

2024 CSBA Provincial Report

I am pleased to present a 2023/24 summary for the Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association.

I won't speak much about the weather and devastation Alberta producers faced last year due to drought and wildfires, as it was record-breaking across the board and made international news. We wait anxiously as the drought has continued over the winter, with once again a record-breaking lack of snow and the mildest winter recorded.

On with sheep-related news, Alberta has approximately 173 CSBA members, with just under 1500 purebred registrations and approximately 884 purebred transfers completed in 2023.

Alberta is well-represented in production sales and online production sales, and Sheep 4-H also continues to be well-represented across the province. The 4-H provincial sheep show is held as part of Summer Synergy and will be held July 8-14 in Olds, Alberta. This weeklong show boasts sessions like judging camp, multi-judging, sheep learning events, conformation and showmanship classes, a Master Showman class, and scholarship interviews. ASBA continues to support 4-H educational activities with sponsorships.

ASBA supported another Youth Purebred Sheep Purchase Incentive last May, and we are already running our third Purebred Purchase Incentive. This incentive offers youth in Alberta a chance to win \$500 towards a purchase of a purebred sheep either by private treaty, production sale or the All Canada Classic. The 2023 winner was Hailey Oldale with her purchase of Jordan Heritage, a Suffolk ram. This year's Incentive is to complete a Scavenger Hunt. Young breeders need to use information on the ASBA, CSBA and CLRC websites to correctly answer 20 questions about the ins and outs of being a purebred sheep breeder.

At this time last year, Alberta's federal lamb processing plant was in creditor protection and has been operating under new ownership under Westfine Meats for about a year.

As the current CSBA representative on the CSF board, I am pleased to be an Alberta voice within the Canadian Sheep Federation. Alberta producers have provided positive feedback in this regard.

In October, ASBA held its biannual symposium. It was a fantastic event and very well received. It was very nice to host the symposium after missing our 2021 symposium.

The theme was The Economical Shepherd. We had great speakers, a trade fair, a banquet, a parasite workshop and a silent auction that supports our scholarships and youth activities. ASBA is currently planning an online sale for purebred producers.

I would like to thank Linda Brandes, our secretary/manager and the ASBA board of directors for the past year, and for their enthusiasm for purebred sheep in Alberta.

There is so much more that I could talk about with sheep and Alberta, but I will leave it here.

Thank you, guests, for joining CSBA this morning for the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Nikkel