NOVA SCOTIA
Agriculture

Dr. Alex Stavert
Agriculture Inspection Services
Program Veterinarian
176 College Rd., 2nd Floor
Bible Hill, NS, B2N 5G6
Phone: 782-370-1712
Email: alex.stavert@novascotia.ca

June 1, 2025

The Farm Animal Welfare program was established in the Department of Agriculture in 2010 with the goal of preventing the inhumane treatment of farm animals and to protect and aid farm animals that are in distress. In accordance with Nova Scotia's Animal Protection Act, an animal is deemed in distress if the animal is:

a. in need of adequate care, food, water or shelter or in need of reasonable protection from heat or cold appropriate to the animal;
b. injured, sick, in pain or suffering undue hardship, anxiety, privation or neglect;
c. deprived of adequate ventilation, space, veterinary care or medical treatment;
d. abused;
e. subjected to cosmetic surgery as defined in Section 27;
f. kept in conditions that are unsanitary or unsafe so as to impair the animal's health, safety or well-being;
g. kept in conditions that contravene the standards of care prescribed by the regulations;
h. subjected by any person to being trained for or engaged in animal fighting; or
i. subjected to circumstances prescribed by the regulations

Background

The Farm Animal Welfare program was contacted by Nova Scotia Museum to visit and evaluate the Ross Farm Museum. The facilities were toured, animals were evaluated and existing procedures reviewed. This report presents the findings of the follow up visit on May 29, 2025.

Pigs

Three Berkshire pigs, one boar and two sows were observed outside in their pasture located at the Ross Farm Museum. The pigs were displaying normal resting behaviors during inspection. The pigs are in good body condition, appear healthy and generally well. They had access to water, shelter and a natural area within their pasture to wallow. No further concerns were noted for the pigs. Staff mentioned they are still in the process of constructing an automated water system for the pigs, as the pigs have destroyed recent construction ideas.

Sheep

Sixteen Cotswold sheep, separated into three different areas on the farm. Rams were located in the paddock beside the pigs. The main flock was located in the large sheep paddock while the ewes and pregnant animals were found in the barn and separated for lambing. This is a significant downsize from previous inspections and follow ups and highlights Ross Farm Museum's goal in downsizing animal numbers to a manageable number. Staff mentioned some of the sheep have been sold to heritage breeders, looking for Cotswold genetics within the province. During the May long weekend, the sheep were shorn, and the required farrier work was completed. The remaining sheep are in good body condition with no evident lameness observed in the flock. Automated watering systems have been

implemented and put in place for the sheep pastures, which will enable consistent access to water. The new automated watering systems will need to be monitored and cleaned regularly to ensure the water remains clean and palatable for the animals. The sheep shelters were clean with dry bedding provided within the shelters. The sheep have access to grass pasture and hay with grain provided daily. All sheep were bright, alert and displaying normal behaviors during inspections. No concerns for the sheep were noted during inspection.

Cattle

Two Oxen were observed tied in the livestock barn. Oxen are in good body condition, bright, alert and appear healthy. The oxen hooves have recently been trimmed and new shoeing put on by the farm blacksmith. Oxen did not have access water while in the barn, which was discussed with staff. Automatic waterers will be installed for the oxen within the next two weeks. A local tour was on the property and oxen were being provided hay by the students during the tour. The windows and doors in the barn were opened providing good air quality and a noticeable cross-breeze in the barn with minimal flies. Oxen stalls were maintained, free of built-up manure and bedded with sawdust. Staff mentioned the oxen will be used for working demonstrations this season. Staff are still in the process of figuring out how to enable the oxen natural outdoor/pasture access and mitigating concerns by staff regarding potential horn damage. Pasture introduction options were discussed with staff to enable oxen to safely adjust to their new surroundings and prevent horn damage. Regular turn-out time for the oxen when not being worked would be beneficial to their overall health and well-being.

The two Canadienne cattle and one Canadienne heifer, Red, Rose and Reba, were located across the on pasture across the road from the barn.

