

## Programs

Many programs funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture will be opening soon.

For a full list of programs, please visit [novascotia.ca/programs](http://novascotia.ca/programs) or scan the QR code to the right.



## 2025 NSCP PROGRAMS

### Nova Scotia Beef Herd Renewal and Improvement Program\*

A funding program for elite sires, heifer retention, seed stock development, herd health, preconditioning services, VBP+ audits, and surveillance systems.

Application Deadline: February 15, 2025



\*Program funding provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

### Nova Scotia Soil, Pasture & Forage Management Program

A funding program for lime purchases, and/or soil, manure and feed analyses.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2025 & November 30, 2025



For payment details and program criteria, scan the QR code to the left or visit: [nscattle.ca/members/programs](http://nscattle.ca/members/programs)



### ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM

ADVANCES AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE PROVINCES

INFO@AGRICOMMODITY.CA 902-895-0581 AGRICOMMODITY.CA/APP



### CASH FLOW FOR FARMERS

Up to \$250,000  
interest free

Up to an additional  
\$750,000 available at  
prime minus 0.1%

Repay as you market  
product

AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMODITIES  
CHRISTMAS TREES, MINK, LIVESTOCK, MAPLE SYRUP, GRAINS/OIL-SEEDS, BERRIES, APPLES, FIELD VEGETABLES, GREENHOUSE PLANTS & VEGETABLES, NURSERY TREES & SHRUBS, AND OTHERS

THE ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM IS A FEDERAL PROGRAM, ADMINISTERED BY THE ACMA.



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada  
Advance Payments  
Program

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada  
Programme de  
paiements anticipés



Spring has officially arrived across the province, bringing with it welcome warm and mild weather. As the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers gear up for a busy season ahead, I hope this newsletter reaches you and your loved ones in good health.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2025 Zone Meetings in early January. These meetings featured a presentation from Dr. James McCaughern, Harper Adams University, on maximizing forage and greenhouse gas emissions reporting. If you have input of what you would like to see presented at future Zone Meetings, please reach out to the office!

In early February, the Minister of Agriculture, Greg Morrow, held a Nova Scotia Beef Initiative Industry Update in Debert, NS. More support for the Nova Scotia Beef Industry was announced, via the Beef Abattoir and Processing Assistance Program. For more information, please see the following resource: [www.perennia.ca/the-nova-scotia-beef-initiative/](http://www.perennia.ca/the-nova-scotia-beef-initiative/). The NSCP are excited to continue working with the Nova Scotia Government on the Nova Scotia Beef Initiative.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Salmon River Fire Hall. It was well attended, and after the business meeting, we featured a Ruminant Roundtable, with discussions on management factors such as weed control and forages, nutrition and minerals, animal health and data systems. We also awarded the Armstrongs of Melvern Simmentals as the 2025 Cattle Producer of the Year. Congratulations to the Armstrongs!

Our collaboration on the Burger It Forward Campaign with Irving Big Stops, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, and Canada Beef, in February was again a big success! As a part of that effort, the NSCP donated \$4,000 worth of ground beef from Atlantic Beef Products to Feed Nova Scotia. Thank you to everyone that made this possible and supported Burger it Forward this year!

The Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off Agency scholarship is open again this year, open not only to beef producers/those directly involved with their families, but also to students who can see unique ways to make an impact through marketing, research, public engagement, and other areas where check-off dollars are invested to generate value for the beef industry in Canada. The deadline to apply is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Check out their website for complete details: [www.cdnbeefcheckoff.ca/scholarship](http://www.cdnbeefcheckoff.ca/scholarship).

We want to congratulate Joe Cooper of Balamore Farm Ltd., Laura Parsons of Windy Knoll Farm, and the Maritime Beef Testing Society on successful breeding stock sales this Spring. It is promising to see so many breeding stock sales occurring locally!

We continue to offer On-Farm Cattle Preconditioning and Beef Carcass Ultrasound services. If you would like either service completed at your farm or are interested in more information, such as pricing, please visit [www.nscattle.ca/preconditioning](http://www.nscattle.ca/preconditioning) or [www.nscattle.ca/ultrasound](http://www.nscattle.ca/ultrasound) or contact the NSCP office.

Your 2025 NSCP Grower License card was included in this envelope if you submitted a 2025 Grower License Application. A reminder that by completing the Grower License Application, paying any associated levies and submitting to the NSCP office each year, this keeps you in good standing, so you can participate in the various programs and services we offer, as well as receive industry updates through our newsletters (printed, and electronic). If you have questions relating to levy or NSCP membership, please reach out to Managing Director Kara Chisholm at 902-957-2699.

