2014 CCPA Survey Results

There were 10 responders to the 2014 CCPA Survey

1. **The responders were located:**

* 3 Ontario
* 1 Saskatchewan
* 2 Alberta
* 4 BC

1. **Length of Cashmere goat ownership**

* 3 @ less than 2 years
* 3 @ 2-5 years
* 3 @ 6-9 years
* 1 @ 10+ years

1. **Owners primary purpose for cashmere goats**

* 6 for cashmere production
* 1 for breeding stock
* 2 for meat market
* 1 for meat crossbreeding

1. **Other uses for cashmere goats**

* 4 for cashmere production
* 5 for breeding stock
* 4 for meat
* 2 for brush control
* 2 for milk
* 4 for pets

1. **# of cashmere goats owned**

* 2 @ 2-5
* 2 @ 6-15
* 2 @ 31-45
* 2 @ 46-50
* 2 @ 75+

1. **# of Cashmere crossbred goats owned?**

* 5 @ none
* 2 @ 1
* 1@ 3
* 1 @ 2
* 1 @ 6

1. **# of goats cashmere fibre harvested this year?**

* 1-2
* 3
* 4
* 5
* 8
* 28
* 30
* 37
* 50
* 90ish

1. **Total volume of cashmere fibre harvested this year.**

* Unknown - 8 ziplock bags - 7.15-10.7 oz
* 16 oz - 15 lb - 20-40 lb
* 5.5 lb

1. **What is done with cashmere fibre harvest**

* sell raw and have processed into yarn and roving
* stored it
* 3/4 sent to mill for processing into yarns and roving, 1/4 sold raw to handspinners and other producers and used in house for fibre arts classes
* Send to processor, this year will be dehaired only.
* nothing
* Keep it for spinning
* Sell the cleanest and most hand spinner appropriate fleeces raw, show some and sell it after by the ounce raw at fibre shows, the rest goes to roving or yarns depending on the year and what we are low on.
* my first year... so I'm not too sure yet.
* process and sell

1. **Tools used to evaluate and monitor the quality of cashmere.**

* 7 @ Lab analysis histogram
* 7 @ Personal fleece evaluation before harvest
* 5 @ Personal fleece evaluation after harvest
* 3 @ Another breeder's personal evaluation of your fleeces
* 6 @ Canadian National Cashmere Fleece, Competition judge feedback
* 4 @ Other Cashmere fleece competition judge feedback
* 3 @ Other

1. **# of Current CCPA members**

* 8 yes - 2 no

1. a. **Perceived benefits of being a member**

* 5 @ General breed promotion for perspective buyers
* 7 @ Advertisement of your farm on the list of CCPA members on the CCPA webpage
* 1 @ Discount on CCPA resources
* 2 @ Fleece competition
* 2 @ CCPA newsletter
* 7 @ GoatKeeper magazine membership
* 3 @ CCPA presence on Facebook to communicate with other producers
* 3 @ other

12.b **In the last 4 years, the CCPA has done work such as create breed standards, producer resources,**

**and promotional opportunities. What would you like to see from the CCPA in the future?**

* greater national participation, greater member participation
* Educational and producer oriented workshops such as how to market their fibre/meat/breeding stock, judging clinics, cashmere goat management, invitation of more membership participation in everyday decisions that affect the Association, a warm, inviting, creative and welcoming receptive environment that is not bogged down with unnecessary red tape or a desire to just stay and remain the same way, sometimes things really need not be complicated. Perfectionism is the largest roadblock to progress. Less politics and more collaboration and creativity would be ideal. A truly transparent association that does not believe in a few individuals making decisions for all members.
* continue the good work. I would also like to see organization grow
* Evaluating Canadian market for cashmere as a potential industry
* To become a legitimate entity under Canadian law. To get a database of genetics and history of this breed going in Canada by contracting with CLRC at minimal cost to the breeder.
* more promotion, resources, recordation maybe, more accurate tracking of the Canadian Cashmere industry

1. a. **Have you been a CCPA member before?** 2 @ no

b. **Reason for not being a member.**

- I didn't know it existed.

- missed half the year already, I assume it goes January to January

c. **What would you like to see from the CCPA in order to choose to become a member?**

- information on the breed

- I will join next year

1. **Additional comments**

* I think the CCPA has the potential to grow and be truly the National Association that this industry needs to thrive and continue to grow in Canada with a continued effort and desire to improve, learned from it's past mistakes and move forward with the ideals that an Association is and should be a place for producers to find support and encouragement.
* Not sure if the extra numbers are needed but we always run around 150 pure animals
* I have had a few health problems this year and haven't done as much as I would have liked to in regards to being more involved in the fibre industry. I hope things turn around this year and will definitely join in 2015.

In Summary:

We are a diverse group with diverse ways of doing things. While not everyone who is a cashmere producer has participated in this survey, I believe we can still draw some things of value out of it. These are some points that have grabbed my attention.

* Most of us are fairly new to this industry; only one had more than 10 years experience.
* Most of us are fairly small operations.
* Primary and secondary use of goats focused on cashmere production, breeding stock, and meat.
* All are harvesting at least some of their cashmere
* 5 are sending fibre out for processing
* Good combination of personal and professional evaluations on fleeces are being done. This leads to a high end product. ☺
* The highest perceived benefits from CCPA membership were the ability to advertise on website and getting the GoatKeeper magazine.
* The lowest perceived benefits were discount on CCPA resourses, fleece competition, and newsletter
* Things desired from CCPA in future: more participation, education, more open organization for membership participation in decision making, help to grow cashmere industry in Canada, a legitimate entity in Canadian law.
* For those who were not members of the CCPA, one mentioned not even knowing organization existed prior to survey. This needs to be remedied

Thank you to all who participated in this survey.