

CANADIAN FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOUNDATION

“A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT”

“Modern agriculture has applied the science of genetics and breeding to produce efficient, high-producing farm animals and poultry. In the process, we are losing many breeds and strains of animals that were important historically. These diminishing breeds can serve as insurance in the form of gene pools. We need this insurance against future changes in the environment, feed supplies and changing human needs for animal products. Much of the genetic variability of farm animals is the result of several distinct breeds developed within each species; now many of these are in danger of becoming extinct worldwide. We must take an active role now in preventing further loss of this important source of insurance for food security”.

In 1994 a national workshop on Animal Genome Research was held in Winnipeg under the direction of Dr. Ed Lister.

A Canadian Animal Germplasm Technical Experts Board with 18 members was established and met approximately 12 times over a two year period with the completion of a document.

Canadian Farm Animal Genetic Resources Conservation: A Plan For The Future.

This document was presented at the Federal/Provincial Ministers Conference in 1995. CAGTEB Board members included Lister/Ho/Dalrymple/Cheng/Chesnais/Huggard.

In 1996 Dr.Cheng led the incorporation of the then Canadian Foundation For The Conservation OF Farm Animal Genetic Resources. The Foundation was established with the aim of gathering support for the long-term sustainability of the livestock and poultry genetic resources in Canada.

2.

The inaugural year of the Foundation, was led by Dr. Ed Lister with six Directors elected.

In March 1996, Lister and Ho attended Beijing Agro Annual Meeting in China. Directors Wong, Ho, Lister and Huggard made presentations and provided displays in Hong Kong and Taipei on behalf of the Foundation.

In 1997 the Foundation was involved in the release of Poultry stocks from the Centre for Food and Animal Research in Ottawa, which was closed.

In 1997, Dr. Lister led an effort to support the continuation of CFAR in Ottawa as a Centre for genetic resources, live animal conservation, and conservation of endangered farm breeds. Over 30 organizations were contacted with strong support. Nothing developed as AAFC stated they had to offer the facilities to other departments first.

In 1997 a pamphlet, “What Happened To All Our Breeds” was issued in English and French.

In 1996, 1997 and 1998 displays were set up at the Agricultural Institute of Canada / Ontario Institute of Agrologists / Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meetings. Dalrymple spoke to 125 delegates on Animal Genetic Resources at the OIA annual (Kingston).

In 1997 an International Speakers Forum was held sponsored by the Foundation, CARC/ CFAR at Aylmer, Quebec- “Canadian Farm Animal Genetic Resources At The Crossroads: Crisis Or Opportunity.” Over 150 people from around the world were in attendance.

In 1998 Drs. Silversides and Patterson developed a brochure: “Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources”- material for a one- hour lecture for animal breeding courses.

In 1999, a Farm Animal Genetic Resources Forum: The New Millennium at Charlottetown, PEI., was organized by the Foundation. Keynote speakers were Dr. Donald Shaver O.C., Dr. Dian Patterson NSAC, and Dr. David Notter from the United States.

3.

In 2000, the Foundation's name was changed to Canadian Farm Animal Genetic Resources Foundation. Over 20 farm organizations support the Foundation with financial contributions.

Dr. Donald Shaver, Foundation Director, wrote the Minister of Finance and met with the Secretary of Treasury Board regarding Federal support for the Foundation and its efforts.

In 2000, Lister and Grunder represented the Foundation at the FAO, Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group 5th Annual Global Conference in Brazil.

In 2000, Dalrymple, Ho and Grunder represented the Foundation at a conference in the United States- Preserving Animal Germplasm Diversity – A Call To Action. (Indiana)

Ed Lister as Chair met with Terry Pinder and Lois James AAFC regarding the Foundation's Business Plan. (November 29,2000)

Dr Shaver met with AAFC's Minister (Vanclief) at the World Poultry Congress in Montreal where the Minister indicated support for the Foundation's activities and the need for greater attention to animal genetic resources and their preservation.

Dalrymple attended the Canadian Biodiversity Network Conference in Ottawa in March 2001.

In 2001 the Minister's Special Assistant (Barbara Doan) informed the Foundation "that AAFC does not have a program to address the preservation of animal genetic resources".

In 2001 Lister/Dalrymple met with AAFC (CARD) officials Trus/Ross/James/McGuire to develop a Communications Plan through CARD with \$61,000 federal support. This was approved by the Minister Vanclief.

In July 2001 information packages on the Foundation were sent to 12 provincial Deputy Ministers, 10 Universities, 31 Producer organizations, and 14 agriculture and consumer media sources.

4.

In September 2001 Foundation Directors were increased from 6 to 8 to include commodity organizations.

In November 2001 five Foundation Directors attended the “Ad Hoc Committee On Canada’s Report To FAO On Animal Genetic Resources. (Chair-Roy Crawford)

In 2001 Dr. Larry Milligan was commissioned by the Foundation with AAFC support to prepare a document “Canadian Livestock Genetic resources: Need For A National Conservancy Strategy.

