



**Sheep Producers  
Association of Nova Scotia**



Photo by Crystal Fullerton

## April 2019 Newsletter

### *Message from the President*



We are now well into spring and the cold temperatures have been replaced with warm rainy days. Most of us are well through lambing season and we can only hope that we are mere weeks away from summer grazing season.

It has been a very busy winter and early spring for the SPANS Board. Early in January we met with Minister Colwell to discuss several challenges and opportunities facing the industry. Since that meeting we have established an industry-government working group to finalize the strategy that we have been working on over the past year. This spring and summer we will be asking several of you to participate in various surveys and focus groups and thank you in advance for your cooperation. We are also working with the NS Department of Agriculture to design two sheep programs which we hope will be announced in the near future.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, the SPANS office relocated to 7 Atlantic Central Drive. This location is just off of Exit 17 on Highway 104 near Wilson Equipment. We are very pleased with the new location as it is much easier to find and offers great meeting spaces for workshops.

We are having some changes to our board as we say thank you to our retiring board member Jerry Graham. He has dedicated his time to the Sheep Producers of Nova Scotia board over the last few years. We wish a warm welcome to newly elected Marie Ouimet and re-elected Andrew Hebda to the board for their 3 year term.

We would like to let producers know that the oral drench Startect has received Canadian approval to be used as a treatment and control for adult and immature worms. Including *Haemonchus contortus* and nematode parasites such as *Teladorsagia* and *Trichostrongylus*. Producers can ask their veterinarians about the product and how to order.

Earlier this winter CFIA released amendments to the Health of Animal Regulations related to the transportation of livestock and poultry. These regulations may have a significant impact on livestock producers. We are currently working with other livestock groups in the province as well as Jonathan Wort (Perennia) to get a better understanding of potential impacts for the sheep industry. Later in this newsletter you will find an article by Jonathan outlining the changes.

Make sure you check the website and social media for a full listing of upcoming meetings and workshops. As always, if you have any questions/comments or suggestions for workshops, don't hesitate to contact the office at 902-893-7455.

Fred Hamilton, President

### *Improving Lamb Survival Workshop*

Earlier this year, we held the Improving Lamb Survival Workshops in both Lunenburg and Antigonish. Jonathan Wort, Ruminant Specialist from Perennia discussed tips and guidelines to help improve lamb survival rates including treating lambs suffering from Hypothermia. Other topics included colostrum quality, warming boxes, stomach tubing, intraperitoneal injections and benchmarking your lambing. We would like to thank everyone who came out and participated in the workshops, we had a big turnout for both nights. If you have any suggestions for future workshop ideas, please contact us at 902-893-7455.

### *Applying for Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)*

Applications are now being accepted for a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with more than 150 ABCs – including a variety of agriculture boards, like the Meat Inspection Board.

The Spring 2019 deadline for on line applications to be a member of an Adjudicative ABC is Wednesday, May 22, 2019. To learn more and apply visit [novascotia.ca/abc](http://novascotia.ca/abc) or call 1-866-206-6844 (toll free).

## *Nova Scotia Flock Health Program*

The Nova Scotia Flock Health Program is designed to encourage purebred and commercial sheep flock owners to utilize the professional services of a veterinarian, on a regular basis, for the maintenance and improvement of flock health, through application of the principles of preventative medicine. SPANS will be holding workshops this fall and winter related to flock health. **For more information, please call 902-893-4642.**

## *Transportation of Livestock and Poultry Regulations are changing. Are you going to be ready?*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019, amendments to the Health of Animals Act were published to Canada Gazette, Part 2, which will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020. These changed regulations will impact the way that livestock and poultry are transported in Canada. These regulations will become the minimum standard for transportation of animals in Canada. <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html>

At the same time the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) has started to update the Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the spring of 2023. <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/transportation>

The amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations (HAR) will be the minimum standard for livestock and poultry transport in Canada beginning in February of 2020. The current Health of Animals Regulations related to transport of animals were enacted in 1977. Since that time research related to transport has evolved and our understanding of the impact of transport of animals has changed. At the same time industry and public concern for animal welfare have evolved and increased. In order to address these concerns, changes to the HAR relating to Animal Transportation are being made. These changes will also more closely align Canadian transport regulations with our trading partners, who play a major role in the economics of our respective industries.

*"These updated Regulations will better reflect the current animal welfare science, social expectations, the standards of Canada's international trading partners, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) welfare standards for animal transported by land, air and sea."*.1

The new HAR has several sections that will impact producers and transporters of livestock and poultry, there are: 1) definitions of Unfit and Compromised animals that will be used to assess if and/or how an animal may be transported. 2) Requirements for training of transporters of animals, in particular those who transport animals commercially. 3) Restrictions on the movement and transport of livestock eight days of less of age. This includes the limitation that these animals can only transported to a final destination (the destination cannot be an assembly centre) and the loading and trip cannot exceed more than 12 hours. 4) Young ruminants that are not weaned may only be transported for 12 hours, this time starts from the beginning of loading until the animal is unloaded. 5) Requirements for handling, loading and space and conditions in the transport vehicle. 6) Maximum transport times for animals without access to feed and water. 7) The requirement for everyone transporting animals to maintain records for each shipment of animals. These records must include: a) the name and address of the shipper, consignor, and the vehicle operator. b) identification of the vehicle. c) area available for livestock, d) record of cleaning and disinfecting, e) date, time, and place of loading, f) number, description and weight of animals, g) date, time when the animals were last fed and watered and rested.

