

## **2014 News & Events**

**RFID Tag Numbers Connect Farmworks and GenOvis** - [Click here](#) December 2, 2014

**New Markets Open for Canadian Sheep Products in Mexico** - [Click here](#)

October, 2014

**Donate Sperm or Embryos From Your Animal**

September, 2014

Donate Sperm or Embryos From Your Animal – [Click here](#)

Protéger la diversité génétique des races de bétail et de volaille du Canada – [Click here](#)

**New General Manager Announced for CLRC**

**August 20, 2014**

Ottawa - August 20, 2014: Dan Stephenson, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC), is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Washer as General Manager, effective September 15, 2014.

"Recognized as an accomplished leader, Jim brings over 25 years of experience in program development, team leadership and stakeholder engagement to CLRC" stated Dan Stephenson. "On behalf of my Board colleagues, I would like to congratulate and welcome Jim as the new General Manager."

Jim brings to CLRC a vast experience in community development, program management, Board leadership, budget administration, as well as stakeholder partnerships.

"I look forward to building relationships with existing and new partners in the preservation and recording of livestock" stated Jim Washer. "This position provides the opportunity to lead CLRC from its recent centennial anniversary into an exciting future."

Biographical details for Jim Washer

Jim began his 25 year career path working in the community non-profit sector with Boys and Girls Clubs in both Montreal and Ottawa. Having held the positions of Adolescent Coordinator, Program Manager and Executive Director; Jim also sat on local boards and the Regional Council for Boys and Girls Clubs of Quebec.

Continuing in youth and community work, Jim joined the Canadian 4-H Council as National Program Manager. Responsible for national and international conferences, educational youth exchanges, and the agricultural grants and scholarship programs; Jim was instrumental in supporting youth in the development of agricultural practices.

From there Jim accepted a position as Senior Manager, Programs and Partnerships with SEVEC where he led a reorganization of the programs and processes that support over 6,000 youth to travel annually on educational exchanges.

Born and raised in Montreal, Jim is bilingual and is married with three children. Jim completed a B.ED in Education from McGill University, Management Training with Boys and Girls Clubs, and certification in Project Management from Algonquin College. During his studies at McGill, Jim was co-president of the Phys.ED student association and participated in an international study exchange to the U.K.

Jims personal interests include community involvement, renovating and restoration of old homes, golf and outdoor recreation.

### **Sheep Shearing Training Course**

October 6-10, 2014

- Sheep Shearing Training Course information – [Click here](#)

### **Manitoba Sheep Association's Annual Show and Sale**

August, 2014

### **Atlantic Sheep Sale Catalogue**

August, 2014

- Atlantic Sheep Sale Catalogue – [Click here](#)

### **Upcoming GenOvis tested sales in Quebec: Richmond and Rimouski**

July, 2014

- Richmond Sales Catalogue – [Click here](#)
- Rimouski Sales Catalogue – [Click here](#)

### **Sheep Code of Practice/ Mouton code de pratiques**

June, 2014

- - Sheep Code of Practice – [English](#)
  - Mouton code de pratiques – [Français](#)

### **No 'Angus' in the sheep business**

May 22, 2014

Breed choices should be based on market choice and management system- By Daniel Winters (Co-Operator Staff/Rapid City)Dr. Neil Versavel explains how different breeds of sheep fit various marketing and production systems at the recent Manitoba Sheep Association's annual general meeting. Getting into the cattle business can be as simple as buying a trailer full of bred Angus heifers from a neighbouring ranch and dumping them into the corral. But before scratching out a cheque for a load of ewes, a would-be shepherd should first figure out where and when they are going to market their lambs, and what management system they plan to use, said Neil Versavel, a shepherd from Balmoral and director with the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association. That's because there's no one-size-fits-all breed of sheep. "If you're new to sheep and you're confused about which breed to use, that's not surprising," said Versavel, at the recent Manitoba Sheep Association's annual general meeting. No other livestock sector has as wide a choice of breed characteristics, he added. Some breeds are for wool, while others are for milk. Some are best for cranking out high volumes of lambs, but others make better mothers. Some need to be sheared, while others shed by themselves. Choice of breed also comes into



play when deciding whether to market light or heavy lambs. For those trying to capture the price spikes at Easter, Christmas or Ramadan, it's important to know that some sheep will only breed from September to January, while others are more flexible

"Your management system is going to heavily dictate what you choose. Are you going to be intensive, all inside, or a range-based, intensive grazing system?" said Versavel. There are two basic strategies for making a choice. If it's based on the end market for lambs, then time of lambing dictates what management system must be used. "Trying to produce Easter lambs with Rambouillet sheep under an extensive spring lambing system just isn't going to work," he said. Alternatively, if the management system, say a large barn and feeding pens, is the keystone of the proposed operation, then time of lambing and end market becomes less rigid. Determining where a breed "fits" depends on its particular characteristics. A "terminal" breed such

