

BC Report
by Bev Greenwell
CSBA rep for the BC Purebred Sheep Breeders Association

Purebred Sheep registrations from BC producers is down again in 2024, this is partly due to a number of members ageing out of sheep production, and to members selling purebred stock without bothering to register the animals. Unfortunately, this leaves it impossible to continue those particular bloodlines once their pedigrees are lost. It is to our own detriment, and detriment to the industry as a whole, to sell breeding stock without papers.

In an effort to improve membership and encourage new young sheep producers in BCPSBA the 2nd annual Western Future Junior Shepherds Show is being held in July. It will include purebred animals as well as commercial sheep, and with an educational component.

A presentation from CFIA Scrapie will occur later in spring, with the idea that new members can understand the importance of prevention and how genotyping for resistance works.

A field day / seminar is planned for late July/early August in the North Okanagan with a veterinarian presenter on various diseases, symptoms, and treatment. Demonstrations will be included.

BCPSBA continues to support 4H by offering a \$25 prize to the Champion Ewe Lamb at every fair in the province with more than one club participating. Also, a \$250 is offered at 2 provincial fairs, won as a draw, as money for the winner to put towards the purchase of a registered sheep from a BCPSBA member.

Fires and Drought, followed by floods, continue to plague rural BC. Climate change seems unrelenting and has negatively affected the optimism of many farms in BC.