Poultry

No concerns were noted for the poultry. Poultry are in good condition, appear healthy, have access to grain, water and shelter. Poultry coop is clean and maintained with more than adequate space for birds. Natural roosts are put in place in the coop for poultry, with the option to enable birds access to outdoor runs.

Horses

One Canadian stallion, Clyde, and one Clydesdale gelding, Champion, were outside in the gravel paddocks behind the stable during the time of inspection. Horses were turned-out in individual paddocks, neighboring one another. The horses looked healthier than previous visits with maintained coats, improved condition and muscling, and maintained hooves. Each horse had access to a full hay bag, and two buckets of clean water. Additional outdoor paddocks (2) have been put in place since previous inspection. The four turn-out paddocks are constructed with aluminum gates and crushed rock, lacking access to shelter. Staff mentioned they are in the process of constructing a plan to enable the horses to have access to shelter while in the paddocks. We recognize that these outdoor paddocks are not intended/used for 24/7 turnout, therefore consideration around turn-out during peak sun/extreme heat temperatures were discussed with staff to elevate heat-stress concerns.

During this follow up inspection, there was significant changes to the horse stable. Automatic watering systems have been installed and are accessible in each horse stall. The horse stable now contains four large box stalls with no straight stalls noted. A double-wide box stall has been specifically designed to provide more than adequate space for the mare (Bonnie) and foal. The horse barn was clean, bedded

with sawdust and maintained. The feeding room for the horses has been redesigned, with labelled feed component containers prepared for more complex horse diets. Staff mentioned they are currently in the process of constructing and completing fencing for the horses to have access to grass pastures. The grass pastures are lush and will utilize natural shelter to protect the animals from adverse wind and warm temperatures. Water lines are already in place to provide adequate access to water on pasture. Timeline for fencing was discussed and agreed fencing will be completed, prior to several horses returning to the property.

Recommendations / Follow Up

After the initial visit to the site on January 24, 2025, the staff of Ross Farm Museum and Nova Scotia Government Department of Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, have made improving the welfare of the animals at Ross Farm Museum a priority. Recommendations from the initial inspection and follow up have been met. The improvements to the site and the health of the animals on property exceed the standards outlined in the Animal Protection Act.

The Farm Animal Welfare team approves the return of three horses (Maverick, Bonnie, and foal) to the Ross Farm Museum with the following conditions:

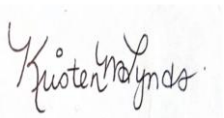
- Maverick is retired indefinitely.
- No horses will be worked for the 2025 season.
- In 2026, the horses are to have a full assessment by the Farm Animal Welfare team and private veterinarian before returning to an appropriate workload.
- The animals will continue to have regular vet and farrier work performed.
- The Farm Animal Welfare team will continue to perform unannounced inspections as part of the follow-up.

The date of return for Maverick, Bonnie and foal are continued to be discussed.

Although scrutiny from the media and public has picked up over the weeks, it does not reflect the work and progress that has been made over the last four months. All associated staff should be proud of their work. The Farm Animal Welfare team appreciates being involved with the review of the Ross Farm Museum husbandry and management practices. We remain committed in helping the Ross Farm Museum meet its goals in improving welfare practices.

Dr. Alex Stavert
Programs Veterinarian
Acting Manager
Agriculture Inspection Services

Megan Wynn
Inspector Specialist
Agriculture Inspection Services



Kristen MacPhee-Lynds
Inspector Specialist
Agriculture Inspection Services

Signed June 2, 2025
Truro, NS

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Agriculture Inspection Services
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h. subjected by any person to being trained for or engaged in animal fighting; or
i. subjected to circumstances prescribed by the regulations

Background

The Farm Animal Welfare program was contacted by Nova Scotia Museum to visit and evaluate the Ross Farm Museum. The facilities were toured, animals were evaluated and existing procedures reviewed. This report presents the findings of the follow up visit on April 30, 2025.

Sheep

Upon inspection, approximately 30 Cotswold sheep were separated into three pastures. Each pasture had a small building that the sheep had access to providing adequate for protection from weather and temperatures. Shelters were unsanitary and wet at time of inspection. Pastures had slight grass growth and hay was present in all feeders. In first pasture, three mature rams were observed. One ram was underconditioned with a body condition score of 2/5 and prominent spine, rib and hip bones. The ram was observed with labored breathing and displayed signs of respiratory distress. The same ram was lame with an obvious gait abnormality. A second ram in the pen had a visible lameness as well.

