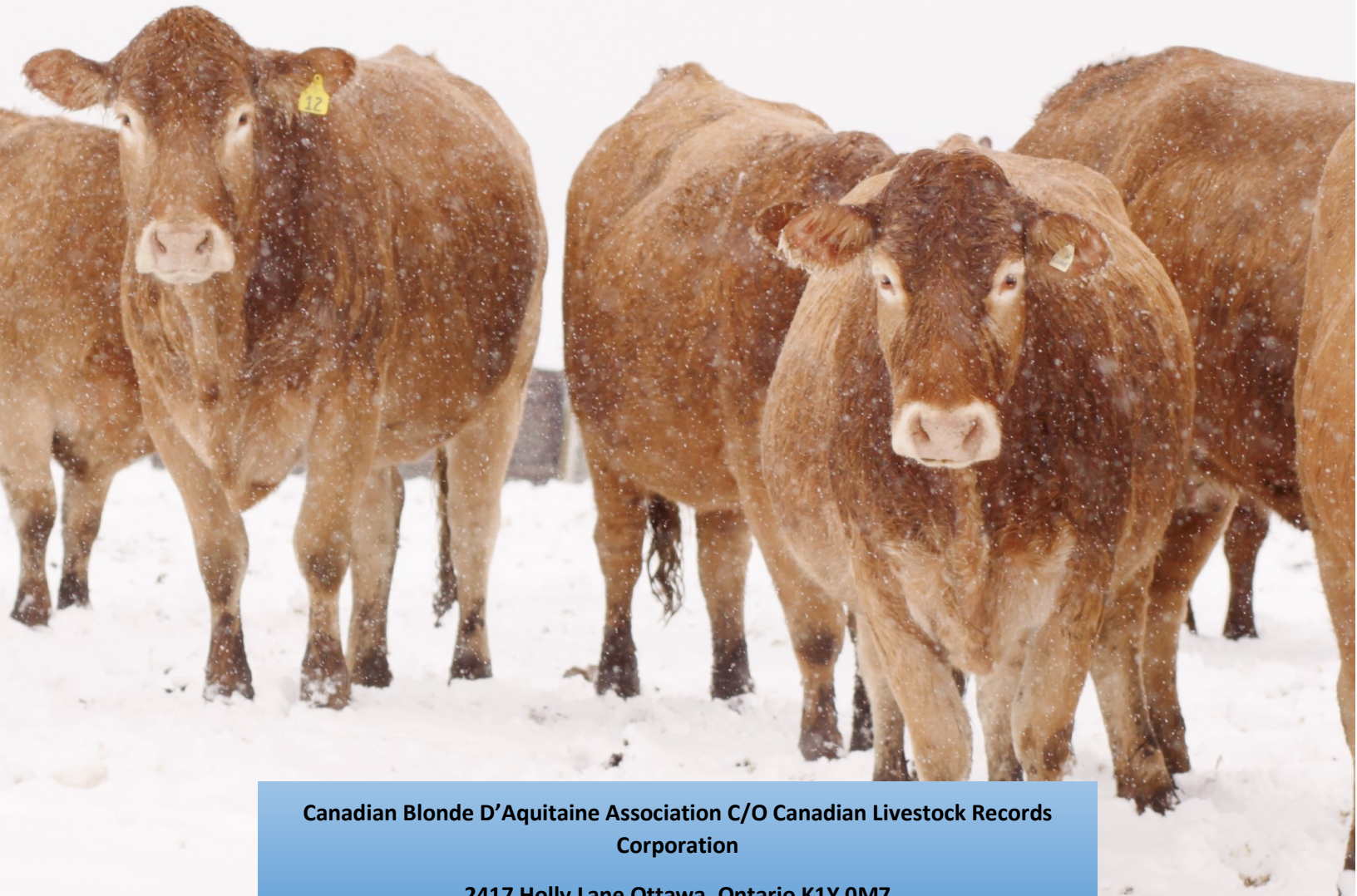


Canadian Blonde News

Winter 2021



Canadian Blonde D'Aquitaine Association C/O Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

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Presidents Message

As the year comes to an end, you always look back at the high and the lows of the year. Our Cream of the Crop Sale is usually our highlight event, which is high ranking. Once again, we had a good crowd, which brings excitement down in the barn. With good quality cattle on offer and a good crowd it will reflect on the prices. The prices were above average this year. On the other hand, stocker prices at the sale barns, seem to fluctuate thus far. If you sold on the right week, then you did alright.

