



Canadian Goat Society
La Société Canadienne Des Éleveurs De Chèvres
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ISSUE 155 OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ACTION REPORT FROM CGS

2021 has roared by in a flash and with it, all of us.

We have had a number of MEGABOOM moments to celebrate that inspire us to move on into the future with great excitement and enthusiasm!!

Here is a wonderful sampler:

1. The finances of CGS have more than stabilized over the past year and a half. Back then we did not have sufficient funds to cover all of our commitments. This year we have been able to establish a solid reserve fund for CGS. Our investments are conservative but generating us more than a simple savings account would do. We have yet to reach the level of reserves recommended by financial experts of half of one year's operating expenses. That being said, there may be little or no actual need for this association to reach that level but we are almost half way there. Reserves will allow us to take advantage of opportunities to change and grow. With resources come options!
2. In addition to the investments we have reasonable amounts in both our active chequing account and regular savings account so that we can be ready for rainy days. We are in a position where we have virtually zero current payables at the end of every month. We can, and do, pay valid charges promptly-this avoids charges for overdue payments. In addition we have worked through a large number of accounts receivable-some paid very quickly, and others who needed some encouragement to complete the process. We also keep an eagle eye on our bank account associated with income at CLRC and make regular transfers to our internal bank account when we are sure the amount of our monthly levy has been paid.
3. We utilize services of a book keeper who efficiently supplies month-end reports by the 10th to the 12th of the next month as soon as all monthly reports are received. This partner in progress does so with minimal time usage and thus low cost to CGS. We are pleased to report that over the first eight months of 2021 the margin of income over expenses is at a very pleasing level. This balance for the year to date and the larger positive financial position of CGS is an expression of the wisdom the board has shown in managing finances. Financial stability is crucial to an association!
4. Another step which has improved the financial position of the association was closing the Guelph office as of the end of February 2021. We actually only had to pay one month's rent in 2021 due to the first and last month's rent clause.
5. Part of the reason for the significant improvement in financial performance has been a decided upswing in our registry totals at CLRC. A quick look at those totals year to date paint an inspiring portrait: In eight months memberships are at their highest total since 2002, nineteen (19!!) years ago! This total is 12% ahead of August 2020 YTD figures and 6.5% ahead of all of 2020! What a revival!

6. Registrations were 6.7% behind the August 2020 level as of last month. This is a sharp uptick from a few months earlier when they were down over 35% from the previous year. On the other hand transfers are up 14% this year as are tattoo registrations, herd name registrations are up 16% and the new member total for 2021 is 22% ahead of the same period in 2020! Please note that these figures follow a year in which memberships were up 4% over 2019, registrations were up 11% and transfers 30% and when over 125 new herd names and tattoo combinations were registered!
7. Given the number of calls and emails we receive on a weekly basis this definite uptick in business is far from a huge surprise to us. We work quickly with staff on the CGS desk at CLRC to answer the questions and needs of these new/newer people. We are delighted by how quickly the CLRC folks communicate on specifics with these new or potential new members.
8. We realize that there has been some slowness in processing registry work, yes, increased volume and education of new people and their abundant questions take time. If any member has any registry matter that has challenges attached to it regarding processing time please contact CGS and we'll investigate and see what supplemental information is needed.
9. We are fully caught up on processing of Star M/One Day milk tests and are now completing a small number of award certificates for mailing to owners. To date 75 goats have earned a Star m award on one day milk tests. We'll celebrate all 2021 Star M award winners in the Yearbook of 2021 activity to be printed in early 2022.
10. We are so thankful that some live shows could be held in 2021 and are processing awards certificates with some other ROAs on their way to us and three more shows to come. New Permanent Champions in 2020 and 2021 will also be celebrated in the year book in early 2022.
11. We are thankful to have a responsive web designer who quickly updates any new information or revisions that we request at a very minimal cost.
12. In this issue you will have a chance to return notice to CGS that you want publications from CGS only in digital form. We will, of course, continue to publish our materials in printed form for those with a preference or need for them in that manner. However; we have heard from numerous members that they only want/need material in digital form. We are acting on that request. All members need to do is to return notice by email or postal mail and we'll implement the change. Depending upon uptake we could see a reduction in printing costs.
13. We are thankful to CGS director Callum McLeod for preparing a very extensive and "deep dive" presentation of the CGS conformation classification program. Callum made his presentation to an audience of industry reps and goat producers via a webinar series in late July. The overall theme of the presentation was genetic improvement of the goat population and how such improvement could increase income and reduce costs. The webinar series was organized by staff of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Power point slides from the presentations and recordings of said presentations can be found on the CGS website at www.goats.ca in the NEWS section in an August 29, 2021 posting therein.
14. Elections for three Board positions were held this summer. In Alberta, Chris Grab was elected and in Ontario Jonathan Dugdale and Edward Cavanagh were elected. Congratulations to these three members! And thanks to everyone who accepted a nomination in the election. The new Board members will begin their term as of the next CGS Annual Meeting. Breaking news: The next Annual meeting of CGS will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022 in virtual format.
15. Changes have been approved for the CGS 305 day milk recording program. After analysis of the volume of work that the 305 day program requires of CGS, the Board approved a motion to significantly reduce the CGS portion of fees for this service and to revise requirements to further lower costs. The program is run in cooperation with Lactanet. The changes prompted one herd to

