



NEW BEGINNINGS

With spring comes hope

The March 23, 2013 AGM held in Bowmanville signaled the beginning of a new year for the OBdAA. The event was well attended with 27 people in attendance plus guest speaker Mike McMorris from BIO.

A variety of topics were discussed with many valid concerns and points being made on

numerous issues. There was a lot of creative discussion and some fresh ideas bounced around. Three directors positions were up for nomination and filled.

We would like to thank those who attended and Bobby C's for hosting the event.

Ilse Vink will again be president for 2013.

Member Spotlight

Meet the three newly elected directors for the upcoming 2013 season.

Farm Spotlight

From The Past

Looking back at farms and names from the past

2013 Ontario Board of Directors:

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6208, hilltoporchardfarm@gmail.com

Ottawa Farm Show 2013

Ottawa Farm Show 2013 was held prior to our AGM; which was discussed at last years meeting. This year the farm show was held on March 12, 13 and 14th.

Very good attendance of farmers was evident at this years show. The Farm Show has had a competition for livestock exhibitors for the last few years; to educate the public on livestock and make a more attractive booth. They took into consideration the display design, educational material and how the exhibitors welcomed and talked to the public.

The Committee of the Farm Show wanted the public to be more aware of how important cattle are to

the farming industry.

We placed 3rd out of 11 displays. We received \$50.00 for our effort that will be given to the Ontario Blonde Assoc.

We added two banners and had a crossword puzzle; set up for the public to play.

A BIG thank you to Ellie Conroy, Cameron Halpenny and Samantha Ferguson who volunteered their services throughout the three day event.

Ticket sales went well, the kids worked very hard. We sold 21 booklets and raised the amount of \$459.00 .We need to discuss changes on our heifer draw.

-Paul Ferguson





Meet Our New Directors

Welcoming our two newly elected Directors

It is with great pride that the OBdAA welcomes the three newly elected directors to the board for the 2013 season. Paul Fee, Dennis Elliot and Ashley McNeven were all voted in for the upcoming term.

The entire association would like to extend a warm thank you to all of the directors that served for the 2012 term and wish them continued success over the years to come.

A lot of time goes in to being an active director, tireless work, phone calls, organization, emails and all for the common goal of improving our breed and association. Lets build on 2012 and make 2013 even more successful.

Committees

The following committees are represented by the following board reps and assistants:

- * Advertising/Marketing: Dennis Elliott & Ashley McNeven
- * Performance: Dennis Elliot & Steve Acres
- * Trade Shows: John Plas assisted by Paul Ferguson
- * Sales: Steve Acres & Dennis Elliot
- * Shows Paul Fee & Ashley McNevan
- * Youth (4H): Ashley McNevan
- * Newsletter: Nicholas, assisted by Ashley McNevan & Dennis Elliot
- * Nominating Committee: John Plas
- * Communications/Website: Ian Kruis
- * Ex officio: Ilse Vink (all committees)

We have 10 bulls on test throughout Ontario for 2013 consigned by 6 breeders. End of tests results as of May 12,2013 from BIO. Just the three categories could be used to include all 10 bulls. Since some breeders are none BIO members, there is no data reported on some bulls for calving ease, birth weight, weaning, milk or frame score.

<u>Posthaven#201313</u>	<u>Tattoo</u>	<u>End of Test</u>	<u>ADG</u>	<u>REA</u>	<u>SC</u>
Bill Van Bakel	PFER 15Z	EOT 1282	3.59	15.7	31.5
DJ Farms	DJE 30Z	EOT 1128	3.20	16.1	34.5
<u>Broekland Farms #201317</u>					
Allan Plumton	ATP 1Z	EOT 1250	3.62	19.3	34.5
	ATP 3Z	EOT 1100	2.72	16.0	33.0
Don T. Dunham	PFER 1Z	EOT 1490	3.57	20.1	39.0
Paul Ferguson	PFER 25Z	EOT 1360	3.74	15.5	35.5
Paul Ferguson	CYR 1Z	EOT 1180	2.39	16.9	34.0
<u>Broekland Farms #201318</u>					
Brian Peters	NSF 3Z	EOT 970lbs	3.13	15.3	29.0
	NSF 6Z	EOT 700lbs	2.95	11.3	22.5
	NSF 2Z	EOT 1010lbs	3.49	14.5	28.0

