

This list of **Questions and Answers** will keep growing and get more organized. Some questions are rephrased; many answers are incomplete.

There is nothing purposely being hidden by the ISBONA Board or the people working on the project.

The best thing we can do is offer to educate everyone (ourselves included) to try to find a common baseline. When we (all of us) can knowledgeably describe the pros and cons of the various approaches, we can speak more constructively with one another and reach some conclusions about what is best to do for the sheep, their breeders and ISBONA.

Some people already know their preferred answers are best for them and will not change their minds; some people will change their minds; others may want to learn more before making up their minds.

Trying to stay open with what is fact vs what is conjecture vs what is most feared is where we are now.

1. ISBONA IS NOT ADDRESSING THE ISSUES BROUGHT UP ON FACEBOOK.

This is undoubtedly true, but it was also a mistake for us to try to deal with this topic on Facebook at all, even unofficially. Discussions on Facebook are from individuals who represent their own opinions and are not the same as what ISBONA (the organization) might come to believe is a good idea.

We are researching a complicated, sometimes emotional issue and it cannot be addressed in the same way as "What color is my lamb?".

There is simply no way to answer each of the questions or assertions that get made on Facebook: people come into the discussion with far different levels of knowledge and very different points of view, and Facebook does not seem to have a way to bring people together to discuss; there are a limited number of people who can answer questions versus a lot more people who demand answers which is both

exhausting and frustrating; not everyone who might be interested participates on Facebook.

We need a better venue. It looks as if some combination of published Q&A like these and some more interactive conversation (eg, a Chat Room) as well as direct emailed questions would work best, and we are moving in that direction.

2. DEFINITIONS

Using the same terminology will help us all stay out of the rabbit holes. These are worthwhile struggling through.

Animal Pedigree Act (Rev 1988)- The APA or “the Act”. One piece of Canadian Federal statutory legislation on animal affairs in Canada related to breed associations and registry.

Provides extensive guidance to breed associations who may cite it as incorporating legislation provided they follow the rules of the APA: provides definitions, required bylaws, recommendations on conduct and governance, protection from competition in some instances, allowable penalties, enforcement provisions, Foreign Registry (reciprocity) and more.

APA holds the following position on breed associations with respect to country of birth of animals (see Foreign Registry) in discussing recognition of a Foreign Registry:

“...essentially to acknowledge that the registry in the country of birth is the best positioned to apply and enforce its rules of eligibility. For example, the Animal Pedigree Act requires that breed associations make by-laws respecting the inspection of pedigrees and breeding records kept by its members. This becomes impractical to do when animals are in a foreign country, outside its jurisdiction. Likewise, a registry in the United States, for example, may not be able to provide much assurance as to the private breeding records and practices of its members in other countries, including Canada. Primary reasons for this include such things as access difficulties and enforcement difficulties out side a country’s borders.”

IL - The Breed code for Icelandic Sheep in the APA.

Breed Association - an entity that handles the following functions for the breed or species: recognition of breed standard; identification of purebred animal (eg, tattoo requirements, tag requirements, photographic proof, DNA signature); eligibility for registration (eg, parentage requirements via testing, correctness of type, etc); sets its name to certificates; sets membership dues and fees and non-membership fees, if desired; enforces rules and bylaws; provides education and promotion (may be breed specific or industry wide).

The American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club and American Morgan Horse Registry are all examples of breed associations. For sheep in Canada, CSBA is the primary breed association (representing about 40 breeds).

Typically formed within the country where the animals to be registered are born. Use of CSBA as breed association for US born sheep is an outlier due to history. Icelandics are the only US born sheep registered in Canada with a handful of exceptions.

If we imagined a complete "breed association" for Icelandic sheep in one place it might look like this: about 75-80% of the breed association functions are performed by CSBA and the remaining 25-20% by ISBONA. This is loosely based on relative revenues received by the two organizations today.

CSBA grows with the growth in the breed itself through dues and fees required to register purebred Icelandic sheep. ISBONA growth is dependent on people wanting to support Icelandics — more of a "fan club" approach than a breed association.

Registrar - an entity that handles the paperwork, records eligible sheep in the registry and carries out various responsibilities as directed by the rules set by the breed association. Also collects

the dues and fees, interfaces with breeders, issues paperwork, handles financial arrangements and banking and much more. Maybe part of the breed association itself, but is often independent. CLRC is the current registrar for Icelandic sheep.

Registry - name for the pedigree database used to hold registered animals. The formal name of this repository in the case of sheep is the Canadian National Record for Sheep.

Foreign Registry - a defined construct whereby a non-Canadian breed association can be formally recognized via reciprocal acceptance of purebred sheep and their progeny. Certain rules must be followed by the non-Canadian breed association.

The APA has as primary goal the improvement of breeds in Canada, so it provided a way for Canadian breeders to improve their stock. This is more common in some species than others.

This allows sheep and offspring born in one country to be recognized in another subject to similarities in shared foundation stock, similar (not necessarily identical) breed standard, similar identification requirements, similar eligibility requirements.

The APA and CSBA today recognize over 30 breed associations (called Foreign Registries or International Registries) that are based in the US. The entity seeking recognition needs to be a breed association with reasonably consistent breed standards and identification rules. Interactions are complex and need to be better understood especially if they may affect Canadian breeders.

To be honest, it is hard to say whether this is a good thing for ISBONA and CSBA to do or not such a good thing. Under almost any scenario, it looks as if ISBONA and CSBA need to establish some sort of formal agreement with one another. Formal reciprocal Foreign Registry recognition looks to be useful for several different reasons. Recently CSBA declared that Foreign Registry status would seem to REQUIRE a

US born sheep to be registered by the US registry. We still need to understand this entire construct better.

CSBA - Canadian Sheep Breeders Association. Not-for-profit breed association that currently certifies purebred Icelandic sheep in US, Canada, Russia (that is, registration papers issued on behalf of this breed association bear the CSBA logo and legend at the top).

Located in Canada; established under the APA to serve the national flock of Canada.

Members may be individuals, provincial associations, Canadian authorized breed associations. Non-Canadian breed associations are not eligible (although may be recognized as Foreign Registries). Only Canadian citizens are eligible to vote on issues presented to the general membership.

Board is composed of provincial association representatives based on numbers of transactions recorded at CLRC for that province; also one Junior member (non-voting). Most provinces have one seat on the Board: Ontario has 2; Quebec has three. Foreign (non-Canadian) associations are not permitted to appoint representatives.

Member counts - Icelandic breeders (89 in Canada (per CSBA in April) and 191 from US (per CLRC year end report) out of a reported 1300 breeders across Canada. Overlap is about 66-70% with current ISBONA membership; many were ISBONA members at one time.

Managed by part time General Manager assisted by various Board members as needed.

