



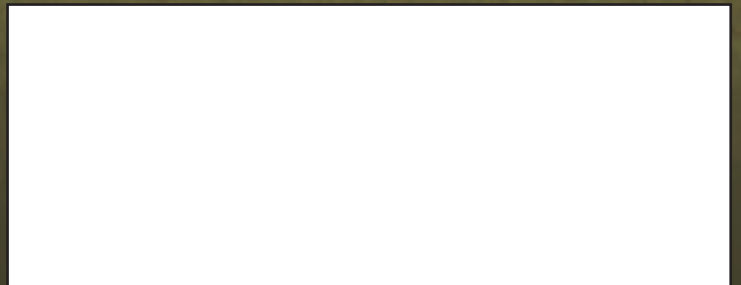
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PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI

The **BLONDE** *Connection* 2021

UNDERSTANDING SNPs
DNA TESTING

VIDEO SHOW RESULTS
ROUNDUP 2020

CREAM OF THE CROP SALES REPORT



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The **BLONDE** *Connection*

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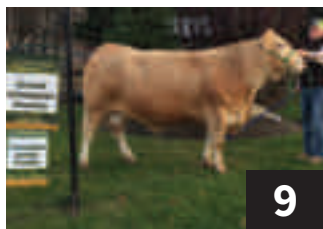


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French translations
by Maureen Landry
**Traduction faite par
Maureen Landry**

To access the Members Only Section on the website, please contact a Board member for the password. This page features current and archived Board minutes, as well as AGM minutes and committee reports since 2005.



WOW! Not sure what I got myself into stepping into the position as President. Trying to fill the shoes of past Presidents will be a challenge. Past Presidents and Board Members have done an awesome job keeping the Blonde breed competitive in the beef industry. "Saying that!" Our beef industry is always changing and if you do not change with the times then you will fall behind. Good part with the Blonde breeders is, when topics are brought up to be discussed we go in opened minded. Are willing listen to all points of view and concerns. At the end of the day, we are all still friends. Reed Rigney has spent countless hours bringing forth new ideas to the Board Members. For us to discuss. After several hours of discussion, the Board has come up with what I think will improve our Breed. Details will be on the Canadian Facebook page, if you have missed the CBdAA AGM.

Another project Reed has worked on the past few years is getting EPD's on our animals. This is a must if we want to improve our Breed. Reed, Nicholas Boyd and Dave Kamelchuk is working hard on making sure that all information that is sent is correct. "Thanks for that!" accurate information is crucial! The Board is also working on getting EPD's put on Blonde Members registration papers. Once again, I believe this is a must for the buyer to know what they are buying. It sure would be nice to go to the Cream of the Crop Sale and buy an animal that has EPD's to go with your eye appeal.

We have some new Breeders on the Board this year that will bring new ideas to the table, as well as the experience ones, that know what the industry needs to compete. Thank you to all Board Members for volunteering their time and input to improve our breed.

It would not be a beef column if you did not talk about the weather. Here in Ontario January has had the perfect weather for calving! No frozen ears here but there is still lots of winter to come yet!

In conclusion, I feel incredibly positive we are heading in the right direction with our breed! This is a great breed to be in and we are one big family.

May you stay healthy and safe while having an awesome calving season!

CBdAA President,

Paul Ferguson



WOW! Je ne sais pas dans quoi je me suis embarqué

En acceptant le poste de président. Essayer de remplir les chaussures des anciens présidents sera tout un défi. Les anciens présidents et membres du Conseil d'administration ont fait un travail formidable pour maintenir la race Blonde compétitive dans l'industrie du bœuf. "En disant cela!" Notre industrie du bœuf est en constante évolution et si vous ne changez pas avec le temps, vous prendrez du retard. La bonne chose avec les éleveurs Blonde est que lorsque des sujets sont abordés pour être discutés, nous sommes ouverts d'esprit. Sont prêts à écouter tous les points de vue et préoccupations. À la fin de la journée, nous sommes tous encore amis. Reed Rigney a passé d'innombrables heures à présenter de nouvelles idées aux membres du Conseil d'administration. Pour nous à discuter. Après plusieurs heures de discussion, le Conseil a proposé ce qui, à mon avis, améliorera notre race. Les détails seront sur la page Facebook de la Canadienne, si vous avez manqué l'AGA de l'AbdAC.

Un autre projet sur lequel Reed a travaillé ces dernières années consiste à obtenir les EPD de nos animaux. C'est un must si nous voulons améliorer notre race. Reed, Nicholas Boyd et Dave Kamelchuk s'efforcent de s'assurer que toutes les informations envoyées sont correctes. "Merci pour ça!" une information précise est cruciale! Le Conseil d'administration s'emploie également à obtenir l'inscription des EPD sur les papiers d'enregistrement des membres Blonde. Encore une fois, je pense que c'est un must pour que l'acheteur sache ce qu'il achète. Ce serait certainement bien d'aller à la vente du "Cream of the Crop" et d'acheter un animal qui a des EPD pour aller avec l'attrait visuel.

Nous avons quelques nouveaux éleveurs au Conseil d'administration cette année qui apporteront de nouvelles idées, ainsi que des anciens avec leur expérience, qui savent ce dont l'industrie a besoin pour être compétitive. Merci à tous les membres du Conseil d'administration pour avoir donné de leur temps et de leur contribution pour améliorer notre race.

Ce ne serait pas une chronique sur le bœuf si nous ne parlions pas de la météo. Ici, en Ontario, le mois de janvier a été parfait pour le vêlage! Pas d'oreilles gelées ici mais il reste encore beaucoup d'hiver à venir!

En conclusion, je suis incroyablement positif que nous allons dans la bonne direction avec notre race! C'est une race formidable et nous sommes une grande famille.

Puissiez-vous rester en bonne santé et en sécurité tout en ayant une excellente saison de vêlage!

Traduction : Maureen Landry

président

Paul Ferguson

Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine ASSOCIATION

The 2020 AGM was hosted virtually on a ZOOM conference given the circumstances caused by Covid-19. The meeting had light attendance from the members, even with some changes for by-laws needing voted on. The plan for the 2021 National AGM is to be held in conjunction with the Cream of the Crop Sale which takes place October 23rd, 2021 at Hoards Station. The AGM has been planned for the Friday before at the Ramada Inn in Trenton, Ontario starting at 1pm followed by a banquet dinner that night.

We would like to welcome Nicole Baker of Shelbramack Blondes and Paul Fee of Fee Haven Farms to the CBDA Board of Directors. They will be replacing outgoing Directors Sarah Pierce and Bill Van Bakel. We would like to thank both Bill and Sarah for their service on the board and look forward to continuing to see them at Blonde events.

There were a lot of members submitting data to BIO this year and that is fantastic news for the breed moving forward. Reed Rigney, Dave Kamelchuk and Nicholas Boyd have been working hard inputting various data sets, along with cleaning up the site inventory for more accurate results. Reed Rigney spearheaded a complete overhaul of the database which should help eliminate duplicates and errors to help with much more accurate EPDs being produced. If you are not on the program, reach out to a Board member and get started now!

President: Paul Ferguson



As you are well aware, it has been a very trying year in the US. As Covid-19 swept across the US and schools and restaurants were closed, so too were all of the industry events that we know and love; county and state fairs, farm shows and our plans to join you all in Canada for our annual meeting.

The board made the very difficult decision mid-summer to postpone the international trip to Canada and to visit President Butch Jarvis in Tennessee instead. Just 2 weeks before the meeting, those plans were changed once again and our meeting was held virtually. So, on October 31st, ABAA members from across the country gathered around their computers to discuss business, elect directors and take a virtual tour of Lazy J Butcher Shop in Kingsport, Tennessee led by President Butch Jarvis.

In other news, we have officially converted to the CLRC system. Even though it wasn't as seamless as we had hoped, we were up and running late December 2020. We are still working out the kinks but looking forward to the new system going forward.

Over the past several years we have seen a declining membership in the ABAA. We are actively seeking out new members and would like to update our marketing material. If anyone in the CBAA has any ideas or interest in collaborating, please reach out to any of the officers listed below. We all share a passion for our beautiful Blonde cattle and can only be stronger together!

The 2021 annual meeting will be hosted by Butch Jarvis at Lazy J Farm in Fall Branch, Tennessee Oct 15-16, 2021. Butch has recently opened his own butcher shop strictly selling Blonde beef. We are all looking forward to the real tour! All are welcome and we'd love representatives from the Canadian association to join too!

Many members have marked the 2021 Cream of the Crop sale on their calendars. Hopefully things will be back to "normal" and we can venture over the border by then! Please reach out to any of the officers with any questions. Contact info can be found on our website www.blondcattle.org

President: Butch Jarvis VP: Brad Miller Secretary: Erin Perkins Treasurer: Cliff Easley





ALBERTA & BRITISH COLUMBIA



Hello from Alberta and BC. We don't have a lot to report as it has been a very quiet year and a half out here. Demand for Blonde breeding bulls has remained steady and strong, with interest in breeding females picking up. We have added a couple of new members in the last year with one purchasing a significant number of females. We hope that the cattle work well for them and they become more involved over the next few years.

Edmonton Farmfair International did not take place in 2020, but is back on track for 2021 with new management, and significant prize money available. Little Creek Farms is currently working on a few animals which they plan to exhibit. So if you attend the show make sure to look them up. If Farmfair continues the added prizes, it may be a venue to consider for a future National show in Alberta.

Dave Kamelchuk and myself (Reed Rigney) made a trip to Northern BC last fall to visit fellow breeders the Wolfes and Musgroves. It was the first time we had been up there to see the herds and as we find whenever we visit a Blonde herd, there are good cattle everywhere. Both herds have Registered Blonde cattle along with large sized commercial herds. It was interesting to see Blonde cross cows and calves working in a ranch environment and we saw some great calves.

As I write in the early fall of 2021, market prices for cattle are strong despite extremely high forage and grain prices. Alberta, especially the Edmonton to Red Deer region, appears to be in better shape moisture wise than the other western provinces, though I think most of the Province is still well below normal moisture. Feed demand from drier areas, including the Northern States, has meant higher feed prices and less availability across the West. Quite a few cows have headed for butcher, and the herd across the West will be greatly reduced, but this may be a positive for future cattle prices.



Bonjour de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique. Nous n'avons pas grand-chose à signaler car cela a été une année et demie très calme ici. La demande de taureaux reproducteurs blonds est restée stable et forte, avec un intérêt croissant pour les femelles reproductrices. Nous avons ajouté quelques nouveaux membres au cours de la dernière année, l'un d'entre eux ayant acheté un nombre important de femelles. Nous espérons que le bétail fonctionne bien pour eux et qu'ils s'impliqueront davantage au cours des prochaines années.

Edmonton Farmfair International n'a pas eu lieu en 2020, mais est de retour pour 2021 avec une nouvelle direction et des prix importants disponibles. Little Creek Farms travaille actuellement sur quelques animaux qu'ils prévoient d'exposer. Donc, si vous assistez au spectacle, assurez-vous de les consulter. Si Farmfair continue les prix ajoutés, cela pourrait être un lieu à considérer pour une future exposition nationale en Alberta.

Dave Kamelchuk et moi-même (Reed Rigney) avons fait un voyage dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique l'automne dernier pour rendre visite à d'autres éleveurs Wolfes et Musgroves. C'était la première fois que nous allions là-haut pour voir les troupeaux et comme nous le constatons chaque fois que nous visitons un troupeau Blonde, il y a du bon bétail partout. Les deux troupeaux ont des bovins Blonde enregistrés ainsi que des troupeaux commerciaux de grande taille. C'était intéressant de voir des vaches et des veaux croisés Blonde travailler dans un environnement de ranch et nous avons vu de superbes veaux.