The second pasture, located beside rams, had four adult ewes. One ewe had loose stool with staining covering a large portion of her hind end. Water located in pasture was discolored and looked to be non-palatable. Four ewes appeared in good body condition, bright and alert.

The remaining sheep were in third pen. There were approximately 15 ewes and 10 lambs. Ewes and lambs appeared bright, alert and overall healthy. One mature ewe was lame on hind leg. An automatic waterer with clean, palatable water was present and several animals were observed drinking during inspection. Automatic waterers are in the process of being built for remaining sheep pastures.

Hooves on adult sheep appeared unkept and were due for regular hoof maintenance. Fleece on adult rams and ewes are long, and due to be shorn. Ross Farm staff confirmed that sheep will be shorn the long weekend in May and will provide the sheep with a hoof trim during this time.

Cattle

Located in the livestock barn were a pair of oxen, and three Canadienne cattle. Cattle and Oxen were tethered individually with chains in tie stalls. Oxen are used to pull at the museum demonstrations during busy season but are otherwise tethered in stalls due to concerns of horns being broken when turned out. Two dry Canadienne cows are on property for the purpose of hand milking demonstrations at the farm but were unable to breed cows this past year and therefore are not producing.

No water or hay were present. Museum staff are in process of designing water trough system for barn to provide continuous access to drinking. Oxen and cattle were in good body condition and appeared overall healthy. Barn was clean, shavings present in stalls and doors on two sides of the barn were open allowing for adequate air flow. Barn was dark, with minimal natural light.

Pigs

Two sows and one boar Berkshire pigs were located inside barn. Pigs were separated into individual pens with access to dry bedding. All pigs were in good body condition, appeared bright, alert and overall healthy. Remains of feed were observed in feeding trough. Pigs did not have access to clean, palatable water. Museum staff are working on watering system such as nipples or trough system to provide continuous access.

Poultry

Poultry were located inside coop and were separated into different cages. All birds had access to food, water, dry bedding and roosts. Birds appeared bright, alert, and healthy. Poultry are inside coop due to biosecurity reasons regarding Avian Influenza. Windows in coop provided natural lighting and adequate air ventilation free from the scent of ammonia. The coop was noticeably clean, and no concerns noted.

Horses

One Canadian stallion and one Clydesdale gelding were turned out in separate paddocks upon inspection. Horses have access to palatable, clean drinking water along with hay contained in nets. Horses were bright, alert and in good body condition. Upon inspection of the barn, stalls were clean with shavings present. Large feed containers were present upon entering the barn that contained several different types of grain.

Recommendations / Follow Up

1. Water
    - Staff continue to work on and make progress in building automatic waterers for all animals.

2. Outdoor Exercise / Turnout
    - While the animals are worked and exercised daily, greater care should be given to outdoor time. As mentioned in previous report in relation to hoof care, animals should be provided with regular turnout time that allows them to express normal behaviours. Not only will this help with their

rest and rehabilitation from hard work, but the outdoor turnout can also help be an environmental management strategy to reduce the effects of respiratory illnesses and muscles tying up.

- It is recommended to avoid using the turn out pens behind the horse barn as the gravel and rocks can be detrimental to the soles of the animals' feet.
- Paddock rotation will increase grass quantities for grazing and help in the reduction of parasite load in sheep

3. Professional Services

- As stated in initial report, it is important for the farm to continue their established relationship with private veterinarian and consider a nutritionist to review and advise on animals' diets.

The Farm Animal Welfare team appreciates being involved with the review of the Ross Farm Museum husbandry and management practices. We are impressed with the continued work to improve the welfare of all animals.