Members pay dues in exchange for discounted rates and benefits per Chart 1; benefits are primarily for the sheep industry of Canada but many are available to sheep breeders anywhere in

the world free of charge. The CSBA website gives a good overview of their activities. Benefits are not designed to go directly to breeders.

A breeder need not join CSBA in order to register sheep but may pay non member rates (about twice member rates) and are bound by CSBA bylaws to the same rules and responsibilities as members.

Registers most, but not all, breeds of sheep in Canada plus registers US Icelandics (the only US sheep breed done through CSBA with exception of a handful of Romanov and Rideau Arcott sheep over the past 10 years).

Revised their bylaws to allow US citizens to register sheep directly as individuals, in a separate Non Resident Member Status, not Regular member class.

Sets prices for services; receives discounts from CLRC (their registrar) based on volume and Canadian entity.

Received about \$235K CAD in revenue (2016); about 1/10 of that revenue is from Icelandics (Canadian and US) NOTE: This is revenue, not profit contribution; has cash and investment portfolio totaling about \$500K CAD.

CLRC - Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. Not-For-Profit registrar that currently maintains the registry for North American purebred Icelandics and many other species and sheep breeds.

Located in Canada; also established under APA. Full time General Manager and a small staff of employees, two of whom are sheep registrars.

Members are typically breed associations or provincial associations. Board consists of representatives from provincial organizations, plus one Canadian government representative. Non

Canadian Associations are not eligible to appoint members to serve on the Board.

Authorized to perform duties for countries outside of Canada although emphasis is on Canada. Handles most, but not all, sheep breeds; handles all of CSBA's registrar functions.

Breeders are eligible for CLRC services if their breed or provincial association is enrolled with CLRC. A US breeder is considered eligible by virtue of their relationship with CSBA (either as a member or non-member).

All of CLRC's services can be available depending on the services ordered by the breeder's association and many can be facilitated outside of Canada. For example, DNA testing is generally done in the breeder's country so CLRC has agreements with several labs in US and Canada.

Registers about 1200 Icelandic sheep per year over past 10 years; roughly 1000 are US born on average annually.

Fees are set based on unit costing forecasts and charged back to breed associations. The excess of what the breed association charges for a service and the cost incurred at CLRC is returned to the breed association to allow it to fund its programs.

The CLRC costing schedule offers percentage discounts resulting from volume of transactions adjustments and a higher unit cost rate for non-Canadian breed associations.

For example, CLRC charged to CSBA \$6.00 CAD in 2017 to produce a two generation pedigree. The charge to the breeder from CSBA is \$11/21CAD. The difference is returned to CSBA and is used to fund its various programs.

- If not part of CSBA, ISBONA would pay a higher cost due to its lower volume and its status as a non-Canadian association

(foreign unit cost is \$6.75CAD). We need more work with CLRC to understand the full impact of the cost adjustments.

CLRC also offers many additional tools as part of their services to contracted breed associations such as pedigree database downloads, various statistics, banking reports and more.

ISBONA has no legal relationship with CLRC, although establishing such a relationship is one of the possible alternative outcomes (#3).

Dues - the amount paid to a breed association to become a member and gain eligibility for benefits

Fees - the amounts paid by a breeder for services when registering, transferring, etc sheep

old-ISBONA - ISBONA pre 2/2018 bylaws.

Not for profit New York Corporation. Restricted to providing education and promotion duties for Icelandic sheep. Open to interested parties independent of citizenship with members in US, Canada, Wales, Great Britain; eligible members may vote regardless for citizenship. Some differential membership and voting classes have existed over the years.

“Recognized” CSBA and CLRC as organizations who performed certain duties, but had no official relationship with either CSBA or CLRC; all contracts (actual or implied) were between individual breeders and CSBA.

ISBONA members were typically instructed to “register via CSBA” or “join CSBA to register your sheep”.

ISBONA receives no payment for this reference and it is not a delegation of duties — ISBONA had limited duties and not those of a breed association.

new-ISBONA - ISBONA post 2/2018 bylaws.

Not for profit NY corporation. Accepted responsibility for broader mission and established purpose includes full breed association functions. Membership remains open as above and there is one class of voting members. Needs to determine how to best provide those functions. Should assure its members are treated without discrimination in regard to membership dues and fees. Ideally, should maintain a recurring source of income for programs requested by membership in excess of dues payments.

Enrolls approximately 200-250 members each year; maybe half to two thirds renewing annually, with the rest replacements; 20% Canadian membership. Has revenue of about \$5K-\$6K annually; \$15K in the bank.

No relationship with ISBONA is needed to register Icelandic sheep via CSBA.

3. WHAT IS THE BREED ASSOCIATION EXPLORATION PROJECT? WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? WHO IS DOING THIS?

As noted in the letter accompanying the Opinion Survey on Registrar Functions, the ISBONA Executive Committee (President Elaine Clark, Vice President Kathy Taft Boyden and Treasurer Marge Jackson) is conducting the project while the Board is not in session.

A good place to start to understand the Background and Goals of the project would be from the slideshow package put together as part of the AGM in November 2017: <http://www.isbona.com/images/pdf/agmslides.pdf>

This is a large PDF file and will take time to download.

We have already learned some things that have helped to sharpen our focus and are reflected in this document.

Some additional detail may help from Elaine Clark's letter of April 4, 2018 letter to CSBA in followup to a conference call on March 29, 2018:

"We spent a fair amount of time at the meeting discussing the reasons why ISBONA has launched this effort and what we need to do for our breed, our breeders and our organization. We hope that explanation was useful to you as background.

You asked what our goals were in choosing a registry arrangement, and I will repeat those here from my March 5 letter. These are the things against which we will test each of our broad alternatives. We are not bound to select the least expensive choice, but certainly costs will have an influence.

- The timeframe for conversion to an ISBONA registry database should accommodate a January 1, 2019 transition to coincide with our membership year. We need to minimize confusion, assuring all of the rules are in place sooner than that date so that notification of the revised process can be communicated to all involved.
- Breeder members see no changes in the quality and variety of services they enjoy. Costs to them and/or to our organization are minimal and known in advance. We are thinking here of such things as ways to reuse existing data, assuring full access to services such as virtual mating, no changes needed in Flock Codes, CLRC numbers, etc.
- To the extent possible given Canadian law, we want to continue to serve Canadian breeders who may be interested. We are not sure what is possible in this area and would like to discuss further.
- It is our intention to offer US Icelandic breeders (and any others interested), the same types of services and benefits as CSBA provides for their Canadian members."

4. ISN'T THIS REALLY JUST A WAY FOR ISBONA TO MAKE MONEY OR ADD MORE MEMBERS?

You say that as if it is a bad thing!

Either or both of these might be welcome byproducts of change.

Assuming breeders don't get charged more money overall, any existing revenue that ISBONA might be able to share today is now going exclusively to CSBA and has been for years.

