

Winter 2023

Canadian Blonde News

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Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation



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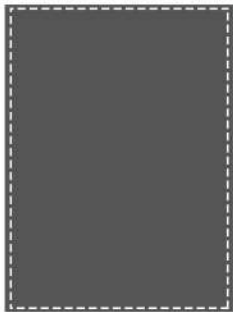
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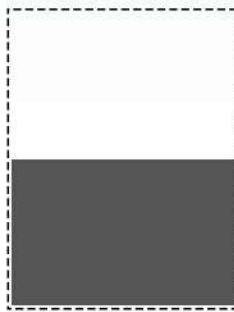
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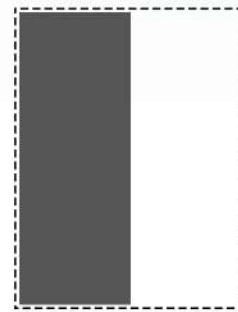
AD SIZES & RATES



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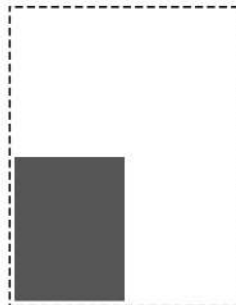
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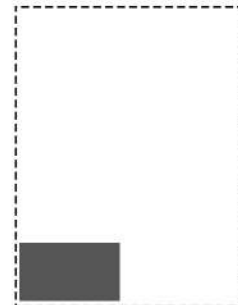
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1/8 Page - Business Card
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Advertising Rates for next issue - Blonde Connection

Publication is in full colour, Taxes not included / La publication est en couleur, taxes en sus

Ad Size	Rates
Full Page	\$400
Half Page Horizontal & Vertical	\$250
1/4 Page Horizontal & Vertical	\$150
1/8 Page - Business Card	\$100

Reminder: If you purchase an ad space for The Blonde Connection you get 3 complimentary (same size) advertisements in the summer, fall & winter newsletters! Your complimentary advertisements can be the same or different as your Blonde Connection Ad.

Rappel : Si vous achetez un espace publicitaire pour La Blonde Connexion, vous obtenez 3 publicités gratuites (même taille) dans les newsletters été, automne et hiver ! Ton les publicités gratuites peuvent être identiques ou différentes comme votre annonce Blonde Connection.

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PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have any great photos of your Blonde d'Aquitaine's? Do you enjoy taking photos? This is your chance to grab your camera and capture that perfect pose.

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association is building a library of pictures that can be used on the website and in upcoming newsletters. What a great way to expose our Blonde cattle to the world! Each publication, (quarterly), one eligible winning photograph will be selected, and the winner will received \$25 credit towards their next fullblood or purebred registration.



THE BLONDE CONNECTION

The official publication of the

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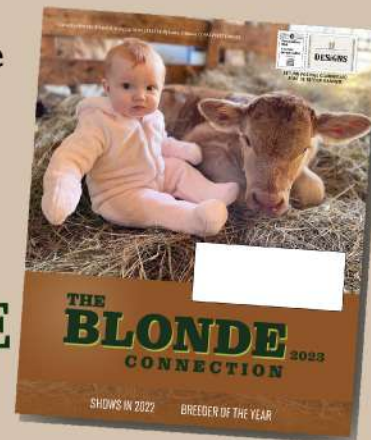
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**Our 2024 Issue
Comes Out
Next Spring
IN MARCH**

**ADVERTISE
with us Now!**



ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page (Full Colour)	400
1/2 Page	250
1/4 Page	150
1/8 Page	100

*All ads are printed in full colour only

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

Production and ad copy changes are subject to extra charges. Taxes.

ADVERTISING BOOKING DEADLINE

Monday, January 22, 2024

ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINE

Monday, February 5, 2024

TERMS

All accounts are due and payable as invoiced. Interest charges 2 percent per month (24% per annum) will be assessed to accounts 30 days past due. Please make cheques payable to The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association.

Ridge View Blondes

Codrington, Ontario

Kirk McGee (613) 922-3276 ~ kirkmcgee.7@hotmail.com



Thank you to Schiestel Blondes & Shelbramack Blondes for their purchases at the 2023 Cream of the Crop Sale!



Ridge View Lexie 46L

Ridge View Jeremiah 85J x Rondakk Kirk's Zoe 53Z
Purchased By: Schiestel Blondes, Jane and John Schiestel & Family

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Warkworth Beef Expo Reserve Grand Champion Female
CBDA National Video Show Champion Female Calf
& Reserve Grand Champion Female



Ridge View Kaboom 89K

Forty Acre Caspian 2C x Ridge View Bombshell 29B
Purchased by: Shelbramack Blondes, Shane and Nicole Baker & Family

Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank-you to
Knox Innovations
for purchasing
from us
this year!



EYE CANDY

SCHIESTEL BLONDES

WHITE WILLOW

JASMIN SCHIESTEL

JANE & JOHN SCHIESTEL

KEISHA SCHIESTEL

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President's Message

David Kamelchuk

I am honoured to have been chosen to be your president at the 2023 AGM in Trenton for another term. I am looking forward to the privilege of working with a tremendous group of people on our board of directors and would like to extend a special welcome to Samantha Ferguson and Gaetan Bougie as first-time members. We have a lot of work to do to get the Blonde breed back into the eye of cattle producers from coast to coast and I am more convinced than ever that Blondes are still the best kept secret in the Canadian cattle business. The board and I will be reviewing a series of initiatives that have been proposed over the next while with the intent of increasing the profile of the breed so stay tuned.

FarmFair International will be celebrating 50 years in 2024 and it is the intent of the Alberta association to host the Annual General Meeting and National show in conjunction with this event. It has been a long time since Blondes have had their own show at FarmFair and the last national held out west was in 2016 at the Olds Fall Classic so we are overdue. I can't wait to hang the "Welcome to Blonde Country" banner proudly from the rows of stalls in Edmonton. It will be a great event so plan to be there November 6-9.

As we near the end of another year and the holiday season I would like to extend my sincerest best wishes to all who read this message. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Until next time...

