

CSPA NEWSLETTER LATE FALL 2023

Official Newsletter of the Canadian Speckle Park Association

President's Message

BY JANICE HARASYMCHUK

History is built from remarkable firsts. Those of us fortunate enough to be involved with these milestone moments understand how important they are in creating a vibrant future for all of us. Circumstance creates events, but it's the people on the front lines that time will remember most. I can think of no better example of a group of people that have done more to change their stars than our Canadian Speckle Park breeders.

It is because of your strength and tenacity, your passion for what you do and the refusal to be left behind and forgotten that has allowed us to change the face of the beef industry. We not only put ourselves on the map, but we've also redrawn its borders.

In the past year alone, we've pushed far beyond what many others thought possible. 2023 saw a record number of Speckle Parks in the CWA Supreme, with another bull advancing to the top ten. The very first Speckle Park show at the Toronto Royal Fair was a

CSPA Holiday Hours

The CSPA office will close at noon MST on Friday December 22nd and will reopen on Tuesday January 2nd (regular hours).

resounding success. More and more black and white coats are headed to Mexico. This exposure creates increased popularity which directly affects sales.

Our youth program is also gaining popularity. The first junior meeting was held at Agribition with more than 20 attendees. Thanks to Makenzie Olson and Ciara Mattheis for preparing and directing our members to an educational and fun-filled event.

Our banquet & awards held at CWA on the Thursday was well received as it gave members and guests the opportunity to mingle and enjoy each other's company. The award recipients were properly recognized for their achievements and contributions to the Speckle Park breed.

I was able to attend the Canadian Beef Breeds Council AGM in November 2023 alongside all the other beef breed representatives. The keynote speaker was Bob Weaber – Kansas State University. His topic of discussion was 'The Role of Genetics in Sustainable Beef Production' – I'm hoping to have him speak at an AGM in the future, as so many of the costs regarding cow/calf production when you look at the entire picture speak directly to the Speckle Park breed and what we have to offer the beef industry. Examples were: maintenance of cows which contributes to 50% of costs, longevity, fertility, etc.

It is still noted that colour coat discounts are a huge concern for our breed as calves were sold in the fall. Speaking with producers, some areas were affected less than others. Scheduled influence sales and larger groups seemed to show better pricing. We need to be persistent and unwaveringas we all know we have a superior product to offer the beef world.

Neogen Holiday Hours

Friday December 1st:
Final day for sample to arrive to lab so that results are available before holidays.

Monday December 11th:
Final day for samples to arrive to lab so that results are available on January 3rd.

Monday December 25th -
Monday January 1st:
CLOSED

Tuesday January 2nd:
Open Regular Hours



Finally, as I reflect on the year with Christmas around the corner and preparation for the new M crop of calves to arrive. It is especially a time to be grateful and kind - Thank You to the CSPA board of directors, our support staff – Ciara, Cayley & Rita, and ALL the CSPA members young & old for your continued support.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Janice Harasymchuk
CSPA President



Book your 2024 CSPA website CALENDAR AD!

- Promote your operation or event.
- Ad can be changed up to two times per year.
- Ad will be linked to a URL of your choice, such as your sale catalog, Facebook page or website.
- Investment: \$500 per year.
- Contact Cayley at info@canadianspecklepark.ca for more details and to book your spot.

The next issue
of Spotlight
on Speckle
Park will be
published
March 1st!

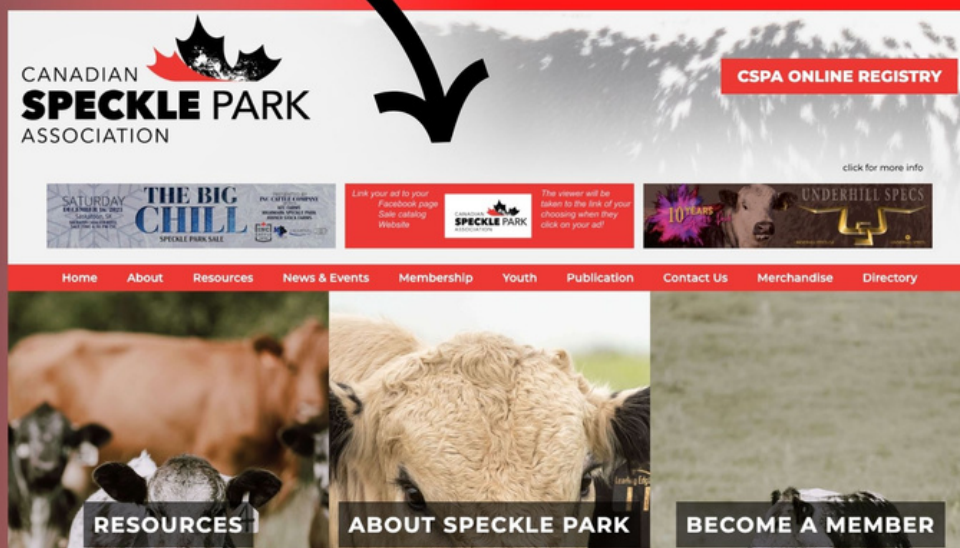
Contact Cayley at
info@canadianspecklepark.ca
to book your ad space
for this upcoming issue!