Bulls On Test

4-H Youth

Hopefully, by now you have picked your 2013 4-H project and are beginning to gear up for show season which is just around the corner! As a 4-H member myself, I highly recommend that you take every opportunity available to you, to get you and your project out early in the year. I recently attended Junior Beef Expo in London ON, from March 9th-10th. It was an excellent chance to get a feel for this year's youth competitors from across the province. This show is a lot of fun and great for youth to brush up on their showmanship skills, practice fitting and get in the groove for the up coming show season. Followed by Jr Beef Expo, I attended Youth Forum in Orangeville, ON from April 20th-21st. Another great weekend was enjoyed by all youth who attended. At both of these shows youth members are encouraged to get involved as much as they can with the preparation of the animals which they have brought to exhibit. These two shows allow you to take yearling purebred or crossbred animals to compete in the breeding heifer classes, or a market steer or heifer to compete in the market classes. It would be great to see more Blonde or Blonde cross cattle attending these shows next year, so keep them in mind for next spring and I will post the dates for them on the website. Youth members be sure to check the blonde website and your local fairs for upcoming 4-H competitions or youth beef shows, these are all excellent places to get you and your project exposure, prior to your 4-H achievement day.

Happy halter breaking and we will see you in the show ring!

- Ashley

OVER THE TOP CATTLE COMPANY
Blonde d'Aquitaine & Commercial Cattle
Offering: Complete Show Services, Halter Breaking & Trucking



Ashley McNevean & Tyler Sutcliffe

(705) 879-6288
 82 Stillwater Dr.

hilltoporchardfarm@gmail.com

RR#1 Janetville ON, LOB 1K0

Upcoming Events

- * OBdAA Annual Family Day Picnic,
August 24, 2013 (see p.7)
- * Campbellford Fair - Blonde Show & 4-H
August 9-11, 2013
- * Stirling Fair All breed Beef Show
August 15-18, 2013
- * Hastings County Plowing Match
August 21 & 22, 2013
- *Coe Hill Fair - All Breed Beef Show & 4-H
August 23-24, 2013
- * Lakefield Fair - All Breed Beef Show & 4-H
August 26-28, 2013t
- * Kinmount Fair - Blonde Show & 4-H
August 30 - September 1,
- * Quinte Exhibition (Belleville) - All breed Beef Show & 4-H
August 29 - Sept 1
- * Orono Fair - Blonde Show & Junior Show
September 5 - 8, 2013
- * Warkworth Fair - All breed beef show & 4-H
September 6-8
- * Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
September 10 - 12, 2013
- * International Plowing Match
September 17 - 21, 2013
- *Lindsay Central Exhibition - Blonde Show & Junior Show
September 18 - 22, 2013
- * Bobcaygeon Fair - All breed beef show
September 26 - 28, 2013
- * Roseneath Fair - All breed beef show & Junior Show
September 28 - 29, 2013
- * CBdAA AGM, Show & Sale Olds Alberta October 2-4, 2013
- *12th Annual Cream Of The Crop Sale
Hoards station, ON.
October 19th, 2013.
- *OBdAA 11th Annual Raffle
Heifer draw
Hoards Station, Ontario
October 19th, 2013

Rates for Advertising (HST extra)

Per Issue:	
1 full page.....	\$40
3/4 page.....	\$35
½ page.....	\$25
1/4 page.....	\$15
Business cards.....	\$5
Four Issues:	
1 full page.....	\$120
3/4 page.....	\$105
½ page.....	\$75
1/4 page.....	\$45
Business cards.....	\$15

Upcoming Plowing Matches

The OBDA is offering any interested breeders the opportunity to supply a quiet (tie or halter broke), Purebred or Fullblood cow calf pair for the Hastings County Plowing Match (August 21-22) or the International Plowing Match (Sept 17 - 21), for the OBDA's display at these events. Penning will be supplied. If you have a pair you would like to represent our breed at one of the Plowing Matches, contact John Plas by phone (905) 648-543 or e-mail at dovecotblondes@gmail.com.