We have not exactly discussed this "money issue" with CSBA nor have they admitted their concern to us. However, both organizations know any option for ISBONA to form its own breed association causes revenue loss for them.

If contracts are needed between CSBA and ISBONA, we need to be sure we understand exactly what CSBA is legally able to do; same with ISBONA responsibilities. For example, if CSBA offers, as they did, to collect additional fees levied on breeders, we need to make sure we are legally able to charge those fees to members (we did not like this suggestion at all and it does not even seem legally possible from the CSBA bylaws; it was immediately dismissed on the ISBONA side).

There is an equity issue, too, which matters to the ISBONA Board since we should not be encouraging situations where some members are entitled to benefits and some are not when they are paying the same amount of money. If nothing else there needs to be clear disclosure of the nature of the relationship. This is less a problem if ISBONA is not directing people somewhere, but we have been directing members to CSBA that since the beginning. If some formal contractual relationships are needed, we need appropriate due diligence to assure we understand enough to get those agreements in place.

Could ISBONA use more money to do the things that members/others want to do like sponsoring breed specific research on AI or genetics or reimburse for DNA tests or flock improvement seminars or wool pools or youth programs or marketing seminars or ????

Of course! It could use more money, and ISBONA could use more volunteers, too and a great set of new Board members.

It takes money or people and usually both to deliver value. Delivering value is what a Board is supposed to help an organization do.

It might make more sense to complain if the ISBONA Board was not trying to do something to help the organization.

There are probably easier ways to get a few more members or make a little more money if either of these things were primary goals. They are not the goals of the project, but they would be welcome. Any alternative that affords revenue for ISBONA is better than one that does not.

But this starts with the sheep and making sure we are serving them well; then their breeders; then ISBONA.

5a. WHY DO I HAVE TO JOIN _____ . I DON'T LIKE TO BE FORCED INTO THINGS. Variations include I DON' T LIKE/ TRUST ISBONA; I DON'T HAVE TO BELONG TO _____ TODAY SO WHY DO I HAVE TO JOIN TOMORROW? I LOVE _____ ; WHY ARE YOU MAKING ME CHANGE?

5b. WHY DO CANADIANS HAVE TO LEAVE ISBONA? Variations include WHY IS ISBONA LEAVING CANADIANS/CANADA/CSBA/ CLRC? WHY IS ISBONA THREATENING CANADIANS' BUSINESS BY FORCING THEM TO REGISTER THROUGH ISBONA?

None of this is accurate.

More effort is going to understand more choice not less as long as we are able to do that without sacrificing anything else. No one wants to be forced into anything or belong to a group where people have been forced to join.

So far, all anyone has been "forced" to do is to decide whether he/she would care to answer some survey questions.

But if it is best that a sheep is registered in its birth country, we need to be sure that anyone who chooses to do otherwise does not cause any other harm.

For example, some US based breeders have been clear they want nothing to do with ISBONA and will only register with CSBA. While we are trying to assure their choice, we also have to ask if that is a smart idea if their US born sheep are registered in Canada (and therefore not

subject to the same requirements as the rest of the US born sheep such as parentage testing). Might too many of those kinds of decisions pose any risk to the purity of the flock of Icelandics in the US? There is bound to be a way to address this issue, but it is just not clear yet.

6. WHY ARE YOU CHANGING THE BREED STANDARD? ISN'T CSBA A BETTER PLACE TO KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THAT SAFE?

We are not changing the Breed Standard. The goal is to protect and enforce the standard equally for the sheep and their breeders.

The breed standard is where everything begins and ends when it comes to the protection, preservation, direction of the breed.

To the extent this concern was raised relating to planned future ISBONA Board action (and suspicions about ulterior motives):

The Icelandic Breed Standard is the probably the most sacred thing we have going for our sheep breed. It is one reason we are here today looking at all the pieces of this jigsaw puzzle. The breed standard belongs to the breed association who is entrusted and expected to maintain and enforce it with integrity on behalf of the purebred sheep.

The breed standard of a purebred breed association should never be changed without a great deal of knowledgeable discussion and research to justify the change and understand why it is appropriate.

It is debatable as to whether one organization or another is better to uphold the standard, but there should be contractual ways to link two organizations so one does not run amuck.

Actually, as standards go, the standard for Icelandics is quite broad and allows for a lot of variation in conformation already. Iceland has no standard, and the US and Canada today share exactly the same standard.

7. THE SURVEY DOES NOT ADDRESS EVERYTHING. THE SURVEY FAVORS/DISFAVORS _____. WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT _____ FROM THEIR REGISTRAR?

This statement is correct, the Registry Survey did not address everything there is to be addressed in a project like this. It was not supposed to do that.

Even as described, this one did not address all the issues of registrar work but focused, as it said it would, on those that you as a breeder might have an opinion about. Other potential or mandatory registry duties such as reporting statistics, banking reports, pedigree downloads, data transfers, etc. were not addressed as they were not that relevant to breeders.

The survey was not designed to rule any one in or rule anyone out.

It must have done a decent job at this since some people thought the questions were biased toward CLRC and some thought they were weighted against CLRC.

Options listed were just a sampling of things that are either offered/ not offered by registrars or that might be desirable; some were historically offered up as reasons why "ISBONA should not operate its own registry".

The things that are important to people registering sheep will become important criteria to evaluate alternatives. The things that don't matter in the survey won't matter in the decision-making unless there is a good reason to include them.

One thing the survey did that was not exactly planned was that it let many people comment about things they liked or disliked overall whether part of a registrar function or not. It was a great way to make sure those concerns get on the table. Initial thoughts on the Comments raised in Q7 are included as Chart 2.

A future survey might deal with a different set of responsibilities that cover functions in a breed association, including the setting and enforcement of the breed standards, rules for eligibility, how should non-members be allowed, how to ensure there is always an entity to register sheep even if someone wants nothing to do with ISBONA, what constitutes acceptable enforcement, etc etc. This survey is not

designed yet and will not be as easy as the Registrar functions survey to construct — that is a given, so it might be while before it gets here.

There might be other surveys needed.

8. WHEN I JOINED IT, I THOUGHT ISBONA WAS THE BREED ASSOCIATION. WHAT IS GOING ON?

Ed. Note: Yeah, me too. ISBONA has not ever been a breed association in definition. Its previous bylaws were confusing in that it seemed to hand off powers it did not actually have to CSBA and CLRC partly because it never included any breed association functions clearly in its purpose. Membership (by joining and paying membership dues or implicit by paying non-member fees) in CSBA was required before sheep could be registered and ISBONA steered members in that direction for years.

ISBONA membership was a more voluntary choice than people sometimes understood; most people began their Icelandic sheep adventure with IBSONA in some way or another. If anything, the “forcing” was toward CSBA, not into ISBONA. It has always been easier to give up paying dues to ISBONA than to CSBA.

