

# Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

## NEWSLETTER *May 2005*

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### Canadian Board of Directors

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Another spring has rolled around with sales at the Bull Test Stations and results of the tests. Hats off to the Breeders who take the time and endure the extra costs to take bulls to the test stations and as a result benefitting the breed with test data

Members from across the country ask what they can do as producers to help in the promotion of the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed. To make our breed more competitive and stand out in the industry, more breed data is needed. This breed lacks performance information. There are some terrific Blonde bulls and females out there, but no one knows about them except the owner. We are still the Best Kept Secret in the beef industry.

A tool that is under utilized is live animal ultrasound technology. Today, more than ever, selection for carcass traits is very important. Through collection of ultrasound data, genetics that improve carcass quality and lean meat yield may be identified. More of this information is needed. Producers should be encouraged to gather and submit ultrasound data to the office for promotional distribution.

A few members that have done ultrasound testing on their bulls this spring have asked that they be given recognition when using the data that they themselves paid for and submitted. The members that take the initiative to help promote the breed as a whole, should be recognized, even if it is only to have their name published with the data.

Is anyone planning a Blonde event in your area or province. It does not need to be a field day at a farm. As everyone is very busy these days, but a gathering at a camp ground or at a hall, with a beef lunch and a drive out to the pasture to look at some cattle. If you would like people to commit their attendance, collect a lunch fee in advance. If anyone is interested in hosting such an event, please contact the office. People travel far and wide these days, when driving through another province and if there was an event going on, breeders would certainly stop. Some may even make a special trip for the occasion.

**July 8 - 17** ... Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Alberta

**August 20 - 21** ... Hastings County Plowing Match, Hastings, Ont

**Sept 20 - 24** ... International  
Plowing Match, Listowel, Ont

**November 4 -13** ... Farm Fair,  
Edmonton

**November 4 -13** ... Royal  
Winter Fair, Toronto



# PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS



## Man-Sask News



The winter bull test season is now over and the Association is turning its attention to supporting summer 4-H activity. Nine 4-H members in Manitoba have registered purebred

Blonde and Blonde-sired calves at summer show events around the province. Man-Sask encourages this participation with a certificate of achievement and a cash award of \$20.00 for each participant. The Association also provides general support to 4-H activity in Manitoba at the Silver Level (\$150 per year). Both forms of support are sustained under the Association's Junior Club account. Similar support is available for Saskatchewan 4-H members but none typically apply.

Speaking of the bull test season, an official Blonde test was run during the winter of 2004-2005 at the Test Station at Douglas, Manitoba. Out of 12 Blonde bulls consigned in the test, four qualified for the Sale on April 2, 2005, reflecting the high standards for determining sale-eligibility. The Sale crowd was thinner than in past years. Two Blonde bulls sold, with the high-selling bull, Blue Diamond Primo ARI 99P consigned by Blue Diamond Blondes, fetching \$3250. Both Blonde bulls were bought by James and Lori Ford of JNL Ranches Ltd. at Chinook, Alberta. The Sale average for the Blondes was recorded at \$2550. The sale-topping and the sale-average figures for the Blondes were comparable to those figures for the other breeds in the Sale. The percentage of the animals on offer that were actually sold was also similar for all ten breeds represented in the 2004-2005 test.

The Douglas Test Station also runs a Replacement Heifer Development Program. Six purebred Blonde and Blonde-sired heifers were consigned to this program in 2004-2005. As an optional part of this program, ultrasound tests for carcass evaluation are conducted. All six Blonde heifers were ultrasound-tested. The Blonde heifers recorded a breed-average lean meat yield of 64.14 percent and a breed-average weight-adjusted ribeye area of 1.25 square inches per 100 pounds of weight, good enough to put the Blondes in the top two breeds in the program. On an individual basis, a Blonde sired heifer consigned by Blue Diamond Blondes had the highest individual lean meat yield, at 65.81 percent, of all 26 heifers evaluated. At 1.35 square inches per 100 pounds of weight, this same heifer had the second highest weight-adjusted ribeye area of all heifers evaluated.

The Blonde bulls also performed well in the ultrasound tests that are mandatory for all Sale-eligible bulls at the Douglas Test Station. With breed averages of 1.12 square inches per 100 pounds of weight for weight-adjusted ribeye area and 64.31 percent for lean meat yield, the Blondes were one of the top two breeds in the tests. The Blondes exhibited enough fat cover for efficient carcass processing, minimizing trim waste, and enough marbling to produce lean and tender beef.

