



### *Message from the President*

We had a very successful annual meeting in Stratford on March 26. With 17 members participating, this is the largest turnout for a number of recent years. Thanks to everyone for their attendance and meeting contributions.

I'd like to thank OSI for including us in their luncheon and annual meeting on the same day. The meeting was well-attended, with some 85 people making the effort to gain some new knowledge and elect its new Directors.

The Robinson family at Vista Villa Farms generously invited the CSBA Directors and other members to their farm office for refreshments and dinner. Thanks to Scott and his wife Jeanette, Bob and his wife Rose and other family members for their hospitality and kindness in providing the tour and the wonderful fellowship at their farm. Bob noted that he regrets there are now fewer venues for interested pig breeders to get together to talk pigs and have a few drinks - so he appreciated the get-together with CSBA members very much. Vista Villa Farms is now more than forty years in pig breeding and operates two breeding farms totaling some 3500 sows in purebred and commercial breeding. Vista Villa is also a member of the Alliance Genetics group with several other CSBA members.

The Director and Annual meetings had as many motions put forward and carried as ever in the past four years, according to General Manager Brian Sullivan. There were good discussions on a number of topics and their outcome will be noted elsewhere in this newsletter. I'm pleased to have been re-elected President for the coming year and appreciate this confidence by the Board.

Our proposed budget will be balanced for this coming year, depending on the number of pigs that are registered and transferred with a certificate. Finances in reserve are adequate to cover off our expenses for more than one year. We very much appreciate the interest in pedigrees for purebred pigs and interest from overseas buyers for our registration certificates.

I hope swine breeders will be able to ride out the current storm of financial difficulty and that we all can continue a vibrant breeding industry in Canada for many years.

Alfred Wahl, P.Ag.

### *Note from Canadian Swine Exporters Association*

Canadian Swine Exporters Association had a very good year in exporting genetics in 2007. Our exports numbered over 22,000 to offshore countries (other than USA). These pigs were primarily Purebred Yorkshire, Landrace and Duroc and some were F1's. It is our marketing strategy this year to become more aggressive in the large markets which include Russia and China. Last year, Russia imported over 7000 head from Canada and the majority of the animals shipped were Purebred with Official Canadian Pedigree Certificates.

CSEA is currently working on a project that will allow us to have an office in Beijing, China. We plan to have a Chinese National work for CSEA in the capacity of Export Development Manager. We will be pleased to share the details of this project as it progresses. Also, our plans for China include signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chinese National Swine Industry Association. By having a cooperation agreement similar to a Twinning agreement, Canada will be positioned as the supplier of choice, we will share in technology and offer customized training for clients on an as needed basis.

China and Russia share a common concern. They need technology, training and assistance with hands-on herdsman knowledge. If any breeder in Canada is interested in either a short term or extended term of consulting/training advisory position to work and train in either Russia or China or other countries please let yourself be known to Rosemary Smart. Our exporters are always looking for the talents of Canadians to fill a training need with clients.

Again this year, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the breeders for their kind Canadian hospitality when our members bring foreign visitors to your farm to inspect your genetics. It is appreciated by both the foreign client and our CSEA member.

Our exporters are striving to increase sales of purebred swine to our export markets and we thank you for having the foresight to keep your genetics fresh, your registrations current and your Pedigrees available to supply with livestock being exported to our select markets. Good luck in the future with your business. We appreciate you. For more information please visit the CSEA website at [www.canadianswine.com](http://www.canadianswine.com) email [csea@rogers.com](mailto:csea@rogers.com) or phone (519) 421-0887.

Rosemary Smart

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## CSBA Annual General Meeting held March 26, 2008 in Stratford, Ontario

This year's CSBA annual general meeting was held at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford, Ontario.



### *Board of Directors for 2008*

This year's directors include Donald MacDonald for the Atlantic Region; André Auger, Jean Lévesque and Line Théroux for Quebec; Don Dietrich and Scott Robinson for Ontario; Jim Long for the Mid-West Region; and Alfred Wahl for the Western Region. The Executive Committee consists of Alfred Wahl (President), Scott Robinson (1st Vice President), Line Théroux (2nd Vice President) and Donald MacDonald. André Auger is the representative to CPC, Don Dietrich to CLRC and Scott Robinson to CCSI.