Historically, regardless of its paperwork, ISBONA has behaved as a group of people who appreciate the Icelandic sheep and enjoy discussing and learning about them from people with similar interests. But it did not accept responsibility for the Icelandic sheep in North America even though many of us thought it did and should. This probably still holds true: most ISBONA members and most people who know about ISBONA thought of it as a breed association.

Under it's new Bylaws, ISBONA is now researching how to best *be* a breed association for the good of the Icelandic sheep and membership today and any potential future members. The best way to do that is to look at how breed association functions are performed for the sheep and breeders today and that leads to looking more closely at CSBA and how it is delivering value to all of the members of ISBONA regardless of where they live — US or Canada.

Repeating this for emphasis:

Historically, ISBONA concentrated primarily on one aspect of a breed association's responsibilities — breed specific promotion through social media, education and advertising. It fulfills this role in both Canada and the US.

With the adoption of an enhanced ISBONA purpose in our bylaws as of February 2018, we must look at how the rest of the breed association responsibilities get carried out.

We promised we'd look at our duties to preserve and protect the purebred nature of the Icelandic sheep by looking to see what it would take to accept the responsibilities that CSBA does today when we instruct people to go to CSBA to do registrations. Research around this responsibility has been new and quite enlightening.

It does not mean CSBA has done anything wrong, and it does not mean there is some plot going on.

The current approach using CSBA seems to be pretty comprehensive and useful for Canadians but not as complete for US breeders. While US breeders get paperwork to show, they also experience some risks and drawbacks that inadvertently come about by using CSBA as the breed association.

9. HOW DID WE GET THIS WAY IN THE FIRST PLACE?

When ISBONA began there were no Icelandics anywhere in North America other than Stefania's small imported flock in Canada.

Partly as an accommodation to Stefania (who was not easy to turn down), partly because ISBONA's founders wanted no responsibilities for breed association functions and partly because they were resident in Canada with Stef's sheep, CSBA was ceded the breed association responsibilities for the Icelandic sheep. It was not a highly researched decision but a time of much excitement among a few people who were determined to make a market for Icelandics in North America.

CSBA made changes to their Constitution/Bylaws to accept registrations for individual US breeders under certain conditions. At a later date, ISBONA set up it's Bylaws to point to breed association responsibilities as CSBA's authority.

Over time, the balance of Icelandic breed presence has shifted from Canada to the US. Icelandics stand out as perhaps the only major breed without a breed specific association in the US or Canada. This alone is not necessarily reason to change, but it is a reason to look closely and ask why Icelandics should be different.

It seems as if there is evidence that a US based breed association would be better able to serve a US based breeder while CSBA is better able to serve a Canadian breeder. So far, the advice of the Animal Protection Act of Canada is borne out: it is best for an animal to be registered through a breed association in the country in which it was born.

10. WHAT DO OTHER BREEDS DO WHEN THEY HAVE SHEEP IN BOTH THE US AND CANADA?

Most breeds are split with breed associations in both countries (usually through CSBA in Canada; more often through a separate association in the US); separate registries; little coordination. Some US breed associations are willing to enroll sheep for Canadian breeders; CSBA registers sheep for US Icelandic breeders (about 1000 on average annually) and two other breeds (about 6-10 annually).

It is pretty commonly accepted that it is better for an animal to be registered in the country in which it is born. This comes from the Animal Protection Act of Canada itself and is the usual practice.

The reasons for this are simple even if not obvious all the time. A country's laws regarding how they want their agricultural and animal products managed, and their own legal system framework of issues associated with enforcing bylaws (such as difficulty in accessing breeder records located in another country or restrictions on enforcement jurisdiction), make this a common sense approach.

There is no question that this makes things easier. That is not to say that two are better than one.

While the laws around Canadian animal management are thorough and hopefully good for breeders in Canada, they do not always work that well for people in the US.

A good example is dual tagging. There, intertwined Canadian laws make sense for people in Canada who need to obey all of those laws anyway, but become more troublesome for those in the US who would ordinarily not have to follow those laws.

Another example is in enforcing Bylaws. The Animal Protection Act gives CSBA the legal framework and resources of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) as an enforcement mechanism; but the RCMP has no jurisdiction outside of Canada.

This sounds esoteric and not especially important but it has implications for any breed association trying to register sheep bred and born in another country. As an example, this is the reason why parentage testing is not implemented by CSBA for US born sheep — there is limited enforcement possible and there is no jurisdiction provided for. Finding a violation does no good if it cannot be enforced, so there is no sense in looking.

Take that one more step, and it means sheep born in the US who have been registered by a breed association in Canada are not offered quite the same protection as sheep who are born and registered in Canada; same with their breeders.

Take that one step further, if a US breed association exists, there is a risk in allowing a US breeder to register outside of the US (again, because enforcement is difficult).

The ISBONA Board is responsible for protecting the sheep in a way it has not been responsible before. That includes asking whether it is a good idea for anyone in the US to register US born sheep in another country.

Incidentally, there is no reason to think ISBONA could do a good job trying to do all the breed association functions on behalf of sheep born in Canada either — one more reason why it makes little sense to think in terms of “forcing” registration decisions. Less stringent laws in the US might make ISBONA a little better equipped to register sheep born outside of the US but that might not be such a good reason anyway.

11. ARE WE HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF TWO BREED ASSOCIATIONS? WILL MY SHEEP NO LONGER BE ABLE TO TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY AND BE ILLEGITIMATE? DOES THIS MEAN DUAL REGISTRIES?

The answer to the first question is maybe; the answer to the second is an absolute no. The answer to the third is “needs more work”. We can be definite about all of the goals, though.

The right terminology is important here. We might end up with two breed associations (CSBA and ISBONA) but we are determined to maintain one registry (database of pedigrees). Coordination is maintained by breed associations who have ways (Foreign Registry ??) to mutually accept one another’s authority when certain conditions are met. It is up to the breed associations to get things right and then the challenge of meeting these objectives rests with the registrar to get the right animal into the right database and maintain the pedigree.

One of the most important goals regardless of any outcome, is to keep the pedigree data complete and accurate. Everyone who raises purebred Icelandics today can now trace their sheep back through 24000+ pure bred registered sheep to their Canadian foundation. That cannot be lost. Sheep born in the US and sheep born in Canada both need the same foundation.

We have posed numerous of these “ use cases” (can I still do this? will I still see that?) to CLRC to stress the importance of being able to provide all of the same services people get today with emphasis on the pedigree registry. It may take more creativity since it is out of the ordinary. More when CLRC is permitted to answer these questions more directly.

Other registrars we have talked to would need to start with the complete pedigree database and as with CLRC, would need to put all of the animals into one registry. How they would handle ongoing registrations is yet to be discussed.

