

# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Spring has officially sprung across the province, and we have thankfully received warm, mild weather. As the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers prepare for a busy upcoming season, I hope this newsletter finds you and yours in good health.

Our Zone meetings were held in person again this past January. Attendance was down from recent years, with hopefully more producers attending in the future. If you have input of what you would like presented at future Zone Meetings, please reach out to the office! This year's meeting consisted of a business meeting followed by virtual presentations from Amy Higgins from the Maritime Beef Council, Ryder Lee from the Canadian Cattle Association, and Melinda German of the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-off Agency. Additionally, Jonathan Wort, from Perennia, presented on the cost of retaining heifers, as well as gave a Perennia update. Thank you to all who attended the meetings. We trust you found value in attending.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Salmon River Fire Hall. It was well attended, and after the business meeting, we featured a presentation from Jodie Griffin from Saskatchewan Crop Insurance, on livestock price insurance, followed by a roast beef dinner. We also awarded Brendan and Gerard MacKinnon of Margaree Harbour Resources Ltd. as the 2024 Cattle Producer of the Year. Congratulations to the MacKinnons!

Our collaboration on the Burger It Forward Campaign with Irving Big Stops, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, and Canada Beef, last month was again a huge success! We assisted in the efforts, raising an estimated \$66,186 for food banks across the country. 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 last month!

The Canadian Cattle Association has initiated an update to the National Farm Animal Care Council Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle. The Code development process includes a survey, to capture welfare concerns from stakeholders. Input received will help the Code Committee understand the kinds of issues people wish to see considered in the update. The survey for this Code is available at: [www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle](http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle). This survey closes on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Canadian Beef Check-Off Agency established a scholarship to encourage and support students pursuing post-secondary studies in the field of agriculture, agricultural research, or with an agriculture background pursuing studies in marketing. The deadline to apply is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. 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!

The Canadian Beef Industry Conference will occur in person again this year: August 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Additional information will be posted as it is released and can be found at: [www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com](http://www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com).

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.

A reminder that by completing the Grower License Application (and 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

## WAS YOUR 2024 GROWER CARD RECEIVED?

Your 2024 NSCP Grower License card was included in this envelope if you previously submitted a 2024 Grower License Application with all required information completed. You are required to submit your Grower License Application annually to remain in good standing with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers. Please contact the NSCP office with any questions, or you can find the 2024 Grower License Application on our website at [www.nscattle.ca/register](http://www.nscattle.ca/register).

## NSCP BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

This was an election year for Zones 1, 4, and Dealer Director, and a 1-year term was also needing to be filled for Zone 2. Danford Murphy remains the Director for Zone 1, Bert Meyer is filling the 1-year term for Zone 2, and Larry Weatherby is the new Dealer Representative Director. A Zone 4 Director will be appointed by the Board shortly, however, if any Zone 4 cattle producers are interested in this Director seat, please reach out to the NSCP office with your interest.

After the Annual General Meeting last month, the Board Executive continues to include Larry Weatherby as Chair and Check-Off Agency Representative, Victor Oulton as Vice Chair and CCA Representative, and Dean Manning as Secretary-Treasurer. A complete list of the current board is as follows:

**Zone 1 (2027)** – Danford Murphy

**Zone 2 (2025)** – Bert Meyer

**Zone 3 (2026)** – Brian Trueman

**Zone 4 (2027)** – Vacant

**Zone 5, Secretary-Treasurer (2025)** – Dean Manning

**Zone 6 (2026)** – Heather King

**Vice Chair, CCA Rep (2025)** – Victor Oulton

**At Large (2026)** – Geoff Larkin

**Dealer Director, Chair, Check-Off Rep (2027)** – Larry Weatherby

**Past Chair** – Vacant

**DFNS Rep** – Alphonse Vermeulen

**NPMC Rep** – Carol Versteeg

## AVIAN INFLUENZA DETECTED IN DAIRY CATTLE

As you may have heard or seen in the media, in late-March, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was detected in dairy cattle in the US (Texas, Kansas and New Mexico).

We want to assure cattle producers there is no need to be alarmed, as to-date the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has not detected HPAI in dairy cattle or other livestock in Canada. The CFIA are continuing to monitor the situation. The identification of HPAI in dairy cattle should not have implications for the international movement of milk, meat or live animals.

Additional resources are available on the Canadian Cattle Association website: [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca), or the CFIA website: [www.shorturl.at/gl258](http://www.shorturl.at/gl258)

If you have disease concerns within your herd, please reach out to your veterinarian.

If you have general concerns, please out to NSCP Managing Director, Kara Chisholm directly at (902) 957-2699.

## COMMUNITY PASTURE SEASON

We are nearing community pasture season! In Nova Scotia, we are fortunate that we have seven community pastures available to turn cattle out onto for the summer months, including:

- Cape John
- Cape Mabou
- Cheticamp Island
- Digby County
- Little Harbour
- Maple Brook
- Minudie

To learn more about Community Pastures, please reach out to Program Development Coordinator, John Murray, at the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board: [john.e.murray@novascotia.ca](mailto:john.e.murray@novascotia.ca)



Save the Date

### Atlantic Forage Field Day

Wednesday, August 7th, 2024  
AAFC Research Farm in Nappan, NS

Stay tuned for more details!

