



## ***Newsletter – Spring 2020***

### **Presidents Report:-**

We have all entered into an era of uncertainty with respect to how we have been asked to (physically) interact. This has not only challenged us with respect to how we interact with family and friends, but, as well as how we work within the farming community.

As Producers of Purebred Breeding Stock for the Sheep industry, not just in Nova Scotia, but for a wider market, this presents us with additional challenges. One of these is, how to market our stock in the broader market at a time when traditional venues are no longer available to us.

As an Association, we are looking into alternatives for providing a sales venue for our stock (see below) as well as additional ways in which we can further address the goals of the Association. As such, we are open to suggestions as to how this can be achieved.

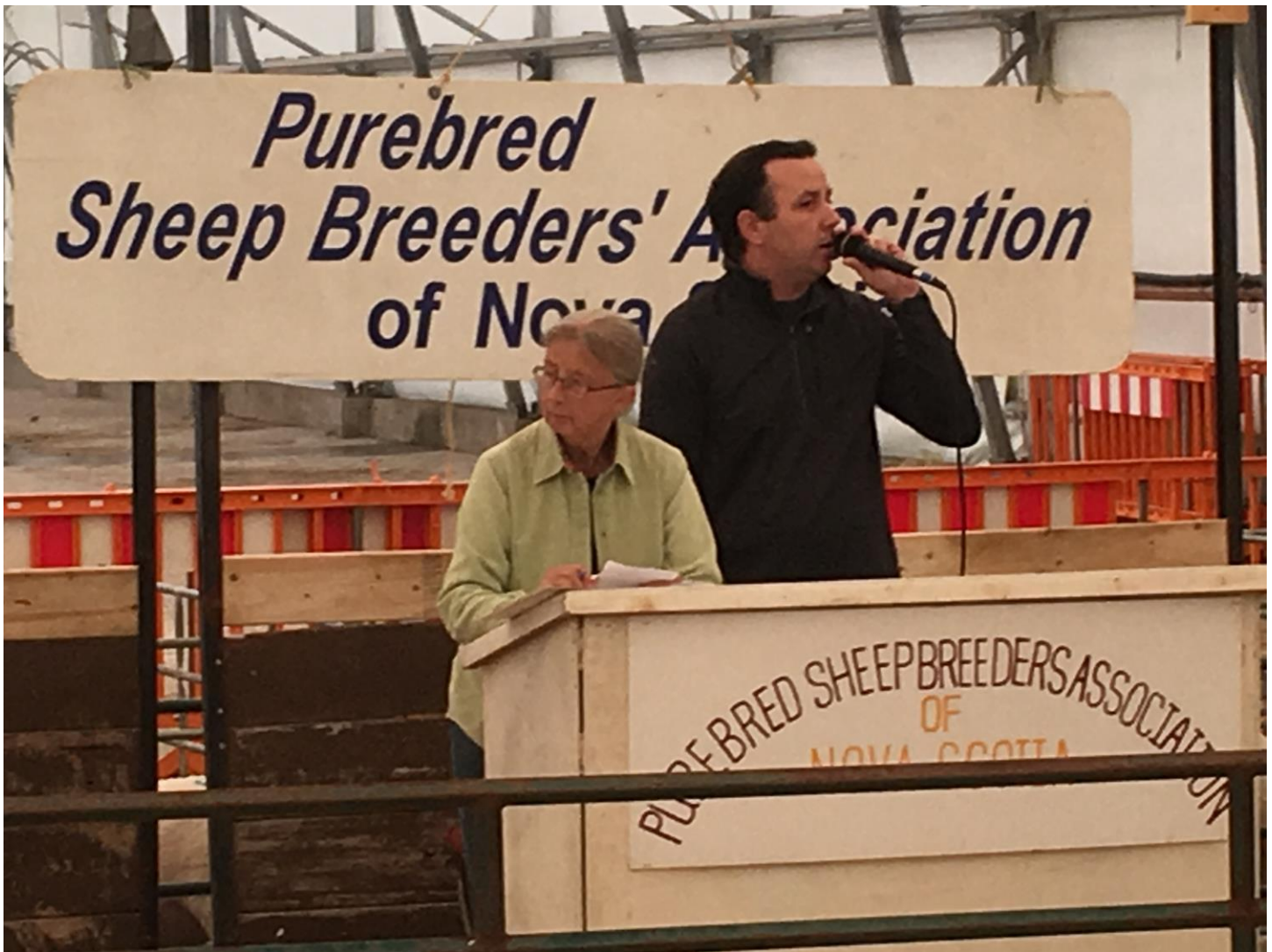
We hope that your lambing season has been rewarding to this point and that we can rise to the next challenge of raising this new lamb crop. However, there are reports of some anemia and post-partum mortalities that may be related to *Haemonchus*. If you suspect there may be an issue, check the eyes for evidence of anemia, then consult with your farm veterinarian if needed.

With sectoral support announced by the federal government, there may be some assistance available through new or existing programs, although how these may affect the Sheep industry is not clear at this time – (see news release:- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/agri-food-covid-liberals-1.5555591>)

I wish you continued good health, and ask, if you know of a sheep producer in your area. Just check up to see if they are coping and if they may require any assistance. If you need help, do not hesitate in asking your fellow producers. We are all in it together.