12. A CANADIAN BREEDER SAID HE'D LOSE HIS ABILITY TO ADVERTISE HIS SHEEP AS PUREBREDS AND THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THERE ABOUT HE WOULD LOSE TOUCH WITH THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; HE COULD GET FINED AND NOT BE ABLE TO SELL HIS SHEEP AS PUREBRED; MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIS BREED, IF CANADA CAME UP WITH RULES REQUIRING DNA SCANNING FOR SCRAPIE MARKERS, ETC. THUS, CSBA IS HIS ONLY CHOICE NEEDED FOR BREED ASSOCIATION, AND ISBONA CAN BE SOME OTHER SORT OF CLUB.

Yikes. That all seems pretty frightening if you are a sheep breeder in Canada. We know important things like advertising purebreds there means needing to show CSBA paperwork. So, a Canadian breeder who imports an animal previously registered in another country, has to have that animal's certificate accepted and then changed to CSBA at a cost or else they get fined. If all Canadian sheep were to only be able to have US breed association papers, this would be a really serious problem.

Given this, it is not obvious why any Canadian sheep breeders would ever register apart from Canada, and yet some do. Who can say why? Maybe registration through the US based breed association was cheaper or simpler or maybe these factors are not as important to those particular Canadians.

This is another example of how laws in one country are sometimes intertwined and why everyone ends up better if they follow the APA advice to register in the country of birth and then make adjustments through another recognition such as a Foreign Registry.

We do not want to disadvantage our Canadian members in anyway. We can find some ways to help — for example, perhaps by reimbursing when papers on an import needed to be re-issued.

Anyway, we are trying to understand all of what is going on here and to make sure that if ISBONA needs to formalize something in writing to protect Canadian breeders or US breeders, it will most certainly do so.

As another example of something that is still elusive: there may be an informal "breed club" role that ISBONA is acknowledged to play in the sheep industry in Canada whether known to ISBONA or not; and we are trying to nail down the implications.

13. WILL I HAVE TO START DOING AND PAYING FOR DNA TESTING?

It is too soon to tell how this might turn out. Here is what we can say today:

A separate ISBONA breed association would first have to make a decision about DNA testing. Some decision in this direction would likely be needed to have US sheep get the same protection as Canadian born sheep and to allow ISBONA to be recognized as a Foreign Registry. Again, this assumes this status is worthwhile.

Canadian breeders do this today and some Canadian Icelandic sheep have been randomly selected in the past. CSBA has the option to order every 500th registration to be subject to random testing for Canada. They do none of this in the US because they cannot enforce the standard in the US.

Based on statistics today, a breed association who had appropriate jurisdiction and duplicated CSBA's rules would choose an average of two US Icelandic registrations randomly each year. Cost looks to be in the \$120 range for the three sheep typically tested (sire, dam, offspring) and possibly more if there are other possible rule out sires.

Funds could probably be found for reimbursement for this level of testing to help to ensure protection of the Icelandic standard for US bred sheep. If parentage testing was more stringent, then full reimbursement would be less likely.

The chosen registrar organization would implement the testing. All the registrar candidates so far can do this selecting; some registrars can actually facilitate the testing better than others. CLRC for example, could be more full service in this, perhaps by expanding their relationship with VGL Laboratories at UC Davis to include sheep testing (currently their only sheep testing labs are in Canada).

14. SHOULDN'T WE STAY WITH CSBA SINCE THE US MIGHT SOMEDAY HAVE ANOTHER ICELANDIC BREED ASSOCIATION?

This is a red herring and is false anyway.

Yes, in the US, anyone anywhere any time can choose to organize and call themselves a breed association if they provide the functions of a breed association. If someone wanted to do the same thing in Canada, they simply choose not to organize under the APA, so it could happen there, too.

All breed associations "compete" on the basis of what they offer so another association could try to attract members. It seems most likely if anyone wanted to start a US-based Icelandic breed association, they would have done so by now — especially if ISBONA was not acting to do it themselves.

Should new breed associations become much of a threat in the future, it might be a good idea for ISBONA to specifically promote the value of those Icelandic breeders who are part of ISBONA and CSBA more than is done today.

Chart 1: Benefits and Eligibilities

	Are US breeders eligible?	Are Canadian Breeders Eligible ?
CSBA BENEFITS		
GenOvis	Maybe: Hard to say probably could be opened up to US. Much implementation seems to be at the “provincial level”	Yes. One Breeder in Canada is in already but could benefit if they had other participants (eg, %tiles). With only one breeder they really cannot compare much of anything across the breed. OK if looking inside one flock but not too robust otherwise.
Pay Fees	Yes same as anyone in Canada (in \$CAD) + currency exchange	Yes
Bulk Discount Rate	Yes for 25 or more registrations	Yes for 25 or more registrations
Youth Scholarships	Maybe: but criteria for selection includes involvement with sheep industry of Canada so not too likely to be chosen	Yes
Vote in CLRC	No	Yes
Vote in CSBA	No	Yes
Serve on either CSBA or CLRC Board	No	Yes
National Show	No	Yes, but there are not all that many Icelandics around to show. None are ever written about.
Register sheep with CLRC	Yes at standard fees \$CAD + currency exchange fees	Yes at standard fees \$CAD
4H Shows & Premiums	No	Yes
Photo Contest	Maybe	Yes
Dual Tagging	Not without major changes in practices and changes to CSBA bylaws	Yes
Parentage Testing	No	Yes: Every 500th registration (across all breeds) random selection.
Industry Research	Yes	Yes
Promotional Materials	Yes - best when not specific to Canada; nothing breed specific.	Yes - Nothing breed specific
ISBONA BENEFITS		
Pay fees	Yes \$30 for all benefits.	Yes, allowed to pay \$30CAD so membership is effectively \$23.36. Not all know this so let’s say Total CAD revenue is about \$500 annually. Exchange rates of course can reverse but have been very consistent over past 20 years
Newsletter	Yes	Yes
Website Listing	Yes	Yes
Library	Yes	Yes
Advertising	Spend about \$4500 per year in US ads.	Yes, spend about \$500 per year for ads exclusive to Canada. Just about a membership revenue offset today.

Are US breeders eligible?

Are Canadian Breeders Eligible ?

Contribution to CSBA profits from ISBONA registrations annually

\$2500. Assume 100 ISBONA breeders enroll half the sheep enrolled by US people with \$5 margin from CLRC. This is not even counting transfers and other transactions.

Fees from Canadian ISBONA members. Not sure how many of CSBA's 89 Icelandic breeders are also ISBONA members who are registering sheep.

