

Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association



What is the CSBA?

The CSBA is a non-profit organization that is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the national purebred sheep flock. The CSBA is governed by a provincially elected board of directors and represents over 1300 members and over 40 breeds of sheep. The CSBA was federally incorporated in 1905.

The CSBA:

- Sets breed standards
- Requests random parentage testing (blood/DNA) on every 500th animal registered
- Supports GenOvis, a national genetic evaluation program
- Works with new breeds wishing to join the national registry
- Holds a national purebred show and sale called the All Canada Sheep Classic, which is hosted by a different province every year
- Sponsors provincial level 4-H sheep events, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and Agribition
- Funds and participates in research projects
- Produces promotional material for the purebred industry
- Cooperates with government and other provincial and national organizations on issues of import/export, disease control, farm safety, traceability and policy.

Mission

The CSBA's mission is to represent all Canadian sheep breeders by providing leadership aimed at insuring the integrity and genetic advancement of purebred sheep through cooperative work among all levels of government and industry-related organizations, both domestic and international, to enhance the viability, growth and prosperity of the Canadian sheep industry.

The Benefit of Purebred Sheep

Purebred sheep producers are committed to maintaining and improving the economically important traits of their breed. The goal of purebred sheep production is to provide superior genetics to the commercial sheep industry and to other purebred producers. Purebred sheep ensure a set type of characteristics typical for that breed, including: growth rate, fertility, mothering ability, carcass quality, flocking instinct and wool character.

Purebred sheep are commonly used in crossbreeding programs to incorporate genetic characteristics typical for that breed into the offspring. Using a maternal sire breed to produce replacement females can greatly increase lambing percentage, mothering ability, milk production and out of season breeding. The use of a terminal sire breed will increase growth rate, carcass quality and feed efficiency.

Managing Newly Purchased Animals

Canada is a large country with many different farming practices that have been adapted to suit the local environment. Feed, shelter and disease prevalence vary from province to province and farm to farm. Please ask the seller for specific instructions on the care and introduction of your new sheep. Following specific instructions will reduce animal stress and improve production.

Providing the best
purebred sheep
genetics in the world
to the world.

Keep in mind:

- 1. Feed:** Transition the diet slowly. Rapid changes with grain and grass can cause illness and death.
- 2. Quarantine:** New sheep should be kept separate from the main flock for several weeks as they adjust to their new environment.
- 3. Shelter:** As with feeding, transitions should be slow. Flock care can vary from complete housing to extensive range management.
- 4. Disease:** Additional vaccines, deworming medications and vitamins/minerals may be required depending on your location. Know the health status of your existing flock and how it compares with the new sheep.
- 5. Reproduction:** Fertility can be compromised if rams or ewes are expected to breed before they have adjusted to their new environment. Although recommendations vary by breed, ram lambs should not be exposed to more than 20 ewes in their first breeding season. The breeding season will need to be shortened, with additional feed and care provided, to allow the ram lamb to reach its full growth potential. Yearling rams should not be exposed to more than 40 ewes.

Registration papers must be transferred to the new owner no later than 6 months from purchase.

The Importance of Registration

Registered purebred animals come with registration papers, which are proof that the animal is purebred and guarantees the animal's parentage. The CSBA requires that every 500th animal be blood/DNA tested to ensure accurate parentage. Registration papers must be transferred to the new owner no later than 6 months from purchase. The registration papers must be completed, signed and submitted to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) for the transfer of ownership to be documented.

Individual animal identification is a required component for registering new animals. You may choose between tattooing or double tagging with Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) approved tags (see Rules of Eligibility form).

You do not need to be a CSBA member to transfer or register sheep; however, there is a significant cost savings for CSBA members. In addition, CSBA members are entitled to vote at provincial and national meetings.

An annual CSBA membership costs \$80, plus applicable taxes.

Several forms are available on the CLRC (www.clrc.ca) and the CSBA (www.sheepbreeders.ca) websites.

Available forms include:

- a) Rules of eligibility,
- b) Membership application,
- c) Instructions to new members,
- d) Registration application,
- e) Transfer application,
- f) Fee schedule
- g) Letters used to designate years of birth.

If you have questions, or would like to have the forms mailed to you, please contact Melanie Overduin (Sheep Registrar at the CLRC) at 1 (877) 833-7110 ext. 306.

The CSBA encourages the use of a written agreement in the sale of purebred animals. A guideline for the sale of purebred sheep is available on the CSBA's website.



Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

Box 7 St Albert, AB T8N 1N2

Toll free: 1-866-956-1116 Fax: 1-416-972-1023

office@sheepbreeders.ca www.sheepbreeders.ca

La Société Canadienne des Éleveurs de Moutons