



Photo by Crystal Fullerton

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 9 N E W S L E T T E R

Message from the President

After the long, dry summer Nova Scotia weathered this year, I think we are all looking ahead to a cooler fall quickly approaching. We at SPANS are eagerly planning ahead for industry events and workshops for this upcoming fall.

The 2019 All Canada Sheep Classic was held July 18th-21st in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. This event brought together national sheep breeders for a show, sale and hospitality.

The 38th Annual Atlantic Sheep Sale occurred August 31st at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds. This sale, sponsored by the Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia, was comprised of over 20 consignors and nearly 100 various breeding stock.

The SPANS Annual General Meeting will occur November 23rd from 9AM-3:30PM at the Nova Scotia Federation building (7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain NS).

SPANS, along with the NSCP, are hosting a workshop where Jonathan Wort, Perennia, will be discussing forage feeding with both beef and sheep components. These will be occurring October and November on farms across the province.

In early November, SPANS will be working with Jonathan Wort once again as he delivers a presentation on Ewe Lamb Management. These workshops will consist of the Valley and Tatamagouche regions, occurring November 6th and 7th. Please ensure you are checking the website and our Facebook/Twitter regularly for more information on these upcoming workshops.

We wish to remind all producers that transportation regulations for livestock are changing February 1st, 2020. This was due to the combination of amendments made to the Health of Animals Act and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) updated Code of Practice for the Transportation of Livestock and Poultry. The Health of Animals Regulations (HAR) changes will be the new required minimum standard for the transportation of livestock. Some changes to these regulations include transporting young animals who are not yet weaned, as well as the length of travel so rest periods for the animals are a factor for long distances.

For a complete list of all transportation regulation changes, please visit <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/humane>

Please ensure you are checking our website and social media accounts for a full listing of upcoming meetings and workshops, as well as any industry updates.

As always, if you have any questions/comments or suggestions for workshops, please don't hesitate to contact the office at 902-893-7455.

Fred Hamilton, President

2019 SPANS Annual General Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Sheep Producers' Association of Nova Scotia will be on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the NSFA Office in East Mountain (7 Atlantic Central Drive).

Registration begins at 9:30am and is \$15, including morning refreshments and lunch (lamb chili or chicken soup).

To register in advance, please contact Ashley at 902-893-7455

Safe Handling Course

Safe handling certification and premise identification (PID) numbers are required for select Nova Scotia programs. For additional information regarding PID, please contact Daniel Muir, Traceability Coordinator, at Daniel.Muir@novascotia.ca.

For all who are requiring a safe handling course, please see the below dates and locations for options:

Date	Location	Time	RSVP Date
September 28 th	<i>Kintail Farms</i> Andrew MacLennan Mabou, NS	10AM-1PM	September 25 th
October 19 th	TO BE DETERMINED **	TBD	
October 26 th	<i>Six Maples Farm</i> Danny and Alicia King Antigonish, NS	9AM-12PM	October 23 rd
November 9 th	<i>AAFC Pavilion</i> Nappan, NS	9AM-12PM	November 6 th
November 16 th	<i>Kevin and Sonia Baker</i> Centreville, NS	9AM-12PM	November 13 th
November 23 rd	<i>NSFA</i> East Mountain, NS	12:45-3:30PM	November 20 th

**October 19th location will be distributed amongst email, social media and the website once it has been confirmed.

For all courses aside from the November 23rd option, please bring a lunch and a lawn chair, beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or novascotiasheep@gmail.com by the above date to ensure your spot. Please inquire about the address upon RSVP if you require the location.

Upcoming Workshops

“Forage and Winter Feeding”

In combination with the safe handling courses, we will be offering forage workshops immediately following all safe handling courses other than the November 23rd date. Jonathan Wort, Perennia, will be discussing the importance of feeding forages, especially winter feeding, with both beef and sheep components. . Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or office@nscattle.ca prior to the day of if you would like to attend.