Chart 2. Registry Services Survey - Question 7 Comments

7. What service(s) would you add in Question 5 above? Any other general comments?	Some Thoughts in Response
<p>Ability to create special entries in registry for grade Icelandic (non-purebred non-registerable) sheep so that I can use COI checks (after enough generations) and keep all of my sheep in one single registry source, instead of having to track non-registerable sheep in a separate system. This wouldn't need to include all full registry features like ownership, transfer, etc. it would just be nice to make limited-function entries for an animal and provide scrapie tag ID and basic information like color, etc.</p>	<p>Save this idea for future. We have not considered a non purebred registry but it might be something to look at.</p>
<p>Thank y'all for your hard work in pursuing this!</p>	<p>You are welcome. We all want the best for our sheep.</p>
<p>ensuring purity of breed thru strick guidelines for registration program</p>	<p>One of the most important functions of a breed association. Got it. Yes, the is why we started.</p>
<p>great survey, very complete. I am especially interested in the fee scale based on volume - I could register a lot more sheep at a time if the fees were lower. Thanks!</p>	<p>This is new from CSBA in the past couple years and CLRC can implement. Not sure about other registrars. Survey shows a decent sized percentage of people registering enough sheep (25) to take advantage. This is not to say that everyone should register every sheep they produce, of course.</p>
<p>If, the registration entity above was to change, will all registrations of currently registered sheep transfer, what will the cost be to have them transferred to the new registration entity? If the sheep is registered with the CLRA, but the owner doesn't transfer to the new registration organization, are the offspring of those lambs registerable with the new organization, based on an honor system? Could this turn into a dual registration issue, as some livestock breed have?</p>	<p>Keeping all existing data is a must-have no matter what we end up doing. Right now, would expect ISBONA could bear the cost of any transfer, but need more research into how this gets done and what costs there are. Registries are for the animal and not the owners, so having the full pedigree must be possible no matter how many breed associations might be involved (or where people live). It might turn out to be best to have two breed associations — it is hard to see how one breed association (be it CSBA or ISBONA) works any better in the future than one does now.</p>
<p>A section on each animal's online page to include milk testing data, such as found at www.adgagenetics.org under pedigrees, for those of us who choose to have our milk tested and weighed. Icelandics are, after all, traditionally used as a dairy breed so it would be nice to be able to emphasize dairy qualities and potential and use that data to help make breeding decisions. Thank you!</p>	<p>Save this idea. Many registries can accommodate performance data; CLRC for instance does this for some of its breed associations.</p>
<p>We need some kind of protection from people who sell sheep as registered and then never do the registration or transfer.</p>	<p>This is an example of a place where the breed association needs to have the ability to enforce its bylaws. CSBA can enforce today in Canada, but not in the US.</p>
<p>Excellent survey. In the future, parentage testing and individual animal identification will become more important as well as inbreeding coefficient determination (or DNA analysis) to help protect the breed from deleterious effects of inbreeding.</p>	<p>Parentage testing is an example of something a breed association might want to do to help ensure breed purity. CSBA orders this today for sheep born in Canada, but not those born in the US. COI is viewed more as a useful tool to have and is provided by CLRC, not others at this time. There are numerous ways to do COI, but none are as convenient as having the tool provided right along with all of the data by the registrar.</p>
<p>Easy way to track progeny</p>	<p>This might be as easy as ordering another type of report/download from a registrar or might be related to questions about the completeness of the pedigree data. Will hold onto this to explore for the future.</p>

A seamless transition from CLRC records	To the extent any transition is needed, this is an absolute goal. In all honesty, it is pretty hard to get 100% though.
To sound like a broken record, it would be MUCH better for our set up here in the US with large sheep numbers, to be able to dual tag for registration, instead of tatooning (which we can't read really on our many, many, many black-eared sheep) because we can't rely on the illegible tatoos and have to tag anyway. (We cope with tatoos. It would just be nicer to have that tagging ability like our fellow shepherds to the north. Having tried 5 or more types of ear tags, we have used the tiny USDA-scrapie-approved "MiniTag" ear tags from Premier for 3 years now on our newborn lambs and kids, and are completely sold on their reliability, readability, and stay-in-ability; so we don't have to do baby tags then adult tags any more - a huge time saver.)	Dual tagging problem is directly related to how well a system of laws can work in one country (Canada) and how hard it might be to implement in another (US). Because CSBA implemented dual tagging in their bylaws to intertwine with other necessary programs and requirements (eg, CSIP), it cannot be implemented as is in the US. The US is not represented in the centralized Canadian ID database and cannot be (that database is premise specific and includes only locations within the borders of Canada). There are alternative ways that this can be done in the US involving CSBA making changes to their bylaws and ISBONA finding and mandating certain types of Scrapie tags from selected vendors and so on. It looked as if this might have been seen to be so hard as to be almost impossible. One alternative could be for a separate ISBONA breed association to have a similar rule for identification that would be simpler in the US but would still allow ISBONA to qualify as a Foreign Registry in CSBA's eyes.
Ease of online data accessability and a full-Suite of online services is number one. Both isbona and clrc are lacking in their ease of use and ease/availability of services available online. Maybe a joint effort would provide the needed resources to make things better for both organizations ?	This is an interesting idea since funding to CLRC is essentially limited to what it can negotiate with its member breed associations. If ISBONA were to direct contract with CLRC it might be able to help influence — it might be to ISBONA's advantage to ensure a Canadian citizen might be available to become the representative to CLRC since US citizens may not vote on CLRC issues.
Random DNA testing critical to ensure purity of breed.	Understood. Some rules will have to be set.
Online transfer of ownership for adult sheep.	Not sure what this is exactly. Most registers have ways to transfer ownership regardless of age (although fees can be higher if the breed association needs to penalize those who are late doing their paperwork). Need more data on the problem.
The current registration process is perfectly fine and should not be changed because ISBONA is not seen as a neutral or objective entity. I do not trust ISBONA leadership and do not want to have to join in order to register my flock members. I believe this is a maneuver for a few within ISBONA leadership to "adjust" the breed standard according to what they believe the standard should be in North America in order to retain the clique of breeders who believe their flocks are superior and that all those whose raise Icelandic sheep should have to follow what they believe is best over what the breed standard is based on Icelandic standards. I have already contacted CSBA to let them know my thoughts, including what I believe is mismanagement of ISBONA members dues in the past. ISBONA has no place pursuing this.	<p>There will be no need to join ISBONA, and respectfully, ISBONA has every reason to pursue this.</p> <p>Personal issues with the Board should be taken up via the provisions in the Bylaws if this is a current problem.</p> <p><i>If CSBA papers for US born sheep do not mean the same as CSBA papers for Canadian born sheep, there is a potential problem for a US breeder in claiming his/her sheep are purebred. The same is true for a US based buyer or seller who needs a breed association that can stand with him/her. The problem with respect to assuring breed purity is probably obvious. I cannot think of a more appropriate organization to consider this than ISBONA. MJ.</i></p>
Ability for members to download inbreeding coefficient information.	This sounds like a report that should be orderable from the registrar. Will save this for later. It is possible that some of these types of reports could be provided by a breed association using data downloaded from the registrar.
Being able to use a double ear tag instead of a tattoo for ID. Tattoos are usually unreadable, useless, and difficult to administer	See Dual tagging above also. This is a breed association requirement for identification. It is possible that it can be less onerous than today and still allow reciprocity.

