

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FROM ATLANTIC REGION

ARNOLD STEEVES

February 18, 2021

RE: Judges Licenses Conferences

Due to the Pandemic situation across Canada, and with Government and Provincial restrictions will make it difficult to hold conferences in 2021.

Once Covid restrictions are lifted and we are hopeful we can resume our Judges Licenses Conferences in 2022.

The CGS Board wishes to inform all Current Licensed CGS Judges that their Licenses will be extended for 2021, at no cost.

The Canadian Meat Goat Association has contacted CGS and would like to see if there was interest in CGS Dairy Judges, that would be interested in being trained as Canadian Meat Goat Judges. Their program for training is much different than the CGS Program, yet similar. Details of their program have yet to be discussed. The CGS Board is excited to work with CMGA should CGS Judges be open to this opportunity. Not all judges have to participate.

Respectively submitted,

Arnie Steeves, CGS Director District 6

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FROM QUEBEC

CATHERINE LORD

Well 2020 ! The pandemic.. We can say that 2020 was not a usual year and the beginning of 2021 too but continue to hope my goat friends, shows will be back some day!!!

Let's find positive !! I want to talk about registrations. As you could read in CGS newsletter , the stats for 2020 are good with an increase of 11% of registrations over 2019 , 30% in transfers and 4% in number of members. It is over 125 new herd names for 2020 !

This year , the fee increases are minor. Great! I want to encourage you to low your cost of registrations by using the volume registrations who is now available for more members as the minimum is 10!! Was over 50 few years ago... It is electronic registrations , paperless as you wont receive a printed certificate but you dont need it for shows since 2017! So you pay less and it is an occasion to be more "green" and save papers! Why not??!!! I personally use it for more than 10 years and i am really happy . The CLRC team is easy to contact if you have questions and the service is faster with electronic. You avoid mail delay to send request and to get them back .

When you register an doe kid, you have some choices for colour ... just click no need to right it several time on the request form. You can choose sire and dam by registration number, tattoo or name so it avoid some errors because you can only choose one on your name of ownership. A fact that i really like is that we can track our applications so you can see when CLRC team received it and when the job is done. You can also review or update your applications.

The "manage my account " on CLRC website is where you can update your informations, renew membership and manage your herd. The website has been updated and it is really easy and fun to work with. We milk an average of 300 does so with around 600 goats on the farm (including doe kids) it is really interesting for us to have the electronic options as we can now transfer animals on the site and cull some animals.

Did you know that you can add some pictures of your does or bucks on the website?!! There is now possible and it is a real great way to promote your herd and animals! When i look for new pedigrees on the website it will be really interesting to see what the animals looks like!!! Don't hesitate to try it ! Well as you can see i am a Pro electronic registrations ! Especially since we can show our does without the printed certificate, it is in CGS show rules . Sure you will need to have an internet access on the fairsite to check the registrations but i think every fair is able to have it at the moment to check tattoos and papers. Just need to ask them it is really easy and simple. The fair i went were really happy to use it as it is less papers for them too !

Did you know that with your CGS annual membership you have an access to database of www.goatgenetics.ca ??!!! That site is a real great tool for detailed informations on goats , pedigrees and progeny . You can see the best goats for breedings on check for top goats by breed for production, type or Production and type combined index! And you can plan some matings too!! Let's go take a look on it and enjoy!!!

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FROM ONTARIO EDWARD CAVANAGH

Hello Ontario Membership and the Entire Membership of The Canadian Goat Society.

Hopefully everyone is remaining safe during this trying time with the Pandemic, there is certainly much more hope for Things Moving in a more Positive Direction within the coming Year !!!!!

I appreciated trying to help everyone within my District when they called with a specific problems, as well as brainstorming with members from other Districts who contacted me with Questions and concerns. Any member can call or text me and I will be sure to get back to them as long as they identify who they are and their specific problem. Working together and utilizing the many resources our membership has to offer will continue to enhance our Society as a whole. No one is more important than a cohesive group of members working towards a positive goal.

I finished the Code of Ethics for the BOD of CGS , Everyone then had input , so it was tweaked, and now we have a working Code of Ethics which should help alleviate future problems. The document will help guide everyone into making mindful decisions and also ensure we are pursuing a course of action of inclusion without forgetting everyone has Rights. The Society is ever evolving with the World and it's always an exciting new time to be involved in the Growth of an industry "Goats" in this case to ensure we are properly represented with a Physical presence and a proper working updated set of bylaws , Constitution, Code of Ethics and Code of Practice within the Parameters of the Government.

