



❖ Message From The President

As most of you will know, Serge Charron has retired as our General Manager. I would like to express my gratitude for Serge's hard work and dedication to CSBA over the last two years. Serge has been instrumental in not only stabilizing the Association's financial position, but has also helped initiate some important new developments. Examples include the new electronic registration mentioned in this newsletter, as well as closer collaboration with CCSI and other industry partners. His contributions will certainly be missed by his friends in the swine industry. We wish Serge all the best in his new endeavours.

As discussed at last year's Annual Meeting, with Serge's departure, there was a need for CSBA to find a new option for office and management services. A service agreement has been reached, effective Jan 15, 2004, with the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) to provide the following services:

- ✓ general administrative and office support
- ✓ web-site hosting and maintenance
- ✓ management of inquiries from CLRC
- ✓ attendance at meetings on behalf of CSBA

CLRC will continue to look after registrations and related information as in the past. If activities are required that the CSBA Executive feels should not be handled by CCSI for any reason, the Executive will deal with these directly.

The service agreement is viewed as a very positive development by both the CSBA Executive and CCSI's Board. There are significant gains in efficiencies in delivering services, and just as important, opportunities for the organizations to collaborate in common areas of interest for Canada's swine breeding sector.

Jim Whitehouse, President

❖ Is Your Membership Up to date?

Be sure that you renew your membership in order to be in good standing at the Annual Meeting.

❖ New Electronic Registration Option

The CSBA executive committee has worked with our partners at CLRC, CCSI and CDPQ to introduce a new option for electronic registration of pigs that are on the national performance testing program. The system operates over the Internet and displays litters that can be registered using information from the performance testing database. In a matter of minutes, breeders can select litters for registration, add any needed additional information, and have the litters electronically delivered to CLRC for registration. CSBA is looking for one breeder from each region to test the new system during March, and will offer a discounted registration fee. Breeders interested in testing should contact the CSBA office. More information will be provided at the Annual meeting and an official launch of the system is planned following the Annual Meeting.

❖ CSBA Annual General Meeting

The CSBA AGM will be held March 30th, 2004 from 1:30 to 5:00 pm at The Arden Park Hotel in Stratford, Ontario. For reservations call 1-877-788-8818 or visit www.ardenpark.on.ca by March 14, and mention "Canadian Swine Breeders".

Ontario Swine Improvement (OSI) will be having their Annual Meeting at the same location the afternoon of March 31st. Please contact the OSI office at (519) 469-8109 for more information.

The London Swine Conference is also taking place that same week on April 1-2. Call 1-877-668-7675 or visit www.londonswineconference.ca.

CLRC's Annual Meeting will be in Calgary on Apr 2-3, 2004. Call (613) 731-7110 or visit www.clrc.ca for more information.

❖ Proposed Constitutional Amendment

At the April 1, 2003 Directors meeting it was proposed to accept double tattoo in one ear as a form of identification and remove ear tagging as an acceptable way of identification. Double tattoo could go in either ear.