

BLONDE BULLET

2012

Published by the Alberta & Man/Sask Blonde d'Aquitaine Associations



Welcome from the Alberta President

I spent a great September weekend in Lindsay, Ontario for the 2011 National Blonde Show, Sale and AGM. Dave Kamelchuk and I made the trip together, and other than Dave talking my ear off the whole time, it was very enjoyable. We had the chance to meet, and talk to a lot of other breeders from across Canada. I know we, like all the other breeders that attended, went home feeling re-charged and excited about Blondes, and the cattle industry in general. The animals looked great at the show, we had a huge crowd at the sale (standing room only) and the cattle sold to the highest average in many years. I think the Ontario Association is going to make this an annual event, and a must attend for Blonde breeders in Ontario and elsewhere. We can't wait until next year.

The AGM for the Alberta Association was held in Leduc on Saturday November 26th. There were several by-law changes passed that will make running the Association easier as we move into the near future. There were valid concerns and a lot of discussion regarding the changes, but in the end they were deemed necessary. Dave Kamelchuk and Shirley Jackson returned to the board while Harry Nauenburg retired. We would like to thank Harry for the many years of service he has provided. The balance of the meeting was taken up with discussion on upgrading our display booth and other ways to promote our breed in the upcoming year.

By the time you receive this Bullet the 2011-2012 Alberta Blonde Bull Test will be nearly complete. There were 19 bulls consigned by Arsha Blondes, Little Creek Blondes, Shambani Blondes, Spruce Vale Blondes and Willow Springs Stock Farm. The bulls are now back at their home farms, and available for private treaty purchase. There is more information, and final results later in this publication.

Also take the time this summer to see some great Blonde cattle. Our annual Field day will be hosted by the Kamelchuk family near Athabasca. The date will be determined later in the spring.

Reed Rigney



Welcome from the Man/Sask President

I was doing a bit of reminiscing, as this is the first joint Blonde Bullet published through a co-operation between the Alberta & Man/Sask Associations.

Back in 1997 there was a really good National show in Regina; the first I had ever been to. They had all classes of animals; about 40 or so entered into them and for sale. The atmosphere was so jovial; friendly people with the one major thing in common. My significant other and I had come with a couple that were old friends of mine from the city, neither had been to a CATTLE auction before, but enjoyed going to other kinds. He was a big, stern looking man (looks can be so deceiving), who looked like a banker. Most people thought that what he was, and so we played up to that, pretending to consult with him every time an animal came up for sale. Dunno if we fooled a lot of people, but it was a whale of a good time any ways. We did end up buying numerous animals, or at least raising the price on some anyway.

Every Blonde show has been an adventure and at each one I have visited with old friends and made new ones (as well as bought more cattle!). Over the years it has improved our herd, and we have thoroughly enjoyed swapping cow stories with every breeder.

Pat Filz from Forty Acre Blondes hoping that 2012 will be a MUCH improved year after the P.I.T.A. year of 2011!

2012 ALBERTA BLONDE FIELD DAY

Hosted by Little Creek Farms
Dave & Janet Kamelchuk and Girls

Date & Time: June 22nd @11:30 am
Lunch provided (potluck dessert)
Location: SE of Athabasca, Alberta

Contact the Alberta Blonde Association 780-348-5308 or
Dave & Janet Kamelchuk 780-675-1227 for more info

Alberta Blonde Bulls on Test at Strathmore

The Alberta Blonde Association bull test is now complete at Cattleland Feedyards near Strathmore, Alberta. Five Blonde breeders contributed 19 bulls for the test.

All the bulls were penned together, however they have been separated on paper for indexing purposes. Convention dictates that only bulls within 90 days of age of each other should be indexed together. For this test the January/February born bulls have been indexed together, with the March/April/May bulls in a second group. There are Fullblood and Purebred bulls in the test, with a majority being polled. They were delivered in early November for a warm-up period to let them adjust to new surroundings, new feed and to help even out some of the environmental weight differences of the bulls before the test started. The official test started December 10, 2011 and concluded March 30, 2012. The bulls are weighed every 28 days during the test.

Carcass ultrasound and scrotal circumference results are available on our website. If you would like to have the results sent directly to you, please contact The Alberta Blonde Association (Reed Rigney). The bulls have headed for home, and are available for purchase by private treaty, so if you are interested in any of the bulls on test, contact the contributor, the Alberta Blonde Association or William Torres at Cattleland Feedyards. Last year they sold out early so don't wait too long.

