

2014 Fall Update

Scholarship: The CSBA board of directors is pleased to congratulate Tamara Snook from Oxford NS, who is this year's recipient of the CSBA scholarship. Tamara is in her second year of Agriculture at Dalhousie University where she is studying Animal Science. Tamara plans on becoming a veterinarian and is committed to a life in agriculture and raising sheep. Her family raises a small flock of Dorset and Rideau Arcott sheep and she has been actively involved in 4-H (sheep and dairy) for five years.

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 2015 scholarship application form will be made available on the CSBA's website again in January.

The board thanks all this year's highly qualified applicants and encourages them to apply again in 2015.

All Canada Sheep Classic: The 2014 Classic was held at the new Ancaster Fairgrounds in historic and picturesque Ancaster, ON from July 10-12th.

The 3-day event was sponsored by the CSBA and hosted by the Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario. The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency presented a tradeshow and producer education day, which included presentations on genetic evaluation and selection techniques, genomics, best practices on integrating new animals into a flock, use of health products, parasites, nutrition and Canadian Lamb Company grading. A national fleece competition and Junior Lamb Show also took place during the event. A social for exhibitors and sponsors was held on Thursday night and an Ontario lamb banquet was held on Friday night.

On Friday, 62 consignors of 16 breeds presented their sheep to judge Bill Gardhouse of Schomberg, ON who provided show placements for 330 animals. The Supreme Champion Ewe was a Suffolk (Vangro Livestock IP 0802) consigned by VanGro Livestock, Brantford, ON and the Supreme Champion Ram was a Suffolk (Mactaggart WG 13A) consigned by William Mactaggart, Rockwood, ON. The Supreme Champion Flock was awarded to the Dorsets consigned by Jim Driscoll, Alma, ON.

On Saturday, buyers from 9 provinces purchased 301 of the 330 animals that went through the sale ring in the reserve auction. Prices were good for most breeds with an average of \$497 paid for ewes and \$681 for rams. The top-selling ewe was a Dorset (Driscoll Dorsets 47A) consigned by Mike and Cindy Driscoll, Elora, ON and was purchased for \$1900 by Zack Becker, Alma, ON. The top-selling ram was a Suffolk (Stonehill 23A) consigned by Stonehill Sheep, Chatsworth, ON and was purchased for \$3000 by Matthew Swart, Brussels, ON.

Breed averages and sale results for every animal can be found on the CSBA website at www.sheepbreeders.ca. Photographs of the event and champion animals may be viewed (and purchased) at the Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario's website at

www.purebredsheepbreedersofontario.com or by contacting Spencer Jackson at spenceriwjackson@gmail.com.

The CSBA is extremely appreciative of the tremendous national support it receives from new and long-time sponsors, exhibitors, consignors and buyers. The Purebred Sheep Breeders of Ontario, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency and the community of Ancaster deserve additional appreciation for the many hours of volunteer work they provided over the past year as they prepared to host the 2014 Classic. A successful Classic is only possible with an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers.

The 2015 All Canada Sheep Classic will be held in Winnipeg, MB from June 25-27th.

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation: Dan Stephenson, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC), is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Washer as General Manager, effective September 15, 2014. Jim brings vast experience in community development, program management, board leadership, budget administration, as well as stakeholder partnerships, to the CLRC. Jim has previously worked with the Canadian 4-H Council, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada, and the Boys and Girls Clubs. Jim was born and raised in Montreal and is fluent in English and French.

Canadian Animal Genetic Resource: The CAGR is building a national cryobank, which can be used in the event of a national emergency (e.g., a disease outbreak) or upon the request of a specific breed association. In order to serve as an effective insurance tool for the Canadian livestock industry, the cryobank is seeking donations of sperm, embryos, gonads, and skin tissues from various livestock breeds. Each donation is carefully evaluated and stored indefinitely. In addition, DNA analyses will be conducted to evaluate the genetic diversity and determine the relationships with other breeds of interest.

If you wish to contribute to this program, a CAGR team will be in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia from September 15th to October 10th, 2014. If you wish to contribute, you can contact Dr. Carl Lessard (306-956-7221; email: carl.lessard@agr.gc.ca), Crissandra Auckland (306-956-2906; crissandra.auckland@agr.gc.ca) or a member of Rare Breeds Canada (www.rarebreedscanada.com). If you cannot be available during these dates and you are still interested in contributing, please contact Dr. Carl Lessard to discuss other options.

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.