Au moment où j'écris au début de l'automne 2021, les prix du marché du bétail sont élevés malgré des prix extrêmement élevés du fourrage et des céréales. L'Alberta, en particulier la région d'Edmonton à Red Deer, semble être en meilleure forme d'humidité que les autres provinces de l'Ouest, même si je pense que la majeure partie de la province est encore bien en dessous de la normale. La demande d'aliments provenant des zones plus sèches, y compris les États du Nord, a entraîné des prix des aliments plus élevés et une disponibilité moindre dans l'Ouest. Un certain nombre de vaches se sont dirigées vers la boucherie et le troupeau dans l'Ouest sera considérablement réduit, mais cela pourrait être positif pour les prix futurs du bétail.

Reed Rigney



MANITOBA & SASKATCHEWAN



As we swing into a new year while dragging the old one behind us, our hopes and prayers are with all that are impacted by this terrible situation the world has been thrown into. Life however, goes on; food is still being eaten, animals are being cared for, and the gathering of the fruits of our labour still continues along.

Southern areas of Saskatchewan had serious fears of drought at the start of spring, but timely rains came and the hay flourished turning into an abundant crop for most of us. The summer was dry and hot, cereal crops therefore did well bringing in many above average yields. The cycle of production never ceases and we are poised to do it all again this year. There has been some activity with cattle moving back and forth across the country. The virtual Cream of the Crop sale was a success from the sounds of it. Virtual sales are a good solution with the restrictions in place for now. Online sales have boomed and it is a great way to show your product if distances and protocol does not allow you access to the live animal.

There has been no face to face meetings, due to restrictions, just phone conversations. The 4-H gratuity is still being offered; the books are being done; no change in officers. Finding the best animal for a buyer is often a corroboration of ideas based on availability. We work together for the good of all.

Forty Acres has sold heifers and a bull to 2 new buyers this year with repeat buyers being reported by all our members. We continue to offer great animals to all and this contributes to promoting the breed.

God keep us all healthy and safe.



Alors que nous entrons dans une nouvelle année tout en traînant l'ancienne derrière nous, nos espoirs et nos prières sont avec tous ceux qui sont touché par cette terrible situation dans laquelle le monde entier a été mise dedans. Cependant, la vie continue; la nourriture est toujours mangée, les animaux sont soignés et la récolte des fruits de notre travail se poursuit.

Les régions du sud de la Saskatchewan craignaient sérieusement la sécheresse au début du printemps, mais les pluies sont arrivées en temps opportun et le foin s'est épanoui, devenant une récolte abondante pour la plupart d'entre nous. L'été a été sec et chaud, les cultures céréalières se sont donc bien comportées avec de nombreux rendements supérieurs à la moyenne. Le cycle de production ne s'arrête jamais et nous sommes prêts à tout refaire cette année.

Il y a eu une certaine activité avec le bétail qui va et vient d'un bout à l'autre du pays. La vente virtuelle du Cream of the Crop a été un succès d'après ce que nous entendons. Les ventes virtuelles sont une bonne solution avec les restrictions en place pour le moment. Les ventes en ligne ont explosé et c'est un excellent moyen de montrer votre produit si les distances et le protocole ne vous permettent pas d'accéder à l'animal en personne.

Il n'y a pas eu de réunions face à face, en raison des restrictions, juste des conversations téléphoniques. La prime du 4 H est toujours offerte; les livres sont en cours de rédaction; pas de changement d'officiers. Trouver le meilleur animal pour un acheteur est souvent une corroboration d'idées en fonction de la disponibilité. Nous travaillons ensemble pour le bien de tous.

Forty Acres a vendu des génisses et un taureau à 2 nouveaux acheteurs cette année, des acheteurs réguliers étant signalés par tous nos membres. Nous continuons à offrir de merveilleux animaux à tous et cela contribue à la promotion de la race.

Dieu nous garde tous en bonne santé et en sécurité.

Pat Filz



QUEBEC

Bonjour à tous,
Après un an de restrictions de toutes sortes à cause de la pandémie Covid-19, l'année 2021 s'annonce un peu plus intéressante. En ce moment nous ne savons pas vraiment ce qui sera possible comme rassemblement et de ce qu'il sera permis en ce qui concerne les expositions agricoles cet été. L'automne dernier M. Reed Rigney avait organisé un jugement d'animaux au niveau canadien et de façon virtuelle cela a peut-être permis à de nouveaux éleveurs de présenter leurs animaux plus facilement. Merci M. Rigney ainsi qu'à vos collaborateurs pour cet événement.

.....

Hello,
After a year of restrictions of all kinds due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the year 2021 is shaping up to be a little more interesting. At the moment we don't really know what will be possible as for meetings, picnic and what will be allowed with regard to agricultural shows this summer. Last fall Mr. Reed Rigney had organized an animal show at the Canadian level and in a virtual way this may have made it possible for new breeders to present their animals more easily. Thank you, Mr. Rigney and to your collaborators for this event.

Gilbert Gauthier, President



ONTARIO & THE MARITIMES



Every year the Ontario Board plans events and functions throughout the year, so we can gather to share stories and ideas on our breeding programs. This was not the case for 2020 in light of the world wide pandemic and we had to use today's technology to hold virtual meetings and we hosted a successful 6-week virtual Picnic on Facebook. We managed to get together finally at the 20th Cream of the Crop Sale, but provided an online option for those that may not have felt comfortable gathering. Regardless to say, this pandemic has forced us to move forward in using social media to come together in new ways.

On March 21st, 2021, we held our Ontario & Maritimes AGM via ZOOM and it was fantastic to see some familiar faces. We had cancelled the 2020 AGM, which was to be held at the onset of the pandemic in March, 2020, when we were still trying to navigate through the disruption of our daily lives. I'd like to thank Jane Schiestel for her dedication and work while she was on the board and while Mary Ellen Ferguson has stepped off of the board we are very thankful that she will continue to act as our Treasurer. Newcomers to the Board are Samantha Ferguson (Diamond Ridge Blondes) and Andrew Bunda. Looking forward to working with you in the coming years.

Like usual, Crystal Farms had set up for their 2020/2021 Bull Test, but a couple of more bulls were needed to make the test sound. These Bull Tests really show the ability of our Blonde Bulls to gain, so if anyone is interested in the 2021/2022 Bull Test, please contact Paul Ferguson. Once again, a road map for our advertising program is laid out and underway, the aim being to highlight The Blonde Breed, along with specific farms, in beef magazines across Ontario and Canada. Anyone wanting to place an Ad for their Farm in Atlantic Beef and Sheep, Ontario Beef, Ontario Beef Farmer Magazine or Farmer's Forum (both Eastern and Western Editions), please contact Kirk McGee.

Although I was impressed by the Virtual 2020 Blonde Picnic, Fee Haven Farms and Forestview Farms did not disappoint in 2021 and held a memorable get together with lots of good looking cattle, a successful mini auction, a great spread, and lots of laughs and comradery. If you would like to show off your herd and host this annual event for 2022, please contact Samantha Ferguson.

Our 21st annual Cream of the Crop Sale will again be hosted on October 23, 2021 at Hoards Station in Campbellford, ON. It will again be a live venue with a virtual option via Live Auctions TV. The sale starts at 4:00 PM, so come on out to see what animal would look good in your herd. I'm certainly hoping that we are looking at the tail end of this pandemic, so stay positive folks and we'll see you all soon.

All the Best!

.....

Chaque année, le Conseil d'administration de l'Ontario organise des événements et des fonctions tout au long de l'année, afin que nous puissions nous réunir pour partager des histoires et des idées sur nos programmes d'élevage. Malheureusement, je ne pense pas que ce sera encore une possibilité cette année en raison de cette pandémie mondiale. Cela ne nous a cependant pas empêché d'utiliser la technologie actuelle pour organiser des réunions virtuelles, organiser un pique-nique Facebook de 6 semaines et même avoir la 20e vente du "Cream of the Crop" en ligne. Vraiment, cette pandémie nous a obligé à aller de l'avant en utilisant les médias sociaux pour nous rassembler de nouvelles façons.

Le 21 mars 2021, nous tiendrons notre AGA de l'Ontario et des Maritimes via ZOOM. L'appel à l'ordre aura lieu à 13 h 00. L'AGA de l'année dernière a été annulée, car elle était prévue au début de la pandémie, alors que nous n'avions pas tout à fait compris comment aller de l'avant, j'ai donc hâte de voir tout le monde cette année.

La station d'épreuve de Crystal Farms 2020/2021 sera terminée d'ici la fin mars 2021. La station d'épreuve montre vraiment la capacité de nos taureaux Blonde à gagner. Toute personne souhaitant placer un animal dans la station d'épreuve 2021/2022, veuillez contacter Paul Ferguson.

Une fois de plus, une feuille de route pour nos programmes de publicité est tracée et en cours, le but étant de mettre en valeur la race Blonde ainsi que des fermes spécifiques dans les magazines sur le bœuf de l'Ontario et du Canada. Quiconque souhaite placer une annonce pour sa ferme dans ces divers magazines de viande bovine, veuillez contacter Kirk McGee.

Comme le pique-nique Blonde de l'Ontario 2020 a été un tel succès, nous mettrons à nouveau en valeur diverses fermes virtuellement. Si vous souhaitez montrer votre troupeau et être les hôtes pour cet événement annuel pour 2021, veuillez contacter Nicholas Boyd.

Notre 21e vente annuelle du Cream of the Crop aura lieu à nouveau à Hoards Station à Campbellford en Ontario. Il sera diffusé en ligne via Live Auction TV aux côtés de la salle en direct. Plus d'informations à venir alors restez à l'écoute.

Restez positifs.
Tous mes vœux!

Dave Payne



**4-H
CANADA**

JUNIOR SHOW RESULTS

CONGRATUALATIONS TO ALL OUR 4-H MEMBERS!

With the pandemic affecting our world, 4-H projects were put on hold for 2020. We looked forward to seeing the 2021 blonde projects our 4-H members are working with.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR 4-H RESULTS AND PICTURES SO WE CAN INCLUDE THEM IN THE 2022 PUBLICATION!

ALBERTA Colinton 4-H Club ATHABASCA DISTRICT

EMMA KAMELCHUK

Hi there! My name is Emma Kamelchuk and I am a 9th year member of the Colinton 4-H Multi Club, located in Colinton, AB. This past 4-H year was an absolute roller coaster, with new restrictions and regulations making it very hard to do any 'normal' 4-H

activities. Our public speaking went ahead, but our judging and achievement day had to be cancelled. Even though we couldn't have our traditional show and sale my sisters, Avery and Delaney, and I continued to work with and raise our animals so that our hard work wouldn't go to waste. Between the three of us, we had two blonde cross steers and a blonde cross heifer that turned out really well! Over the past year our club has adapted to the new restrictions, finding new ways to keep our club alive in this trying team. For the 2021 4-H year, Delaney has a blonde cross steer and a fullblood blonde heifer - Little Creek Halo 15H. We also had members from two other clubs come to our farm to pick out blonde animals and one of the steers chosen will be sold to support a charity in support of Kids with Cancer. We are waiting patiently to see how this year will turn out!

