

Message from the President

Greetings to all! This is my first message as the new CSBA president. We had a very successful annual meeting in Joliette, Quebec on March 30th, 2009 with about 30 people attending. Special thanks to the directors from la belle province for your hospitality and warmth. This was especially evident on Monday night after the annual meeting. We all were invited to a local "cabane à sucre" for a feast of local cuisine. A special thanks to André Auger for organizing this party for us. My daughters also thank you for the maple candies.

At the maple sugar shack, it was very nice to see Madeleine Hayeur looking so bright and cheerful. Madeleine was CSBA President when I was first elected to sit on the Board of Directors. Congratulations Madeleine on receiving much deserved recognition from your peers!

It won't surprise you to know that CSBA lost \$25,000 this past year. This is one of the trickle down effects of the downturn in the global pork markets. Fortunately, we do have adequate reserves built up over the past few years such that the financial position remains strong. The CSBA's financial health relies closely on the sales of registered purebred pigs around the world. We will be paying close attention to the books this year with a Board conference call in July to evaluate the CSBA financial position and look at the number of registrations at that time.

CSBA has reduced electronic fees to register pigs older than eighteen (18) months by more than half to encourage breeders to register their pigs through the CSBA. Please note that this discount is only available to CSBA members until **June 30, 2009** so act quickly to take advantage of these discounts.

I will be attending CLRC's Annual Meeting in Toronto on April 25, 2009. I learned a lot from CSBA's previous representative to the CLRC, Mr. Don Dietrich. I would like to acknowledge him for his great work during his previous tenure as CSBA representative to CLRC.

At the end of February, a group of 11 representative companies and associations (including CSBA) met to discuss formation of a consortium called PigGen Canada. PigGen Canada's main objectives are to represent the swine genetic industry with a single voice and develop strategies and support for swine genetic

research for Canada in concert with Canadian pork industry priorities. More exciting news is sure to come from this dynamic consortium.

The resiliency we see in Canadian pork producers and breeding stock suppliers continues to amaze me. We will live through this downturn to see better days. The first two months in 2009 have been financially stronger when compared to the same period in 2008. By most accounts the exporters are busy quoting orders and "talking" to overseas buyers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members on the Board of Directors for their confidence in me and I look forward to communicating with swine breeders across Canada via the CSBA newsletter.

Scott Robinson

CSBA AGM

The CSBA AGM was held at the Château Joliette, in Joliette, Quebec on March 30, 2009. There were about 30 attendees from across Canada and their guests at the meeting. We were pleased to have some excellent presentations from four guest speakers. Dr. Mohsen Jafarikia from the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement and Frédéric Fortin from Centre de Développement du Porc du Québec provided an update on research and opportunities in swine genomics. Dr. Dan Hurnik from the Atlantic Veterinary College on P.E.I. provided an update on the newly formed Canadian Swine Health Board. Rosemary Smart from Canadian Swine Exporters Association provided an update on swine export activities and new opportunities for exports. CSBA would like to express appreciation to these speakers for their presentations and for their ongoing support of CSBA and the swine industry in Canada.

CSBA Executive and Representatives for 2009

Scott Robinson was elected as President. Jean Lévesque (First Vice-President), Donald MacDonald (Second Vice-President) and Alfred Wahl are the other members elected to the Executive Committee for 2009. Scott will also be the representative for CLRC. Alfred will be the representative to CPC. Line Thérout will be

the representative to CCSI. Jean will be the representative to PigGen Canada. The Board would like to thank Alfred Wahl for his hard work, dedication and leadership over the past two years as CSBA President. Other Directors on the Board are André Auger, Richard Stein and Jim Long.

CSBA Achievement Merit Award recognizes commitment to excellence

CSBA is pleased to present this year's Swine Breeder's Achievement Merit Award to Madeleine Hayeur from Sainte-Hélène-de-Bagot. Madeleine grew up in an urban area and saw her first pig at age 22. She didn't know it then, but she would educate people living in cities about agriculture, swine production and the Duroc breed and it would become a lifelong passion for her.