ONE LUCKY LADY!!

The OBDA board is looking for Raffle Heifer tenders for this year's draw, to be held October 19th 2013. This is a great opportunity to showcase the best of your breeding program. We are looking for a registered "Z"(purebred or fullblood), quiet (halter broke preferred), Blonde heifer, who will be bred at the time of the draw. Please forward your heifer's information/picture to Dennis Elliot:dje@djfarmscattle.com or Ashley McNeven:hilltoporchardfarm@gmail.com

THE LAST WORD

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO

As I pen this, my first issue of the Blonde Banner, I'm also eagerly awaiting two first calf heifers popping at any time. When I volunteered for this position at the AGM it was met with a collective laughter followed by the words "you do not know what you got yourself into". I'll admit, I'm nervous. I know remarkably less than any of our other members and now I'm suppose to prepare informative literature for you?! YIKES!! The only thing that scares me more is the fact I have two first calf heifers ready to pop and I've never calved a single cow in my life.

That collective laughter followed by those now famous words should have a devastating affect on me, maybe a dispersal sale, go on the lam, possibly even backtrack through a series of decisions to days before the 2012 Cream Of The Crop sale? Some might but I'm a solutions type of guy. "Don't come to me with your problems, I only want solutions".

Having decided to venture down this road not knowing where it would lead has left me but no choice to live by my words. I reside in a subdivision, rent rooms out like my house is a hotel and own 0 acres of farmland. Heck, I don't even own a tractor. My cattle reside in a field I built on the far side of the training center, which houses the horses I train, plus those of many others. Their shelter: an old bank barn I converted from horse stalls to cattle pens. It's not fancy but it works.

What led me down this path, I'll never know, but I'm enjoying every minute of it. Having attempted to do extensive research on the breed for hours, has only led to frustration. It is that frustration that has fueled my desire and enthusiasm to do my part in helping move us back to the top. Historical data, pictures, statistics and documentation of all our findings can only help as we build towards a common goal. In today's computer age, information is at your fingertips and in front of your eyes within seconds. I would hesitate to suggest you apply this to the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed as I'm afraid you'd be disappointed. That just means there's never a better time to start than now. Through my collective memory and that of others, I can remember names of the past, the fairs attended and even that fond memory of showing a Blonde at the Royal as a young lad. With the little information I was able to dig up from the internet there's even pictures of our breeds success at Agribition. Some may say that's in the past, but those with solutions will say that's our future.

Jason Van Tol, Andre & Linda Cyr and Dave McNevan have been instrumental in getting me started. I thank you very much and will be forever grateful. To those I have annoyed with countless emails and phone calls, thank you for putting up with me to date. To the others I have yet to meet or email, don't worry, your time is coming and hopefully you're as gracious as the others. Im actually surprised Dave McNevan has yet to block my number, but I guess that option is still available to him.

As I wrap up my mind keeps wandering to the number of topics and interests I have relating to our beloved breed. Im sure I could go on for days, and in the future I likely will, but Id like to leave everyone with one last thought: YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU GOTTEN YOURSELVES INTO.

Sincerely, Nicholas Boyd

Important Information:

Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association c/o
Canadian Livestock Records Corp. 2417 Holly Lane,
Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 (613) 731-7110 Fax: 613-731-0704
Email: cbda@clrc.ca www.canadianblondeassociation.ca

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2417 Holly Lane Ottawa, ON K1V 0M7 (613) 731-7110
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Saskatchewan Research Council
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933-5400 www.src.sk.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
www.agr.gc.ca

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NOTE: The OBdAA reserves the right to edit any newsletter submissions for length and content suitability. The goals of this newsletter are:

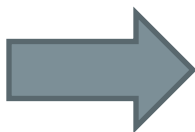
To **inform** the membership of all the pertinent activities and initiatives being taken by the Association, the Association Board, or its members.

To **provide** educational information in order to assist Blonde breeders in all aspects of the seed stock industry.

To **promote** the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed and the members of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association.

