



# Canadian Heritage Breeds Newsletter

January 2020

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year, CHB Members! We hope you had a happy holiday season!

This newsletter is intended to provide you with some great educational information as always, as well as to wrap-up the year 2019 with some recaps of our CHB Annual General Meeting, and also provides the official results from the fall poultry show.

A reminder that membership fees are now due. We are working hard to ensure that 2020 kicks off the new decade with the best programs, shows, and resources our membership has ever seen!

Thank you to all of you for your continued support as active members, dedicated volunteers, and most of all for your passion for our beloved heritage breed livestock.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you all in the coming year!

Art By Linda Finstad



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# About CHB

## What We Do

Our mandate is "Conservation through Education".

**Shows:** Every year CHB organizes at least two poultry shows and has more recently begun to host dairy goat shows. Poultry and livestock shows are an excellent public forum to showcase and promote the dazzling and diverse assortment of chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, as well as several breeds of goats. These exhibits also provide opportunities for people interested in breeding to connect one-on-one with top breeders.

**Information:** We compile and distribute quarterly newsletters to inform and inspire members. We conduct interviews with successful breeders to facilitate the sharing of their valuable knowledge and the insights they have gained through experience. CHB offers social media resources and networking opportunities to anyone interested in learning more and connecting with others in the world of heritage livestock.

**Support:** CHB strives to encourage and support heritage breed advocates through educational seminars and hands-



*Cheerful Volunteers Eric Froese and Mike Skeels at the 2019 CHB Poultry show*

on workshops. Our members provide youth and family mentoring, and we partner with other organizations such as agricultural societies and 4-H to lend our support to their members and programs.

**Promotion:** We present displays of animals and printed materials at public venues to demonstrate the diversity of heritage breeds to both urban and rural people.



## Why Is This Important?

- \* Heritage livestock and poultry are the perfect alternative for non-commercial farmers and families interested in self-sustainable alternatives.
- \* These animals allow producers to capitalize on unique and niche markets.
- \* Protecting genetic resources and survival traits is a crucial strategy for ensuring future food supplies
- \* Heritage breeds are a living link to our agricultural history and culture.
- \* Traditional livestock breeds are rapidly disappearing from the rural North American landscape but keeping a current census of numbers is difficult. Some are on the verge of extinction, and are in desperate need of saving.

**You can advertise in the CHB Newsletters!**

## Ad pricing:

Full Page \$40.00 (8.5 x 11)

1/4 page or business card \$20.00

Contact us to submit your ad, or for more info:

[canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com](mailto:canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com)**Become a Member**

- Quarterly Newsletters and access to the Members Only area of the website
- Discounts or free access to select CHB Events
- Advertising opportunities
- The satisfaction of contributing to a great organization with lots of opportunities to become involved!

[Register online today!](#) Canadian Heritage Breeds is a Registered Non-Profit Society.

With our best wishes to you for a happy and successful 2020! Please remember to renew your membership today.

Membership form and payment information at:  
[www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca](http://www.canadianheritagebreeds.ca)

Photo credit: Colin Brown

# Mike Grover Family Bio

CHB is very pleased to welcome our newest board member: Director, Mike Grover. Mike, Jacquie and their children have already proven to be great supporters of CHB, and this was especially evident with their enthusiasm and willingness to pitch in and help with virtually every aspect of hosting the Fall 2019 National Poultry Show. From the early stages of planning and fund-raising, to facility clean up, the Grover family were there to lend a helping hand. Here is a bit of background on Mike and his family.

The Grover family lives NE of Olds, Alberta on a small hobby farm. The family consists of the self-proclaimed boss and daddio Mike, oldest child Masen (14), middle child Maddox (12) and the youngest Mayva (8). With 2 new family members joining their clan in 2018, Jacqueline and her daughter Lola (7), they make a large, fun family.

One of the Grover family's oldest hobbies and passions is raising registered draft horses - Percherons and Clydesdales. The family breeds around 4-6 mares each year, and every summer travels around central Alberta showing them. Both boys Masen and Maddox also work for bigger farms all summer helping them compete and show horses.

The Grover's second passion is raising Exhibition Poultry. This is a new family passion that has completely overtaken their lives. They have all been inflicted with the breeding bug, trying to raise the perfect bird.

Here is a small break down of what they raise.