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 is very dedicated and attends these events regularly and works closely with youth to educate them in the swine industry. Madeleine also got involved in the swine breeder organizations. She served as CSBA president for three years and has also held numerous positions in swine industry organizations in Quebec, including as a Director on the Société des Éleveurs des Porcs du Québec. CSBA recognizes Madeleine's dedication and work for the swine breeding industry. Congratulations Madeleine!



Madeleine Hayeur, recipient of the Swine Breeder's Achievement Merit Award (left) presented by Line Théroux and Brian Sullivan

Breed Club Awards

The Canadian Swine Breeder's Association is pleased to announce the award winners for the highest indexing registered pigs. The prize recipients were honoured at the CSBA annual general meeting on March 30, 2009. The awards were presented in two categories; Top Boar and Gilt evaluated in 2008 and Top Sire and Dam with progeny evaluated in 2008.



Duroc

Top Sire : Les Porgreg inc., Québec
Top Dam: R.M. Matheson Farms Ltd., Ontario
Top Boar: Ferme Jacques Ouellet inc., Québec
Top Gilt: Ferme Jacques Ouellet inc., Québec



Yorkshire

Top Sire: Ferme J.P. Dion et Fils inc., Québec
Top Dam: Ferme des Marées inc., Québec
Top Boar: Ferme des Marées inc., Québec
Top Gilt: Ferme des Marées inc., Québec



Landrace

Top Sire: Ferme Porcine de Beauce inc., Québec
Top Dam: Ferme Raymond Coutu, Québec
Top Boar: Ferme Porcine de Beauce inc., Québec
Top Gilt: R.M. Matheson Farms Ltd., Ontario



Bob Matheson accompanied by his wife Helen, R. M. Matheson Farms Ltd. (right) accepting two awards (Top Dam for Duroc and Top Gilt in Landrace) presented by Scott Robinson



Highest indexing Duroc sow
R.M. Matheson Farms Ltd.



Highest indexing Landrace gilt
R.M. Matheson Farms Ltd.



Jacques Poulin (left), accepting the award for Top Sire in Landrace presented by Jean Lévesque

Electronic Registration fees for animals over 18 months reduced until June 30, 2009

For a limited time only, the fee for electronic registration of litters over the age of 18 months has been reduced from \$13.50 to \$6.00 per litter. This discount is available to members only and registration requests must be submitted electronically by June 30, 2009.

Please contact the CSBA office for more information on options for electronic registration.

Recognition of the Swiss Herd Book by CSBA

The Swiss Herdbook was recognized at the last Board of Directors meeting in Joliette, Quebec. Pigs imported from Switzerland that are registered by Suisseporcs can now be accepted into the CSBA herdbook for Yorkshire (Large White in Switzerland), Landrace, Duroc, Hampshire and Pietrain. Please visit their website at www.suisag.ch for more information.



CSBA welcomes the creation of PigGen Canada

We're very excited about the workshop held in Toronto in late February to organize a genomics research consortium amongst the breeding companies in Canada. A group of 11 representative companies and associations met to discuss formation of this consortium now called PigGen Canada.

The key objectives of PigGen Canada are:

- (a) to represent the Canadian swine genetics industry with a single voice and
- (b) develop strategies and support for swine genetic research for Canada in concert with Canadian pork industry priorities.

Similar organizations are DairyGen in Canada that accesses industry funds for matching grants from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for dairy genetics research and Bioporc in France that represents the pork industry in AGENAE, the oversight group responsible for bovine, swine, poultry and fish genomics research in France..

PigGen Canada's interest will be to work together to help focus and align genetic research with pork industry priorities, and find ways to support this research. Many breeders will be represented through both the Canadian Swine Breeders Association and the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement as will other Canadian and multinational breeding companies which are active in Canada.

There are many exciting research developments in swine genomics taking place around the world. This collaboration of swine genetics suppliers in Canada will help ensure that Canada remains a leader in swine genetics.