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Kamelchuk



100AK

We all dream in gold





Crystal
Farms

**NEXT GENERATION
IS HERE!**





Canadian
londe d'Aquitaine ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL VIDEO SHOW 2020

With Covid 19 making in person gatherings and cross country travel difficult, the CBDA Board of Directors decided to hold the 2020 National Show as a Video show. The participation was fantastic with 68 entries from BC to Quebec. The format allowed those that didn't usually participate in the National show or shows in general to be involved as animals were not required to be halter broken or groomed for show. We would like to thank those that took the time and made the effort to enter animal videos in the show as well as our sponsors. And a Huge Thanks to Ian Fox, Renard Blondes, Australia who took the time to go through the videos and provide detailed reasons for his placings.

2020 VIDEO SHOW RESULTS

CALF CHAMPION FEMALE

Donaleen Hazelnut
Donaleen Blondes, ON

RESERVE CALF CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Hilary 22H
Crystal Farms, ON

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Gertie 2G
Crystal Farms, ON

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Gigi 9G
Crystal Farms, ON

SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Little Creek Apricot 32A & FHF Heidi 326H
Fee Haven Farms, ON

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

WSS Yttrium 3Y & Crystal Harper 10H
Crystal Farms, ON

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

Little Creek Apricot 32A & FHF Heidi 326H
Fee Haven Farms, ON

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

WSS Yttrium 3Y & Crystal Harper 10H
Crystal Farms, ON

CALF CHAMPION MALE

ZC Harry 2H
Ferme Super C, QC

RESERVE CALF CHAMPION MALE

Clearidge Hunter 1H
Les Fermes Clearidge - Ryland Cleary, QC

JUNIOR CHAMPION MALE

Halcyon Gaston
John & Ilse Vink, ON

SENIOR CHAMPION MALE

Langstaff Frank 8F
Stonewall Farms, ON

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION MALE

WSS Celebration 2C
Crystal Farms, ON

GRAND CHAMPION MALE

Langstaff Frank 8F
Stonewall Farms, ON

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MALE

WSS Celebration 2C
Crystal Farms, ON

PREMIER BREEDER
Crystal Farms, ON

PREMIER EXHIBITOR
Crystal Farms, ON



SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE/GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
Little Creek Apricot 32A / Fee Haven Farms, ON



RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE/RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
WSS Yttrium 3Y / Crystal Farms, ON



SENIOR CHAMPION MALE/GRAND CHAMPION MALE
Langstaff Frank 8F / Stonewall Farms, ON



RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION MALE/RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MALE
WSS Celebration 2C / Crystal Farms

2020 VIDEO SHOW CLASS RESULTS

JUNIOR HEIFER CALF **BORN APRIL 1, 2020 OR LATER (3 Shown)**

- 1st** Little Creek Halo 15H
Little Creek Farms, AB
2nd Ridge View Harlequin 11H
Ridge View Blondes, ON
3rd Ridge View Heidi Ho 60H
Ridge View Blondes, ON

SENIOR HEIFER CALF **BORN JAN 1 - MARCH 31, 2020 (12 Shown)**

- 1st** Donaleen Hazelnut
Donaleen Blondes, ON
2nd Crystal Hilary 22H
Crystal Farms, ON
3rd Crystal Harper 10H
Crystal Farms, ON

JUNIOR YEARLING HEIFER **BORN APRIL 1, 2019 OR LATER (8 Shown)**

- 1st** Shelbramack Goldie
Shelbramack Blondes, ON
2nd Shelbramack Grace
Shelbramack Blondes, ON
3rd Phanica Aramis Gaby 3G
Ferme Phanica, QC

SENIOR YEARLING HEIFER **BORN JAN 1 - MARCH 31, 2019 (5 Shown)**

- 1st** Crystal Gertie 2G
Crystal Farms, ON
2nd Crystal Gigi 9G
Crystal Farms, ON
3rd High Rock Glitter Girl 2G
High Rock Farms, ON

TWO YEAR COW/CALF **BORN IN 2018 (2 Shown)**

- 1st** FHF Five Star 36F & FHF Halo 361H
Fee Haven Farms, ON
2nd High Rock Foxy 5F & High Rock Homer
High Rock Farms, ON

MATURE COW/CALF **BORN PRIOR TO 2018 (9 Shown)**

- 1st** Little Creek Apricot 32A
& FHF Heidi 326H
Fee Haven Farms, ON
2nd WSS Yttrium 3Y & Crystal Harper 10H
Crystal Farms, ON
3rd Donaleen Bramalea 25B
& Ridge View Hoss 83H
Ridge View Blondes, ON

DRY COW **BORN 2018 OR EARLIER (9 Shown)**

- 1st** Crystal Abbey 4A
Crystal Farms, ON
2nd High Rock Grace 15T
High Rock Farms, ON
3rd McGillis Acres Frosty
Phyllis Dubeau, QC

JUNIOR BULL CALF **BORN APRIL 1, 2020 OR LATER (6 Shown)**

- 1st** ZC Harry 2H
Ferme Super C, QC
2nd Little Creek Haiston 1H
Little Creek Farms, AB
3rd Shelbramack Hurricane
Shelbramack Blondes, ON

SENIOR BULL CALF **BORN JAN 1 TO MARCH 31, 2020 (6 Shown)**

- 1st** Clearidge Hunter 1H
Les Fermes Clearidge - Ryland Cleary, QC
2nd Schiestel Herbie 29H
Schiestel Blondes, ON
3rd ZC Hayden 1H
Ferme Super C, QC

SENIOR YEARLING BULL **BORN JAN 1 TO MARCH 31, 2019 (1 Shown)**

- 1st** Halcyon Gaston
John & Ilse Vink, ON

TWO YEAR OLD BULL **BORN IN 2018 (2 Shown)**

- 1st** Langstaff Frank
Stonewall Farms, ON
2nd Dusty Acre Finally
Dusty Acre Blondes, BC

MATURE BULL **BORN PRIOR TO 2018 (5 Shown)**

- 1st** WSS Celebration 2C
Crystal Farms, ON
2nd Forty Acre Caspian 2C
Ridge View Blondes, ON
3rd Pleasant Valley Batman 7B
Shelbramack Blondes, ON

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

- Alberta Blonde Association
- Butternut Blondes - Murphy and Judy Baker
- Crystal Farms - Paul & Mary Ellen Ferguson
- Donaleen Blondes - Don & Wendy Dunham
- Dusty Acre Blondes - Dave & Shellie Wolfe
- Fee Haven Farms - Paul Fee
- JAE Acres - Bouwmeester Family
- Les Fermes Clearidge - Ryland Cleary
- Little Creek Farms - Kamelchuk Family
- Ontario Blonde Association
- Pierce Blondes - Ryan and Sarah Pierce
- Quebec Blonde Association
- Samantha Ferguson - Diamond Ridge Blondes
- Crystal Farms - Paul & Mary Ellen Ferguson
- Schiestel Blondes Jane & John Schiestel
- Dusty Acre Blondes - Dave & Shellie Wolfe
- Shelbramack Blondes - The Baker Family
- Willow Springs Stock Farm - The Rigneys

NATIONAL VIDEO SHOW

2021

2021 ENTRY/VIDEO DEADLINE

OCTOBER 3RD, 2021

Show Committee Chair – Paul Fee (705) 770-9911 or feehavenfarms@hotmail.com

SHOW RULES

1. Videos will be accepted at any time until October 3, 2021. Please provide animal name and birth date.
2. Videos must be sent to Paul Fee by the closing date. They can be sent via emailed via file sharing services (wetransfer.com works well), private message on Facebook or placed on Youtube with a link emailed. The video file size of a direct email will likely be too large, and will not work.
3. All entrants must be 2021 CBDA members in good standing by the entry deadline.
4. Entries must be registered 75% (3/4) Blonde or above. Registrations must be applied for and received by the CLRC by the entry deadline.
5. Animals may be presented on a halter or loose. Animals do not need to be halter broken.
6. Washing/Clipping/Fitting allowed, but not mandatory.
7. Video should show the animal at a distance, moving towards (front end/feet/legs), moving away (back end/back legs/feet) and down the top if possible. We will have an example video available.
8. The show committee and/or Judge reserves the right to refuse entries that they deem not sufficiently presentable as these videos may be available for viewing on social media/CBDA website. This may include excessively dirty cattle, wild cattle, overly thin, unpleasant background, etc.
9. Cow/Calves may be split for classes. Both are eligible for the Championship class should they advance.
10. \$10 per entry

PRIZES: Banners will be presented to the Division Champion/Reserve Champions, Grand/Reserve Champions as well as the Premier Breeder and Exhibitor.

PRIZE MONEY: Will be paid on a Jackpot system. All entry fees and Sponsorship will be used for prizes/prize money.

CLASSES

- Class 1. Junior Heifer Calf born April 1, 2021 or later
- Class 2. Senior Heifer Calf born March 31, 2021 or earlier
- Class 3. Junior Yearling Heifer born April 1, 2020 or later
- Class 4. Senior Yearling Heifer born March 31, 2020 or earlier
- Class 5. Two Year Cow/Calf born in 2019
- Class 6. Mature Cow/Calf born prior to 2019
- Class 7. Dry Cow born 2019 or earlier
- Class 8. Junior Bull Calf born April 1, 2021 or later
- Class 9. Senior Bull Calf born March 31, 2021 or earlier
- Class 10. Junior Yearling Bull born April 1, 2020 or later
- Class 11. Senior Yearling Bull born March 31, 2020 or earlier
- Class 12. Two Year Old Bull born in 2019
- Class 13. Mature Bull born prior to 2019

2021 NATIONAL BLONDE AGM EVENTS

The National AGM is booked for Friday October 22nd, 2021 1 pm at the Trenton, Ontario Ramada Inn. Following the National AGM we will plan to have hospitality in the same room starting at 7pm. We will not be doing the traditional dinner, instead we will be having pizza, sides and desserts along with adult beverages and non adult beverages. Plans would also include a mini auction, a few presentations along with everyone having a good visit. Twenty (20) rooms are blocked under the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. There is a mix of rooms with 2 double beds or 1 queen bed. Rooms are blocked off for Friday and Saturday night at the rate of \$115+ tax per night. Rooms will remain blocked off at this rate until October 10th. The number for the Ramada Inn Trenton to phone and book is 613-394-4855. The address for the Ramada Inn is: 99 Glen Miller Rd. Trenton, ON. K8V 5P8.

The Cream of the Crop Sale will once again be at Hoards Station starting at 4pm Saturday October 23rd. Initial entries include 6 heifer calves, 14 bred heifers, 12 bred cows, 1 cow/calf pair, and 5 bulls along with a selection of semen. There will be hospitality throughout the day so hopefully it is another successful day and an event that is will attended.

It has also been decided that the National Show for 2021 should be continued as a Video show. Participation was great in 2020 and the lack of in person shows in 2021 has limited the number of animals available for participation in a live national Show for 2021. Here's hoping that 2022 brings more normalcy and we see a great group of animals in a live National Show. More details on the show are attached.

We also need sponsors for the National Show. There are 18 banner sponsorships available in the list below. Please contact Nicole Baker nshadorsky@yahoo.ca ASAP to get your choice of sponsorships.



