



Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

Winter 2011 Newsletter

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Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association
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Fax: 613-731-0704
E-Mail: cbda@clrc.ca

2010 NATIONAL
BLONDE D'AQUITAINE
SHOW & SALE



Owned with Little Creek Blondes

ARSHA'S POLLED UMPIRE 219U

Homozygous Polled Fullblood
2010 National Champion Bull

His first offspring are moderate birthweight, moderate framed, deep bodied and easy fleshing. Two of his daughters are pictured below.



HE WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE
SUMMER 2012



WSS XTRAVAGANT 66X

Junior Champion 2011 Expo Boeuf
Res. Junior Champ 2011 National Show
Sold: 2011 National Sale to Ryland Cleary

WSS XCLAMATION 61X

2nd in Class to Xtravagant 2011 National
Sold: 2011 National Sale to Paul Fee



WSS XPLOER 30X (ET)

Sire: WSS Rex 6R

Test gain: 3.86 lbs/day Index: 107

WPDA: 3.43 lbs/day Index: 109

Carcass = 2nd Largest adjusted REA at
1.51 inches/100 lbs



WSS XCALIBUR 47X (polled PB)

Sire: Tito (French Import)

2010 National Champion Bull Calf

Test gain: 3.74 lbs/day Index: 103

WPDA: 3.58 lbs/day Index: 114

Carcass = Largest REA and Largest
adjusted REA at 1.53 inches/100 lbs
& tied for the highest marbling score



Coming 2 year old
bulls **FOR SALE now!**
Yearling bulls available
summer 2012



Thank You to all of our bidders and these buyers in 2011:
John Langstaff
Ryland Cleary

Russell Zilinski
Paul Fee

Rheo Machina
Carmen Morris



Check our website for an updated 2012 Semen & Embryo catalogue. We have a wide selection of rare semen and embryos for sale. Call or email for more information.



Breeding Stock available for Sale at all times. Check out our replacement heifer pen!

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Stock Farm

Reed & Michelle Rigney & Family
Westlock, Alberta
Ph: (780) 348-5308
Cell: (780) 307-2702
Email: rigney@clearwave.ca
Web: www.wsscattle.ca



President's Message

"Tis the Season to be Jolly" – that sums up the cattle markets this fall.

A thank you to the Ontario Blonde Association for a successful show and sale in Lindsay in late September. Sale prices were brisk setting a positive tone in the market for blondes.

We are looking forward to the 2012 Annual General Meeting and Show at Victoriaville, Quebec on the Thanksgiving weekend.

Be sure to check out the article in the following pages which sets out the New Fees for DNA. Your board negotiated a substantial reduction to these costs with SRC.

Bull Tests are underway from Alberta to Ontario. If you are in the market for a new herdsire, now is the time to look them over while selection is at its highest.

May I take this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from myself and your Canadian Board Members.

Sincerely,
Myrna Flesch
Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine President

Message de la Présidente

"C'est la saison festive" – c'est vraiment le sommaire du marché de boeuf cet automne.

Je tiens à remercier la Société Blonde d'Aquitaine de l'Ontario pour leurs efforts au mois de septembre lors de l'exposition et vente à Lindsay. Les prix de vente étaient très positives et étaient un encouragement pour le marché Blonde d'Aquitaine.

Nous avons tous hâte à l'Assemblée générale annuelle 2012 qui aura lieu à Victoriaville, Québec le weekend de l'Action de Grâce.

N'oubliez pas de lire l'article dans les pages suivantes concernant la nouvelle tarification pour les tests ADN. Votre Conseil d'administration a négocié une réduction des frais avec le CRS.

Les épreuves de taureaux ont commencés de l'Alberta à l'Ontario. Si vous êtes dans les marchés pour un nouveau taureau de troupeau, regardez-les dès maintenant afin d'avoir un meilleur choix.

Au nom du Conseil d'administration, je désire vous souhaiter un Joyeux Noël et une Bonne et Heureuse Année.

Sincèrement
Myrna Flesch
Président, Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine



Thanks. It's the one and only word that always comes with a memory -- the memory of something good, something thoughtful, something helpful. Said from the heart, it's the best word to celebrate great endings or new beginnings. And it's not just the word, but everything it means: "We noticed We are grateful ... You made a difference ... We appreciate you and all that you do."

Thanks to the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association and all the volunteers at this year's Canadian National Show & Sale!



