

# MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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

Our Zone meetings were held in person in January. Attendance at the Zone meetings was like that of recent years, with hopefully more producers attending in the future. This year's meeting consisted of a business meeting followed by virtual presentations from Amy Higgins from Maritime Beef Council, Ryder Lee & Jennifer Babcock from the Canadian Cattle Association, and Melinda German of the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-off Agency. Additionally, Jonathan Wort and Katie Trottier, from Perennia, provided an overview of the OFCAF Program, including eligibility and applications. Thank you to all who attended the meetings. We trust you found value in attending.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on April 29th at the Salmon River Firehall. It was well attended, and after the business meeting, we featured presentations from Dr. Wilma Schenkels (NSDA) and Dr. Alexander Burrows (Fundy Vets), discussing Herd Health. John Duynisveld (Holdanca Farm) and Jonathan Wort (Perennia) also presented on Pasture Planning and Programming and OFCAF.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability). Please participate in their consultation, which is open until June 16<sup>th</sup>. You can access the consultation at [www.tinyurl.com/bdzx8h](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdzx8h).

Our collaboration on the Burger It Forward Campaign was a huge success! We assisted in the efforts, raising an estimated \$53,064.00 for 16 food banks across the country. As a part of that effort, the NSCP donated \$5,000.00 worth of ground meat from ABP to Feed Nova Scotia. Thank you to everyone that made this possible. #BurgerItForward

I would like to congratulate Steve, Sue, and Chad Darragh of Orchard Hill Farms, for being named the 2023 Kings Mutual Producer of the Year. Again this year, we showcased a Virtual Farm Tour Series, releasing two additional virtual farm tours. These videos can be viewed by visiting: [www.nscattle.ca/virtual-farm-tours](http://www.nscattle.ca/virtual-farm-tours).

We want to congratulate both Joe Cooper at Balamore Farm Ltd. and the Maritime Beef Testing Society on successful breeding stock sales this Spring. These sales were held as hybrid auctions, with in-person and online bidding options.

The Canadian Beef Industry Conference will occur in person this year: August 14th-17th, 2023, in Calgary, Alberta. Additional information will be posted as it is released and can be found at: [www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com](http://www.canadianbeefindustryconference.com).

We continue to deliver the *On-Farm Cattle Preconditioning*. This project aims to improve cattle herd health in the province by increasing the quantity and quality of vaccinated brood cows and pre-conditioned feeder calves. If you want pre-conditioning services performed on your farm, please visit [www.nscattle.ca/preconditioning](http://www.nscattle.ca/preconditioning) or contact the NSCP office. Additionally, we continue to offer carcass ultrasound services. We have two certified technicians who can perform carcass ultrasound for quality imaging. For further information, such as pricing, please visit [www.nscattle.ca/ultrasound](http://www.nscattle.ca/ultrasound) or call the office at 902-893-7455.

Sincerely,

*Larry Weatherby*

Larry Weatherby, Chair



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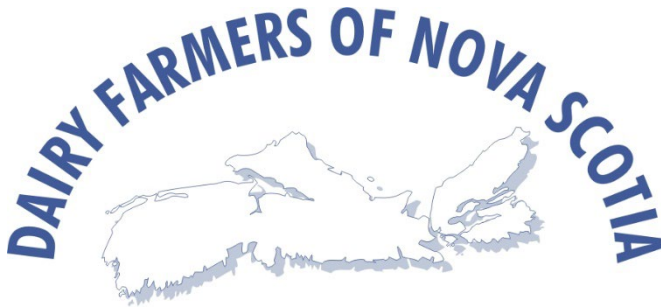
## **NSCP BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT**

At the 2023 NSCP Zone Meetings, Brian Trueman was elected as the Zone 3 representative, and Heather King was elected as the Zone 6 representative.

At the Annual General Meeting, The 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. Geoff Larkin was re-elected director at large. For a complete list of the current board, please visit our website.

## **WAS YOUR 2023 GROWER CARD RECEIVED?**

Your 2023 NSCP Grower License card was included in this envelope if you previously submitted a 2023 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. For any questions on this, please contact the NSCP office, or you can find the 2023 Grower License Application on our website at [www.nscattle.ca/register](http://www.nscattle.ca/register).