[WWW.MARITIMEBEEF.CA](http://WWW.MARITIMEBEEF.CA) | [f](#) [t](#) @maritimebeef

MARITIME BEEF COUNCIL | Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



## 2024 PRODUCER OF THE YEAR: MARGAREE HARBOUR RESOURCES LTD.



Above: Brendan MacKinnon (left), Margaree Harbour Resources Ltd., and Larry Weatherby (right), NSCP Chair, with the Producer of the Year award.

Margaree Harbour Resources Ltd is a family farm that is owned and operated by Brendan and Gerard MacKinnon. It is located in Margaree Harbour on the western coast of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

The farm is a cow/calf operation which has around 100 head of commercial beef cattle. The cow herd is a mainly Simmental based herd and uses 3 bulls. A Simmental bull is used as a maternal sire and 2 Charolais bulls are used as a terminal sire. Over the years, the MacKinnons have been a longtime supporter of the Maritime Beef Testing Society with most of their herd sires having been purchased through the Nappan Bull Sale.

The main calving season on the farm starts mid-November till January with the remaining cow herd calving in March – April. The calves born on the farm are marketed in the fall through Atlantic Stockyards in Truro where they have always performed exceptionally well.

Breton. The cow/calf group is pastured at the community pasture in Cheticamp and the replacement heifers at the community pasture in Mabou.

Brendan and Gerard are part of a non-profit society that operates the Cheticamp Island Community Pasture that is leased from the Nova Scotia Farm Loan Board. They also have been involved with the community pasture in Mabou and help out any way they can. The MacKinnons firmly believe that the community pastures in Nova Scotia are a valuable resource for the cattle industry and are an important asset to the rural communities where they are located.

The success of Margaree Harbour Resources Ltd over the years would not be possible without the continued support of our entire family; wives, kids, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. Everyone has a role in this successful operation.



### TEST STATION – SALE SUMMARY

The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Maritime Beef Testing Society Breeding Stock Sale was held as a hybrid auction again this year on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In total, there were 50 bulls offered, which averaged \$5,802. A heifer sale also occurred again this year, with 37 heifers offered, averaging \$3,114.

The top-selling bull was a Simmental, purchased by Ferme Germain Pineault Inc. for \$11,000, consigned by Trevor and Paula Hiltz. The top-selling heifer was a Cross, purchased by Sandy MacKenzie for \$4,600, consigned by Orchard Hill Farm.

To view a complete sale summary, please check out: [www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/mbts-sale/](http://www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/mbts-sale/).

### ATLANTIC STOCKYARDS LTD. – SPRING FEEDER SALES

- Tuesday, May 14: 10 am
- Tuesday, May 28: 10 am

**Special Sale: Saturday, May 11: Breeding Stock Sale (12 pm)**

Visit the Atlantic Stockyards Ltd. website for more future sales: [www.atlanticstockyards.com/sale-dates](http://www.atlanticstockyards.com/sale-dates)

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 receipt for the vaccine used. Vaccinated cattle will be uniquely identified.

## 2024 NOVA SCOTIA CATTLE PRODUCER PROGRAMS

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers have two programs available again for 2024:

- **The Nova Scotia Genetic Improvement Program** (formerly the Elite Sire Program, or Bull Bonus)  
*A funding program for sire purchases, genomic testing, and carcass ultrasound.*  
Application Deadline: June 30, 2024, and February 15, 2025
- **The Nova Scotia Soil, Pasture & Forage Management Program**  
*A funding program for lime purchases, and/or soil, manure and feed analyses.*  
Application Deadline: June 30, 2024, and November 30, 2024

Additional information, such as payment details and program criteria, can be found under Cattle Programs on our website.

## 2024-25 NOVA SCOTIA PROGRAMS

For a complete listing of all programs, please visit [www.novascotia.ca/programs](http://www.novascotia.ca/programs).

### Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program

Application Deadline: June 30, 2024

This program supports the Agricultural sector in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, and helps primary producers accelerate the adoption of priority beneficial management practices.

### Limestone Trucking Assistance Program

Application Deadline: September 30, 2024

This program aims to help Nova Scotia farms defray the cost of trucking limestone to give equal opportunity in neutralizing the soil's acidity on agricultural land and improve production efficiencies.

### On-Farm Electrical Preparedness Program

Application Deadline: July 31, 2024

This program helps farms buy a backup generator and battery storage to support business continuity and preparedness for adverse weather.

### On-Farm Water Management Program

Application Deadline: May 31, 2024

This program will support primary producers to improve and adapt to impacts of climate change on water implications, including activities to conserve and enhance natural resources for water management. This program helps primary producers accelerate the adoption of priority beneficial management practices.

### Planning New Opportunities Program

Application Deadline: September 30, 2024

This program helps farms and agri-businesses be more competitive, manage transition, develop risk management strategies and respond to change.

### Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

Application Deadline: June 30, 2024

This program helps improve the environmental resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of on-farm land use and management practices that maximize benefits for the environment and society.

### Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program

Application Deadline: August 31, 2024

This program helps farms protect crops and livestock from wildlife damage to improve industry competitiveness and resilience.



### 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

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