Canadian President - David Kamelchuk

Je suis honoré d'avoir été choisi pour être votre président lors de l'AGA 2023 à Trenton pour un autre mandat. J'ai hâte d'avoir le privilège de travailler avec un groupe formidable de personnes au sein de notre conseil d'administration et j'aimerais souhaiter une bienvenue particulière à Samantha Ferguson et Gaetan Bougie en tant que membres pour la première fois. Nous avons beaucoup de travail à faire pour remettre la race blonde dans l'œil des producteurs de bovins d'un océan à l'autre et je suis plus convaincu que jamais que les blondes sont toujours le secret le mieux gardé dans le secteur bovin canadien. Le conseil d'administration et moi-même examinerons une série d'initiatives qui ont été proposées au cours des prochains mois dans le but d'accroître le profil de la race, alors restez à l'écoute.

FarmFair International célébrera ses 50 ans en 2024 et l'association de l'Alberta a l'intention d'accueillir l'assemblée générale annuelle et l'exposition nationale en conjonction avec cet événement. Cela fait longtemps que les Blondes n'ont pas eu leur propre spectacle à FarmFair et le dernier national organisé dans l'Ouest remonte à 2016 à l'Olds Fall Classic, nous sommes donc en retard. J'ai hâte d'accrocher fièrement la bannière « Welcome to Blonde Country » sur les rangées d'étals d'Edmonton. Ce sera un grand événement, alors prévoyez d'y être du 6 au 9 novembre.

Alors que nous approchons de la fin d'une autre année et de la période des fêtes, j'aimerais exprimer mes meilleurs vœux les plus sincères à tous ceux qui liront ce message. Passez un très joyeux Noël et une bonne année. Jusqu'à la prochaine fois...

Président Canadien - David Kamelchuk





BALE FEEDING OPTIONS: PROS AND CONS OF COMMON STRATEGIES

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Bale feeding is common across Canada for all classes of cattle especially during winter months. There are many different management strategies to deliver bales as feed. To help you determine the best option for you and your cattle, see below for pros and cons of three common bale feeding strategies:

1. Rolling out bales/using a bale processor and feeding on pasture
2. Bale grazing
3. Round feeder

When thinking about each strategy for your operation, consider the following: What are the nutritional requirements of your cattle? What is the nutritional quality of your forage? What equipment do you currently have? What equipment do you need? How much time do you have to dedicate to feed management?



Rolling Out Bales / Bale Processor Fed On Pasture

PROS

- Exercise encouraged to access feed potentially reducing calving difficulties
- Move feeding sites to increase organic matter
- Flexibility with feeding sites
- Reduced animal competition for feed
- Low input costs
- New knowledge or skills not required
- Better herd health observation possible

CONS

- Extra work to roll out bales
- Feed also used as bedding
- Required to start equipment every feeding
- Forage loss/weathering
- Loss of nutrients if forage fines blow away
- Managing netwrap/ twine
- Strictly limited to feeding sites with access to shelter and water
- Limited to mature cows in good condition



Bale Grazing

PROS

- Reduces need to remove/spread manure
- Target sites to increase organic matter
- Exercise encouraged to access feed potentially reducing calving difficulties
- Improved feed management
- Reduced animal competition for feed
- Tractor only required for setup
- Extending the grazing season

CONS

- Feed will not be fully consumed
- Managing netwrap/ twine
- Wildlife grazing
- Limited to areas with adequate shelter and water
- May not be suitable for young or poor-conditioned cattle
- Pre-planning required
- Temporary fencing management



Bale Feeder

PROS

- Less feed wasted
- Less feed required to maintain body condition
- Suited to any class of cattle
- Better access to cattle for herd health monitoring

CONS

- Increased animal competition for feed
- Cost of bale feeders
- Time and cost to remove and spread manure
- Cattle exercise less, could result in more calving difficulties
- Snow removal may be necessary

Wintering Cattle?

Tips to keep them warm



Ted Perry,
Beef Technical Solutions

Cold weather impacts your cattle, but they can't stay warm by putting on winter boots, a coat and a hat. They need other ways to keep warm. Winter nutrition and environment management will help maintain a cow's core body temperature, keeping cows warm from the inside out.

If you're wintering cattle, here are 7 tips to keep them warm:

1. Focus on body condition score

The number one way to reduce cold stress in cattle is to improve body condition score.

Having a good body condition score going into winter does two things. First, a cow in body condition score 5 or 6 has a layer of fat insulation helping her conserve body heat. Second, cows in good body condition likely have a good diet, which can result in nice, warm winter hair coats. *Note: Canada BCS would be 3.*

2. Deliver more cattle feed

Make sure cows have enough feed and water. A cow's feed intake will increase by 20 percent during cold weather. Before temperatures drop, increase the amount of feed delivered. Provide additional hay, or offer 20 percent more cattle feed in the bunk.

Increasing intake will increase the amount of fermentation in the rumen, and one of the biggest waste products of fermentation is heat. If you provide cows with more energy and get more forage into the rumen, more fermentation happens and more heat is produced. The process helps keep cows warm from the inside out.

3. Separate thin cows

Thin cows mixed with the rest of the herd probably won't get the nutrition they need to maintain or gain body condition. Separate thinner cows – young or old – to help take off feeding pressure. Once separated, make sure cows have plenty of forage and access to cattle mineral and cattle supplements.

If you can't separate thin cows, feed free-choice cattle supplements like a protein tub to give those cows access to feed at all times. Free-choice cattle supplements also provide a less competitive atmosphere than group-feeding protein cubes or hand-fed feeds.

Cold weather mythbusting



Myth: Cows with snow on their backs are colder than cows without.

Cows with snow on their backs are actually warmer. The snow on their back is an indication that they are retaining their body heat. You'll often see fat cows with an inch or two of snow on their back while thin cows are wet because they're losing heat and melting snow.



Myth: Snow will provide enough water for cattle.

It's hard for cows to eat enough snow to make up the 10 gallons of water they need per day. Plus, they'll burn a lot of calories to consume the cold snow. Cows will survive with snow as a water source; however, it won't allow them to perform to their potential.



Myth: If you feed cows at night, they'll get more out of it.

If you're in a situation where you're seeing a difference from overnight feeding to day feeding, you're probably not meeting cow requirements. Make sure cows have plenty of feed 24/7.



4. Put up windbreaks

When wintering cattle, it's important to remember that wind chill affects cattle just like it affects people. Keep cattle out of the wind if possible. You can put up a homemade windbreak, create one out of bales or install a permanent windbreak. Wooded areas also provide shelter from the wind.

