

# Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

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## BREEDER PROFILE

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association is pleased to offer this space to profile our breeder members. If your operation has been featured in a magazine or newspaper, please contact Myrna Flesch at [westwind@telusplanet.net](mailto:westwind@telusplanet.net)

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### FORTY ACRE BLONDES

#### "FAB is our farm!"

*Written by Myrna Flesch, January 2006*

"Give Me Forty Acres and I'll Turn this Rig Around" was sung by Don Mehler as he toured through Saskatchewan in his earlier days as a one man Country and Western Band. In 1989, he settled on an acreage north of Estevan, SK - 40 acres to be precise - and Forty Acre Blondes came into being!

Don had farmed with his father, Alphonse in the Estevan area, and had maintained a commercial herd with him. He was familiar with Blondes as they had purchased a bull from Sandgaard Blondes in 1975. Both men had been pleased with the ease of calving, the dispositions and the gain of their blonde calves out of Hereford and Hereford/Charolais cross dams.

When Don returned to his farming roots, it seemed natural to introduce registered Blonde females from Lakeview Blondes Dispersal. From that beginning, he began picking up female Blonde genetics when the opportunity presented itself. Don maintains he bought the "best bulls he could find" for his program.

Partner, Pat Filz, joined the operation in 1995. She too had been raised on a farm but had spent many years being a "city gal". She was impressed with the ease of handling of the breed and appreciated their docile nature - "she had a steep learning curve and didn't want to get injured in the process". "Pat's Pets" started showing up, so named because they easily took to halter training and enjoyed being fawned over. Pat states temperament plays a large part in FAB's selection process.



In 2004, Forty Acres Natzlin 4N, had the highest ADG at 4.38 lbs. of all the Blonde bulls on test in all Canadian Test Stations.

Together, Pat and Don have made a concerted effort to buy the "best from the West". FAB were, at first, interested in polled, purebred animals and had good success resulting in mostly all polled or small scur progeny. When polled fullblood bulls became available, FAB wanted to use them on the fullblood females they had purchased in previous years. Both partners believe it is important to register their Blondes, and feel the breed will strengthen as their high dressing percentage becomes better known.

Forty Acres pedigrees incorporate genetics from several breeders across Western Canada: Sundance Valley, Totonka, Green Meadows, Triple C, West Winds, Sandhill, Hazel Grove, Stoney Creek and Blue Diamond. They also have Blondes out of herds now

only seen in the pedigrees: Roseneath, RTF Blondes, DJK Blondes and Amaryllis Farms. Pat indicated they rely on live sires to service their herd as they are not into AI.

Forty Acres have for several years supported the Man-Sask Bull Tests, first at Neepawa and now at the Douglas Test Station in Manitoba. In 2004, Forty Acres Natzlin 4N, had the highest ADG at 4.38 lbs. of all the Blonde bulls on test in all Canadian Test Stations. They currently have four bulls on test.

As there is no such thing as a farm of only forty acres in Saskatchewan, they have purchased pasture and hayland quarters as land became available in their area. Their pastures are scattered but close enough for daily checks during the summer months on their seventy plus cow herd. This has also allowed them to separate their fullbloods, purebreds and commercial groups. They feel the Blonde factor works well for them.

Forty Acre Blondes are active members in Man-Sask. They purchase and sell Blondes through the Man-Sask Consignment Sales and Bull Test Sales. The bulk of their registered purebred Blonde progeny leave the farm through Private Treaty Sales.

Pat has recently accepted an assignment as Editor of the Man-Sask Blonde Bulletin.

Pat and Don are very happy that the BSE scare is fading and hope to continue raising quality Blonde animals until "health or death stops them".

They proudly say "FAB is our farm!"