

# 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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### McINTYRE BLONDES With Roots back to 1887

*Written by Myrna Flesch*

Robert (Bob) McIntyre has farmed for 45 years on the family farm - tracing roots back to 1887. The farm is located south west of Carman, Manitoba on flat, prairie land. Bob proudly told me that the Carman Annual Fair is the oldest continuous fair in Western Canada and began in the late 1800s - he did reveal that he had served on the Ag Society for 30 years. He also told me that Carman was named, like many prairie towns, in honor of its first doctor - Dr. Albert Carman.

Bob was a commercial cattle producer who had a hankering to have a purebred herd. He states he "flirted briefly with Polled Herefords" but realized he was really thirty years too late to break into the polled Hereford market.



One spring day in 1985, he had some different looking open heifers wander into his yard. He did some phoning and found they came from a small acreage some six miles away. The owner of the open heifers convinced Bob that since the heifers liked his farm better than home, perhaps he should buy them and he did! They were registered half bloods and had originally been purchased from Fred Stonehouse (whom many will remember as the gentleman who operated Crocus Hill Blondes). These halfblood heifers were bred to Bob's polled Hereford bull and he was very impressed with the resulting calves - the ease with which the heifers calved and their maternal qualities, and their small compact udders - so different from the Hereford udders. So impressed that he researched the breed - found out that they were noted for producing lean meat with high yielding carcasses. About that time, lean meat was the catch word of the industry and Bob decided this would be the breed he should be raising if he wanted a purebred herd. And so began McIntyre Blondes!

Having had such success with his Crocus Hill heifers - he took a buying trip to Crocus Hill Blondes and went on to Bob and Carol Zarn's, then located at Sinclair, Manitoba. He purchased four registered Blondes that day and for the next half dozen years continued to add Blondes to his herd, buying at production sales and show sales such as Agribition. He purchased bulls mainly from test station sales and occasionally by private treaty.

Each year he added more Blondes and eventually the Herefords and commercial cows were no more. Today, Bob has mainly purebred blondes with a few fullbloods. He calves out 30 to 35 cows, all registered. Since 1999, he has concentrated on polled genetics. He stated this is "a small herd by most standards" but coupled with his grain farming, he feels it is all he can properly manage. Bob may say he has a small herd but his breeding encompasses pedigrees which include a cross-section of various herds from many parts of Canada - Sundance, R-Kaya, Blon Dell, Kay Lee, Triple C, Totonka, Maplebrook, Conrich, Lakeview, Willow Springs, Paulgaard, Dusty Lake, T4 Blondes, Harmony Westward, Maple Lane, Sandhill, Liahn, Round Valley, Thunder Creek, Green Meadows,

Van Alta, Hilltop Orchard Farm, Roseneath and West Winds, in addition to his original blondes.



McIntyre Blondes were front and centre at the Carman Fair in 1995 when Blondes were the featured breed.

Besides growing hay and a millet/oats mix for green feed, Bob's farming operation mainly produces cereal crops and some specialty crops such as edible beans and soybeans.

McIntyre Blondes that are sold for breeding are mainly marketed by private treaty. He supports the Man-Sask Consignment Sale each year the Man-Sask Association has a sale.

He enters bulls in the Douglas Test Station. In addition to selling animals in his own province, Bob has sold cattle in Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Mexico.



Bob became involved with the Man-Sask Association shortly after he began registering cattle because, in his words, "I have always been a believer in promotional and advocate organizations". He has served in various capacities on the Man-Sask Association, including two years as President. Although he is off the board at this point in time, he agreed to manage the 2006 National Blonde Sale.

Bob has two brothers, both of whom are not involved in the farming industry - he did reveal he is the middle brother. He still prefers to "burn his own toast"! Actually, I have it from a reliable source, that Bob is a very good cook, keeps a very

neat home and has a park-like yard around his home.

Bob says his greatest personal gratification comes from the vast number of people he has met through his association with the breed - including the many buyers that have shown up in his yard through the years.

He closed our conversation by saying, that even though the years since the BSE outbreak in Canada have not been too rosy for seedstock producers, he would not have missed being a Blonde breeder for the world!