



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2019 General Manager's Report

This past year saw a few challenges with our registration process as there were some staff turnover within CLRC (Canadian Livestock Records Corporation). This created longer turnaround times for members due to training but we now have in place a new sheep registrar. She has stepped up to the challenge with such a positive attitude and willingness to help. I hope you all have had the opportunity to chat or correspond with Melanie Overduin at the CLRC office. She is a great addition to the team and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome her aboard.

We had some provinces take advantage of the grants available for GenOvis training. This initiative was introduced in 2018 and is available to all provinces, where CSBA will pay half up to \$1500. Be sure to contact your provincial representative for more information. We continue to allocate funds for 4H sponsorship, the Royal, Agribition, scholarships, as well as for research to improve the sheep industry as a whole. Having done this, CSBA still produced a profit of \$8377. This coming year we anticipate to allocate additional funds to promotional material.

There was a 10% decrease in membership, 13% decrease in registrations and a 12% decrease in transfers. This year we also experienced the Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America leave CSBA which can also account for some of these changes. In 2018, 488 free memberships were handed out for members purchasing a purebred animal for the first time and in 2019, 43 of them renewed their membership. We also gave 405 free memberships in 2019. Bulk discount amounts were credited back to member accounts in the amount of \$22,417.

The board's significant accomplishments in moving forward with the CSBA's business plan in 2019 included:

- funding commitment to new research projects: Pregnancy Toxemia Research (\$2100/year for 3 years) we were pleased to have other industry support for this shared project allowing CSBA to fund further projects, CIDR Project: Detection of heat cycles \$2500 for one year, FSH in heat and ovulation synchronization (\$1500/year for 2 years) and forage alternatives for \$2000.
- implement the 4th annual photo contest with close to 40 entries
- the completion of the first term of the Junior Director position that was filled by Jonathan Parkinson and the welcome of our new junior director Bethan Lewis who joined the board in January 2020.
- completed the fourth year of the bulk option for registrations and transfers: new pricing breaks were in place based on the number of animals registered each year. A rebate is calculated and applied to membership accounts.
- sponsoring the 2019 All Canada Classic, which was held in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Buyers from 7 provinces purchased 296 of the 328 animals offered for sale. Prices averaged \$603 for ewes and \$840 for rams. The Provincial Association and CSBA shared a slight loss of \$6175.



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- maintaining an equal partnership in the support of GenOvis (Canada's genetic evaluation program) (\$10,000/year). We have committed to supporting the project of "Applying genomics to identify markers associated with genetic resistance of sheep gastrointestinal nematode parasite infection" through the Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock at the University of Guelph.
- continue with providing the "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection", or "conformation booklet"
- funding The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (\$1500), Agribition (\$500) and 8 provincial level 4-H shows (\$250 each)
- continue to provide social media options through the CSBA website, Facebook and Classic Facebook accounts

Although we are facing new challenges for the start of 2020, the board and I look forward to hearing from you so that you are properly represented in the CSBA's decisions and actions.

Sincerely,

Linda Brandes
General Manager