testing for parentage and purity of breed is next in line of importance	DNA testing can be used for parentage testing. As for purity of the sheep (is it 100% Icelandic) that is going to take more work and the development of some markers like those used in the Canine DNA tests (eg, Embark) or people DNA test kits (eg, 23 and me). This would be a requirement of a breed association that is well beyond anything done today by anyone that I am aware of. Still, will save for future consideration. Maybe Iceland could help.
Having to pay CSBA and also pay to be a member of ISBONA leaves me wondering why I would care to be a member of ISBONA. I don't feel like I get much from my ISBONA membership other than me financially supporting a breed I care about. That being said, I do appreciate all the volunteer time the board puts in to attempt to make it worthwhile. It is a valiant effort. I hope it can become something more than what it currently appears to one standing "outside the ring."	Old-ISBONA (pre 2/2018) had the risk of losing relevancy because almost all of the things it provided in the early days are now available free, so yes, why would you pay for them except out of love for the breed? The Board of New -ISBONA has the responsibility to make sure the organization can remain a going concern to provide benefits for sheep and their people. New-ISBONA also has the responsibility to make sure the breed association functions are carried out in a way that provides equity for all members. This is a change with consequences for all of us.
I am glad that this is being looked into by the board.	Thanks. A responsible Board has little choice. Not fun always though.
Breeders list containing all breeders with registered sheep. Another thing that I feel should be modified is the ear tagging system (remove tattoo requirement replace with microchip or some other technology).	Another identification issue for a breed association. Clearly this problem needs to be solved.
I wonder about tattoos. Would it be feasible to require the choice of either a tattoo plus ear tag, or, 2 ear tags plus the requirement to submit to DNA testing, should a question, or the need arise? I don't know if this would present more problems or not. For ex: who would pay for that testing..... But it seems to me, the tattoos 1) don't wear well long term-they seem to become unreadable anyway 2) they are more trauma than needed. Thanks.	More on identification requirements to be set by a breed association.
I feel this survey is based on the CLRC services and does not touch the topics in the attached letter.	The survey was not meant to favor or disfavor CSBA or any other registrar. In many areas they are ahead of others; in some areas, they are behind.
My registration experience has been extremely positive and I would hate to see it change. Other sheep breeders have viewed the Clrc site and have been impressed! They may be a little inconvenient to use due to having to pay a fee to join, however they do so much right! Please don't change!	A positive for CLRC. Unofficially, and compared to existing competitor registrars so far, it looks as if CLRC does a better job. It should look better: it has more history and costs about twice what registrars cost. But there is more work needed.
Ease of taking care of issues in a timely matter	Most breed associations offer a person to help with problems. ISBONA may need to look at how to do this. Or this might just be something the registrar needs to be good at.
None for now	
General comment - I would prefer to join one association for icelandic registration.	It should not be necessary for anyone to join more than one breed association. If it is a requirement for something else (eg, needed to have full membership in a provincial association) we should see what can be done about adjusting membership dues, registration fees, etc. Save for future.
None. LEAVE the registration the way it is. DO NOT CHANGE.	Increasingly this looks like a non-starter. Please keep an open mind and see if you think there might be room for some improvement.

<p>I can't think of anything else, but I'm pretty new to this breed!</p>	
<p>Knowledge of the breed and another outlet to ask sheep care and or genetic questions to.</p>	<p>Generally this is something a breed association not a registrar would be expected to do. But got the idea.</p>
<p>(I'm too new, don't know yet)</p>	
<p>Adding pictures of the adult animal their registrations.</p>	<p>Some breed associations require this now as a means of identification, but not too many sheep breeds. Will hold on to this as a future feature to be looked at.</p>
<p>Over all, the CLRC and CSBA documents and website need a massive user experience and interface overhaul. It feels antiquated and is very cumbersome to use.</p> <p>As an experienced Art Director in the advertising and design industry and with a background in web and digital tactics, I can confidently say these websites are a mess. Additionally, they don't offer a secure payment method so paying for annual membership fees online isn't an option. Anyone who does runs a high risk of having their payment details stolen. To say the cleche phrase "in this day and age", there is absolutely NO reason to not have a secure payment method. It's rather annoying to write a check and mail it to Canada and wait through two countries worth of postal timelines to register, transfer and pay annual fees.</p> <p>Ultimately, I'd like to see one governing and registration body. It would be incredibly convenient and useful if all of our resources, farm and account information and livestock records, breeding coefficients, etc., were collected in one place. If that isn't an option, it would be ideal to at least take one party out of the mix and streamline everyone's experience in one place. There are too many middle men involved and it gets profoundly confusing.</p> <p>I don't mean to get up on my soap box here, and I'm fully aware of much work it would take to re-design and build these archives/troves of information but coming from someone who makes their living communicating and advertising to target audiences and groups - accessibility and ease of use for the user is the number one determining factor in whether you have click-through or drop off. If I didn't love the Icelandic sheep breed so much and the community of shepherds I've met, I'd say the user experience of multiple organizations, registrations, annual fees and dues, and the like would have quickly deterred me.</p>	<p>A negative maybe for CLRC. CLRC is working on a new website; one of their major improvements is a secure transaction platform for payments. This might help people who are using US currency to avoid overpaying Canadian fees also. They also intend a face lift in places — but not sure when the site will be available as it has been delayed at least once.</p> <p>It might be to much to hope for to have everything you describe but improvements are definitely possible and people are working on some of them.</p> <p>Would be great to be able to tap your expertise!!!</p>

