



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

2012 CSBA SPRING UPDATE

The Year in Review:

2011 was a successful year for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Significant optimism in the sheep industry and higher lamb prices have created increased demand for registered purebred breeding stock. The numbers of registrations and transfers rose in 2010 and continued to rise in 2011.

The Board worked very hard to appropriately move towards goals laid out in the Business Plan. Significant accomplishments for 2011 include the following:

- Memberships increased by 2% (950)
- Registrations increased by 6% (12544)
- Transfers increased by 4% (6295)
- Profit of \$18,000
- Officially amalgamated with the Canadian Finnsheep Association
- Recognized the California Red Sheep and the Bluefaced Leicester for registration
- The All Canada Classic was held in Drake, SK. 225 sheep were shown and 221 sold for an average price of \$574 for ewes and \$870 for rams.
- Prepared an *Information Package for New Breeders*, which is available on the website
- Reviewed the *Terms and Conditions of Sale* for purebred sheep, which is available on the website
- Committed money towards the national extension of GenOvis (genetic evaluation program)
- Distributed newsletters (email) to members on a quarterly basis
- Updated and printed breed books
- Developed and printed posters
- Purchased a handbook on conformation from CEPOQ for printing in 2012
- Reviewed and amended the Constitution
- Funded The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Agribition and 5 provincial level 4-H shows
- Funded research projects in Nova Scotia and Ontario

Annual Meeting:

The Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association hosted the CSBA's Annual General Meeting, lunch and farm tours in Calgary on March 17th. The meeting included an excellent presentation by auctioneer, Bob Balog, on marketing purebred livestock. The CSBA thanks Glen Parker and the local breeders for their time and effort in hosting a successful meeting. The minutes of the AGM and the President's Report are included with this newsletter. The 2011 Auditor's Report was also discussed at the AGM and is available on the CSBA website (www.sheepbreeders.ca).

The Board held its annual directors' meeting from March 15-18. The following key areas were discussed:

- 1) **Genetic evaluation:** GenOvis is Canada's national sheep genetic evaluation program. It is a home-based test system that allows sheep breeders to identify and select animals with high genetic potential. Enrollment with GenOvis ensures significant improvement of flocks' genetic quality, which will increase the efficiency of Canadian sheep farms. GenOvis is available to sheep breeders in all parts of Canada. The CSBA has allocated funding to national GenOvis education

over the next 3 years and strongly encourages producers to enroll. For more information, please visit the GenOvis website (www.genovis.ca), email (genovis@cepoq.com), or phone (418) 856-1200 ext. 226.

- 2) **National Flock Integrity:** Parentage testing is an important part of maintaining the integrity of Canada's purebred sheep industry. The CSBA requests parentage testing on every 500th animal submitted for registration. If producers choose not to comply with the CSBA's request within one year, their membership may be suspended. The CSBA recognizes that the cost of having the tests performed can be significant. On top of covering the cost of the DNA testing at the laboratory, the CSBA will now provide a \$100 grant (previously \$60) to producers who have successfully completed and passed the parentage testing.
- 3) **Constitution:** The Board reviewed the constitution and submitted 16 amendments to the members for voting. 15 of the amendments passed. One amendment failed due to a technical error with the ballot boxes. The amendments have been submitted to the government for final approval and the updated constitution will be posted on the website.
- 4) **Scholarship:** The CSBA will be offering a \$500 annual scholarship to students who are CSBA members or close relatives of members. The first scholarship will be offered for the fall 2012 college or university semester. The application form can be found on the CSBA's website under Industry Involvement. Applications must be received at the CSBA office by August 1, 2012.
- 5) **International associations:** In order to register progeny of imported semen or embryos with the CSBA, the Board must review an international association to be sure that it meets the CSBA rules of eligibility. For example, the association must be able to demonstrate a pedigree extending back at least 4 generations, the use of permanent identification (tags or tattoos), and a breed standard that matches the CSBA's standard for that breed. If grading up occurs within the association, special consideration is required. There is a list of Recognized International Associations listed under Member Resources on the CSBA's website. The board will be reviewing the list in 2012. If members are interested in importing from an association that is not on the list, a request to review the associations should be submitted to the Board.

2012 All Canada Classic:

"Set Sale and Join the Fun" in Truro, NS for the 2012 All Canada Classic on June 14-16th! The Nova Scotia Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association and the CSBA have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming Classic. This year, 59 consignors from 9 provinces have entered 275 sheep. This year's group includes the following breeds: Border Cheviot, Border Leicester, Dorper, Dorset (polled and horned), Charollais, Clun Forest, Hampshire, North Country Cheviot, Oxford, Romanov, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk and Texel. Many producers have provided comments on GenOvis indexes, genotyping and imported genetics.

The Classic catalogue will be mailed and placed on the CSBA's website in the middle of May.

For all consignors, please be sure that animals' tattoos or tags match the registration papers before you leave the farm. Registration forms must be signed for transfer and presented during the inspection. Purchase tickets for the Lamb and Salmon Banquet by contacting Rhonda McCarron at 1-902-863-6087 (brookridgefarm@yahoo.ca).

If you require additional information, please contact the CSBA office.

In order to stay on the CLRC's 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.