

# CANADIAN BLONDE

*News*



Photo Contest Winner - It's Spring ... and Spring means great looking calves.

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**Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association**  
c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation  
2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0M7  
Phone: 613-731-7110 ... Fax: 613-731-0704  
E-Mail: [cbda@clrc.ca](mailto:cbda@clrc.ca)  
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# Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association 2013 National Meeting, Show & Sale

October 4 - 6, 2013

Held in conjunction with the Olds Fall Classic - [www.oldsagsociety.com/fallclas.html](http://www.oldsagsociety.com/fallclas.html)

The Olds Fall Classic is one of the most respected livestock shows in Western Canada. Featuring up to 10 beef breeds including: Black Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Maine Anjou, Red Angus, Salers, Shorthorn and Simmental, showcasing top quality cattle from some of the industry's leading seedstock breeders. OAS is very pleased to be featuring the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine National Show!

## Tentative Schedule of Events

### Thursday, October 3

- ◆ Cattle arrive 9 am - 9 pm

### Friday, October 4

- ◆ National Blonde Show, 2 pm
- ◆ Hospitality in the barns following the show. Evening Hospitality at the Ramada Inn

### Saturday, October 5

- ◆ National Blonde Annual General Meeting 1 - 4 pm at the Ramada Inn
- ◆ Banquet, 6 pm

### Sunday, October 6

- ◆ All breed Jackpot Calf Classes, Champions Parade
- ◆ Release, 5 pm

### Official Host Hotel – Ramada Inn Olds

Direct (403) 556-5900 or for Booking 1-800-854-9517

There are rooms blocked under

Canadian Blonde Association until September 1st.

Website: <http://www.ramada.com/hotels/alberta/olds/ramada-olds/hotel-overview>



## Now Taking Sponsorship Bookings!

### \$500

Friday Night Hospitality

### \$200

Grand Champion Female  
Res. Grand Champion Female  
Grand Champion Male  
Res. Grand Champion Male

### \$100

Premier Breeder  
Premier Exhibitor  
Calf Champion Female  
Reserve Calf Champion Female  
Junior Champion Female  
Res. Junior Champion Female  
Senior Champion Female  
Res. Senior Champion Female

### \$100

Calf Champion Male  
Res. Calf Champion Male  
Junior Champion Male  
Res. Junior Champion Male  
Senior Champion Male  
Res. Senior Champion Male  
Breeders Herd  
Get of Sire

**Sponsorships will be filled on a first come first serve basis, so book your sponsorship today!**

- Entry deadline is Sept 15, 2013. All entries will be made online at the Olds Ag Society website ([www.oldsagsociety.com](http://www.oldsagsociety.com))
- All entry fees will be paid by the Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine Association and include base shavings and night tie-outs.
- Prize money will be paid out by the Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine Association. Exact amounts have yet to be determined.
- Yearling & calf classes will be split into Senior & Junior sections.

## Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

For more information, contact Reed Rigney, Westlock, AB

Phone: 780-348-5308 ... E-Mail: [aba@clearwave.ca](mailto:aba@clearwave.ca) ... Website: [www.albertablondcattle.com](http://www.albertablondcattle.com)

## President's Message

It has been a cool spring with very little moisture in Southern Alberta. The grass is just beginning to show. Farmers in the area held back on seeding hoping to get a little moisture but have finally decided they better get-her-in so to speak.

The Alberta Association is busy preparing for the upcoming National to be held in Olds, Alberta on the weekend of October 5th – see National Meeting Pages in this Newsletter. Plan to attend.

As you will see, three director positions are up and nominations are being welcomed. I encourage the membership to step forward and allow their names to stand. It is a good learning exercise to be part of a Board and an opportunity to see the inner workings of an organization first hand. If you are approached to allow your name to stand, please give the idea serious consideration.

Our Association membership seems to lose a few but we have gained a few new members this spring as there have been six (6) requests for tattoo letters at the time of writing.

Registrations and transfers seem sluggish but that may be a product of a problem with incoming/ outgoing mail being experienced at CLRC.

Snail mail is indeed moving at a snail pace – pardon the pun! I recently sent in a package which took 7 days to arrive at CLRC, then 7 days after the work had been completed to be returned. This makes it appear as if the turn around time is long which in reality is not the case.

Until next time, may the grass be growing in your part of the world!

Myrna Flesch, President

## Message de la Présidente

Dans les régions au sud de l'Alberta, le printemps est frais avec très peu d'humidité. L'herbe commence tout juste à sortir. Les agriculteurs de la région ont attendu un peu pour commencer leurs semences – en espérant de la pluie – mais ont finalement décidés de semer tout de même.

L'association de l'Alberta se prépare pour la Nationale qui aura lieu à Olds, Alberta le weekend du 5 octobre – voir les pages concernant la Nationale dans le présent bulletin – nous espérons vous voir.

Comme vous voyez, les mandats de trois directeurs sont maintenant terminés – les nominations sont bienvenu. J'encourage la participation des membres – présentez-vous pour le poste de directeur. C'est tout un apprentissage de faire partie d'un Conseil d'administration et vous donne occasion de voir les rouages d'une telle association. Si on vous demande d'accepter une nomination, veuillez s'il vous plaît y donner considération.

À chaque année, nous perdons quelques membres mais cette année nous en avons acquis des nouveau – en écrivant cette lettre, nous avons déjà reçu 6 demandes de lettres de tatouage.