The high-gaining Blonde bull in the 2004-2005 bull test was Blue Diamond Primo ARI 99P, consigned by Blue Diamond Blondes, who recorded an average daily gain of 3.62 pounds per day.

Garland Laliberte, President



## Man-Sask Blonde d'Aquitaine Association Lean and Naturally Raised Blonde d'Aquitaine Get Premiums!!

*Cattle & Co. Investments Inc. is Procuring  
Cattle in Canada for Laura's Lean Beef.*

### Cattle Specifications

Laura's Lean Beef is an all-natural branded beef company in Lexington, Kentucky. We are looking for lean, heavily-muscled steers and heifers that are at least exotic. The more defined the muscle of calves the better they will yield grade and the greater the bonus potential. Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle are one of the preferred breeds for this program; proving to generate high premiums and bonuses with Laura's Lean Beef.



### Keep Your Marketing Options Open!

Keep detailed records on all calves born this year to be eligible for the most profitable marketing opportunities. Laura's Lean Beef requires certain practices to meet the growing requirements:

- Hormone (implant) free
- Antibiotic Free (includes Rumensin)
- Weaning and Yearling Vaccinations & Internal/External Parasite Control
- Castration (after weaning preferred to get maximum lean meat yields)

# PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

**Excellent Bonus Opportunities!!!  
Please Call For Full Details!!**

Jennifer Wood	Sheena Fox
Cattle & Co. Investments Inc.	Viewtrak Technologies Inc.
780-456-4642	780-456-2207
780-910-6622	780-918-9991

Eastern Canada: Brian Pogue at BIO: 519-767-2665

***Laura's Lean is one more Reason  
to Raise Blonde d'Aquitaine!!***



## Alberta News

Alberta is keeping the Blonde breed in focus by publishing the Alberta Breeders Directory earlier this year.

Again this year there were Blonde steers in the Olds Collage Steer-a-Year Program. The program got started in the early 80's with just one breed, and has now grown to 20 Breed Associations participating. The Blonde breed has been involved with the project for the past 12 years. This program allows the students to gain experience in finishing all different breeds on test. It also provides breed Associations the opportunity to promote their breed to the students and the public. This Project is show-cased at the annual spring Open House. Over the past 12 years the Blonde steers on test have shown themselves to be placed within the top 6 in performance, exceeded average results in Average Daily Gain, feed efficiency and cutability. Also noted was their docile temperament.

Needless to say, the Steer-a-Year Program is providing positive exposure for the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed. This year we have 5 steers from Colin and Felicity Manuel of Shambini Farms representing our breed. We would like to thank Colin for taking the time and committing to the Steer Trial.

The Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine has in 2004 reduced its advertising due to a tight financial budget. To replace newspaper advertising, the Alberta Association had a display booth at the Camrose Bull Congress and the Stettler Bull Congress with plans to continue this sort of advertising in the coming year. We are also looking into purchasing some office equipment so we can get more newsletters out at a lower cost.

Thank You to Myrna Flesch and Shirley Bilton of West Wind Blondes for sending up a Bull to display at the Camrose Bull Congress, and also a Thank You to Harry Nauenburg and family for manning the booth.

The Bull Test at Cattleland Feedyards, Strathmore had 7 Blonde bulls on test this year, with a total of 47 bulls of all breeds. We had some great comments on the bulls, such as, when it got cold they just keep eating at the same rate while the others in the pen increased their feed intake greatly. Also another comment was that they keep the pen quite and were a great bunch of bulls to work with. This year there was an all breeds bull sale at Cattleland. The prices were nothing to brag about in all breeds. The Blonde bulls that sold averaged \$1800.00. This was also a first for Cattleland's new Bull Management Team, next year will be bigger and better.

4-H sales are just getting started here in Alberta, most of the shows are held in the latter part of May and on through June. We would like to wish all the 4H members the best with there animals. Send us your pictures and results and we will get them on our 4-H page.



## Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

Marcel Lachance, President  
Laverne McGee, Vice President  
Directors - Murphy Baker, Steve Acres, Sharon Machina,  
Sheila McNevean, John Vink



## Quebec Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

France Vaudry, President  
Edgar Ritchie, Vice - President  
Directors - Laurent Desrosiers, Clemence Landry,  
Jacques Deslandes, Andre Cyr, Daniel Breton, Philip  
Langlois

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

**The reduced rate for registrations and  
transfers will end August 31, 2005**

**As of September 1, 2005 the rates  
will be back to the regular price.**

# ANNUAL MEETING 2005

## NOTICE OF 32nd ANNUAL MEETING CANADIAN BLONDE D'AQUITAINE ASSOCIATION



Take Notice that the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Members of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association will be held at: London, Ontario Friday, October 28, 2005.

Registration 9:00 a.m. Call to order 9:45 a.m.

- For purpose of receiving report of the officers
- And the Financial Statement of the Association
- For the appointments of the Auditors
- To receive the results of the election of Directors, and for the transactions of such other business as may come before the meeting.

## NOMINATIONS REPORT

Directors completing Term of Office

- Rheo Machina ( 3 years )
- Roger Paulgaard ( 3 years )
- Debbie Elliott ( 3 years )

Chairman / Nominations: Rheo Machina  
Phone: 519-327-8646  
Fax: 519-327-8772

Please contact Rheo if you will let your name stand or have a person to nominate. Nominations will also be received from the floor.

## NOTICE FOR BYLAW CHANGES

If you would like any changes to the By-Laws of the Blonde d'Aquitaine Association, send your amendments to the office by AUGUST 10, 2005. An official notice of the AGM with proposed Amendments will be sent out 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

# PROMOTION IDEAS

Are there any 4H members showing Blonde animals? Please send pictures and write-ups to the office. The animal does not need to be Grand Champion, if we could show that the breed is out there, it would be a plus. If you know a producer who purchased a bull from you who has children in 4H, get some information on their club and the animals and send it to the office. We cannot promote if we do not have the material to promote with.



If you are a consumer that is not familiar with the cattle industry, you just know you like steak and hamburger, and you hear that cull cows are slaughtered for food consumption. Do you not

picture a sick animal or one that barely gets around.

What I am getting at is the word "cull" cow. We need to call it something different. We in the industry know that cull can mean a young animal that is sent to market for various reasons. If a young cow takes a round out of the owner she is "called" a lot of things and is also culled because of her actions, not her age.

The industry has to replace the word cull to make it more appropriate and appealing to the consumer.

## PRIZE MONEY FOR CARCASS COMPETITION

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association Board of Directors have offered to personally put up prize money for a BLONDE D'AQUITAINE influence carcass class.



Anyone wishing to contribute to the prize money for this class, please contact the Canadian office, as

**NO MONIES WILL BE USED FROM THE  
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THIS  
COMPETITION.**

# IN THE NEWS



## CLRC REPORT

Rheo Machina

The CLRC Annual General Meeting was held on April 2, at the Lord's Elgin Hotel in Ottawa. John Ferrier represented our breed in my absence. John spoke very highly of the people he met. He mentioned the "main point was finances"! Ron Black presented a memoir of CLRC from 1905 to 2005. Ron Black will be sending a copy of the Meeting proceedings to all breed associations.

CLRC has been in transition with new office equipment and personnel. We need to be patient with CLRC at this time of transition. An administration fee of \$6.85 (\$6.40 + GST) has been added to Blonde breeder transactions earlier in the year! Please remember to submit this figure each time you submit something to CLRC. We recommend that you try to do as much business (ie. registrations, transfers, etc.) in a single envelope.

### Performance

The Performance committee has been working diligently to keep up with the bull & heifer data as it became available. All the EOT results can be viewed on the Canadian website.

The Board passed a motion to recognize breeders across the country who performance evaluate. Each breeder participant will be receiving a performance certificate recognizing their participation in performance testing. The Top bull (in a provincially recognized centre) of each Provincial Association will be receiving a plaque and a \$50 credit at CLRC.

## NEWS CLIPS

### China culls 4,000 cattle in bid to contain foot-and-mouth

Chinese officials say that they have culled over 4,000 head of cattle in an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the provinces of Shandong and Jiangsu. These include infected animals and herd mates.



The 3,771 cattle destroyed joined 512 from the Hebei province which were announced earlier. An official said that the outbreak is now under control.

## SALE RESULTS



### Douglas, Manitoba

#### Bull Test

The high seller in the Blonde breed was the High Gaining bull, Blue Diamond Prima ARI 99P consigned by Garland Laliberte and Dave Gerega of Blue Diamond Blondes of Roblin, Manitoba. James & Lori Ford of Chinook, Alberta purchased ARI 99P for \$3250.00

### Listowel, Ontario Pick of the Crop Bull Sale

The high seller was consigned by Bill Stocks of Maple Valley Farms, Badjeros, Ontario and sold to Bill Weir of Glencairn, Ontario for \$3150.00.