2021 CANADIAN BLONDE D'AQUITAINE

BRITISH COLUMBIA

DUSTY ACRE BLONDES

Dave Rounds & Shellie Wolfe

RR 2 Site 4 Comp 1
Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 4E8
250-782-8565
dustyacreblondes@outlook.com
<http://dustyacreblondes.com>

KAM BLONDES

Karl & Ann Musgrove

Box 106
Charlie Lake, BC, V0C 1H0
250-262-3278

ALBERTA

LITTLE CREEK FARMS

David & Janet Kamelchuk

Box 216
Colinton, AB, T0G 0R0
780-675-1227
littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com

WILLOW SPRINGS

STOCK FARM

Reed Rigney

Box 5959 Westlock, AB, T7P 2P7
780-348-5308
rigney@clearwave.ca
<http://www.wsscattle.ca>

MANITOBA

KNOBBY OAK FARM

Stephen & Bernice Dmytriw

Box 64
Rapid City, MB, R0K 1W0
204-826-2661
mgdfault@gmail.com

SASKATCHEWAN

FORTY ACRE BLONDES

Don Mehler & Pat Filz

PO Box 418
Lampman, SK, S0C 1N0
306-634-2174
fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net

NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVA SCOTIA

BULL MOOSE HILL FARMS

James Graham

79 Graham Rd
Belleisle Creek, NB, E5P 1K7
506-485-2247

ONTARIO

SHELBRAMACK BLONDES

Shane Baker

1050 Scugog Line 14,
Sunderland, ON, K0C 1H0
905-985-0563
nshadorsky@yahoo.ca

ELIZABETH &

HARRY BOUWMEESTER

819 Old Hwy 8 Box 312
Rockton, ON, L0R 1X0
519-647-2354

ONE OAK BLONDES

Nicholas Boyd

56-35 Mountford Dr
Guelph, ON
N1E 0G6
519-835-9099
oneoakblondes@gmail.com

ANDREW BUNDA

8310 Mitch Owens Rd
Edwards, ON, K0A 1V0
613-822-0293
andrew.m.bunda@gmail.com

KEN BUTYN

RR 2
Burgessville, ON, N0J 1C0
519-424-2702
kendi@execulink.com

JEREMY & RACHEL DEWEERD

308 Bruyera Rd
Wooler, ON, K0K 3M0
613-661-3036
jardeweerd@hotmail.com

PLEASANT VALLEY FARMS

Sheldon Asselstine

RR 1 4655 Watson Rd
Harrowsmith, ON, K0H 1V0
613-372-2608

MAPLE DOWN FARMS

Mervyn & Gail Downey

Stephen Downey

RR 2, Pakenham, ON, K0A 2X0
(M) 613-624-5346
m.downey@sympatico.ca
(S) 613-624-5030
spencdowney@sympatico.ca

FOREST VIEW FARMS

Rick Drinkill

16643 County Rd 27
Elmvale, ON, L0L 1P0
705-322-1757

FRANMAR BLONDE FARM

Darren Dunham

RR 4
Campbellford, ON, K0L 1L0
705-653-2428

DONALEEN BLONDES

Don Dunham

76 Dunham Rd RR 4
Campbellford, ON, K0L 1L0
705-653-4293
donald18@hotmail.ca

FEE HAVEN FARMS

Paul Fee

6211 Line 9 North
Waubaushe, ON, L0K 2C0
705-770-9911
feehavenfarms@hotmail.com

CRYSTAL FARMS

Paul & Mary Ellen Ferguson

21 Crystal Rd RR 3
Jasper, ON, K0G 1G0
613-275-2422
ferguson.maryellen@gmail.com

ROSE PARK BLONDES

Ron & Kim Fintelman

3709 Hwy 35
Cameron, ON K0M 1G0
705-359-1188
rkfintelman@hotmail.com

BUTTERNUT BLONDES

Murphy & Judy Baker

2583 3rd Line Asphodel
Norwood, ON, K0L 2B0
705-639-1418
bakerblondes@i-zoom.net

BAR K FARMS

Dave Payne & Lisa Leduc

1511 River Road
Manotick, ON, K4M 1B4
613-692-1521
bark.farms@gmail.com

BEAVERMEADOW BLONDES

Bruce & Cathy Langstaff

RR 2 1542 Mandaumin Rd
Tupperville, ON, N0P 2M0
519-864-1333
www.beavermeadowblondes.com

JOHN LANGSTAFF

2218 Bentpath Line RR 3
Sombra, ON, N0P 2H0
519-864-1970

MBRHEO BLONDES

Rheo & Sharon Machina

RR 1
Clifford, ON, N0G 1M0
519-327-8646
rheo@mbrheocattle.com
<http://www.mbrheocattle.com>

RIDGE VIEW ACRES

Kirk McGee

3291 Cty Rd 30 RR 2
Codrington, ON, K0K 1R0
613-922-3276
kirkmcgee_7@hotmail.com
www.ridgeviewblondes.webs.com/

PAUL E MCINROY

710 St Mark's Rd RR 4
Marmora, ON, K0K 2M0
613-395-4165
mcinroyfarms@gmail.com

HILLTOP ORCHARD FARM

Dave & Sheila McNeven

4426 County Rd 2 RR 3
Hastings, ON, K0L 1Y0
705-295-6208
sheilamcnevan@gmail.com

K&K FARM

Kevin Emlaw

1920 Hwy 124 RR1
Dunchurch, ON P0A 1G0

JARNO MIEDEMA

76481 Airport Line
Brucefield, ON, N0M 1J0
519-441-7561
jarnomiedema5@gmail.com

GARY PICKEN

18385 Kenyon 1 Rd
Apple Hill, ON, K0C 1B0
613-800-6448
gpicken@xplornet.com

SARAH & RYAN PIERCE

31 Bank Street
Tupperville, ON, N0P 2M0
519-466-1853
rspierce2016@gmail.com
www.beavermeadowblondes.com

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

SEAN & LOIS RECKER

235 County Rd 4
Douro-Dummer, ON, K9J 6Y1
705-741-2108
ivadc1@gmail.com

BILL & BRIGITTE REID

10680 Cooper Rd RR 2
Oxford Station, ON, K0G 1T0
613-926-2456
lovemysheep@hotmail.com

SCHIESTEL BLONDES

Jane & John Schiestel

1428 Bruce Rd, 6E RR 3
Mildmay, ON, N0G 2J0
519-367-3291
janes@wightman.on.ca

SRB FARM

Dwayne Sears

120 Sears Rd RR 5
Bancroft, ON, K0L 1C0
613-334-2844
dwaynesears@hotmail.com

HALCYON FARMS

John & Ilse Vink

40 Gazley Rd RR 1
Wooler, ON, K0K 3M0
613-397-1890
jiv@rogers.com

EMVEEDEE FARM

Machaila Dunham

1154 11th Line West
Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0

THE GIRLS FARM

Marie-Agnes Pilon

1202 Durant Rd RR1
Breslau, ON N0B 1M0
519-589-3405
magnes.pilon@gmail.com

QUEBEC

MICHEL BOUGIE

354 Rang 3 Ste-Elizabeth
Kingsey Falls, QC J0A 1B0
819-358-5495
boogie@telwarwick.net

RYLAND CLEARY

421 Principale Est
Ste Anne De La Rochelle, QC, J0E 2B0
450-775-8358
slyrye12345@hotmail.com

MCGILLIS ACRES

Phyllis Dubeau

128 Zion Line Rd Box 638
Shawville, QC, J0X 2Y0
819-647-5843

GAETAN LAMOUREUX &

LINDA RAYMOND

488 1e Rang Est
St-Joachim de Shefford, QC, J0E 2G0
450-539-2657
linda.raymond2@hotmail.com

FERME SUPER C

Clemence Landry

2738 Rang Bord De L'eau
Ste-Clothilde de Horton,
QC, J0A 1H0
819-336-5503

FERME PHANICA

L Pierre Leger

100 Rue des Jonquilles App 15,
Cowansville, QC, J2K 0L5
450-263-9212
phanica@hotmail.com

PINE RIDGE FARM

Gerald Lynott

12 Pine Ridge
Cantley, QC, J8V 0G5
819-827-0527

YVES BLONDIN

560 Rue Kirk
Sainte Sophie, QC J5J 1J5
450-820-5106

GILBERT GAUTHIER

1564 Rang 9
Ste Clothide de Horton, QC J0A 1H0
819-336-5352
gilbert.cauthier@xplornet.com

LES FERMES CLEARIDGE

310 Bourassa
Ste Anne De La Rochelle, QC J0E 2B0
450-539-0385
joanclearoy@hotmail.com

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.

NOTICE

of Annual General Meeting

TAKE NOTICE that the 47th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association will be held at Trenton, Ontario on Friday October 22, 2021. Registration at 12:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn (Host Hotel). Call to Order at 1:00 p.m.

For the purpose of receiving:

- * Reports of the Officers and the Financial Statements of the Association for 2020
- * For the appointment of Accountants
- * For the election of Directors
- * For the transaction of such other business as may come before the Meeting

Resolution

Anyone who wishes to propose any changes to the Bylaws must do so before **September 20, 2021**. Before any proposed change can be considered, it must be sent out by the Association with the official call for the Annual Meeting at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Please submit proposals for enactment, amendments or repeal of bylaws to the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association c/o Box 5959, Westlock, AB, T7P 2P7 with the signatures of two members. The membership will consider proposed changes at the Annual Meeting. Any additions or changes need a 2/3 majority to pass. If you have any questions or need help in wording please contact: Reed Rigney 780-348-5308 or rigney@clearwave.ca

Nominations

At the Annual Meeting this year there will be three (3) director's positions up for nomination. The terms of Nicholas Boyd, Ryland Cleary and Reed Rigney are up. You may nominate someone by contacting Reed Rigney 780-348-5308 or rigney@clearwave.ca. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the AGM. If you are nominating someone, it is wise to talk to that person to confirm that he/she is a paid-up member of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association and if that person would be willing to allow his/her name to stand. These three positions will be for three year terms.



Thank you to

Jane and John Schiestel & Family,
John Langstaff, and Layton Brundage

for purchasing animals in 2020



Kirk McGee (613) 922-3276 ~ kirkmcgee_7@hotmail.com ~ www.ridgeviewblondes.webs.com

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MAPLE DOWN FARM

FULLBLOOD - PUREBRED - PERCENTAGE

Current
Herdsire:

Butternut Eldred King 05E

Hallfield Icarus

Pleasant Valley Tease 7T

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178 DOWNEY SIDE ROAD, PAKENHAM, ON K0A 2X0

Tel: (613) 624-5346 | Fax: (613) 624-5928 | Email: m.downey@sympatico.ca

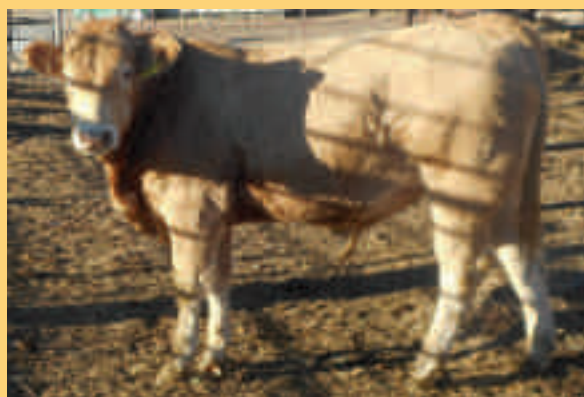
Polled Bulls On Offer!



