



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 CSBA WINTER UPDATE

Animal Pedigree Act: The purposes of this legislation are: 1) to establish associations that are authorized to identify and register animals, 2) to promote breed improvement, and 3) to protect people who raise and purchase registered animals. Like many of Canada's livestock associations, the CSBA is incorporated under the Act and depends on it to provide a framework for the association to exist. During the Sheep Value Chain Roundtable meeting in Ottawa on November 20th-22nd, 2013, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Director, John Ross, met with the CSBA's president, Trenholm Nelson, to advise that the government is considering repealing (declaring null and void) the legislation.

The CSBA's board of directors is concerned about the consequences of losing the Act and asks that you contact your local Member of Parliament as soon as possible. The CSBA's letter to the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, may be viewed on the CSBA's website.

Annual General Meeting: The 2014 CSBA AGM will be held in Saskatoon, SK on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 10am at the Travelodge Hotel, which is located at 106 Circle Drive West.

2014 All Canada Sheep Classic: The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario are preparing to host the Classic in Ancaster, ON from July 9th-12th, 2014. Entry and information packages were mailed to all current members in January. 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 entry efficiency and accuracy. 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.

During the 2014 Classic, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency will host an education and promotion event to showcase the best that Ontario's sheep industry has to offer. Sponsorship information is available on the CSBA's website.

Tattoos: 2014's year letter is "B"

Constitutional Amendments: The CSBA board has prepared a notice of amendment to be voted on by all members. The notice was mailed to current CSBA members during the first week of January. Two thirds of the members that respond must be in favour of the amendment in order for it to be adopted.

On September 26, 2013, the CSBA received final government approval for the 2013 amendments. Updated versions of the entire constitution, in both official languages, are available on the CSBA's website.

Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep: On December 18, 2013, the Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) and the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) announced the release of the new code, which is available electronically at www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/sheep.

The sheep code is one of several codes of practice that constitute “national developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. They serve as our national understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices. Codes promote sound management and welfare practices for housing, care, transportation and other animal husbandry practices.”

The code includes a number of requirements. The requirements “refer to either a regulatory requirement, or an industry imposed expectation outlining acceptable and unacceptable practices and are fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. Requirements represent a consensus position that these measures, at minimum, are to be implemented by all persons responsible for farm animal care. When included as part of an assessment program, those who fail to implement Requirements may be compelled by industry associations to undertake corrective measures, or risk a loss of market options. Requirements also may be enforceable under federal and provincial regulation.”

The CSBA recommends that all sheep producers familiarize themselves with the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Sheep*.

Shearwell Double Tags: The Shearwell Double tag, which is approved for identifying and registering purebred sheep, and has an excellent reputation for retention, is now available for purchase through the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers.

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.