<p>As I understand, because of the Canadian Animal Pedigree Act, it would be a distinct disadvantage for Canadian breeders to register animals under an American breed association. Our animals would have no legal value in Canada. Canadian breeders would likely have to split from ISBONA (and hence ISBONA should be renamed ISBOUS). Also because multiple breed associations can exist in the US for a particular breed, what would prevent ISBONA from getting further split up in the future. It would lead to an erosion, in my view, of the cohesive nature of the North American data base/pedigree information as it stands now in the CLRC.</p>	<p>There has been some misinformation issued about the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada. We (US people and Canadian people) are still trying to understand all of the relationships and consequences that have been asserted. So far, dangers have not panned out, but there is more left to look at. We have spent far more time to ensure no one's business is harmed than on anything else.</p> <p>So far, it looks likely that US sheep and breeders would be better served by a breed association that can enforce its rules and bylaws with in the US borders and that CSBA is best positioned to do that same thing for Canada. This arrangement best protects the flock in its respective country.</p> <p>There would not seem to be any rationale for a name change but perhaps that was a joke.</p>
<p>Having our organization host shows/fiber fairs and other EVENTS TO MARKET, SELL, and EDUCATE THE PUBLIC is among our best chance at growing our membership as well as growing our own quality flocks as sheep breeders.</p>	<p>These are part of the promotion duties of a breed association and list of good ideas. Will save for the future. Good ways to spend money. Help will be needed.</p>
<p>A and B</p>	<p>Reference here is to online capabilities which score as very important.</p>
<p>May be a 1-off, but I purchased a few wonderful rams and a few ewes out of a large flock that was significantly down-sizing, specifically for dairy genetics. Haven't yet been able to get registration papers for these sheep. So I have a large flock of completely pure-bred Icelandic sheep that I cannot register, and if I am able to register them at some later point I will incur significant cost to do so because of the penalties for delaying registration (that's the reason I can't get the registrations from the other shepherd). It would be quite beneficial to not have a penalty for not immediately registering sheep.</p>	<p>This is a decision made by the breed association when setting rules for eligibility. CSBA made this decision to encourage people to not delay on their paperwork. It has the effect of spiraling though as you indicate. CSBA can eventually warn a Canadian citizen who has sold sheep and delayed to file transfer papers (after 6 months) and can enforce this even to the extent of sending the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to the offender's home. They have no way to enforce anything outside of Canadian borders. A US breed association would have better ability to enforce within the US.</p>

Maintaining a unified registry is pretty important to me. I've dealt with double registries (The Canadian Lama Association and the International Lama Registry), and it's expensive and policies almost inevitably diverge over time. I understand that that is not the intention, but I think this sets the process in motion.

I also take the first bylaws vote is a cautionary tale. The organization depends on a small number of stalwarts who have worked generously and thoughtfully for years. The breed is gaining in popularity, but I don't see that reflected in membership engagement in and contributions to ISBONA. (Mea culpa, as one who both hasn't served and also fails to return surveys on time.) I say this to explain my hesitation about undertaking a significant and potentially disruptive change at this juncture.

Thank you for giving me a chance to weigh in. If there is anything you'd like me to clarify, please let me know and tell me when and where to call.

Two breed associations are not ideal — except for the fact that each works best inside the borders of its own country. We hope policies can be kept close through reciprocal recognition through a Foreign Registry. Beyond that, there are international trade associations that can assist with the enforcement issue, although this has not occurred yet. But yes, drifting may occur even if not warranted. This is especially awkward with a closed border. The enforcement capability is a pretty important provision. Without teeth, a breed association and its issued paper is worth less. Without revenue to fund the programs that are needed to educate say, how to breed better animals, that is not going to happen either.

If the cautionary tale is related to the failure of the first ballot to get enough participation, we are not alone. The 2/3 requirement for voting is rapidly losing prevalence in all sorts of organizations because people are so busy. Most breed associations now accept less participation on important issues. Some of course do not allow members any vote on anything. ISBONA Board debated this form of organization and rejected it.

We probably would not expect old ISBONA to reflect much increase in its membership based on increasing sheep numbers — although there has been a modest gain; mostly we run around 200-250 members every year. Some people are still registering sheep and no longer pay dues to ISBONA. Why would they? There are simply too many free services available, and ISBONA has been restricted by not being a full service breed association.

Interestingly there has been much more discussion and emotion associated with new ISBONA — perhaps the potential of ISBONA doing something truly worthwhile for the Icelandic sheep has helped??

The increased interest in the breed, the extra money charged for a “purebred sheep” and the inability to have 80-90% of that breed take even minimal steps to ensure its animals are who they say they are is maybe one of the biggest reasons behind this project. If ISBONA does not step up, it is hard to say what will happen. CSBA will not be able to do this.

I am not sure when the right time for this change is. As a Board member, I am not supposed to pretend that all is well when it is not. I cannot name anyone who is misdealing — if I could, it is too late already. But if it can happen, it will happen. It happens all the time in other species and in sheep too. MJ

<p>Bilingual service (French & English) Internationally recognized Why does this survey is not directly link with the to content of the letter as if we had still agree to the options 3 or 4? Why does this survey is not only open to the ISBONA members? Why does this lettre do not explicitly explain than the option 3 and for mean a split of registrations between Canada and USA. Why does this letter do not explain than option 3 and 4 is a kick-out of Canadian from this organisation... yes we will maby be welcome as members as sam as anyone from any contries, but Isbona will never be anymore a bilateral organisation. Hope you will change the name of ISBONA: Is very pretencious for an American organisation to pretent represent all North American citizens...</p>	<p>There is a lot here. This survey and Alternative outcomes 3 & 4 are related only so that we could see what people found most important in a registrar's services. The only difference between Alternative 3 and Alternative 4 revolves around CLRC. There is no particular reason to restrict to current ISBONA members, but understanding what is important to anyone who is registering sheep. There will be some things that might only be important to ISBONA members in the future and then we will not ask questions of non-members. There was no intention for any of the alternative outcomes to "Kick-out Canadians". We are still trying to understand (with the help of some of some Canadian ISBONA members today) what Foreign Registry recognition might do for a breed association. Some of the fears about inability to claim purebred status for animals might have been overstated. In the end this might not matter unless some one with Canadian born sheep wanted to use ISBONA as a breed association. The last push to understand all of this is only related to keeping choices open. We don't know today why someone might want to do this because a same country breed association looks to be better than a different country breed association. But we should look anyway. There is nothing misleading in the name ISBONA and no name change is anticipated. As for bilateral, hopefully that can mean more than just which breed association is overseeing the registration of sheep. There is nothing inherently "bilateral" about what is being done today really. We should do something real.</p>
<p>can not think of anything, you all are doing a great job:)</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>We have been satisfied with CLRC's service, always courteous, prompt, knowledgeable, accurate as far as we know.</p>	<p>Agreed. Over the years, CLRC has done an excellent job. Yes, they too have had systems problems and personnel changes that can be disrupting. However, they are well respected and their reputation is well deserved.</p>
<p>Not a service, but ability to register non-registered animals after X generations would be nice. Not sure if that is a function of being with the CLRC or not.</p>	<p>Not sure exactly of the idea here, but will hold this to get more information for the future. A purebred registry is required to be able to track every animal back to its foundation stock; generations cannot be skipped. That is pretty much the way all of them work; CLRC is no exception.</p>
<p>This system was set up to avoid changes of breed standards from those of Iceland...still important....but it is cumbersome and expensive. During the illness and eventual death of my partner I lost registered status because I just could not afford it and gave up registering. It holds ISBONA back.</p>	<p>See above. Falling behind is expensive and there might be some other things that could be done. Will hold onto this for future research. BTW, there is no formal standard for the Icelandic sheep in Iceland. The breed standard in use today looks to have been developed by Stefania in conjunction with CSBA or others in Canada.</p>