Thinking about it, the low of the year is, we are still dealing with Covid. Covid is sticking around for the time being. Hoping spring/summer we will have less restrictions, have some normalcy, 4-H, cattle shows and small group events.

Would like to take a moment to **THANK** all the board members. Your dedication and hard work does not go unnoticed. Great group! Some are on both boards Canadian and Ontario. It would be nice some more people would get involved. Need some inspiration, new blood. We must focus on keeping up our numbers of memberships, it is very important. We want to succeed with our breed. Pondering, we have a shortage of bulls out there to sell. If you are looking for yearling bulls, we have a bull test station with diverse pedigrees from various breeders here at Crystal Farms. **REMEMBER**, weigh your calves and send the information to AgSights or Nicholas Boyd, get those numbers in! Best of luck for the upcoming calving season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Paul Ferguson

News from the Board

By-Law changes were all passed at the 2021 AGM, and have been forwarded on for Governmental approval. We are hoping that this will be completed by the summer of 2022 so that the 2022 born calves can be registered under the new rules.

Once approved our grading up system will be different; the table will be deleted and exact breed percentages used as per the recommendation of David Trus the officer in charge of the Animal Pedigree Act. 100% animals will remain Fullbloods, 90% and above will be considered Purebred and percentage animals will be 45% and above. Bulls will only be eligible for registration at 70% Blonde breeding. The exact percentage of the animal will show on the registration paper as well as the on-line pedigree pages along with the designation of its status (Fullblood, Purebred, Percentage).

The random parentage testing of Purebred and Percentage animals has also been increased from 1/100 to 1/10. All testing costs of these randomly selected animals will be paid by the CBDA. In some cases the dam of the animal will also need Hair collected for parentage verification which will also be paid by the CBDA. All bulls used as sires will need to have DNA on file, and all Fullblood animals will still need to be parentage verified.

One additional item to be aware of: If you plan to register a Purebred or Percentage animal you should make sure that you have hair saved from the dam just in case the animal is flagged for a random test and the dam dies, is sold for slaughter, etc. Your animals will be ineligible for registration if it cannot be parentage verified.

Nicholas Boyd has taken on the Performance Program Chair, and will actively contacting the membership to get birth weights, calving ease, weaning weight and yearling weight wherever possible. With this will come reports of cow production and EPD's back to the membership.

The 2021 national Video show was very well received by the membership with 95 entries - up from 69 in 2020. Thanks to the Show/Sale committee for all their work. Videos should be available on Youtube shortly; watch for links on the OBDAA and CBDA Facebook Pages and on the CBDA Website. Hopefully we can return to a live National show in 2022, but we think the Video show is a great way for everyone across the country to be involved and we plan to continue it for 2022.

The CBDA has a policy that SNP should be used whenever possible to verify parentage. Microsat DNA can only be used if there isn't any way to obtain a SNP profile of a parent. In some cases this may mean that a straw/vial of semen or partial straw/vial of semen will need to be sent to the lab. This is the responsibility of the person using the semen (registering the offspring), and also at their cost. So before using an AI bull please make sure there is a SNP profile, and if not be prepared to send some semen in to have this completed.

We have also had some issues with the SNP profiles sent from France. In some cases they are not sufficient to get a parental match, so please be aware that you may need to send a straw of semen to get a proper SNP profile completed prior to registering any offspring.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Crystal Farms



Crystal Abbey 5A



Crystal Java 11 J

OVERALL GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

Thank you to all the buyers who purchased from Crystal Farms in 2021!

We would like to express our gratitude to all the breeders who have bulls in our test station this season!



Provincial updates

Hello from Ontario

Things are finally starting to open up and we were able to hold a few events in person this year. The 2021 OBdAA picnic was held at Paul Fee's (Feehaven Farms) in Waubaushene, ON with a short jaunt over to Elmvale, ON to Rick Drinkill's (Forestview Farms). Everyone had a great time and got to see a lot of really good cattle.

