



Newsletter: December 2019

Message from the President

After an absence of several years, the PSBANS newsletter has been restarted. In great part, its absence has reflected a need for volunteers from within the organization to take up this task and produce a current, regular, summary of both current and coming events that have a direct impact on our Purebred industry. If there is anyone you know within the organization who would wish to take this on, please pass on the name to Cathy Vallis (our Secretary). We would be more than pleased to work together to make this a useful instrument for our members.

The same issue exists with activities that we, as an Association, undertake. In the last number of years, due to the amount of work involved the energies of members (primarily a small core of active and devoted individuals) have been focussed on the running of the annual Fall sale and last year, the hosting of the All Canada Classic held at the Provincial Exhibition grounds. Although these events have been successfully run, there has been a need for additional individuals to contribute their time, not only for such events, but also for other Association activities, such as organizing a spring seminar or evening talks. As well we have a need to resume farm tours, letting all of our members get a better appreciation for what fellow members are doing and how we can all improve our management practices.

We have included, at the end of this text, the list of objectives of the Society, taken from our current By-laws. I would encourage every

member to re-read these objectives, and to think, about how we can advance more of them (something to think about before the AGM in January).

There are many challenges that we, as purebred sheep breeders will be facing in the next short while, from changes in the Regulatory environment (<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2016/2016-12-03/html/reg2-eng.html>) to real issues relating to our role as the foundation for the Commercial sheep industry in the province (and region). The challenges we face here in Nova Scotia relating to the availability of genetics and broadening the genetic base for some breeds, are also faced by our fellow producers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. As such, we should be looking to see how we can work collaboratively and have a stronger voice on the national stage.

An extract of the *Regulations* under the *Health of Animals Act* that relates to transportation outlining the new requirements (in effect as of the 20th of February 2020) is included below. Although they are quite detailed, they suggest added attention to record keeping, and the potential need for the implementation of a standardized (province-wide) manifest system for transport of livestock "off farm". These changes will be discussed in more detail at the AGM in January.

The 2019 Fall sheep sale was held at the Provincial Exhibition grounds on the Labour Day weekend. Although the number of consigned animals was modest, we had a good turnout of buyers, and, in general, the prices were sound.

However, with the popularity of forums for sale of breeding stock using social media, this type of sale will have to be re-examined to determine if this is a viable and cost-effective way (and venue) for us to direct our efforts and resources in the future. I note that with the re-organization of the management of the Provincial Exhibition grounds, the costs of renting facilities there for an annual sale has increased substantially in the last couple of years. As a consequence, the conduct and venue of the annual sale will be one of the items that will be up for discussion at our Annual General Meeting (see announcement further on in this newsletter).

As noted, above, there will be changes in *Regulations* under the federal *Health of Animals Act* coming into effect on the 20th of February, 2020 with implications for record keeping, especially related to transport of animals. The increasing importance of biosecurity, as well as further traceability are issues that should be foremost in our minds as we plan for the next year. As the foundation for the sheep industry in the Province, we should be leading by example.

A number of these issues will be discussed at the AGM, so I encourage all members (and potential members) to attend on January 11, 2020 at the *Cobequid District Fire Hall*, Lower Truro (see notice further on in the Newsletter).

I hope to see you there in the New Year and, on behalf of the Directors of the Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia offer the best of wishes for the Christmas season, as well as a successful lambing season and a prosperous New Year.

Andrew Hebda
Noel Shore, Hants County

Objectives of the Society

(Taken from the By-laws of the Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia)

1. To improve the quality of purebred sheep in the province
2. To promote the sale of purebred sheep in the province
3. To promote, advertise and in other ways advance the interests of the Society members
4. To promote educational activities related to sheep breeding
5. To speak on behalf of Purebred breeders
6. To acquire by way of grant, gift, purchase, bequest, or otherwise, real and personal property and to use and apply such property to the realization of the objectives of the Society and
7. To buy, own, lease, mortgage sell and convey such real and personal property as may be necessary or desirable in the carrying out objectives of the Society.