- September 28th 1-2PM
 - October 26th 12-1PM
 - November 9th 12-1PM
 - November 16th 12-1PM
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“Ewe Lamb Management”

Jonathan Wort, Perennia, will deliver a presentation on how best to manage ewe lambs, from birth to mature.

- November 6 – Big Al’s (Tatamagouche) **6:30PM** (option to order off menu at your expense)
- November 7 – Berwick Lion’s District Community Centre **7PM**

Please RSVP to Ashley at 902-893-7455 or novascotiasheep@gmail.com by November 1st.

CCWG 2019 Wool Shipment Date

The Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers Ltd, Atlantic Wool Depot Collection is ongoing.

Please contact Bert Meyer of Hummingbird Farm Livestock Supplies by email at hummingbirdfarm@hotmail.com or by phoning 902-396-7595. You can also stop by Atlantic Stockyards Ltd at 48 Salmon River Rd., Salmon River, NS B0W 2Y0 on Thursdays to arrange wool drop-off.

The container location is 245 River Road, Eureka, Springville, Pictou County, NS B0K 1B0.

Ram Evaluations

The Maritime Beef Testing Society (MBTS) is happy to announce that starting in the summer of 2020 they will offer ram evaluation testing.

Evaluation testing will include average daily gain, feed efficiency and breeding soundness evaluations, with the testing to be completed to line up with the annual breeding stock sale on Labour Day Weekend.

Over the next month, the MBTS will be working with AgSights to finalize testing requirements.

Full details will be released at the SPANS annual meeting in November.

Sheep Dog Trials

There will be Sheep Dog Trials occurring October 19th and 20th from 7:30AM-5PM. These will be held at Milferns Holsteins (12589 Hwy 2, Lower Onslow).

This will be a sheep herding competition for working dogs (mainly Border Collies). All spectators all welcome!

For further information, please contact Fred or Anne Hamilton at fhamilton@eastlink.ca



Advance Payments Program

The Advanced Payments Program (APP) is a Canadian Federal Loan Guarantee Program available through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Agri-Commodity Management Association Administrator).

It offers cattle producers the opportunity to receive 50% of the market value of the cattle inventory to be marketed between April 1st to September 30th of the following year, to be repaid when the animal is marketed. It helps with cash flow and provides the flexibility to better market your product. You can access the first \$100,000 interest free, to a maximum of \$1,000,000 at the interest rate of prime minus ¼%.

To qualify for this program, you must be enrolled in AgriStability (BRM). This provides security in addition to your beef inventory. To find out more, call Kara at 902-895-0581 or visit <http://agricommodity.ca/app/>. There you will find this year's advance rates, important program information and the forms required to submit your application.



Agri-Commodity
Management Association
902-895-0581 WWW.AGRICOMMODITY.CA

Advance Payments Program
Cash Flow For Farmers

- Up to \$100,000 interest free
- Up to an additional \$300,000 at prime, minus 1/4%
- Repay as you market product

Available for the following commodities

• Mink	• Blueberries
• Christmas Trees	• Greenhouse
• Cattle	• Apples
• Hogs	• Sheep
• Maple Syrup	• Honey
• Grains	• Oil Seeds

AND OTHERS...

Advances are available in the Atlantic Provinces.

 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Sheep Tags Transfer Reminder

We would like to remind all sheep producers to please not sell or give away any unused tags, but to rather contact the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) to notify them of ownership changes. Tags are registered to specific farms/producers and will remain within that name, starting from the original purchase. Tags should only be purchased from a licensed source.

If you do receive or have received unused tags from other farms/producers without the transfer of ownership occurring, you are exposing yourself to potential risks such as disease investigation, implicating both your farm and your animals. Similarly, you are potentially involving another farm's livelihood with giving and/or selling unused tags to them.

If you have unused tags, please contact CCIA and complete the free Ownership Transfer Request: <https://www.canadaid.ca/>

Transportation of Livestock and Poultry Regulations: Changes are coming in February 2020

In the last newsletter there was an article about the changes to the Health of Animal Act and the major changes to the Transport of Livestock and Poultry. These changes are going to have an impact on virtually everyone who has Livestock or poultry in Canada. If you are not aware of these changes you need to check them out and see what you need to do to meet the new requirements. You can look at the previous newsletter or go to <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html> and review the legislation.