Steven J Acres, Acres Farms

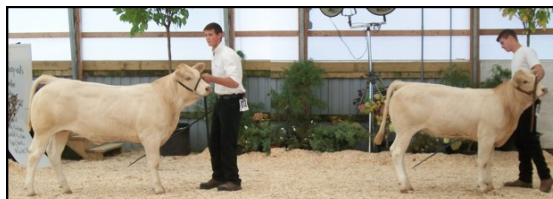
Wish our buyers and fellow Blonde breeders a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



Bulls on Test at Douglas #1 and #2
Sires WSS Rex, Double K Diesel & SJF Titan
Watch their progress at www.biobeef.com.

Thanks to our 2011 buyers!

William Slater, Phyllis Dubeau,
Gerald Lynott Pine Ridge Farm, Mackenzie
Vivian, Ryan Moore, Layton Brundage
*We wish you all the very best
with your investments.*



*Our Show Heifers at the 2011
Canadian National in Lindsay, Ontario.*

2166 McGee Sd. Rd., Carp, Ontario K0A 1L0 ... 613-836-4190

CLRC will be closed from December 24, 2011 to January 02, 2012 inclusive.

Friendly reminders on ad deadlines for the quarterly newsletter are sent to members with e-mail addresses. If you do not have an e-mail address, mark your calendar today, and get your ad to us this coming February.

You'll be glad you did!

AD RATES

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>GST</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full page	\$150.00	\$7.50	\$157.50
1/2 Pg	55.00	2.75	57.75
1/4 Pg	40.00	2.00	42.00
1/8 Pg	20.00	1.00	21.00



Member Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter features events, articles, and programs of interest to members of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. The newsletter is e-mailed to all members with e-mail addresses, and posted on the Canadian website. Those without an e-mail address receive the newsletter by Canada Post.



Toll Free

1-877-833-7110

Issue
Spring
Summer
Fall
Winter

Deadline
March 1
June 1
September 1
December 1

Distributed
March 15
June 15
September 15
December 15

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association is not responsible for any claims made in an advertisement appearing in this newsletter.

2012 Board of Directors ...

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L. Pierre Léger	1177 - 34c Av St-Zotique, QC J0P 1Z0	450-267-9160	450-267-9166	phanica@hotmail.com
Ron MacArthur	735 Salisbury Road	506-382-6630		rmacarthur@rogers.com

MARKET YOUR SEEDSTOCK ONLINE

Why not advertise your bulls, cows, heifers, semen or embryos where the world can see what you have available! If you have any bulls or females for sale, embryos or semen, or are looking to buy, this is the place for you. Use the Canadian Blondes marketplace to find livestock, hay, or other items you might want.

Text only ads on the Marketplace page are just \$5!
Ads with pictures are charged \$10 per picture.

FAX OR E-MAIL YOUR INFORMATION:

FAX 905-263-2934

E-MAIL President Myrna Flesch at
westwind@telusplanet.net

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 & committee reports since 2005.

KAM BLONDES

Karl & Ann Musgrove

Box 106, Charlie Lake, BC V0C 1H0
(Charlie Lake is near Fort St. John)

Phone: 250-262-3278

"Keeping the Commercial Man in Mind"

It's Bull Test Time!!

Remember, Bull Tests are now underway. The following Bull Tests are taking place this year: Alberta Test at Strathmore – 18 bulls; West Wind Blondes BIO Test – 8 bulls; Man-Sask at Douglas, MB – 2 bulls; Ontario at Douglas – 10 bulls; Bar 5 in Ontario – 2 bulls. Following the results is a great way to help you select bulls for your own breeding program.

2011 National Blonde Show Results

By Reed Rigney

The Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association combined their 2011 sale with the Elite Canadian National Sale animals that also competed in the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine National Show at the Lindsay Exhibition on Sunday, September 25th. These are the Show Results.

BULL CALF (6 entries)

- 1st - Hilltop Orchard Farm (HOF Yes Sir 114Y)
- 2nd - Crystal Farms (Crystal Young Blood 28Y)
- 3rd - Hilltop Orchard Farm (HOF Yankee 90Y)

BULL CALF CHAMPION & RESERVE - Hilltop Orchard Farm (HOF Yes Sir 114Y)
RESERVE BULL CALF CHAMPION - Crystal Farms (Crystal Young Blood 28Y)

YEARLING BULL (3 entries)

- 1st - Donaleen Blondes (Brilleen Xcitor)
- 2nd - Ian Kruis (Knox Xman)
- 3rd - Ian Kruis (Pleasant Valley Xpert)

JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL - Donaleen Blondes (Brilleen Xcitor)
RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION BULL - Ian Kruis (Knox Xman)