When cows don't have a windbreak, they feel the full effect of the wind, and it will cost you body condition. A drop in body condition score will result in additional feed cost to regain condition.

5. Provide cattle minerals and supplements

Cattle mineral is vital during cold weather because it impacts a cow's metabolic process. If cows are short on mineral, their metabolism will slow down. Once metabolism slows, the cow isn't producing as much heat, and she may start losing body condition score.

Providing cattle mineral and cattle supplements can also lead to better forage digestibility. A cow's rumen microbes have mineral requirements and can also benefit from supplementation. Supplementing ramps up rumen microbes so they can digest more forage. The microbes can also get 25 or 30 percent more energy out of the forage they're eating.

6. Keep a clean environment

While wintering cattle, the environment tends to be muddy. Mud reduces the insulation factor of a cow's hair coat, and a cow's lower critical temperature goes up as a result. For instance, if a cow is clean and dry, she may be okay down to 5 degrees Fahrenheit. If a cow is dirty, her lower critical temperature may go up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Give cows plenty of space, and move hay rings and feeding stations to limit the creation of muddy areas. The cleaner cows stay, the better insulation their hair will provide.

7. Break routine

We tend to feed cattle on a routine. We put out a set amount of cattle feed per day because we think that's what the herd should need. But, pay close attention to temperature and watch cattle closely.

When you know it will be cold for the next few days, increase the feed offered at least 24 hours in advance to give cows a head start. Feeding cows after the storm is helpful, but the impact is greater when they are fed before.

Ted Perry, Beef Technical Solutions, Purina Animal Nutrition LLC, " Wintering Cattle? Tips to keep them warm", 2023, <https://www.purinamills.com/cattle-feed/education/detail/wintering-cattle-tips-to-keep-them-warm>



FEED GREATNESS



ATTENTION

We are always looking for topics to discuss in future publications. Perhaps there is a subject(s) of interest you'd like to see written about, or maybe even an archived article from years past that you feel is worth a re-share. Reach out to us. We'd love to hear from you! As always, we are also looking for photographs for advertising and promotional use. We look forward to receiving your suggestions and photo submissions.

Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de sujets à aborder dans de futures publications. Il y a peut-être un ou plusieurs sujets d'intérêt sur lesquels vous aimeriez voir écrit, ou peut-être même un article archivé des années passées qui, selon vous, mérite d'être partagé. Contactez-nous. Nous aimerions recevoir de vos nouvelles! Comme toujours, nous recherchons également des photographies à des fins publicitaires et promotionnelles. Nous attendons avec impatience de recevoir vos suggestions et soumissions de photos.

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Samantha Ferguson - diamondridgeblondes@gmail.com



MERRY CHRISTMAS



BARK
farms

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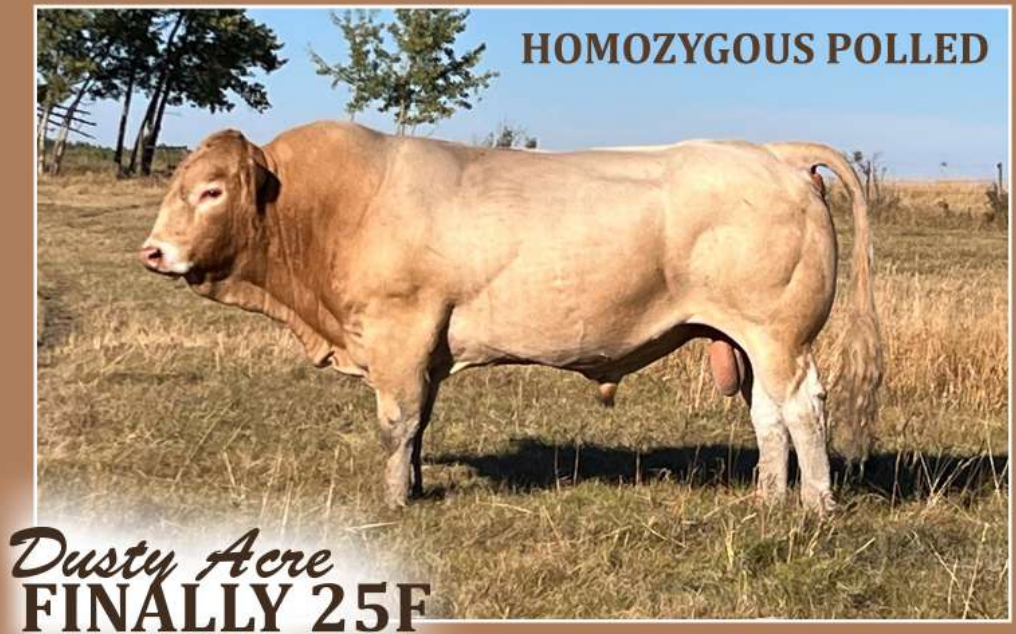
visitors always welcome

Thank you to our buyers in 2023: Gaetan Bougie, Allen and Linda Jantzi, Sean and Lois Recker, Jeremy and Rachel DeWeerd, John Langstaff, Bill and Bridget Reid and Dave and Janet Kamelchuk.

BULLS FOR SALE

Yearling & 2 Yr Olds
On Offer For 2024
By Private Treaty

Bulls can be delivered
to Ponoka to head east,
other deliveries can be
arranged.



2022 NATIONAL VIDEO SHOW
GRAND CHAMPION BULL

Thank You To Our 2022 Buyers:

(* bought multi-bulls)

- * Jonathan Honeywell, * Clifford & Shirley Kimmie,
- * Lyle & Cindy Miller, Paul Ferguson - Crystal Farms,
- Darrion Kimmie, Virginia Wolfe, Larry Mattson



OFFSPRING

Dusty Acre BLONDES

- ▶▶ POLLED
- ▶▶ SOUNDNESS
- ▶▶ DISPOSITION
- ▶▶ CALVING EASE
- ▶▶ PERFORMANCE TESTED



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MEMBERSHIPS

are due on or before January 1st of each year.

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association invites you to be part of the Association, please contact us for information.



Hello from Ontario

What a year it has been - with these strong cattle prices we are finally getting paid for all our hard work. The question on everybody's mind now is: how long will cattle prices stay high like this? It certainly makes you think, if you have lots of feed do you buy more cattle so you have more calves to sell the following year? Or do you sell now while prices are high to capitalize? The best part is we can at least ask ourselves those questions and rationalize either decision.