Le nombre d'enregistrements / transferts semble un peu bas cette année, mais ceci peut être dû en partie avec un problème de courrier – le poste régulier circule très lentement de ces jours-ci. Récemment, une envoie à la SCEA de ma ferme a pris 7 jours et ensuite un autre 7 jours pour le retour de mes certificats. Nous sommes portés à penser que le temps pour compléter les transactions est long mais ceci n'est pas le cas.

À la prochaine – en espérant que l'herbe pousse dans votre coin du pays!

Myrna Flesch, Président



## 2013 Board of Directors

### President: Myrna Flesch

Box 334, Stavely, AB T0L 1Z0  
Phone: 403-549-2371  
Fax: 403-549-2374  
[westwind@telusplanet.net](mailto:westwind@telusplanet.net)

### Vice-President: Paul Ferguson

21 Crystal Rd., RR 3, Jasper, ON K0G 1G0  
Phone: 613-275-2422  
[ferguson.maryellen@gmail.com](mailto:ferguson.maryellen@gmail.com)

### Secretary-Treasurer: Murphy Baker

2583 Asphodel 3rd Line, Asphodel-Norwood  
ON, K0L 2B0 ... Phone: 705-639-1418  
[bakerblondes@i-zoom.net](mailto:bakerblondes@i-zoom.net)

### Executive Member: Reed Rigney

Box 5959, Westlock, AB T7P 2P7  
Phone: 780-348-5308  
[rigney@clearwave.ca](mailto:rigney@clearwave.ca)

### Steven Acres

RR 2, 2166 McGee Side Rd, Carp, ON K0A 1L0  
Phone: 613-836-4190  
[stevenjacres@sympatico.ca](mailto:stevenjacres@sympatico.ca)

### Dave Kamelchuk

Box 32, Ellscott, AB T0A 1B0  
Phone: 780-675-1227  
[littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com](mailto:littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com)

### Ron MacArthur

735 Salisbury Road  
Moncton, NB E1E 1C4 506-382-6630  
[macarthur@rogers.com](mailto:macarthur@rogers.com)

### Ken MacKenzie

7401,4900-54 Ave, Drayton Valley AB T7A 1V8  
Phone: 780-542-2268  
Fax: 780-542-7388  
[kenkb@telus.net](mailto:kenkb@telus.net)

### John Vink

40 Gazley Rd, RR 1, Wooler, ON K0K 3M0  
Phone/Fax: 613-397-1890  
[jiv@rogers.com](mailto:jiv@rogers.com)

## Provincial Presidents

### Alberta/BC

Reed Rigney  
Phone: 780-348-5308  
email: [rigney@clearwave.ca](mailto:rigney@clearwave.ca)

### Manitoba/Saskatchewan

Pat Filz  
Phone: 306-634-2174  
email: [fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net](mailto:fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net)

### Ontario

Ilse Vink  
Phone: 613-397-1890  
email: [jiv@rogers.com](mailto:jiv@rogers.com)

### Quebec

Gilbert Gauthier  
Phone: 819-336-5352

**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.**

**TATTOO LETTER FOR 2013 IS "A"**

### 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 403-549-2374**

**E-MAIL President Myrna Flesch at**

[westwind@telusplanet.net](mailto:westwind@telusplanet.net)

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

## 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.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Distributed</u>
Fall	Sept 1	Sept 15
Winter	Dec 1	Dec 15
Spring	March 1	March 15
Summer	June 1	June 15

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 in August.

### AD RATES

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>GST</u>	<u>Total</u>
Full pg 4/C	\$150.	\$7.50	\$157.50
Full pg B/W	90.	4.50	94.50
1/2 Pg	55.	2.75	57.75
1/4 Pg	40.	2.00	42.00
1/8 Pg	20.	1.00	21.00

## 2013 National Blonde d'Aquitaine Sale

Plans are being made for a Silent Auction Sale of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle at the 2013 National in Olds, Alberta. Exact details will be worked out as we move closer to the fall, but preliminary information is listed below. If you have any questions, or would like to enter an animal, please contact the Alberta Blonde Association.

- Deadline for Sale entries will be August 15th to allow for preparation & mailing of the catalogue. Late entries will be accepted, however entry into the catalogue cannot be guaranteed.
- The Olds Ag. Society Show entry deadline is September 15th, however, we ask that you have these in by September 1st to allow for your animals' inclusion in the show program.
- Consignors will pay a \$75 catalogue fee for calves and a \$100 fee for all other animals; there will not be any additional fees charged.
- The full colour catalogue will include a show program, sponsors, sale animals, National schedule and any other particulars regarding the event.
- Sale animals will have to be halter broken and entered in the show because they need to be housed in the show barn. However, the animal does not need to go through the show ring in order to sell.

### How the Sale will work:

- The sale will have a silent auction format, with the Alberta Blonde Association administering the bids, however all monies will be paid directly from buyer to seller.
- There will only be one official bid taker to which all bids must be advanced, however if you cannot attend the event we will provide several contacts that can help with your bidding/opinions.
- Each class of animals (heifer calves, bred heifers, etc.) will have a specific base price, and each animal within that class will start at that price. The base price will be set reasonably to provide the seller a fair return while allowing for some room for potential buyers to bid. All sellers will have a say in setting the base prices.
- There will be a sale order, and animals will not necessarily sell in catalogue order.
- Bidding will start following the show on Friday October 4th, and final bidding will happen at a time and place to be determined (most likely the banquet) on the evening of Saturday October 5th.
- Bidding for a specific lot will not be closed until all runners-up have decided not to advance the bid.

