Canadian Galloway Association WGC Report

The Canadian Galloway producers have done well the last couple of years! Cattle prices had been high but have leveled out for now. Galloway cattle sales have been strong with most activity being in export markets. The association held a semen sale the end of 2014 selling some older bulls. Semen from 10 different bulls, total of 84 doses sold for an average $67 per dose. Two spring bull sales were held in Alberta 2015. Genuine Genetics Bull Sale (Big Deal/Stonewall Galloway) in March sold 8 2yr old bulls average $3637 and 2 lots of semen. Western Progress Bull Sale consignors included Alberta Plaid Galloway, Chickadee Farm and Tri-R-Way Livestock also held in March sold 28 bulls, 12 females & 3 lots of embryos. Yearling bulls averaged $3339, bull calves averaged $2847 and females averaged $2937. Genuine Genetics Female Sale held in November sold 9 females average $3177. In the spring of 2016 there was one Bull sale. It was the Genuine Genetics bull sale held again in March. Purebred off farm sales have also been strong. Lower Canadian dollar has attracted strong interest from American buyers. The higher beef prices had also sparked interest and provided some optimism for young breeders to invest and build their cow herds. Select breeders have also developed a market for grass finished Galloway beef “pasture to plate” with success and strong demand for product. A recent Trans-Pacific Partnership deal is good news for the beef industry. Beef exports are expected to increase as tariffs come down.

Canadian Galloway breeder’s also had some success in the show circuit. Suncrest & Sunrise Galloways the Salter family from Listowel, ON attended the National Western Stock Show Denver, Colorado in January 2015 and took home Grand Champion Bull banner with Suncrest Yuma. Ward Marshall from Red Deer, AB attended Farm Fair Intl at Edmonton, AB in November of 2015. He took home Grand Champion female with 2yr old pair YY Wanda 317A and her 2015 bull calf was also Grand Champion Bull in the other breeds class. James Montieth of Edam, SK also exhibited his cattle at Farm Fair. Ward and James are both young breeders who provided a good display of Galloway cattle. Shelby McIlwraith from Puslinch, ON also had a fantastic year with her yearling 4-H heifer. Shelby finished her show season by taking Champion 4-H heifer of all other breeds class with Glenfiddich Bonnie at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, ON. The CGA has also provided cash to approximately 14 4-H members who have completed their 2015 4-H project with a Galloway or Galloway cross. We have a fantastic group of young breeders who are passionate about the breed and progressive in their operations. Eastern Galloway breeders also provided display of Galloway cattle at Rockton, Acton and Erin Fall Fairs.

The Canadian Annual General Meeting in 2015 was hosted by the Alberta Galloway Association. Meeting was held during Farm Fair, November 11- 14 in Edmonton. Member turn out was better this year for the AGM. Farm Fair is an agricultural show combined with Canadian Finals Rodeo. Slightly more than 950 head of purebred cattle from 16 breeds were shown this year. Another 200 head of commercial cattle were shown in other events. Our new executive 2015-16 was elected; President Brian Robertson Caroline AB, Vice President Marie Blake Listowel ON, and Executive Secretary Simon Lagace St Hyacinthe QC. Directors include; Bob Airth DeWinton AB, Jim King Innisfail AB, Ward Marshall Red Deer County AB, and Kelly Worthington Carstairs AB. This year the Annual meeting will be held in Eastern Canada in Southern Ontario. Our new website www.galloway.ca and Face book page is a great way to check out what is new and upcoming events in the Canadian Galloway Association. If looking for Galloway genetics we provide a marketplace and a link to membership, Canadian Livestock Records with a list of current Galloway breeders.

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Submitted by Brian Robertson, President of CGA