There are so many Positive ideas, in the Goat Industry , I look forward to helping others achieve their Future Goals.

Hopefully I will actually get to see some of you this Summer of Fall.

Fingers Crossed.

Best Wishes only Sincerely Ed Cavanagh Ontario Director

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FROM ONTARIO

KAREN CAVANAGH

Dear Members,

First off, I would like to congratulate all of you for making it through one of the most challenging years! I know everyone was disappointed with the lack of goat shows to attend in 2020, as I relate all too well. We can only hope moving into the show season of 2021 for some luck on our side with the pandemic, and that it may subside enough even to attend one goat show (fingers crossed). While 2020 saw a lack of goat shows, it was a year full of planning and growth at CGS.

Genetic improvement in my mind has been an area greatly overlooked by CGS to date, as it has not been adapting to today's technology advances. It is my great hope moving forward CGS adopts a new technology or application that allows members to keep track of their goat pedigrees, and that offers users an ability to receive mock-up projections on possible genetics of offspring. For my final project with my post-secondary Grad program, I have been designing an application which would be a great tool for CGS members to not only keep track of goats, breeding records, kidding dates, but would offer the exciting feature of members seeing the possible breeding genetic improvements within their herds. While this is still in the very early stages, it is my hope that moving forward CGS does take a more technological based approach to the organization following with the trends of today's society.

I would like to thank all CGS members for allowing me to represent Ontario as a Director. This has been a very hectic year while adapting to a new normal with the pandemic, the position of director, part-time work, full-time post-secondary school, and everything in between. Without every member there would be no CGS, may we all continue to work as a cohesive team and strive for excellence moving forward. "When one team member succeeds, the entire team succeeds".

Thank you,

Karen Cavanagh, Region 4 director

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FROM MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN

SUSAN FRAZER

Challenges and Rewards of Classification

OK so I am going to talk briefly about classification. First of all let me give you my background with it. I first had some goats classified in 1985. Since then I have had 30 classifications over the years with 15 different classifiers, 4 of whom were with Holstein Canada. Russell has been at my farm 7 times over the years. There was a good rotation so that it was not the same classifier all the time. I had my goats classified pretty much every year it was offered and there was always something new to learn from the experience. It is very enlightening to have goats have 3, 4 or even 5 classifications as they age, and while scores can go up or down, the consistency with individual traits has been very noticeable over the years. The most important aspect of classification is using it as a tool to improve the genetics of your herd. I have said many times before, but I will say it again, it is not about the Final Score! Look at the other scores and especially the individual ones, because those are the ones to pay attention to in order to improve your herd. You should be using classification as a long term exercise for your breeding decisions, classifying just once or twice is not going to give you the information you really need.

Now sometimes you do not like your score, rather than just blaming the classifier, wait and go over the scoresheet later, often we have to have a more objective mindset and take our emotion for the animal out of the analysis. And then next year at classification see if there are trends good or bad recurring. Or perhaps you say, classification is too expensive, well unfortunately all fees have to increase and our classification ones have not even kept up with the cost of inflation over the years. The challenges of cost are the same now as they were back in the '90s.. It is a very difficult balancing act to not have a deficit and yet have it affordable for the participants. We all struggle with the question – “ Is classification giving me good value for my money?” If you are a serious breeder and in it for the long term it will pay dividends by the genetic improvement in your herd. That could be seen as priceless. If you just want it for the advertising value, then it might be questionable.

I have heard comments from people that feel if there is a lot of herds close together in one region then should they not get classification cheaper? Well that might sound logical, but if the other herds in less populated areas are charged more they may decide not to classify and then the whole cost of the program is borne by only a few. So while it might sound like it should work we have to remember that under the Animal Pedigree Act Breed associations are expected to operate in a democratic fashion. So again CGS is tasked with balancing cost for service with service to all.

Classification is regrettably put on hold for 2021 due to the unpredictable covid situation and different restrictions in the different provinces. This should allow us to set things up for hopefully a go-ahead year in 2022. There is some program adjustments and analysis taking place already and we will look at training programs in order to be able to offer classification with a rotation of classifiers. That is definitely one of the goals.