Mike – Bantam Blue Cochin

Jacquie – Bantam Splash Cochins

Masen – LF Blue and Black Cochin

Maddox – Bantam Silver laced, black and white Wyandottes

Mayva – Bantam Black Cochins

Lola – Bantam Brown Red Cochins

The Grovers would like to thank the many members of CHB who helped them along their Poultry Journey. Everyone has been so helpful, answering many questions, and selling them quality birds to get them started in this crazy addicting pastime.

Without the support of the members of the CHB the Grovers would never have gotten started in this crazy fun new hobby.

# A Brief History of Domesticated Rabbits

MAR 22, 2017

[Andrew Amelinckx](#)

It may have been Pope Gregory I (540 to 604 A.D.) that led to the domestication of the European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) back in the year 600.



An ancient Roman fresco of a rabbit and four figs originally from Herculaneum.  
Photography The Naples National Archeological Museum via Wikimedia Commons

This led monks in southern France to begin domesticating the animals, eventually leading to evolutionary differences between domesticated and wild European rabbit species. Today, the more than 60 to 100 different breeds (depending on whom you ask) of domesticated rabbits are all descended from the European wild rabbit. But while rabbits may have been domesticated relatively recently, humans have been hunting the animals for about 120,000 years, and they have been around for much, much longer.

In 2008, researchers discovered a 53 million-year-old ancestor of the modern rabbit. The creature's foot bones were found in a coal mine in Gujarat, in west-central India, and the proto-bunny is now considered the oldest known member of the order Lagomorpha, a classification of mammals that includes rabbits, hares and pikas, the smaller cousin of rabbits and hares.

More recently, the skeleton of a giant-sized rabbit ancestor was unearthed on the island of Menorca, off the coast of Spain, in 2011. Named *Nuralagus rex*, this creature, which lived between three and five million years ago, was about six times the size of today's European rabbit, weighing in at around 26 pounds

The European rabbit originated on the Iberian peninsula (modern-day Spain and Portugal) sometime around half a million years ago, based on the fossil record. It took awhile, thousands and thousand of years in fact, before they began to spread far and wide, first by Phoenician traders, beginning about the year 1000 B.C. who introduced them to many parts of the Mediterranean. The rabbits spread even farther afield thanks to the Romans and their vast empire. The ancient Romans used them as game animals, although they hadn't yet been truly domesticated.

By the 16th century, several breeds of rabbit had been developed, indicating that there was controlled breeding going on in Europe, which continued for the next three hundred years. By the 19th century, the domesticated rabbit could be found across the globe, with a variety of distinctive breeds, that were used for their meat, fur, and eventually, kept as pets.



Above: French Lop



Above: Light grey Flemish Giant doe



Above: American Chinchilla



Above: English Lop

*This article first appeared in the winter 2012 CHB newsletter.*

## An Introduction to Shetland Sheep

Shetland sheep are a small primitive breed that is ideally suited to the hobby farmer and can be part of a very productive commercial operation as well. Shetland sheep originate from, you guessed it, the Shetland Islands off the northern coast of Scotland. The latitude of these islands is about the same as Iqaluit so that gives you an idea of how hardy this breed of sheep is. They are also very personable as far as sheep go which makes them ideal for the hobbyist.

The Shetlands are a landrace breed, which means that they developed by means of natural selection thus producing very hardy and genetically diverse animals. They belong to the Northern Short-tail group of sheep. Other breeds in this group include Finn, Romanov, Gotland, Soay and Icelandic among others. This means that the Shetlands have a naturally short, wool free tail, thus making tail docking unnecessary. The ewes are polled and the rams carry an impressive set of spiralled horns, but wethers typically only grow scurs or do not develop any horn at all. The breed has very good strong feet and instances of foot rot and other hoof problems are very rare. Shetlands do well on poor feed and can make the most of marginal and brushy pasture, as they tend to browse more than other breeds of sheep. They can be raised without the use of any concentrate feed and will still be productive. As one of the smallest pure breeds, Shetlands do not require elaborate facilities and they are perfectly suited to the first time shepherd. In terms of shelter all that is needed is a windbreak and if lambing in the spring or summer they can do so out on pasture. Fencing them is no more difficult than your average sheep although the small lambs sometimes go on little “adventures” through the wire.



