

MINUTES

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION (CLRC)

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The one hundred and seventh Annual Meeting of Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (formerly Canadian National Live Stock Records) was held at the Executive Royal Inn North Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, on March 31, 2012.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Rieberger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. following a buffet luncheon.

IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVES AND GUESTS

After Mr. Rieberger and General Manager Ron Black introduced themselves, those present introduced themselves. 26 voting representatives were present from 21 member associations as follows:

American Saddlebred Horse Association of Canada: Shirley Mace
Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association: Myrna Flesch (CLRC Director)
Canadian Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Association: Verena Peden
Canadian Dexter Cattle Association: Allyn Nelson
Canadian Donkey and Mule Association: Sharon Cooke
Canadian Fjord Horse Association: Geri McNeil
Canadian Galloway Association: Bob Airth
Canadian Goat Society: John Henderson
Canadian Hays Converter Association: Dan Hays
Canadian Highland Cattle Society: Barb Proudfoot
Canadian Katahdin Sheep Association: Mike King
Canadian Lowline Cattle Association: Ted Jansen
Canadian Morgan Horse Association: Cindy Dietz, Lyle Dietz
Canadian Palomino Horse Association Jill Stephenson
Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association: Mike Rieberger (CLRC Director), Stacey White
Canadian Shorthorn Ass'n: Dan Stephenson (CLRC Director), Sheryl Blackburn (CLRC Director)
Canadian Sport Horse Association: Linda Ackermann
Canadian Swine Breeders' Association: Jim Donaldson
Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse: Hilton Hack
Canadian Warmblood Horse Breeders Association: Chris Gould, Kathy Laxton
Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Canada: Mary Cork (CLRC Director), Lea Kroll

Also present: David Trus (Animal Registration Officer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), Adrian & Rita Hykaway and Rita Nelson (Canadian Dexter Cattle Association guests)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: John Henderson/Allyn Nelson – That the agenda be approved as presented.
Carried.

At this time there was a **MOMENT OF SILENCE** for those breeders who had passed away during the past year.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Chairman Mike Rieberger thanked everyone for attending the meeting, noting that he was pleased with the number of people attending this year. He read his report printed in the CLRC Annual Report for 2011, noting that there had been an increase in the work volume over 2010, that a new employee had joined the staff at CLRC, and that new furnishings had been purchased. He stated that it had been his pleasure to serve as Chairman the last two years, and expressed appreciation to the Board members and to the staff.

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEETING

MOTION: Geri McNeil/Barb Proudfoot – That the minutes of the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation Annual Meeting held April 2, 2011 in Toronto, Ontario, be approved as circulated. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes to be acted upon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP

Mike Rieberger acknowledged, with thanks, that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce had sponsored the buffet luncheon that had been served.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Ron Black also welcomed everyone. He referred to his report printed in the 2011 Annual Report, also referring to the increase in total work volume over the previous year. He stated that the Annual Report chronicles a very good year at CLRC and encouraged everyone to take some time to study the statistics for the various breeds, as there is much to be learned by doing so. He pointed out a few trends that he had seen over the past year. One is the increased number of breeding animals being exported from Canada, especially to non-traditional markets including China, Russia, South Korea, Thailand and Latin America. Another trend is the increase in business CLRC is doing for associations outside of Canada. Thirdly, he has observed that several of the smaller breeds in all species are struggling to keep numbers viable.

He reminded those present that the CLRC website contains a lot of valuable information on many subjects and is very heavily used. Some enhancements have been made and more will be forthcoming.

He closed his remarks by expressing his appreciation to the CLRC staff and to the Board members.

AUDITOR'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Ron Black presented the Auditor's Report and the Financial Statement for 2011, as prepared by BDO Canada LLP. He explained the major variations from the previous year in certain line items. The Financial Statement showed a surplus for the year, and resultant increase in net assets, of \$62,954.

MOTION: Jim Donaldson/Lyle Dietz – That the Auditor's Report and Financial Statement for 2011 be accepted as presented. Carried.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

MOTION: Sheryl Blackburn/Myrna Flesch – That BDO Canada LLP be appointed as auditors for 2012. Carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Rieberger called upon Sheryl Blackburn to present the report of the nominating committee. There were three positions on the Board of Directors to be filled. She reported that the nominating committee was putting forth the names of Dan Stephenson, Myrna Flesch and Stacey White for election to the Board.

Mike Rieberger called three times for further nominations from the floor, and there, being none, declared nominations closed and the three nominees to have been elected by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rieberger asked if there was any new business. None was brought forward.

PRESENTATIONS

Mike Rieberger called on David Trus, Animal Registration Officer and Administrator of the Animal Pedigree Act, who gave an update from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada pertaining to three topics: Animal Welfare issues, Biotechnology issues and the Animal Pedigree Act. A summary of his presentation is attached as **Appendix A**.

Mike Rieberger introduced Jim Donaldson, CLRC Director, President of the Canadian Swine Breeders' Association, and an exporter of Canadian swine genetics for over thirty years through his own company and the Canadian Swine Exporters' Association. Jim gave an informative, illustrated presentation on some of the aspects of exporting, as well as on swine breeding in Canada. In particular, he noted the importance of breeders working together in alliances, as he himself does, in order to source sufficient animals for some of the export shipments, and engaging people with the correct expertise to assist with the exporting procedures. He also spoke of the state of the swine industry in Canada, which now involves just three main breeds, and of Canada's superior health status, and advanced testing and breed improvement tools. These factors have contributed in large measure to the high demand for Canadian swine breeding stock in many countries. Personally Jim has done business in 50 countries worldwide. He also spoke of his facility where he trains people from other countries in various aspects of swine breeding and husbandry.