Alberta Blonde Association
780-348-5308
aba@clearwave.ca
www.albertablonddecattle.com

Cattleland Feedyards
William Torres
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2011-2012 Alberta Blonde d'Aquitaine Bull Test

112 day Report - **March 30, 2012** Cattleland Feedyards - Strathmore, Alberta

Pen Number: D47

Number of Bulls: 19

Test Start: December 10, 2010

TAG #	TATTOO	BIRTH DATE	%	HORN TYPE	SIRE	BIRTH WGT	DAM AGE	ADJ 205 WGT	ADG BIRTH-START	STAR T WGT	28 DAY WGT	56 DAY WGT	84 DAY WGT	END WGT	TEST ADG	TEST INDEX	WPDA ADG	WPDA INDEX
JANUARY-FEBRUARY BULLS (Test #1)																		
Arsha Blondes - Art & Sharon Breitkreuz - Carnwood, AB - (780) 542-2378 (YELLOW TAGS)																		
295	BSA 168Y	21-Jan-11	FB	P	ARSHA'S POLLED TOBEY	92	3	613	2.36	853	917	960	1012	1151	2.66	91	2.65	94
296	BSA 216Y	13-Jan-11	FB	P	ARSHA'S POLLED TOBEY	91	7	589	2.43	895	960	1031	1098	1150	2.28	78	2.60	92
297	BSA 133Y	5-Feb-11	FB	P	ARSHA'S POLLED TOBEY	96	4	620	2.48	861	935	1054	1149	1206	3.08	105	2.88	102
299	BSA 410Y	25-Jan-11	FB	P	ARSHA LAVA 103L	95	7	601	2.47	882	991	1119	1231	1281	3.56	121	2.98	106
300	BSA 68Y	4-Feb-11	FB	P	GALBRAITHS U-KNOW IT	96	3	667	2.60	899	1004	1093	1188	1245	3.09	105	2.96	105
MARCH-MAY BULLS (Test #2)																		
Spruce Vale Blondes - Steve & Shirley Jackson - Westeros, AB - (780) 586-2800 (GREEN TAGS)																		
126	SSJ 10Y	31-Mar-11	PB	P	FORTY ACRE TROY 37T	99	9	597	2.43	716	782	868	940	1055	3.03	88	2.89	92
127	SSJ 20Y	18-Apr-11	FB	P	WEST WINDS UTAH 46	80	3	586	2.28	619	694	814	910	980	3.22	93	2.82	90
128	SSJ 30Y	26-Mar-11	PB	P	FORTY ACRE TROY 37T	80	12	610	2.59	750	858	966	1071	1130	3.39	98	3.05	97
129	SSJ 50Y	27-Mar-11	PB	P	WEST WINDS SHERMAN	94	11	595	2.44	724	780	919	1014	1065	3.04	88	2.89	92
Willow Springs Stock Farm - Reed & Michelle Rigney - Westlock, AB - (780) 348-5308 (WHITE TAGS)																		
132	WSS 20Y	1-May-11	FB	P	WSS WARRIOR 39W	79	2	641	2.39	611	688	808	907	1045	3.88	112	3.13	100
133	WSS 37Y	12-May-11	FB	H	NORTHERN JUSTIN	99	ET	694	2.90	714	786	900	993	1042	2.93	85	3.23	103
134	WSS 50Y	18-May-11	FB	H	HARMONIEUX	106	ET	656	2.68	659	739	861	962	1045	3.45	100	3.30	105
135	WSS 29Y	9-May-11	FB	P	WSS WARRIOR 39W	95	2	604	2.13	552	647	737	830	917	3.26	94	2.81	90
Shambani Blondes - Colin & Felicity Manuel - Rocky Mountain House, AB - (403) 845-4914 (BLACK TAGS)																		
212	SHAM 55Y	3-Apr-11	PB	P	ARSHA POLLED UPTON	106	8	744	3.11	887	972	1090	1190	1325	3.91	113	3.66	117
213	SHAM 90Y	1-Apr-11	PB	P	ARSHA POLLED UPTON	82	8	639	2.72	769	865	984	1089	1122	3.15	91	3.08	98
214	SHAM 88Y	29-Mar-11	PB	P	SHAMBANI TAJI 8T	90	4	689	2.85	820	918	1024	1122	1218	3.55	103	3.32	106
215	SHAM 8Y	2-Apr-11	PB	P	ARSHA POLLED UPTON	88	9	569	2.35	679	731	828	900	1161	4.30	125	3.20	102
Little Creek Farms - Dave & Janet Kamelchuk - Ellscoff, AB - (780) 675-1227 (BLUE TAGS)																		
251	LCB 25Y	23-Mar-11	FB	P	ARSHA POLLED UMPIRE	104	3	626	2.36	723	814	904	994	1094	3.31	96	2.93	94
252	LCB 41Y	1-Apr-11	FB	P	ARSHA POLLED UMPIRE	109	5	727	3.02	872	977	1074	1172	1312	3.93	114	3.60	115