TWO YEAR OLD BULL (2 entries)

- 1st - Crystal Farms (Crystal Waldo 23W)
- 2nd - High Rock Farms (High Rock Whopper 15W)

SENIOR CHAMPION BULL Crystal Farms (Crystal Waldo 23W)
RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION BULL High Rock Farms (High Rock Whopper 15W)

GRAND CHAMPION BULL - Crystal Farms (Crystal Waldo 23W)
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL - High Rock Farms (High Rock Whopper 15W)



Grand Champion Female, Crystal Winnie 4W
Shown by Crystal Farms



Grand Champion Bull, Crystal Waldo 23W
Shown by Crystal Farms

Pictures courtesy of Judy Baker, Butternut Blondes

HEIFER CALF (6 entries)

- 1st - High Rock Farms (High Rock Yee-Haw 2Y)
2nd - Hilltop Orchard Farm (HOF Yes 128Y)
3rd - Donaleen Blondes (Lavelaines Yolanda)

HEIFER CALF CHAMPION

High Rock Farms (High Rock Yee-Haw 2Y)

RESERVE HEIFER CALF CHAMPION

Hilltop Orchard Farm (HOF Yes 128Y)

JUNIOR YEARLING HEIFER (7 entries)

- 1st - Willow Spring Stock Farm (WSS Xtravagant 66X)
2nd - Willow Spring Stock Farm (WSS Xclamation 61X)
3rd - Crystal Farms (Crystal Xaviera 41X)

SENIOR YEARLING HEIFER (6 entries)

- 1st - Crystal Farms (Crystal Xcellent 8X)
2nd - Little Creek Farm (Little Creek Polled Xample 146X)
3rd - Crystal Farms (Crystal Xandy 11X)

JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Farms (Crystal Xcellent 8X)

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

**Willow Spring Stock Farm
(WSS Xtravagant 66X)**

2 YEAR OLD COW/CALF (3 entries)

- 1st - Crystal Farms (Crystal Winnie 4W)
2nd - Crystal Farms Paul Ferguson (Crystal Walnut 3W)
3rd - Morris Farms (Morris Winona)

MATURE COW/CALF (5 entries)

- 1st - Ian Kruis (JT Lottie)
2nd - Morris Farms (Crystal 12R)
3rd - High Rock Farms (High Rock Gloria 11W)

SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Farms (Crystal Winnie 4W)

RESERVE SENIOR CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Farms (Crystal Walnut 3W)

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

Crystal Farms (Crystal Winnie 4W)

RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE

High Rock Farms (High Rock Yee-Haw 2Y)

BREEDER'S HERD (6 entries)

- 1st - Crystal Farms
2nd - High Rock Farms
3rd - Hilltop Orchard Farm

GET OF SIRE & PROGENY OF DAM

- 1st - Crystal Farms
2nd - Donaleen Blondes

Cow Dispersal

**February 7,
2012**

Shambani Blondes

Due to health reasons, we are dispersing our cow herd.

The following Bred Purebred Blonde
d'Aquitaine cows will be for sale at the

**OLDS AUCTION MART, Olds, Alberta
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th 2012**

West Winds Magdalene 92M

Shambani Mara 8M

Shambani Nakawa 5N

West Winds Natalie 9N

Shambani Nyamasa 55N

Shambani Pesa 83P

Shambani Rai 11R

Shambani Sarafina 6S

Shambani Tango 9T



The following bulls were used:

*Arsha's Polled Usher 248U, Arsha's Polled Upton
50U, Shambani Tusker 7T, Shambani Xhosa 92X Twin
(back-up) & Shambani Wide Load 55W*

For more details on cows/bulls etc. please contact:

Shambani Blondes, Colin & Felicity Manuel

Phone: 403-845-4914

E-Mail: colinmanuel@hotmail.com

"Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all"

Heat stress may cut calf crop next spring

University of Missouri Extension | Updated: August 2011 Drovers Cattle Network

Summer heat stress in cow herds may not show up until much later - at calving time, a University of Missouri Extension specialist told the crowd at the MU Greenley Center field day, Aug. 9.

"I expect to get calls next spring from producers saying that their cows just quit calving," said Zac Erwin, livestock specialist, Monticello, Mo.

Heat stress affects both cows and bulls during breeding season. Bulls go bad, failing to breed cows, and the cows fail to maintain pregnancies. Heat stress occurs most years, but was worse this year, with heat indexes higher than usual.