The 21st Annual Cream of the Crop sale was a success, again due to the amazing work of Kirk McGee putting together the sales catalogue as well as the countless hours of work he does tending and organizing the cattle during the sale. I hope he knows that it doesn't go unappreciated! I'd also like to thank Zoë Hiscock for making the cattle look so great and Eric Doran for his expertise as blockman. This year, Rick and Jan Drinkill generously donated a calf to the sale which raised 5700 dollars for our association. A tremendous thank you to the Drinkill family and the bidders for making it an event in itself. The generosity of the Blonde members is one of the reasons I truly love being apart of this breed.

Thanks to all the Board Members of the Ontario Blonde D'Aquitaine Association for their time and dedication to the Blonde Breed. I can't say it enough that this association has both fantastic animals and members.

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

Western Report

A mild start to winter across the prairies has been well received. Drought left many areas in short supply of feed and the mild open weather has certainly reduced the amount of feed needed to this point.

Little Creek Farms (Kamelchuk family) had a great showing at the 2021 Edmonton Farmfair International show. They came away with many class winners as well the Grand Champion Bull and Reserve Grand Champion Female in the Other Breeds section of the show. There was interest in the Blondes amongst passers by at the show, and interest in cattle advertised for sale.

The passing of Marcel tolled the end of the Man-Sask as a separate group of Blonde Breeders as Knobby Oaks Farms, one of the oldest members chose to take retirement and live life a little easier. Michael Dufault is taking care of Bellevue's cattle for now but does not know if he will continue on.

Forty Acre Blondes is still alive and well, doing their best to breed a quality herd of polled animals. FAB has sold all of this years heifers to persons interested in running Blondes as breeding stock. So far, there has been no commitment to join an association, but one can hope. Also sold 2 bred heifers to a commercial guy along with 5 commercial heifers bred Blonde. this is the second group of commercials bred to a blonde bull that he has purchased.

Due to the changes in the Man/Sask Association the four western provinces will be working as the Western Canada Blonde Breeders Group moving forward.

Take care, keep safe and healthy.

Don Mehler, Pat Filz and Reed Rigney

Marcel J. Dufault
June 12, 1943 - April 9 2021

It is with great sadness that the Man Sask Blonde Association announces the death of one of its long time members, Marcel Dufault of the Bellevue Blondes. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and his fellow associates.

Merry Christmas
from our Farm to yours
BARK FARMS

A Special Thank You to our 2021 Buyers

-Bob and Nancy Zwarts

-Sean & Lois Recker
(Recker Farms)

-Samantha Ferguson
(Diamond Ridge Blondes)

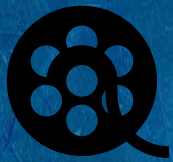
-Guillaume Pfenti
(Ferme La Fougere Inc.)

-Bill & Brigitte Reid

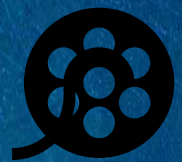
Dave Payne & Lisa Leduc

613-859-9870 bark.farms@gmail.com





Video Show Results 2021



<u>AWARD</u>	<u>ANIMALS</u>	<u>EXHIBITOR</u>	<u>CLASS SPONSORS</u>
Grand Champion Female	Crystal Abbey with calf Crystal Java	Crystal Farms, ON	Crystal Farms
Res. Grand Champion Female	Little Creek Pefourla 40J	Little Creek Farms, AB	Shelbramack Blondes
Grand Champion Male	Fee Haven Gold Rush	Fee Haven Farms, ON	Butternut Blondes
Res. Grand Champion Male	Crystal Jed	Crystal Farms, ON	Ontario Blonde Association
Premier Breeder	Crystal Farms, ON	Crystal Farms, ON	Les Fermes Clearidge
Premier Exhibitor	Crystal Farms, ON	Crystal Farms, ON	Shiestel Blondes
Calf Champion Female	Little Creek Pefourla 40J	Little Creek Farms, AB	McGillis Acres
Res. Calf Champion Female	Crystal Java	Crystal Farms, ON	Diamond Ridge Blondes
Calf Champion Male	Crystal Jed	Crystal Farms, ON	FeeHaven Farms
Res. Calf Champion Male	Donaleen Jackpot	Donaleen Blondes, ON	Willow Spring Stock Farm
Junior Champion Female	Little Creek Honey Moo Moo 21H	Little Creek Farms, AB	Forest View Farms
Res. Junior Champion Female	Crystal Harper	Crystal Farms, ON	Little Creek Farms
Junior Champion Male	Franmar Harley	Franmar Blondes, ON	McGillis Acres
Res. Junior Champion Male	Ridge View Hunker Down	Ridge View Blondes, ON	Alberta Blonde Association
Senior Champion Female	Crystal Abbey with calf Crystal Java	Crystal Farms, ON	One Oak Blondes
Res. Senior Champion Female	Crystal Dawn with calf Crystal Jethro	Crystal Farms, ON	Dusty Acre Blondes
Senior Champion Male	Fee Haven Gold Rush	Fee Haven Farms, ON	TDFER's
Res. Senior Champion Male	Langstaff Frank	Stonewall Farms, ON	Shiestel Blondes