### *CSBA Achievement Merit Award recognizes commitment to excellence*

CSBA is pleased to present this year's Swine Breeder's Achievement Merit Award to Ralph Henderson of Arthur, Ontario. Ralph and his late wife Georgina ran the Purebred Ralhen Hampshires herd starting in 1968. As members in the Swine Evaluation Program, the Henderson family built up a national and international reputation for breeding top quality animals. Ralhen Hampshires have been exported to 31 countries and some of their boars were sold to A.I. units across Canada and internationally. Their operation was also a recipient of many achievements between 1977 and 1992.

In a letter written in 1992, Rosemary Smart, Secretary for the Canadian Swine Exporters Association (CSEA), commented that the CSEA had been very proud to bring foreign buyers to the Henderson's farm to show them some of the best pigs in Canada. The buyers were always impressed with the Henderson's friendliness and their operation. Ralph's family was a host to many foreign dignitaries and provincial

ministries. They have one daughter, Gina and one son David who helped on the farm until it was sold.



**Ralph Henderson, recipient of Swine Breeder's  
Achievement Merit Award and Alfred Wahl**

### *Breed Club Awards*

The Canadian Swine Breeder's Association is pleased to announce the award winners for the highest indexing animals. The prize recipients were honoured at the CSBA annual general meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The awards were presented in two categories; Top Boar and Gilt evaluated in 2007 and Top Sire and Dam with progeny evaluated in 2007.



#### **Duroc**

**Top Sire:** Ferme Jacques Ouellet, Quebec

**Top Dam:** Ferme Raymond Coutu, Quebec

**Top Boar:** Ferme Jacques Ouellet, Quebec

**Top Gilt:** Ferme du Laurier, Quebec



#### **Yorkshire**

**Top Sire:** Les Porgreg Inc., Quebec

**Top Dam:** Sogéporc, Quebec

**Top Boar:** Sogéporc, Quebec

**Top Gilt:** Sogéporc, Quebec



#### **Landrace**

**Top Sire:** Ferme Porcine de Beauce, Quebec

**Top Dam:** Ferme Porcine de Beauce, Quebec

**Top Boar:** Ferme Porcine de Beauce, Quebec

**Top Gilt:** Ferme Jacques Ouellet, Quebec



**Mr. Jacques Poulin, Ferme Porcine de Beauce, (right) accepting an award presented by Daniel Rousseau**

### **Genetic Improvements in 2007 (CCSI)**

The average annual Canadian genetic improvements for traits in active herds made in the past five years (2001-2006) as well as the latest year (2007) are listed in the table below. The trends of rapid genetic improvement in purebred pigs have continued during the last year. In fact, genetic gains expected at the commercial level were significantly higher during the last year compared to previous five years in a majority of traits, assuming a combination of a Duroc terminal cross with an F1 (Yorkshire cross Landrace) commercial sow. There were especially higher gains in loin eye area, feed conversion and lean depth while there was a smaller increase in the number of piglets born.

**Table I. Genetic Improvement in Commercial herds**

<b>Trait</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Gain In 2001-2006</b>	<b>Gain In 2007</b>
<b>Age</b>	days	-1.26	-1.88
<b>Lean Yield</b>	%	+0.10	+0.15
<b>Loin Eye Area</b>	sq cm	+0.26	+0.42
<b>Feed Conversion</b>	kg/kg	-0.018	-0.027
<b>Backfat</b>	mm	-0.21	-0.23
<b>Lean Depth</b>	mm	+0.23	+0.36
<b>Number Born</b>	Pigs/litter	+0.29	+0.14

*Based on genetic gains in 91 selection herds using the Canadian genetic improvement program in 2007.*

Genetic evaluations for new traits have recently been added to the national program. These include meat quality, conformation of feet and legs, number of teats and other sow productivity traits such as piglet survival, weaning weight and farrowing interval. Genetic evaluations for these traits provide important new tools to help the industry continue to improve efficiency while increasingly focusing on refinements to the quality of the final product in order to meet the demands for higher value markets.

### **Members recognized at the AGM**

CSBA would like to recognize Madeleine Hayeur and Don Dietrich for their many years of service as directors. Both are presently battling cancer and we wish them well. CSBA would also like to offer condolences to the families of Don Young, Jean-Paul Lévesque, and any other members who have died in the last year.

