



## *Spring 2021 Newsletter*

### President's Message

#### **PSBANS Secretary**

In this Spring Newsletter, we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Cathy Vallis who has retired from the post of PSBANS Secretary. The position of Secretary of any association is usually the most critical one in any organization. Most of the behind-the-scenes efforts put in and time devoted by the individual are rarely appreciated by most members of any association. In addition to keeping the Association affairs rolling, she has also transitioned many of our activities into the modern digital world (including our very first Zoom AGM last fall). Thank you Cathy... and we all hope you are able to enjoy what you love so much- raising sheep.

Our new Secretary is Janessa Henry, a devoted sheep breeder and also a member of the board of the Association. Welcome aboard Janessa.

#### **Atlantic Sheep Sale**

As most of you are aware, the Atlantic Sheep sale for 2020 was cancelled due to a suite of issues related to pandemic-concerns (both venue-related concerns as well as organizational and logistic challenges). In early 2020, we polled producers regarding interest in a "virtual" sale" but found very little support at that time. Consequently, there was no sale in 2020.

Conditions relating to COVID-19 have changed somewhat since then, with a suite of restrictions imposed by different jurisdictions, fine-tuning of quarantine protocols, development of protocols and procedures that allow for conduct of some public gatherings on a case-by case basis, as well as the development and roll-out of several vaccines. Current data regarding cases is provided in addition to links for COVID-19 related responses and resources at

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/data/>

The Board of PSBANS is monitoring both the current conditions as well as what restrictions may still be in place in September with regard to the conduct of a Fall Sale (actual or virtual) and what additional requirements might be in place for us to run such a sale.

As of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, the Exhibition Association of Nova Scotia has stated that "*In response to COVID-19 and the need to follow current public health guidelines and restrictions in the province of Nova Scotia, the Exhibitions Association of Nova Scotia (EANS) has made the decision to not host traditional exhibitions and fairs for the 2021 season.*"

<https://4hnovascotia.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EANS-Press-Release-Mar-4-2021.pdf>. Consequently, large public gatherings at such events (and facilities) will still be curtailed for 2021. The same public health guidelines and restrictions apply to the conduct of events such as our Sale. In addition, there are challenges in the use of large public facilities (such as those at the Provincial Exhibition grounds) for large gatherings.

That having been noted, we are investigating specific requirements of the Health Protection Act Order and public health directives to determine the specifics of conducting a physical sale. In addition, we are re-visiting the option of conduct of a Virtual Sale (modelled, in part on that of the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association 2021 CLASSIC).

Janessa Henry will provide updates and time-frames for sale and sale decisions. Additional information will be posted on the web-site <https://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/> under News and Events.

In the interim, as we're looking forward to this breeding season, we encourage breeders to explore our 2020 Breeders' Directory, available at <https://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PSBANS-Breeders-Directory-2020-v2-HQ.pdf> . If you require a paper copy of the Directory, please contact our Secretary Janessa Henry through the Web-site <https://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/contact/>

### **CSBA CLASSIC 2021**

Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association CLASSIC will be held this year (9 & 10 July) as a Virtual Sale. Information will be posted at <https://www.sheepbreeders.ca/> I encourage anyone interested in consigning or purchasing animals from that sale to watch the CSBA site for details. Our CSBA representative, Bruce Sinclair indicates that they are hoping for a "traditional" sale in 2022.

### **Code of Practice**

The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep in Canada (produced by the National Farm Animal Care Council -NFACC) was revised in 2013. It is currently available through [http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/sheep\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/sheep_code_of_practice.pdf). As part of the process of keeping the Codes of Practice up to date, these are revisited and revised, as necessary, every 10 years. If in your use of this document you have encountered some areas that need to be included, or clarified, now would be the time to bring them to attention of the NFACC ([www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca)) for consideration for the next version.

Most seasonal breeders will be either in the middle of lambing or close to finishing up. Our resident farm Parasitologist, Dr Gwyneth Jones advises that now is the time to keep a close eye out for parasites (specifically Barberpole Worm, *Haemonchus contortus*) by watching for any signs of anemia (checking the eyes) in the weeks after lambing. Refer to: <http://nssheep.ca/parasite-control/> If you are unsure, contact your farm veterinarian. Those ewes and purebred lambs you have just produced are the foundation for the Nova Scotia sheep industry going into the future.

Stay well and take care,

Andrew Hebda  
President

## 2021 Atlantic Sheep Sale Update

Updates to follow.

Decision made by the board regarding an in-person sale will be made in early July.

## New Ruminant Livestock Specialist

I recently joined Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc as the new ruminant livestock specialist, having completed my MSc in Animal Nutrition at the University of Guelph last year. I am originally from Northern Ontario. I am passionate about Canada's sheep industry and am excited to support Nova Scotia sheep producers in my role.