Remember that these changes are going to come into place on the 1st of February 2020, that's not that far away.

The previous newsletter looked at an overview of the regulations related to things like transport time, requirements for the transporter, requirements for transport, age restrictions for animals that are transported and mentioned definitions of animals that are Unfit or Compromised for Transport.

Animals that are considered Unfit for Transport: when they are: a) non-ambulatory, b) have a fracture that impedes mobility or causes pain, c) lame in one or more limb, d) lame to the extent that it cannot walk on all legs, e) in shock or is dying, f) has prolapsed uterus or severe rectal prolapse, g) exhibits signs of nervous system disorder, h) pigs that are trembling, with difficulty breathing and skin discoloration, i) laboured breathing, j) severe open wound or laceration, k) injured animals hobbled to aid treatment, l) extremely thin, m) exhibiting signs of dehydration, n) exhibiting signs of hypothermia or hyperthermia, o) exhibiting signs of fever, p) significant hernias, q) in last 10% of gestation or has given birth in the last 48 hours, r) unhealed or infected navel, gangrenous udder, severe carcinoma of the eye, bloated to the extent that it is causing weakness or discomfort, showing signs of exhaustion, or exhibiting any signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates that it cannot be transported without suffering.

Animals that are considered compromised for Transport: when they are; a) bloated with no signs of discomfort or weakness, b) has acute frostbite, c) blind in both eyes, d) not fully healed from a procedure, including dehorning, detusking or castration, e) lame in a way not described in definition of unfit, f) deformed or fully healed amputation that doesn't demonstrate signs of pain resulting from the condition, g) is in peak lactation, h) has unhealed or acutely injured penis, i) minor rectal or vaginal prolapse, j) has mobility limited by a device applied to the body including hobbles, k) wet birds, l) or exhibit any other signs of infirmity, injury or of a condition that reduces the animals ability to withstand transport.

With these conditions in mind, Unfit Animals should not be loaded and transported except under very special circumstances. If they become Unfit during transport, immediate actions should be taken to prevent further problems. (See; <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-02-20/html/sor-dors38-eng.html>)

Compromised Animals can be transported with special care and consideration under limited conditions: see regulation. The decision to transport any compromised animal should not be taken lightly.

Producers need to recognise the seriousness of an animal's condition and its potential to cause welfare issues. If in doubt, you can consult that Transport Decision Tree in the Beef Code of Practice. <https://www.nfacc.ca/resources/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle/graphics/appendix-D.pdf>

If you have any doubt in your mind about an animal's fitness to be transported, don't load the animal until it is healthy and can travel safely.

Jonathan Wort;
Beef and Sheep Specialist, Perennia.
902-896-0277 Ext 232; jwort@perennia.ca



INTERESTED IN IMPROVING YOUR
GRAZING MANAGEMENT?

Join us for a grazing tour led by an experienced farmer who has implemented an improved grazing management plan on their farm. We are hosting five tours across the province.

For livestock-based farms, making the most of your pastures can have significant economic and environmental benefits. Learn how you can improve your farm's carrying capacity with limited resources.

SELECT ONE OR MORE GRAZING TOURS:

Mabou, Danford Murphy's	Sept 7	1-3 pm
Antigonish, Gabe Chisholm's	Sept 18	6-8 pm
Bridgewater, Kevin Veniotte's	Sept 24	6-8 pm
Yarmouth, Evan Kleiner's	Oct 5	3-5 pm
Wallace, John Duynisveld's	Oct 18	1-3 pm

NOVA SCOTIA For specific farm locations, call 902-863-7500 or contact your local Department of Agriculture office. Perennia staff will also be on hand to help answer questions.

SHEEP PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

www.nsssheep.ca

7 Atlantic Central Drive, East Mountain, Nova Scotia B6L 2Z2

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