Calving and Post-Calving Complications

Dystocia or difficult birth is a common problem in beef herds. Dystocias are associated with increased stillbirths, increased death in calves in the first 30 days of life, increased days open, delayed return to estrus (heat) as well as milk production.

Stages of Calving: Calving is broken down into three stages.

	Stage 1: Cervix Dilation	Stage 2: Active Labour	Stage 3: Delivery of Placenta
What's Happening	Calf increases activity and moves into the cervical canal.	Uterine contractions resulting in delivery of the calf.	Uterus continues to contract to expel the placenta/ cleanings.
How Long Does It Take?	1-24 hours	30-60min (cow) 60-90min (heifer)	6-12 hours
What You May See	Restlessness Reduced appetite Isolation from herd mates Mild discomfort signs Arched back Tail Swishing/ Elevated Water breaks	Frequent rising and lying down Lying down or standing Forceful abdominal contractions Delivery of the calf	Mild/ moderate abdominal contractions

Calving Instances Requiring Veterinarian Intervention

1. If the cow has made no progress in 30 minutes of Stage 2.
2. If you can't figure out what the problem is in 15 minutes.
3. If you know what the problem is but cannot figure out how to correct it in 15 minutes.
4. If you know what the problem is and know how to correct it BUT can't correct it in 15-30 minutes.

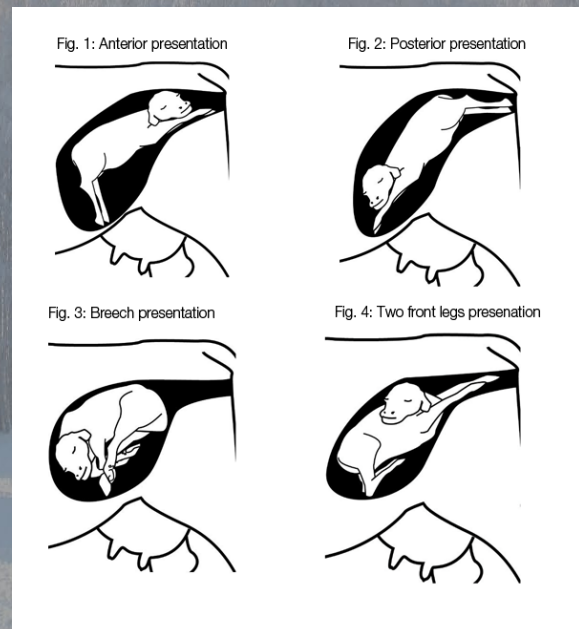
Common Causes of Dystocia

1. The calf is too big This is especially common in first-calf heifers which are 2.5 times more likely to require assistance than older cows.

2. Improper positioning of the calf Calves are normally born "diving into the world" as seen in Figure 1. But any variety of positions are possible, Figure 2-4 indicate some of the most common malpresentations.

3. Poor or incomplete dilation If the calf is not presenting properly, then the cervix may not dilate completely. When a calf comes "diving in" as the uterus contracts it pushes more of the calf through the cervix to gradually dilate it; first by the feet then the head, shoulders and finally the hips. If the calf's head is back for example then this delays dilation of the cervix and vulva.

4. Uterine torsion These cows appear to be in Stage 1 and never progress to Stage 2. When you reach into her vagina everything feels very tight and you feel your arm twist off in one direction instead of reaching straight ahead. A uterine torsion means that the uterus has twisted around on



itself which needs to be corrected prior to giving birth. If you suspect a torsion, please contact the vet IMMEDIATELY for assistance.

5.Uterine interia Calving is very physically draining on the cow; it requires a great deal of energy especially if they have been trying for a while. Uterine interia is basically when the uterus fails to contract to expel the calf.

