



# Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

### 2013 CSBA Spring Update

#### **The Year in Review:**

2012 was a successful year for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Memberships, registrations and transfers have continued to rise since 2010.

The Board worked very hard to appropriately move towards goals laid out in the Business Plan. Significant accomplishments for 2012 include the following:

- Memberships increased by 5% (997)
- Registrations increased by 11% (13924)
- Transfers increased by 16% (7321)
- Profit of \$52,399
- The All Canada Classic was held in Truro, NS. 230 sheep were entered and 226 sold for an average of \$534 for ewes and \$696 for rams.
- Translated (to English) and printed CEPOQ's conformation handbook
- Presented the first CSBA Scholarship to Hannah Porteous of Ontario
- Translated (to French) the CSBA's constitution
- Committed money towards becoming equal partners in the support of GenOvis (Canada's genetic evaluation program)
- Developed a rough guide to importing semen and embryos
- Reviewed and amended the Constitution
- Updated the *Terms and Conditions of Sale* for purebred sheep, which is available on the website
- Distributed newsletters (email) to members on a quarterly basis
- Initiated a review of approved International Breed Associations
- Continue to distribute updated breed books and breed posters
- Funded The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Agribition and 9 provincial level 4-H shows

#### **Annual Meeting:**

The Société des éleveurs de moutons de race pure du Québec hosted the CSBA's AGM in St. Nicolas on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included a presentation by geneticist Laurence Maignel on the preliminary findings of the analysis of genetic variability in Canadian sheep using the CLRC database. The CSBA thanks Trenholm Nelson, David Mastine, Johanne Cameron and the local breeders for hosting a successful meeting. The minutes of the AGM and President's Report are included with this newsletter. The 2012 Auditor's Report was approved at the AGM and is available on the CSBA website ([www.sheepbreeders.ca](http://www.sheepbreeders.ca)).

#### **2013 All Canada Classic:**

The BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association and the CSBA are actively preparing for the 2013 Classic, which will be held from June 28 to 30 in Barriere, BC. Entries are due by April 12<sup>th</sup> and the catalogue will be mailed to CSBA members at the end of May.

Information on animal and fleece entries, advertising, sponsorships and promotional items is available by contacting the CSBA office or the BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association.

**\*\*Important changes to the Classic Rules:**

1. Reserve bids – as a result of a request from the provincial organizing committee, the CSBA board decided that consignors in the 2013 Classic will be permitted to have reserve bids. The auctioneer will manage the reserve bids using a process developed by the CSBA. If animals do not sell, consignors will be charged commission on the reserve bid. The CSBA's policy on reserve bids is available on the CSBA's website.
2. Catalogue Comments: All genotyping and GenOvis data included in the Classic catalogue must be confirmed by presenting a laboratory analysis report or performance certificate to the culling committee when the registration papers are collected. Animals without verified results will not have the data announced by the auctioneer.

**Constitution:** Seven amendments were submitted to the members for voting in January 2013 and all the amendments passed. The amendments will be submitted to the government for final approval and then incorporated into the current constitution.

**Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) Price increase:** In order to create a balanced budget, the CLRC implemented a 2% increase in the unit cost for processing memberships, registrations and transfers, effective January 1, 2013. This is the first price increase in 5 years. 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 2013 balanced budget.

**Genetics and Conformation Course:** The CSBA is developing a 1-day course on sheep genetics and conformation. The course will explain genetic evaluation (GenOvis) and its impact on farm management and profitability. A variety of detailed examples will be provided on how genetic evaluation can be used to select and/or purchase replacement stock in both purebred and commercial flocks. In addition, historical data on all breeds and many popular crosses will be used to demonstrate the best breeding choices for a variety of common farm goals (maternal, terminal, market lamb production) and videos will show the impact of genetic evaluation. The "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection" will also be reviewed as genetic evaluation and conformation are combined to select highly functional sheep. Lastly, using electronic keypads, attendees will review sheep pictures and data and then anonymously indicate their selection. Following the selection tally, the instructor will indicate the best choice and review the decision making process. More information on the course will be provided in the future.

The "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection" booklet is now available through provincial CSBA directors or by contacting the CSBA office. French editions are available by contacting CEPOQ.

**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](http://www.clrc.ca) or by calling Lorna Woolsey at 1-877-833-7110 ext. 306.**