



# Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

### 2016 Spring Update

**Annual meeting:** 2015 was a stable financial year for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Even though there was a 6% decrease in registrations and a 13% decrease in transfers, the CSBA still made a small profit. Fewer registrations and transfers are being experienced across many species and the CSBA hopes to develop ways of supporting producers in meeting their purebred sheep breeding goals.

The board's significant accomplishments in moving forward with the CSBA's business plan in 2015 included:

- generating a net profit of \$8789
- absorbing a 1% fee increase from Canadian Livestock Records Corporation
- committing to research projects: pneumonia vaccine (\$8000/year for 3 years), growth curves (\$5000/year for 2 years), reproductive hormones (\$1000/year for 2 years) and nutrition of feeder lambs (\$1000/year for 2 years)
- aligning Ontario and Quebec's Maedi-Visna programs
- developing four instructional videos on tagging (Shearwell and Allflex), tattooing and tail docking purebred sheep
- sponsoring the 2015 All Canada Classic, which was held in Winnipeg, MB. 253 animals were in the sale with an average sale price of \$573 for ewes and \$648 for rams.
- maintaining an equal partnership in the support of GenOvis (Canada's genetic evaluation program) (\$10,000/year)
- funding The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (\$1500), Agribition (\$500) and 9 provincial level 4-H shows (\$250 each)
- presenting a \$500 CSBA Scholarship to Jessica Walker of Langley, BC
- producing an additional set of pull-up banners
- emailing newsletters to members on a quarterly basis
- representing the CSBA with Canadian Livestock Records, GenOvis, the Sheep Value Chain Round Table and the Scrapie Canada working group

The CSBA's annual meeting was held in Winnipeg, MB on March 19, 2016. Glen Parker, CSBA director from Alberta, spoke on "Marketing your Purebred Livestock". Following the meeting, the group toured Linda and Phil Westman's and Neil Versavel's Suffolk operations. The minutes of the AGM and President's Report are included with this newsletter. The 2015 Financial Statements were approved at the AGM and are available on the CSBA's website ([www.sheepbreeders.ca](http://www.sheepbreeders.ca)).

#### **Provincial CSBA Directors:**

Please contact your local directors with ideas and comments regarding Canada's registered sheep industry.

BC - Lorea Tomsin (250-656-2378);

AB - Glen Parker (Executive) (403-443-7220);

SK - Kim MacDougall (306-545-6190);

MB - Neil Versavel (Vice President)- 204-467-5057;

ON - Colleen Acres (Executive) (613-826-2330) and Ted Skinner (905-263-2102);  
QC - Johanne Cameron (450-584-3997), Trenholm Nelson (819-826-3066) and David Mastine (819-848-2538);  
NB/PEI/NL - Jocelyne McGraw (506-532-5689); and  
NS - Bruce Sinclair (President) (902-783-2093).

**2016 All Canada Sheep Classic:** The Société des Éleveurs de Mouton de Race Pure du Quebec and the CSBA are preparing for the 2016 All Canada Classic, which will be held in Richmond, QC from July 7-9, 2016. 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 13th. An online entry system was created in 2014 and approximately 50% of entries are now made online. The CSBA will again be accepting online entries for the 2016 Classic. The online entry system, which links directly to the CLRC's website, will improve entry efficiency and accuracy. Paper entries will continue to be accepted. The Classic catalogue will be mailed to all CSBA members in June.

Over the next three years, the CSBA will gradually implement tail length requirements for the Classic show and sale. No animals will be culled for tail length in 2016, but producers with animals that have a "divot", or indentation, will receive a warning and education. In 2017, animals with a "divot", or indentation, will be culled from the show. By 2018, all sheep entered in the Classic will be required to have a caudal fold that can be seen or felt. Further information will be provided in the All Canada Sheep Classic catalogue.

For more information on the Classic, please contact:

Show and Sale Chairman: David Mastine at 819-848-2538

Entries and Advertising: Stacey White 1-866-956-1116 office@sheepbreeders.ca

**Member Survey:** The online survey emailed to CSBA members early in February had a remarkable high response rate (29%) and provided valuable information for director discussions at the 2016 annual meeting. Particular attention was paid to the responses received on the question asking, "How would you like the CSBA to focus time and money?" Members were required to rank their preferences for: 1) promotion of purebred sheep, 2) continued support of GenOvis, 3) enhanced registry services, 4) support of industry research, 5) international market access, and 6) the All Canada Classic.

There was clear preference for promotion of purebred sheep with 50% of respondents ranking it as the priority area for the CSBA. Ongoing support for GenOvis, funding industry research and a need for improved registry services, were the next most important areas of focus and each shared similar levels of prioritization. International market access and the All Canada Sheep Classic were the lowest ranking options. Based on these results, the CSBA board dedicated significant funding toward promotion, research and GenOvis in 2016. A request for improved registry services will be submitted to the Canadian Livestock Records and funds have been dedicated to fast-tracking the improvements, if required. Finally, the board would like to thank all of the members who took the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is extremely useful.

**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.**