

CSBA report for NB, PEI & NL 2024

Dear member,

Welcome to all!

I have the pleasure of representing NB, PEI & NL! So far 2023 & 2024 to date have been very difficult for many. In the last years lamb prices were holding at very good price, which perked interest in expansion and new producers entering our industry, demand was up for both the meat market and breeding stock could not supply enough! But, unfortunately due to reasons beyond our control, all came to a steady halt, prices dropped, no one was taking lambs, issues with shipping, expenses increasing for all, -grains, fuel, vets, material cost just to name a few, oh and let's not forget interest rates. Many are selling lambs at price barely covering cost of production. With beef price rapidly increasing, we have seen a shift from sheep to beef for many commercial producers. Early spring lamb prices have seen a slight increase perhaps due to reduced lamb availability as a result of several flock dispersals this past year.

In NB,our provincial AGM was held on March 14, at the Four points hotel in Moncton. We saw great attendance from producers, veterinarians, and provincial livestock specialists, all were in attendance. Our guest speaker was Paula Menzies, she has been with the Ontario vet college and University of Guelph for several years and is now Secretary of the European college of small ruminant health management as well as the president of the International sheep vet college. Her presentation was in two parts, ..- the famous Haemonchus contortus (barber pole), ..-and management of coccidiosis in lambs. We also had saw a presentation by Iian Anderson, a young NB sheep producer who was fortunate to be chosen to attend the royal winter fair to show sheep last fall. His presentation included photos of the sheep ambassador who toured the city during the fair greeting all in her path of Royal fair duty! Iian is also the new CSBA junior director! The fall BBQ was hosted by Golden Honey farms, ...Calvin Hicks & family! All had a great time & enjoyed delicious smoked lamb prepared by Chef Calvin himself! Thank-Ewe!

In PEI,many producers have been faced with similar challenges, the PEI sheep producers also had Paula Menzies out to present on similar topics in NB. Both barber pole & coccidiosis continue to be challenging issues in our industry. Last summer saw the return of the fairs and the Old Home Week held annually in August, hosting the provincial 4-H shows. Hopes for a great year to all!

In NL, ...rather than focus on struggles of high costs, etc, ...last year I drew attention to the, ..Sheep producers of NL & Labrador Facebook site, ..Damon is Matt Morry, the younger generation of the Morry family! The Morry name as most know has long been associated with the sheep of NL, .. I encourage you to follow this site, ...there are beautiful photos, activities info on workshops & great information sharing displayed, ...perhaps an iceberg or two in the near future also!

In conclusion, ..the Atlantic provinces including NL, have faced many challenges in the sheep industry over the past several years, ..there are many, many resources available that collaboratively all could benefit from, ..strength in numbers! To name a few, there is the NSAC, Perrennia, the Atlantic Fall sheep sale, hosted annually by PSBANS, the ASL stockyards weekly sale and annual breeding sale, ..Northumberland abattoir, Atlantic vet college in PEI, the maritime beef test station who are offering a clinic on Feed efficiency this summer, ...and SPANS who have been instrumental in both planning and organizing the annual Fall sheep symposium, 2024 planning is well underway! There are perhaps some I have not mentioned, ...provincially we are also fortunate to be represented on our two national associations being CSBA & CSF, ...they both provide a wealth of information from research projects, national registry of purebred animals, Genovis program, breed directory, scrapie surveillance, traceability, agroledger, ...only to name a few.

As I often stated, together we represent a great industry that I am a proud member of! I thank-EWE all for attending! -and look forward to what the coming years bring us all, ..respectfully, Jocelyne Mcgraw

Submitted by Jocelyne Mcgraw
CSBA DIRECTOR FOR NB, PEI & NL