Could we be more cost effective by having classification “meets” or pairing it with shows? Absolutely, we have done that in the past and it will be looked at for the future. Again we will need to consider biosecurity, but if you are already at a show that is not an issue.

Most of us as breeders are very passionate about our animals. Classification is another tool for us to evaluate our breeding program and hopefully have our herds progressing to be better and better. The

CGS office and Board of Directors is also passionate about goats and has many years of experience both participating, evaluating and administering the program. We look forward to continuing its legacy.

REPORT OF ALBERTA DIRECTOR

CALLUM MCLEOD

2020 was a highly unusual year for CGS and this was the case in my home district of Alberta as well. In light of the global pandemic, there were no shows or classification in Alberta this year, however there were many members that took part in both one day and 305 day milk testing across the province in 2020, and many of them achieved great results! I received communication from a number of members that 2020 proved a very good year for animals sales as there has been a renewed interest in family milk animals and young stock for meat and future milking. While many of these animals were not sold as registered, it is none the less important to have a consistent and strong market for animals that may not fit in a breeders program moving forward, and any interest in raising purebred goats is good in my books.

In 2020 I had the opportunity to lead a dedicated group of members through a comprehensive review of the CGS Bylaws, and I would like to publicly thank all of those members who participated in this effort. Thanks to their dedication, we have prepared a considerable number of proposed amendments that are currently being reviewed by Ag-Canada, and once this review is complete, we will proceed with getting these amendments voted on and implemented. The general overview of the proposed amendments is modernization. We have adjusted wording to permit for electronic voting and official communication as well as setting the framework to be able to adapt to upcoming advances in technology in the future.

While from the outside, 2020 may look like a quiet year with very few shows and no classification, I can assure you that all members of the board have been hard at work on all aspects of the society. Policies and program manuals have been reviewed and updated and we have conducted an in depth review and analysis of Classification data from the last five years to try to find the root cause of the most common issues encountered by members and classifiers in the 2019 Classification season. In essence, 2020 has been an opportunity to get the house in order so that when we get back to the normal rhythm of life in the (hopefully) near future, the society will be firing on all cylinders and many of the chronic issues of the past will stay where they belong, in the past.

Sincerely, Callum McLeod

REPORT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DIRECTOR

SANDY HOWELL

There seems to be questions about the office and how it's run, so I would like to try and explain a few things.

When CGS moved from the Alliance and hired a new Secretary, they weren't strong in book keeping so it was left up to them to hire a book keeper.

As everyone knows the new Secretary, (due to several health issues) didn't work out and Russell Gammon was hired as interim Secretary.

The book keeper that had been hired by the new Secretary at the time, had many difficulties and I think not understanding the industry made it very challenging. Hence the 2019 financial statements that the Board was handed the night before the 2019 AGM. The Board didn't have a chance to review what was sent so when the statements were presented at the AGM it was quite frankly a disaster as everyone knows.

This all meant that Russell spent many hours with the new book keeper that was hired, going through papers and boxes to retrieve items needed so that the accountant could put entries in correct categories, and entries that had been missed or allocated to the wrong ledger. All of this was very time consuming for Russell, the Board as well as the accountant at RLB that does our financial statements. And of course time is money. At the same time as all of this was happening, the office still had to be open for business and accounts either had to be billed or collected, answer member's questions and keep CGS moving forward.

It has taken a good part of 2020 to finalize the 2019 financials, so that they are correct and at the same time keeping the financials up to date for 2020.

The book keeper that was hired in 2020 has done an excellent job in supplying monthly balance sheets for the Board so we know where our finances are at and has made it much much easier for the Accountant at RLB to do our year end books that are correct.

While 2020 was a very challenging year financially, 2021 should be a smoother year at a lot less cost to the Society and will provide more time for the everyday running of the Society.

The office in Guelph will be closed as of the end of February. Due to the pandemic, Russell has mainly worked from home, so in order to save money, it was decided to let Russell take the office home with him.

While 2019 and 2020 have been very full, I think that we are on track for a better 2021.

I would like to take this time, to Thank Russell, from all of the Board, for all the hard work and patience that you have put into the Society. While there has been many up and downs throughout the year, you have been the rock and steady rod of the Board and the Society. I am very thankful as I am sure everyone is. Sandy