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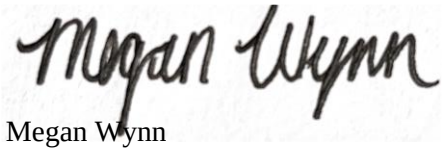

Megan Wynn
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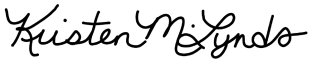

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Background

The Farm Animal Welfare program was contacted by Nova Scotia Museums to visit and evaluate the Ross Farm Museum. The facilities were toured, animals were evaluated and existing procedures reviewed.

This report presents the findings of the site evaluation by species, reporting on the status of the animals, their environment, and the husbandry practices used for their care. Recommendations are made based on observations from site visits and meetings with the staff and management of Ross Farm Museum staff as well as the chair of the Ross Farm Museum Board. Some recommendations are drawn from the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) Codes of Practice. These Codes have been developed with input from relevant industry representatives, veterinarians, transporters, and other industry experts and are based on current scientific knowledge and accepted industry practices.

Cattle

Ross Farm Museum is home to a variety of cattle. Inside the livestock barn, two mature milking cows (Red and Rose) as well as a young heifer (Reba) were noted. Located beside the two cows and heifers, were two mature oxen. All five animals were bright, alert, and responsive upon inspection. They remained calm, standing in tied straight stalls with areas for feed and water in front of them. However, neither food nor water were present during the inspection. All cattle appeared healthy and were in good body condition. As per staff, the animals are taken out of their straight stalls and exercised in the winter months. The frequency of exercise varied between daily and every other day. The barn appears to provide both adequate ventilation and shelter from extreme temperatures. Barndoors and windows can be opened to encourage ventilation and cooling during warmer weather. The animals have access to a

veterinarian. Upon veterinary examination on January 15, 2025, the veterinarian recommended to slightly reduce feed and increase regular exercise.

Recommendations

1. Ensure constant access to water.
    - All cattle had access to hay during our visit but no access to water. Dairy cattle and working beef cattle (oxen) require a significant amount of water to meet their daily nutrient/lactation requirements, therefore having consistent access to palatable water is an important factor that needs to be considered. Determining ways to provide animals with consistent access to water in this heritage farm setting should be considered.
2. Ensure Oxen are exercised daily
    - Ensuring animals receive regular daily exercise and turnout time is important for overall animal health, welfare, and muscle retention. Cattle that are required to work and pull require regular exercise to keep them prepared for working tasks, and to reduce the risk of injuries while under load.
    - The Code of Practice for Beef Animals recommends providing daily exercise for any cattle that are tethered (Section 1.2).

Sheep

Cotswold sheep were observed outside in two different pastures. All sheep had access to hay and grain for feed. Shelters were bedded up with straw, well maintained, and protected the animals from extreme temperatures. Sheep were bright, alert, responsive and appeared healthy, in good body condition, displaying natural sheep behaviours. Though water troughs for the sheep were frozen or empty during our visit, at that time there was enough palatable snow on the ground which may be used as an alternative water source. Snow is an acceptable water source for healthy sheep in good body condition provided it is not hard packed (ice), trampled or soiled. Snow is not an acceptable water source for wethers, feedlot lambs or lactating ewes as per the NFACC Code of Practice for Sheep. On their latest vet exam, the ewes were checked for level of parasitism. As per the veterinarian's notes, the parasite control program should be reviewed and implemented to control parasites and reduce the use of deworming products. See vet report from January 25, 2025.

Recommendations

1. Ensure constant access to water.
    - Provide sheep with consistent access to fresh, palatable water of sufficient quantities at all times. Water is an essential nutrient and consistent access to palatable water is critical for normal bodily functions as well as thermoregulation. Water consumption volumes vary from animal to animal, breed, sex, size, health, activity level, feed type, dry matter intake and environmental temperatures. In cold temperatures energy requirements increase, therefore dry matter intake increases as does the required volume of water. Feed intake can be reduced if sufficient water is not available. (NFACC, section 3.2)
2. Follow private vet recommendations
    - Records from former vet clinics should be reviewed to ensure accuracy of previous medical treatments and vaccinations. Ensure parasite program controls level of parasitism while reducing use of deworming drugs. Finally, consider adding selenium shots for lambs and the addition of a chemical supplement to alter urine pH.