FORTY ACRE HENRY 5H (PB)
BARK DIABLO - FORTY ACRE DENA



FORTY ACRE HARDCORE 23 H (FB)
FORTY ACRE ETHAN - FORTY ACRE DAISY



FORTY ACRE HORACE 1 H (FB)
FORTY ACRE ETHAN - FORTY ACRE DOROTHY

Forty Acre Blondes
Don Mehler- Pat Filz
fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net
Phone: (306) 421-6987

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BELLEVUE BLONDES MDD 24 G
FORTY ACRE CHISM - BELLEVUE MISS WINNIE



BELLEVUE BLONDES MDD23 G
FORTY ACRE CHISM - BELLEVUE MISS WILMA

Bellevue Blondes
Marcel Dufault
mgdufault@gmail.com
Phone: (204) 379-3426

KNOBBY OAK FARM
STEVE & BERNICE
DMYTRIW
RAPID CITY MB R0K 1W0
204 826 2661 OR 761 1501

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT PURCHASED
OUR ANIMALS!

CREAM

OF THE

CROP

2020 Sales Report by Kirk McGee

To say that the big plans to celebrate the 20th Annual Cream of the Crop sale were slightly disrupted would be an understatement. With protocols uncertain in the spring and summer, the board reached out to previous consignors for input on how to move forward and the resounding response was, ‘the show must go on!’

Unfortunately, as the border remained closed, members of the American Blonde d’Aquitaine Association who had planned to host their AGM in Ontario and take in the sale were forced to cancel their trip. In honour of the 20th the Ontario Board had already planned to broadcast the sale online for the first time, a decision that proved more essential with each passing month. Few cattle sales have hit this milestone, but the 20th Annual Cream of the Crop Sale was held on October 24, 2020 at Hoards Station Sale Barn, Campbellford, ON. Between the unpredictability of Covid, coupled with a second year in a of drought in

Ontario, a smaller offering was anticipated. Quantity was down, but quality was up as a solid offering of bred cows, bred heifers, heifer calves, bulls, and bull calves were on hand. Despite the challenging year, the average price rose \$318 over the previous year. Ten consignors offered 25 live lots, which brought an average of \$2241. Three consignors offered 87 straws of semen which also sold extremely well averaging \$89.04 for 57 straws sold. High selling semen was 10 straws of Roseneath William consigned by Van Bakel Blondes and purchased by JAE Acres for \$260/straw.

The inaugural online broadcast of the sale was very well received. LiveAuctions were great to work with. As with all new ventures there were a few growing pains, as a few bidders experienced connection issues at times, but overall it was a very successful addition to the sale. There were online bids on over half of the live lots. Semen was purchased via online bidding along with one live lot, which headed to Little Creek Farms, Ellscoot, AB. Even as things return to ‘normal’, it is likely that the online component of the sale will be sticking around in the future.

Top selling female was the lead off bred cow, Bar K Ella 6E, a purebred Crystal Waldo 23W daughter, consigned by Dave Payne and Lisa Leduc of Bar K Farms, Manotick, Ontario. Ella was purchased by John Langstaff, Sombra, ON for \$3800. Top selling bull was the two time National Champion WSS Celebration 2C. He was consigned by Paul and Mary

Ellen Ferguson & Family of Crystal Farms and purchased by Dave Payne and Lisa Leduc of Bar K Farms, Manotick, Ontario, setting a new record price for a bull sold through the Cream of the Crop sale at \$7500.

For the seventh year, attendees were able to crown a winner of the People's Choice Award by voting for their favourite consignment at the sale and via email for those who were participating online. For the second year in a row the Ferguson Family of Crystal Farms took home the banner sponsored by Acres Farms along with \$500 this year sponsored by the Ontario

Blonde Association for their high selling consignment, WSS Celebration 2C, who was a crowd pleaser in the barn on sale day and the clear winner when the votes counted. The purchasers, Dave Payne and Lisa Leduc of Bar K Farms, Manotick, ON also received a banner sponsored by Little Creek Farms. Thank you to the consignors, buyers, bidders, and all attendees both in-person and online for the continued support of the OBdAA's Cream of the Crop Sale! We look forward to the 21st Annual Cream of the Crop Sale this fall which will be held October 23, 2021. Mark your calendars!

TOP SELLERS

BULLS

WSS CELEBRATION 2C \$7500
Consigned by Crystal Farms
Purchased by Bar K Farms
Manotick, ON

CLEARIDGE HUNTER 1H \$1700
Consigned by Ryland Cleary
Purchased by Jarno Miedema
Bruceville, ON

RIDGE VIEW HOSS 83H \$1650
Consigned by Ridge View Blondes
Purchased by Layton Brundage
Scotland, ON

BRED COWS

BAR K ELLA 6E \$3800
Consigned by Bar K Farms
Purchased by John Langstaff
Sombra, ON

CRYSTAL BRIANNA 14B \$3400
Consigned by Crystal Farms
Purchased by Brileen Hill Farms
Trenton, ON

RIDGE VIEW ELVIRA 10E \$2300
Consigned by Ridge View Blondes
Purchased by John Langstaff
Sombra, ON

BRED HEIFERS

CRYSTAL GYPSY 15G \$2900
Consigned by Crystal Farms
Purchased by John Langstaff
Sombra, ON

BAR K FEONA 09F \$2800
Consigned by Bar K Farms
Purchased by Ridge View Blondes
Codrington, ON

LANGSTAFF GABBY 2G \$2700
Consigned by John Langstaff
Purchased by Crystal Farms
Jasper, ON

HEIFER CALVES

FEE HAVEN HALO 361H \$2100
Consigned by Fee Haven Farms
Purchased by Recker Farms
Douro-Dummer, ON

DONALEEN HOPE 20H \$2000
Consigned by Donaleen Blondes
Purchased by Little Creek Farms
Ellscott, AB

DONALEEN HILDA 4H \$1750
Consigned by Donaleen Blondes
Purchased by One OAK Blondes
Guelph, ON



PEOPLE'S CHOICE CONSIGNOR
CRYSTAL FARMS: Lot 1 - WSS Celebration 2C

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BUYER
BAR K FARMS

CONSIGNORS

Bar K Farms – Dave, Lisa & the Payne Family
Les Fermes Clearidge – Ryland Cleary
Crystal Farms – Paul and Mary Ellen Ferguson & Family
Donaleen Blondes – Don and Wendy Dunham
Fee Haven Farms – Paul Fee
Forest View Farms – Rick and Jan Drinkill
John Langstaff
North Shore Farms – Brian Peters
One OAK Blondes – Nicholas Boyd
Ridge View Blondes – Kirk McGee
Split Rail Farm – Bruce, Bettina & Charlotte Gorrie
Van Bakel Blondes – Bill Van Bakel

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JAE Acres – Harry and Elizabeth Bouwmeester
Fee Haven Farms – Paul Fee
Forest View Farms – Rick & Jan Drinkill
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Halcyon Farms – John & Ilse Vink
Hilltop Orchard Farm – Dave & Sheila McNeven
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Les Fermes Clearidge – Ryland Cleary
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One OAK Blondes – Nicholas Boyd
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Recker Farms – Sean & Lois Recker & Family
Ridge View Blondes – Kirk McGee
Schiestel Blondes – John & Jane Schiestel



PARENTAL VERIFICATION

Using **SNPs**

ARE YOU MY DADDY?

Parental Verification

Using Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)

DNA profiling has been used in the purebred cattle industry for parentage testing for many years. Although one may use blood or tissue samples, tail hair roots are the easiest to collect and have become the standard method of sample provision for laboratories to conduct DNA profiling. (Fig.1)

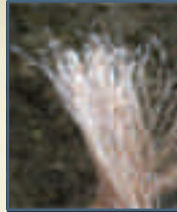


FIGURE 1
Tail Switch Hair Sample

DNA profiling not only provides a means of traceability, but if the markers are linked to phenotypic traits, markers may also provide breeders with useful information such as genetic defects and production traits. Recently the standard use of microsatellite markers (SSRs) has been replaced with SNPs or Single Nucleotide Polymorphism markers. The benefit of SNP markers are that they are denser, more evenly distributed throughout the genome, are stable, and increasingly more cost effective. This article is intended to give an overview of what SNPs are and how they are used in parentage testing.

Deoxyribonucleic Acid or DNA is the code of life. Surprisingly, it is mainly composed of only four elements known as nitrogenous bases or nucleotides being Adenine (A), Guanine (G), Cytosine (C) and Thymine (T). It is the sequence of these 4 nucleotides that code for all the proteins and molecules that give us life.



FIGURE 2
DNA

DNA exists naturally as a double helix. A double helix can be described as two strands of complimentary nucleotides arranged in a coil. The term complimentary refers to the fact that Adenine only couples with Thymine (A-T) and Guanine only with Cytosine (G-C) (Fig. 2).

DNA is typically measured by the number of nitrogenous base pairings or base pairs (bp). For example, the bovine genome contains approximately 3 billion bp. This DNA helix further supercoils into chromosomes so that this vast amount of

information can all be contained within a single cell (Fig.3). While humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, the bovine genome is composed of 30 pairs of chromosomes.

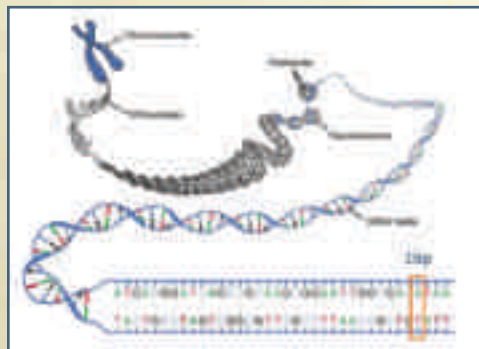


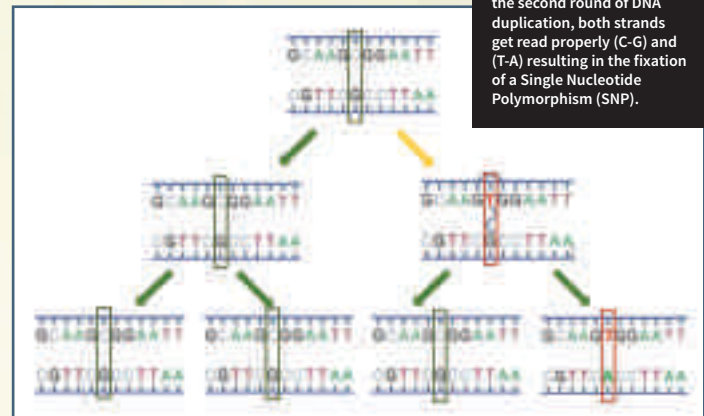
FIGURE 3
DNA coils to form Chromosomes

Every single cell in an organism's body contains DNA. When cells duplicate, the cell's DNA also has to duplicate. This duplication has to be very exact as the code of life has to be highly conserved.

Although DNA replication has to be accurate, on occasion, mistakes can occur (Fig. 4). A mispairing may occur once in every 10,000 bp. While most of these mistakes are subsequently corrected by DNA repair mechanisms, some mistakes do persist. The resulting change or mutation in one nucleotide from the original strand is called a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism, or for short a SNP (Pronounced snip) and can be passed down from generation to generation.

Over the evolutionary history of the bovine breed, many of these SNPs have accumulated throughout the

FIGURE 4
In the first round of DNA duplication, a 'T' is introduced by mistake instead of 'C' (should be C-G rather than T-G). In the second round of DNA duplication, both strands get read properly (C-G and T-A) resulting in the fixation of a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP).



genome and now they estimate that there are several million SNPs embedded in the genome of domestic livestock. Only a subset of these have been developed into genetic markers.