"We say that it's not the heat but the humidity," Erwin said. "That was true this year, as high humidity makes it difficult for cows to cool down.

"Also, high temperatures at night prevented cows from returning to a temperature-neutral zone."

Cows sweat, but not as much as humans do. They must cool their bodies by panting. Many things can add to heat stress, including hide color, diet and cattle handling.

Shade, under either trees or man-made shelters, can help, Erwin said. Often overlooked is a reliable supply of cool, clean drinking water nearby to help the cows keep cool. Water intake can double to 20 gallons a day in extreme hot weather. "It's best if they don't have to walk more than 500 feet to water in this country," Erwin added.

Water access as well as shade often becomes a problem in "mob" grazing with high animal density on a small paddock.

Keeping shade and water at different parts of the pasture keeps the cows from staying in one place. "When cows congregate under shade and stay there, they are not grazing." Erwin said.

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Research from Oklahoma State shows shade makes a big difference in conception rates of cows. In the study, cows in a control group had 83 percent pregnancies, while those in severe heat stress dropped to 50 percent.

Heat stress is most critical 10 days before and 20 days after breeding.

Producers can improve conception rates in herds by planning the breeding season for cooler parts of the year. "Don't try to breed cows past July 1," Erwin said. "That creates situations where cows won't get bred or can't maintain pregnancies."

Deciding to move away from calving in the cold and snow of February to the warm weather of May and June can put the breeding season into the heat of July and August.

Hardworking bulls might suffer the most in the heat. Lost fertility is something not noticed until it is too late. The bull doesn't stop working, but may not be getting his job done.

"I often hear producers say when cows didn't get bred, 'The bull tested OK before the breeding season. This fall, he tests OK,'" Erwin said.

"Problems can occur between those times. If a bull loses sperm quality, he takes 60 days to recover. That can cause a big gap in calving next spring."

Grouping cows for a shorter breeding season has many benefits, Erwin said. Herds that have their calves in the first 21 days of the calving season are going to be more profitable.

Cows that calve early in the season for their eight

or nine-year life will have the equivalent of one-and-a-half to two more calves due to heavier weaning weights. In addition, a more uniform calf crop brings a premium at sale time.

Shade, water and a breezy resting place help keep cows and bulls cooler. If cows must be worked, do it as early in the morning as possible. "However, that didn't help much this year because night temperatures stayed too high," Erwin added.

The Greenley Center, located one mile east of Novelty, Mo., offers research results for crop and water management, pest control, and beef cows. The farm is located on claypan soils typical of northeastern Missouri.

Visitors at the field day received a 130-page research report on activities at Greenley Center. The farm is a part of the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, part of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Columbia.

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Moncton, NB E1E 1C4

Ph: 506-382-6630


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HELP US "BE GREEN"!

If you have e-mail but are still receiving your newsletter by Canada Post, please send the CLRC your e-mail address. This will save us postage, envelopes, printing, and labour costs. More importantly, it will help us "BE GREEN". Every little bit helps!



TATTOO LETTER FOR 2012 IS "Z"



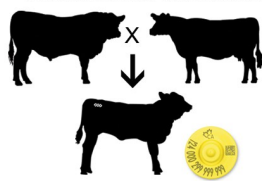

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ePreg - modern handheld pregnancy testing for cows

HEARD Systems has developed a novel approach to diagnosing pregnancy in cows and large farm animals via detecting and processing foetal heartbeat signals (patents pending).

Using unique HEARD technology, novice operators can rapidly diagnose pregnancy by placing the device against the cow, while traditional methods require cows to be rectally examined by an expert.

The ePreg handheld pregnancy testing unit is at beta product stage, and will be commercially available in 2012. The ePreg provides ‘real time any time’ pregnancy testing cow-side.

Other pregnancy testing methods, such as biochemical testing using milk or blood, have been unacceptable to over 99% of farmers due to delays (laboratory testing required), difficulty in getting reliable samples, and high cost.

Farmers would like to test all cows for pregnancy - provided the test is accurate, reliable, simple to use, and cost effective. However, no pregnancy testing product has been available for farmers to use on their cows – until now!

By simply placing a handheld HEARD device against the side of the cow, farmers can test (and retest) individual cows or small groups of animals. This means farmers can diagnose pregnancy in cows on demand, rather than having to schedule a costly visit from an expert or forego testing of single cows.

Farmers can make vital management decisions ‘cow-side’, such as immediately identifying and separating non pregnant cows from the herd.

The HEARD products ensure pregnancy test results are linked to the cow via radio frequency identification (RFID) eartags, to provide an accurate record of pregnancy status. The information then integrates into farm software, and HEARD’s web based system.

