

Canadian Blonde News



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News from the Board

In a reversal of a previous decision the Newsletter will continue as a regular publication coming out in June, September and December each year while the Blonde Connection will cover the March quarter. However the Newsletter will only be available on-line and through direct email to our contacts - it will not be printed.

We would like to welcome Lisa Leduc from Manotick, Ontario and Jeremy DeWeerd from Wooler, Ontario to the Board. Lisa and partner Dave Payne run Bar K Farms while Jeremy and wife Rachel operate Stonewall Farms.

- We would also like to thank Ashley McNevan for her two terms of service as well as Shellie Wolfe.

Executive positions remained virtually the same with one change - Paul Ferguson takes on the role of Vice President. Nicholas Boyd, Dave Kamelchuk and Reed Rigney continue in their respective positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Some issues with service and DNA issues have cropped up at CLRC in the past few months. If you have any issues please contact President Nicholas Boyd. It is good for the Board to know of issues that you are having as others may be facing the same challenges, and we may be able to help solve them.

Please check out the Canadian Blonde website as it has changed somewhat. We have included a Membership Handbook under the "Member Tools" tab as well as several other useful bits of information for our members. You will also find the "Bulls of the Breed" booklet under the "Publication" tab. We also made a few other tweaks here and there to improve the flow of the website. You will also notice that there is a tab for Provincial Associations. Over the next year the Provincial websites will be migrating over to be included in the CBDA website.

The major discussion item at the AGM was in regards to amalgamating the CBDA with the Provincial associations to reduce duplication and increase the cooperation amongst members working on breed projects. The general consensus was that this would be a good thing, however details will need to be worked out.

2019 - 2020

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President's Message

It's truly amazing how fast another year can fly by but 2019 seemed to do just that. What seems like just yesterday, the 2019 show season started in Ontario and ended for the Blondes at Farmfair in Edmonton the start of November. Farming is a 365 day a year job, yet it seems like our Blonde family activities all get jammed into one short time period.

With calving season upon us, many farmers are eagerly awaiting the arrival of those January calves over the next few days. Then you'll have the excitement around Christmas hopefully spent with family and friends, followed by some more January calves, then of course the celebrations of New Years.

What may seem like 'downtime' is often a great time to wrap up our year-end activities while planning for next year. Reviewing a bunch of the Blonde Facebook pages, it appears some farms are getting a jump on halter breaking next year's potential champions. Others are actively searching to find the right genetic crosses to create their future champions, and Rick Drinkill appears jollier than old St Nick with the sight of all that recent snow, as he watches those snowflakes falling from the sky like dollar bills. There's also no better time than now to remind members and breeders of a few important things:

1. 2020 Membership Renewals will be arriving in the mail. Please be diligent and prompt at renewal. This process not only helps the CBDA but your provincial association as well.
2. We encourage ALL members to participate in the AgSights program with the recording of birth weight, weaning weight and yearling weight information. Participation from everyone will be the key to developing sound, accurate numbers as we move forward as a breed. It's also a great time to remind all breeders, even those who haven't previously participated to start recording ALL their birth weights during the 2020 calving season. Any questions, please reach out to Paul Ferguson, Reed Rigney or any Board member for help and direction.
3. Get those registrations in!! We have seen a drop off in registrations and waiting to register only makes the process more expensive. Registrations are a great way to support the breed and keep your herd up to date.

Most importantly as we wrap up the 2019 season, I wish to extend a thank you to all of our members who have made a contribution big and small to our great breed. None of what we do is possible without each member of our Blonde family and the unique way in which everyone contributes. Please keep that energy going and build off it in 2020.

I would like to extend the Merriest of Christmas wishes to every single one of our members and may the new year present even better fortunes for all. To my fellow board members, both from the past year and heading towards the present, thank you thank you thank you - your dedication, time commitment and enthusiasm for the breed make all of this possible. God bless!

Nicholas Boyd

Message de la Présidente

Il est vraiment étonnant de voir à quelle vitesse une autre année peut rapidement s'envoler, mais 2019 semblait le faire. Ce qui semble être juste hier, la saison des spectacles 2019 a commencé en Ontario et s'est terminée pour les Blondes au Farmfair à Edmonton au début du mois de novembre. L'agriculture nous occupe 365 jours par an et pourtant, il semble que nos activités familiales de nos Blondes sont toutes concentrées sur une courte période.

La saison des vêlages approche, de nombreux éleveurs attendent avec impatience l'arrivée des veaux de janvier. Vous aurez ensuite les rencontres avec la famille et amis durant les festivités de Noël, suivi de quelques autres veaux de janvier, puis bien sûr des célébrations du nouvel An.