Before proceeding, let's take a look at how genetics are transferred in the creation of life. During the formation of the egg and sperm, a cell divides without the replication of DNA. This equally divides the pairs of chromosomes in half. Rather than 30 pairs of chromosomes, the egg and sperm simply have 30 chromosomes. The subsequent joining of the sperm and the egg during fertilization, results in a full compliment of the 30 pairs of chromosomes, half coming from the dam and half from the sire. (Fig. 5) The 30th pair of chromosomes are the sex chromosomes, a pair of X chromosomes resulting in a heifer and an X and Y chromosome resulting in a bull.

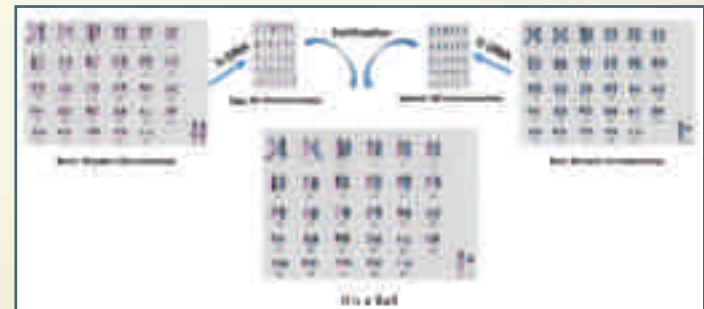
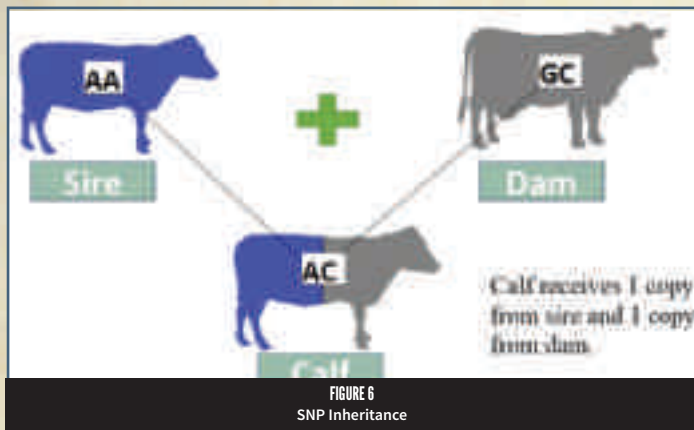


FIGURE 5
DNA transfer in the creation of a calf

So coming back to SNPs, a SNP will be represented on each of the individual chromosomes of a homologous pair, one coming from the dam and one from the sire. They may be the same or different. It is a combination of many SNPs and their differences that allow us to determine whether a calf could have resulted from a particular Sire and Dam (Fig. 6).



As an example, using only 10 SNPs, here is the SNP profile of Sire 1 and a Calf, where the Sire would qualify as a parent. Appropriately, one copy of the Calf's SNPs are represented in the SNPs of Sire 1.

SNP #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sire 1	A/A	C/G	T/A	A/G	G/G	C/A	T/T	T/T	A/T	C/C
Calf	A/G	C/G	T/C	A/A	G/T	A/C	T/A	T/C	A/A	C/T

FIGURE 7
Example of Sire Qualifying as Parent

As another example, here is the profile of Sire 2 that would not qualify as the Sire to this same Calf, as the Calf's SNPs are not always represented in the SNPs of Sire 2. As half the Calf's DNA comes from each parent, one SNP should always be represented in one of the parents.

SNP #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sire 2	A/A	A/A	C/G	G/C	A/T	G/G	T/A	G/G	G/G	T/A
Calf	A/G	C/G	T/C	A/A	G/T	A/C	T/A	T/C	A/A	C/T

FIGURE 8
Example of Sire Not Qualifying as Parent

For Sire qualification we are only looking at the Sire and the Calf. If we include the Dam for parentage verification, we can see that each of the Calf's SNPs would be represented in one of the parents.

SNP #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sire 1	A/A	C/G	T/A	A/G	G/G	C/A	T/T	T/T	A/T	C/C
Dam	G/A	T/G	C/G	A/G	T/G	G/C	A/A	C/G	G/A	T/C
Calf	A/G	C/G	T/C	A/A	G/T	A/C	T/A	T/C	A/A	C/T

FIGURE 9
Example of Sire and Dam Qualifying as Parents

The Laboratory currently utilized by the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association for parentage testing is Neogen Canada based in Edmonton, Alberta. Neogen utilizes a list of SNP markers provided by the International Society for Animal Genetics and runs a panel of 216 SNPs for parentage testing.

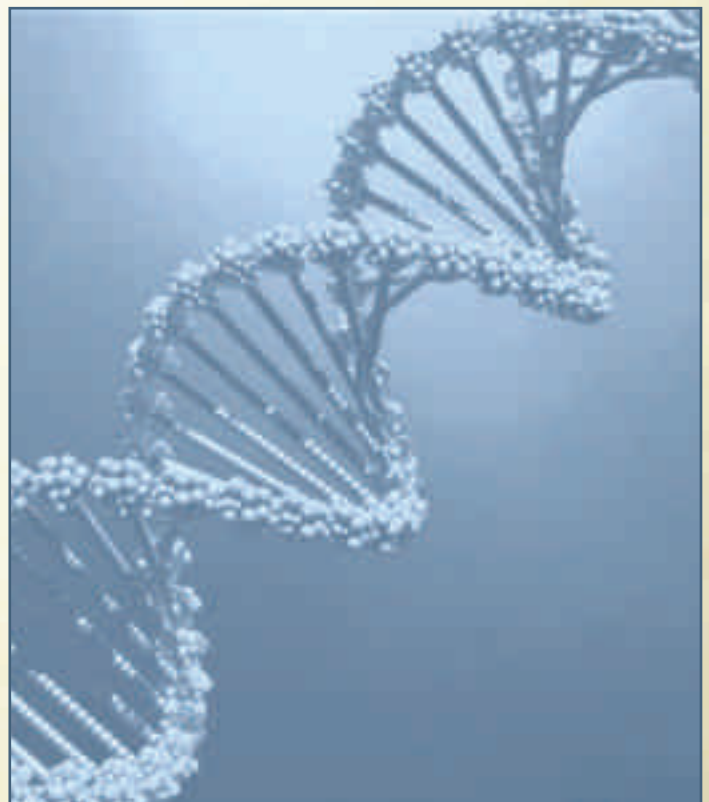
Neogen's qualification criteria allows for two mismatches in this 216-SNP comparison that would still allow for a sire or dam to qualify as a parent. Mismatches take into account possible errors in laboratory results or naturally occurring genetic variations that may have occurred in the creation of the calf.

Further tests can be requested from Neogen, utilizing up to 100,000 SNPs for genetic evaluations or trait/condition linkages such as horned/polled or coat colour tests that may aid breeders in their breeding programs.

As detailed in the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Associations Bylaws, all fullblood and purebred import animals, embryo transplant progeny, Canadian bred fullblood animals, as well as any calf resulting from an artificial insemination, where the gestation period was less than 264 days or greater than 306 days from servicing, require parentage testing for registration. Also, as a means of auditing the registry, one out of every 100 domestic purebreds are randomly selected for parentage testing. SNPs allow for the testing of this traceability ensuring accurate pedigrees in pure bred breeds.

Hopefully the above information has increased your understanding of what DNA, and specifically SNPs, are and how they are used in parentage verification. Research and technological advancements that have enabled the development of molecular marker based testing, such as microsatellites and SNPs, has proven to be incredibly valuable. That being said, DNA is very informative and as humans, we are only in the very early stages of understanding all that is hidden within this code of life.

Lisa Leduc



The Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

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2021 BIOTRACK PERFORMANCE

Agrights REPORT

BY DAVE KAMELCHUK



Hello fellow Blonde Breeders. As a board of directors, we have been trying to increase uptake in our Performance recording within the breed, which is managed through the BioTrack system provided by

AgSights. As a result, we have taken some time to include an article in this year's Connection that looks at some of most important things to take into consideration when collecting and submitting data to be used in calculating EPDs.

The first step in recording data to be used in calculating EPDs for your herd is recording birth weights. It is very important that birth weights are measured using an accurate, consistent scale. There are many types of handy spring or digital scales that work well combined with a belly sling. A box crate scale for hogs or sheep would work as well. It is important to note that you absolutely cannot use hoof tapes or other methods of approximation. Using a hoof tape would be equivalent to judging a person's weight by the size of their shoes – just not a good idea. Birth weights should also be taken as soon as possible after birth.

Weaning weights need to be taken when the majority of your calf crop is close to being 205 days old. You may choose to weigh your calves in more than one management group if they have a wide range of birth dates. Just like birth weights, weaning weights must be measured using an accurate scale and cannot be calculated using girth measurements. Your scale does not have to fancy, it just needs to be accurate and consistent.

Yearling weights are measured at as close to a year of age as possible and you want to include only animals that are raised in the same groups. The main difference in collecting yearling weight information from birth or weaning is that at this point bulls are most likely to have been separated from heifers so your management groups would be single sex (unless you feed your steers and heifers together).

It is very important to understand the purpose of management groups. Every time you take a set of weights (eg. birth, weaning or yearling) you will have to put your calves or yearlings into management groups. The purpose of the management group is to group animals according to the conditions of how they have been raised as these conditions will greatly affect how they have grown. Starting off with birth weight management groups, you want to include calves from cows that were fed the same feed, (includes the same water and mineral program) at the same location. Biotrack allows you to include calves born within 90 days to be included in a birth management group, but in my opinion that is too long of a window unless you do not have enough calves to make multiple management groups. Biotrack requires that you have a minimum of five calves to form a management group so if you have less than ten you have no choice but to include all of your calves in one group. If you have ten or more you can consider splitting them, for

example, having the oldest five in one group and the youngest five in another. If you have lots of calves you would want to split them into groups closer in age, for example a month to 45 days each. That way the dams for each group would likely have experienced the most similar conditions through the different stages of their gestation, especially the last trimester.

The same general rules apply for weaning and yearling management groups. For weaning management groups cows with calves need to be kept together on the same feed or in the same pastures for the entire period from birth to weaning. This reduces any bias that would be introduced which would favor some animals over others. For yearling weight management groups, the same basic rules apply with the main difference being yearlings would most likely be split by sex as mentioned above.

When collecting data for your herd you want to include as many calves as you can that you have good data for. Often producers think that they should only submit data for their best cows and calves, either because they don't want others to see the numbers of the poorer ones, or they think that the poorer cows will drag their better cows' numbers down. This is untrue. If you only submit, for example, data for five calves out of the best five cows, your best cow out of the five cows will remain your best cow, but the worst of the five best cows is now going to be your worst cow. If you enter all of your calves/cows your worst cows will be the poorest performers and the best will truly be the best. More animals also means there will likely also be more pedigree connections made between the animals you are measuring, so the accuracy of the data will be greatly increased. This is especially important if you have animals in your herd from different sires or other herds that are recording performance. The common pedigree connections build off of each other greatly increasing the accuracy and predictability of the EPDs calculated.

Correct pedigree information is critical in making the proper linkages within the Biotrack system. If you are not sure about parentage of an animal do not include that animal in a data set. If you end up doing a genetic parentage test you can always add that animal in afterwards.