The OBdAA hosted 23 rd Annual Cream of the Crop sale which was a great success. Thanks to Ashley McNevean, Tyler Sutcliffe and Dave McNevean for running the sale. Everyone on the Board appreciates all the hard work and time that each of you put in to make it successful. Hopefully you will run it for years to come. A special thanks goes out to Shelbramack Blondes - Shane, Nicole and the Baker family of Sunderland Ontario for their generous donation heifer. Shelbramack Layla 09L, a polled purebred heifer calf raised \$9200 for the Ontario Blonde Association which allows us to continue running programs such as 4H Support for kids showing a blonde influenced animal, our Blonde scholarship, as well as supporting the Blonde Junior Show at Markham Fair.

I'd like to also extend a thank you to all the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Board Members for all their time and effort put in year after year. Its always a pleasure working with each and everyone of you. Again THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association Board of Directors, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ontario President - Dave Payne

Bonjour de l'Ontario

Quelle année cela a été - avec ces prix élevés du bétail, nous sommes enfin payés pour tous notre travail acharné. La question qui préoccupe tout le monde est désormais la suivante : combien de temps les prix du bétail resteront-ils élevés ? comme ça? Cela vous fait certainement réfléchir: si vous avez beaucoup de fourrage, achetez-vous plus de bétail pour pouvoir avez-vous plus de veaux à vendre l'année suivante ? Ou vendez-vous maintenant alors que les prix sont élevés ? capitaliser? Le meilleur, c'est que nous pouvons au moins nous poser ces questions et rationaliser soit décision.

L'OBdAA a organisé la 23 ème vente annuelle de la Crème de la Récolte qui a été un grand succès. Merci à Ashley McNevean, Tyler Sutcliffe et Dave McNevean pour avoir organisé la vente. Tout le monde sur le Conseil apprécie tout le travail acharné et le temps que chacun d'entre vous avez consacré pour assurer le succès de ce projet. J'espère que vous l'utiliserez pendant des années. Un merci tout spécial à Shelbramack Blondes - Shane, Nicole et la famille Baker de Sunderland Ontario pour leur généreux don de génisse. Shelbramack Layla 09L, une génisse de race pure sans cornes, a récolté 9 200 \$ pour l'Ontario Blonde Association qui nous permet de continuer à animer des programmes comme 4H Support for kids show un animal d'influence blonde, notre bourse Blonde, ainsi que le soutien au Blonde Junior Spectacle à la Foire de Markham.

Je tiens également à remercier tous les membres du conseil d'administration d'Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine.pour tout le temps et les efforts consacrés année après année. C'est toujours un plaisir de travailler avec chacun et chacun d'entre vous. Encore merci!

Au nom du conseil d'administration de l'Association Blonde d'Aquitaine de l'Ontario, je vous souhaite à tous un Joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année !

President de l'Ontario - Dave Payne

MERRY
Christmas

THE GIFTS THAT
KEEP ON GIVING



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Thank you
to the
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See you in
2024!



How do you know if your cattle have parasites?



Tim Nickel

Bovine Technical Services Veterinarian,
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada Inc.

Parasites are organisms that live in or on an animal, at the expense of the host. External parasites are easier to diagnose than internal ones. Flies are readily visible, and others like lice and mites can result in signs that can be seen on the exterior of the animal. While they are visible to the naked eye, lice are much smaller than flies and it requires restraint of the animal and close examination under good lighting to see these tiny parasites. Mites, which are the parasites that cause mange, are microscopic. Skin scrapings of affected animals and exam under a microscope is necessary to make a diagnosis.

While these parasites can cause scratching and hair loss, they are not the only cause of these signs. Irritants in the animal's environment, the cold and dry condition of the skin that occurs during winter, shedding of the winter haircoat, and allergies are some of the other possible causes. It is important to take the time to confirm the presence of parasites rather than making an assumption, especially with regards to lice. If they are causing a problem, one should be able to find them at relatively high numbers on an animal.

Internal parasites are more challenging to diagnose since they cannot be seen. Gastrointestinal worms or nematodes (GIN) are very common in Canadian cattle herds. In fact, a recent study in Western Canada¹ showed that 100% of the farms that were enrolled were positive for worms. Based on this data it would be fair to assume a Canadian cattle herd has worms rather than assume they are worm-free. Young animals tend to have higher burdens, as older animals have acquired some natural immunity to the worms over several grazing seasons.

The Fecal Egg Count (FEC) is the only practical test available to diagnose worms in cattle. Female worms inside the digestive tract of the animal lay eggs, which are passed in the feces. It is these eggs that are counted in a fecal sample using a microscope. It sounds simple, but the reality is more complex.

There are several factors that may result in a zero count on an FEC, even when worms are present.

- If worms are immature, they will not pass any eggs.
- Eggs are not uniformly distributed in feces, and sometimes the sample may come from an area of low egg density or none at all.
- At low parasite loads, typically seen in Canadian cattle, the concentration of eggs in a sample may be too low to detect.

As a result, it is possible to have zero eggs on a FEC, and yet an animal could still have worms.

Because of these limitations, FECs are better used to estimate the parasite load of a group of animals rather than assessing an individual animal's worm burden. It is recommended that multiple animals in a group are sampled.

Another limitation of FECs is the inability to identify different species of worms, with a few exceptions, as cattle usually are infested by a mixed population of worms. For many of the common species that affect cattle, the eggs look similar, and it is impossible to differentiate on a routine FEC.

Some species have bigger impacts than others, and specialized tests are needed to tell them apart. Unfortunately, these tests are not readily available. This limits the useful information that a FEC can provide.

Despite these issues, FECs are the only practical test available in Canada to diagnose internal parasites. Understanding the limitations to this test is important when determining treatment options. For example, a frequently asked question is at what threshold should one consider treating animals.

Given the limitations discussed, the FEC is useful to confirm if worms are present, but not reliable enough to determine if a threshold has been reached where animal health and performance may be impacted.

It is best to discuss with your veterinarian regarding your specific situation and risk factors in order to develop a parasite control program that is tailored to your herd.