Ce qui peut sembler être un moment de répit est souvent le moment idéal pour conclure nos activités de fin d'année tout en planifiant pour la prochaine année. En parcourant quelques pages des Blondes sur Facebook, il semble que certaines fermes commencent déjà à se démarquer pour les champions potentiels de l'année prochaine. D'autres cherchent activement les bons croisements génétiques pour créer leurs futurs champions, et Rick Drinkill semble plus jovial que le vieux St Nick avec la vue de toute cette neige récente, alors qu'il regarde ces flocons de neige tomber du ciel comme des dollars. Il n'y a pas de meilleur moment que maintenant pour rappeler aux membres et aux éleveurs quelques points importants:

1. Les renouvellements d'adhésion 2020 arriveront par la poste. S'il vous plaît soyez assidu et rapide lors du renouvellement. Ce processus aide non seulement la CBDA mais également votre association provinciale.
2. Nous encourageons TOUS les membres à participer au programme AgSights en enregistrant les informations de poids à la naissance, de sevrage et de poids d'un an. La participation de tous sera la clé pour développer des chiffres fiables et précis à mesure que nous progressons en tant que race. C'est également un bon temps pour rappeler à tous les éleveurs, même ceux qui n'ont pas participé auparavant, de commencer à enregistrer TOUS leurs poids à la naissance pendant la saison de vêlage de 2020. Si vous avez des questions, veuillez-vous adresser à Paul Ferguson, à Reed Rigney ou à l'un des membres du conseil pour obtenir de l'aide et des conseils.
3. Enregistrez vos animaux le plus tôt possible !! Nous avons constaté une baisse du nombre d'enregistrements et attendre ne rend le processus que plus coûteux. Les enregistrements d'animaux sont un excellent moyen de soutenir la race et de garder votre troupeau à jour.

Plus important encore, alors que nous terminons la saison 2019, je souhaite remercier tous nos membres qui ont apporté une contribution importante, que ça soit petite ou grande, à notre belle race. Rien de ce que nous faisons n'est possible sans chaque membre de notre famille Blonde et sans la manière unique dont chacun contribue. S'il vous plaît, gardez cette énergie en vie et l'améliorez en 2020.

Je voudrais souhaiter à chacun de nos membres les vœux les plus joyeux de Noël et que la nouvelle année offre des chances encore meilleures pour tous. Mes chers membres du conseil d'administration de l'année écoulée et ceux présentement, merci, merci et encore merci - votre dévouement, votre temps et votre enthousiasme pour la race rendent tout cela possible. Que Dieu vous protège!

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES



2019 Brought another tough summer and fall in Alberta. Early drought combined with excess summer and fall moisture made feed and grain production extremely challenging. This seems to be our new weather pattern as we have struggled with it since 2015. Calf prices remain steady as do cull cow prices, but bred female prices are felling pressure with the high cost and/or low quality of feed available combined with lower grain markets, yields and quality.

Now to the good news. Little Creek Farms exhibited a string of Blondes at the FarmFair International show in November where they were awarded the Reserve Grand Champion Bull banner. Crowds and cattle were down at the the show, but quality was as high as ever. Thanks to the Kamelchuk family for continuing to promote the Blonde breed. The interest in using Blonde bulls continues to increase out West in part due to the efforts of our breeders.

The Alberta AGM is being planned for late January. In the past it had been held in late November, and was combined with the entry of bulls for the bull test. However with the breeders now feeding their bulls at home, and the bust time of year that November is for most of us it was decided to move it back a bit. Our year end is October 31st which also made it difficult to get financial reports done in time for the meeting. Members that don't want to travel in January will have the option of joining in via conference call. More details will be coming in early January.

The ABA wishes all our members, and other Blonde breeders a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Hello everyone.

Hang in there, next year will be if not different, at least a challenge of a different stripe.

The Man-Sask association held its annual meeting on July 17th at Spruce Woods Park in Manitoba. Attending was Marcel Dufault, Steve and Bernice Dmytriw, with Don Mehler and Pat Filz opening their camper for the meeting.

The minutes from last meeting were discussed, with no changes to officers or directors. The gratuity to the 4H members who have a blonde-influence animal to show is still in effect, with a larger amount proposed.

The Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup received a sponsorship from Man-Sask for the Reserve Grand Champion Mixed Breed Female. They sent back a nice thank-you note and a picture. There was also a sponsorship sent to the Blonde National.

The park that the meeting was held at was so nice that a decision was made to meet there next year in order to have our meeting, some cow-talk time and just a bit of companionship of people with a common interest. Each of us helps the other in showing animals to a

buyer if we do not have the required one in our yards.