A few more details to keep track of are castration dates, how to record twins and how to deal with sick calves. Castration dates are important to record for the bull calves that will not be kept intact for breeding. Steers will grow differently than bulls so BioTrack adjusts for the difference in growth rates. Twins also need to be recorded appropriately. You need to record if twins are split at birth and only one of them is kept on the maternal dam or if they are kept together on the maternal dam. If one of the twins is put on a nurse cow that calf is ineligible to be recorded for weaning or yearling performance. A third point to consider is if a calf becomes sick to the point where you feel its performance has been severely affected, it should not be included in your data as it is not going to be an accurate representation of the genetics of the calf or performance of the dam/sire.

These are just a few of the main points to consider as you begin collecting data to be put into the Biotrack system. We look forward to seeing greater participation in this program in the future. Happy recording!



I came across the following excerpt written by Bob Braithwaite of Roseneath Blondes, while scouring through old magazines and sale books. I found it on the inside cover of his dispersal sale catalogue (insert sad emoji).

I've often admired the cattle stemming from the Roseneath lines, along with many of the cattle that carry their prefix and for good reason. Take a look at any of their pictures, they are often the ones that jump out at you first.

I've read many of the Blonde articles, likely as many or more than most, with the exception of our resident historian Reed Rigney. Being younger, I haven't lived the stories in person like our longest active member Dave McNevan, whose danced many a dance. As a Blonde enthusiast there can never be enough knowledge consumed, especially pertaining to the glory days of the breed. While I read this story Mr Braithwaite had written, I felt as if he was there telling me the story himself, but just the important parts of his journey, and providing key guidance on how to proceed with my own herd.

Everyone has their own way and most of us are often too stubborn to change. Our world is changing though, and now more then ever, we must change to stay relevant in the market. The CBDA Board has undertaken many projects to help keep us at the forefront, including the AgSights program (formerly BIO) which Mr Braithwaite speaks highly about. I believe this article offers great advice for any of our breeders - young or old, new or seasoned - that still remains constant in achieving our end goals today. My hope is that when you are done reading it, like me, you too will go back and read it again, and then again, and begin to get the wheels spinning on how you can heed some of these ideas for implementation into your own herd. If we all start producing cattle like Roseneath did, the Blonde breed will start pushing back to the forefront.

****Bobs excerpt below**

This wonderful relationship with not one, but many Blondes, began in 1972 when I saw the results of an AI program using Blonde bulls in a 500 Hereford/Angus based cow herd on a ranch in southern Alberta. I had never, till then, witnessed the potential the Blonde breed offers with respect to the production of commercial beef. It was indeed transforming.

A few years passed in which we dabbled modestly with Blonde Genetics, but in 1987 we made a decision to seriously develop a herd of fullblood and purebred cattle. We purchased our first females and started the journey. We were doing fine with this group of females but we wanted to broaden our genetic base and increase numbers. We began looking for a breeding program that was consistent in focus and goals. In December of 1991 we purchased the well-known Dotted K Blonde herd from Ed & Dot Keichinger of Streamstown, Alberta. 60 fullblood and purebred pregnant females along with 20 heifer calves entered our breeding program and impacted it in a big hurry. This was the good base we were looking for, as we saw in the Dotted K herd a focus on producing productive, heavier milking, stylish, early puberty females. We felt that we already had access to the Blonde bulls that were confirmed high performing, early maturing individuals. Performance bull tested animals, WSS Rex, Roseneath William and Roseneath Zenith, to name a few, were utilized with confidence. We started to cross these two herd lines together. Not every mating was a success but the ensuing trend in performance and phenotype traits was most encouraging. Progress was being made.

We then purchased Maple Brook Pedro, high selling animal at the Maplebrook Dispersal Sale. Pedro was a complete outcross bull to the majority of the North American Blonde genetic base, but he came with no performance stats. For us it was indeed a leap of faith to introduce this bull to our program. We used him and Pedro went ahead, through this offspring, to be recognized as a leading performance sire. Thankfully, he rewarded us time and time again.

In the mid 1990s the cattle market took a drastic down turn. It is true the saying "It is an ill wind that doesn't blow some good" but we had to struggle to find something positive about a down trending livestock market. We had to find ways to increase profits. More money for our product was out of the question at





that time so we had to review our expenditures and causes of such. Upon careful examination of our herd we became more, not less committed to a program of functional, performing cattle that had to prove their worth with dollars, not promises. We arrived at that decision, “let the cows do what cows should do best, that being, convert forages – hay and grass, along with an economical salt & mineral program, into calf production”. Our management program would make changes.

We needed a tool to help us measure both individual animal and total herd progress, and that tool turned out to be Beef Improvement Ontario’s “Herdlink” Program (BIO). We committed to the basic principles that no grain supplementation would be made at any time to females other than developing weaned heifers and nursing first and second calvers. No creep feed would be provided at any time for calves. We committed that all selected females had to conceive as yearlings and raise a calf as a two-year old. We also promised ourselves that we would only return an open calver to the breeding pasture if she had proven herself the first time via the job she did on her first calf. All other cows would be slaughtered. No exceptions would be made to these new guidelines.

In short, we removed fifty head of fullblood, purebred and commercial females from our program in the ensuing two years. It only hurt until the catteliner faded from view.

We started aggressively utilizing the “in-herd weaning” and “yearling performance” information, in co-ordination with critical phenotype selection for our replacement females. In other words we placed the kettle on the fire and now we had to wait for the water to boil. At first it seemed slow but, after five years of this type of selection criteria the results came.

A quick snap shot of just our weaning records:

1995 on 86 calves was:

– AWW – 567.6lbs/calf, ADG – 2.35lbs/day, WPDA – 2.59lbs/day

1997 on 110 calves was:

– AWW – 641.9lbs/calf, ADG – 2.72lbs/day, WPDA – 2.95lbs/day

1999 on 111 calves was:

– AWW – 688.2lbs/calf, ADG – 2.94lbs/day, WPDA – 3.25lbs/day

Many other benefits resulted as well, but to stay brief, the overall herd productivity trended for the positive, while expenses went down. The cows are doing what cows are supposed to do.



Let's begin with the formalities. This is not a paid endorsement. Information found herein comes from personal experience and research. Individual results may vary. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead is purely coincidental. Some assembly required. Batteries not included. Use only as directed. No other warranty expressed or implied. Void where prohibited. No salt, MSG, artificial colour or flavouring added. You get the picture. I would have added: 'No purchase necessary', but a purchase may be necessary if you like what you read.

The year was 2016 and I had two heifer calves consigned to the Cream of the Crop sale. Calving in April/May poses some challenges for fall sales, so I went on the hunt for a new way to wean calves. First and foremost, I wanted to reduce stress. I was also in need of a reasonably quick process in order to allow the calves to stay on the cows for as long as possible. If the procedure could be effective, easy, and, economical; all the better. That's when two-stage weaning using Quiet Wean nose paddles walked into my life. And like an introverted bachelor seeking any sort of connection in a global pandemic would do, I've clung to it and not allowed it to leave. The rest, as they say, is history.

Weaning is arguably the most stressful time in a calf's life. More-so than trucking, castrating, dehorning, and the many of the other necessary management jobs. In most of these cases, calves are either still with their mothers, or return to them quickly after a procedure is completed. Weaning is a different story. Natural instinct tells young mammals that eventually a mother's milk production will cease. What they don't anticipate is that milk and mother will disappear at the same time. This sudden simultaneous removal doesn't typically happen in nature. Cows that self-wean will drop in milk production, and will begin to make it more difficult for their calves to nurse by walking away, laying down



TWO STAGE WEANING

BY KIRK MCGEE

The Only Thing Happier than your Calves
will be your Neighbours

QUIET WEAN

more frequently, or even using those nimble back feet. In doing so, the calf can get accustomed to living without milk, while still finding comfort in being with their mother.

Research was conducted and a program was developed by Dr. Derek Haley and Dr. Joe Stookey at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. The first step was to identify which aspect of weaning created the stress; losing milk or losing mom. In order to do so, the milk had to be removed prior to the physical cow/calf bond being broken. To achieve this, a yellow plastic paddle called a Quiet Wean was placed in the calf's nose to provide an anti-nursing barrier. The calves were then reunited with their mothers. This was considered Stage One of the process and although the milk was removed, the calves showed no signs of distress. The nose paddles were left in the calves for 4-5 days before entering Stage Two, which was removal of the calves from the cows. Again, there was very little stress in the calves, as they had, in essence, already been weaned days prior when the milk was eliminated. (Combination Films, 2013).

Calf stress at weaning manifests itself in many ways, none of which are positive and all of which can affect



the bottom line. A smooth transition where calves stay on feed and water with as little stress as possible is ideal for calf and farmer. Improperly done, the results can lead to decrease weight gain (and likely weight loss) from spending time pacing and bawling instead of eating. The abrupt changes and stresses associated with weaning coupled with the reduced feed intake can often lead to respiratory disease and other sickness.

Everyone has heard the noise at the sale barn from calves that have undergone the old school “truck weaning” method, where calves are separated from their dams, loaded up and sent directly to auction. According to the article ‘Proactive calf weaning programs save money,’ shrink on calves can double from 6-7 per cent to 12-15 per cent of total body weight when trucking a fresh weaned calf compared to a more relaxed animal. Further, “Research has proven many calves never fully recover from truck weaning and tend to suffer from future poor performance, higher incidence of chronic and long-term health problems and higher rates of feedlot death loss.” (Vitti, October 2014).

I was intrigued by the system and the benefits it could potentially offer. It seemed to check all the boxes and then some, but seeing is believing, so I decided to try it on my two heifer calves slated for the sale. Feeling optimistic, I bought 20 Quiet Wean nose paddles. Most farm supply stores now carry them, or they can be purchased online. I ran the calves through the chute and with a slight twist, just like the tag on a bread bag, inserted the Quiet Weans into the noses of each. They were easy to apply and within a few minutes, the calves had forgotten that they were even there. Upon rejoining their mother’s they tried to nurse. Admittedly it was a bit comical to watch them try to contort themselves to get the teat into their mouths. In very little time, the realization hit that it just wasn’t going to work and they went to the feeder. In some reviews, users have reported that occasionally a very skilled calf can outsmart the piece of plastic hanging from their nose and manage to get a drink, but the cases are few and far between. The first two days the calves would attempt to suck fairly frequently, but each time would quickly give up and move on. The most shocking thing to me was the that they didn’t make a peep. By days three and four they made fewer efforts to suck, eventually losing interest completely.

The morning of day five, I put the calves back in the chute, removed the Quiet Weans, and let the cows back outside to pasture. Again, not a sound from the calves. The cows returned to the barn door a few times throughout the day and would bawl to the calves, but there was never a response. The calves were laying comfortably in the barn, no pacing the pen, and eating and drinking as normal. They didn’t fall back at all and continued to gain weight. Needless to say, I became a believer. When it came time to wean the rest of the calves, every one of them had a Quiet Wean in their nose. Each calf is different and in the larger group I had more opportunity to observe different behaviours. Yes, some calves still pace for a while, and no, not every one of them is completely silent as my first two heifers had been. But the difference from traditional cold weaning was incredible. “Field trials showed that two-step calves vocalized 85 per cent less, walked 80 per cent less and spent 25 per cent more time eating compared to traditionally weaned calves.” (Vitti, October 2014).

