



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2012 CSBA WINTER UPDATE

Constitutional Amendments

The CSBA board performed an extensive review of the CSBA's constitution and prepared a notice of amendment to be voted on by all members. Two thirds of the members that respond must be in favour of the amendment before it will be adopted. Ballots must be received by the CLRC by February 10, 2012. If you have not already done so, please complete and return your ballot today.

Annual General Meeting

The 2012 CSBA AGM will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the Legends Room in the People Centre, Stampede Park at 2402A 2nd Street SE, Calgary, Alberta starting at 10 AM. The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association will host lunch and reimburse parking costs.

Rooms have been set aside at the Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport, which is located at 2120-16th Avenue NE in Calgary for \$129 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservations (1-800-395-7046) by February 13, 2012 and mention that you are attending the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association AGM to obtain this rate.

2012 All Canada Sheep Classic

The Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association of Nova Scotia is preparing to host the 2012 Classic in Truro, Nova Scotia. Entry and information packages were mailed out early in January. Entry forms and advertisements must be received by March 23, 2012. Please contact the CSBA office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Proposed Import Protocol

The CFIA is in the process of reviewing and changing the protocol for sheep imported from the United States. In order to meet OIE's (World Organization for Animal Health) standards for scrapie eradication, import requirements for male small ruminants will eventually need to be aligned more closely to those of females. Up until now, it has been possible to import rams from the US with relative ease. Although an exact date has not been provided, the proposed changes will likely be implemented in the latter half of 2012. When they take effect, the changes may only allow rams genotyped as RR or QR, those coming from 'negligible risk' flocks or those coming from and entering into a Scrapie Certification Program, to enter the country. If you have been considering importing rams, you should move quickly to avoid future restrictions.

Tattoos: 2012's letter is "Z"

Breeders using tattoos for registering purebred sheep must tattoo: i) flock letters in the right ear, and ii) an identification number and year letter in the left ear, by 100 days of age. It is important to remember that it is the SHEEP'S left and right ears (identified by standing behind the sheep). As an alternative to tattooing, a breeder may use a double tagging system with two tags approved and bearing the official identification number under the Canadian Sheep Identification Program.

Applying permanently legible tattoos can be challenging. Illegible tattoos can cause serious problems at shows and sales, with parentage testing and with transferring breeding stock. Please review the

following recommended tattoo technique suggested by the CLRC, Ketchum Inc. and experienced sheep breeders:

1. Insert the correct tattoo letters/numbers and check for correctness by clamping the pliers on a piece of paper. Depending on the size of your flock, a double or triple set of numbers may be required.
2. The ideal age to tattoo can vary by breed. Large eared breeds may be easiest to tattoo in the first week of life. Regardless of age, properly restrain the animal and clean the ear with alcohol to remove dirt, grease and wax.
3. Smear ink on the needles and on the skin. Place the tattoo parallel to and between the veins or cartilaginous ridges of the ear. The accidental piercing of a vein may spoil the tattoo. Use only fresh ink specified for use in animal tattoos.
4. Make the imprints with a quick firm movement and immediately apply more ink to the tattoo. Rub vigorously and continuously for at least 15 seconds or until bleeding stops. This is very important to ensure penetration. The most effective method is to rub thumb and forefinger, though a brush or cotton swab may be used.
5. Do not disturb the area, or remove excess ink, until the healing process is complete, which may be from 5 days to 21 days.
6. Use liquid dish detergent and a soft brush to clean the tattooer and dies after each use.
7. Keep a list of tattoo numbers with the names of animals in your private breeding record.

Learning From Others: A CSBA member's actual experience

"Sooner or later, if you are in the business of selling rams, you will be faced with having to guarantee a ram.

A purebred breeder purchased a registered ram lamb from our farm, but things did not work out as everyone had hoped. We agreed with the purchaser that the ram was to be culled, which would remove his genetic influence from the purebred sector. The purchaser reported that the ram had been sold and we refunded the difference between the purchase price and the salvage price to the purchaser. So far so good - we had been assured that the ram had been culled and we honoured our guarantee. Several years passed and progeny of the "culled ram" began to surface in other breeders' pedigrees. Apparently, the ram in question had not been culled, as previously thought, and had in fact been sold to another purebred breeder, despite assurances by the purchaser to the contrary.

The mistake that we made was not requesting that the paper on the "culled ram" be returned to us before the guarantee was honored. It is suggested that the signed transfer be returned to the seller and dated as agreed to (ideally the date of original purchase) by the two parties before the guarantee is honored. Seed stock producers invest considerable time and effort in the development of genetic lines and animals that are culled are usually done so for good reason. When handling issues of guarantees, the rights and responsibilities of both parties must be considered and protected."

The CSBA has developed Guidelines for the Sale of Registered Sheep, which is available on the CSBA's website or by calling the office.

Master Shepherds' Course

The Canadian Sheep Federation, in partnership with provincial sheep organizations, is responding to the need identified by Canadian producers for relevant production information. The plan is to offer a comprehensive continuing education program to assist lamb producers in building their farming enterprise.

A survey has been created to help determine the specifics of what producers want access to. This is your opportunity to make your opinions known and to influence the content and format of the program. All responses will be kept in confidence and combined with other responses in order to make recommendations and develop the program.

Please contact Jennifer MacTavish at Jennifer@cansheep.ca or 1-888-684-7734 to receive a paper copy of the survey or complete it online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mastershepherds>.