Tim Nickel - Bovine Technical Services Veterinarian, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada Inc., "How do you know if your cattle have parasites?", 2023, <https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/ca/animal-health/livestock/bovine/how-do-you-know-if-your-cattle-have-parasites>



Treatment options for parasite control in cattle



Tim Nickel

*Bovine Technical Services Veterinarian,
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada Inc.*

Management practices can help reduce parasite loads in both the environment and the animal. However, it may be difficult to achieve adequate control of parasites through management alone. Animals will often require a form of treatment to help reduce the impacts on health and performance.

It is best to develop a treatment program in consultation with your veterinarian, who is familiar with the specific conditions on your farm. There are several things to consider:

1. Do all animals require treatment, or are there specific groups or individuals that can be targeted?

For lice, treatment of all the animals within a group provides the best control. Untreated individuals can reinfest the animals in a group once drug levels have declined in the treated group.

With gastrointestinal worms, targeting treatment of the younger animals may be more efficient. Yearlings (i.e. grass yearlings, heifer replacements, yearling bulls) are impacted the most as they have developed minimal immunity in comparison to adult animals. Calves born earlier in the year (January or February) may also be at risk. Mature animals have developed immunity over several grazing seasons and are generally less impacted by worms.

2. When is the best time for treatment?

This is probably one of the most important considerations. If treatment occurs too early, it could be wasted, but leaving it too late may result in the animal already being compromised. Any treatment decisions need to take into account the seasonality of the parasite you are dealing with and how long the treatment is effective for.

Flies are most active in mid to late summer. A treatment at spring turnout, while convenient, will have little to no impact on fly numbers in mid-summer, as drug levels will have declined by this time.

Lice do not become active until temperatures get colder. Treatment in early fall when weather is still mild may be ineffective, as the drug may be gone by the time the lice become active. Waiting until temperatures get cooler will make treatment more effective.

Gastrointestinal worms need to spend part of their lifecycle outside the host on pasture. Because of this, their biggest impacts will be seen later in the grazing season and into the fall when their numbers are greatest. Using a conventional product at turnout will have minimal impact, as drug levels will have disappeared by the time the worm populations build on pasture. While treatment in the fall is effective, animals may have already experienced some impacts during the grazing season. A treatment that is effective later in the grazing season would be more beneficial but is not always practical or easily done.

3. What drug or product should be used?

Some products are effective against both internal and external parasites (i.e. macrocyclic lactones like ivermectin or eprinomectin) while others may be more specific (i.e. benzimidazoles are only effective for internal parasites while pyrethrins are only effective for external parasites). Make sure to use the right product for the parasite(s) you are targeting.

The route of administration – applied topically, injected or administered orally – is another consideration.

How long the product is effective for should also be considered. Short-acting products (a day or two) may require more than one treatment. Intermediate (weeks) and long-acting (months) products may provide better control over time, but require longer withdrawal periods.

Common errors to avoid when treating animals for parasites

Use the correct dose, ideally based on the actual weight of the animal. Be as accurate as possible when estimating weights, and if using the same dose for a group of animals, base it on the heaviest animals, not the average weight of the group. This will avoid or reduce the number of animals that are under-dosed.

It is important to apply the treatment according to the label directions with pour-on products. Avoid over-spraying, where the pour-on product bounces off the back of the animal and on to the chute or ground. If the directions indicate to treat from the withers to the tail-head, do not apply in a smaller area or spot as this can affect the effectiveness of the product.

Be sure to administer injectable products in the appropriate location according to label directions (i.e. subcutaneously versus intramuscular). It is important to treat at the right time. If treatment occurs at the wrong time, it may be ineffective.

If there are concerns that a treatment has not been effective, talk to your veterinarian. They can help investigate what may have gone wrong.

Hair loss and itchiness in cattle in winter is often assumed to be due to lice. However, this can be due to other conditions. It is important to check animals to confirm lice are present.

If there are concerns regarding efficacy of deworming, your veterinarian may suggest doing a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT). This compares fecal egg counts (FECs) before and after treatment. It is important to remember some of the limitations of the FEC.

As always, talk with your veterinarian, who can advise on which treatments may be most suited to your farm and situation.



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VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME!

2023 SCHOLAR AWARD WINNER

Promotional Chairperson: *Andrew Bunda*
Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Board

This year the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association was excited to launch a new Scholar Award to be awarded to a young Canadian with a passion for Agriculture either entering or continuing their post secondary studies in the fall of 2023. The intention of the award is to create a conversation centred around Blonde cattle and promote the breed within the beef industry. Eligibility was opened to anyone enrolled in a post secondary program in 2023 and fell into one (or more) of the following categories:

- Be a household member of a registered Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine breeder
- Be a 4-H member that has completed a beef project within the past two years
- Be enrolled in an agriculture related post secondary program

Applicants were required to write an essay focused on the Blonde breed and the winner was awarded \$1000.

The 2023 Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Scholar Award was awarded to Rhiannah Gallagher from Osgoode, Ontario. Rhiannah is enrolled in Agricultural Science majoring in Animal Biology at the University of Guelph. She has also shown a 4-H beef project each year since 2016. The essay question was "How would you market a Blonde d'Aquitaine bull to a commercial breeder in the current beef industry?" This was Rhiannah's essay response:

Cette année, l'Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association était ravie de lancer un nouveau Scholar Award qui sera décerné à un jeune Canadien passionné par l'agriculture qui entre ou poursuit son poste études secondaires à l'automne 2023. L'intention du prix est de créer une conversation centrée sur autour des bovins blonds et promouvoir la race au sein de la filière viande bovine. L'admissibilité a été ouverte à toute personne inscrite à un programme postsecondaire en 2023 et tombait dans un (ou plus) des catégories suivantes :

- Être membre du foyer d'un éleveur canadien enregistré de Blonde d'Aquitaine
 - Être membre des 4-H ayant réalisé un projet bovin au cours des deux dernières années
 - Être inscrit à un programme postsecondaire lié à l'agriculture
- Les candidats devaient rédiger un essai axé sur la race blonde et le gagnant a été récompensé. 1 000 \$.