## **FCC SUSTAINABILITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Innovative producers are key to growing a more sustainable future for agriculture. These changes require research, time and capital. By working with industry partners, FCC created an incentive program that meets their partners' program requirements in sustainability. Incentive payments are calculated as a portion of

your lending with FCC. You could receive one payment per year at a maximum of \$2,000. Please visit [www.fcc-fac.ca/en/financing/agriculture/sustainability-incentive-program.html](http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/financing/agriculture/sustainability-incentive-program.html) for more information.

## **MARITIME BEEF TESTING SOCIETY**

In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Breeding Stock Sale, a banquet was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Amherst Golf Club and featured a roast beef dinner and presentation from Mike McMorris of Livestock Research Innovation Corporation. The banquet was attended with over 100 attendees. Additionally, buyers and consignors were honoured with awards for their involvement in the continued Test Station success.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Breeding Stock Sale was held as a hybrid auction this year, occurring both in-person and online on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. For a detailed overview of this years sale as well as previous years please visit [www.maritimebeefeststation.ca/historical-sale-reports](http://www.maritimebeefeststation.ca/historical-sale-reports).



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Find out about the Board's **Community Pasture** program at [novascotia.ca/farmloan](https://novascotia.ca/farmloan)



## 2023 PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Steve and Sue Darragh were born and raised on farms and have been around cattle all their lives. They started Orchard Hill Farm in 1988, building their first barn with many dreams and challenges ahead. As out-of-the-box thinkers, they were open to new ideas and wanted to try different breeds to see which performed the best. After trying different breeds in a crossbreeding program, they quickly learned that Simmental was the best fit for them. They started purchasing purebred stock and soon built a herd, but after a few trips to Alberta visiting large ranches that were crossbreeding black Angus/Simmental, they were so impressed they knew that was what they wanted their herd to be. So, 22 years ago, they purchased their first Angus/Simmental bull, and when his first crop of calves were weaned, they knew they were on the right path.

Currently, Steve and Sue, along with their son Chad, share the same keen interests and goals for their farm. They are working together to grow their 170 bred cows to 200 soon. They run six herd sires consisting of purebred Simmentals and registered Angus/Simmental bulls. The 3/4 Simmental x 1/4 Angus is the ideal cross for them. The Darraghs stated, "It is all about how much that cow can bring you in at the end of the year, so the heavier the calf, the better. The Angus/Simmental does just that by weaning the heavy calf, we provide them with a high-quality replacement female, and the bulls are becoming popular. We breed them back either Simmental or Angus/Simmental, but when our customers buy them, they can breed them back to any breed, and it works well."



Steve & Sue Darragh with Larry Weatherby

The Darraghs sell a group of bred heifers and some bulls every year. Some bulls are sold when weaned in the fall, and the rest are sold in the Spring. They hope to have a sale barn facility in the next five years and hold their own sale at the farm each year. Orchard Hill Farm's goal has always been to produce the highest quality breeding stock possible for its buyers. With repeat buyers, the Darraghs find it rewarding to see buyers return. While they say that farming has certainly had more challenges than rewards over the past 35 years, at the end of the day, they like to focus on the rewards.

## 2023 PROGRAMS

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

### Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program

Application Deadline:

15 June 2023/15 September 2023

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

### On-Farm Technology Adoption Program

Application Deadline: 15 June 2023

The On-farm Technology Adoption Program helps producers invest in equipment and processes that provide labour efficiencies, reduce the cost of production, increase yields and support more efficient use of inputs.

### Value-adding Equipment Program

Application Deadline: 30 June 2023

The Value-adding Equipment Program supports value-added businesses. The program helps increase local food production and improve food security and sustainability for farms and communities.

### Limestone Trucking Assistance Program

Application Deadline: 30 September 2023

The Limestone trucking assistance 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.

### Get Growing Program

Application Deadline: 30 September 2023

The Get Growing Program supports small farms in

adopting specialized infrastructure and equipment. The program helps with the expansion of local agricultural production for local markets.



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### Wildlife Damage Mitigation Program

Application Deadline: 31 October 2023

The Wildlife Damage Mitigation program helps farms protect crops and livestock from wildlife damage to improve industry competitiveness and resilience.

### On-Farm Industry Preparedness Program

Application Deadline: 31 December 2023

The On-farm Industry Preparedness Program supports primary producers with water management activities, creating greater resilience against ongoing climate events.



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