visit nscattle.ca/climate/.

This year, there is also a new tool available to help with livestock planning during weather extremes. Perennia has launched a Livestock Comfort Advisor through its Farm Data Tools platform. The tool draws on local weather data and provides a real-time indication of how cattle and sheep may be experiencing temperature, wind, humidity, and other factors that contribute to heat or cold stress. It works similarly to the cattle comfort indices used in other regions and can help producers make more informed choices about shelter, water access, increased feed intake, and when to avoid handling animals during stressful conditions.

While we cannot control the weather, having better information can help us respond in ways that support animal welfare and reduce unnecessary stress. Using tools like this during cold snaps or warm spells can help avoid performance losses and support planning for infrastructure or shade placement in the longer term. The Livestock Comfort Advisor can be accessed by visiting Perennia's Farm Data Tools platform at farmdatatools.perennia.ca.

Between the winter webinar series and new decision support tools like this one, we hope producers will find useful ways to stay ahead of shifting conditions. We will share registration information and full session details in the coming weeks through the NSCP newsletter, social media, and the climate adaptation page at nscattle.ca/climate.

COMMIT TO LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season has arrived, and with it comes our annual reminder to consider a gift that supports your entire community: choosing to spend part of your holiday budget locally. Many small businesses continue to face rising costs, and your support can make a meaningful difference. By shopping close to home, you'll enjoy a more personal experience while helping sustain local jobs and strengthen the local economy.

Local gifts often come with a story – many are handcrafted, one-of-a-kind pieces created by skilled and passionate Nova Scotians. Whether you're visiting a neighbourhood shop or purchasing from a local maker, food producer, or craftsman, the level of care and customer service is unmatched. These businesses know their products inside and out and are always ready to help you find the perfect item, even for the most difficult people on your list.

This year, we encourage you to make shopping local part of your holiday traditions. Start small: choose one gift or support one business, and build from there. And remember, "shopping local" isn't limited to presents. Consider purchasing local meats, produce, preserves, baked goods, Christmas trees, and festive décor. You may be surprised by how many local options are available once you start exploring!