Records will have to be kept so that they will be available during transport and after arrival.

These regulation changes are going to have an impact on all sectors of the livestock and poultry industry. Some more than others. It is going to make it harder to move young animals and animals that are not weaned. Travel times will have an impact on the distance that we can move livestock, especially when you include the appropriate hours of work in the trucking industry. Rest periods for drivers will not qualify as livestock rest periods unless the animals also have access to feed and watered.

As producers and transporters we need to think about how we are going to adjust to these new transportation regulation in the Health of Animals Act. We also need to recognize that our consumers are placing and ever increasing emphasis on animal welfare. While these regulation are going to require changes they will support improved animal welfare and increase the value of the livestock transported. They will also dovetail into the proposed requirements for enhanced Traceability that we will see in the future for livestock.

This article is intended to provide basic information about the regulation changes, it is a substitute for the Health of Animals Act Transportation regulations. If you regularly transport poultry or livestock these new regulations are important to you and you need to review then and see how they will impact the way that you conduct business.

If you are interested in more information contact your commodity associations or extension specialists.

Jonathan Wort

Perennia Livestock Specialist

[jwort@perennia.ca](mailto:jwort@perennia.ca) or 902 896 0277 ext. 232.

### **References:**

.1 Health of Animals Regulations: Amendments relating to transport of livestock and poultry; <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html>

## Resources:

National Farm Animal Care Council; <https://www.nfacc.ca/>

NFACC Transport Code Review; <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/transportation>

Health of Animals Regulations: Amendments relating to transport of livestock and poultry; <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html>

Transport Training: Canadian Livestock Transport Certification: <https://www.livestocktransport.ca>

## CCIA Mobile App

Did you know that the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) has a mobile app? The CCIA is an industry-initiated, not-for-profit organization incorporated to establish a national livestock identification database for the traceability of cattle, bison, sheep, goats and cervids. Its database is known as the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS).

The CLTS MOBO app is essentially the Canadian Livestock Tracking System database at your fingertips. We've taken the entirety of a national traceability system and made it available on your Android and iPhone devices.

CLTS MOBO allows users to submit birthdates, animal movement and retired events (to name a few), directly to the CLTS database. CLTS MOBO features Optical Character Recognition technology, which converts images of number lists into editable, searchable data for easy uploads to your CLTS account.

With changing traceability regulations expected for 2019, there is no better time to sign-up for the app!

## She Shears

**She Shears** is releasing in theatres throughout the Canada from April and through all the major platforms from September. In the gruelling world of competitive shearing there is no women's section. Women and men compete together. She Shears is the story of passion, purpose and determination and 5 women for whom shearing is not just a job

For more information:

Website: [www.sheshears.com](http://www.sheshears.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/SheShearsdocumentary/](https://facebook.com/SheShearsdocumentary/)

Instagram: [instagram.com/sheshearsfilm/?hl=en](https://instagram.com/sheshearsfilm/?hl=en)

## Canadian Agricultural Loans Act Program (CALA)

HELPING FARMERS  
INNOVATE AND EXPAND  
The **CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL  
LOANS ACT (CALA) PROGRAM**



### What is the CALA program?

A loan program for farmers and agricultural co-operatives who want to:

- purchase land
- construct or improve buildings
- purchase farm equipment, breeding livestock, and more

### What are the benefits?

- Up to \$500,000 per farm operation
- Up to \$3 million per agricultural co-operative
- Low interest rates and down payments with flexible repayment options
- Incentives for beginning and start-up farmers

Learn how a CALA loan can help you get started

1-866-367-8506



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada



# Introduction to Sheep Production in Nova Scotia



## INTRODUCTION TO SHEEP PRODUCTION IN NOVA SCOTIA

This workshop is intended for people interested in exploring the opportunity of raising sheep in Nova Scotia. Either as a hobby or potential business.

### TIME

Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2019  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

### LOCATION

Perennia Park  
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia  
(Exact location to be determined)

### AGENDA

- Overview of sheep farming in Nova Scotia
- Production requirements: Breeds, production systems, basic nutrition, lambing and lamb management
- Market opportunities, and economics

You will gain a basic knowledge that will allow you to make decisions about entry into the sheep industry and help you identify additional resources and contacts.

### REGISTRATION

**Registration is required**  
Please contact Michael Kittilsen to register by April 26<sup>th</sup> 2019

**Phone:** 902-893-3645  
**Email:** Michael.Kittilsen@novascotia.ca

This event was organized by Perennia in collaboration with Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

**Questions?**  
Please contact Jonathan Wort, Sheep Specialist  
jwort@perennia.ca



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**SHEEP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

[www.nssheep.ca](http://www.nssheep.ca)

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