The print ready ad deadline
is February 15th.

ADVERTISE HERE

Now accepting banner ads for 2024.

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- Ad will be linked to a URL of your choice, such as your sale catalog, Facebook page or website.
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Attention Ontario CSPA Members!

Event of interest:

Grey Bruce Farmers' Week is in its 58th year of running and will be livestreamed in addition to having in-person attendance this year - meaning that anyone, from anywhere can attend! Please spread the word!

Beef Day will feature speakers on; rotational grazing and the impact on soil carbon, mineral supplementation of the cow herd, an industry update, a cattle market update, and a panel discussion on keeping cows on the landscape in Ontario, plus on-demands covering beef-on-dairy crosses, reducing calf stress, precision ag tech in extensive grazing sectors and many more!

Take advantage of the networking opportunities in the tradeshow and enjoy a hearty roast beef lunch. Can't watch the presentations live in Elmwood, Ontario? That's okay! They will be livestreamed during the event and available for viewing for 30 days after as well. Check out www.gbfiw.ca for more details.



See the new
five year
CSPA Youth
Programs
Plan below!



YOUTH PROGRAMS PLAN

5 Year Plan
(2023-2028)

Makenzie Olson

Youth Director



Youth Programs Plan

Mission

To empower and assist junior members in gaining additional knowledge, resources and attitudes that will further their development as self-reliant, contributing, productive and successful key members of the Speckle Park breed.

STRATEGIES

1. Create a functioning youth association to run alongside the breed association's board to get the youth more involved in the development of the Speckle Park breed.
2. Provide youth with more scholarship opportunities to promote getting an education to better our industry.
3. Manage a youth exchange program for our older youth members so that they may further experience the diversity of our breed
4. Facilitate multiple educational opportunities for the youth members at numerous youth-attended events throughout the year in order to provide more hands-on learning.
5. Continue supporting 4-H members showing a Speckle Park project with breed merchandise.
6. Exercise new means of promoting the National Youth Show to reach maximum participation.

STRATEGY 1:

Create a functioning youth association to run alongside the breed association's board to get the youth more involved in development of the Speckle Park breed.

- Create a structured youth board that meets monthly to maintain the association, with the youth director as their guide.
- Work with the office to maintain separate financial resources for the youth association and regularly review all income and expenses.
- Start an annual youth fundraiser to pay for swag, learning opportunities, travel opportunities, etc.
- Look into where all funds from "youth donation lots" over the past five years have been spent in order to get an idea of spending trends.
- Start planning a formal annual youth banquet in conjunction with the junior show.

STRATEGY 2:

Provide youth with more scholarship opportunities to promote getting an education to better our industry.

- Create two entering and one continuing scholarship aimed toward achieving post-secondary education.
- Name the scholarships as honorary and/or memorial names of current and past breeders.
- Maintain the bursary program aimed towards helping young producers start their herds.



STRATEGY 3:

Manage a youth exchange program for our older youth members so that they may further experience the diversity of our breed.

- Begin communications with Speckle Park International (SPI) to discuss logistics and details of creating an exchange program.
- Currently, we will just work on the planning stage, as there is no deadline for the first exchange



STRATEGY 4:

Facilitate multiple educational opportunities for the youth members at numerous youth-attended events throughout the year in order to provide more hands-on learning.

- Include more "hands-on" skill development events to equip the youth with the knowledge and skills to be competitive in the beef cattle industry.
- Look into getting educational speakers, demos and clinics at events that youth will be in attendance at - such as Agribition, the CSPA AGM and The Royal Winter Fair.



STRATEGY 5:

Continue supporting 4-H members showing a Speckle Park project with breed merchandise.

- Maintain a yearly rotation of new swag to maintain youth interest.
- Ask youth who receive swag to send us pictures of themselves wearing/using the swag to allow for more promotional youth articles and features.
- Promote our youth awards program more in order to reach as many members as possible via Facebook and try to connect with more youth interested in the breed through 4-H Canada.



Strategy 6:

Exercise new means of promoting the National Youth Show to reach maximum participation.

- Continue with office e-blasts promoting the show alongside Facebook posts to reach as much of the membership as possible.
- Start exploring the possibility of rotating the location of the show across Canada to allow all youth an equal chance to attend the show.

