



# Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

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## La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons

### **2011 CSBA FALL UPDATE**

**All Canada Sheep Classic:** 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 Bjornerud, 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>.

**Exports – An Update from the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association:** On August 14, 2011, it was announced that Vietnam and Canada reached an agreement on the animal health conditions to allow live sheep and goats and live cattle to move from Canada to Vietnam. This agreement means that members of the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association (CLGA) can now participate fully in the modernization and expansion of Vietnam's livestock production sector through the supply of high quality live animals, semen and embryos – along with an enhanced technical program. The industry estimates the total market value for imports of live ruminants in Vietnam to be worth close to \$50 million, of which Canada can now compete for its share.

The CLGA works closely on a daily basis with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection

Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to reestablish export markets with other countries including the United States and Mexico. The work is slow and dependent on foreign government policy. The latest indications from the United States are that the so-called comprehensive rule and the TSE rule (which will deal with imports) will be published for comment in early 2012. The CLGA has heard predicted publication dates before and nothing has happened. After that will come comments (and no doubt, litigation). After that, a final rule will be published and implemented. The CLGA remains hopeful that an interim agreement on transit of Canadian animals through the USA can be achieved before rule-making is complete. The CLGA has been working on Mexico for many years and it has proven to be more complicated than anticipated. Mexico is asking for a reciprocal arrangement whereby Mexican sheep and goats will be able to enter Canada under the same (virtually impossible) health protocol. CLGA and its Small Ruminant Members continue to work with the Government of Canada and Mexican industry partners to resolve outstanding issues, but it is difficult to predict when, or if, progress will be made. The CLGA understands that USDA is being pressured by American sheep and goat breeders to expedite the publication of the rule so that they can access Canadian genetics.

The CLGA is a nationwide, not-for-profit trade association representing the market development, market access and animal health interests of those involved in the sale, service and promotion of livestock genetics both domestically and internationally.

For further information about exporting sheep, please contact: Rick McDonald Executive Director of the CLGA at 1-519-821-5200 or [clga@clivegen.org](mailto:clga@clivegen.org)

**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 will be held until the breeder complies with the testing. The CSBA provides a \$60 grant to assist with the cost incurred in parentage testing.

The CSBA's parentage committee has worked with the CLRC to refine and clarify the test instructions. It is important that you contact Lorna (Sheep registrar at the CLRC) within 30 days of receiving the parentage test request documents.

Several producers have asked about using hair samples or FTA cards to simplify and reduce the cost of blood testing for parentage. FTA cards are made of paper and cardboard and can be used to blot blood instead of collecting vials of blood. These cards are used extensively by other species and reduce the cost of freight and the hassle of dealing with fresh blood. Unfortunately, sheep parentage testing is unreliable when using FTA cards or hair samples. Canadian labs recommend ONLY using whole blood for parentage testing in sheep. Future research may create new options, but for the time being the CSBA will continue to require whole blood for parentage testing.

**2012 CSBA Annual General Meeting:** Next year's meeting will be held in Calgary on the weekend of March 17, 2012. Please direct any issues for board discussion to the CSBA office by January 31, 2012.

**CSBA's Website:** Recent updates include guidelines for the sale of purebred sheep, a brochure for new breeders, lists of CSBA recognized international associations, CLRC forms, past newsletters and pictures from the 2011 Classic.

**Tattoo Reminder:** 2011's year letter is "Y". 2012's year letter is "Z".

**In order to stay on the CLRC's mailing list, it is important to have a current CSBA membership and updated 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. Or, for a hard copy of the newsletter, please contact the CSBA's office.**