



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

Scholarship: The CSBA board of directors is pleased to congratulate Janessa Henry from Upper Musquadoit, NS, who is 2016's recipient of the CSBA scholarship. Janessa is in her final year of Agriculture (Animal Science major) at Dalhousie University, Truro, NS. She has been involved in 4-H for 9 years and has her own flock of Suffolk sheep. On top of planning to expand her purebred sheep flock, Janessa is considering additional studies in agriculture through a Masters and PhD, or working in the meat sector.

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 2017 scholarship application is available on the CSBA's website.

The board thanks all of this year's highly qualified applicants and encourages them to apply again in 2017.

CSBA Annual Photo Contest: The CSBA's first annual photo contest will take place in 2017. The entry period will be from January 1st to February 28, 2017. Photograph entries must be submitted electronically and include registered Canadian sheep. Please see the online entry form on the CSBA's website.

*Maximum of two entries per person.

*All photos must be submitted in a hi-res format (at least 200 dpi)

*Any entries may be used for the promotion of purebred sheep, at the discretion of the CSBA.

*CSBA is not required to notify photographers when photos are used in materials, however credit will be provided to the photographer when possible

Judging

Entries will be displayed anonymously during the CSBA's annual meeting. The CSBA's board of directors and AGM attendees will be asked to vote for the photo that they believe best represents the breed pictured. The winner will be announced at the annual meeting in March 2017.

Prizes

First Place: \$100 credit on account at CLRC and website/social media display with photographer's name

Second Place: \$50 credit on account at CLRC and website/social media display with photographer's name

Tattoos: 2017's year letter is "E".

Constitutional Amendments: Each CSBA member will receive a list of amendments required to keep the CSBA's constitution up to date. The amendments include a vote on acceptance of the Katahdin breed into the CSBA's registry. In the fall of 2016, Canadian Katahdin Sheep Association members voted 100% in favour of joining the CSBA. If CSBA members share the desire to accept the Katahdin sheep breed, it will be the first time that all Canadian registered sheep will be

registered under the CSBA. The CSBA amalgamated with Finnsheep breeders in 2014. Please vote!

Promotions: The CSBA's promotion committee has developed a series of advertisements to be used in national and international sheep publications over the next year. See the CSBA's Facebook page for a sneak peek! The Guide to Breeding Stock Selection, or "conformation handbook", has also been updated and will be reprinted in 2017.

Directors: The CSBA's board of directors is pleased to welcome Sarah Lewis as Manitoba's new representative. Sarah, John and Bethan raise Dorsets and North Country Cheviots near Kirkella, MB. The CSBA board would like to thank Neil Versavel, Manitoba's past director, for his many contributions to the CSBA over the past 6 years. He is wished much business, family and flock success in the future.

Canada-Mexico Partnership: Following a very successful inaugural small ruminant group meeting in Ottawa, where the CSF and CSBA were respectively represented by Corlena Patterson and Colleen Acres, Mexico invited a Canadian delegation from CSF and CSBA to visit Mexico in early December. Harry Elsinga (CSF), Trenholm Nelson (CSBA) and Lorea Tomsin (CSBA) comprised the Canadian delegation that visited Mexico from December 3rd through 6th. The trip included a 1-day visit to the Queretaro International Livestock Fair and 2-day visit to Mexico Alimentaria 2016 Food Show. The delegation was escorted by Canadian Embassy staff, and met with various Mexico industry representatives and SAGARPA officials including Juan de Dios Arteaga (President of the UNO, the Mexican Sheep Association), Dr. Francisco Gurria, General Coordinator of Livestock Programs, Carlos Arroyo (Mexican sheep producer) and Iker Reyes Godelmann (Minister Counsellor of Agriculture of Mexico to Canada). The delegation also met with Fred Gorrell, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, keynote speaker at Mexico Alimentaria 2016. Following the delegation's trip, the CSF met with Canadian Embassy staff for a debrief and creation of an action plan which includes:

- a) Further technical discussion on existing semen and embryo certificates, aimed at reducing test costs.
- b) Environmental scan of Canada's capacity for cultivating and exporting small ruminant semen and embryos.
- c) Addressing cross-transit challenges, pre- and post-APHIS rule changes.
- d) Ensuring prioritization of APHIS rule changes.

National Sheep Industry Voice: In the summer of 2016 both the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and Alberta Lamb Producers withdrew their membership from the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF). Quebec Sheep Association has not been a member of the CSF for several years. The CSF manages a number of programs on behalf of the Canadian Sheep Industry such as On-Farm Food Safety, Traceability and Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification as well as represents the industry at numerous government and stakeholder events. Ontario, Alberta and Quebec have aligned and informally formed a "National Sheep Network".

On many occasions in the past the federal government has mentioned that they will only commit to communicating with one industry association. Without one voice, the sheep industry is at risk of losing any opportunities for assistance, support or recognition from the federal government should issues or opportunities arise. In order to continue national representation, the CSF has struck a Sustainability Committee, which includes representatives from the CSBA, the remaining provinces,

the CCWG and abattoirs, to develop a short and long term plan to maintain current programs.

As a Canadian sheep producer it is important that you have a strong voice in Ottawa. Ask questions of your elected sheep industry representatives and find out how this changing landscape affects you and the programs that you rely on to be able to successfully market lambs and breeding animals in Canada. Keep informed and engaged and encourage all parties to work together to expand and grow our industry and our market opportunities.

Annual General Meeting:

The 128th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Howard Johnson Hotel and Suites, located at 4670 Elk Lake Dr, Victoria, BC. Rooms have been set aside for \$104 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservation (1-800-866-300-4656) and quote BA15 by February 13, 2017 to obtain the corporate rate.

Presentation: The annual meeting will have a presentation on GenOvis, Canada's national, on-farm genetic evaluation program, followed by a panel discussion with enrolled producers. AGM guests will be able to ask questions about the program's time requirements, processes, on-farm selection and marketing opportunities.

Farm tours: Following lunch at the Fickle Fig (a year-round farmers' market, bakery and bistro, featuring seasonable, sustainable, local, organic farm produce from the Saanich Peninsula), AGM attendees will tour Lorea Tomin's Suffolk and Charollais operation. Lorea markets purebred stock across Canada, as well as supplying lamb direct to restaurants and farmer's markets. Lorea converts 100% of her wool clip into wool products, which she sells locally.

From Lorea's, the group will visit Robin and Richard Herlinveaux at Hazelmere Farm, where vegetable production is combined with raising Hampshire and Texel sheep.

The next visit will be Parry Bay Sheep Farm, a mixed farm that has been operating for nearly 40 years in the Metchosin area, and provides pastured lamb year round to many fine butcher shops and restaurants in Victoria. Parry Bay pastures 300 ewes for ten months of the year. Ewes are bred in the fall and come home to be fed hay and grain in early December. Ewes are moved back onto pasture again towards the end of February, with lambs at their side.

The final tour will be Briar Glen Farm, owned by Alan and Marilyn McCorkindale, Sooke, BC, who have raised purebred Dorset sheep for over 35 years. Briar Glen Farms produced Briar Glen 100B, the high selling ram (\$3800) at the 2016 Classic in Richmond, QC.

Following the tours, the group will have dinner at Glenrosa Farm Restaurant overlooking the ocean.

2017 All Canada Sheep Classic: The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association is preparing to host the Classic in Red Deer, AB from June 29th to July 1st, which will include a junior show and market lamb jackpot. Entry packages were mailed to all 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 5th. The CSBA will again be accepting online entries for the 2017 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 5th 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.

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.