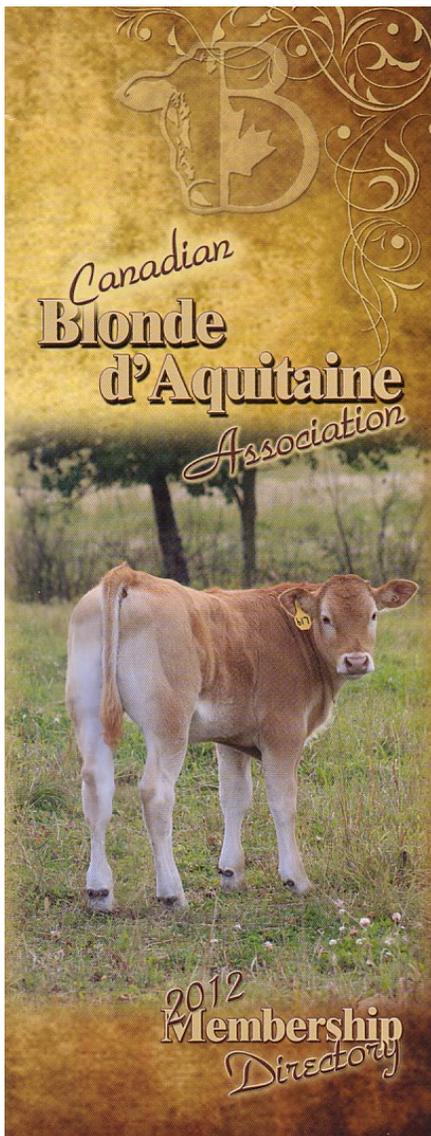
## Membership Directory

The 2012 Member Directory was a project by your Canadian Board of Directors.

Information included in the Directory is what was current with the CLRC, as of June 7, 2012.

This is a great reference tool for helping Blonde d'Aquitaine breeders keep in touch with each other.

If you would like to receive a 2012 Member Directory, please contact the CLRC at 1-877-833-7110.



## LET'S WARM THINGS UP

Loaded with Prairie ingredients and mushrooms, this lean beef burger recipe is still moist and delicious. The Speedy Cabbage Slaw is a nice crunchy alternative to pickles and relish. Make it ahead and use as a side salad if you like.

### The Prairie Beef Burger

1 lb (500 g) Medium Ground Beef or Lean Ground Beef Sirloin  
½ cup (125 mL) quick cooking rolled oats  
¼ cup (50 mL) light sour cream  
¼ cup (50 mL) finely minced brown or white button mushrooms  
1 medium onion, finely diced  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard  
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh parsley (or 1 tsp/5 mL dried parsley)  
1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano  
1 tsp (5 mL) thyme  
¼ tsp (1 mL) salt and fresh cracked pepper

1. In large bowl, combine beef, rolled oats, sour cream, mushrooms, onion, garlic, parsley, mustard, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper. Mix lightly but thoroughly to blend.
2. Shape into four to six, 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick (1 to 2 cm) patties. Lightly oil grill. Barbecue, broil or pan-fry using medium-high heat for 5 to 7 minutes per side (turning once) until digital instant-read thermometer inserted sideways into centre of patties reads at least 160°F (71°C).
3. Serve on toasted whole wheat buns, topped with Speedy Cabbage Slaw as a relish.



### Speedy Cabbage Slaw

In large bowl, whisk together 1/3 cup (75 mL) EACH white wine vinegar and granulated sugar, 1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil, 1 tbsp (15 mL) EACH Dijon mustard and chopped fresh parsley. Add 16 oz/454 g bagged coleslaw mix (or 4 cups/1 L) shredded cabbage and carrots) and 1 finely sliced red onion; toss well. Cover and let stand for two hours at room temperature or up to one week in refrigerator.

*Recipes courtesy Canadian Beef*

# History of Blonde d'Aquitaine Cattle in Canada

The origin of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle can be traced back to the sixth century in the southwest of France. At that time they were chosen as draft animals because of their muscle development, hardiness and docile temperament.

The Blonde d'Aquitaine breed as we know it today, represents a combination of the Garonnais from the plains of Garonne, the Quercy from the hills of Garonne and the Blonde des Pyrenees from the Pyrenees Mountains. These three breeds were re-grouped in France in 1961. The Blonde d'Aquitaine breed was officially recognized as a breed in 1963 with their chief purpose being the production of slaughter calves.

These cattle are predominately cream coloured, varying from almost white to dark reddish tan shades, showing considerable variation due to segregation of genes resulting from the combination of the three breeds. The Blonde d'Aquitaine breed has been subjected to extensive testing and genetic evaluation in France.

Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle were first introduced into Canada in 1971, and since then, the years have seen a steady increase in the population. The



Blonde breed is the most underestimated breed on the market today and is by far the best kept secret in the beef industry. Blondes celebrated their 35th Anniversary in Canada in 2006.

In the mid-90s, the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association partnered with Beef

Improvement Ontario (BIO), utilizing their herd improvement tools to produce a consistent, high quality product for both the commercial and seedstock producers. A Sire Summary is produced by BIO annually, updating EPDs and adding in new sires.

Registration of animals is conducted through the Association's affiliation with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation in Ottawa, the national pedigree service for purebred livestock in Canada.

Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle registered to December 31, 2012:  
Fullblood - 18,900; Graded-up Purebreds - 15,444; Percentage - 21,826

**Call Canadian  
Livestock Records**  
[www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca)  
**Toll Free**  
**1-877-833-7110**



## **BYLAWS and CODE OF ETHICS**

The Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association Bylaws & Code of Ethics are posted on the website.  
[www.canadianblondeassociation.ca](http://www.canadianblondeassociation.ca)

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

## Avis de convocation d'Assemblée générale annuelle

TAKE NOTICE that the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Members of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association will be at Olds, Alberta on Saturday, October 5, 2013. Registration at 1:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn. Call to Order at 1:30 p.m.

For the purpose of receiving:

- Reports of the Officers and the Financial Statements of the Association for 2012
- For the appointment of Accountants
- For the election of Directors
- For the transaction of such other business as may come before the Meeting

**Annual Meeting 2013**  
**Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association**  
**Olds, Alberta – October 5, 2013**  
**For information, contact Reed Rigney**  
**Phone: 780-348-5308 or**  
**Email: aba@clearwave.ca**

### Resolutions

Anyone who wishes to propose any changes to the Bylaws must do so before August 03, 2013. Before any proposed change can be considered, it must be sent out by the Association with the official call for the Annual Meeting at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Please submit proposals for enactment, amendments or repeal of bylaws to the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association c/o Box 334, Stavely, Alberta, T0L 1Z0 with the signatures of two members before August 03, 2013. The membership will consider proposed changes at the Annual Meeting. Any additions or changes need a 2/3 majority to pass. If you have any questions or need help in wording please call: Ron MacArthur at (506) 382-6630.

### Nominations

At the Annual Meeting this year there will be three (3) director's positions up for nomination. The terms of Myrna Flesch, Paul Ferguson, and Ken MacKenzie are up. You may nominate someone before August 03, 2013 by calling Ron MacArthur at (506) 382-6630. If you are nominating someone, it is wise to talk to that person to confirm that he/she is a paid-up member of the Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association and if that person would be willing to allow his/her name to stand. These three positions will be for three year terms.

VEUILLEZ NOTER que la 39<sup>e</sup> Assemblée annuelle générale de la Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine aura lieu à Olds, Alberta, le samedi, 05 octobre 2013. L'inscription débutera à 13h00 À l'hôtel Ramada Inn. l'AGA débutera à 1h30.

Pour le but de recevoir:

- les rapports des directeurs et les états financiers de la Société pour 2012
- Pour la nomination des comptes
- Pour l'élection des directeurs
- Pour la transaction de toutes autres affaires qui seront présentées à l'AGA

**Assemblée générale annuelle 2013**  
**Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine**  
**Olds, Alberta – 05 octobre 2013**  
**Pour de plus amples renseignements,**  
**communiqué avec Reed Rigney**  
**Phone: 780-348-5308 or**  
**Email: aba@clearwave.ca**

### Résolutions:

Toute personne voulant porter des changements à la Constitution doit le faire avant le 03 Août 2013. Avant de pouvoir considerer tout changement, il doit être distribué par la Société avec l'avis de convocation de l'AGA, et ce, au moins 30 jours avant la date de l'AGA. Veuillez s'il vous plaît soumettre vos propositions de changements à la Constitution à la Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine a/s Box 334, Stavely, Alberta T0L 1Z0. Toute proposition doit comprendre la signature de deux membres en règle et doit être soumis avant le 03 Août 2013. Les propositions soumises seront considérées par le members lors de l'AGA. Toute addition ou tout changement nécessite une majorité de 2/3 afin d'être approuvé. Si vous avez des questions ou avez besoin de l'aide dans la rédaction de votre proposition, veuillez communiquer avec Ron MacArthur au (506)382-6630.

### Nominations:

Trois poste de directeurs seront libre lors de l'AGA 2011. Les mandats de Myrna Flesch, Paul Ferguson, and Ken MacKenzie prennent fin cette année. Vous pouvez soumettre le nom de quelqu'un en communiquant avec Ron MacArthur, avant le 03 Août 2013, au (506)382-6630. Si vous soumettez le nom de quelqu'un, veuillez s'il vous plaît vous assurer que cette personne veut vraiment se presenter et que cette personne est member en règle de la Société canadienne Blonde d'Aquitaine. Ces trois postes seront pour une durée de trois ans.



**Happy  
Canada Day**



## Coming Events

- August 17 Quebec Association Picnic  
Ste-Cécile de Whitton
- August 22-25 Ayer's Cliff Fair
- Sept 5 - 8 Richmond Fair  
Richmond County
- October 4 - 6 Canadian National Show & Sale  
Olds, Alberta
- October 11-13 Expo-Bœuf  
Victoriaville, Quebec
- October 19 Cream of the Crop Sale  
Campbellford, Ontario

## Welcome to Our New Members

Michael Beattie - Ottawa, ON  
Norm Brown - Nestleton Station, ON  
Johnny Carrier - Scott, QC  
Dave & Pam Gunderson - Hudsons Hope, BC  
Marie-Line Leclair - Ste. Clothide, QC  
Michael & Leah Mant - Hudsons Hope, BC  
Robert McKee - Claresholm, AB  
Francis Metivier - Laverlochere, QC  
Lyle and Cindy Miller - Thorsby, AB  
Gary Picken - Apple Hill, ON



If you have e-mail but are still receiving your newsletter by Canada Post, please send the CLRC your e-mail address. It costs about \$2.00 for every newsletter we have to mail, which might not sound like much, but when you add them all together, it's enough for us to be able to direct those funds to breed promotion.