### Douglas, Ontario Bull Test

One Blonde bull was offered for sale and brought \$1950.00

### St.Martin, Quebec Bull Test

Michel Bougie had the high seller which brought \$3600.00.

## CANADIAN BLONDES WEBSITE

The website is a medium by which people across the world can view our breed. It has been updated very regularly with information concerning Board minutes, bull & heifer test data, profiles, and other information. Check it out, hundreds of people a month do!



[www.airenet.com/canadianblondes](http://www.airenet.com/canadianblondes)

### MARKET YOUR SEEDSTOCK ONLINE

Currently, text only ads on the Marketplace page are free. Ads with pictures are charged \$5 per picture. Why not advertise your bulls, cows, heifers, semen or embryos where the world can see what you have available.

**INFORMATION CAN BE SENT TO THE OFFICE:  
FAX 403-276-7577  
E-MAIL [cbda@airenet.com](mailto:cbda@airenet.com)**

# IN THE NEWS

## IMPORT / EXPORT REPORT

### Innovative Breeders seek Alternatives

Ian Kruis of Knox Innovations Inc. ventured to southwest France last year. Ian was on the pursuit of "new Blonde d'Aquitaine genetics". Ian's former connections in France landed him at Elevange du Blonde d'Aquitaine home of Earl Puech in the Senoullac, Tarn region. It was here that Ian found one of the most prestigious Blonde herds in France. With the help of Earl and a number of other Blonde Breeders, Ian brought back 15 embryos from four different cow families mated to four different bull families!

Stan & Sarah Konschuh of Westlane Farms sent embryos to Europe!

Rheo & Sharon Machina of MBRHEO Cattle Co. Inc. sent 16 embryos to New Zealand!

MBRHEO Cattle Co. Inc. sent 17 embryos to Denmark!

These breeders need to be commended for their progressive and positive actions during this crisis that the beef industry is in!! If there are other breeders who are taking initiative promoting the breed outside of Canada, we would like to hear from you.

## BIO HOME TEST

### West Wind Blondes, Stavely, Alberta

Ultrasound Report: Average Ultrasound report on 18 bulls scanned February 28, 2005.

Age (days) .....	383
Weight (lbs) .....	1190
REA (sq. in.) .....	14.5
Adj. REA (sq. in.) .....	1.22
Back Fat (mm) .....	3
Marble (%) .....	3.21
Adj. Marble (%) .....	3.06

All the bulls were scanned Grade A

REA = Rib Eye Area  
ULMY = Lean Meat Yield



Thank you to Myrna Flesch and Shirley Bilton of West Wind Blondes for sending their results to the Canadian office.

## CCIA (Canadian Cattle Identification Agency)

September 1, 2006 - All Cattle leaving their herd of origin are to be tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag.

### Important Guidelines for Producers

- The CCIA encourages all producers to replace lost tags at every possible intervention.
- Tags should be applied according to manufacturer's directions.
- If you apply a CCIA tag to an animal that is already tagged, the CCIA requires notification of the cross-referenced numbers.
- CCIA tags should never be re-used.
- Records of the ID number of re-tagged animals (ie. animals who have lost tags) should be kept along with any known information of where they came from.
- CCIA tags should not be removed from an animal that is already tagged unless the number has been retired from the CCIA database as in the case of dead or exported animals.
- Please ensure numbers on CCIA approved tags remain visible.
- Upon amendment of the regulations (expected in 2005) the exemptions for cattle returning to their original herd will be removed. These will require all cattle going to registered community and comingled pastures, cattle shows, test stations and vet clinics to be tagged with an approved CCIA tag. The exemption allowing untagged cattle to be transported to an approved tagging facility will remain.

## \$\$\$\$ EAR TAG SALE \$\$\$\$

**The Office has 200 Blonde blank bar coded eartags and 150 Blonde numbered bar coded eartags.**

**Price: \$1.00 each in packages of 50.**  
You will not be able to purchase these tags after July 1st, 2005

**At a \$1.00 apiece, they will be perfect for in herd identification.**

**This price is on a first come, first served basis. Call the office to order your tags.**