My thesis research was a two-year study that looked at forage requirements for market lambs. My focus was on the minimum forage needed to keep a lamb's rumen healthy and efficient; the same data can be used to help limit expensive grain inclusion in rations while maintaining profitable growth.

We individually fed Dorset x Rideau Arcott ram lambs (~30 kg) diets that were either 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, or 100% chopped second-cut alfalfa hay, and the remainder of the diet was a mix of ground corn, dried distillers' grains and solubles, and a vit/min premix that contained Bovatec. Daily feed intake and weekly growth were measured to collect data on average daily gain, average daily feed intake, feed:gain ratio and final weights across diets. Lambs were monitored with rumen data loggers which recorded rumen pH every five minutes, which allowed us to determine whether certain diets were associated with acidosis. The trial lasted for 70 days before lambs were slaughtered. Finally, I looked at lambs' rumen tissue samples with a microscope to assess potential rumen damage.

We found that lambs performed similarly when fed between 40% to 100% grain. However, once they consumed more than 60% grain, lambs became significantly more likely to experience acidosis even though they did not show any outward signs of illness. To maximize growth rates while minimizing health concerns, in general the amount of grain to include in finishing rations is between 40% to 60% of the diet (ignoring costs). For replacement breeding stock, consider feeding a diet with less than 20% grain to promote long-term rumen health.

Determining the most cost-efficient system is a moving target that depends on feed costs. For my trial, with 2020 Ontario feed costs, the most profitable diet was 60% hay and 40% grain, with a price per kg of gain of \$1.61. The next most economical option was 100% grain at \$1.70 per kg of gain; a nine cent price difference. It cost an average of \$29.94 to feed 60H/40G lambs and \$32.13 to feed 0H/100G lambs for the duration of our study, which amounts to a savings of \$2.20 if you market 100 lambs a year, that results in *at least* \$220 in savings between the two most economical options!

It will come as no surprise to sheep producers that feed costs represent a very large portion of your production costs. Because forage quality can vary so much, it is important to test your forages to ensure you are supplementing accordingly and not wasting feed. This is an important step in making sure you are maximizing the value of your feed and operating efficiently.

Please get in touch if I can help with your feeding program or other management issues. I look forward to meeting you in the coming months and working with you.

Katie Trottier  
[ktrottier@perennia.ca](mailto:ktrottier@perennia.ca)  
902-324-8306



*Rumen pH data loggers*



## From the Farm Gate



Recipe submitted by Janessa Henry, Secretary of PSBANS.

### ***Honey Roasted Lamb Ribs***

- 1 lb lamb ribs
- 2 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp ginger
- 5 tbsp honey
- 2 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp canola oil
- 1 small onion, sliced thinly
- Sea salt, sprinkle

In a large freezer bag, shake spices with meat and marinate in the fridge for 6-8 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 300°F.

In a small pot heat 3 tbsp of honey, vinegar, and oil until runny.

Line a pan with foil, toss ribs with honey mixture and sliced onions and cover with foil tightly. Bake for 2 hours turning twice.

Remove foil and cook for an additional 30 minutes.

Heat remaining honey and brush ribs before serving.

# Producer Profile

## Nantymor Farm

Featured producers are Gwyneth Jones and Andrew Hebda of Nantymor Farm, Noel Shore, Hants County, Nova Scotia.

Gwyneth Jones, Andrew Hebda and Meidrym Hebda of Nantymor Farm have been raising sheep on the Noel Shore (Hants County) since 1983. They started up with a mixed flock as well as a foundation flock of Clun Forests, obtained from Angus Rouse of Debert. This foundation flock comprised five distinct breeding groups (from the original Clun Forest importation into North America by Tony Turner of Eureka, N.S. and several more importations of Rams by Angus Rouse – see the history of Clun Forest Sheep in North America in by the North American Clun Forest Association -

<https://www.clunforestsheep.org/origins-and-history-of-the-clun-forest-breed/clun-history-article-3/> ) The breeding program is that devised by Angus to optimize genetic diversity and at the same time minimize the co-efficient of inbreeding..

Since the initial purchase of ewes and ram from Angus Rouse, genetic re-invigoration has been pursued through the introduction of new genetics (rams) over the intervening years, from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan as well as Virginia. Other breeds have been eliminated over time so that the breeding flock is now essentially Clun Forest. Although the flock has been larger in the past, the flock size has been reduced to a core of 80 purebred ewes this winter (2020/21).



