



CSBA-INFO

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Holiday Greetings from CSBA and CCSI

The CSBA and CCSI Board of Directors, management and staff hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year.

CSBA Membership Renewal

If you have not yet renewed your CSBA membership for 2009, 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.

PIC lines for registration through CSBA voted down

Ballots to vote on whether to accept or reject PIC lines for registration through the CSBA were sent out in October. Out of a total of 105 ballots sent out, 30 were returned with 24 members opposed and 6 in favour of accepting PIC lines for registration through the CSBA. Acceptance would have required 2/3 or more of at least 25% of the members to be in favour. Thus, the PIC lines are NOT being accepted for registration with CSBA.

“W” is the tattoo letter of the Year!

The Year letter for pigs born in 2009 is “W” and breeders are reminded to tattoo piglets using W as the year letter. As stated on the CLRC website regarding the swine by-laws (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 or by contacting the CSBA office.

CSBA Annual General Meeting

Please mark your calendars! This year's CSBA AGM is being held in Joliette, Quebec on Monday March 30, 2009 and will be hosted by the Quebec swine breeders.

An evening at a “cabane à sucre” (maple sugar shack) will follow the meeting. More details including specific location to appear in February's CSBA newsletter. Joliette is located about 45 minutes north of Montreal.





EuroTier 2008 was an astonishing livestock exhibition! Held in Hanover, Germany November 11-14, it showed the latest in pig, poultry, dairy, beef and perhaps even sheep/goats Company displays for genetics, equipment, supplies and services. The cost to some Companies must be huge for their space and supporting services.

There are still a lot of pig breeding companies in Europe, competing for replacement stock and production systems sales. Canadian Swine Exporters Association had a large booth organized so that Canadian exporters could provide information on Canadian genetics and export capabilities. In attendance were representatives from Polar Genetics Inc. (Alfred Wahl), Donaldson International Livestock (Jim Donaldson), Great Canadian Swine Exports (John Gough), BMR Stein (Richard Stein), Genesus (Fernando Ortiz and two Russian-speaking representatives) and Designed Genetics International (Mark Ross). Crystal Spring Equipment was represented (Jonathan and Michael Kleinsasser) as well in the booth with its feeders on display. Organizational support was provided by Rosemary Smart, CSEA Manager, for the exhibition week.

Several exporters attended the China-Europe Pig Summit to learn more about China's requirements for future breeding stock imports and technology transfers. The thirty-five member Chinese delegation was sponsored by China Animal Agriculture Association and hosted by the German Agricultural Society (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft (DLG)). The Chinese visit further in Europe and then attend Denmark's Agromek Exhibition. CAAA President Zhang BaoWen and Professor Wang AiGuo noted the technological changes to China's pig production and the further technologies needed to improve pig genetics for gains to feed efficiency and productivity in Chinese breeding herds. Production companies and breeders were represented from Guangdong, Jiangxi, Shangdong, Hunan, Henan and Hebei Provinces; a wide cross-section of breeders, scientists and bureaucrats from that country. China now markets 565 million pigs annually. The World Bank (represented by Dr. Smith from Canada) is predicting continued growth in pork demand from (a) larger population growth, (b) increased wealth for many in developing countries and (c) increased urbanization.

The CSEA booth had interested visitors from Germany, Spain, Russia, Georgia and other EU and eastern European countries. We also met some Canadians that were working the show for their Company interests. Sales to Russia over the past few years have been the primary focus for Canadian pig exports. [Hermitage Farms in UK shipped as many as 22,000 gilts to Russia in 2007 according to one source.] However, given the state of the world economy at this time, ongoing purchases will be limited to those with strong financial and government connections.

Nonetheless, this interchange of ideas and innovations will continue to be worthwhile for Canadian breeders and exporters. There is a flux to the wants and needs for producers in certain countries that will allow us to participate in genetics and innovations for world trade. Although Pietrain genetics are in high demand, our Canadian Durocs stand in some of the AI studs to good benefit to add marbling to the otherwise leanness of the Pietrains.

Given the (financial) cooperation from the EU, US and other countries with China and emerging markets, it behooves Canada to provide support for activities in international trade. Support for a CSEA/CSBA-sponsored "Pig Summit" with Russia and China should be taken up with our International Trade Sections of both AAFC and our Foreign Services. The contacts made at these meetings are the ones that will carry the trade forward in future.

I appreciate being able to attend EuroTier for my first visit to Europe (outside Great Britain). My German language skills, although rusty, were sufficient to carry me through each conversation. Germany's architecture is quite old and unique compared to Canadian buildings. The trains and subway cars run a timely basis and are on time and are used by many people in their near and farther travels. Towns and countryside still retain large numbers of trees and at this time grass is still green and leaves are only starting to fall. A great pleasure to visit! The next EuroTier will be held in Hanover from 16 to 19 November 2010.

Sincerely,

Alfred Wahl, President