Man/Sask Bull Test

The Manitoba Bull Test Station at Douglas, Manitoba is owned and operated by the Manitoba Beef Cattle Performance Association Inc. The test station is a non-profit organization that has been in operation for over 40 years. The goal is to develop bulls and heifers to meet the needs of the ever changing cattle industry for both the purebred and commercial cattlemen. Visitors are welcome all year round to view the facilities and talk to the staff about programs available. During the test season visitors can get statistics on the bulls and heifers on site and look at quality livestock. This year there are 200 bulls on test from ten different breeds (Angus -Black & Red, Blonde, Charolais, Composite, Gelbvieh, Limousin, Maine Anjou, Saler, Simmental and Shorthorn).

This year there are two Blonde bulls on test, both contributed by Forty Acre Blondes. Results from the final weigh day on February 22, 2012 are printed at the bottom of this page. The sale is **April 7th , 2012** and the floor price on all sale bulls is \$2000. For more information please contact the Manitoba Bull test Station or Forty Acre Blondes directly.

Manitoba Bull Test Station
 Douglas, Manitoba
 (204) 763-4696

www.manitobabulltest.com

TAG #	TATTOO	BIRTH DATE	%	HORN TYPE	SIRE	BIRTH WGT	DAM AGE	ADJ 205 WGT	ADG BIRTH-START	START WGT	END WGT	TEST ADG	TEST INDEX	WPDA ADG	WPDA INDEX
Forty Acre Blondes - Don Mehler & Pat Filz - Lampman, SK - (306) 634-2174															
634	FAB 23Y	17-Feb-11	PB	P	WEST WINDS UNDERWOOD	86	6		2.66	770	1162	3.50	n/a	3.14	n/a
635	FAB 30Y	24-Feb-11	PB	P	FORTY ACRE ROCCO 5R	94	8		2.76	785	1238	4.04	n/a	3.41	n/a

Forty Acre Blondes



Forty Acre Rocco 5 R

Has now been retired, the last of his progeny will be spring 2012. His offspring have been doing well for purchasers and been exceptional at test stations.



West Winds Waco 133 W (fullblood)

First year for his calves and they are turning out fantastic.



West Winds Underwood 16U (fullblood)

We have really appreciated this boy's ability to have small, easy calves. All our heifers have been serviced by "Woody" in the past few years. One of his offspring is in the Douglas bull test station this year.

**Don Mehler & Pat Filz
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Blondes = Beef

I have included this article from our 2011 Blonde Bullet for those of you who are new to our mailing list. If you want more detail on the studies referenced in this article please visit the Alberta Blonde Aquitaine Association website, click the News link and then 2011 Bullet. We can also send the info directly to you if that works better.

Now that you have read some of facts regarding Blonde cattle, how do you put this new knowledge to work? Well, the common theme to the traits in which Blondes excel is Beef Production. As we saw from the Residual Feed Intake (RFI) study, Blondes were the most efficient in terms of Feed Conversion and RFI. They used the least amount of feed to produce a pound of beef. That study also showed us that Blondes had the least backfat and largest rib eye area (ie: most muscle), thus they have very high yield and cutability. The meat tenderness study showed us that Blondes have lower collagen levels and more tender meat (lower shear force) than most other breeds. We also saw that Blondes will not marble as well as the other breeds in the studies.

From a commercial perspective (for conventional beef production) the Blonde breed is best positioned as a Terminal sire to be used on British breed cattle. There are a lot of commercial Angus (black or red), Hereford and Baldy herds out there currently being bred back to their own breed or other British breeds. These cattle-

men could benefit immensely from the hybrid vigour provided by the use of a Blonde bull. Basically hybrid vigour allows you to produce more pounds of calf with nearly the same resources. Blondes are also the easiest calving of the major French breeds as they are finer boned, and don't muscle up until about one month of age.

Colour can also be a concern for some cattleman. Blondes range in colour from almost white to tan to dark red. When bred to red or black hided cattle they often produce red or black hided offspring. If you use a lighter coloured Blonde bull you may get tan or smoke coloured calves. Blonde bulls will generally take white off of calves, often just leaving a blaze on Herford or traditionally marked Simmentals.

The resulting calves will also excel in the feedlot with a combination of feed conversion and RFI from the Blondes with the gut capacity and gainability of the British cattle. On the rail the Blondes provide the REA and cutability and lower backfat while the British provide the marbling. On the plate the Blondes have lower shear force (more tender), again combined with the marbling from the British to provide the flavour.