Le Prix Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Scholar Award 2023 a été décerné à Rhiannah Gallagher d'Osgoode, Ontario. Rhiannah est inscrite en sciences agricoles avec spécialisation en biologie animale à l'Université de Guelph. Elle présente également un projet de bœuf des 4-H chaque année depuis 2016. La question à développement était « Comment commercialiseriez-vous un taureau Blonde d'Aquitaine auprès d'un éleveur commercial en l'industrie bovine actuelle ? Voici la réponse de Rhiannah à l'essai :

Blondes Have More Fun

Who doesn't want to have more fun? Commercial breeders have fun when the calving process is easy and the marketability is profitable. The underlying drive of the Canadian beef industry is to produce high quality beef that consumers want to buy. In order to do that you need to start at the beginning, with high quality bulls.

As a commercial breeder you are looking for a bull that can throw moderate sized calves so that they are easy to birth, but vigorous

“How would you market a Blonde d'Aquitaine bull to a commercial breeder in the current beef industry?”

enough to be able to survive on their own on a snowy winter's night or in the middle of the pasture. You want a bull that can cross well with any terminal breed to produce calves that grow quickly, with lean muscle and high car-

cass quality. Well, look no further than a Blonde d'Aquitaine bull.

Blonde d'Aquitaine bulls throw calves that have some of the best feed conversion ratios. They are well muscled with lean, long bodies, and strong legs; their conformation lends well to surviving on any farming system from pasture to feedlot. With the high carcass yield this breed gives you, the commercial breeder can capitalize on the current demand for high quality Canadian beef on the international export market. More beef per animal gives you a better bang for your buck – just what a commercial breeder needs to improve their profitability factor!

The Blonde d'Aquitaine breed results in beef that is tender, lean and tasty - exactly what your consumers want. If you're looking to improve your commercial herd, use a Blonde d'Aquitaine bull and you'll see results! Like they say Blondes always have more fun!

Les blondes s'amuse plus

Qui ne veut pas s'amuser davantage ? Les éleveurs commerciaux s'amuse plus lorsque le processus de vêlage est facile et la valeur marchande est rentable. La motivation sous-jacente de l'industrie canadienne du bœuf est de produire des produits de haute qualité. du bœuf de qualité que les consommateurs veulent acheter. Pour y parvenir, il faut commencer par le début, avec des taureaux de haute qualité.

En tant qu'éleveur commercial vous recherchez un taureau capable de lancer des veaux de taille moyenne afin qu'ils soient facile à mettre bas, mais suffisamment vigoureux pour pouvoir survivre seul lors d'une nuit d'hiver enneigée ou au milieu des pâturages. Vous voulez un taureau qui peut bien se croiser avec n'importe quelle race terminale pour produire des veaux qui grandissent rapidement, avec une masse musculaire maigre et une qualité de carcasse élevée. Eh bien, ne cherchez pas plus loin qu'un taureau Blonde d'Aquitaine.

Les taureaux Blonde d'Aquitaine présentent des veaux qui présentent des taux de conversion alimentaire parmi les meilleurs. Ils vont bien musclé avec un corps mince et long et des jambes fortes; leur conformation se prête bien à la survie dans n'importe quel système agricole, du pâturage au parc d'engraissement. Avec le rendement élevé en carcasses que cette race vous offre, le marché Les éleveurs peuvent tirer parti de la demande actuelle de bœuf canadien de haute qualité sur le marché d'exportation internationale. Plus de bœuf par animal vous donne un meilleur rapport qualité-prix – exactement ce qu'un éleveur commercial doit améliorer son facteur de rentabilité !

La race Blonde d'Aquitaine donne une viande tendre, maigre et savoureuse, exactement ce que recherchent vos consommateurs. vouloir. Si vous cherchez à améliorer votre troupeau commercial, utilisez un taureau Blonde d'Aquitaine et vous verrez des résultats ! Comme on dit, les blondes s'amuse toujours plus !

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BODY CONDITION

OPTIMUM BODY CONDITION = MAXIMUM PRODUCTION

The productivity of beef cows depends largely on the amount of fat they carry. A herd of cows maintained in the right condition with an ideal layer of fat cover will have more (and heavier) calves than a herd of thin or over-fat cows.

What is body condition scoring?

Body condition scoring is a low cost, hands-on method to determine the condition (amount of fat cover) cattle have. This easy hands-on method is much more accurate than just looking at the animals.

Looks can be deceiving, even to the trained and experienced eye. The shadows that help you see the body's dips and hollows are harder to see on black cattle. The accuracy of visual evaluation also varies with the season. Prominent rib, hook and pin bones can be masked by long winter hair coats. Thin cows with round bellies full of straw can be mistaken as being in ideal condition when in fact they need improvement.

Research from the University of Guelph reported that even trained visual evaluators had a hard time accurately predicting the body condition score of cows in winter. The correlation between visual scores and ultrasonic backfat measurements was low ($r^2 = 0.14$) in January to March. Cows in later stages of pregnancy may also appear to have more fat cover. A hands-on evaluation of the body condition score will give you a much better sense of your cows' fat stores.

In Canada, body condition is scored from 1-5, with 1 being extremely thin and 5 being obese. A score of 3.0 is ideal.

How do I body condition score?

Feel for fat cover with your hands at:

- the short ribs
- the spine
- the hooks and pins
- either side of the tail head

An animal in ideal condition will have a thin layer of fat in these areas, so it will take some pressure to feel the bones.

An underconditioned animal's bones will be quite prominent and sharp. In an obese animal, you won't be able to feel any of the individual bones through the thick layer of fat.

Why is measuring body condition worthwhile?

By having an accurate measure of your cows' body condition, you'll have a good indicator of how to manage their rations to maximize their productivity, especially reproduction.

Cows with an ideal body condition score (3.0) rebreed up to 30 days sooner than thin cows, which allows more cows to calve in the first 21-day cycle. This can add up to 42 lbs in calf weaning weight since the calves born earlier in the calving season will be heavier at weaning time. Cows in ideal body condition also have pregnancy rates double those of cows in poor condition, have improved milk production, fewer cases of abortion and stillbirth, healthier calves, and have fewer instances of calving problems.

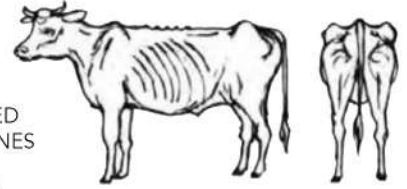
The salvage value of cull cows in good condition is also higher. Very thin cows are more likely to experience negative outcomes during transport or to be condemned at the plant. Thin cows reflect poorly on the producer and the industry. It is important to note that thin cows are not always strictly related to nutrition. Several diseases such as Johne's disease can be a contributing factor to thin cows.