Pigs

Berkshire pigs were observed in the livestock barn during our visit. The pigs appeared healthy, were in good body condition and had sufficient space in each of the pens. Pens were clean and well maintained with straw bedding to enable natural nesting and rooting behaviors. The pigs did not have food or water during inspection, but staff noted they are fed twice daily.

Recommendation

1. Provide constant access to water.
    - Provide consistent, free-choice access to water for all pigs and access to water outside of feeding times to meet daily water intake requirements. Free-choice water access is especially important for lactating sows, as water intake requirements increase during lactation and providing adequate access helps ensure nursing piglets are receiving the optimal volume of nutrients from the sow. (NFACC Code of Practice for Pigs, section 2.3)

Poultry

Laying hens and roosters of different breeds were observed in the chicken coop. The chicken coop was well kept, freshly bedded, free from any strong ammonia odors and provided natural enrichments for the birds such as roosts, nesting boxes and ample space for movement. Poultry had access to feed in each division of the coop, but no access to water. Water bowls were present, but frozen solid during mid morning inspection.

Recommendation

1. Provide constant access to water.
    - As per the NFACC Code of Practice for Pullets and Laying Hens access to water in sufficient quantities must be provided at all times, therefore ensuring birds have consistent access to palatable water.

Horses

The horse facility is located at the lower end of the property away from the livestock barns, paddocks and public access. The facility has three box stalls and three straight stalls as well as a cold water tap and a hot water heater. At the time of visit, two Canadian horses and one Clydesdale horse (owned by horse teamster) were present on site. All animals were bright, alert, and responsive and appeared to be in good condition or over conditioned. The Canadian horses were kept in box stalls (tie stalls) that were recently extended, and the Clydesdale was in one of the new box stalls that were under construction. The standing stalls were of adequate length and width giving the animals space to stand and lay down. The floors of both standing and box stalls did not have rubber mats but had a small dusting of shaving / bedding. The three animals had water buckets in front of them and a small amount of forage. Buckets of bran mash were being prepared for afternoon feeding. The doors of the facility could be opened to increase ventilation. Outside of the facility, there were two small paddocks. The substrate of these paddocks was a mixture of various sized gravel – including larger pieces of rock. The remaining three horses were off site for “rehabilitation purposes”.

The environment and facilities meet and exceed the requirements laid out by the Animal Protection Act and the Codes of Practice for Equine species. However, after reviewing the veterinary reports from

three different clinics and dating back to 2022, there is evidence that animal health issues have been left untreated.

Champion – owned by horse teamster

Champ is an 8-year-old gelded Clydesdale with a body condition score (BCS) of 5/9. Champ is owned by an employee of the Ross Farm Museum and is on loan to help fill the gap left by the animals being offsite. During his last visit, the private veterinarian indicated some concerns with the hoof walls and cleanliness of his sheath.

Clyde

Clyde is an 8-year-old Canadian with a BCS of 6.5/9. Over the last three years, Clyde had very few issues impacting his health. The one of note was an outbreak of hives. In his latest visit, the vet recommended corrective farrier work.

Bonnie

Bonnie is a 7-year-old mare. She was bred in early May and due to foal in April 2025. There has been concerns with Bonnie's feeding regime. At the time of inspection, she was overweight and eating a poor diet for a pregnant mare. Over-feeding and having an overweight mare can lead to trouble foaling. There was a no vitamin E and selenium in her diet leading to concerns of increased risk of retained placenta. Bonnie was evaluated at walk and trot and showed irregular motion of her front limbs. The abnormal movement has been attributed to improper footcare that now needs correcting to improve her quality of life.

Maverick

Maverick is a 22-year-old gelded Canadian with a BCS of 6.5/9. In March 2023, the private vet commented on a persistent cough that did not improve with treatment. It was noted that he was being used less. In 2024, a different veterinarian noted that Maverick was beginning to show his age after working hard in his lifetime. He currently has airway inflammation, excessive sweating and deteriorating breathing with hard work, sounds stiff and creaky, and is losing muscle on his topline. He is also a suspect for PPID (Pars Pituitary Intermedia Dysfunction – Cushings). Finally, it was noted that basic sheath cleaning was not performed leading a build up of dried smegma and swelling. The December 6, 2024 veterinary report flags that immediate attention to animal welfare is needed and observations by the Farm Animal Welfare program staff underscores this opinion.

