



## **Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders 2024 Report**

Another year has come and gone once again Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders hosted our two major events. Grasslands Sheep Exhibition and Canadian Western Agribition 53<sup>rd</sup> edition. Grasslands was held in Humboldt, Sask on July 19-21 and I cohosted with the Saskatchewan Sheep Development board. This event includes our purebred and commercial show and sale, trade show, shearing competition, fleece competition, wool work demonstrations, working dog demonstrations, educational activities, lamb banquet, fun auction and our junior show. It was a privilege to welcome entries from BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario as well as Saskatchewan. There were 35 sheep show exhibitors, 28 fleece entries, 9 shearing competitors and 17 trade show booths.

This year's judge was Mike Grimmeyer with assistance from his daughter Emma, shared some very tough decisions with the high quality of animals entered. The supreme champion ram was a texel entered by Double L Farms, Fox Valley SK and the Supreme Ewe was a Suffolk entered by Ward Suffolks, Salcoats, SK. Buyers from across the country purchased animals at the sale. There were 135 lots that sold for an average price of \$864. High selling ram was a Charollais which sold for \$3,700 and the highest selling female was a Charollais that sold for \$2,300. Followed closely by a Ile De France which sold for \$2,200.

The shearing competition was once again a huge crowd pleaser. Novice winner was Landon Magel, Intermediate was Bethan Lewis and the open class was won by Pauline Bolay. Manitoba won the provincial team competition. Social events included a sold out lamb banquet with seasoned leg of lamb followed by our fun auction, bar and an impromptu dance. Grasslands provides a great opportunity industry partners to gather with sheep producers, visit and share a great time with friends old and new. Our Grasslands Sheep Exhibition is a premier event for the sheep industry and we invite you to mark your calendars for July 18-20, 2025 and join us in Humboldt, SK.

Our second event Canadian Western Agribition (CWA) took place in Regina, SK from Nov 25-30, 2024. Events included our purebred and commercial show and sale, junior show, market lamb show and sale, sheep shearing and hoof trimming demonstrations, our pizza feast and fun auction takes place in the show ring on Friday event. The Event culminates with our sale on Saturday afternoon.

Our shearing demonstration consistently draw a standing room only crowd and our shearer Jason Struck from Pilger SK narrated by Marisa Schuebel from Lakeland College did a fabulous job performing and explaining the process. They delivered an impressive demonstration, thoroughly explaining the process, addressed all questions and provided an opportunity to touch and feel the shorn fleeces.

Our judges for this year's show were Rod and Tracey Jordan from Rimbey, AB. They evaluated all the entries, place them and provided comments for their decision. Grand Champion Market Lamb was from Furze Farms, Maryfield, SK, while reserve was awarded to Cool Ally Livestock and Double L Livestock., Fox Valley, SK. The commercial pen show includes uniform groups saw Cool Ally Livestock from Tompkins, SK win the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion pens. The purebred



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pen grand champion was from Mish Katahdins and the reserve champion was from the Govan Ranch Englefeld, SK.

Friday was a parade of Champions with the Grand and Reserve Purebred ewes and rams selected from 10 different breed categories. The crowning of the show Supreme Champion was awarded to a Dorset ewe from Furze Farms Maryfield, SK. The Supreme Champion ram was award to a charollais from Sandy Hills Charollais Red Deer County, AB. The Supreme Champion Get-of-Sire and Breeders Flock was a group of Southdowns from Furze Farms Maryfield, SK. Furze Farms were also declared the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor. The rookie of the year was awarded to Lakeside Sheep Rapid City, MB.

Saturday started with our Junior show in the morning once again displaying our sheep industry will be in very food hands in the future. Our SSBA sale saw 47 lots selling for an average of \$1,119 per lot. High selling purebred ewe was a charollais from Sandy Hills Charollais brought \$3,100. Top selling ram was a Katahdin from Mish Katahdins that sold for \$4,600. Full sale results can be found on the CWA website.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of our shows and sales. Out sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, judges, auctioneer, ring folks, FLMS, veterinarians, culling folk, barn bosses and our valued partner Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board we could not successfully host these events without your hard work and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the sheep breeders in Saskatchewan for your support over the years it has truly been an honour and my pleasure to represent Saskatchewan on the CSBA board for all these years.