With winter weather continuing on a seemingly endless course, spring has teased us a few times this past couple of weeks. The grass is actually turning green.

I was able to meet more sheep producers this past month and as always, enjoyed being able to share and learn information about our industry. I strongly encourage you all to take every opportunity possible to get out and network with other sheep producers. One conversation may be all it takes to save you money and/or time on your own farm when applying a different practice as a management tool.

We are coming into a new pasture season and management of that may be critical in reducing parasite burdens in our flocks. There are a couple of workshops coming up that may be of value to you. They both have different topics and demonstrations. The networking alone is always an opportunity to learn and we encourage you to participate. Please see more info in newsletter specific to each workshop.

Last month approximately 25 farmers listened to a couple of representatives from the Canadian Lamb Producers Cooperative. It was an opportunity to learn about their history and plan for future marketing endeavors. It is a management decision and one only the individual farm can decide the v http://www.cdnlamb.com.

We continue to work with Department staff to investigate ways that promote our local product. We also have some promotional material for public events as well, if any of you are participating in exhibitions and even open farm day may be you are interested in hosting a select supper in your area and want to promote lamb, we have some back drops (pull ups) that you may want to borrow.

I also encourage you to visit Premium NS Lamb on Facebook and twitter to spread the message of our products as well. The office is currently in the process of updating the section of the website for consumers and will be writing several farm profiles, please participate if they call you. If you would like to have your farm profiled, please call 902-893-7455. Every opportunity we can take to showcase NS Lamb is a gain for all.

If you are willing to volunteer for meet your farmer at the mall, Ag Literacy Week, Open Farm Day, etc, we would appreciate your contact information to put on our list. The general public has a better connection with farmers who are willing to tell their stories.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the SPANS Board Members of the Office at any time.

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Densmore</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>902-369-2516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Hamilton</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>902-897-7480</td>
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<td>Jaclyn Biggs</td>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>902-289-2039</td>
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<td>Jerrold Graham</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>902-671-2218</td>
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<td>Andrew Hebda</td>
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<td>902-369-2969</td>
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<td>Matt Lynch</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>902-351-2078</td>
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<td>David Brown</td>
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<td>902-532-7273</td>
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While, some of us have completed our lambing season, many of you are getting closer to your busiest time, and I just want to wish you all the best for yours!

Happy farming!

Beth Densmore
Beth Densmore, President

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**Canadian Lamb Markets Growing**
*By: Trudy Forsythe*

Lamb producers in Canada will begin selling finished lambs to the Canadian Lamb Producers Cooperative this spring. At the same time, the co-operative, which will have offices in Guelph and Saskatoon, is launching its marketing arm, the Canadian Lamb Company.

The goal is to build its brand to meet a growing demand for Canadian lamb in Canada and abroad. In its 2014 membership information package, the co-operative says, "Over the past five years, worldwide demand for lamb products has consistently outstripped supply."

This is not expected to change as New Zealand and Australia, which are the primary export countries, struggle with declining numbers of producers, weather-related issues and a focus on the Chinese market. "The export opportunity for Canadian lamb products to China, the EU and the Middle East is very strong and will increase as the demand for protein, particularly lamb, is anticipated to grow steadily as income levels rise in the developing world."

Locally, studies indicate a growing demand for lamb in Canada because of the changing ethnic and demographic profiles in the country. And there is a strong preference for Canadian-raised lamb.

The co-op hopes to grow to 650 to 1,000 members within three years. Members will sell their lambs to the co-op which will then process them into value-added and fresh consumer products for Canadian and international markets.

Only active lamb producers in Canada can become members of the co-operative and to do so they must have a membership and investment shares as well as sign a 36-month agreement with the co-operative. Beginning April 23, the co-op will purchase marketable lambs from members at a premium price of $0.05 per pound, live weight above the average weekly price, per weight category.

Terry Ackerman, the co-op's CEO, says the group will use a national pricing program with Ontario prices, and all members will be paid the same. Previously, producers were paid discounted prices based on the province of production.

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**Does My Farm Have Worms?**

*Atlantic Sheep and Goat Internal Parasite Workshop - Saturday May 10, 2014 - Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Bible Hill, NS*

**Registration is $57.50 (including HST) for the first person from each farm and $28.75 (including HST) for each additional registrant. Registration fee includes lunch and course materials. To register, please call 902-893-6666 or 1-888-700-6722**

All participants must pre-register by Friday April 25, 2014.

