



Photo by Crystal Fullerton

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6 N E W S L E T T E R

Message from the President



Summer has been busy on the farm getting pastures ready and making hay. It has also been for SPANS completing workshops and starting several research projects for this year.

First I would like to thank everyone who attended the health workshops in June at my farm as well as the Super 8 in Windsor. These workshops featured Dr. Gwyneth Jones and Dr. Paula Menzies and addressed several flock health questions and concerns. Along with the Truro workshop we also hosted a special member's meeting to make a bylaw change which will allow us to hold our annual general meeting in the fall rather than during the winter. This year's meeting will be held on

Saturday November 19th at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro. We are hoping to build on last year's annual meeting by hosting several speakers who were not able to attend due to weather.

This spring we were successful in securing funding for several research projects. Dr. Jones will be continuing her work related to the Barberpole worm, we will also be completing a project related to carcass quality prediction using ultrasound technology. The third project will focus on improving wool marketing through several fibre makers.

We are also pleased to announce that the Safe Handling of Sheep and Parasite Control and Elite Ram Program is available again this year. There have been some small changes made to the program, which now include scales, scale heads as handling equipment as well as assistance with the costs associated with importing ram semen. An application has been included with this newsletter on the blue paper. Applications are due back to the SPANS office by October 11, 2016- late applications will not be processed.

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

Fred Hamilton, President

2016 SPANS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Sheep Producers' Association of Nova Scotia will be on Saturday November 19, 2016 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 AGM will include an overview of the three research projects we are currently working with researchers on as well as a continuation of the accelerated lambing workshop which was cut short due to weather last year.

Flock Health

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.**

Sheep Programs for 2016-2017

The Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce that we will be offering two industry programs in 2016-2017. The first is the continuation of the Sheep Handling and Parasite Control Program and the second is the Elite Ram Program.

The objective of the *Sheep Handling and Parasite Control Program* is to provide support to sheep producers for the purchase of fencers, electric fencing and posts, page-wire fencing and posts, livestock gates and handling crates. This year the program has been expanded to include scales, load bars and scale heads. Pasture rotation has been proven an effective tool in reducing parasite loads in sheep. Up to 40% of the purchase cost will be provided for this equipment.

The objective of the *Elite Ram Program* is to provide support to sheep producers for the purchase of genetically superior purebred rams. Up to 30% of the purchase price to a maximum of \$250 per ram plus \$50 bonuses are available for rams with have three positive EPDs or a positive multi-index as well as for rams with confirmed scrapie resistant genotype. Program additions for this year include assistance for the importation of semen and associated breeding costs.

No producer will receive more than \$3,000 as a combined program maximum.

The application form has been included with this newsletter on the blue piece of paper. Please complete the application and return it to the SPANS office no later than October 11, 2016.

All claims for eligible expenses must be submitted to the SPANS office no later than February 28, 2017. For more information please visit www.nssheep.ca/handling-2.

2016 SPANS Research Initiatives

Project Leader	Project Title	Project Summary
Dr. Gwyneth Jones	Barberpole worm: larval ecology and implications of a newly available anthelmintic	There are several objectives to this continued project including monitoring soil temperature and moisture and the rise in fecal egg counts; comparing Closantel with current anthelmintics and educating producers on how new wormers should be incorporated into a worming program and how to manage this to minimize development of resistance.
Germain Blouin	Lamb Ultrasound Scanning Pilot Project	The main objective of this project is to develop a sustainable ultrasound measurement service on live lambs in order to measure carcass data and improve the genetic potential of traits related to the quality of carcasses of Maritime sheep flocks. This project would make this genetic selection tool available to the purebred sheep breeders of three Atlantic Provinces.
Ruth Mathewson	Marketing Nova Scotian Fibre to Nova Scotian Fibre Artists, Crafters, and Beyond	The objective of this initiative is to grow the market for Nova Scotia fibres among crafters and fibre artists. For most Nova Scotia sheep producers, wool is a by-product of producing lamb

SPANS Producer of the Year

SPANS is now accepting nominations for the 2016 "Producer of the Year." The objective of the award is to annually recognize a Nova Scotia sheep producer for the outstanding contributions they make to the provincial sheep industry. The award recipient will be selected by a committee based on farm practices, environmental stewardship, industry promotion and farm appearance.

Completed nomination forms are due to the SPANS office by October 31, 2016 and the winner will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The winner will be presented with a plaque as well as a SPANS jacket and hat. For more information, please visit www.nssheep.ca/awards.

Maremma Looking for New Home

Tyler Haut, from Hubbards has a 17 month old Maremma male who he would like to re-home. If you are interested, please call Tyler at 902-858-2182.

Wildlife Compensation Program

The Nova Scotia Crop and Livestock Insurance Commission administers a Wildlife Compensation Program for Nova Scotia farmers who experience losses to animals or crops as a result of uncontrollable wildlife. This program applies to specific livestock as a result of predation by specified wildlife. Similarly specified crops are covered for losses as a result of wildlife damage. There are a number of other requirements to be eligible for this compensation program. For complete details, including prices paid for losses and crop and livestock covered, visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/agri/ci.