Here's wishing all you people out there a very Merry Christmas, a

Happy New year and a very successful calving season.



Bonjour chers Éleveurs

Déjà le mois de Décembre, Les fêtes s'en viennent à grand pas !!
En comparant avec l'année 2017, nous avons eu une année tranquille en rapport avec les expositions et jugements au Québec. Nous espérons que l'année 2020 sera meilleure.

Vous êtes les bienvenus à interagir sur notre page Facebook ou vous pourriez insérer des photos de vos Blondes ou tout simplement aller chercher des renseignements des autres amis éleveurs.

Pour plus d'information sur votre association, vous pouvez toujours visiter le site Internet de l'association au : <http://www.blondaquitaineqc.com>
Je prends cette occasion pour vous souhaiter de très belles fêtes et une Bonne Année 2020.

Maureen Landry, secrétaire

Hello Dear Fellow Breeders

Already December and the Christmas Festivities are just around the corner!!
Compared to 2017 it was a quiet year in Québec for the shows. Hopefully 2020 will be much better.

You are welcome to interact on our Facebook page where you could insert photos of your Blondes or simply get information from other breeders.

For more information on your association, you can always visit the association's website at: <http://www.blondaquitaineqc.com>

Seasons Greetings to all and a very good year in 2020.



Hello from Ontario. My first year serving as the Ontario Association's president has given me an opportunity to witness the camaraderie that exists within our association and the passion our members have for the Blonde breed. This is evident from the participation of our members, whether it be at social functions or the show string. I've highlighted a few of the events for 2019 occurring in Ontario.

The National in Markham ON had a great representation of Blonde animals with 28 animals shown by the following breeders; Donaleen Blondes, Shelbramack, Forest View Farms, Fee Haven Farms, Ridge View Blondes, Franmar Blonde Farm, Scheistel Farms, Split Rail Farms, High Rock Farm and Crystal Farms. It was a stand up event for Jason Van Tol of High Rock Farm as Grand Champion Bull was High Rock Good to Go and Grand Champion Dam was High Rock Glitter Girl. Reserve Bull was Donaleen Goliath and Reserve Dam, Crystal Firecracker. Congratulations to you all for your outstanding animals.

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association held its National AGM on October 25 in Trenton, ON. Nicholas Boyd will continue to serve as president

for his final term and 2 new members were welcomed on the board; Jeremy DeWeerd and Lisa Leduc. Many thanks to Ashley McNevan and Shelley Wolfe who completed their terms. We thank you for your contributions. It's once again a dedicated board moving forward for the Canadian Association.

The dinner and hospitality that followed the AGM was a great time with lots of good food, laughs and just the right amount of bantering. It was nice to see Mr. Van Bakel come out of his shell. The revered pitchfork was sold 3 times at our mini auction, bringing in a total of \$530.00. The pitchfork, which now bears a commemorative plaque, dedicated to the original consignor, the late Alan Plumpton, is being retained for the year by Dave McNevan. I bet Alan didn't realize what the pitchfork would bring to the association, but it is much appreciated.

The AGM was held in conjunction with the 2019 Cream Of the Crop Sale, hosted by the OBdAA and held at Hoard's Station Sale Barn in Hoards ON. Some great cattle were represented in the 38 lots on consignment. Top seller was a polled purebred bull calf, Crystal Grande, consigned by Crystal Farms. The People's Choice award went to a full blood bred heifer, Crystal Febe, who was consigned by Crystal Farms and purchased by Franmar Blonde Farm.

Congratulations to Paul and Mary-Ellen Ferguson for their admiral consignments and Darren Dunham for his awesome purchase.

Breeder of the year went to the well-deserved Kirk McGee. There's not much more to say except that Kirk is an irreplaceable asset to the Blonde Breed.

The winner of the raffle, receiving a \$2500.00 voucher for the purchase of a registered blonde animal was Harry Bouwmeester of Jae Acres with second prize going to Irene Collins, winning \$600.00 cash.