Source: <http://www.heardsystems.com.au/index.php?mode=services>



Our Deepest Sympathy

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association, sincere condolences are expressed to the family of Eldred King on his passing in October.

Eldred was a long time member of the Blonde Association.

Condolences are extended to Sharon and Art Breitkreuz and family on the passing of their son/brother and father, Melvin Breitkreuz, in early November.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Acres Farms	4
BIO Beef	9
Blonde Lady Farm	9
Crystal Farms	16
Forty Acre Blondes	IBC
High Rock Farms	15
KAM Blondes	5
Knox Innovations Inc	10
Little Creek Farms	12
Shambani Blondes	7
West Wind Blondes	OBC
Willow Springs Stock Farm	IFC



From the Knox Family!

Thanks to the Langstaff Family of Beavermeadow Blondes and the McGee Family of Rondakk Acres for purchasing our animals at the Cream of the Crop Sale 2011.

6325 Enfield Rd. Hampton, On
905-244-2353
farmerkruis@knoxpumpkinfarm.com

FEE Schedule Changes January 1, 2012

Your Board of Directors has negotiated reduced fees with the Saskatchewan Research Council for DNA services which will result in the following changes to our Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association Fee Schedule. These changes will take effect January 01, 2012.

This will affect the charges for DNA in all instances where you are a member of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. The fees for Non-Members will be double the fees for members, as in the past.

However, you now have two options for sending DNA off to the Lab:

1. If you request a DNA Kit from CLRC you will pay a DNA fee of \$32.00 plus GST. You must then send the hair in the envelope provided within 6 weeks.
2. If you send the hair directly into SRC without getting a DNA Kit from CLRC you will pay a fee of \$37.00 plus GST. *SRC advised us that 37% of our DNA samples are currently sent into them in this manner.*

As you can see, you have a choice, and there may be instances where you may still wish to send the hair to SRC first, but using that method will cost you the additional \$5.00 fee.

The following fees have also been changed:

- Holding Bank Sample (to test parentage when a calf sample is submitted) - \$32.00.
- Holding Bank Sample (to pull from the bank to DNA on its own) - \$32.00.
- Semen Samples send for DNA Testing \$32.00.
- Retesting of DNA sample also \$32.00.

Your Board felt these changes would be welcomed.

Changements dans la tarification, en vigueur le 1 janvier 2012

Votre Conseil d'administration a négocié une réduction de frais ADN chargés par le Conseil de Recherches du Saskatchewan. Les changements à la liste de tarifs de la Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine seront en vigueur à compter du 1 janvier 2012.

Ces changements de frais s'appliquent aux membres de la Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine. Si vous n'êtes pas membre en règle, les frais chargés sont le double, tel que dans le passé.

Vous avez maintenant deux choix lorsque vous envoyez des échantillons au laboratoire:

1. Si vous demandez la trousse auprès de la SCEA, vous payez 32,00\$ plus TPS. Vous devez envoyer l'échantillon dans l'enveloppe fournie, et ce, dans un délai de six semaines.
2. Si vous envoyez l'échantillon de poils divestment au laboratoire sans avoir demandé la trousse auprès de la SCEA, vous payez 37,00\$ plus TPS. *Le laboratoire nous avise que 37% des échantillons sont soumis de cette façon.*

Vous voyez que vous avez maintenant un choix - il y aura des instances où vous voulez envoyer tout de suite l'échantillon mais prenez note que vous allez payer 5,00\$ de plus.

Les frais suivants ont aussi été changés:

- Échantillon en réserve (pour confirmer la parenté lorsqu'un échantillon de veau est soumis) - 32,00\$
- Échantillon en réserve (pour sortir du réserve et effectuer l'analyse ADN de l'échantillon) - 32,00\$
- Échantillon de semence soumis pour analyse ADN - 32,00\$
- Deuxième analyse d'un échantillon déjà soumis - 32,00\$

Votre Conseil d'administration est confiant que ces changements seront appréciés.



It's Time to Renew Your Membership

If you haven't received your renewal notice in the mail yet, please contact Myrna Flesch at westwind@telusplanet.net or 403.549.2371.

Did you know first-time Blonde buyers receive a complimentary one-year membership?

