



# CSBA-INFO

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## Message from the President

Dear Members:

I would like to start off with some Christmas cheer and wish everyone a Merry Christmas! In South Western Ontario, we have a few inches of snow so it is easier to get into the Christmas spirit.

It really has been quite a stressful year in the pig business. We started off the year with some promise after two years of losing money only to have our hopes dashed in May with the advent of H1N1. Throw in huge weekly North American hog kills, volatile feed prices and the rising Canadian dollar and it has put us in survivor mode.

With all these challenges we have had to really focus on our businesses and our short-term viability. It is easy to lose sight of any long-term goals that don't have an immediate payback.

I think we need to appreciate the opportunity we have to add value through selling breeding stock from pedigreed parents. I would like to thank you all for continuing to register pigs with CLRC this year. We have had a reasonable year for activity with CLRC up significantly from 2008 and close to the 5 year average.

CSBA's Executive Committee, Alfred, Donald, Line (filling in for Jean) and Scott, met in Ottawa to discuss our future involvement with the newly

created PigGen Canada. We voted to commit \$6,000 payable in January 2010 as our yearly entry fee to PigGen Canada and we will look to provide an additional \$4,000 next July to support small research projects. Keep your eyes open for the announcement of PigGen Canada's first large project later in 2010.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for all your contributions and input into this trying year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at any time. The contact information for all of CSBA's Directors is listed in the table below.

I really see a lot of opportunity for strong breeding stock sales next year. Even though we have lost 15-20% of our domestic sow customer base, there are going to be repopulations, export orders and high parity sow herd population to rebuild. Hopefully we are in a position to be able to take advantage of these markets.

I wish you all, peace and prosperity for the holiday season.

Sincerely  
Scott Robinson, President

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## CSBA Membership Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your CSBA membership for 2010, the renewal form is enclosed. Information on membership renewal is also available on the CSBA web site. Membership provides substantial discounts on registration and other fees. It will also allow us to keep you up to date on CSBA activities and important issues of interest to all Canadian swine breeders.

## Passing of Madeleine Hayeur

Madeleine Hayeur, past President of the CSBA, passed away on November 13, 2009. She served many years as a CSBA director including three years as President. Madeleine along with her husband bought a commercial swine farm in 1968. During the 1970's, she became a purebred Duroc swine breeder and started participating in Expo-Quebec and the Pork Congress of St-Hyacinthe. She was very dedicated and attended these events regularly. She was also a Director for the Société des Éleveurs des Porcs du Québec for many years.



CSBA would like to extend its deepest condolences to the family of Madeleine Hayeur.

## CSBA Annual General Meeting

CSBA's next AGM will take place in March 2010 in the National Capital Region. Please watch for our next newsletter in the New Year for more information.

## "X" is the Letter of the Year for 2010

The Year letter for pigs born in 2010 is "X" and breeders are reminded to tattoo piglets using "X" as the year letter starting January 1, 2010. As stated on the CLRC website regarding the swine by-laws ([www.clrc.ca/60by-laws.pdf](http://www.clrc.ca/60by-laws.pdf)), "All swine, born in Canada, shall be identified by tattoo or electronic implant, while under 8 weeks of age, before weaning and before making application for registration, to be eligible for registration by the Corporation." Information on tattooing is available at [www.clrc.ca/tattoo.shtml](http://www.clrc.ca/tattoo.shtml) or by contacting the CSBA office.

## Traceability

The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) has developed PigTrace, a swine traceability system intended to enhance trace-back and trace-forward investigations during an animal disease outbreak affecting swine. As part of this initiative, tags for individual animal identifications meant for animals that move from premise to premise and for breeding stock were developed. Tags were made available to breeders as of October 1, 2009. Although the current system is voluntary, there are regulations under the Health of Animals Act that are being drafted by the federal government.

CPC selected Agri-Traceability International (ATI) to provide service of managing the database of information on animals and the Allflex company to provide the eartags. The added security of a national traceability system will give producers a competitive advantage in the global market. PigTrace could potentially reduce the time needed to return to trade following a disease outbreak by zeroing in on possible sources as soon as possible.

For more information on the PigTrace initiative, please visit [www.pigtrace.com](http://www.pigtrace.com).