

## C.L.R.C WORKSHOP AND 96<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

A very enthusiastic group attended the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation Workshop and Annual Meeting at the Four Points Hotel, Mississauga Ontario on April 6 and 7, 2001.

The annual Workshop was an extremely informative event. After the participants had been welcomed by CLRC Chairman Bryon Wilson, Eric Lawlor, Regional Information Coordinator with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs led off the day with a session on Making Volunteer Organizations Work. Eric emphasized that, in order to secure volunteers, tasks must be defined as to what is to be done and the approximate amount of time involved, and must be suited to a person's talents and abilities. Eric involved the group in a number of activities that illustrated the dynamics of group formation and how tasks get done within a group.

Ron James, Manager of the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association (CSBA) guided the group through some thoughts on Developing Export Markets for Genetics. Ron provided pointers on what is required to obtain government funding, and pointed out some of the barriers: cultural, political and economic, that must be dealt with. Ron stressed that breed associations should not actually act as exporters but rather support the exporters with promotional materials and advertising. He also spoke of the opportunity that exists for Canadian associations to register the offspring of exported animals in the Canadian herd book, as CSBA is now doing in China.

Dave Trus, Animal Registration Officer with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, provided a brief update, touching on the proper procedures for submitting by-law amendments, on developments in the field of biotechnology that will impact breed associations, and on research into effective breeding population sizes. On this latter topic, Dave noted the impact on the effective breeding population when too few males are used as breeding animals even if the female population is still very high.

The final session of the day was led by Chairman Wilson who reviewed the relationship between CLRC and breed associations under the Animal Pedigree Act, emphasizing that CLRC belongs to, and is really part of, the member associations.

Representatives from 19 member associations were present at the Annual Meeting. In his opening remarks, Chairman Bryon Wilson spoke of the long history of CLRC and the tremendously valuable service that CLRC provides on a daily basis to the livestock industry. Those in attendance reviewed the usual reports and heard of the current state of the computer replacement project that CLRC has undertaken. It was noted that the Canadian Donkey and Mule Association and Canadian Pinzgauer Association had joined CLRC since last year's Annual Meeting.

In the election for the Board of Directors, Betty Small, Harriston, Ontario, from the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association and Gerry Lalonde, Cumberland, Ontario (Canadian Horse Breeders Association/Société des Éleveurs des Chevaux Canadiens) were re-elected to the Board for a two-year term, along with new member Sheryl Blackburn, Eldorado, Ontario (Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association). They will join continuing Directors Bryon Wilson, Peggy

Newman, Dan Stephenson and David Trus. After the meeting, the Directors re-elected Bryon Wilson as Chairman and Peggy Newman as Vice-Chairman.

The 2002 Workshop and Annual Meeting will be held in Calgary, Alberta on April 12 and 13, 2002.