PHOTO CONTEST

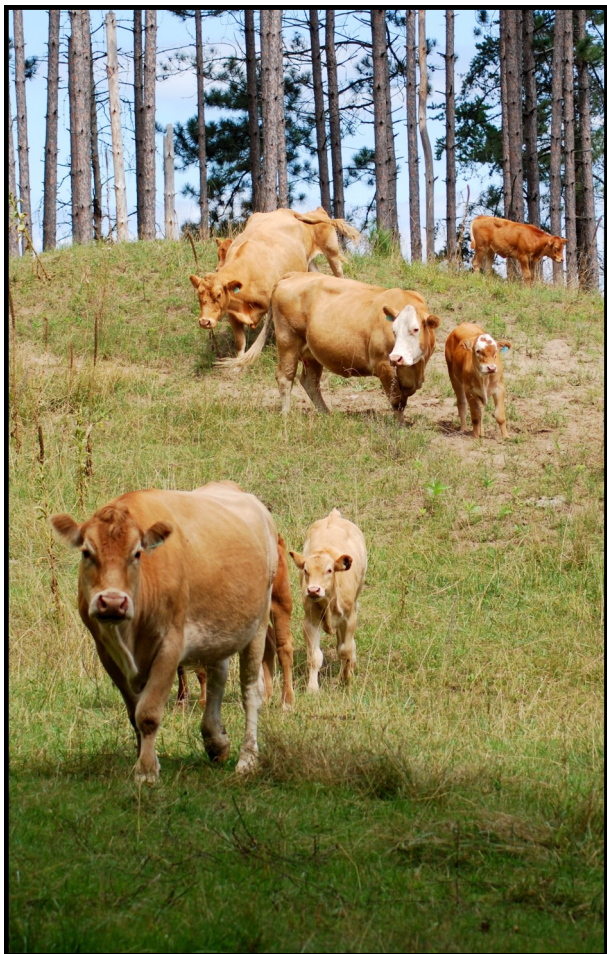


Photo Contest Judge, Kathleen Windsor, is pleased to announce the latest winner of our Photo Contest - Kirk McGee of Rondakk Acres, Condrington, Ontario! Kirk took this picture of the girls as they descend to the sandpit after a hot afternoon spent lounging under the pines.

This entry now gives Kirk a \$25 credit towards Rondakk's next fullblood or purebred registration.

"What I particularly like about this picture is that it is a perfect shot for the front cover of a magazine," says Windsor, "with lots of area for the masthead and content teasers."

The Photo Contest Judging Criteria is on the Association website, with a list of previous winners. This also makes a great 4-H project, so talk to your 4-H leader today!



We accept photos all year long, so make sure you get your pictures to Kathleen at office@windsorgraphics.ca.

Deadline for the next issue is March 1st.

*Merry Christmas from
Little Creek Farms*



David & Janet Kamelchuk
Ellscott, Alberta

780-675-1227

littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com



Bulls on test @ Cattleland Feedyards

Bred heifers for sale summer 2012

Purebreds & Fullbloods

Horned & Polled

Many sired by 2010 National Grand Champion Bull –
Arsha's Polled Umpire

Special thank you to buyers of our cattle in
2011: Lynn Bovee, Paul Fee & Paul Ferguson

News from Alberta

Submitted by Reed Rigney

The AGM for the Alberta Association was held in Leduc on Saturday November 26th. It was delayed one week due to the passing of Art & Sharon Breitzkreuz' son, and we certainly send our deepest condolences to the Breitzkreuz family.



As for Association business, Dave Kamelchuk and Shirley Jackson returned to the board while Harry Nauenburg retired. We would like to thank Harry for the many years of service he has provided.

There were several bylaw changes passed that will make running the Association easier as we move into the near future. There were valid concerns and a lot of discussion regarding the changes, but in the end they were deemed necessary. The balance of the meeting was taken up with discussion on upgrading our display booth and other ways to promote our breed in the upcoming year.

The Alberta Association will once again have a display at the Canadian Bull Congress (Camrose) and the Pembina Bull Breeders "Superbull" (Westlock). We plan to have bulls on display as well as up to date information on the breed. Any breeders wanting to stop in to spend some time promoting their breed are more than welcome.

The Alberta Blonde Bull Test for 2011-2012 is up and running with 18 bulls beginning their warm-up period at Cattleland Feedyards near Strathmore in early November. The official start of test will be in early December, followed by a 112 day test, and an optional carcass ultrasound. Bulls will come off test in early April, and be available for private treaty purchase. Most of the bulls were sold prior to test completion last year, so if you have interest in a bull, don't wait too long to contact the contributor. The results will be posted on our website as they become available, and results from the past two years (including carcass ultrasound) are still posted and available for viewing. If you aren't a computer person, the results can also be sent via fax or mail by contacting the Alberta Association directly. Also if anyone is interested in consigning bulls, please contact us.

www.albertablondcattle.com

News from Man/Sask

Submitted by Pat Filz

Weird year, weird weather! It has to be the only time in the history of man when Saskatchewan is being accused of sending too much WATER to their neighbours!! In an area considered half desert, we have finally joined the reams of people who have too much water. This made life awfully interesting, like as if it was the Dirty Thirties in reverse; too much water instead of dry!