OBdAA Picnic 2013

All OBdAA members and their family & friends are invited to the farms of Rick Drinkill and Paul Fee, Elmvale, ON., on Saturday, August 24th, at 1 p.m. for the annual OBdAA picnic. A potluck will take place at 4:30 p.m. Please bring lawnchairs, a potluck item (salad or dessert), and a mini-auction item.



Forest View Farms
16850 County Road 27
Elmvale, LOL 1P0

Directions (from Barrie or Orillia): From Barrie: On the 400, ramp off just north of Barrie (toward Parry Sound) on 400/69 Hwy, going north. Then ramp off exit 121 (Hwy #93) Go north to Waverley. At Waverley turn Left on Hwy #27. Forest View Farms is 5 minutes west of Waverley (#16850, north side of the road).

From Orillia: Head west on Hwy #12 to Coldwater. Vasey Road to Hwy #27. Forest View Farms is 5 minutes west of Waverley (#16850, north side of the road).

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited

The staff at the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited have sold our Raffle Heifer tickets for many years! On average 3 books/year. Please have a look at their website which offers show supplies, tattoo equipment tags etc. All 4-H members get a 10% discount!

Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Limited
142 Franktown Rd.
Carleton Place, Ontario
K7C 3P3
1-800-488-2714
www.wool.ca

Thank you to Lee-Anne and Staff for selling our Raffle Heifer Tickets!!!

13th ANNUAL CREAM OF THE CROP SALE

Sales commission has been established for our 2013 Cream Of The Crop Sale at 12%. In order to keep the commission rate at 12% for this year and future sales, the OBDA board is encouraging consignors or fellow breeders to seek businesses to place advertisements in our catalogue. Their ad will be printed in full colour and distributed at the IPM and at agricultural outlets across Ontario. The ad sizes/cost are as follows: Business Card \$25, 1/3 Page \$100, 1/2 Page \$175, Full Page \$300 (Page size is 8.5 x 11). For each sponsor acquired, your name will be put into a draw for a prize to be received the night of the sale. Please Note: New this year cattle breeders are able to purchase business card sized ads.

Send To: Dennis Elliott dje@djfarmscattle.com
 7062 Line 26, RR#2 Tel (519) 345-2785
 Staffa, ON N0K 1Y0 Fax (519) 345-2799

*Entry Form, \$50 per Entry and Digital Picture
 Due August 16th/13*

Consignor Information:

Name _____ Farm Name _____
 Address _____ Member # _____
 City _____ Province _____ Postal code _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Consignment Information:

Animal's Name _____ Reg. no. _____
 Birth date _____ Birth wt. _____ lbs. Tattoo _____
 Fullblood Bull calf at side (fill out "A" Lot section below)
 Purebred Heifer open
 _____ % Polled bred/exposed to: _____
Reg. no.

DNA Case # _____

	Reg. no.
Sire	Reg. no.
	Reg. no.
Dam	Reg. no.
	Reg. no.

Description: (MUST BE SUPPLIED By CONSIGNOR) _____

EPD'S _____

"A" Lot Information:

Name _____ Reg. no. _____
 Birth date _____ Birth wt. _____ lbs. Tattoo _____
 Fullblood Bull Sire Name & Reg. No. _____
 Purebred Heifer
 _____ % Polled

NOTE: CALVES MUST BE REGISTERED AND LEGIBLY TATTOOED (Entries will be inspected prior to sale)

GUIDELINES:

You can consign up to 6 animals, all must be 8 years of age or younger (born in 2005+). Calves 200+ days of age at the time of the sale will be sold separately from their dams.

Original registration papers must be handed in BEFORE the sale in order to sell your animals. Certificate of Service on back of paper must be completed for all females exposed or selling as "bred females."

All bulls, INCLUDING BULL CALVES, must have DNA done, even if purebred.

We are requiring a deposit of \$50.00 per consignment payable to the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. If you sell your animal at the sale, you will get this \$50.00 back. If for some reason you scratch that animal, you will forfeit the deposit. Please copy this form as a copy of your receipt.

Consignor must supply digital picture else no picture will be catalogued. Sales commission will be 12%.

