



Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders 2019 Report

2019 was a special year as our Association, Saskatchewan Sheep Breeder's Association (SSBA) along with our partners the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board (SSDB) were tasked with hosting the CSBA All Canada Sheep Classic. The 2019 classic was held at the Humboldt Uniplex in Humboldt, Saskatchewan from July 18th-21st 2019. The 3-day event kicked off with a social evening held for exhibitors and sponsors on Friday evening, followed by a sold-out lamb banquet and fun auction following the show on Saturday. This year's classic included the purebred sheep show and sale, trade show, junior show, Grasslands commercial sheep show and sale, market lamb show and sale, fleece competition, Shearing competition, working dog demonstration and National Genovis awards which were presented at Saturday's banquet. The Canadian Sheep Federation hosted their first global sheep conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The delegates were able to make time in their busy schedule to partake in the Classic by attending the show on Saturday.

The 2019 Classic was judged by James Hewson and David Cadsand who placed 328 animals consisting of 20 breeds of sheep, from 70 consignors from across Canada. Supreme Champion Ewe was a Suffolk, Jordan Tibbie 57F consigned by Rod and Tracy Jordan from Rimbey, Alberta which sold to Darryl Hopkins from Elmwood Ontario for \$1700.00. Supreme Champion Ram was a Dorset, Briar Glen 2F consigned by Alan and Marilyn McCorkindale of Briarglen farms from Sooke, British Columbia and sold to Ewetopia Farms from Kingston, Ontario for \$1400.00. The Supreme Champion Flock was presented to Rod and Tracy Jordan of Jordan Livestock from Rimbey, Alberta with their Suffolk flock.

On Sunday, buyers from 7 provinces purchased the sheep offered for sale. Prices averaged \$603.00 for ewes and \$840.00 for rams. Top selling ewe was a North Country Cheviot Coneygeers Gwen 6F consigned by Don and Deborah Wytinck of Coneygers Sheep from Nanaimo, British Columbia purchased for \$2900.00 by Susan Smith of Lockwood, Saskatchewan. The top selling ram was a Suffolk ram Stonehill 9G consigned by Paul Dick of Stonehill Sheep which was purchased by Robert and Judy Pringle of Chatsworth, Ontario for \$3400.00. Sale results for every animal and breed averages can be viewed on the CSBA website www.sheepbreeders.ca We started the event off with a wind storm that destroyed our tent which housed the commercial sheep. Fortunately, no one was hurt and no sheep were injured. It was an opportunity from everyone to work together. A new tent was erected, all pens moved, and we were on our way to hosting the best classic we have hosted thus far. Thanks to all who helped it was simply amazing.

Next event was our annual Canadian Western Agribition sheep show and sale in Regina, Saskatchewan from November 28th to 30th, 2019. The show schedule included our purebred and commercial sheep show and sale, market lamb show and sale, our junior show, hoof trimming demonstration and our ever-popular shearing demonstration featuring the talented Lori Reed of Elrose, Saskatchewan. This event is always a huge crowd favorite with a standing room only. The crowd can watch Lori shear while he is explaining the entire process and answering a variety of questions from the audience.

This year our Judge was Bonnie Tweedie of Delisle, Saskatchewan. Bonnie placed 151 head of sheep as well as 27 junior sheep in 6 classes and the largest costume class we have ever hosted. Grand Champion Market Lamb banner was awarded to John, Sarah and Bethan Lewis of Cross Creek Farms from Kirkella, Manitoba. Lois Trowel of Wards Suffolks from Saltcoats, Saskatchewan was awarded the Grand Champion Commercial Ewe banner. Grand Champion Commercial Pen of Ewes banner was awarded to Royce Lodeon of Double L Farms from Fox Valley, Saskatchewan. Grand Champion Purebred Pen of Ewes banner was awarded to Daniel and Pamela Bartlett from BB Sheep Farm from Carnduff, Saskatchewan. Supreme Champion Ewe was a Suffolk consigned by Jason Struck of Struck Farms from Pilger, Saskatchewan. Supreme Champion Ram banner, as well as, Supreme Champion Flock banner and the Premier Exhibitor were awarded to Gavin and Isabelle Nicol of Sandy Hill Charollais from Red Deere, Alberta.

Our sheep sale featured 61 lots with a sale average of \$563.55. High selling purebred ewe was a Suffolk consigned by Patty Smith from Rocking S Farms selling for \$1200.00 to VDH Farms from Abee, Alberta. High selling ram was a Charollais from Sandy Hills Charollais selling for \$1400.00 to Small Bar Livestock from Craven, Saskatchewan. Full results can be found on the Agribition website.

It is always a huge commitment of time and effort to present our two annual events this year while also hosting the Canadian All Sheep Classic. Special thanks to our many volunteers, we could not have hosted these events without your support. Great things happen when amazing people work together with a common goal. This year was an opportunity for our Saskatchewan team to display once again how amazing they are. To our exhibitors, sponsors, the staff in Humboldt, Humboldt complex and Canadian Western Agribition, we could not continue to host events of this magnitude without your support.

In closing our entire world has been challenged by the COVID-19 virus, at this point we need to do our part in fighting this worldwide battle. From my home, my wish for everyone, is that we are all able to stay safe in these trying times.

Submitted by Kim MacDougall