join the program and we are anticipating arrival of an application for a second herd. We have also had discussions with other herd owners about using this service. Thanks to all members who participate in CGS herd improvement programs.

16. The Board has initiated a project of discovery regarding herd breeding record keeping in registered goat herds across Canada. They began the work by asking all Board members to provide a copy of their herd breeding records for 2019 and 2020. The next step in the process is to invite 6 members from across the country-one from each director region-to provide a copy of their 2020 breeding records of matings, births from these matings and onward future of the resulting kids. Members were selected at random. Individual records will remain confidential. The goal is to develop educational materials about the types of systems in use across Canada-handwritten, personally-developed spreadsheets and herd management software so that members see the range and possibly land on systems that will make their work more efficient. The OMAFRA webinar series included a segment on herd record-keeping as it can contain a goldmine of information for bench-marking and herd improvement-genetics and management! An important topic!
17. We have maintained active use of the tool of social media with regard to the CGS Facebook page and subsequent posting of material on the CGS website.
18. One of the most exciting happenings with the association has been joint efforts with sheep, meat goat and dairy goat organizations and industry partners like CCSI and Ag Sites and CLRC and small ruminant organizations in Quebec. The goal has been to create integrated databases for archival and functional purposes. Another goal is to expand understanding of and use of genetic improvement programs! We have been able to secure significant funding for this work and Steering Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since late 2020. Significant progress has been made. To date CGS costs of participating have been more than covered through the funding mechanism. Well known Canadian animal geneticist Dr. Jacques Chesnais has been engaged to facilitate the work and jumped into the role with great gusto! Stay tuned for details on funding for this highly valuable effort!

AND WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Over and above all of the activity outlined above we are engaged in these ongoing efforts:

- A. Engagement and cooperation with Heritage Livestock Canada on a project to arrive at some measures of genetic diversity in our breed populations.
- B. Planning for a relaunch of classification service in 2022.
- C. Ongoing work on our by-laws which have not been revised since the late 1990s.
- D. More refinements to our website.
- E. Planning for renewal of judges licenses and hosting of Judges Licensing conferences in 2022. Watch the CGs Facebook page and website for details re hosting a Judges Licensing Conference in 2022!
- F. Hopefully, the ability to expand our investment portfolio base.

And finally, what other services and assistance and education do you require from CGS or our associated industry partners? We are here to help and to serve!

Very best regards,

Russell Gammon and the CGS Board

CGS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

VIRTUAL FORMAT

NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY DECEMBER 2021

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN IT PLEASE LET US KNOW BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2021.

IN EARLY 2022 A YEARBOOK OF 2021 AWARD WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED.
GREAT ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES IN THAT BOOK TOO!

HERITAGE LIVESTOCK CANADA/CGS JOINT PROJECT

RE GENETIC DIVERSITY IN CANADIAN GOAT BREED POPULATIONS.

Should you wish to participate in this new project to obtain a clearer handle on the level of genetic diversity in breeds worked with at CGS please contact

HLC Chair Rebecca Lange at bramblesnubians@gmail.com

Sandy Howell at clearday29@gmail.com

Callum McLeod at callum.kaarsoo.mcleod@gmail.com

CGS member Rebecca has been a driving force behind this work. CGS Board members Sandy and Callum have graciously volunteered to assist Rebecca and the team of scientists taking part in the effort.

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