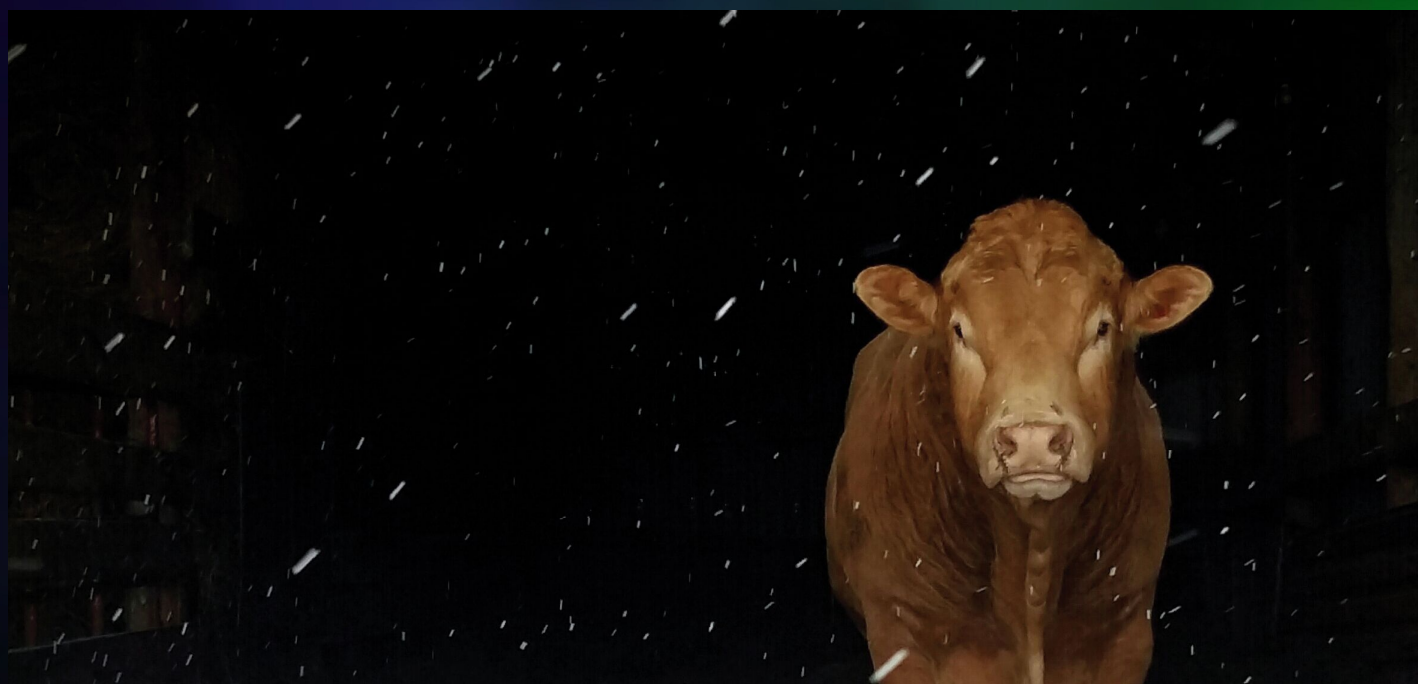
We hold our raffle in support of our junior program. This year we sponsored 11 future blonde breeders in their 4H projects.

I cannot thank the consignors, buyers, board members and volunteers for their efforts in making this annual event a success. A special thanks to TCO Agromart Ltd. and Carleton Feed and Seed whose generous donations kept us all fed and watered after the sale.

On behalf of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Board of Directors, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May your 2020 calving season be nothing but successful!

Dave Payne





Special *Thank You* to our buyers of 2019:

**Darren + Michaila Dunham - Farnmar Blonde Farm,
Ron + Kim Fintelman - Rosepark Blondes, Ryland Cleary, Bill + Brigitte Reid
& Alex + Anna Mary Mask**

**Thank you to our consigners on bull test: Don Dunham - Donaleen Blondes,
Jarno Miedema, George Bell - Bellstar Angus, Dave + Janice Massey - Rebenmatt Farms
& Barry Stewart - Hawthorne Farm**



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Merry Christmas

from the
Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

Congratulations to our 2019 Raffle Winners
1st Prize ~ \$2500 Voucher **Harry Bouwmeester**, Rockton, ON
2nd Prize ~ \$600 Cash **Dave & Irene Collins**, Ripley, ON
Thank you to everyone who sold and purchased tickets!



Thank you to our consignors, buyers, bidders, and attendees at the **19th Annual Cream of the Crop Sale**

Top Selling Female: **Crystal Febe 7F** ~ Consigned by Crystal Farms, Purchased by Franmar Blonde Farm

Top Selling Bull: **Crystal Grande 3G** ~ Consigned by Crystal Farms, Purchased by Rosepark Blondes

People's Choice Award Winner: **Crystal Febe 7F** ~ Banners Sponsored by Acres Farms & Little Creek Farms



Thank you to all who attended the 2019 National Events hosted by the OBdAA!



MERRY Christmas



Thank you for your support and friendship.
Special thanks to all our semen purchasers throughout 2019.
We look forward to seeing you and serving you again soon in the coming year.

WEST WIND BLONDES

BLONDE D'AQUITAINE CATTLE | MYRNA FLESCH

Want
guaranteed
polled Blonde
Calves?
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