Mary Cork presented retiring Chairman Mike Rieberger with a scroll, and Sheryl Blackburn presented a framed print, in recognition of his service on the CLRC Board of Directors.

It was announced by the Chairman that the 2013 Annual Meeting will take place in Ontario (specific location to be determined) on Saturday, April 6, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Mike King – That the meeting be adjourned.

**Appendix A: Canadian Livestock Records Corporation
Annual General Meeting 2012
- Updates from AAFC -David Trus (Animal Registration Officer)**

A. Animal Welfare and Breeding

Animal welfare is rapidly gaining public and market visibility and interest. Concerns are beginning to touch on breeding practices and how they may lead to compromised animal welfare in the commercial populations. This is something that breed associations need to become more aware of and to have appropriate strategies to address. Why?

“Animal welfare” is increasingly becoming an important quality attribute for the retail sector. Assurance of animal production practices and indicators of animal welfare, are becoming important requirements in domestic and international markets. Animal welfare will affect product marketability and price.

Compromised animal welfare is a point of vulnerability for the whole of the livestock industry vis-à-vis public confidence and acceptance. The “social licence” by which livestock producers operate cannot be taken for granted. There are fewer and fewer people directly engaged in the farming and livestock industry, limited or no direct contact with animal production by 99% of the public, and misinformation and publicity campaigns. Therefore, the livestock industry’s social licence to operate can diminish rapidly, especially if it cannot demonstrate that credible steps are being taken.

Animal care practices are regulated only to a limited degree, but legal and regulatory pressures are likely to increase. Provinces have considerable ability to regulate production practices if they so choose, so it is critical that the industry demonstrate it can take responsibility for addressing animal welfare issues without regulation. Good breeding practices are one area where direction is needed. For example:

1. Set criteria for all breed practices (i.e. methods, traits, reproductive practices, population restrictions) that take into account animal well-being
2. Establish a breeder code of ethics [*Note: A code of ethics should normally be a personal commitment of the members and may even be a criterion of membership, but is not something that lends itself to regulation. This might also be done at the species level, not just the breed level.*]
3. Lend special attention to critical practices most likely to induce stress and be unacceptable to the public - e.g. castration, dehorning, branding, sow stalls, layer cages, loading/unloading
4. Codes of Practice - There is a major renewal underway of the Codes of Practice led by the National Farm Animal Care Council (www.nfacc.ca) with \$3.4 million from AAFC over 4 years. Some practices under review (e.g. castration) may be viewed differently by the breeding vs. commercial sectors. Breed associations should ensure they are aware of the implications for breeding operations of any proposed changes and get involved in the process where appropriate.

B. Animal Biotechnology

A memo was sent to all breed associations two years ago, outlining the various regulations in Canada that may apply to animals resulting from new technologies, including clones. It also indicated the regulatory departments responsible and who to contact if there are questions. All associations should keep the document handy, especially if members are considering importing animals that might derive from biotechnology.

No genetically engineered animals have been approved either in Canada or elsewhere for food and feed use. However, there have been several animals developed in Canada and around the world which may be approved in the future. The breeding sector is often the first point of entry for introduction of new genetics into the country. Breed associations should have a vision for if and how they would accept such animals into their populations? If you do not currently have policies or rules of eligibility regarding such animals, it would be worthwhile to discuss your members' preferences. It is critical for breeders to collectively establish a policy position and not to just let it happen by default.

C. Animal Pedigree Act - Purposes and Roles

Over the years of reviewing by-law amendments, engaging in discussions, fielding questions and disputes, it would seem that many associations are less clear than they should be about their purpose and role. How do you fit within the broader industry? Does the commercial sector recognize the value of the seedstock sector? Are you making genetic progress and helping to create a competitive industry? Do individual breeds have niche roles or is every breed trying to be everything to everybody? What is the vision?

1. Under the Animal Pedigree Act

- a) Purpose: To promote breed (genetic) improvement >> competitive industry
- b) Significant value: To breeders and the public-at-large
- c) Protection: For breeders (to let them create, label and market animals of genetic value), and for buyers (to enable informed purchases of animals of genetic value i.e. "purebred", "registered")

2. At the species level:

- a) Genetic competitiveness of the industry
- b) Across-breed organization; Linkage with commercial/end-point use and markets; Long-term objective setting
- c) Identify critical new issues and needs requiring industry-wide vision, necessary to position the sector for future competitiveness (e.g. animal welfare, cloning, genetically engineered animals)

3. Breed Level – Purposes and Roles

- a) Identify unique niche for breeds within the species
- b) Vision of what constitutes significant value of a breed. Consider the perspective of the commercial sector, breeders, public.
- c) Special role of breed associations – keep a genetically viable breeding population
- d) Position for the long term good of the industry, with strong genetics as its base.

D. Federal Government Budget

Limited information available at this time what effect there might be that would affect breed associations or this office. Preliminary indications are that the GOC appreciates that the agri-food sector has been reasonably resilient through the economic downturn, so it can continue to be expected to form a basis for jobs and opportunity. The Agriculture Policy framework with the provinces will remain a top priority for the government. Market and trade access and trade development will also be a high priority.