## Bellevue Blondes

**Marcel J. Dufault**

### Polled Yearling Bulls Available

Box 67, Haywood, MB ROG OWO  
(204) 379-2426 Cell (204) 754-7412  
Email [mgdufault@gmail.com](mailto:mgdufault@gmail.com)

## Giving When It Counts ...

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister.

I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the colour returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

## News from Man/Sask

Submitted by Pat Filz

Spring has finally sprung and a long, cold process that is.



It is still nowhere near the seasonal average, but people are going ahead with seeding and putting cows out to pasture as fast as possible. The snow pack is down to almost nonexistent with very little water to show for the amount of snow that was on the ground, which in some of these areas still with water issues from 2011, is a real bonus.

Rain did come in a timely fashion for the pastures. It appears like no matter how much or little snow you receive, it takes one good rain to wash away the snow mold and open the ground up for the new growth to take off and prosper. The grain farmers are not quite as happy to see rain, however what they have in the ground already does get a good head start.

Plans for the National, once again held in Olds, AB are making progress. Some of the Man/Sask people are intending to go to the meeting, show and etc. Man/Sask will be hosting the Hospitality Room and are looking forward to seeing everyone and swapping cow stories.

Until next time, watch out for the kinks in the road, they usually mean more work but can also mean a beautiful surprise is there.

## News from Alberta

Submitted by Reed Rigney

The big event we have coming up is the 2013 Blonde National being held October 4-6 in conjunction with the Olds Fall



Classic. Early October is a grret time to come to Alberta, and I encourage you all to take part in the National, and to stay a while and enjoy our province. The weather is usually good enough to enjoy the outdoors, the Mountain Parks are very close to Olds, and I am sure many of the Alberta breeders would also welcome visitors to tour their herds.

For our members who are out of Province, we will do our best to help you with any cattle you would like to exhibit. We can provide show supplies, hay, etc for your use. I believe Ashley McNeven has already been twisting ears to get some Ontario cattle out here, and it is always great to have a truly National show. We also need sponsors to make the event work, so I encourage everyone to have a look at the categories, and contact us with your contribution. See our ad on the Inside Front Cover.

A few things I wanted to touch on are the fact that the Alberta Association will be covering entry fees and providing a prize money payout. The payout will be a "jackpot" style, with higher placing animals getting a larger portion of the pie, and we expect that we will contribute at least \$50 per animal shown. This means that if you are the only animal in the class you will still come away with \$50, but if you win class with 10 head, you may come away with \$100. Although the Olds prize list does not separate calves/yearlings into Senior (Jan-March born) and Junior (after April 1st), we have received permission to run additional classes to accommodate more age ranges, so don't worry about your April calf having to show in a class against January borns.

There are also plans for a private treaty/silent auction sale facilitated by the Association. Sale animals will be charged a flat fee to be entered into a catalogue that will be mailed out to Blonde enthusiasts across the country. See the article covering the details of the sale on Page 5.



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy*

Condolences are  
extended to the family of  
Tina Marie Dunham, who  
passed away at the

Kingston General Hospital on Friday May

24, 2013 at the age of 47 years after a

courageous battle with cancer. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or St. Johns United Church Memorial Fund are appreciated. Online condolences at [www.weaverfuneralhomes.com](http://www.weaverfuneralhomes.com)

## Nouvelles du Québec

Submitted by Maureen Landry

Le conseil d'administration de votre association consiste des membres suivants:

Gilbert Gauthier, Président

Martin Boulanger, Vice-président

Clémence Landry

Jean-Pierre Lavoie

L. Pierre Léger

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier Monsieur René Gravel pour son travail au sein du Conseil d'administration ainsi que Madame Linda Cyr qui, avec son mari André Cyr, ont représenté la race Blonde d'Aquitaine en participant aux différentes expositions et au sein du Conseil d'administration depuis les 20 dernières années.

Nous leur souhaitons santé et réussite dans leurs entreprises ou occupations, selon le cas.

Voici les dates des Expositions 2013:

EXPO AYER'S CLIFF FAIR: du 22 au 25 août

EXPO RICHMOND FAIR: du 19 au 22 septembre

EXPO BŒUF (VICTO): du 11 au 13 octobre

Vous êtes intéressé à exposer des animaux et de participer aux jugements, veuillez contacter Clémence Landry au 819 336-5503 ou Jean-Pierre Lavoie au 450 297-3466.

### ÉVÉNEMENTS –EVENTS

Le pique-nique annuel des membres se tiendra le 17 août 2013 à la Ferme l'Art'Sop à Ste-Cécile de Whitton. Vous recevrez une invitation officielle par le courrier mais en attendant, veuillez réserver cette date dans votre calendrier social.

Gilbert Gauthier, président

## News from Quebec

Submitted by Maureen Landry

The board of directors for the Quebec Association consists of:

Gilbert Gauthier, President

Martin Boulanger, Vice-president

Clémence Landry

Jean-Pierre Lavoie

L. Pierre Léger

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. René Gravel for his work on the Board of Directors and Mrs. Linda Cyr, who with her husband André Cyr, have represented the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed by participating in various exhibitions and as member of the Board of Directors for the past 20 years. We wish them health and success in their enterprises or future activities.

Here are the dates for the 2013 expositions:

Ayer's Cliff Fair: August 22- 25

Richmond County Fair: September 19 - 22

Expo Boeuf, Victoriaville: October 11 - 13

If you are interested in showing your best animals and participating in the and of these shows, please contact Maureen Landry at 819-336-3966.