There are also premium markets for lean, healthy beef. High percentage Blonde cattle work very well in this respect as well. Any way you look at it Blondes equal Beef.

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2011-2012 West Wind Blondes Bull Test

The West Wind Blondes test began on November 14, 2011 and concluded on March 3, 2012. Eight bulls were put on test this year, with all of them being Fullblood and Polled. 47Y & 227Y are Homozygous polled. All bulls will be vaccinated with Fusoguard for prevention of foot rot, and have Igenity DNA Profiles. Full results including EPD's and Carcass information are available on the West Winds website.

There are also additional bulls that were not part of the official test available for purchase. As with the tested bulls, all weights, EPD's, Igenity profiles and carcass information is available by contacting West Wind Blondes. These bulls are also vaccinated with the Fusoguard.

TATTOO	BIRTH DATE	SIRE	BIRTH WGT	ADJ 205 WGT	START WGT	END WGT	TEST ADG	WPDA ADG	S.C.	REA (in2)	IMF	Backfat (mm)
NOR 1Y	Jan 20	West Winds Rainier 11R	100	794	1035	1395	3.27	3.42	36.5	17.3	2.73	4
SMB 12Y	Jan 20	West Winds Rainier 11R	89	823	1025	1305	2.54	3.20	31	17.6	2.78	3
SMB 018Y	Jan 2	West Winds Rainier 11R	90	801	1120	1500	3.45	3.52	35.5	17.0	2.78	2
NOR 47Y	Jan 16	West Winds Willie 3W	90	751	1010	1295	2.59	3.14	33	16.7	2.57	4
NOR 49Y	Feb 8	West Winds Rainier 11R	91	753	1010	1440	3.91	3.80	30.5	14.8	2.61	5
SMB 141Y	Jan 23	West Winds Rainier 11R	89	769	1065	1380	2.86	3.41	31.5	16.0	2.53	3
SMB 144Y	Feb 26	West Winds Rainier 11R	86	776	935	1265	3.00	3.41	35	17.1	2.53	2
SMB 227Y	Jan 29	West Winds Rainier 11R	96	842	1100	1495	3.59	3.75	36	16.3	2.87	4

Alberta Breeders at the 2011 National

After hosting a successful National Show, Sale and AGM in 2010, three Alberta Blonde breeders (and their cattle) made the September trek to Lindsay, Ontario for the 2011 National event. The breeders were Little Creek Farms (Dave Kamelchuk), West Wind Blondes (Myrna Flesch) and Willow Springs Stock Farm (Reed Rigney). The Alberta cattle were well received in Ontario, first at the sale and the next day in the show.

The Annual General Meeting was generally a quiet affair. There weren't any proposed By-law changes so it was mainly an informational gathering. Dave Kamelchuk was returned to the Board of Directors, joining fellow Albertans Myrna Flesch, Ken Mackenzie and Reed Rigney. Myrna was also named the National president following a one year hiatus from the position.

Later that day the seven Alberta bred heifers averaged \$2650 in the National and Ontario Cream of the Crop Sales. Little Creek Farms had the high selling female in the sale selling Little Creek Polled Xander 25X to Paul Fee of Ontario for \$3650. Willow Springs Stock Farm had the third high selling female in the sale, selling WSS Xtravagant 66X for \$3200 to Ryland Cleary of



Little Creek Polled Xander 25X

Quebec. Both heifers were polled Fullbloods. The five other Alberta heifers sold between \$2100 and \$2500.

The Alberta breeders also did their share of bidding at the sale, and came home with three animals, including Crystal Youngblood 28Y, the high

selling animal in the sale at \$5000, purchased by Little Creek Farms and Willow Springs Stock Farm. The young bull carries an impressive set of EPD's placing him in the top 1% of the breed for growth, milk and scrotal circumference. Youngblood was also named the Reserve Champion Bull Calf the next day in the show, while his maternal brother, Crystal Waldo 23W was named 2011 National Champion Bull. Waldo had previously been named the 2010 Reserve National Champion Bull in Alberta.

The Albertans success carried into the show ring the following day. In the Senior Yearling Heifer class the Kamelchuk female Little Creek Xample 146X placed second to the eventual Junior Champion female. Willow Springs Stock Farm placed 1st and 2nd in the Junior Yearling Heifer class with two daughters of the 2010 National Champion Bull, Arsha's Polled Umpire 219U. WSS Xclamation 61X was second while WSS Xtravagant 66X placed first and was also named the Reserve Junior Champion female. This is the second consecutive year that Willow Springs has exhibited the Reserve Junior Female at the Lindsay Show. Xtravagant followed that win by being named Junior Champion Female for new owner Ryland Cleary at the Victoriaville, Quebec show in October.



