



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2015 Fall Update

Maedi Visna Program Alignment: Ontario and Quebec

At the request of the CSBA's board, Ontario and Quebec's MV program developers and administrators met to discuss aligning program requirements to facilitate movement of animals between provinces. Overall, while not identical, the programs are very similar. Although differences do exist, neither program is clearly superior over the other, making it acceptable for both programs to continue with their current protocols. Should a producer wish to buy stock from a flock on the other province's program, the purchase will not impact status in their home province's program, as long as isolation protocols are followed.

Conclusion:

Quebec Status	equivalent to	Ontario Status
"argent"		"enrolled"
"or"		"B"
"or, plus 1 year"		"A"

While the CSBA assisted with travels costs for the meeting, program alignment would not have occurred without the program administrators and developers volunteering their time to work on the project. The collaboration provided by Dr. Anne Leboef (MAPAQ), Dr. Isabelle Côté (MAPAQ), Morgan Radford (OSMA), Dr. Paula Menzies (University of Guelph), Gaston Rioux (CEPOQ) and Johanne Cameron (CSBA) is greatly appreciated.

All Canada Sheep Classic

The 2015 Classic was held at the Red River Exhibition Grounds in Winnipeg, MB from June 25-27th. The exhibition grounds provided the perfect combination of rural space and city amenities in friendly Manitoba.

The 3-day event was sponsored by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and hosted by the Manitoba Sheep Association. The Classic included a trade show, national fleece competition and market lamb show. A Shepherd Social for exhibitors and sponsors was held on Thursday night and a banquet followed the show on Friday.

On Friday, 52 consignors of 15 breeds presented their sheep to judge Warren Moore of Stavely, AB who provided the show placements for the 254 animals. The Supreme Champion Ewe was a Suffolk (Atkinson 123A) consigned by Brian Atkinson, New Lowell, ON. The Supreme Champion Ram was a Hampshire (Bell's Pride 44B) consigned by Gregory N. Bell, Kars, ON. The Supreme Champion Flock was awarded to the Dorsets consigned by Shereff Stock Farms, Carberry, MB.

On Saturday, buyers from 8 provinces purchased 221 of the 253 animals offered for sale in the reserved auction. Prices averaged \$573 for ewes and \$648 for rams. Both the top-selling ewe (Jim Driscoll 55B) and ram (Jim Driscoll 145B) were Dorsets consigned by Jim and Wendy Driscoll, Alma, ON and was purchased by Mountain View Farms, Langley, BC for \$2100 and \$2050 respectively.

Breed averages and sale results for every animal can be seen on the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association website at www.sheepbreeders.ca. Photographs of the event and champion animals may be viewed on the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association website (compliments of Randy Eros).

The CSBA is extremely appreciative of the tremendous national support it receives from new and long-time sponsors, exhibitors, consignors and buyers. The Manitoba Sheep Association deserves significant praise and additional recognition for the many hours of volunteer work provided over the past year as they prepared to host the 2015 Classic. Although Manitoba is one of Canada's smaller sheep producing provinces, its passionate group of purebred and commercial sheep breeders worked diligently to ensure a flawless event. The Classic is only possible with an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers.

The 2016 All Canada Sheep Classic will be held in Richmond, QC from July 7-9th.

COOL (Country Of Origin Labeling)

On May 20, 2015, the US House Ag Committee approved a bipartisan bill to amend the legislation removing country of origin labeling requirements for beef, pork and chicken, while leaving intact the requirements for all other covered commodities, including lamb. Lamb labeling requirements were left intact largely due to lobbying by the American sheep industry, which is likely meant to target Australia and New Zealand, as much as Canada.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has supported full repeal of COOL legislation from the beginning. The Canadian Sheep Federation has submitted a list of products against which to claim retaliatory tariffs. Tariffs would cover losses in export to date and would remain in place should the US fail to fully repeal the legislation. Lobbying the US industry itself, both the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and American processors, could influence some change from within the US. The Canadian Sheep Federation has initiated both lobbying the US industry and creating alliances with Mexico's industry representatives, who are equally affected by a possible COOL exemption for lamb. For further information, please contact the Canadian Sheep Federation at 1-888-684-7739.

Annual General Meeting

The Canadian Sheep Breeders' Annual General Meeting will be held in Winnipeg, MB on Saturday, March 19th at the Viscount Gort Hotel (1670 Portage Avenue). The meeting agenda, guest speaker and tour location will be announced in early 2016.

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.