Katmoget Ewe

Shetland sheep are very prolific and exhibit superb mothering ability. Though not as prolific as their cousins the Finns and Romanovs, twins are the norm and triplets are fairly common. The ewes can raise twins easily on pasture without supplemental feed and with more lambs often all that is needed is pasture with a higher proportion of legumes. Birthing problems are almost unheard of in Shetlands and the lambs are strong right from the start. A pure bred lamb takes about 14-16 months to finish on grass, but after this time produces a very lean carcass with delicate flavor that appeals to many high end restaurants and butcher shops. The rams can be used on heavier breeds of ewe lambs to produce a fast growing crossbreed that causes fewer birthing issues and exhibits hybrid vigor. The ewes can also be incorporated in a three-stage commercial lamb operation commonly found in the UK. The ewes are crossed with a lowland breed, typically a Bluefaced Leicester. The resulting offspring known as mules are ideally suited to commercial lamb production as they have the maternal qualities and hardiness of the Shetland and the size and milk production of the Leicester. When the mules are crossed to a terminal sire such as a Suffolk, Texel, Charollais or Île de France a top quality butcher lamb is produced.

In addition to lamb, Shetland produce a valuable fleece that is prized by hand spinners and crafters. The breed comes in many different colours and patterns thus giving a wide range of natural shades and a challenge for the budding geneticist. Shetlands also are the perfect ornamental lawn mower for the acreage or small farm as they are so low maintenance and easy for the new shepherd to care for.

Here in western Canada we are fortunate to have a number of dedicated breeders working with this breed and giving many new comers the ability to start. Shetland sheep are an old breed that is holding its own in today's agricultural scene, as they have found their place in both the niche market and the commercial operation.

Submitted by Callum McLeod





# Alberta Poultry Survey



## Do you keep backyard poultry?

This could be an urban, acreage, or rural flock of chickens, pheasants, and/or peafowl that you keep at numbers below a "commercial" flock level. If you keep under 300 laying chicken hens, under 2000 meat chickens, and/or any number of peafowl and/or pheasants, I'd be very grateful for your participation in my questionnaire today.

There are some important diseases that can affect small poultry flocks specifically, but we do not know how common these diseases actually are, what factors may put these flocks at risk for catching some of these diseases, and what can be done or recommended to treat and/or stop the spread of these diseases. Some of these diseases can wipe out your small flock, some can cause illness in humans, and some can affect the quantity and/or quality of eggs/meat that you produce for consumption by your family and/or your local community. Many of these diseases can also spread from commercial chickens to backyard chickens and vice versa, so if we can learn more about them, we can better protect all of the poultry in Alberta against them.

Should you choose to participate in this survey, you will be asked for some basic demographic information, and then the questions will focus on your flock, your basic management practices, and how common

(or uncommon) certain health and disease issues are in your flock.

Participation in this questionnaire is completely voluntary and there will be no risk to you whether you choose to participate or not. You will not be asked to provide any information that could be used to personally identify you. You may decline to answer any question(s) at any time. This questionnaire should take less than 25 minutes to fill out, and can be done on any computer, tablet or smartphone with internet access.

If you wish to be entered for a draw for a \$200 gift card to (either Peavey Mart or UFA), you will be asked to provide your contact information once you have completed the questionnaire. This is completely voluntary. This information will not be linked to your questionnaire in any way and will not be shared with any other business or organization. The draw will take place between April 1 and April 15, 2020. Only the winner will be contacted. Your contact information provided for this draw will be deleted/destroyed once the draw is completed.

### Statement of Potential Conflict of Interest:

Dr. Heather Van Esch is currently the owner of the Cremona Veterinary Clinic, which is a mixed animal veterinary practice 80km NW of Calgary, Alberta. Part of her practice regularly involves paid consultations with backyard poultry producers. During this

research, there will be no solicitation of participants to become clients of the Cremona Veterinary Clinic. Furthermore, the quality of care provided to the clients/patients of the Cremona Veterinary Clinic will not be impacted should a client choose to participate or not.

This study has been approved by The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board and is funded by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Egg Farmers of Alberta. If you have questions about this study, please contact Dr. Heather Van Esch by email at: [heather.vanesch@ucalgary.ca](mailto:heather.vanesch@ucalgary.ca).