as Suffolk, Texel or Dorper produces a lot of meat quickly, while those with superior "maternal" instincts such as Dorset, North Country or Blue Faced Leicester offer better lamb survival rates. "Prolific" breeds, such as Romanov, Rideau Arcott, or Finn sheep shoot out triples, quads or even quints, but need better nutrition, more care at lambing, and as a result are often raised indoors year round. On the end of the spectrum, range sheep such as Rambouillet and Targhee do well in pasture-based systems with little direct intervention when lambing on grass in spring. Wool quality is another variable. Merino and Rambouillet produce the finest wool that fetches the highest prices. Romney and Cotswold grow long fibres favoured by home spinners, but wool from Suffolk and Dorset sheep often sells cheaply. For shepherds who find that shearing is burdensome, there's hair-sheep such as Katahdin and Dorper. Yet another breed aspect is the ability to breed out of season. Unlike traditional day-length-dependent breeders that cycle from September to January like Suffolk and Texel, Dorset and Katahdin can get pregnant any time of year, which makes having lambs ready for higher-value Christmas, Easter or ethnic markets easier. For shepherds who want to ship heavy lambs as early as possible, then Suffolk or Hampshire are obvious choices. For the light 80- to 100-pound lamb market, then North Country or Texel fit the bill, said Versavel.

## **RFID tag numbers connect FarmWorks and GenOvis**

December 2, 2014

Shearwell Data Ltd

Sheep breeders now have one more reason to switch from paper records to computer. A new export report in FarmWorks software uploads into GenOvis, using the CSIP electronic tag number as the unique identifier instead of farm tags and tattoos.

Producers with the FarmWorks program are already using EID (electronic identification) to collect data about lambs for management purposes – breeding, births, fostering, deaths and weights from weaning to slaughter age. GenOvis uses those same records to calculate breeding values for genetic improvement.

Identification is the challenge of meshing farm records with an industry database like GenOvis. A farmer's imagination is the only limit on sheep tagging systems, so numbers, letters and colours in every combination can be used in FarmWorks. In contrast, GenOvis creates a unique identity for every sheep using a special formula all its own. A cross-reference was needed, to match up the two identities for each animal.

The RFID tag in every sheep's ear solved the problem - the EID number in the CSIP tag was the common denominator in both programs. Now sheep breeders can let the computer do the work of matching up tag numbers with lamb weights and dates, taking the pain (and the paperwork) out of submitting data to GenOvis.

Producers recording lamb weights in pounds, not kilograms, will also be happy to hear that the FarmWorks report will convert their weights to the metric equivalent. GenOvis requires all lamb weights to be in kilograms, while many FarmWorks users record weights in imperial pounds.

A special Canadian version of FarmWorks with the new GenOvis link has just been released for beta testing with a small group of producers. A general release is planned for early in the New Year. The new upgrade will be sent out automatically to FarmWorks users with up to date support subscriptions.



## **New Markets Open for Canadian Sheep Products in Mexico**

October 31, 2014 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Sheep Federation (CSF) is pleased to announce that, thanks to the efforts of the Market Access Secretariat (MAS), Canadian sheep and goat meat, offal and viscera from animals without any age restriction can now be shipped to Mexico. Prior to today's announcement, there were restrictions on these products that limited Canada's ability to export mutton to that country.

Early in 2014, the Canadian Sheep Federation filed a request with MAS to negotiate a new export certificate with Mexico that would allow the export of a wider range of Canadian sheep products to that country. MAS is industry's contact with the Federal Market Access Team, a portfolio which includes Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) that takes a collaborative approach to advance interests for Canadian agriculture abroad. The CSF worked with MAS by providing supporting statistics to the negotiations and prioritizing the market's importance to the Canadian sheep industry. Today's announcement exemplifies how successful collaboration between industry and government can create new international market opportunities and help grow the industry.

“We are pleased with the announcement,” says Phil Kolodychuk, Chairman of the Canadian Sheep Federation, “this opportunity increases the value of mature sheep and lends to increased profitability for Canadian sheep producers”. In 2013, the total value of Canadian mutton exports was estimated to be worth slightly over \$800,000. Canadian exporters now have an immediate opportunity to export \$12.5 million worth of mutton to Mexico, a market value that could grow exponentially over time. Interested exporters should contact their [Regional Canadian Food Inspection Agency office](#) for more information and to obtain an export certificate.

The CSF is a national not-for-profit organization that represents the interests of sheep and lamb producers across Canada with a mission to further the viability, expansion and prosperity of the



Canadian sheep and wool industries. For more information about the CSF, visit our website at [www.cansheep.ca](http://www.cansheep.ca), or give us a call at 888.684.7739.

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Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada

## Donate Sperm or Embryos From Your Animal to the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource (CAGR) To Protect the Genetic Diversity of the Canadian Livestock

### Mission of the CAGR:

The global industrialization of agriculture and the enormous pressure to streamline animal breeding and production have led to the rapid erosion of animal genetic diversity, including Canadian livestock. Genetic diversity defines not only the animal breeds' production and functional traits, but also their ability to adapt to different environments, including food and water availability, climate changes, pests, diseases, and changing socio-economic conditions. Recognizing this threat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in collaboration with the University of Saskatchewan, initiated the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource program in 2006. The CAGR's mission is to ensure the genetic diversity of Canadian livestock and poultry, support environmentally friendly livestock and poultry production, and maintain food security, by acquiring, evaluating, and cryopreserving tissue and germplasm (sperm, embryos, oocytes). Canada is rich in livestock breed diversity and the current and future preservation of these valuable resources will improve the competitiveness of the livestock industries, facilitate response to environmental challenges as well as shifting consumer demands, and food security issues.

