



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

RR 2, Site 7, Box 46 Bluffton, AB T0C 0M0

Toll free: 1-866-956-1116 Fax: 1-877-207-2541

office@sheepbreeders.ca

www.sheepbreeders.ca

La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2014 Spring Update

The Year in Review:

2013 was a successful year for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Although memberships, registration and transfers decreased slightly, they were higher than expected after considering the drop in lamb prices and the increased cost of feed over the past year. The board prepared the 2013 budget predicting a 20% drop in registrations and transfers; however, year-end results only reflected a 6% decrease.

In moving forward with the CSBA's business plan, the board's significant accomplishments for 2013 include:

- generating a net profit of \$44,628.
- sponsoring the 2013 All Canada Classic, which was held in Barriere, BC. 294 animals were in the sale with an average sale price of \$451 for ewes and \$613 for rams.
- developing a one-day course on breeding stock selection, which was first presented at the Alberta Sheep Symposium in October and is now available for use across Canada
- becoming an equal partner in the support of GenOvis (Canada's genetic evaluation program)
- funding The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Agribition and 9 provincial level 4-H shows
- assisting with the development of the Scrapie Eradication Strategic Plan
- co-applying for CEPOQ's research project: *Genetic Variability Analysis of Canadian Sheep Breeds Using Pedigree Information* (results available on the CSBA's website)
- reviewing and amending the CSBA's constitution
- presenting \$500 CSBA Scholarships to Marleen Palsson, AB and Emily Mastine, QC
- producing additional sets of pull-up banners for use across the country
- emailing newsletters to members on a quarterly basis
- distributing the Guide to Breeding Stock Selection, breed books and posters

Annual Meeting:

The Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association hosted the CSBA's AGM in Saskatoon on March 22nd, 2014. The meeting included an interactive presentation on genetic evaluation by Johanne Cameron, agr. M.Sc, Research and Development Coordinator at CEPOQ entitled "How To Select a Ram – An Introduction to GenOvis". The CSBA thanks Kim MacDougall and the local breeders for hosting a successful meeting. The minutes of the AGM and President's Report are included with this newsletter. The 2013 Auditor's Report was approved at the AGM and is available on the CSBA website (www.sheepbreeders.ca).

Provincial CSBA Directors:

BC - Lorea Tomsin (250-656-2378);

AB - Glen Parker (403-443-7220);

SK - Kim MacDougall (Vice President) (306-545-6190)

MB - Neil Versavel - 204-467-5057;

ON - Darryl Hopkins (519-369-1903) and Colleen Acres (613-826-2330);

QC - Johanne Cameron (450-584-3997), Trenholm Nelson (President) (819-826-3066) and David Mastine (819-848-2538);

NB/PEI/NL - Jocelyne McGraw (Executive) (506-532-5689); and

NS - Bruce Sinclair (Executive) (902-783-2093).

Constitution: Four amendments were proposed to CSBA members in January 2014, and all the amendments passed. The amendments have been submitted to the government for final approval and will then be incorporated into the current constitution.

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) price increase: The CLRC implemented a 1% increase in the unit cost for processing memberships, registrations and transfers, effective January 1, 2014. For the second year in a row, the CSBA board decided to absorb the price increase so that CSBA members will not see any increase reflected in their membership, registration or transfer costs. The additional cost has been incorporated into the CSBA's 2014 balanced budget.

All Canada Classic: The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario are preparing to host the 2014 All Canada Classic in Ancaster, ON from July 9th-12th. Entry and information packages were mailed to all current members in January and can be found on the CSBA's website. Entries and advertisements must be received by May 9, 2014. The CSBA will now be accepting online entries for the Classic. The online entry system, which links directly to the CLRC's website, will improve the efficiency and accuracy of entries. Please familiarize yourself with the online system well before May 9th 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.

Genetic Variability of Canadian Sheep Breeds Using Pedigree Information: Results from the study on genetic variability were released for review in December 2013 and are available on the CSBA's website. CEPOQ coordinated the study, which analyzed pedigree information from the CLRC and GenOvis. The study's results include information on inbreeding trends for 33 breeds and provide specific recommendations for each breed. A summary of results is set out in Table 7 on page 20 of the report. Breeds in a more critical situation include the Berrichon du Cher, British Milk Sheep, Ile de France, Lincoln, Outaouais Arcott, Romonov and Rouge de l'Ouest. It is important to be aware of the level of genetic variability of your breed in order to optimize long-term production.

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.