



Newsletter – December 2021

President's Message

We have just finished another year of challenge as purebred sheep producers. As an Association, we have made efforts to meet some of the needs of our producers in the eye of the sheep industry through stepping outside the normal routine and trying a different approach for the promotion of our stock through the annual sale using another format.

Having cancelled the annual Atlantic Sheep Sale in 2020, we decided that it was important to offer our producers and members of the Sheep industry in the Region an opportunity to both sell and purchase Purebred breeding stock in 2021. We had examined several options for sponsoring a sale, and consulted with producers, other producer associations as well as the NS Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

We reviewed the status of the COVID-19 related provincial State of Emergency

https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/renewal-state-of-emergency_2021-12-12.pdf as well as

recommended protocols for hosting public

gatherings in the context of where the province

stood on the provincial re-opening plan <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/> (in July 2021, we had just entered Phase 3).

Based on the requirements for monitoring and enforcement of posted protocols at the time as well as limitations in provincial cross-border movements we decided to follow the lead of several other Purebred organizations (including the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association (CSBA) and host an on-line purebred sale (restricted to registered purebred breeding stock), using the services of Alberta-based DLMS Farmgate Auctions

<https://www.farmgatetimedauctions.ca/home>.

Several changes in the Rules of the Sale had to be implemented for the 2021 sale due to the limitations of the sale format. Some were nominal, relating strictly to the conduct of a physical sale – check-in times, handling of paperwork, and other logistic considerations Others were operational such as no physical review examination of livestock (vet check). In addition, no grade or commercial sheep were accepted into the sale due to the inherent issues relating to clear identification of individual sheep in lots (as presented in the on-line catalogue).



A summary of the sale is provided further on in this newsletter.

It should be noted that Atlantic Stockyards Limited of Valley sponsored a Commercial Sale of sheep on the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend.

At the upcoming 2021 AGM (to be held the 11th of Dec 2021 (virtual format) – see notice further in newsletter, we will discuss the 2022 Purebred sale, so be prepared to offer opinions and comments as to how the Association should proceed.

On a positive note.. after a closure of almost 18 years, the American border will be (fully) re-opened to the import of sheep, including breeding stock. The order was initially closed due to the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in 2004. Although there has been incremental access granted to cattle over these years, there had been little progress on other ruminants including sheep.

The Notice of final decision regarding Importation of Sheep, Goats, and Certain Other Ruminants was released on the 3rd of December (<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2021-26302.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0dCitCNVRSCQrG85NNmFpJmupNid2nEU9ihVqC4MAHfzyDzbAgrwhTtPE>), with implementation prescribed for 30 days after registration of this notice.

This may affect us in several ways, not only restoring access to the American (sheep industry) market for our genetics, but also by making it easier to access the Mexico and other markets to the South. (A number of years ago, there was great interest from Mexico for selected breeds.)

If you had been exporting stock to the US in the past or are interested in expanding your potential market to those areas, please review the USDA document (link above). There will, no doubt, be further information available in the next several weeks.

I ask that members of the Association attend the (virtual) AGM at which time we can discuss how better to advance the objectives of our Association other than through the organizing and sponsorship of an annual sale.

Hoping that breeding has gone well, and everyone is looking forward toward a successful lambing season. We wish you all a very Happy and safe Christmas season

Andrew Hebda

PSBANS President

Membership Dues

Just a quick note, attached to this Newsletter is a membership form for anyone who would like to renew their membership for this year prior to the Virtual AGM on Dec. 11th, 2021 by Zoom.

From the Farm Gate

Simple pan-fried lamb chops

Recipe from Holly Hines

The best cut for this is the loin chop, but any cut works as well.

What you will need:

- 4 Lamb loin chops
- Olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 Tablespoons of chopped fresh rosemary
- Salt and Pepper



Rub olive oil on each side of the chops.

Then shake a generous amount of salt and pepper on each side.

Sprinkle the minced garlic and rosemary on the chops.

Let the chops sit and become room temperature.

Meanwhile, heat a cast-iron pan on medium-high heat. Fry on each side for approximately 5 mins (a little longer for well done)

Let the chops rest after cooking for at least 5 mins before serving.

*If you have someone in your family that does not like the flavor of lamb as much as you do, trim the fat from the chop. It holds a lot of the lamb flavor, and the chop won't taste as strong. It's the way I get my hubby to eat lamb with me 😊

If anyone wishes to submit a lamb recipe please email it to the PSBANS secretary at janessa.henry@dal.ca and it will be included in future newsletters!

