

Dawson Creek Sheep Breeders,
c/o Walter J. Fritsche,
P.O. Box 864,
Dawson Creek, B. C.

Dear Committee Members:

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the B. C. Sheep Federation on October 20th and 21st in Armstrong, B. C. The B.C.S.F. business was conducted successfully by electing a new President and Financial/Secretary. Housekeeping issues were dealt with including amendments to the B.C.S.F constitution, updating membership lists, mailing lists, Check-off/Levy program, and the Sheep Industry Development Fund status. A note of interest: there are 144 members in the B.C.S.F. and 1800 sheep producers in the province. New Business dealt with the issue of Compensation/Predator Loss.

After the business meeting, a social took place at the Anchor Inn and the emphasis of the evening was getting information on the newest breeds of sheep.

The Okanagan-Shuswap Sheep Producers' Association organized a Symposium on Saturday with lots of sheep related commercial displays. Topics were as follows: 1) Mr. Darryl Stepaniuk spoke on the interaction of wild and domestic sheep in the South Okanagan. The concerns are disease transfers from one to the other. 2) Prevention of disease in sheep by Dr. Henry Lange .. emphasis on record keeping, culling and vaccination. 3) Ram selection by Dr. Brian McOnie ... structural and reproductive soundness. 4) Kathy Velocci: ram is half of your flock, advice on terminal sires ie: Suffolk, Hampshire, Charolais and Texel, select for growth, 30 day guarantee for new rams, inheritable trends such as % of fat in carcass, market weight, mature body weight, rate of gain, weight of retail cuts. 5) Dr. Merv Wetzstein: reasoning and rational behind all the new government regulations, excuse to keep up with other provinces. 6) Rebecca Kneen: Organic farmer in Sicamous, also runs a micro brewery. Topics: big vs. small farms .. why is it necessary to have all these regulations for small producers where there has never been any major health problems?? Lobby government to gear regulations so small farms can make a profit. Help to upgrade smaller abattoirs. Compost waste products, etc. Rebecca made a

passionate case for small farmers to stick together and be vocal through local organizations. 7) Don Davidson: consultant for the B. C. Food Processors Association. He helps plan abattoir upgrading to comply with new regulations and he represents all segments of the food industry. He encourages the development of sufficient provincially licensed slaughter capacity. At present, the Government has a \$3 million fund to disperse on 50/50 cost shared dollars to a maximum of \$50,000. 8) Jennifer Fleming, representing the Canadian Sheep Federation spoke on the structure and purpose of the Federation. She is the direct link to the federal agriculture department and coordinates the provincial aspect of the business. The Canadian Sheep Fed also deals with the wool aspect to get better market access for the wool.

The B.C. Sheep Federation meeting took place Saturday afternoon with all members present, and as most agricultural organizations, they are seeking new and younger members to take on some of the duties in the Federation. I am pleased to have had the chance to represent the Dawson Creek Sheep Breeders. For the past two years, I have been on the committee that administers the B. C. Sheep Development Fund. Before ending this report, on behalf of the Dawson Creek Sheep Breeders, I would like to thank the P.R.A.D. committee for the financial support.

Kind regards,

Walter J. Fritsche