



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2015 WINTER UPDATE

Annual General Meeting: The 2015 CSBA AGM will be held at 10am on Saturday, March 21st at the Best Western Stoneridge Inn & conference Centre, London, ON. Rooms have been set aside at the Best Western located at 6675 Burtwistle Lane (401 & Hwy 4), London, ON N6L 1H5 for \$94.99 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservation (1-519-652-6022) by March 1st, 2015 to obtain the corporate rate, and refer to the room block for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association.

The AGM's guest speaker, Dr. Paul Luimes, will present his "Experiences in Research work on Sheep and Lamb Nutrition". Following the annual meeting, a tour of Ridgetown College will highlight the facilities and provide information on a project underway investigating the correlation between ewe size and feed efficiency. Hopefully, the tour of Ridgetown College will include a live animal carcass evaluation demonstration using ultrasound technology. After finishing at Ridgetown College, the group will proceed to Ewe Dell Family Farms, a 400-ewe commercial sheep operation, that is home to a licensed abattoir that processes and wholesales approximately 1000 lambs annually.

2015 All Canada Sheep Classic: The Manitoba Sheep Association is preparing to host the Classic in Winnipeg from June 25-27th. Classic entry packages were mailed to all current members in January. The tentative schedule, rules, entry forms, advertising information and list of accommodations are available on the CSBA website. Fleece and market lamb competition entry forms will be made available at a later date. Entries and advertisements must be received by April 24th. An online entry system was created in 2014 and approximately 50% of the 2014 Classic entries were made online. The CSBA will again be accepting online entries for the 2015 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 April 24th 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.

Tattoos: 2015's year letter is "C"

Shearwell Data Ltd Press Release (December 2, 2014):

RFID tag numbers connect FarmWorks and GenOvis

Sheep breeders now have one more reason to switch from paper records to computer. A new export report in FarmWorks software uploads into GenOvis, using the CSIP electronic tag number as the unique identifier instead of farm tags and tattoos.

Producers with the FarmWorks program are already using EID (electronic identification) to collect data about lambs for management purposes – breeding, births, fostering, deaths and weights from weaning to slaughter age. GenOvis uses those same records to calculate breeding values for genetic improvement.

Identification is the challenge of meshing farm records with an industry database like GenOvis. A farmer's imagination is the only limit on sheep tagging systems, so numbers, letters and colours in every combination can be used in FarmWorks. In contrast, GenOvis creates a unique identity for every sheep using a special formula all its own. A cross-reference was needed, to match up the two identities for each animal.

The RFID tag in every sheep's ear solved the problem - the EID number in the CSIP tag was the common denominator in both programs. Now sheep breeders can let the computer do the work of matching up tag numbers with lamb weights and dates, taking the pain (and the paperwork) out of submitting data to GenOvis.

Producers recording lamb weights in pounds, not kilograms, will also be happy to hear that the FarmWorks report will convert their weights to the metric equivalent. GenOvis requires all lamb weights to be in kilograms, while many FarmWorks users record weights in imperial pounds.

A special Canadian version of FarmWorks with the new GenOvis link has just been released for beta testing with a small group of producers. A general release is planned for early in the New Year. The new upgrade will be sent out automatically to FarmWorks users with up to date support subscriptions.

United States Market Access Update: the Market Access Secretariat provided the following statement to the Canadian Sheep Federation in November 2014.

"The U.S. banned the import of sheep breeding stock as part of its response to the discovery of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada in May 2003. Since 2005, the U.S. has allowed access for Canadian feeding and slaughter sheep and goats less than 12 months of age, but outstanding issues remain with respect to scrapie containment and access for sheep and goats over 12 months of age. The U.S. recently took an important step with the March 2014, implementation of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) BSE comprehensive rule, which brought U.S. BSE regulations in line with those established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). It has long been our understanding that APHIS would turn its attention to drafting a rule addressing scrapie in small ruminants only after the BSE comprehensive rule, dealing with bovines, was completed.

APHIS has recently indicated that a draft import rule had been sent for USDA approval. While details of the proposed regulations cannot be shared at this time, it is clear that the import rule will be in line with OIE recommendations and that participation in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program (VSFCP) will be a key requirement. APHIS also indicated there may be some permitted exceptions such as the use of genotyping. The USDA recognizes that current OIE recommendations on the importation of live animals are too restrictive, and they intend to propose additional options to the OIE. These options will include genotyping and live animal testing (lymphoid tissue testing). However, there are no guarantees that these recommendations will be accepted.

Once the proposed rule has completed the drafting stage, it will be published in the U.S. Federal Register for public comment. At present, the timing for publication is not known, however we are hopeful that APHIS will publish a draft rule in the near future. Once the proposed rule is published, the Market Access Secretariat will be sure to send a message to all stakeholders with a link to the

draft rule as well as information as to how comments may be submitted to the U.S. Federal Register.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada remains dedicated to expanding market access for Canadian sheep breeders in international markets. In this respect, Canadian officials raise this issue with our American counterparts whenever the opportunity arises. We will do so once again when the Canada-U.S. Consultative Committee on Agriculture meets in Ottawa in December 2014.”

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.