The members annual picnic will be held August 17th, 2013 La Ferme l'Art'Sop, Ste-Cécile de Whitton. You will be receiving an official invitation by mail but meanwhile please write the above date in your social calendar.

Gilbert Gauthier, President



## Have You Renewed Your Membership?

For information on membership benefits, please contact Myrna Flesch at [westwind@telusplanet.net](mailto:westwind@telusplanet.net) or 403.549.2371.

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

## News from Ontario

*Submitted by Ian Kruis/Ilse Vink*

The Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association had its AGM on March 29th. It was a good meeting, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Our speaker arrived for his presentation, and rather than interrupt our meeting, sat out of sight until we went looking for him. When we did find him, he commented on our lively meeting, and how rare it was to find an association that still had enough members in attendance willing to let their names stand to carry out real elections. Paul Ferguson and Rachel Vink DeWeerd retired from the board, (thanks for your hard work!), Dennis Elliott and Ilse Vink were re-elected, and Paul Fee and Ashley McNeven were elected to the board for the first time. Along with returning directors Steve Acres, Ian Kruis, and John Plas, they make up the 2013 OBdAA board.

The meeting went well, the speaker, Mike McMorris from BIO, had a very interesting presentation – I have included a synopsis of his presentation below.

The OBdAA is now gearing up for representing the breed at trade shows and fairs this summer, as well as getting things in order for the 13th Annual Cream of the Crop Sale coming up on October 19th at Hoard's Station.

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Mike McMorris representing BIO (Beef Improvement Ontario) from Elora Ontario drove to our Annual General Meeting to discuss Genetics. Mike is an energetic speaker. His talk was filled with humour, giving us a realistic view of the beef industry and where he believes it should be heading.

Mike began his talk by comparing the advancement in the poultry industry and the development of chicken breast to the lack of consistency of tenderness in beef. He suggests that "the beef industry must pay attention to developing consistency in the product". He used the idea of purchasing steaks from several different stores and being disappointed with the tenderness. He says,

"You never know exactly what you are going to get when you buy a steak in the grocery store. Eventually consumers will choose to purchase chicken rather than beef."

One idea is for cow/calf operators to provide dam/sire information to feedlot operators and forwarded to the packing plants. He spoke to a study of a large beef operator creating a test feedlot with four feedlots each having a different sire represented. There was a savings of \$164.00 between feed efficiency for the steers from sire A and sire D. This is a significant reason to determine the most efficient herd sires.

Mike provided us with a mini-lesson of genomics and the potential of using them in the livestock industry. It allows us to predict genetic merit earlier, more accurately, and for traits that are hard to measure. This will increase the rate of genetic progress and make "genomics everybody's business".

Some of the identified challenges: poorly connected businesses with no clear goals, we don't measure much and the fact that beef producers in general do minimal artificial insemination.

He suggests that genomics need to work in order to provide the future world population. The beef industry needs to collaborate for one common goal. As producers we are encouraged to participate in programs such as BIO and take a serious look when selecting your herd sire and mating. The more animals that we can input in the system, the more accurate our information will be.

It goes without saying that producers of the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed needs to get on board by inputting data. This is one proven way to create better quality and efficient cattle within the industry.

On behalf of the Ontario Blonde d'Aquitaine Association, we would like to thank Mike for taking the time from his weekend to spend time with us. It is always good to hear innovative ideas on how we can improve the genetics within our breed.

Birthdays and anniversaries are a time to reflect on the good, the bad and the impact of history and events. We all celebrate many such events each year; or forget them and feel the impact!

While not my favoured means of communicating, I appreciate the ability to use text messaging. For folks younger than me, texting is often THE preferred method of communicating. Some people have cell phones that they never speak into. In fact, Canadians were on course to send over 100 Billion text messages in 2012. This is a seismic shift in the way of communicating that all began with a simple text message from a computer geek in an English lab twenty years ago. Sent to other workers on December 3, 1992 it said simply "Merry Christmas". Texting is proven; it is the real deal.

BIO is marking a similar anniversary in 2013, celebrating twenty years of providing services to progressive livestock producers. A great deal has changed over those twenty years:

- The price of corn is much higher: more than doubled
- Canadians are older: now 15% of us are over 65 versus 11%
- BIO has provided genetic evaluation on over 30,000 Blonde animals

What we produce, how we produce it and who we sell it to have all changed. Successful livestock producers change with the times and so has BIO, now serving beef, sheep, meat goat and poultry producers. Working with multiple species allows us to leverage investment in our beef system and build revenue that ensures we stay relevant and responsive. We make good use of that other "new" technology, the internet, to provide services to livestock producers from further afield with bioTrack. We have a strong focus on research and development with an eye to building the future in areas such as genomics, feed efficiency and economic indexes. Just recently, we formed a partnership with Leachman Cattle of Colorado who will be our exclusive

agent in the United States for BIO economic indexes, focusing on the highly successful \$Profit index. At our core, however, BIO remains a producer cooperative with services and direction set by a Board of Directors comprised largely of producers.