CCWG 2016 Wool Shipment Date

Ruth Mathewson is organizing a CCWG wool shipment day to take place in October. There will be a tractor trailer on site so please bring large bags or quantities of wool on that day.

Date	October 29, 2016
Time	8:30am to 2:00pm
Where	1710 Highway 311, Central North River
Contact- Ruth Mathewson	902-895-4708 or 902-897-7708

Keeping Sheep for Beginners

If you have been dreaming about starting a sheep flock this course is for you! Over 3 weekends, we will provide you with a talented team of instructors who will help you gain the knowledge and information you need to begin your journey raising sheep.

You will learn about:

- Different breeds and products
- How to feed and house sheep
- Dealing with predators
- Breeding and health basics
- Preparing for your first lambing
- Cost of Production and what that means
- Biosecurity and record keeping

At the end of the course, you will gain enough information to know what it takes to raise sheep successfully. Course details:

October 22-23, 2016	Start-up Basics
January 14-15, 2017	Introduction to Feeding and Breeding
May 13-14, 2017	Pastures, Predators, and Flock Maintenance

For more information, please visit <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/learn2farm/keepsheep.html>

Commingling Site and Traceability Program

The Commingling Site Traceability Program is available for the 2016-17 fiscal year. The program is targeted to support high-risk, high-throughput commingling sites where different species and/or animals from different herds or flocks commingle.

The objectives of this program are to assist commingling sites in the alteration or addition of animal handling structures to enhance traceability capabilities both in animal handling and in reading and recording identification tag information. These enhancements would assist traceability implementation, facilitate the identification of livestock, and support the ability to meet regulatory requirements related to animal identification and movement reporting. For more information please visit www.novascotia.ca/agri.

APHIS Proposes New Rules for the Importation of Sheep and Goats

The US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) publishes proposed rule changes for the importation of sheep, goats, and certain other ruminants into the US from Canada. "The US Border has been closed to (small ruminant) breeding stock for over a decade" says Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) Chairman Phil Kolodychuk, "and this proposed rule marks the first steps in re-establishing access to the US market."

The proposed rule does not completely alleviate import restrictions however, but does recommend:

“the importer would have to provide documentation showing that the animals have reached and maintained certified status in a scrapie flock certification program that has been evaluated and approved by the Administrator”.

Where Certified Status is defined as:

“a flock that has met the requirements equivalent to the Export Certified status of the U.S. Scrapie Flock Certification Program while participating in a program under the supervision of the national veterinary authority of the region of origin”.

The Canadian Sheep Federation, in consultation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, maintains the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) for Canadian producers. By definition and design, the VSFCP allows producers to achieve APHIS’s definition of Certified Status. The CSF has worked tirelessly at keeping the VSFCP in place for producers knowing that one day it would deliver on the market access capabilities that it was built for.

For a more detailed look at the proposed rule, visit the US Federal Registrar at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/07/18/2016-16816/importation-of-sheep-goats-and-certain-other-ruminants#h-8>.

2016 Atlantic Sheep Sale Results



The Atlantic Sheep Sale was held on September 3, 2016 at the AgriDome in Truro. In total, 70 animals (16 rams and 54 ewes) went through the ring.

Animal	#IN SALE	TOP PRICE	CONSIGNOR	BUYER
REG EWE LAMB	15	\$550	JAMES BLACKIE, NB	MARC PYLE, NS
REG YEARLING EWE	4	\$540	FACULTY OF AGR DAL	ANN KERNOHAN, NS
REG MATURE EWE	2	\$240	GWYNETH JONES, NS	CHARLES SMITH, NS
COMM EWE LAMB	21	\$375	FACULTY OF AGR DAL	KINTAIL FARMS , NS
COMM YEARLING EWE	11	\$ 560	DOUG KING, PEI	LARRY PHINNEY, NB
COMM MATURE EWE	3	\$285	SARAH NETTLETON, NS	LARRY PHINNEY, NB
REG RAM LAMBS	1	\$450	FRED & WINNIE WILSON, NB	TROY SIMPSON, NS
REG YEARLING RAMS	13	\$1100	JAMES BLACKIE, NB	DAVE MASTINE & TRENHOLM NELSON, QUE
REG MATURE RAMS	2	\$435	TROY HILTZ, NS	DOUG KING, PEI

Things You Should Know...

- Sheep Handling and Parasite Control Program and Elite Ram applications must be submitted to the office by October 11, 2016
- Keeping Sheep for Beginners- October 22 and 23
- Wool Shipment date is October 29, 2016
- Producer of the Year Nominations ate due to the office by October 31, 2016
- SPANS Annual General Meeting will be November 19, 2016 at the Best Western Glengarry in Truro
- Marketing and promotional materials are available by contacting the office at 902-893-7455
- Next SPANS Newsletter will be early December 2016

SHEEP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

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