



# Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

### **2013 CSBA FALL UPDATE**

**Scholarship:** The board of directors is pleased to announce the two recipients of the CSBA scholarship in 2013: Marleen Palsson from Strathmore, AB and Emily Mastine from Danville, QC.

Marleen Palsson owns a flock of 15 registered Hampshire ewes and 30 Suffolk x Hampshire ewes. She is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Saskatchewan, where she is studying animal science. Marleen's extensive 4-H experience has given her an advantage in her animal science classes. She hopes to work in nutrigenomics (or other genetic research) in sheep and/or cattle when she completes her degree.

Emily Mastine is in her final year of Farm Management and Technology at the MacDonald campus of McGill University. She has worked on beef, dairy and sheep farms, as well as being active in 4-H. After completing her degree, Emily plans to build a career in agriculture and hopes to assist her dad (Larry) in their own flock expansion.

The board thanks all of this year's highly qualified applicants and encourages them to reapply in 2014.

The CSBA scholarship is offered to students who are enrolled in a university or college program and who are either current CSBA members or children/grandchildren of current CSBA members. Preference is given to students who are actively involved with the sheep or agriculture industries. The 2014 scholarship application form will be made available on the CSBA's website again in January 2014.

**Genetics and Conformation Course:** The CSBA has developed a 1-day course on sheep genetics and conformation. The course will explain genetic evaluation (GenOvis) and its impact on farm management and profitability. A variety of detailed examples will be provided on how genetic evaluation can be used to select and/or purchase replacement stock in both purebred and commercial flocks. In addition, historical data on all breeds and many popular crosses will be used to demonstrate the best breeding choices for a variety of common farm goals (maternal, terminal, market lamb production). Videos will show the impact of genetic evaluation. The "Guide to Breeding Stock Selection" will also be reviewed as genetic evaluation and conformation are combined to select highly functional sheep. Lastly, using electronic keypads, attendees will review sheep pictures and data and then anonymously indicate their selection. Following the selection tally, the instructor will indicate the best choice and review the decision making process.

The course will be offered at the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association Symposium on October 20, 2013. Please see the conference agenda and registrations forms at [www.albertasheepbreeders.ca](http://www.albertasheepbreeders.ca) or call the CSBA's office for more information on the course.

**2013 All Canada Sheep Classic:** The 2013 Classic was held in beautiful Barriere, BC from June 28-30<sup>th</sup>. Barriere is a forestry town located in a picturesque river valley in central BC. Although flooding in Alberta complicated travel plans for many people, attendance in Barriere remained high with 8 provinces represented in the national show and sale.

The 3-day event, which was sponsored by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and hosted by the BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association, incorporated a robust fleece competition, equipment and management software demonstrations and an exhibitors' hall. A social for exhibitors and sponsors was held on Friday night and a lamb banquet followed the show on Saturday.

On Saturday, 63 consignors of 15 breeds endured hot temperatures to present their sheep to judges Doug Higginson (Mill Bay, BC) and Raymond Read (South Africa) who provided show placements for 294 animals. The Supreme Champion Ewe was a Charollais (Golden View 5Z) consigned by Golden View Farm Ltd. (John and Kathy Hope of Langley, BC) and the Supreme Champion Ram was a Suffolk (Todd TK 49Z) consigned by Keith Todd (Todd Sheep Company of Lucknow, ON). The Supreme Champion Flock was awarded to the North Country Cheviots consigned by Coneygeers (Don and Deborah Wytinck of Nanaimo, BC).

On Sunday, buyers from 8 provinces purchased 239 of the 294 animals that went through the sale ring in the reserved auction. Although some breeds sold better than others, prices were fair overall with an average of \$451 paid for ewes and \$613 for rams. Both the top-selling ewe (Jordan 50A, purchased by Brian Atkinson, New Lowell, ON for \$1400) and top-selling ram (Jordan Power Play 20A, purchased by All Livestock Ltd, Ste Rose du Lac, MB for \$3400) were Suffolks consigned by Jordan Livestock, Rimbey, AB.

Breed averages, sale results for every animal and photographs can be seen on the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association website at [www.sheepbreeders.ca](http://www.sheepbreeders.ca).

The CSBA is extremely appreciative of the tremendous support it has received from new and long-time sponsors, exhibitors, consignors and buyers from across Canada. The BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association and the community of Barriere deserve additional appreciation for the weeks of volunteer work they provided over the past year as they prepared to host the 2013 Classic. Such an event would not be possible without the work of a dedicated group.

The 2014 All Canada Sheep Classic will be held in Ancaster, ON from July 8-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Quebec members:** Please submit all 2013 animal registration requests by December 1<sup>st</sup>. The CLRC is closed over the holidays and time is required to process the registrations before year-end. As requested by your provincial association, late registrations will no longer be backdated to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2014 Annual General Meeting:** The CSBA's AGM will be held in Saskatoon on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Details will be mailed to each member in January.

**CSF/CSBA Relationship:** The CSF board is in the process of redefining its governance model. Although the CSF has not yet finalized its policy regarding CSBA and CCWG involvement in the CSF, neither the CSBA nor the CCWG will have positions on the new CSF board. Both the CSBA and CCWG communicated their concerns regarding the changes to the governance model prior to the decision being made; however, the CSF is unable to provide a formal response until the details of the new relationship have been finalized. At this point, it is hoped that the annual Sheep Value Chain Roundtable meetings can be expanded for sheep industry collaboration and involvement.

As a result of this governance change, it is recommended that any CSBA member who has concerns about issues that fall under national areas of responsibility (e.g. traceability, biosecurity, health, export, food safety, research) communicate these concerns with their provincial sheep/lamb producer association in order to have them raised at the CSF board level. The CSBA will no longer have representation or a voice at the CSF board level.

**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.**