The impact of working with BIO is different for each client but here are some thoughts they have shared:

*Just was on bioTrack and "WOW", an old guy can sit down at the computer and actually gather information on his herd without cussing, nice job guys. Plain and simple, it's great! (Jack, Ontario)*

*A helpful staff member was only a phone call away when I needed it. Now I have access to solid information as to what kind of genetic improvements and performance my sires are passing on to their offspring. (Jim, Nova Scotia)*

*We started using bioTrack in 2009 after sorting our way through a computer crash. All of our data is now securely stored in bioTrack. Jerry, South Dakota*

*Using the iPad to enter birth and birthing information onsite when tagging simplified record keeping. Your web based system has eliminated the need for data sheets and delayed data entries. (Hellen, South Carolina)*

One long term client of ours refers to himself as the "real deal". He, like some others, has been using BIO services to better manage his beef herd for over 15 years. Without dedicated clients like him, BIO would not be in the tremendous place we find ourselves today. To the many clients that have been with us for so long, including over sixty Blonde breeders, we say "Thanks". To those that are new, including new clients in other industries and countries, we say welcome!

Time changes everything. Those that use knowledge and tools to adapt will survive and thrive. In doing so, they become the real deal.

Betty-Jo Almond  
BIO Client Service Manager

## Proximal & Distal droplets in Young Bulls

By Roy Lewis DVM

Many commercial producers and purebred seed stock cattlemen often start to question the appearance of lots of droplets appearing on the semen evaluation forms of young bulls. These cause frustration when bulls have to be retested. They collectively are probably the most numerous defects we see as veterinarians when performing breeding soundness exams (semen evaluations) in the spring. This article will hopefully shed some light on the situation and take away some of this frustration by providing a better understanding of what they represent.

There is no doubt we see many more droplets on average in young immature bulls that are just reaching sexual maturity (puberty). These bulls are less active, and especially when not housed close to cycling females, droplets really are a very frequent occurrence. One must realize two important facts. One is when

maturing in the testicles epididymis (little knob at the bottom of the testicles) 100% of the sperm start with a proximal droplet. This is wiggled or shook off as the sperm matures and travels through the canals within the epididymis. Because the sperm with droplets are essentially not mature, fertility is affected.

When we look at distal droplets, there are essentially two types: those severely affected (pathologic), and those which will be shook off later (physiological). In a study by Dr. Jacob Thundathil of the UCVM (University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine), he found that the percentage of droplets in ejaculated sperm goes down in the time it is chilled to be frozen and put into straws for artificial

insemination. This time interval is only three or so hours, so if we extrapolate, the same thing must happen with natural breeding. As the sperm is swimming up the vagina and into the uterus, a number of these distal droplets are shook off and are left behind. As a result the distal droplets aren't nearly as serious a defect as the proximal ones.

As mentioned, all sperm when formed start with a proximal droplet and as maturation in the canals of the epididymis these become distal droplets and then are shed off in the normal chain of events. If

we see lots of proximal droplets they are often associated with other sperm defects such as head defects in a number of cases.

Droplets are really the main cause why many young bulls fail their first semen evaluation especially when done at a very young age.

This is why it is not recommended to test a

beef bull before 12 months of age. As an average, that is why about 50% of twelve-month-old bulls pass and that is elevated to 75% by the time they are fourteen to fifteen months. Many very young bulls that fail on initial semen tests pass in subsequent ones one to two months later.

Veterinarians cannot predict ahead of time which ones will improve greatly, so the only way is retesting them. If the young bulls are housed close to cycling females and ejaculate off the senescent semen that, in my opinion, helps to speed up the improvement.

With the veterinarian documenting on the semen form the morphological defects, you can see over time if improvement is happening. The worst case I



have seen improve was a young bull with essentially 100% proximal droplets and over several months the percentage kept decreasing and eventually he had excellent semen as a two year old. He was a show bull and the question always comes up was he too fat, inactive etc., which may have added to his issue for sure.

When we encounter lots of droplets in mature bulls (that is much rarer) veterinarians usually are cognizant of which other defects accompany the droplets to determine the overall prognosis. Again the proximal droplets are much more severe than the distal droplets, keeping in mind a certain percentage are shed before the sperm contact the egg in a natural breeding situation.

If, as producers, you are evaluating semen forms, then if most of the defects are distal droplets in a young bull and he still passes his semen test (overall defects are less than 30%) there is a very

good chance those defects will lessen with maturity and usage.

Over the years we have upped the ante by testing even younger bulls. In some instances, bull sale dates have remained the same yet the purebred producers are calving later, which translates into veterinarians testing younger and younger bulls. If just selling off the farm, test the bulls as mature as possible. The warm spring weather and cows cycling close by really makes for an easier time evaluating sperm than in the dead of winter and with bulls just over one year of age. Even one to two weeks older makes a big difference. If semen evaluation is done later, the pass rate will be higher and it will be easier on everyone, including the bulls. Don't ask your veterinarian to try evaluating bulls under one year of age. Please wait till they are older; it is for your's and the bull's benefit.

*Roy Lewis is a technical services veterinarian with Merck Animal Health.*

## Why You Should Advertise in Your National Newsletter

You target your ideal customers ... other Blonde breeders and other cattlemen.

Creates awareness of your breeding program and your livestock production.

Adds credibility to your operation, and gets you attention for your entire message.

Amplifies everything you're doing. People remember businesses that advertise.