Thanks!

Producer Profile

Bayhead Farm

Bayhead Farm is a family run sheep and beef farm located in Bayhead, Nova Scotia (near Tatamagouche). The beef operation consists of 40 purebred angus, purebred Shorthorn and crossbred cow calf pairs. Calves are finished for local markets and off-farm meat sales. The sheep operation consists of 8 purebred North Country Cheviot and 32 crossbred North Country Cheviot breeding ewes. Most of the lambs are sold live as breeding stock, however some are finished for local markets and on-farm meats sales. The first 2 ewes purchased were crossbred Arcotts from Adrian and Lottie Eelman for a 4-H project in 1999, they were bred to a crossbred Hampshire ram purchased from Terry MacKay. This is how the flock was started.



Figure 1. Group of lambs in February keeping warm in a group huddle



Figure 2. See that mischievous grin! Nothing is safe high or low they will get into it or onto it!

The first two purebred North Country Cheviot ewes were purchased from Wallace and Bonnie MacKay for 4-H use in 2006. The base genetics for the purebred section of the flock is from these two ewes, along with the first purebred ram purchased from Bruce and Diane Sinclair. The flock grew using lambs that were purchased or raised for 4-H projects. The current ram is a Coneygeers North Country from British Columbia purchased from the last All Canada Sheep Classic held in Truro, Nova Scotia. North Country Cheviot has remained a constant in the flock due to the breed characteristics which fit best with this farm's production

practices. They tend to grow well in grass fed based systems, with low parasitic loads and they are wonderful mothers. The flock is pasture grazed during the summer months, and they are then fed dry hay and haylage during the colder months. The ewes and lambs are fed whole oats that are grown on farm when available. Sheep of all ages are provided with a free choice ovine mineral block. The lambing season tends to move based on the seasonal weather but tends to occur between January and March. However, as the ram is kept with the ewes throughout the year we have found that we can get a few surprises with out of season lambs. This is considered a good thing profit wise for the farm. The sheep can access the barn and an outside pen and/or pasture all year round as they wish, but they tend to spend the nights or rainy days inside the barn (spoiled sheep; they don't like to get their hooves wet). For predator control we leave a light on in the barn for the night. One thing that has been learned during the process of understanding the North Country Cheviot breed is to build your gates and fences high, as the North Country's love to jump and/or climb!



Figure 3. Ewes and lambs in August 2021 on pasture

Atlantic Fall Sheep Sale Virtual 2021 Summary

25 lots of sheep were in the online sale, two lots did not meet reserve bid and therefore were not sold. Consignors were from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI. Buyers were widespread from as far as Saskatchewan, to Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI & Nova Scotia. Average sale price across ewes & rams was \$717.

Top Ewe \$1300 – consigned by DAL AC

Top Ram \$1000 – consigned by Breckrow Farm

The association would like to thank all of those involved. That includes DLMS Farm Gate Timed Auctions, consignors, buyers, promoters and everyone who showed interest in this sale.



Ask “Ted”

The Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Goat Pneumonia by Merdyth Jones, DVM,

Oklahoma State University

This past November Dr. Merdyth Jones put together a producer-orientated module on “*The Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Goat Pneumonia*”. This is available for **FREE** at largeanimalce.com. While it was made for a goat producer meeting you can simply substitute sheep or small ruminants in places where it says goat. So, set your hearing to hear ‘sheep’ instead of ‘goat’ and enjoy.

Under COURSES find the free recorded version, or under RESOURCES the free article for the same. Note that some of the drug violations/restrictions for the US mentioned may have different regulations here in Canada.

Merck Veterinary Manual Free Access

*The complete Merck Veterinary Manual is available for free on-line at
Merckvetmanual.com*

Promoted as a one-stop resource for veterinary information with thousands of topics in all veterinary fields including small ruminants

- Authored by hundreds of top veterinarians
- Resources for large animal, small ruminant, horses, and pet health and wellness
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Most ovine topics can be searched by name or under the specific body system affected (such as respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular). The free mobile app version of the Merck Veterinary Manual can also be downloaded from this site.

Yours,

Dr. Ted



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-members registration fees will not be refunded, regardless 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.

Membership Application:

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Please make cheques payable to PSBANS:

PSBANS, c/o Janessa Henry, Secretary, 67 Hwy 336 Upper Musquodoboit, NS B0N 2M0

E-mail: janessa.henry@dal.ca

or e-transfer to: Dianne Sinclair, Treasurer, bruce.sinclair@ns.sympatico.ca