

## **2019 CSBA reports for New Brunswick, PEI & NL**

The NB Sheep Breeders Association is a small but active organization with members from across the province. Membership is voluntary; there is no provincial check-off. There are six directors, our current president is Chantale Larouche, vice-president is James Blackie, and myself secretary/treasurer. Our AGM was to be held in Fredericton in April but has been postponed due to Covid-19 Virus. Both members are usually in attendance as well as our provincial livestock officer, Duncan Fraser.

For several years now, programs including the Genetic Enhancement program, Flock Health program, and the Handling systems program have been available to assist producers grow and improve their flocks, of course they must meet specific criteria to be eligible for funding. The genetic enhancement program includes specifics for purebred animals with bonus payments for Genovis and scrapie. This year the flock health program has been eliminated due to provincial cuts. Many NB lambs are sold in Quebec, Ontario & Nova Scotia, -Northumberland and the Atlantic stockyards in Truro.

The PEI Sheep Breeders Associations board is made up of several experienced sheep producers including Ryk terbeek, Claude Gallant & Harry Elsinga. The association remains active by organizing info seminars for their producers. Topics include scrapie, nutrition, soil health & forage species, pasture rotation & pasture walk & talk. All is done to encourage producers to achieve superior quality breeding stock, and to encourage the use of flock health protocols as a method of disease prevention and to implement initiatives which may lead to increased feed efficiency. The Old Home Week Exhibition held annually in August continues to be their main venue for showing their livestock, as thousands attend annually. Lambs are sold through freezer sales, farmers markets, as well as some leave the island and are marketed in NS, Quebec & Ontario.

The Newfoundland Sheep Breeders! Presently there are eight members registered with CLRC. Breeds registered include North Country Cheviot, Icelandic, Suffolk & Rideau Arcotts and a farm who has a few of all including charollais, shropshire, hampshire, suffolk and more Rideau arcotts. There are approximately 5,000 breeding ewes with room for expansion & secondary processing. Food-safety is ongoing and continually being advanced in the province. There are several producers presently certified with CanadaGAP - national food safety program. There are 19 licensed abattoirs on the Island. The SPANL has approximately 80 members making it one of the largest commodity groups in the province. The province is home to 500 different farms. There is chicken production!...dairy! ....Beef! ...Mink farms!.... Eggs, (9.5 million dozens peaked production in 2011!) ...Bees!.... Cranberries!... Vegetables! (mostly potatoes, turnips, carrots & beets!) In 2014 total farms cash receipts were estimated at \$126.

Thank-ewe to all for joining us for us the AGM! Let's all stay positive and together we can get through this, ..stay safe!

Jocelyne McGraw - CSBA Director for NB, PEI & NL