The sheep and goat industries in Atlantic Canada are facing unprecedented pressure from worms, specifically gastro-intestinal parasites (GIN). The goal of this interactive workshop is to bring together both new and experienced sheep and goat farmers and veterinarians for an intense, interactive day focused on internal parasite infections, their causes and contributing factors, strategies for effective diagnosis, treatment and management, and anthelmintic resistance and what this means for the sheep and goat industries
We are pleased to welcome the following speakers!

- Dr. Paula Menzies, University of Guelph
- Dr. Jeff Witchel, University of Prince Edward Island
- Dr. Ted Semple, Maritime Genetics, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture
- Dr. Gwyneth Jones, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, St. Mary’s University
- Mr. Jonathan Wort, Perennia

Sheep Welfare & Handling

Purebred Sheep Breeders Association Spring Workshop

Where: Onslow-Belmont Fire Hall:
(Lower Onslow almost directly across the road from Green Diamond John Deer Hwy #2)

When: April 26th 2014. 10:00 to 3:00

Cost: $10.00 (Registration to cover lunch)

Sponsored by: Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia & Perennia

First published in the 1980’s the Code of Practice: For the Care and Handling of Sheep was reviewed and revised over the last 3 years. This process was completed and the Code published and released in December of 2013. This workshop is intended to introduce producers to the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep.

With specific emphasis on: Parasites, Sheep Handling and Body Condition Scoring.

Agenda:

10:00 Registration
10:15 Welcome
10:20 Introduction to the: Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep
   Andrew Hebda: a member of the code development committee.
10:50 Farm Animal Welfare in Nova Scotia and Code of Practice for Sheep
   Merridy Rankin: NSDA Animal Protection
11:30 Let’s not forget the other parasites: Dr Gwyneth Jones
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Handling Sheep: Jonathan Wort: Livestock Specialist Perennia
1:30 Body Condition Scoring Sheep
2:00 Body Condition Scoring Sheep: Hands On: Hamilton Farm.
2:30 Summary, thanks and Safe Drive Home

For More Information and to Register
Contact: Jonathan Wort (902) 896-0277 ext. 232 or (902) 671 – 2410
Email: herngatefarm@ns.sympatico.ca

To assist with planning we ask that you please Pre Register
Paying registration fees at the door
The Department of Agriculture’s Homegrown Success Program is now accepting applications and the program guidelines are available by visiting [www.novascotia.ca/agri](http://www.novascotia.ca/agri).

If you were unable to attend one of the information sessions that took place last month, please note that there have been some significant changes to the Program:

1. The overall funding cap has been reduced to $15,000 and the percentage that will be funded on projects has been reduced to 50% or less, depending on the item. These changes were made to allow a greater number of farms to access the program. There are other changes to the details of particular funding categories, as well.

2. Applications will no longer be approved on a first-come-first-served basis. Applications will be accepted up until April 30. They will be evaluated based on the project impact described in Section 6 of the application form.

If you have any questions about program details, the new application form, or the evaluation process, please contact your nearest Agricultural Resource Coordinator, as follows:

Gary Koziel (Cape Breton): 563-2000, kozielgj@gov.ns.ca
Dawn Barrington-Hodgson (Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough): 863-4705, barrind@gov.ns.ca
Michael Kittilsen (Cumberland, Colchester, Halifax-East Hants): 893-3645, kittilma@gov.ns.ca
Brian MacCulloch (Kings, West Hants, Lunenburg, Queens): 679-6006, macculbc@gov.ns.ca
Terry McKay (Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne): 638-2397, mckaytw@gov.ns.ca

Meet Matthew and Tashia Lynch

Matt Lynch grew up on a sheep farm so it was natural for him and his wife Tashia to start their own farm approximately five years ago. The couple saw an opportunity in the sheep industry and figured raising sheep would fit in with their lifestyle so they purchased some ewes and have continued to grow ever since. Matt and Tashia now have 130 ewes and plan to continue to expand to approximately 500 ewes within the next five years.

Over the past number of years Matt and Tashia have experiment with several breeds but have come to the conclusion that North Country Cheviots work best with their management system. Their flock is primarily grass based; they accomplish this by drift lambing on pasture and rotational grazing. By using guardian dogs, they have been able to limit the number of animals lost due to predators.

Currently, Matt and Tashia direct market their lambs but as they continue to expand they hope to work more closely with local processors. Recently Matt has joined the Board of SPANS.

SHEEP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA
60 Research Drive Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Phone: (902) 893-7455 website: [www.nssheep.ca](http://www.nssheep.ca)