



# Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

### 2013 CSBA WINTER UPDATE

**Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer:** Congratulations to first generation sheep farmers, Martin Brodeur-Choquette and Johanne Cameron, who were co-winners of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer award for 2012. The national competition, which was held in Prince Edward Island at the end of November, recognizes farmers between the ages of 18-39 that excel in their profession. Although neither of their parents owned a farming operation, Martin and Johanne successfully built Les Bergerie Marovine, which includes 650 ewes and 210 acres of farmed land. More information about the contest and winners is available at [www.sheepbreeders.ca](http://www.sheepbreeders.ca).

**Tattoos: 2013's year letter is "A"**

**Constitutional Amendments:** The CSBA board has prepared a notice of amendment to be voted on by all members, which was mailed to current CSBA members 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. Ballots must be received by the CLRC by February 8, 2013. If you have not already done so, please complete and return your ballot today.

On October 19, the CSBA received final government approval for the 2012 amendments. Updated versions of the entire constitution, in both official languages, are available on the CSBA's website.

**National Flock Integrity:** Parentage testing is an integral part of maintaining the integrity of Canada's purebred sheep industry. The CSBA requests parentage testing on every 500<sup>th</sup> animal submitted for registration. The CSBA will allow 1 full year to have the test completed. If the randomly selected animal, or alternate animal, is not tested within 1 year, all registration papers for that breeder may be held until the breeder complies with the testing. As of March 18, 2012, the CSBA provides a \$100 grant to assist with the cost incurred in parentage testing.

It is important that you contact Lorna Woolsey (sheep registrar at the CLRC) within 30 days of receiving the parentage test request documents.

The CSBA wishes to recognize and thank the breeders who have complied with and passed the parentage test requirements.

**Annual General Meeting:** The 2013 CSBA AGM will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Hotel Bernières, which is located at 535, rue de l' Aréna, St-Nicolas, QC.

Rooms have been set aside for \$89 per night, plus taxes. Please make your reservation by calling 1-800-749-3119 by February 4, 2013 to obtain this rate, and mention that you are attending the SCEM AGM.

Please contact your provincial CSBA director with any questions or concerns you would like to have addressed at the annual meeting.

**2013 All Canada Sheep Classic:** The BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association is actively preparing for an exciting Classic in Barriere, BC from June 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Entry and information packages, as well as order forms for t-shirts and hats, were mailed to all current members in January. Entries and advertisements must be received by April 12, 2013. Please contact the CSBA office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Barriere!

**Navigating Semen and Embryo Imports:** Importing semen and embryos is an excellent option for adding new genetics to your flock. Many sheep breeders in Canada have expressed a need for scrapie resistant genotypes, inbreeding prevention and performance-tested stock that are not readily available in Canada. Although importing semen and embryos requires careful planning, it is a manageable means of accessing new genetics.

Information on the CSBA website provides an overview of the basic steps for importing semen and embryos into Canada. Although the process appears straight forward, significant time and expense is required for the process to be successful. Be prepared for delays and complications.

**Conformation Booklets:** The "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection" is now available through provincial CSBA directors or by contacting the CSBA office. French editions are available by contacting CEPOQ. The guide is intended to assist producers in avoiding major conformation faults when buying or selecting breeding stock.

**CFIA Pilot Project (Special Procedures for Salvage of Sheep Genetics):** The CFIA is developing a protocol that would allow producers of rare breeds or animals with valuable genetics/health status to salvage their genetics prior to depopulation of susceptible animals. If the producer qualifies for the project by satisfying a list of criteria, which, among other things, includes good record keeping and adequate facilities, QQ ewes may be bred to RR rams to allow for one lamb crop of genetically resistant offspring. The project is completed with depopulation of the QQ ewes, cleaning and disinfection of the premises and implementation of the standard 5 years of surveillance. Producers must ask to participate and meet the CFIA's criteria for participation, as the pilot project will not be automatically offered to every producer.

The CSBA has requested that the CFIA make all breeds recognized by the CSBA eligible for the pilot project.

**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.**