CCWG WOOL INDUSTRY NEWS

The CCWG recently held Management and Board of Director meetings at the 98th Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, MB on October 20th – 22nd, 2016.

The 2016 elected Board of Directors are as follows:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President - David Mastine, St. Felix de Kingsey, QC
1st Vice President - Lee Sexton, Hanley, SK
2nd Vice President - Brian W. Greaves, Miniota, MB
- Roma H. Tingle, Prince George, BC

**Additional Directors on the Board are as follows:**

Ward Harden, Fir Mountain, SK (Audit Committee)
Allan Ribbink, Tiverton, ON (Audit Committee)
Warren L. Moore, Stavely, AB (Audit Committee)
Ruth Mathewson, Central North River, NS
John D. Woodburn, Grimshaw, AB
Gary J. Fox, Bloomfield, ON

For the fiscal year ending February 29, 2016 the co-operative recorded gross sales of almost 9.9 million which represents an increase of 8% from the previous year. Net income has increased by 62% over the past two years, mainly due to strong financial performance from the company’s retail division.

The Board of Directors have authorized a dividend payment of 7% to the shareholders of record date December 31, 2015. The company has always paid a dividend and it has been 7% annually since 1999. The Shareholder Wool Shipper Loyalty Reward Program (SWSLRP) will be at the rate of 7 cents per pound on the 2015 wool clip. Full details of these programs can be found on the company website www.wool.ca. Wool volume increased by 7% from the previous year.

In other news, a thorough review and evaluation of the company’s long term strategic business plan was completed by the Board of Directors and Management team.

An evening banquet featuring Manitoba lamb capped off the three day event with 50 people in attendance. In 2017 the Annual General Meeting will be held in Lethbridge, Alberta from October 19th – 21st and the highlight event will be the official opening of our new Lethbridge facility, which is currently being built in Broxburn Business Park.
Retiring CCWG Director and Past President, Dwayne C. Acres from Osgoode, Ontario was recognized for his long time contributions to CCWG and dedication to the sheep industry.

Leo & Rita Meier were honored for their outstanding 25 years of service to sheep producers by operating a CCWG wool depot at Saskatoon, SK. They have now retired and the tradition continues with their son John and daughter-in-law Barbara operating the wool depot on our behalf.

The national Wool Certificate of Merit recipients for 2015 were announced as follows:

**Québec**
Hugh Sutherland, Huntingdon, QC

**Ontario**
Dave & Ronan Willard, Stella, ON

**Shearer**
Tom Redpath

**Ontario**
Jim Johnston – Pasture Hill Farm
New Liskeard, ON

**Shearers**
Gerald Gemmill, David St. Onge

**Ontario**
John & Eadie Steele, Norwood, ON

**Shearers**
Don Metheral & Gerald Gemmill

**Manitoba**
Brian Greaves, Miniota, MB

**Shearer**
Brian Greaves

**Manitoba**
Reuben & Yvette Neumier, Virden, MB

**Shearer**
David Stott

**Saskatchewan**
Cairns Ranch, Grayson, SK

**Shearers**
Chris & Russell John Eddy, Ampie

Esterhuyse

**Saskatchewan**
Kevin Rast, Kindersley MB

**Shearer**
Lorrie Reed

**Saskatchewan**
Chase Thoring, Frontier, SK

**Saskatchewan**
Rene Cadran, Glaslyn, SK

**Shearers**
Lorrie Reed & Mark Larque

**Alberta**
Goldridge Farming Co. Ltd, Turin, AB

**Shearers**
Colony Shearers

**Alberta**
Spring Valley Farming Co. Ltd, Spring Coulee, AB

**Shearers**
Colony Shearers

**Alberta**
Bill & Lorna Gibson, Tees, AB

**Shearer**
Duane O’Brien

**Alberta**
John Balderson, Magrath, AB

**Shearers**
Cliff Metheral & Dave Carlson

**British Columbia**
Aveley Ranch – Ian Moilliet
Vavenby, BC

**Shearer**
Dave Cadsand

**British Columbia**
Neville Eccles, Mara, BC

**Shearer**
Neville Eccles
DJ Cairns accepting the Certificate of Merit Award from Nathan Pappas-Barabe, Carleton Place Apprentice Wool Grader.

Cairns Ranch from Grayson, SK Left to right: Casey, Stuart, DJ, Nolan & Oren. Targhee, Rambouillet & Debouillet sheep.

25 Years of Service for Leo & Rita Meier Saskatoon, SK Wool Depot Left to right: David Mastine – CCWG President, Daphne Dellezay, Rita Meier, John Meier, Eric Bjergso - CCWG General Manager.

Guest Speaker - Corlena Patterson, MSc(Agr) Executive Director Canadian Sheep Federation.

CCWG Directors and Staff attending the 98th AGM Banquet at the Canad Inns, Winnipeg, MB, October 22th, 2016.
International Wool Market

As the 2016 wool marketing year has progressed, conditions have not been as positive as we would have hoped when compared to the past couple of years. The main driver accounting for this situation is that China’s imports of greasy and semi-processed wool have dropped significantly in 2016 because mills are holding higher than usual inventories.

Fine wools have been less affected by this market situation, crossbred wools in the range of 26 to 35 micron have had the greatest exposure. There is excess stock in China of products made from this micron range which includes wool top, yarn and fabric. Until these stocks are reduced it is unlikely that there will be any upward movement in the wool market for the remainder of this year and possibly well into 2017.

On a positive note, the Chinese government are in the process of replacing uniforms for railway, postal, military personnel etc. These uniforms contain up to 80% wool content, but again the finer micron wools will benefit most from this procurement. Global wool production remains stable in most major wool producing countries. Australia has experienced much improved seasonal conditions with wide spread rain in many regions that had previously been in drought for up to four years.

This past September I once again participated in the 28th Nanjing Wool Marketing Conference which was held in Wuxi, China. Over 500 delegates from the Chinese and International wool trade attended. There was a lot of interest in our Canadian wool trade show booth. This venue has always proven to be an excellent opportunity to promote Canadian wool. As well, I visited a number of mills with our agents and was able to conclude some business, we have a number of other sales pending.

Domestic Wool Market / Retail Business

In terms of the 2016 Canadian wool clip we are approximately 70% sold at the time of this writing. Our wool volume is stable in 2016 but the drought this past summer in Eastern Canada will likely have an impact with less ewe numbers to be shorn in 2017. The relocation of our Lethbridge branch to Broxburn Park is off to a slower than expected start, but it is now well underway with all approvals and permits now received. We are very excited about this project and the prospects of developing new business opportunities in Western Canada.

I am pleased to report that our retail livestock supplies and clothing business are on target to meet or exceed budget expectations for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2017.

Thank you to all CCWG staff and directors for contributing to the continued success of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Bjergso
General Manager