Some parts that did get crops seeded did very well, even if they had to make curves in the fields to get round wet spots. One of our people said he had good crops, then the Great White Combine came and did a number on them. Reports are that the hay crop in general was phenomenal so that part of farming was fine.

With this year of many extremes, there are pluses coming out of it. The prices are up for the cattle industry and the specialty beef market is still doing well. Remember that the Blonde d' Aquitaine breed is exceptionally suited for this market. Ask questions and seek out where you can find a home for your calf crop that will fill a growing market for natural beef. This market is paying up to approximately a 25% premium over market prices. Also Canada is looking strongly at these markets around the world and in a short while, markets will probably be accessible. The recent ruling by the WTO on the US COOL law as violating its commitments to global trade rules, is a step in the right direction of questioning this intrusive imposition on Canada, US beef trade.

With the focus on brighter times for the beef industry, comes the time when prices for purebred animals will also see a positive upswing. As breeders we need to make sure this industry sees the value of the Blonde d' Aquitaine breed and sells on the quality of meat that is brought to the consumer.

This is the time of year when cattle are home, feeding is simple, most are not calving as yet and the expectations for the coming season are bright.

Everyone knows this is "next year" country, so have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NOUVELLES ET SOUHAITS DU QUÉBEC

La race a été représentée à l'Expo de Richmond par la Ferme A & L Cyr, Ferme du Portage, Ferme Super C, Ferme Phanica, Fermes Clearidge et la Ferme Morissey. CLEARIDGE PEPPER 2Y a remporté le titre de Grand Champion et ZC CARL Grand Champion Réserve, PHIL SUMMER a été nommé la Grande Championne et PHANICA NANTUCKET XENA 15X Grande Championne Réserve.

La race a été représentée à l'Expo Bœuf de Victoriaville par la Ferme Phanica, Ferme A & L Cyr, Ferme du Portage, Ferme Super C et les Fermes Clearidge. ZC YOGI 1Y a remporté le titre de Grand Champion et CLEARIDGE PEPPER 2Y le Grand Champion Réserve, ZC TINA 2M a été nommé Grande Championne et ZC DOLLY 10P Grande Championne Réserve.



NEWS AND WISHES FROM QUEBEC

The race was represented at the Richmond Fair by Ferme A & L Cyr, Ferme du Portage, Ferme Super C, Ferme Phanica, Clearidge Farms and Ferme Morissey. CLEARIDGE PEPPER 2Y took away the title of Grand Champion and ZC CARL Grand Champion Reserve, PHIL SUMMER was named Grand Champion and PHANICA NANTUCKET XENA 15X Grand Champion Reserve in the female category.

The race was represented at the Expo Boeuf Victoriaville by Ferme Phanica, Ferme A & L Cyr, Ferme du Portage, Ferme Super C and Clearidge Farms. ZC YOGI 1Y took away the title of Grand Champion and CLEARIDGE PEPPER 2Y Grand Champion Reserve, ZC TINA 2M was named Grand Champion and ZC DOLLY 10P Grand Champion Reserve in the female category.



*Que la paix et le bonheur habitent vos
cœurs à Noël et durant toute l'année
Joyeuses fêtes!*

*Wishing you heart full happiness at Xmas
and all along the year
Happy Holidays*

Association Blonde d'Aquitaine du Québec



Researchers Uncover Genetic Link To Cattle Diseases

The origin of three costly cattle diseases is genetically linked, according to findings from US Dept of Agriculture researchers.

Scientists at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Roman L. Hruska US Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska, have discovered a location on bovine chromosome 20 that is associated with the incidence of the most prevalent bacterial diseases — pinkeye, foot rot and bovine respiratory disease (pneumonia) — that affect feedlot cattle.

ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency, and this research supports USDA's priority of promoting international food security.

Bovine respiratory disease accounts for 75 per cent of feedlot illnesses and up to 70 per cent of all deaths, with economic losses to cattle producers exceeding \$1 billion annually. The estimated costs for pinkeye are \$150 million yearly, and losses to dairy producers due to foot rot range from \$120 to \$350 per animal.