Note on Changes to provisions of the Health of Animals Act

As a result of several years of review, revised Regulations including those concerning transportation of livestock will come into effect on the 20th of February 2020. These are presented in Canada Gazette -

<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2016/2016-12-03/html/reg2-eng.html>

A significant element is the requirement for keeping of records relating to the livestock being transported. Although much of this relates to the responsibilities of the commercial carrier. Commercial carrier is interpreted as any

individual or organization that will transport livestock in exchange for profit.

The following is extracted from the Canada Gazette reference noted:

“159.4 (1) Every commercial carrier shall, for each shipment of animals, make a record in writing at the time of loading that includes the following information:

(a) the name and address of the shipper, consignee and person operating the conveyance in which the animals are transported;

(b) the identifying number or registration number of the conveyance;

(c) the number of square metres or square feet of floor area available to the animals in the conveyance or, if the animals are in a container, in the container;

(d) the date on which and place where that the conveyance or container was last cleaned and disinfected;

(e) the date on which, time when and place where the animals came into the carrier’s custody;

(f) the number, description and gross weight of the animals;

(g) the date on which and time when the animals were last fed, watered and rested prior to loading and, in the case of animals in heavy lactation, when they were last fully milked prior to loading; and

(h) if the animals are to be transported to a slaughter establishment, an auction market, an assembly yard or a feedlot, its name and address.

(2) Every commercial carrier shall add the following information to the record as it becomes available:

(a) the date on which, time when and place where the animals are fed, watered and rested while in the carrier’s custody; and

(b) the date on which, time when and place where the animals are unloaded at the destination and the name of the person who accepted responsibility for their care.

(3) The owner of the animals shall, at the time of loading, give to the commercial carrier that is to transport the animals a signed declaration that states the date on which, time when and place where the animals were last fed, watered and rested and if lactating, fully milked.

(4) The person operating the conveyance shall, with each shipment of animals being transported, keep on board the original or a copy of the record and the declaration.”

These will be discussed in more detail at the AGM.

New Feature

In order to show that there is some humour in what we, as sheep producers do on a daily basis, we are launching a new feature in the newsletter where you can share your amusing anecdotes with your fellow producers.

It will be called “***From the Farm Gate***”

If you have any amusing or interesting images or anecdotes you wish to share and have included in the newsletter, please forward them to the Secretary in time for the Spring newsletter (by 15 March 2020)

Award Presented to Dr. Ted Semple DVM for his Long-term Commitment and Contribution to the Association and the Sheep Industry in Nova Scotia

Dr Ted Semple has been a long-time supporter of the Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia. His contributions have not been limited to the prominent role in the evaluations of health status for sheep entered in our annual sales and Sheep Classics. Dr Semple has also devoted substantial time and personal effort in assisting our members and producers in general in many areas of sheep health and management.

In recognition of his outstanding commitment to the Association and the industry, he was presented with an Award of Achievement at the Shepherds' Social of the 38th Annual Atlantic Sheep Sale at the Provincial Exhibition Grounds in Bible Hill, Nova Scotia on the 30th of August 2019.

With many thanks from the Members of PSBANS



Dr. Semple is presented the Award of Achievement by PSBANS President



Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia

Annual General Meeting for 2019

January 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

At: Cobequid District Fire Hall, Lower Truro, NS (Exit 14, 102)



Morning Schedule to include presentations:- Daniel Muir, NSDA, - PID, what is it and why do you need it? (you can register for one on the day), Linda Norden, CFIA, -Traceability and the new Humane Transportation Regulations coming into effect February, 2020, Jonathon Wort, Perennia, - Nappan Research Station will now be offering a chance to put your Rams on test to obtain 3rd party confirmation of increased production performance with your genetics. More info available at the meeting. Dr. David Barrett et al, updating us on his research.

Lunch at 12:00 pm (approx.) – Cost is \$10.00 each. (Please **Pre-Register** for lunch by emailing c.vallis1981@icloud.com)

Afternoon Schedule is the business meeting of the Association and is for members only. (Memberships may be purchased on the day) The Agenda will be available on the website prior to the meeting. www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca and will be e-mailed to members.