Sincerely,

Larry Weatherby

Larry Weatherby, Chair



That levy collection  
and reporting is  
mandatory?

## ATLANTIC STOCKYARDS LTD. SPRING FEEDER SALE DATES

Beginning at 10:00 AM:

• May 6 & May 20, 2025

Special Sale - Breeding Stock:

• Saturday, May 10 (12:00 PM)

Producers are encouraged to pre-book all feeder cattle as early as possible. Pre-registered cattle will be listed 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.

For more information on future sales, visit [www.atlanticstockyards.com](http://www.atlanticstockyards.com).

## NOVA SCOTIA CATTLE PRODUCERS

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

[www.nscattle.ca](http://www.nscattle.ca) | T: (902) 893-7455 | [office@nscattle.ca](mailto:office@nscattle.ca)





## NSCP BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

This was an election year for Zones 2, 4, and 5. At the January Zone Meetings, representatives elected include: Zone 2: Bert Meyer (re-elected), Zone 4: Chris Sears (re-elected) and Zone 5: Dean Manning (re-elected).

At the March Annual General Meeting, Larry Weatherby Jr. was elected as Director at Large. After the meeting, the Board Executive was determined to be Larry Weatherby as Chair, Bert Meyer as Vice Chair and Check-Off Agency Representative, and Dean Manning as Secretary-Treasurer. A complete list of the current board is as follows:

<b>Zone 1 (2027)</b>	Danford Murphy	<b>At Large (2026)</b>	Geoff Larkin
<b>Zone 2, Vice Chair, Check-Off Rep. (2028)</b>	Bert Meyer	<b>At Large (2028)</b>	Larry Weatherby, Jr.
<b>Zone 3 (2026)</b>	Brian Trueman	<b>Dealer Director, Chair (2027)</b>	Larry Weatherby
<b>Zone 4 (2027)</b>	Chris Sears	<b>Past Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Zone 5, Secretary-Treasurer (2028)</b>	Dean Manning	<b>CCA Rep.</b>	Victor Oulton
<b>Zone 6 (2026)</b>	Heather King	<b>DFNS Rep.</b>	David Grant
		<b>NPMC Rep.</b>	Carol Versteeg

**Maritime Livestock Price Insurance (MLPI) is now available in Nova Scotia!** MLPI offers producers protection against unexpected price drops over a set period. To sign up, or learn more, please contact Amy Higgins at [projects@agricommodity.ca](mailto:projects@agricommodity.ca) or **902-957-2606**. More information can also be found by visiting [www.lpi.ca/maritime-livestock-price-insurance/](http://www.lpi.ca/maritime-livestock-price-insurance/), where you can subscribe to the Maritime Price Insurance e-news.

## 2025 PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: MELVERN SIMMENTALS

Melvorn Simmentals is owned by Bill and Richard Armstrong.

The Armstrongs began farming in Melvern Square (Spa Springs) when Bill's father George bought the farm in 1950. At that time the family milked cows for cream. Bill took over the farm in 1971 and switched to the beef industry with 30 Hereford Shorthorn cross cows. He started breeding Simmentals to add more growth, registering the farm's first Simmentals in 1975. In more recent years, they have added Angus breeding to the herd. Bill and Richard currently keep about 225 cows, calving between January and March. They finish all the feeder calves to sell to Atlantic Beef Products and local abattoirs. They keep replacement heifers, and they also have some breeding stock available for sale each year. Richard manages the breeding program using some herd sires raised on the farm and purchased semen.

Bill and Richard grow the majority of what they feed keeping them busy from Spring to Fall. They have a tractor operator they can call on when needed and Richard's brother pitches in during silage season. They grow forage, oats, wheat, and corn and put in both grass and corn silage.

Richard's wife Megan works off the farm but does the bookkeeping and helps when needed. Their son Hayden is following in Richard's footsteps and does quite a bit of work on the farm when not in school. Their daughter Rylee is a bit younger but helps during the summer. Hayden and Rylee are both in the Beef project in 4-H.



Photo (left to right): Hayden and Richard Armstong, Melvern Simmentals; Nick Green, Kingston Farm Supply; Larry Weatherby, Nova Scotia Cattle Producers Chair. Photo credit: Kingston Farm Supply.

## TEST STATION - SALE SUMMARY

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maritime Beef Testing Society Breeding Stock Sale was held as a hybrid auction again this year on April 5<sup>th</sup>. In total, there were 49 bulls offered, which averaged \$6,760.20. A heifer sale also occurred again this year, with 26 heifers offered, averaging \$3,653.85.