When do I body condition score?

One of the best times to body condition score is during fall processing or pregnancy checking. This will give you time to add condition on thinner cows before winter sets in. Reproductive performance in the spring depends on nutritional planning in the fall.

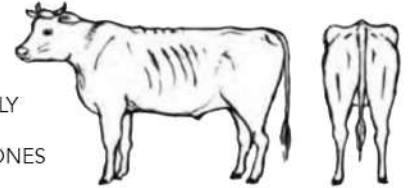
Condition Score 1

- BACKBONE PROMINENT
- RIBS CLEARLY VISIBLE
- TAIL HEAD AREA RECESSED
- HIPS AND SHOULDER BONES PROMINENT
- SKELETAL BODY OUTLINE



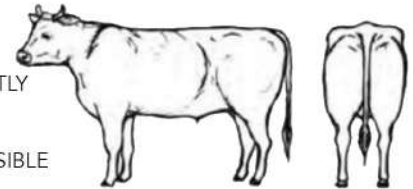
Condition Score 2

- BACKBONE VISIBLE
- RIBS VISIBLE FAINTLY
- TAIL HEAD AREA SLIGHTLY RECESSED
- HIPS AND SHOULDER BONES VISIBLE
- BODY OUTLINE BONY



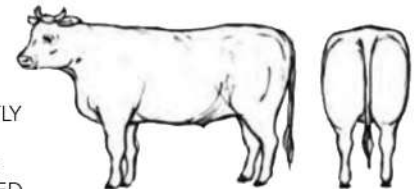
Condition Score 3

- HIP BONES VISIBLE FAINTLY
- TAIL HEAD AREA NOT RECESSED
- RIBS GENERALLY NOT VISIBLE
- BODY OUTLINE ALMOST SMOOTH



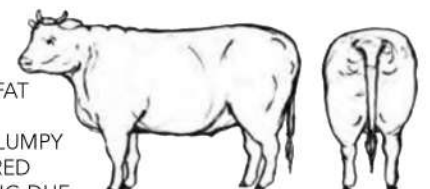
Condition Score 4

- RIBS WELL COVERED
- TAIL HEAD AREA SLIGHTLY LUMPY
- HIPS BONE NOT VISIBLE
- BODY OUTLINE ROUNDED



Condition Score 5

- HIP BONES SHOWING FAT DEPOSIT
- TAIL HEAD AREA VERY LUMPY
- RIBS VERY WELL COVERED
- BODY OUTLINE BULGING DUE TO FAT



The more often you body condition score throughout the year, the better you'll be able to manage their nutrition to keep them at a score of 3.0 year-round.

What should I do if my animals are underconditioned?

If you have animals at a body condition score of 2.0 or lower, you'll need to manage them differently than you have been in order to add body fat and bring them up to a 3.0.

If cows are thin when they come home from pasture in the fall, work to improve their condition right away. Cow maintenance requirements increase substantially (up to 40% more) during the winter and during late gestation.

A 1400 lb cow will require about 200 lbs of body weight gain to move from a body condition score 2.0 to 3.0. To make this change in 90 days requires 20% more energy than a cow that is maintaining condition; to do it in 60 days requires 30% more energy. It will be 20-30% more expensive to try and increase condition during the winter.

When looking at a group of cows, if a small number of them are thin, that may mean that those few thin animals simply don't fit a given environment or management system. Larger numbers of thin cows within a group suggest the group doesn't have enough feed or that their feed is poor quality.

Feed testing is inexpensive and necessary to help ensure that your cows are getting enough nutrition. Judging your forages based on their plant type, colour, leaf content and knowledge of cutting time does not substitute for feed testing. Learn more about the value of feed testing and the nutritional needs of cows and heifers in each trimester at <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/feed-testing/>

Cattle that are thinner or fatter than the rest of the group should be sorted out and managed separately. Your winter feeding groups might look something like this:

Group 1: Mature cows in good condition

These cows will fare quite well on average quality forage or extended grazing systems.

Group 2: Bred Replacement Heifers/2nd Calvers

These animals are still growing and need better quality feed to meet their requirements. They also don't compete well with older cows for feed. They will need good quality forage, and may require supplementation especially during very cold weather.

Group 3: Thin and Old Cows

These cows need good quality forage and will need some grain/pellet supplementation to get through the winter in good condition

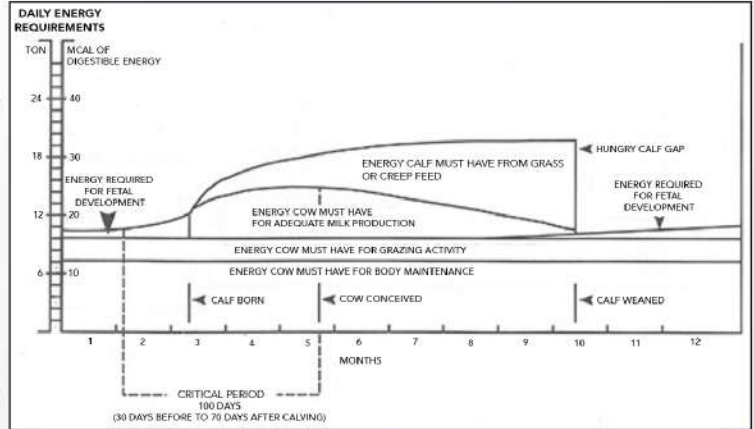


Fig 19-2. Estimated energy requirements of a mature 1,000-lb beef cow during her 12-month reproductive cycle; based on a 90 day calving season and 500-lb calf at 7 months of age. (Adapted by the authors from *Nutrient Requirements of Cow and Calf*, Texas A&M University, B 1044, p.7, Fig.2)

Considerations

- Nutrient levels of forages and grasses fluctuate widely from year to year (up to 25-30%) so feed testing is very important.
- If cows are thin coming off grass in the fall, they will likely be thin going onto grass the following spring unless winter rations are adjusted to increase energy and protein.
- Cows reach peak lactation around 6 weeks post-calving. Energy and protein demands are highest at this time.
- A cow's nutrient requirements (energy, protein, minerals) will increase about 30-40% percent with calving. Forage intake will generally increase about 30% with calving.