A report from Dr Brad Fraleigh AAFC to Dr Shaver indicated the Research had 789 scientists, 403 in Crop Research and 103 in animal research. Total MII funds for 2000-2001 were \$17,101,400 for Crops and \$4,058,000 for Animals. (September 2001)

Dr. Steve Morgan-Jones, was asked by Dr. Gordon Durrell to take on responsibilities within AAFC for livestock germplasm conservation.

Ted Lawrence, representing Rare Breeds Canada joins the Foundation as a Director. (2002)

In 2002 Brian Freeze, David Bailey and Bernie Benkel met via teleconference with the Foundation Directors to confirm that AAFC was developing a proposal to Cabinet on Animal Gene Resources.

In August an Assessment Committee was established within the Foundation (2002).

Dalrymple attended a U.S. National Animal Germplasm meeting held in Quebec City.

The Foundation led support to keep poultry breeds- notably quail-at the UBC in Vancouver. (2002)

A brochure was issued in English and French-“Preserving Farm Animal Genetic Resources In Today’s High-Tech World”. (2002)

5.

In 2002 the Foundation prepared a full colour 20 page booklet in English and French: Canadian Farm Animal Genetic Resources Foundation-The Need For An Animal Genetic Resource Policy For Canada.

In November 2002 the Foundation Directors (Buckland/Huggard/Cheng/Shaver/Hunton) addressed the federal government Caucus on Post-Secondary Education and Research. Following this presentation Chairman Peter Adams(M.P. Peterborough) raised the question of Livestock Genetics in the House of Commons. (November 29, 2002)

In November 2002 Dr Steve Morgan Jones AAFC, spoke to the Foundation annual meeting, and confirmed, that, “AAFC has no resources currently invested on genetic resources and relies on volunteer groups for this investment activity”.

Dr Robert Gowe prepares a report for the Foundation on Animal Gene Resources- “Priorities For Conservation Animal Genetic Resources”. (2003)

In March 2003 the Foundation contracted with Rare Breeds Canada to prepare four fact-sheets in both English and French on endangered cattle, swine and poultry breeds. These were placed on the Foundation’s website and distributed to all interested organizations.

In 2003 the Foundation’s website was developed with the assistance of Loyalist College.

In 2003 The Foundation contracted NSAC (Silversides and Patterson) to prepare a brochure “Farm Animal Genetic Resource Conservation-Why And How. (\$2,500.)

By 2004 the Foundation had received over 32 Corporate Memberships.

6.

A “Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee On Conserving Farm Animal Genetic resources In Canada” Co-chaired by Dr. Buckalnd of the Foundation and Dr Jones of AAFC was established with 14 members.

In 2005, the Foundation provided major input in the establishment of the Canadian Gene Resource Centre in Saskatoon and the Foundation was asked to place Directors on a Steering Committee for the CAGR. It was mentioned by AAFC of the significant role that the Foundation had played in the CAGR formation and the continued need of its contribution in the future.

Dr Shaver met with AAFC’s Deputy Minister Edwards regarding the imbalance of research favouring plants versus animals in AAFC. (2005)

In June 2006, Minister Strahl approved the request through ACAA for \$118,000 for the Foundation’s study conducted at the University of Guelph: Development Of A Plan To Preserve Genetic Variability And Diversity In Canadian Farm Animals.

The Foundation requested that the CAGR establish an Advisory Board for the Saskatchewan Centre (2006).

Dr Peter Hunton visited the CAGR in Saskatoon to review progress at the Centre (October 18th/19th 2008).

At a meeting in December a new mission statement was developed: “To encourage biodiversity and conservation of farm animal genetic resources in Canada; to facilitate and encourage research that impacts directly or indirectly on farm animal genetic resources and biodiversity; to communicate and interact with like-minded organizations in Canada and throughout the world.”

The Foundation nominated Dr Robert Gowe for induction to the Canadian agricultural Hall of Fame. (Induction occurred in 2009).

Efforts were made in 2009 for the Foundation to become the “Industry Liaison” for the CAGR in Saskatchewan.

7.

In December 2009 Drs. Shaver and Hunton accepted an invitation to meet at the University of Guelph with CAGR officials. Although they weathered a severe storm to do so, the officials had decided to depart early for the airport in view of the storm. They did not reinstate the meeting.

In March 2010 Dr Don Wilson and Jim Dalrymple, Foundation Co-Chairs held a conference call with Dr Steve Morgan Jones at AAFC regarding the CAGR's activities, the need for an Advisory Committee meeting and the need for a liaison official at CAGR to work with industry partners.

News letters- Initial newsletters 7 in number were replaced with "The Gene Scene" with over 20 issues completed to date.

Conference Displays:

OIA Annual, Kingston 1996

AIC Truro, Nova Scotia 1997

CCEA Ottawa 1997

Canadian Sheep Classic, Truro Nova Scotia 1997

AIC Guelph 2004

The Foundation has had over 15 direct contacts with Federal Ministers, mainly Mr. Vanclief. Then Minister, Vanclief attended one annual with a special presentation to Dr. Donald Shaver O.C.

Prepared By:

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