**Please proceed to the study by clicking on this link:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlbertaBackyardPoultry](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AlbertaBackyardPoultry)



Photo: Rhode Island Red Flock, Hawthorn Hill Poultry

# 2019 APA Canadian National Show, Olds AB

This year Canadian Heritage Breeds had the distinct honour of hosting the 2019 APA Canadian National Poultry Show. Once again the show was staged at the Olds Cow Palace, a large modern facility that was recently outfitted with brand new lighting! On Friday afternoon the exhibitors began moving in their close to 750 entries. We were thrilled to be welcoming exhibitors and poultry fanciers from five provinces and from coast to coast. Strong contingents from Vancouver Island, the BC interior and lower mainland made the trek over the mountains, while the prairies were well represented by both veteran and novice exhibitors from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In addition to the APA Canadian National, the show was host for the ABA District Meet, Chantecler Fanciers International, International Waterfowl Breeders and North American Leghorn Club National Meets, Cochins international, Wyandotte Breeders of America and Rhode Island Red Club District Meets. Bart Pals of Iowa and Merle Watson of Nova Scotia had the honours of judging, while Andrew Greene judged Junior Showmanship. While the judges and clerks did their work, exhibitors and public visitors were able to take in the show from the seating that was stationed right in the middle of the action. They were also able to enjoy some local beer tasting from Olds College and bid on the birds in the Elite Breeders Auction. The six-lot auction was a huge success with over \$2500 being raised for CHB, and the top selling lots were the Sebastopols from Stephen Blash, and the Black Cochins from Patti Zimmerman.



Saturday came to a close with the Honourees Banquet. We were pleased to be able to host this event for this years Canadian APA Honourees, Bruce Bickle and Merle Watson. Both Bruce and Merle were supported by their peers and friends from BC and Nova Scotia respectively. It was really great to hear about these gentlemen's involvement and contribution to the poultry hobby from those who were directly impacted by it through mentoring, competition and more than anything else, friendship. The evening continued with more laughs and stories being told into the small hours of the morning.



*Judge Bart Pals and Bryan Shelton*



*Judge Merle Watson and Callum McLeod*

The following morning, exhibitors reconvened at the show for awards, where each class champion got to take home a wooden poultry crate hand made by Howard Meyers of Iowa. Overall, it was a sharp Pastel Call female from Jack and Justin Robertson that took top honours, with a Black Australorp Cockerel from Ramona Trombley close behind. While those birds were the 'winners', the real winners were all the exhibitors who had a full helping of fun at the 2019 APA Canadian National Show! A huge thank you to all the Canadian Heritage Breeds show committee members, without their countless hours of work, the show would not have happened!



*Showmanship Judging by Andrew Greene*



*Showmanship Champion Callie Corriveau*

# 2019 APA Canadian National Show Results Olds, AB November 2, 2019

American-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Bryan Shelton, White Wyandotte Pullet  
Bruce Bickle, White Chantecler Pullet



Asiatic-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Leila Kinnear, White Langshan Pullet  
Masen Grover, Black Cochin Pullet



English-

Champion -  
Reserve-

Ramona Trombley, Black Australorp Cockerel  
Kathy Stevenson, Buff Orpington Hen



Mediterranean-

Champion-  
Reserve-

C-R Ducks, SC Silver Leghorn Pullet  
Jaqueline French, Andalusian Hen



Continental-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Piet van Genugten, Barnevelder Pullet  
Callum McLeod, Silver Spangled Hamburg Pullet



AOSB-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Silver Ridge Aviaries, Black Sumatra Pullet  
Liz Munro, Black Naked Neck Cockerel



Champion Large Fowl- Ramona Trombley, Black Australorp Cockerel

Reserve Large Fowl- C-R Ducks, SC Silver Leghorn Pullet

SCCL-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Ramona Trombley, Black Plymouth Rock Cockerel  
Crystal McKinnon, New Hampshire Cockerel



RCCL-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Ramona Trombley, Partridge Wyandotte Cockerel  
Ramona Trombley, Partridge Wyandotte Pullet



AOCCL-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Bryan Shelton, White Cornish Pullet  
Silver Ridge Aviaries, Black Sumatra Pullet



OEG-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Dudley DeLeenheer, Black Breasted Red Cockerel  
Samuel Franklin, Silver Duckwing Pullet



Modern-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Clayton Botkin, Brown Red Pullet  
Clayton Botkin, Brown Red Pullet



Feather Leg-

Champion-  
Reserve-

C-R Ducks, Black Cochin Pullet  
LaVern Sjogren, Black Langshan Pullet



Champion Bantam-  
Reserve Bantam-

C-R Ducks, Black Cochin Pullet  
Dudley DeLeenheer, Black Breasted Red Cockerel

Champion Turkey-

Kyle Lawrence, Beltsville Small White Hen



Bantam Duck-

Champion-  
Reserve-

J&J Call Ducks, Pastel Call Old Duck  
J&J Call Ducks, East Indie Young Duck



Light Duck-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Carter Crosby, White Runner Old Drake  
Matthew Smith, Black Magpie Young Drake