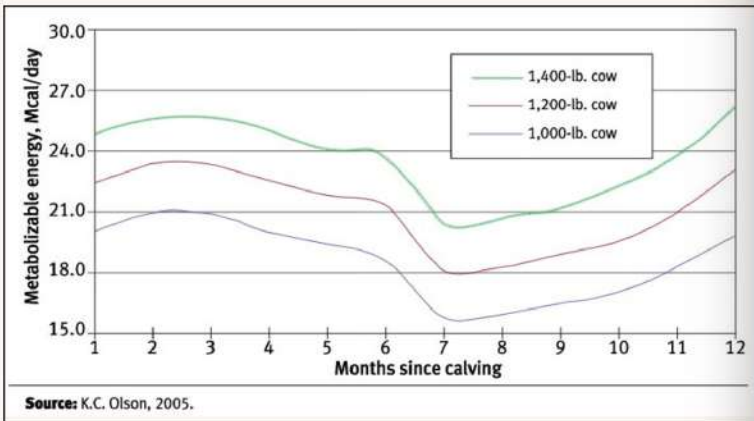


Fig.1: Animal nutrient requirements, effect of cow body size

- Energy is usually the first-limiting nutrient (especially in winter), but protein should also be a consideration, especially when feeding low quality forages.

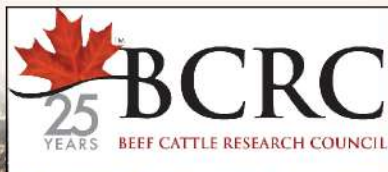
- Swath grazing increases energy requirements by 18-21% over drylot feeding.

- Early grazing is not always the answer when winter rations dwindle. Early grazing of forages and grasses reduces individual plant energy reserves, affecting pasture growth for the season. Each day grazing is delayed in the spring adds two or more days of grazing in the fall.

- It is important to note that although increasing reproductive performance will generally increase profitability, striving for 100% may not be the most economical for your operation. The costs to increase reproductive efficiency those last few percentage points to 100% may far outweigh the increased returns. If your operation's reproductive efficiency is already high, it is recommended to determine a cost and return strategy for your operation before implementing changes to increase it further.

- An optimal BCS does not tell you everything that you need to know about a cow. For instance, a cow that has an optimal BCS may still be deficient in copper or other minerals, and so it is important to recognize that even though a cow may have an ideal BCS, there could still be underlying problems. This is why feed testing can be so important.

Beef Cattle Research Council, "Body Condition", 2023, <https://www.beefresearch.ca/tools/body-condition/>



EAR TAG LETTER 2024



MEMBERSHIP

Jan 1st 2024

ACTIVE MEMBER BEFORE MAY 1	\$150
JUNIOR (UNDER 18)	\$20
ASSOCIATE	\$40

Please add 13% HST to all fees for Ontario
Add 15% HST to all fees for Nfld., NB, NS and PEI.
Add 5% GST to all fees for all other provinces

PLEASE SEE CLRC.CA FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REGISTRATIONS, TRANSFERS, DNA, & MISC FEE'S OR REACH OUT TO ONE OF THE CANADIAN BOARD MEMBERS FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST!

Thank-you



Ontario
BLONDE
d'Aquitaine
Association

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT HERD SIRE THIS SPRING?

Bulls will be available to view this winter & spring in Jasper, ON. Please call Paul at (613) 275-2422 to stop by for a tour, or email at ferguson.maryellen@gmail.com. Updates and photos of bulls on test will be provided, by request.



We would like to say thank you to Over the Top Cattle Co. for handling our 2023 Cream of the Crop Sale, as well as everyone who participated; the consignors, bidders and buyers. Raising \$9,200 from our donation heifer, provided by Shelbromack Blondes, towards our youth programs! Also, to our volunteers that attended trade shows this year with booth set-ups from Ottawa Farm Show to Toronto RAWF, as well as everyone's countless hours being on the Board of Directors. To each breeder who attended our public events; picnics, AGM, sale and participated in the show circuit, including our Junior Showmen. With 2023 ending, we are thankful for the new faces we have met, and for everyone's continuous efforts to making 2023 the best year yet! Stay tuned for the 2024 \$1,000 scholarship opportunity.

Thank-you 

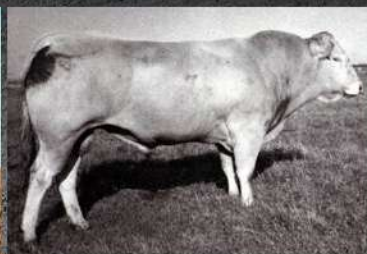
SEMEN SALES

WEST WIND BLONDES VAN ALTA BLONDES JACOBSEN FAMILY

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT *within* THE BLONDE BREED



CANADIAN ROCKY



MARKWOOD WOODROW T LUKE



NOR-GEO AUTUER



SUNDANCE ZEPPELIN



VAN ALTA LUCKY BOY



WEST WINDS GERSHWIN 147G



WEST WINDS HERDSMAN 32H



WESTWINDS WORKMAN 94W

A huge Thanks to the Estate of Myrna Flesch (West Wind Blondes), the family of Pete Van Tighem (Van Alta Blondes) and the Jacobsen family (NAJ & MNJ prefix) all of whom have graciously donated semen from their past herdsires to the Canadian and Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine Associations. The money raised through the sale of this semen is to be used for junior development within the Blonde breed.

The sires available are listed right; some semen is for use within Canada only and some is eligible for Export as noted. Buyers are responsible for shipping and handling costs. Please contact REED RIGNEY if you are interested in purchasing semen.
 780-348-5308

SIRE	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	SEMEN STATUS
Canadian Rocky	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
Clay	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
Deebnan PLD Jail Breaker 28Y	heterozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable
Markwood Woodrow T Luke	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
Nor-Geo Autuer	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
Sundance Zeppelin	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
Van Alta Lucky Boy	horned Fullblood	\$15	domestic
West Winds Beau 9B	homozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable
West Winds Breaker 36B	homozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable
West Winds Gershwin 147G	homozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic
West Winds Herdsman 32H	heterozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable
West Winds Rainer 11R	homozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable
West Winds Workman 94W	homozygous polled Fullblood	\$25	domestic & exportable