

C.L.R.C WORKSHOP AND 97TH ANNUAL MEETING

Greeted by sunny skies and warming temperatures, about 50 people representing CLRC's member associations gathered in Calgary on April 12 and 13 for the 2002 Workshop and Annual Meeting.

The annual Workshop was again very informative. After the participants had been welcomed by CLRC Chairman Bryon Wilson, CLRC Director Dan Stephenson chaired the proceedings.

Leading off the day was Rob McNabb of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association with an update on the Canadian beef cattle industry, which is growing in terms of export production and income to Canadian farmers. The CCA is very involved with trade issues, global marketing and food safety.

Julie Stitt of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency reported that the national identification program for cattle and bison is coming up to the third stage of compliance. Beginning July 1. 2001, persons not tagging animals leaving the herd of origin will be assessed monetary penalties. The CCIA is experimenting with electronic button tags. An identification program for sheep is to be developed.

With animal disease being a very current issue, Dr. Larry Delver of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency outlined how breeders can protect their herds from disease, and how to recognize a wide variety of diseases, as well as the increased surveillance being carried out by his agency.

Alan Browarny, a professional livestock photographer and website designer explained how both a website and quality animal photographs can be effectively used to market one's breeding program and stock to a world wide audience.

To close the day's program, Bryon Wilson provided a summary of the information that can be obtained from the CLRC website, including pedigree information, member contact information, and forms and fee schedules.

Representatives from 23 member associations were present at the Annual Meeting. Those in attendance reviewed the usual reports and heard of the completion of the computer replacement project at CLRC during 2001. It was noted that the Canadian Welsh Black Cattle Society and the Canadian Maine-Anjou Association had joined CLRC since last year's Annual Meeting.

In the election for the Board of Directors, Peggy Newman, Blackie, Alberta from the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, and Dan Stephenson, Okotoks, Alberta (Canadian Shorthorn Association) were re-elected to the Board for a two-year term, along with new member Murray Roeske, Alcomdale, Alberta (Canadian Swine Breeders' Association). Elected for one year terms were Mary Cork, Alliston, Ontario (Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada) and Sharon Cooke, Blackie, Alberta (Canadian Donkey and Mule Association). They will join continuing Directors Sheryl Blackburn and David Trus. After the meeting, the Directors elected Peggy Newman as Chairman and Dan Stephenson as Vice-Chairman.

The 2003 Workshop and Annual Meeting will be held in the Toronto area on April 4 and 5, 2003.