### Building a national cryobank:

To build this national germplasm repository, the CAGR is seeking donations from Canadian producers and industries. Sperm, embryos, gonad and somatic (skin) tissues can be collected and preserved following the standard procedures. Every donation is carefully evaluated and stored indefinitely. In addition, DNA analyses is conducted to evaluate the genetic diversity and determine relationships with other breeds of interest. The donated materials will not be released except in the eventuality of national emergency (disease outbreak) or a specific request by a breed association. Thus, this national cryobank is an insurance for the Canadian livestock industry and the success of this repository depends of your contribution.

### If you wish to contribute at this program

A CAGR team will be in Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia between September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. If you wish to contribute, you can contact Dr Carl Lessard (306-956-7221; email: carl.lessard@agr.gc.ca), Crissandra Auckland (306-956-2906; crissandra.auckland@agr.gc.ca) or a member of the Rare Breed Canada ([www.rarebreedscanada.com](http://www.rarebreedscanada.com)). If you cannot be available during these dates and you are still interested to contribute to this program, contact Dr Carl Lessard to discuss other options to donate germplasm from your precious animals.

**Every donation contributes to protect the genetic diversity of our  
Canadian Animal resources!**

## *Beginner, Intermediate, Novice Shearers*

### *Sheep Shearing Training Course*

*October 6-10, 2014*

*Are you interested in learning how to shear or want to refine your current skills? Come join Don Metheral and myself, Ryan Bowden for a week long course starting Oct 6-10 at Holstein, Ontario. The course will cover the following:*

- gear set up*
- shearing pattern/positioning*
- gear maintenance*
- briefly look at gear sharpening*
- wool preparation*
- health and safety*

*This will be a very informative and professionally run shearing school displaying all current shearing styles and techniques. I have been working for AWI (Australian Wool Innovation), along side world class trainers and current world record holders, in Australia and New Zealand and previously co-ordinated the shearer and wool handling training in Western Australia. Don Metheral has been shearing for more than 25 years and has represented Canada at the world shearing championships in Ireland and has won multiple world class shearing competitions. Let us help you start a new career in the wool harvesting industry. For enrolment details and costs please contact myself, Ryan Bowden on 9059149219 or Don Metheral on 7054662568. There are limited positions so get in early*

*You may also qualify to have 50% of your fees covered by the Growing Forward 2 Fund.*



# Communiqué

Pour diffusion immédiate

## De nouvelles possibilités d'exportation vers l'Ukraine s'ouvrent aux éleveurs canadiens

**Le 22 mai 2014 – Ottawa (Ontario) – Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada**

Les éleveurs canadiens profiteront de nouveaux débouchés à l'exportation en Ukraine avec la signature d'un arrangement autorisant les exportations de moutons et de chèvres de race. Les éleveurs canadiens de moutons et de chèvres peuvent maintenant augmenter leurs ventes à ce marché, et les sélectionneurs ukrainiens profiteront également d'un plus grand accès au matériel génétique animal de première qualité provenant du Canada.

Les obtenteurs d'animaux canadiens auront aussi droit à un certificat d'hygiène vétérinaire à jour et amélioré pour l'exportation de bovins de race vers l'Ukraine. Ce certificat préservera l'accès à ce marché qui a été accordé pour la première fois aux exportateurs canadiens en août 2012.

### Les faits en bref

- En 2013, les exportations de produits agricoles et alimentaires canadiens vers l'Ukraine se sont chiffrées à 75 millions de dollars. Les échanges bilatéraux entre le Canada et l'Ukraine ont augmenté de 65 p. 100 entre 2008 et 2013.
- En 2013, le Canada a exporté vers l'Ukraine des bovins de reproduction vivants d'une valeur marchande de plus de 1,5 million de dollars.

### Citations

« Notre gouvernement s'emploie activement à ouvrir de nouveaux marchés à l'industrie canadienne de l'élevage. L'expansion dans les marchés comme celui de l'Ukraine crée de nouveaux débouchés pour les producteurs et aide à faire croître l'ensemble de notre économie. »

- Le ministre de l'Agriculture, Gerry Ritz

« L'Association canadienne de l'industrie du bétail et de la génétique (ACIBG) se réjouit grandement de ce nouvel accès au marché de l'Ukraine, qui s'ouvre aux petits ruminants vivants. La possibilité d'exporter des animaux de reproduction vivants est un volet clé du succès de l'industrie animale canadienne, et nous remercions le gouvernement du Canada de s'associer à nos membres pour développer davantage le marché ukrainien. »

- Michael Hall, directeur administratif, ACIBG



## Liens connexes

[Le gouvernement Harper assure l'accès des bovins vivants au marché de l'Ukraine](#)

## Coordonnées pour les médias

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