Eduardo Casas, research leader of the Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Research Unit at the ARS National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa, and a former USMARC geneticist, examined the genetic

makeup of cattle for evidence of genes associated with resistance or tolerance to diseases.

Mr Casas and his colleagues combined pinkeye, foot rot and bovine respiratory disease to represent overall pathogenic disease incidence. They developed half-sibling families from crossbreed bulls: a Brahman-Hereford, a Brahman-Angus, a Piedmontese-Angus and a Belgian Blue-MARC III (part Red Poll, Pinzgauer, Hereford and Angus).

An analysis of DNA samples from the 240 offspring infected with one or more of the diseases revealed a genetic marker, called a quantitative trait locus (QTL), on chromosome 20. This QTL is associated with the three diseases.

Chromosome 20 is located near genetic markers related to other diseases and may have a significant effect on the overall health of cattle, according to Mr Casas. Identifying genetic markers responsible for disease would provide an opportunity to produce cattle with increased disease tolerance, which also could help reduce economic loss associated with diseases.

High Rock Farms - Reserve Breeders Herd 2011 National Show



High Rock Whopper 15W
2011 Reserve Champion Senior Bull
2011 Reserve Grand Champion Bull

**Halter Broke, Al'd,
Polled Animals
For Sale!**

**Semen
and Embryos**

*Special thanks to
Robert Smith, Brad
Nelson, & Gord Fetterly
for purchasing cattle
this year.*



High Rock Yee Haw 2Y
2011 Champion Junior Female
2011 Reserve Grand Champion Female



SEASONS GREETINGS!



From High Rock Farms

Jason & Christine, Hannah & Luke van Tol - Peterborough, Ontario
Tel: 705-743-3912 ... Cell: 705-761-4057 ... www.highrockfarms.org

Crystal Farms



Crystal Waldo 23W
Grand Champion Bull at 2011 National Show
 Main Herdsire - Polled Fullblood
 Rheo Lancaster x Hardale Krystelle 47K

	CE	BW	WG	MILK	YG
ABCs:	3	-2.7	65	24	94
W.B.%	97	95	99	92	99



Crystal Winnie 4W with calf at-side
Two-Time National Champion, 2010 & 2011
 New Owner: Ashley McNevan
 Rheo Lancaster x Crystal Paula 17P

Thank you to all our buyers in year 2011!

<u>New Owners</u>		<u>New Owners</u>	
Crystal Yellow Rose 4Y	Bill VanBakel	Crystal Trooper 21X	Dave McNevan
Crystal Yogurt 7Y	Bill VanBakel	Crystal Xcelerate 31X	Dave Spence
Crystal Young Blood 28Y	Dave Kamelchuk & Reed Rigney	Crystal Xtreme 40X	Dave McNevan
Crystal Yahoo 32Y	Dave Kamelchuk	Crystal Winnie 4W	Ashley McNevan
Crystal Yanker 16Y	Carmen Morris	Crystal 12R Twin	Carmen Morris
Crystal Xcellent 8X	Bill VanBakel	Crystal Petula 23P	Bill Reid
Crystal Xplosive 14X	Brent Hughes	Crystal 20M	Bill Reid

Special thanks to Ashley McNevan for showing our cattle at The National Show & Sale!

Wishing everyone all the very best in the new year!



Crystal Farms

Paul & Mary Ellen, Samantha & Phillip Ferguson

RR 3, 21 Crystal Road, Jasper, Ontario K0G 1G0

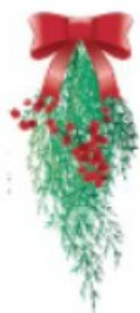
Tel: 613-275-2422

Fax: 613-275-1713

E-Mail: ferguson.maryellen@gmail.com



*MERRY
CHRISTMAS*



& HAPPY NEW YEAR



From Forty Acre Blondes



Don Mehler and Pat Filz Lampman, SK SOC 1N0

Home (306) 634-2174 Cel: (306) 421-6987

fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net

Bulls sold by private treaty from the farm



Happy Holidays!!

Wishing You & Yours
a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season and
a Joyous & Prosperous
New Year!!



From West Wind Blondes

Shirley Bilton • Myrna Flesch

Box 334, Stavely, AB ToL oZo

Ph: 403.549.2371 Fax: 403.549.2374

Email: westwind@telusplanet.net

Check out our Official BIO Bull Evaluation
on our Prospective Herdsire Page:
www.telusplanet.net/public/westwind