Post-Calving Complications There are many complications that can occur after calving. The following are the most common.

1.Retained Placenta (RP) This may or may not be a common problem on your farm. Many cows pass the placenta or afterbirth within 24hours of calving. If she does not, you should NOT attempt to remove it. This can cause damage to the uterus and impair future reproduction. Treatment is not necessary unless it develops into an infection in the uterus and the cow is visibly sick (see below “infection in the uterus”). If you experience high levels (>10%) of RPs, contact your nutritionist to discuss prevention.

2.Uterine Prolapse This typically occurs immediately after calving but is possible in the first 24 hours. The cow continues to push after the calf is out and proceeds to push out her uterus. THIS IS A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY AND YOU NEED TO CALL THE VET IMMEDIATELY. It can happen to any cow, however risk factors include: dystocia/ hard pull calvings, milk fever, calving environment (i.e. downhill), and thin cows.

3.Down Cow Following calving, if a cow is unable to stand up, there are many possible reasons why such as milk fever, a pinched nerve, low phosphorus, trauma or an infection. The cause needs to be determined ASAP because permanent muscle damage occurs quickly. Don't hesitate to call the vet if you can't determine the cause promptly.

4.Infection in the uterus (metritis) This is due to bacteria entering the uterus at the time of calving and is usually preceded by the cow having an RP. These cows have a significant fever and are visibly sick with a reduced appetite. These cows require antibiotics and may require other supportive care including anti-inflammatory/pain medication and fluid therapy (either IV or orally).

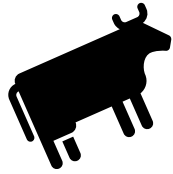
To ensure an uneventful calving season, ensure that there is lots of space in your well-bedded calving pen and keep a vigilant eye on those close to calving. If you have any questions or concerns about ensuring a successful calving season then please discuss with your veterinarian. Here's to happy healthy cows and calves.



Jenn originally grew up in Southwestern Ontario surrounded by both dairy and beef cattle. She attended the University of Guelph for her undergraduate and Master's degree then attended the Ontario Veterinary College. She currently lives and practices in Ontario.

Dr. Jenn Reynen

Calving Pen Tid Bits



A calf should receive a minimum of 4 L of quality colostrum within the first 4 hours of life to ensure it receives adequate antibodies for its immune system.

Calves that underwent a difficult birth will benefit from a dose of anti-inflammatory medication.

It is good practice to give the calf a Selenium and Vit E injection within 12 hours of birth. Both may be deficient and play an important role in the immune system.

Droopy ears can be a sign of general calf malaise. Check for scours, navel infection or any bodily injury

A healthy calf has warm ears, nose and hooves

Normal cow temperature is 37.8-39.5 °C (100.0-102.5 °F) and normal temperature for a calf is slightly higher at 38.6-39.4 °C (101.5-103.0 °F)

*Forty Acre Blondes
Wishes you a Merry Christmas*

*Polled Fullblood and Purebred
Bulls for Sale*

Call Don at 306-421-6987

fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net



ONTARIO



BLONDE d'Aquitaine



Thank you to the consignors, buyers, bidders, & attendees at the 21st Annual

Cream of the Crop Sale!

Wishing You a Healthy, Prosperous, & Resilient 2022!

Congratulations to the People's Choice Award Winners - The First Tie in History!



Fee Haven Harmony 323H

Consigned by Fee Haven Farms, Waubashene, ON
Purchased by Bar K Farms, Manotick, ON
Banner Sponsored by Little Creek Farms



Bar K Gumdrop 24G

Consigned by Bar K Farms, Manotick, ON
Purchased by Bill & Brigette Reid, Oxford Station, ON
Banner Sponsored by Acres Farms

High Selling Bull: Langstaff Hercules 8H
Consigned by John Langstaff, Sombra, ON
Purchased by Shelbramack Blondes, Sunderland, ON



Thank you to Rick and Jan Drinkill of Forest View Farms for their generous donation of Forest View Journey 9J. A total of \$5770 was raised for the OBDA. Congratulations to Shane & Nicole Baker and Family of Shelbramack Blondes for winning the heifer!

High Selling Female: Crystal Chantel 3C
Consigned by Jarmo Miedema, Brucefield, ON
Purchased by Crystal Farms, Jasper, ON