Willy

Willy is an 8-year-old gelded Canadian draft horse with a high BCS of 7.5/9. Unfortunately, Willy has significant chronic issues. Looking at his hooves and reviewing previous findings, Willy has very malformed front feet attributed to inadequate farrier work. There was a pain response noted with hoof testers and with gentle touches along the spine. It was also noted that his right front hoof was difficult to lift – potentially due to joint pain. His limbs were "stocked up", had tight ligaments, and a sloping hoof axis. He was evaluated at walk and trot and abnormal motion of the front limbs was noted. He was graded 3/5 lame on front left and 2/5 lame on the front right. Radiographs revealed significant rotation of the coffin bone in both front hooves. Osteophyte formation was noted on both as well. On blood work, it was determined that Willy's high insulin levels likely suggest Equine Metabolic Syndrome – a likely cause to his laminitis. Finally, his sheath was swollen with large, dried chunks of smegma. A

combination of poor feeding regimes, improper foot care, and laminitis have put Willy's quality of life and welfare into despair. This horse appears to have been subject to chronic, poor decisions about his health and negligent routine day-to-day care.

Kate

Kate is a 17-year-old Canadian mare with a BCS of 7.5/9 with noted muscle loss along the topline. On examination, the private vet noted that Kate was a "very stressed and very distrustful mare". Starting with her hooves, there is evidence of poor farrier work and mismanagement of hooves. She was tense and had pain over her spine. She was diagnosed as grade 3/5 lame on left front and grade 2/5 lame on right front. On radiographs, Kate has both front coffin bones rotated and other structural damages to her front feet. Overall, Kate has been in chronic pain due to the changes in her hooves. The private veterinarian also diagnosed PPID and was suspicious of equine gastric ulcer syndrome. As with the private vet's report, I too find it disheartening that Kate was allowed to be in pain for a significant amount of time likely leading to her defensive behaviour.

Recommendations for All Horses

1. Hoof Care
    - It is evident that there is a chronic neglect, mismanagement, and improper care for all horses. It is time to invest and establish a relationship with a reputable farrier that is familiar with specialized corrective shoeing methods and techniques. Due to the chronic issues in these animals' hooves, regular shoeing is no longer acceptable as it will likely increase the further deterioration of the hoof structures and corrective shoeing options should be explored
    - While proper care and farrier work will contribute to the welfare of these horses, there are additional changes that can be made immediately. These animals work everyday, walking and moving over uneven ground and over a variety of substrates. It is time to consider full days of rest for the animals to allow their feet to have rest.
    - Bedding or the addition of rubber mats will also help take pressure off the feet.

2. Outdoor Exercise
    - While the animals are worked and exercised daily, greater care should be given to outdoor time. As mentioned above in relation to hoof care, animals should be provided with regular turnout time that allows them to express normal horse behaviours. Not only will this help with their rest and rehabilitation from hard work, but the outdoor turnout can also help be an environmental management strategy to reduce the effects of respiratory illnesses.
    - It is recommended to avoid using the turn out pens behind the horse barn as the gravel and rocks can be detrimental to the soles of the animals' feet.
    - The daily turnout will also have significant positive advantages to the overall mental wellbeing of the animal. Time to just be a horse.

3. Nutrition
    - After reviewing the vet records and looking at the body condition scores of the animals, it is evident the feeding regimes need professional input. All animals are overweight or verging on obese. Each has been told to have less energy and carbs in their diet while increasing their mineral intake.

- The pregnant Mare – Bonnie – was placed in a tough position at the start of her pregnancy by not being given Selenium and Vitamin E potentially increasing the changes of complications after foaling.
- As per staff, the horses were fed a diet of Dairy Cow Sweet Feed containing Rumensin / Monensin. Rumensin is a feed additive for dairy cattle and is highly toxic to horses resulting the heart damage and potentially leading to sudden death or chronic heart failure.
- Bring in a professional nutritionist to balance the feed, mineral intake, and address the body condition scores of the animals.