**Spring event:-** At the PSBANS AGM, a spring event for members was planned for May 2020.

However, due to restrictions imposed under the Provincial State of Emergency proclamation due to COVID-19, on the 20th of March 2020 and subsequent updates ( <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Declaration-of-Provincial-State-of-Emergency-by-Minister-Porter-Signed-March-22-2020.pdf> ) a prohibition is in effect for gatherings. Consequently, the spring event proposed at our AGM has been cancelled for 2020.



### **Atlantic Fall Sheep Sale 2020:-**

Due to the uncertainty regarding the lifting of the State of Emergency and rules for the holding of public gatherings in the Province during the summer and fall of 2020 many public events have been cancelled, including Exhibitions, and other large gatherings well into the Fall of 2020.

Consequently, due to the uncertainty regarding the availability of publicly accessible venues and conduct of such events in September, as well as the ability to do the work required to prepare and run the Fall Sale, the Directors have decided to cancel the PSBANS physical Sale for 2020. It is acknowledged that with the current state of affairs, there will be very limited opportunities for sheep breeders to readily access high quality breeding stock this year, so we are investigating the possibility of sponsoring a **Virtual Purebred Sheep Sale** for the same date (see below).

### **Potential for a Virtual Purebred Sheep Sale:-**

A survey will be sent out to PSBANS members and consignors from the last several sales within the next couple of days to determine the level of interest in a **Virtual Sale** for the same date. This is a mechanism that has been used on a limited scale in the livestock industry in Nova Scotia in the recent past, primarily in Beef and Dairy.

There are several issues that may arise in such a sale, including consideration of Health Checks, arrangements for transfer of Registration papers, arrangements for pick-up or delivery of purchased stock, as well as several issues relating to access to technology (or specific platforms).

We feel it is vital for our Association to provide support to our (Purebred) industry even at these challenging times, so we strongly urge you to participate in the survey when you receive it. (Responses will be due by 21 May 2020). Please respond to Cathy Vallis ( [c.vallis1981@icloud.com](mailto:c.vallis1981@icloud.com) or (902) 895-4039)

### **New PSBANS (on-line) Breeders Directory:-**

As one method for spreading information regarding the Purebred breeding stock in the Province, we are starting work on a new PSBANS Breeders Directory to be available on line through our Website. We will be sending out more information (including a call for submissions) later this summer.

Since one of the basic principles of our Association is to support the Provincial Sheep industry through providing access to high-quality genetics (breeding stock) for Purebred breeds, we felt that by creating an updated directory we would help support this directive. It was felt that by posting it as an **on-line directory** it should be possible to reach a broader audience and provide current breed and breeder information thereby enhancing the quality of the Provincial flocks.

### **Annual General Meeting:-**

Due to the high likelihood that meeting restrictions will still be in place, the Directors have proposed to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Association in the form of a Virtual Meeting, to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 (our fiscal year ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October). There will be more information provided in the next Newsletter and posted on the Association Webpage <https://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/> and Facebook Page- Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia.

## From the Farm Gate:-

The following recipe was distributed at one of the Atlantic Fall Sheep Sales quite a few years ago by the pair of lovely women credited with the recipe. They also distributed samples of the Donair Meat and sauce at the time, both are delicious. With many thanks to Dot and Bonnie.

### Donair Meat and Sauce – Dot McNutt and Bonnie Mackay

#### Meat:-

1lb of Ground LAMB

2 tbsp. of Flour

1 ½ tsp Salt

1 tsp of Oregano

1/8 tsp of Garlic Powder

½ tsp of Italian Seasoning

1/8 tsp Cayenne Pepper

2 tbsp of Water

Cook in a loaf pan or shape in a roll.

Cook 1 hour at 350 F.

#### Sauce:-

1 Can of Carnation Milk

¾ cup White Sugar

Dash of Garlic Powder

Mix above Ingredients

Pour ½ cup of Vinegar on top (let stand 1 hour before mixing).

## Producer Profile

Originally from Upper Musquodoboit, Janessa was raised with farming around her, growing up with beef cattle and goats. Her sheep career started through the 4-H program and expanded from there. She attended Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture where she obtained her BSc. Agriculture with a major in Animal Science. She now works as a mink technician in the Canadian Center for Fur Animal Research on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro. Janessa is also working towards finishing her Masters degree in agriculture. She has a small flock of purebred and grade Suffolk's, and hope to expand when finished her Masters. Janessa is now a director on the Executive of PSBANS.



Photo Credit – Janessa Henry

## Ask “Ted”:-

Many thanks to Dr.Ted Semple; who you all know as a long-time supporter of PSBANS and the Purebred Sheep Industry. Having attended the Small Ruminant Conference has been able to provide us with the following OAHN Small Ruminant Network Info sheets. We hope to have regular Ask “Ted” columns in future Newsletters. I will attach the links to the Newsletter email in case these don’t work.



Toxoplasmosis Sheep  
Infosheet.pdf



Safe Handling of  
Placentas Infosheet.pdf