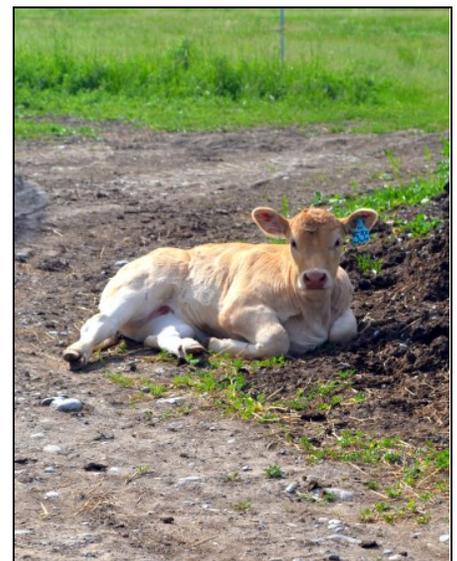
### PHOTO CONTEST

Photo Contest Judge, Kathleen Windsor, is pleased to announce the latest winner of our Photo Contest - Kirk McGee of Ontario. This is one of Kirk's 2012 heifer calves out of his 14 year-old High Point Miss Hope, the "mama maker" part of his herd. Kirk says she rarely has a bull calf and the heifers seem to find their way into the replacement pen.

This photo is a winner because there's good contrast in the colours, it's nicely centered, and can be used as either a vertical on a magazine front cover, or as a horizontal on a website. Plus, it's springtime, and who can resist a cute baby Blonde!

This entry now gives Rondakk Acres a \$25 credit towards their next fullblood or purebred registration.

We accept photos all year long, so make sure you get your pictures to [office@windsorgraphics.ca](mailto:office@windsorgraphics.ca). Deadline for the next issue is September 1st.



## CLA in grass-fed beef is a powerful anti-carcinogen that also promotes fat loss

John McKiernan, *Natural News.com*

CLA, or conjugated linoleic acid, wasn't discovered until 1979 when researchers applied a beef extract to the skin of mice that were also exposed to a potent toxin. After a 16-week period, the group of mice with the beef extract had 20 percent fewer tumors than those without. Nine years later, in 1987, the identity of that powerful anti-carcinogen was revealed.

CLA is actually a trans fatty acid, but unlike other trans fatty acids that are detrimental to the body, CLA possesses anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, heart health and body-fat reduction properties. The difference has to do with the conjugated system of CLA which, for nutritional purposes, means it is not counted as a trans fat. The healthy fat, which naturally occurs in high quantities in meat and dairy products, is particularly noted for its effects on body composition.

In healthy people, CLA can help maintain low levels of body fat, while simultaneously conserving muscle tissues. A 2007 meta analysis published in the *American Clinical Journal of Nutrition* concluded that ingesting 3.2 grams of CLA per day had a significant effect on fat loss; about one pound over five weeks. A 2007 issue of *American Society for Nutrition* found that CLA increased fatty acid utilization during sleep. CLA has even been studied for its effects on breast cancer. A 2009 study published in *Nutrition*

and *Cancer* found that the fatty acid impaired the growth of breast cancer tissues and liposarcoma cells.

Although some may consider CLA's effect on weight loss modest, its safety (in its supplemental form) and its all-around health promoting properties make it an optimal choice for those interested in supplementing a healthy diet and exercise routine for improved results. It should be noted that CLA works best on individuals who exercise regularly, as

pointed out by a 2002 study titled "Conjugated linoleic acid reduces body fat in healthy exercising humans." Despite the fact that most studies done

use about 3.2 grams of supplemental CLA, dietary sources of CLA provide the same advantages and are likely even more beneficial in their natural state.

To get the highest levels of CLA from meat and dairy products, these foods must be obtained from grass-fed cattle. Organic, grass-fed beef is much higher in CLA than feedlot beef, as grass-fed cows possess three to five times as much CLA as grain-fed cows. By consuming CLA and other nutrients in their natural state, the body is able to utilize them much more efficiently. Although there's nothing wrong with supplements, when given the option, it's always better to acquire your nutrients from whole foods.

***Instead of supplementing CLA, eat grass-fed beef and drink raw milk***

This year's Canadian National takes place in Olds, Alberta during the Olds Fall Classic. For those who don't live in Western Canada, you might not realize how important the Olds Fall Classic is to the beef industry.

The Fall Classic showcases "the best of the best" in up to 10 beef breed shows, including: Black Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Maine Anjou, Red Angus, Salers, Shorthorn, Simmental, and this year, Blonde d'Aquitaines! Top quality cattle from some of the industry's leading seedstock breeders are showcased.

The Classic is a great warmup for the year, and a great way to track the quality of your cattle before other fall shows like FarmFair and Agribition. To learn more about the Fall Classic, visit the Olds Agricultural Society website at [www.oldsagsociety.com/fallclas.html](http://www.oldsagsociety.com/fallclas.html).



# Dusty Acre

2013 models have arrived

Dusty Acre Anne  
a West Winds Woody  
Daughter with a birth  
weight of 72 LBS



Dusty Acre Alil  
a West Winds Xpo  
daughter with a birth weight  
of 61 LBS

Dave Rounds & Shellie Wolfe

RR 2 Site 4 Comp 1  
Dawson Creek, BC  
V1G4E8

Email...  
dustyacreblondes@outlook.com  
Phone... 250-782-8565

# **WEST WINDS Willie 3W**

*One of our Homozygous Polled Herdsires*

*Pictured March 29, 2013*

## **WEST WIND BLONDES**

**Shirley Bilton • Myrna Flesch**

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**Fax: 403.549.2374**

**Email: [westwind@telusplanet.net](mailto:westwind@telusplanet.net)**

**Website:**

**[www.telusplanet.net/public/westwind](http://www.telusplanet.net/public/westwind)**

*Note the mass, neck hump  
and width!!*