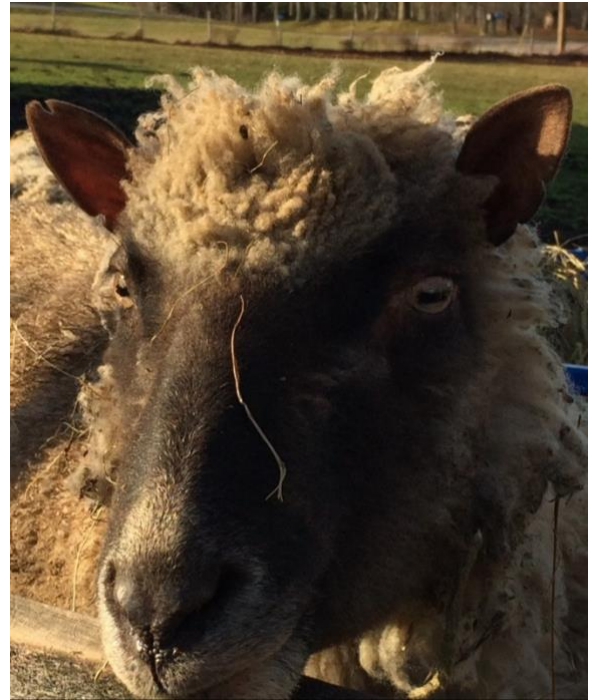
In maintaining this flock, we have selected for genetic diversity, performance, conformation and Scrapie resistance. In addition, within the limitation of the flock size and genetics, we have also selected for good parasite resistance (based on on-farm studies using simple procedures such as Fecal Egg Counts (FECs) and routine FAMACHA screening).

Based on the parasite research conducted by Gwyneth on the farm over the last 25 years, lambs with ewes are strip-grazed on clean pasture (portable fencing moved every 3-5 days) and not returned to the same paddocks until after weaning. After weaning the lambs are put on clean pasture (approximately 23 hectares of pasture are available) with no contact with the ewes, with regular monitoring for parasites, and only dosing individuals when indicated by FECs and FAMACHA.

Although there have been predator issues in the past (coyotes, birds of prey and scavenging birds, etc), their impact has been minimized by lambing indoors, as well as the use of several guardian animals (llama, Great Pyrenees dog, and now a donkey) Using these animals, as well as bringing in all sheep from the pastures every night has minimized the impact of predators on the flock.

For contact information check out the listing in the PSBANS on-line Directory: <https://www.sheepnovascotia.ns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/PSBANS-Breeders-Directory-2020-v2-HQ.pdf>

Note: Meidrym graduated as a Veterinarian from AVC in 2007 and is now working as an import specialist for the CFIA out of Sarnia.





## Ask “Ted”

AASRP POLICY STATEMENT January 2021 (revised Mar 2021)

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), founded in 1968, is an organization for veterinarians in the US, Canada and worldwide, who want to further their knowledge of sheep, goats, camelids, and cervids; promote the health and welfare of these small ruminants; and provide the best and most advanced services and products to their clients. In response to increasing concerns and regulations on the use of antimicrobials (antibiotics) in food-producing animals the AASRP, in December 2020, put forward and updated their Policy Statement to guide veterinarians and their clients on government and veterinary association regulations in North America on this use in Small Ruminants as Food Animals.

### POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING SMALL RUMINANTS AS FOOD ANIMALS

“Small ruminant practitioners should consider sheep, goats and farmed or hunted cervids to be food animals when making drug treatment decisions, and the intended use of the animal as a non-food or companion animal has no bearing on this designation. Camelids are sometimes harvested for human consumption, and veterinarians treating camelids should carefully consider the likelihood of animals entering the food supply to ensure that residues do not occur. Withdrawal times should always be provided for sheep, goats and farmed or hunted cervids, and should be considered for camelids. Extended withdrawal time estimates are required when using drugs extralabel. Specialty advising organizations such as the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD and, in Canada, cgFARAD) can assist with these determinations. A withdrawal time estimate should always be provided to the owner and documented in the medical record, regardless of the owner’s intention for the animal.”

AASRP Policy Statement Dec 2020

Dr. Errol (Ted) Semple  
Maritime Genetics



## Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia

### Interested in Becoming a Member??

Membership with PSBANS:

1. A 1-year membership to cost \$20.00 per member.
2. Members of the Association Participating in the annual Atlantic Sheep Sale will receive a full refund of their registration fees if their animal sells. (Non-member's registration fees will not be refunded, regardless of if their animal sells.)
3. Discount rates for participation in events sponsored by PSBANS. Workshop's etc.
4. Discounts for participation in promotional projects (i.e., a printed Breeders Directory, Fall Sale Catalogue, advertising on PSBANS website or a link to the website).
5. Voting privilege at the PSBANS AGM for year of enrollment.

\*Personal info to be used for administration purposes only or as described above.

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### Membership Application:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make cheques payable to PSBANS:**

**PSBANS, c/o Janessa Henry, Secretary, P.O. Box 68 Upper Musquodoboit, NS. B0N 2M0**

**E-mail: [janessa.henry@dal.ca](mailto:janessa.henry@dal.ca)**

**or e-transfer to: Dianne Sinclair, Treasurer, [bruce.sinclair@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:bruce.sinclair@ns.sympatico.ca)**