



Photo by Crystal Fullerton

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

As the days shorten and the leaves continue change colour it is a good time to reflect on the activities of SPANS over the summer months as well as provide a preview of what we can look forward to in the coming months. The summer months were very busy within the industry with research projects, our first annual shepherd's social, preparing for the upcoming meeting season and lots of activity on the national scene.

To start I would like to thank all producers who have agreed to participate in our research initiatives whether it was the carcass ultra-sounding with CDPQ, the Maedi visna research being coordinated by Cathy Vallis or the ongoing Haemonchus research that Gwyneth is working on. We are very fortunate to have these dedicated project leaders working on our behalf. At the annual meeting next month we will have progress updates from each of these projects.

Speaking of the annual meeting, I would encourage everyone to join us on Saturday November 18th at the Glengarry in Truro, you will find more details later in the newsletter. As you may or may not be aware, over the past year there has been a lot of activity at the national level related to the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF). Four provinces have withdrawn their membership from CSF and established the National Sheep Network (NSN). SPANS has been monitoring the progress of these two organizations very closely and participated in a joint meeting in early September. To help get a better understanding of both organizations for our members and the Board, we have invited both organizations to make presentations and participate in a question and answer period at the AGM.



On July 22nd we were pleased to host the first annual Shepherd's Social at Joseph Leck's just outside of Truro. The day was very well attended with more than thirty participants who had the opportunity to tour the farm which feature a discussion on several of Joseph's management principles and Gwyneth provided an update on the research projects she is leading. The day also included a lamb burger BBQ. This event was very popular and we look forward to hosting it again in 2018.

For those who may have not received the notification it is important to know that as of October 31, 2017 the pink metal Ketchum Kurl-Lock #3 tag will be revoked from the Canadian Sheep Identification Program. Once the tags are officially revoked, sheep leaving the farm will be required to have one of the remaining approved tags in their ear. If you plan on shipping sheep that have a pink metal Ketchum tag in them after the revocation date, you will need to add an approved tag and report the new tag number to Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) along with the number of the pink tag already on the animal. You **MAY NOT** remove a pink metal Ketchum tag from a sheep or lamb even after the tag has been revoked, it is illegal. If you have any questions related to sheep tags please visit www.nssheep.ca/sheep-tags.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact the office at 902-893-7455.

Fred Hamilton, President

2017 SPANS Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Sheep Producers' Association of Nova Scotia will be on Saturday November 18, 2017 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro. Registration will start at 9:30am and is \$15 which includes morning refreshments and lunch (lamb chili or chicken soup). To register in advance, please contact Shelly at 902-893-7455.

This year's annual meeting will feature presentations and a question and answer period with the Canadian Sheep Federation as well as the National Sheep Network.

Sheep Producers Hold Fun Day- Submitted by Donna Langille



Photo to the left shows the winners in the Ewe Lamb conformation class (l to r) Alesha Dennis with the reserve champion ewe lamb and Megan Joudrie with the Champion Ewe lamb.

Sheep producers in the northern counties of NS hold an annual Sheep Fun Day. This year the event was held on Saturday September 9th, 2017 at the Pictou/N Colchester Exhibition Grounds. Local sheep farmers see it as a way to promote the industry, show the quality of the breeding stock available in the area, and provide a forum for producers to socialize. Local 4-H members showing sheep as a 4-H project are also invited to participate. The afternoon wraps up with a pot luck supper and presentation of prizes. **Thanks to Judge for the day was Cathy Vallis, Princeport.**

Junior Showmanship

1 st	Elizabeth Heighton, River John
2 nd	Megan Joudrie, Tatamagouche
3 rd	Alesha Dennis, Union Centre
	Grand Champion Showman- Elizabeth Heighton

Senior Showmanship

Rycha Levy, Merigomish
Jamie Fraser, Tatamagouche
Brendan Nichol, Caribou
Reserve- Rycha Levy

Ram Lamb Conformation

Champion	Megan Joudrie, Tatamagouche
Reserve	Jamie Fraser, Tatamagouche
3 rd	Elizabeth Heighton, River John

Ewe Lamb Conformation

Megan Joudrie, Tatamagouche
Alesha Dennis, Union Centre
Jamie Fraser, Tatamagouche

Market Lamb

1 st	Danny Nichol, Caribou
2 nd	Megan Joudrie, Tatamagouche
3 rd	Shirley Roberts, River John

Wool Breed

Alesha Dennis, Union Centre
Shirley Roberts, River John

Pen of 3 Replacement Lambs

1 st	Jamie Fraser, Tatamagouche
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Dress-A-Lamb

Josey Forbes, Tatamagouche (tie)
Maggie Darroch, Westville (tie)

CCWG 2017 Wool Shipment Date

Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers Ltd, Atlantic Wool Depot Collection will be accepting wool for shipment in October. There will be a tractor trailer on site so please bring large bags or quantities of wool on that day.

Date	Saturday October 28, 2017
Time	10:00am to 3:00pm
Where	1700 Highway 311, North River
Contact- Ruth Mathewson	Call or text 902-897-7708 to make other drop-off arrangements before the shipment date

Things You Should Know...

- o Wool Shipment date is October 28, 2017
- o SPANS Annual Meeting November 18, 2017 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro
- o Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting November 30 and December 1 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro
- o Marketing and promotional materials are available by contacting the office at 902-893-7455
- o Next SPANS Newsletter will be early January 2018

SHEEP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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