Medium Duck-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Mountain View Ranches, Cayuga Young Drake  
Mountain View Ranches, Cayuga Old Drake



Heavy Duck-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Mountain View Ranches, Pekin Old Drake  
Mountain View Ranches, Pekin Old Drake



Champion Duck-  
Reserve Ducks-

J&J Call Ducks, Pastel Call Old Duck  
J&J Call Ducks, East Indie Young Duck



Light Goose-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Suzin Crosby, Tufted Roman Old Gander  
Bryan Shelton, White Chinese Old Gander

Medium Goose-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Suzin Crosby, Grey Saddleback Pomeranian Old Goose  
Crystal McKinnon, Buff American Old Gander

Heavy Goose-

Champion-  
Reserve-

Bryan Shelton, Buff African Old Goose  
Crystal McKinnon, Embden Old Gander



Champion Goose-  
Reserve Goose-

Bryan Shelton, Buff African Old Goose  
Crystal McKinnon, Embden Old Gander

Champion Waterfowl- J&J Call Ducks, Pastel Call Old Duck  
Reserve Waterfowl- J&J Call Ducks, East Indie Young Duck

Grand Champion- J&J Call Ducks, Pastel Call Old Duck  
Reserve Grand Champion- Ramona Trombley, Black Australorp Cockerel

Junior Champion Large Fowl- Leila Kinnear, White Langshan Pullet  
Junior Champion Bantam- Samuel Franklin, Silver Duckwing Pullet  
Junior Champion Waterfowl- Carter Crosby, White Runner Old Drake

Junior Grand Champion- Samuel Franklin, Silver Duckwing Pullet  
Junior Reserve Grand Champion- Leila Kinnear, White Langshan Pullet





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# 2019 Annual General Meeting MINUTES

**Location:** Olds Cow Palace

**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2019

Attendance:

President: Callum McLeod, Vice-president: Michelle Sulz, Secretary: Kathy Stevenson, Treasurer: Crystal McKinnon, Directors: Mike Skeels, Rico Sebastianelli.

Members: Mike Grover, John Posthuma, Bart Pals, Merle Watson, Stephen Sulz.

1. Call to Order  
Callum called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.
2. Approval of Agenda  
Agenda approved by Mike S. Seconded by Michelle. Carried.
3. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes  
2018 AGM minutes approved as circulated by Michelle. Seconded by Rico. Carried.
4. President's Message  
Callum spoke on the many successes of 2019 beginning with a double show in January, in which CHB joined forces with PMAPPS to hold a double show at Stony Plain. The K-Days summer poultry show once again generated a great deal of public interest, and the K-Days Dairy Goat show created revenue for our club. In September members set up a poultry display at Lacombe Heritage Days. This year's Fall Show is our largest poultry show to date. Peavey Mart did not provide funding this year as in the past, so some creative fund-raising became necessary. Thanks to a few industrious members who worked hard on sponsorships and fund-raising, CHB will finish this year in good financial shape.
5. Financial Report  
Crystal gave an overview of spending and revenue over the year, which resulted in a

profit of \$1597.54. The bank balance currently stands at \$12,729.01, but expenses from this show will reduce that balance by around \$4,200.00. This still leaves CHB with enough to cover the next year's operating budget and enough surplus funds to hold a basic show.

Rico mentioned that Peavey Mart had already promised to sponsor the PMAPPS show which is not going ahead. He will suggest that they allow this money to be transferred to CHB.

Crystal approved her Treasurer's Report.

#### 6. New Business

- a. 2019 Financial Statement Auditors: Callum and Mike S will do the 2019 auditing.
- b. Elections: Thank you to Yvette Franklin, who completed her 3-year term as director.  
Crystal nominated Mike Grover as Director. Mike accepted the nomination. With no further nominees, Mike was elected as Director by acclamation.
- c. 2020 Fall Show Date. All members agreed that the date should be moved, tentatively to 1 week later. All options will be explored and a decision will be made by the BOD.
- d. Bart Pals spoke on the Turkey Summit, stating that the industry would benefit from Canadian representation. He will forward information to CHB.

Adjournment: Callum McLeod announced the meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.

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