4. Daily Health Checks

- Basic daily health checks could have prevented some of the chronic conditions some of the animals are currently experiencing. Checking for signs of disease, distress or pain needs to be a top priority moving forward as to not compromise the animals any further.
- Daily checks must address the entire animal. The amount of smegma found in the sheaths of all the male horses leads me to question the actual care going into the animals as the task of cleaning sheaths is a basic and routine task.

Thoughts

For a Heritage Farm, I was impressed with the work done with the animals. All animals were clean, alert and seemed to be content – a wonderful reflection to the hard work and commitment of the staff working with the animals everyday. For the livestock workers, their use of modern technology, such as apps, to input feedings, treatments, and communicate with other staff is an excellent way to ensure the day-to-day chores and treatments are performed. Having electricity in the livestock barns is also beneficial as it is used to help with the piglets and other young animals stay warm under the heat lamps. I encourage consideration of automatic waterers or water bowl heaters to control ice build-up and allow consistent access to water. These could be removed from public view on days that the farm is open to visits from the public. All animals, including horses, had their annual vaccines, check ups, fecal floats and teeth floated.

Reviewing the files on the horses has led to frustration and confusion. Of the five Canadian Horses owned by the Ross Farm Museum, as part of Nova Scotia Museum (the Province of Nova Scotia), all but one has significant health concerns impacting their quality of life. It is evident that deficiencies in husbandry practices and environmental concerns have negatively impacted the welfare of these animals and led to chronic health conditions. Whether it is the malformation of hooves causing pain while working, the potential exposure to fatal feed additives, the lack of knowledge to properly prepare a pregnant mare for a foaling, or the lack of effort put into the males and cleaning their sheaths, it is essential to address husbandry practices and stop their neglect. Below are observations based solely on the horses' lameness and structural problems in their hooves and does not include the effects that PPID, EGUS, Equine Metabolic Syndrome, and respiratory concerns may have on their workload and future.

Firstly, the treatment and rehabilitation of the animals with structural damages opens an ethical question that needs to be answered. While I do not doubt the abilities of the person rehabilitating Willy and Kate, there is confusion as to why the animals needed to be moved off site. The injuries diagnosed

in both have primary treatment plans of stall rest, time, and turnout. Are there specific reasons why these steps could not be done on the site of the Ross Farm?

Secondly, the structural damages to Kate and Willy are severe and will negatively affect their quality of life for the rest of their lifetime. The question needs to be asked what will the animals be like in a year's time when their rehabilitation is complete? Will they be pain free and able to work? Or should they be turned out full time and retired?

Thirdly, it is my understanding that more horses were moved off site for "respiratory reasons". Most equine respiratory issues can be managed through fresh air, turnout, minimizing dust and ammonia levels. Medical therapies, antibiotics, puffers, and steroids can be prescribed, and all of these can be provided and administered on the Ross Farm. For some animals, transport can be an extremely stressful event. Having at least four animals moved and transported for basic care is concerning and raises the question of the risk benefit thought process. Caution must be taken with any horses showing respiratory signs, including fluid from their airway, as these could be signs of Strangles.

Finally, a serious conversation regarding the future of the horses needs to be held among all parties and with consideration of whether some of these animals need to be replaced rather than rehabilitated. Currently, three of the five Canadians should not be in work with the fourth being pregnant and expecting in early April.

While this review and report have documented some major concerns regarding animal welfare, I want to reiterate to front line staff that their commitment to their work is commendable and does not go unnoticed. Upon visiting the farm, all the animals were content and appeared healthy. Be it a source of pride that you are managing a Heritage Farm in the era of technological advancement, and you are managing it well above expectations. While I appreciate the importance of clean tack and heritage bloodlines, it seems the focus has shifted and needs to move back to basic husbandry and putting the welfare of the animals first.

The Farm Animal Welfare team appreciates being involved with the review of the Ross Farm Museum husbandry and management practices. Should there be any follow up questions, comments or visits, do not hesitate to reach out.

Dr. Alex Stavert
Programs Veterinarian
Acting Manager
Agriculture Inspection Services