Likely calves go through the chute once at weaning, so there is a downfall of added time and labour with the need to put them through and handle them twice. On the bright side, it gives two different opportunities to get weaning weights to submit to the performance program! (Just

ensure that whether you choose the first time through the chute or the second that all weights are taken on the same day). It also offers a good time to do some of the lower-stress management tasks like tattooing, deworming, etc. Another obstacle I’ve encountered is that I have had mixed results with retention. On pasture, the nose paddles stay in very well. When I have weaned in the barnyard, I’ve found that feeders or mangers can be an issue. As the calves back out, they can catch the paddles on a bar and pull them out. They’re designed in such a way that if they are pulled out, it doesn’t damage the animal or the nose paddle itself. The bright yellow colour also makes them easy to find and I have recovered most of the ones that have been lost. At the end of the day, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks in my opinion.

Two-stage weaning with Quiet Weans hit all the three of the ‘E’s I went looking for. Easy: If you can open a loaf of bread, you can insert and remove a Quiet Wean. Economical: At the time of writing, Quiet Weans can be purchased for \$2.30 each. An affordable starting price, on top of which, they are completely reusable. Just give them a rinse with some disinfectant and they’re ready to go next year. Factor in that extra 6-8% shrink that you could be saving at sale time and the price looks even better. And finally, Effective: The difference that I have seen in calves since switching to two-stage weaning is truly unbelievable. Reduced stress, reduced pacing, reduced bawling, reduced treatment of respiratory infection, increased feed intake post-weaning...all from a yellow piece of plastic hanging out of a calf’s nose. I’ve used Quiet Weans to wean five calf crops, and I won’t wean without them again.

It should be noted that there are, of course, other effective ways of weaning. Fenceline weaning, use of anti-nursing products other than Quiet Weans, letting the cow wean on her own schedule, etc. This is simply the system that works for me. We should use all of the tools and knowledge at our disposal to make operating procedures as stress-free as possible for cattle and farmers alike. Management differs from farm to farm, but if you have the facility to add two-stage weaning to your arsenal of tools, I highly recommend it. If you want to see for yourself, this fall wean half of your calves traditionally, and half using two-stage. You won’t need to mark which calves didn’t get Quiet Weans, the neighbours will let you know.

R E F E R E N C E S :

Vitti, P. (2014). Proactive calf weaning programs save money. Cattleman’s Corner, 2014, October 23
Retrieved from <https://www.grainews.ca/cattlemans-corner/proactive-calf-weaning-programs-save-money/>

Combination Films (Producer). (2013, April 29). Two-stage weaning calves [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPsw3VfjH8s&t=328s>



The theme of 2020 seemed to be adaptability. With regulations changing almost daily throughout the summer in Ontario, it was unfortunately decided that the OBdAA Annual Picnic would need to be cancelled. With the fairs also cancelled, there was a severe risk of Blonde Family Withdrawal, so a plan was formulated to take the picnic virtual for the year. A call went out for volunteers to host by taking over the Ontario Facebook page for a week at a time to showcase their operations and cattle through pictures and videos. While it was not the same as getting together in person, the virtual format did offer some advantages including more farms to visit, no travel costs, and a wider reach with over 250 members of the Facebook group from across the globe able to view the posts. It seemed fitting that the hosts of the last in-person picnic were the first stop on the virtual tour. Sarah Pierce took the reigns and kicked things off at the Beavermeadow Blondes and Pierce Blondes herds in Tupperville, ON. While Bruce was a bit camera-shy, Cathy made an appearance on a pasture tour, as we walked the herd with Sarah. The Langstoffs continue to produce Fullblood and purebred seedstock from top quality herd bulls, proven cow families, and carefully selected A/I genetics. Quality had not declined since our visit to the farm on the 2019 picnic! The second week took us to the opposite end of the province to Edwards, ON where the Bunda Blondes herd belonging to Andrew Bunda were on display. Deep in the heart of wheat harvest, viewers were treated to a variety of activities throughout the week. Of course the daily trips through the herd were the highlight, but a glimpse at harvest, a history of some of the foundation females, and a look at the beekeeping operation made for an excellent stop for the week! To save on travel time, the tour remained

2020 OBDA ANNUAL PICNIC

in Eastern Ontario for the following week's stop. The Ferguson Family of Crystal Farms in Jasper kept the tour rolling. With technical supervisor Samantha at the helm, Paul gave an informative presentation about their herd throughout the week. Topics covered were an explanation of their homemade handling facility, a tour of the bull test station, the herd's rotational grazing system, nutrition, performance and of course, a daily visit to see some of the top Blonde cattle in the country. As an added bonus, Samantha also took the show on the road to visit her and partner Chris Lawton's operation at Jock Trail Farm, which is also home to the One OAK Blondes herd belonging to Nicholas Boyd. It was a jam packed week for sure!

The fourth week was a meet in the middle stop, as the tour landed in Codrington, ON at the McGee Family's Ridge View Blondes and Rondakk Acres. Another informative



week as pasture tours were mixed with handling facility demos and a look at a new windbreak and barnyard construction project. 10-year-old Herd Manager, Teagan, made some guest appearances introducing cattle in the pasture and his little brother, Larkin demonstrated one of the best traits about Blondes...docility! Calvessired by Forty Acre Caspian and Beavermeadow Extreme drew nearly as much attention from viewers as the green pasture that had breeders who had been harder hit by the Ontario drought drooling.

As a treat for the final week of the 2020 Virtual Picnic, Dave Kamelchuk of Little Creek Farms in Ellsford, AB volunteered to host. Variety was the theme of the week with something for everyone. Pastures full of cows (not coows, as some Ontario breeders call them) were on display all week. Beginning with a group of Simmental cows and Blonde heifers who are bred to Crystal Bandit for calving ease; a group of Blondes with calves at side sired by WSS Earthquake; to the commercial herd with Little Creek Darkside calves, and finally to the elite group of Dave's favourite Blondes in his A/I program who live closest to home. Some guest appearances of the Willow Springs Stock Farm animals were a welcome addition. The next generation of Kamelchuk's joined in on the fun with Emma showcasing her Speckle Park animals and Delaney giving an informative presentation of her flock of sheep. It was an excellent way to finish up the picnic for 2020.

Thank you to all of our hosts and to everyone who watched, liked, or commented on the posts throughout the weeks. The Blonde Family spirit was still present, even if we couldn't be together. For those interested, the pictures and videos are still available for viewing on the OBdAA Facebook page. Fingers crossed we'll be able to host an in-person.

FACTS ABOUT BIRTH WEIGHT + CALVING EASE

- i. for every 1 lb of birth weight equals 8 lbs at weaning
- ii. the birth weight itself influences calving ease by 65%
- iii. the female has 60%-70% influence on birth weight of her calf
- iv. the bull has 30%-40% influence of birth weight of his progeny
- v. size + maturity of the cow influences calving ease



Donaleen General Lee 4G



Donaleen Garth 2G



Donaleen Goliath 1G



Teehaven General 225G

Agsights Bull Evaluation

Bull Evaluation 58-Day Report				202020 CRYSTAL FARMS				Genetic Evaluations (11 Feb 2020)			
Tag	Description	Sire	Dam	Head Bleeding				Reproductive			
				EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI
Tag	Parent	Time	Sex	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI
Parent	Time	Sex	Sex	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI	EBI
4876	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4877	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4878	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4879	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4880	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4881	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4882	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4883	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4884	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4885	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4886	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4887	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4888	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4889	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4890	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4891	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4892	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4893	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4894	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4895	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4896	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4897	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4898	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4899	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		
4900	BLONDE 200T DONALEEN BLONDE 163-437-4334	001 M BLONDE D-AQUITAINE 163-437-4334	1992 B STRAUCHER GRADY 15 VAD VIVRE 171 ARVAS POLLE LUPRE 1160	17	33	40	24	71	1000		

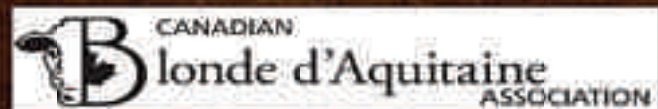


PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have any great photos of your Blondes? 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 month one eligible winning photograph will be selected, and the winner will receive a \$25 credit towards their next fullblood or purebred registration.

Blonde d'Aquitaine
There's no Looking Back
Bar K Farms

Full Blood, Purebred & Percentage Animals for sale by Private Treaty

Bar K Jont 14J
(John Peti-Cat 31C x Bar K Fossil)

Bar K Jellybean 26J
Aramis x WSS Petula 23W

Dave, Lisa & the Payne Family
1511 River Rd. Manotick ON K4M 1B4
(513) 659-9870 bark.farms@gmail.com

Hard Siro for 2021
WSS Celebration 2C



PHOTO TIPS

- Don't cut off the head, feet, butt, nose! Don't crop your photo -- let your ad designer or webmaster crop the picture to give the best possible design for each individual situation.
- When you think you have the picture just right, take two steps back. Give your designer lots to work with.
- Remember to identify your photographer or include a brief description of the shot.
- You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Make sure you take those pictures at a high enough resolution so your printer doesn't have any trouble getting them ready for your next brochure or magazine ad. Remember, for a chance to win a \$25 registration credit and see your photo in a Blonde publication or on the Blonde website, take your camera the next time you go to check on the fences!

PHOTO CRITERIA

- Include a complete shot of animal in photo (including feet, tail and full head if possible).
- Limit of five pictures submitted per operation per calendar month.
- All photos submitted become the property of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association and the Association will be able to use them accordingly (photo credit will be provided when possible).
- The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Board reserves the right to not have a winner if it is deemed no picture is eligible in a particular month, and the decision is final.

SEND YOUR PICTURES TO:
Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Newsletter
E-mail your photos to Reed Rigney
rigney@clearwave.ca

2022 BLONDE CONNECTION

BOOKING DEADLINE

Monday, January 25, 2022

AD/COPY DEADLINE

Monday, February 8, 2022

NEWSLETTER

We are still doing newsletters in June, September and December. Advertising can be done in them as well, however they are only available through email or on-line (www.canadianblondeassociation.ca), so if you would like to get it sent directly to you, please send your email to Reed Rigney (rigney@clearwave.ca).



PUBLICATIONS

Connection Back issues are also available on the website, as well as the “Bulls of the Breed” booklet under Publications.

Under the Member tools section there is a Member handbook with useful info in it.

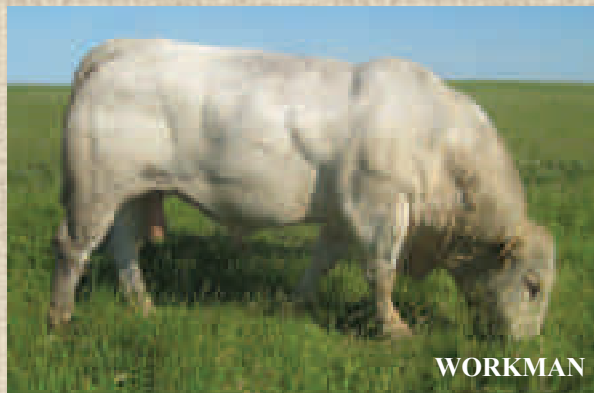


What the 2022 Blonde Connection will provide to advertisers:

- The best opportunity to reach a wider Commercial and Purebred Blonde audience with an expanded distribution in relation to the member newsletter.
- Every member (those listed on CLRC website) will receive a hard copy of the magazine.
- Every person who has had a Blonde animal transferred into their name by the CLRC in the last five years will receive a hard copy of the magazine.
- Hard copies will be sent to commercial mailing lists in each of the provinces (where available).
- Each Province will receive copies for distribution at trade fairs.
- Virtual copies will be available on the CBDA website and any other Blonde websites that wish to post it.
- Emails will be sent to international interests directing them to the on-line version.

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www.westwindblondes.ca

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