### **Special thanks to Joyce Needham and Jane Davy**

We express our sincerest gratitude to Joyce Needham and her husband Doug for the many years of service in managing the Breed Club affairs. Joyce has now retired from this service which has promoted the breeds so well and supported youth across Canada with an interest in swine breeding. The CSBA office will continue with this promotion and support following the good lead established by Joyce. As well, we would like to recognize Jane Davy who has just retired from her job as swine registrar at CLRC after 47 years of service. Most members have talked many times to Jane on the phone and very much appreciate the great service she has provided. LauraLee Mills has taken over as swine registrar at CLRC and is already known to many members. CSBA would like to extend a warm welcome to LauraLee. Thank you again to Joyce and Jane. We wish you the very best.

### **Proposed amendments defeated**

The proposed amendments to the by-laws related to the alternate herdbook received a good discussion at the AGM, with both supportive and opposing views expressed by members. In the end, a majority were opposed so the proposals were defeated.

### **Special fee reduction for minor breeds in 2008**

Fees to register minor breeds (all except for Yorkshire, Landrace and Duroc) have been reduced until the end of 2008 to encourage breeders to register these animals. Registration will help to preserve these genetic resources by keeping accurate pedigree records and by helping to share information on where to find animals of the same breed. Members who register are automatically listed on the CSBA web site under that breed. The reduced fees are \$6.00 per litter for registration, including manual registration and animals older than 18 months (normal fee is \$13.50) and \$6.00 per animal for transfer of ownership (normal fee is \$25). The discounts are available to members only.

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### Volume discounts for 2008

A new volume discount program was applied for 2007 transactions and 11 members benefited from this program. The program has been approved again for 2008. Members may have discounts applied during the year by contacting the CSBA office in advance of a large order. However, it isn't necessary to contact the office to receive discounts, as any remaining discounts will automatically be given to members as a credit in early 2009. Note that there is a particularly large discount for transfers of ownership which is intended to encourage more sales and transfers of animals with papers. The discount schedule follows:

Electronic Registration				
Number of transactions:	1-500	501-1000	1001-2000	2000+
Fee:	\$6.00	\$5.38	\$4.77	\$4.15

  

Certificates				
Number of transactions:	1- 250	251-500	501-1000	1000+
Fee:	\$12.50	\$11.50	\$10.00	\$7.50

  

Transfers				
Number of transactions:	1-20	21-50	51-100	100+
Fee:	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00

### Q & A from PIC Forum

Do you have questions or comments about the possible registration of PIC lines under the umbrella of CSBA? Are you wondering what other members are thinking about this issue? Included in the newsletter are questions and comments already posted to the PIC forum. If you would like to comment or submit questions on the registration of PIC lines in the CSBA herdbook, members are invited to do so.

To obtain a password, please contact the CSBA office by email to [info@canswine.ca](mailto:info@canswine.ca) or call (613) 731-5531.

#### From Member A:

Can we understand that PIC is only interested in maintaining and registering pigs in the purebred lines as "PIC xxx" rather than looking to register these breeds in the regular herd book sponsored by CSBA?

#### Response from PIC:

After examining several options together with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) and the CSBA, it looks as though the best option is to register five of the eight PIC lines as strains of existing breeds.

It is our understanding that the GP1010, GP1020, GP1109, GP1116, GP1120 would be registered as strains in separate Landrace, Yorkshire, Hampshire, Duroc and Pietrain herd books (i.e., "GP1010 Landrace") so as to avoid any confusion.

Thank you very much for raising this issue because it is one of the most frequently asked questions about PIC's position.

#### From Member B:

I don't think it is a good idea to allow PIC to register pigs at the CLRC. It would really dilute the integrity of the herd book if we let pigs with a little background in when our pigs have decades of pedigree behind them. PIC will find a way to do their own thing without us helping them.

#### Response from PIC:

We welcome this question because it provides an opportunity to address a common misconception about the integrity of pedigree administration in pig breeding companies. CSBA members, indeed all professional swine breeders, know that, a well-kept pedigree system is the backbone of any genetic improvement program. PIC's pedigree system has been meticulously maintained for decades; BLUP is a crucial element of PIC's breeding program and BLUP cannot function without perfect pedigree data.

We completely understand concerns about maintaining the integrity of the CSBA herd book. It is not in PIC's or in any other Canadian swine breeder's interests to do anything that would undermine the integrity of the herd books. We note that the five PIC lines in question would be registered as strains within separate Landrace, Yorkshire, Hampshire, Duroc and Pietrain herd books. This ensures that the PIC lines will be kept separate from the existing CSBA populations in the existing herd book. Therefore, to the extent that there is concern about accidental migration into the CSBA populations, registering the PIC lines as strains means that any such risk can be avoided.