



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2016 Winter Update

Membership, registration and transfer costs for 2016:

As of January 1, 2016 the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation increased the cost of services by 12% to the CSBA, and all livestock registries. The CLRC's goal with this increase is to avoid significant deficits, and in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, be able to improve services, decrease turn-around-time and develop existing and new technologies. Over the past 17 years, CLRC cost increases have averaged less than 1% per year and the CSBA has absorbed the annual increase for the past 3 years to avoid increasing costs to its members.

At this time, the CSBA is forced to pass the cost increase on to its members. Effective immediately, the annual membership will increase by \$10 and registrations and transfers will increase by \$1 per transaction. In hopes of minimizing impact on producers, the CSBA's board will be discussing the implementation of "bulk" registrations and transfers at the annual general meeting in March. A survey will be circulated to CSBA members prior to the meeting to gain information on registration and transfer practices and preferences. The board of directors encourages all members to participate in the survey so that services can be tailored to further support purebred sheep breeders in the best manner possible.

New membership options in place January 2016:

- a) A Junior CSBA membership has been implemented at a cost of \$10/year for anyone under 21 years of age. Junior members may also register tattoo letters and a herd name for \$10 each.
- b) A free membership will be provided to anyone that has animals transferred into their name for the first time. The first time that a new member registers 5 animals in one lot, the 6th animal will be free.

Scholarship: The CSBA board of directors is pleased to congratulate Jessica Walker from Langley, BC, who is this year's recipient of the CSBA scholarship. Jessica is in her first year of Nursing at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC. Jessica has been involved in 4-H for 11 years and has her own flock of sheep called Song Hill Suffolks. Upon graduation, Jessica hopes to return to her flock and family farm, and support the rural community with her nursing skills.

The CSBA scholarship is offered to students who are enrolled in a university or college program and who are either current CSBA members or children/grandchildren of current CSBA members. Preference is given to students who are actively involved with the sheep or agriculture industries. The 2016 scholarship application form will be made available on the CSBA's website again in January.

The board thanks all of this year's highly qualified applicants and encourages them to apply again in 2016.

Tattoos: 2016's year letter is "D"

Annual General Meeting: The 2016 CSBA AGM will be held at 10am on Saturday, March 19th at the Viscount Gort located at 1670 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB for \$119.99 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservation (1-204-775-0451) by February 23, 2016 to obtain the corporate rate, and refer to the room block for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association.

The AGM's guest speaker, Mr. Glen Parker, will provide a presentation on "Marketing Your Purebred Livestock". Glen Parker is from Three Hills, AB and raises purebred Suffolk sheep with his wife Kathy. They have a flock of 130 breeding ewes and have raised purebred sheep since 1981. Glen's father started in the registered purebred livestock in 1962 with the purchase of two registered Hereford heifers and registered livestock has been on the Parker farm ever since. While raising Hereford cattle, the Parker farm participated in bull test stations, consignment bull sales and held their own production sales for six years. As purebred sheep producers, Glen and Kathy are enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Surveillance program, the Genovis performance program and do extensive genetic and health testing of their flock. They have started an annual production sale at which 40-50 yearling rams and 25 yearling ewes are marketed. Glen is also active in association affairs having been a director on the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association for many years and is currently the Alberta representative on the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association board of directors. He was elected to the board of the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation last year as well.

Following the AGM, there will be two farm tours:

Linda and Phil Westman of Fraserwood, MB have been in the sheep business for some 40 years and likely have the longest standing, continuously registered, purebred flock in Manitoba. Over the course of that time the Westmans have successfully maintained the British styling of their flock and continuously produce thick boned, heavy muscled lambs desired by purebred and commercial shepherds alike.

Dr. Neil Versavel began with his first purebred Suffolks at the age of 14 in 1999 and following his graduation from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine ten years later would move back to the Stonewall area to continue development of his flock on the family farm. Neil has been enrolled in the national performance evaluation program Genovis for the past two years and has recently expanded his commitment to the Canadian Lamb Co-operative.

2016 All Canada Sheep Classic: The Société des éleveurs de mouton de race pure du Québec (SEMRPQ) is preparing to host the Classic in Richmond, QC (Eastern Townships) from July 7th to 9th. Classic entry packages were mailed to all current members in January. The tentative schedule, rules, entry forms, advertising information and list of accommodations are available on the CSBA website. Entries and advertisements must be received by May 13th. The CSBA will again be accepting online entries for the 2016 Classic. The online entry system, which links directly to the CLRC's website, improves entry efficiency and accuracy. Please familiarize yourself with the online system well before May 13th to allow time to address any questions or issues related to complicated entries. Paper entries will continue to be accepted. Please contact the CSBA office if you have any questions.

COOL: Country of Origin Labeling remains in place for sheep and lamb ([link to press release](#))

Importing breeding stock from the United States: Small ruminant import policy to change
February 1, 2016 [\(link to press release\)](#)

In order to stay on the mailing list, it is important to have a current CSBA membership and active email address. Please renew your membership now by contacting the CLRC on-line at www.clrc.ca or by calling Lorna Woolsey at 1-877-833-7110 ext. 306.