

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 Rheo Machina at rheo@mbrheocattle.com.

BLONDE LADY FARM

Impressed with ease in calving and temperament

By Ron MacArthur, March 2005

HELLO.

My name is Ron MacArthur. Together with my wife Margaret, we own Blonde Lady Farm. We have three grown daughters and one son. We also have four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

I was elected to the Blonde d'Aquitaine Board in Victoriaville in October. Our first priority must be to improve our financial situation so we can again start to advertise.

I was raised on a small mixed farm in central New Brunswick. After Margaret and I were married, I got involved with her father racing Standard Breds at a local track and also raising Chinchillas.

We always kept a few crossbred Hereford cows and bred AI to European sires and usually had to have the vet (mostly in the middle of the night) to pull one or two calves.

In 1985, we saw a program on TV from the Nitschkie Farm in Quebec, describing the Blonde cattle and their ease in calving and their temperament. We were very impressed and decided to purchase some Blonde semen. We were pleased with the calves and in 1990 we purchased our first fullblood from Allen Johnston. We have since purchased several more in Ontario through Complete Sales Management.

After retirement with 37 years from CN, the few cows have grown to 30 of which 22 are fullbloods, about half of whom are polled. Cows are by such sires as 801X, 817X, Charlie Brown, Cagney, Clare-ell Max, Mr. Perfection, Encore, Poll Cat and Royal Tradition Two. Most of the cows after one AI service are turned out with a polled son of Cagney.

Cows winter outside, (who said Blondes aren't tough). They have access to the woods and a poll barn with a couple of calving stalls. If you don't watch them close enough, they will calve 20 feet from the door in a lot of new snow.

Because we live in the city with sub-divisions springing up all around us, it is impossible to enlarge, but we are grandfathered so we are alright for now. Because my girls and grandchildren help me, temperament is very important. The best bull I raised ended up at the packers because he gave me a rough time. He was a Royal Tradition Two out of a Guide cow.

I hope to be able to work for you and the betterment of this Association.

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