The top-selling bull was a Simmental, purchased by Brian Ellis for \$10,000.00, consigned by Steady Brook Farms. The top-selling heifer was a Hereford, purchased by Todd Sutherland for \$5,250.00, consigned by Oulton Farms.

To view a complete sale summary, scan the QR code to the right or visit: [www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/mbts-sale/](http://www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/mbts-sale/)



## BIOSECURITY: PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT IN YOUR FARM

We live in a world where we are very mobile and travel with little effort around the world and to many countries without thinking. This mobility and world trade is contributing to the spread of many diseases that impact humans and, or our livestock. We need to be vigilant and make sure that we follow the rules when we travel. The Canadian Food Inspections Agency and Canadian Border Service Agency have regulations in place to ensure biosecurity and protect our country and livestock from potential foreign animal diseases entering Canada. Respect these rules when you travel and ensure that people you know do the same thing.

Since Christmas we have seen Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in Germany and Hungary. The poultry industry is being impacted by Avian Influenzas and there are multiple other diseases that could impact your farm.

As individual producers everyone needs to consider what level of Biosecurity you need for your farm. Simple precautions implemented on your farm can reduce the risk for your operation significantly. Ruminants tend to spend most of their time outside and it is harder to ensure that these livestock are not exposed to disease. We can still do a lot to protect our livestock and farms by limiting the movement of animals on and off our farms and just as importantly the movement of people and machinery. It is also important to keep a record of these movements in case there is a problem.

Very basic things like wearing different clothes and boots when you leave the farm and changing back to farm clothing and boots when you get back to the farm; before you visit your livestock or unload the truck. Make sure that people visiting your farm have clean boots and clothing, limit the access visitors have to the livestock areas on your farm, and keeping records of these events will help to protect your farm. Consider having coveralls and boots available for visitors and make use of them. Having simple biosecurity measures in place at all times can help to protect your farm and livelihood.

Limit the movement of animals onto your farm and if an animal leaves the farm don't bring it back if you don't need to. Animals that you bring onto your farm should be isolated from other animals for a quarantine period. This allows you to monitor their health and administer any vaccines or other treatments needed before they are commingled with other livestock on the farm.

In the event of an outbreak of some kind of disease on your farm, segregate the sick animals from the healthy animals and consult your vet. You should have a biocontainment plan for your farm so that you can limit the spread and impact of a problem if it gets into your livestock.

For more information about Biosecurity visit the Beef Cattle Research Council website: [www.beefresearch.ca/topics/biosecurity/](http://www.beefresearch.ca/topics/biosecurity/) or the Biosecurity Nova Scotia website: [www.biosecuritynovascotia.com](http://www.biosecuritynovascotia.com) or consult your veterinarian.

If you have any questions, please contact a Perennia livestock specialist at **902-896-0277**, Jonathan Wort, Manager of Livestock and Field Crops, at **902-890-0303**, or Katie Trottier, Beef and Sheep Specialist, at **902-324-8306**.

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (CALP) REPORT

As the weather starts to turn, CALP has a few exciting initiatives underway and new opportunities for producers to get involved.

Over the winter, we wrapped up our first CALP webinar series. We had a great turnout and lots of producer interest in topics such as targeted grazing, silvopastures, and agrivoltaics. These webinars focused on how producers can adapt their operations in practical ways and take advantage of new opportunities. Recordings are available if you missed a session and would like to learn more.

We also hosted the Ruminant Roundtable in March, following the NSCP AGM. This event brought together beef and sheep producers for hands-on, facilitated discussions with extension staff and industry representatives. Topics included mineral management, field rejuvenation, benchmarking, and calf health. There were some excellent discussions on how to get adequate selenium levels in both cows and calves around calving time. There is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to mineral management, and it's important to conduct feed tests to determine appropriate supplements for your herd.

Looking ahead to the summer, we are once again partnering with Perennia on a province-wide pasture walk series. These interactive sessions offer valuable learning opportunities in pasture management for individuals at all experience levels. One of the topics we hope to include is silvopastures—strategically utilizing woodlots for grazing. This long-term adaptation strategy can help with heat stress and protect pastures during dry spells. We'll also focus on extending the grazing season and implementing strategies that enable producers to continue grazing further into the fall and winter. If you've got a farm that ties into any of these topics and you'd be willing to host, please let us know!

Another new project we're launching is a series of short, practical videos highlighting some of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that CALP has been promoting. These will be farm-focused and based in Nova Scotia. I'm currently looking for farms to film on, so if you've been working on something that's helping your operation adapt, this is a great way to share your success with others.

Feel free to reach out via email at [climate@agricommodity.ca](mailto:climate@agricommodity.ca) to discuss CALP at any time!

Geoff Larkin  
CALP Coordinator