



## **2011 Grasslands Canadian Classic**

### **Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association Press Release**

The 2011 Grasslands Canadian Classic was held in Drake, Saskatchewan from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. The event, which was sponsored by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and cohosted by the Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association and the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board, attracted consignors and buyers from across Canada and resulted in a highly successful show and sale. Perfect summer weather and an excellent facility added to the exciting event.

After a short speech noting the provincial government's ongoing support of the sheep industry, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Bob Bjonnerud, officially opened the Canadian Classic by opening the gate for a sheep herding demonstration. The 3-day Classic also incorporated a commercial show and sale, equipment and management software demonstrations, shearing and herding demonstrations, an extensive exhibitors hall, fleece competition and a junior/4-H show. A wine and cheese social was held on Friday evening for the exhibitors and sponsors, and a lamb banquet followed the show on Saturday evening.

48 consignors of 13 breeds enjoyed considerable success in the show ring. Two experienced judges, Edith Williams, a Suffolk breeder from Ponoka, AB and Blair Dow, a faculty member at Lakeland College in Vermillion, AB, provided show placements for 225 animals. The Supreme Champion Ewe was a North Country Cheviot (New Haven Judy 13X) consigned by New Haven Farm of Winchester, ON and the Supreme Champion Ram was a Suffolk (Parker 44W 28X) consigned by Glen and Kathy Parker of Three Hills, AB. The Supreme Flock was awarded to the Hampshires consigned by Bell Suffolks and Hampshires of Stayner, ON.

The sale was held on Sunday and was truly a national event. 221 of the 225 animals consigned by producers from 8 provinces sold as they passed through the auction ring. Over 200 official bidders from 8 provinces competed to purchase purebred animals. Prices were strong with an average of \$574 paid for ewes and \$870 for rams. The top selling ewe was the Champion Suffolk Ewe (Mactaggart WG 25X, consigned by Mactaggart Suffolks of Rockwood, ON), which sold to Hodges Farm, Dalmeny, SK for \$1,600. The top selling ram was a ram lamb (Parker 44W 10Y) consigned by Glen and Kathy Parker of Three Hills, AB, which sold to Lois Trowell/Ward Mortenson of Saltcoats, SK for \$2,700.

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

The CSBA is extremely appreciative of the tremendous support it has received from sponsors, exhibitors, consignors and buyers from across Canada. The Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association and the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board deserve special recognition for the countless hours they devoted to the planning and preparation of 2011 Classic.

The 2012 All Canada Classic will be held in Truro, NS from June 15-17<sup>th</sup>.

For further information, please contact Stacey White, General Manager of the CSBA, at 1-866-956-1116.