WSS Xtravagant 66X

The 2012 National will be held in Quebec during the Expo Agricole de Victoriaville (October 6-12). Hopefully the 2013 National will make it's way back West, and we'll see some of you there.

Arsha Blondes

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Arsha's Polled Umpire 219U
2010 National Champion Bull



Arsha's Polled Tobey 2T - Pictured as a yearling
Sire of 3 bulls on test

Visitors Always Welcome.

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David & Janet Kamelchuk
Ellscoot, Alberta
780-675-1227

littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com



LCB 104Y - Umpire son



LCB 192Y - Umpire daughter

The progeny of our senior herdsire, Arsha's Polled Umpire 219U (co-owned with Willow Springs Stock Farm), are correct, easy fleshing, deep-ribbed and thick, with lots of hair and eye-appeal. Being homozygous polled is just an added bonus. Umpire will be for sale mid-summer 2012.



PFER 11U - Rheo Lancaster Daughter



LCB 115Y - Umpire daughter

- Bulls for sale currently on test @ Cattleland Feedyards and from the yard – All polled fullbloods.
- Bred heifers for sale summer 2012.

Sired by 2010 National Grand Champion Bull – Arsha's Polled Umpire and Blackwater Ainsley

★ BIO EPDs on the whole herd. ★

Visitors always welcome!

Spruce Vale Blondes



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**Visitors
Always
Welcome**

Scientists Say Red Meat Is Vital For A Healthy Diet

By Madeline McCurry-Schmidt, American Society of Animal Science / Scientific Communications Associate

When Harvard University published its “Healthy Eating Plate” last September, there was something missing: red meat. Instead of including red meat on their dietary guide, Harvard nutritionists recommended that consumers “choose fish, poultry, beans and nuts.” The exclusion of red meat from the Harvard guide contrasts with USDA’s MyPlate, which counts lean cuts of beef, ham and other red meats as good protein sources for a healthy diet.

Some nutritionists point out that by excluding red meat from guidelines, Harvard scientists are ignoring significant benefits of red meat in the diet. Studies by groups like the British Nutrition Foundation show that not only is red meat a good source of protein, it is also an important source of nutrients.

In a paper published this month in the journal *Meat Science*, scientists from Baylor College of Medicine and the USDA-ARS Children’s Nutrition Research Council explained that red meat contributes important nutrients to the diet without harming dietary quality. Compared to a group on a diet without beef, consumers of high lean, low-fat beef took in more vitamins A, C, B, niacin, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, zinc, potassium and protein.

Research also shows that a diet containing lean red meat can actually improve heart function. In this month’s issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, researchers from Pennsylvania State University, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and Rutgers University published data showing that a diet with lean beef can decrease levels of LDL cholesterol, compared with diets of lean white meat. LDL cholesterol (commonly called “bad cholesterol”) can transport fat molecules in the blood stream and contribute to cardiovascular disease.



Red meat is an especially important source of nutrients for infants. During the 2011 joint meeting of the American Society of Animal Science and the Argentine Association of Animal Production, British Nutrition Foundation senior nutritionist Laura Wyness gave a talk titled “Nutritional content and benefits of red meat.” Wyness said many infants in the UK show iron deficiency around six months old. She said this can happen when parents don’t get their babies enough meat during weaning. During weaning, parents will replace milk with fruit and vegetable puree, and this limited diet leads to a lack of iron and zinc.

“It’s important to start to wean on to meat,” Wyness said.

Not only is meat a good source of iron, but the type of iron in meat is more easily absorbed by the body than iron found in foods like spinach. A 1988 University of Washington study showed that the human

body can absorb 15-35% of iron found in meat (called “heme iron”) but only 2-20% of other types of iron. In their paper, titled “Iron nutrition and absorption: dietary factors which impact iron bioavailability,” the researchers said adding meat to a diet could help individuals vulnerable to iron loss — such as pregnant women and menstruating women

Wyness said red meat is also an important source of vitamin D. Though many people can get all the vitamin D they need from the sun, absorption is trickier for groups like the elderly and those with darker skin.

“That makes meat an important source,” Wyness said

Lean red meat, like the kind tested in the *Meat Science* study, is easy to find.

“Many popular cuts that you’re familiar with are lean” says Shalene McNeill, executive director of nutrition research for the National Cattleman’s Beef Association.

Continued on Next Page



ARSHA'S POLLED UMPIRE 219U

**HOMOZYGOUS POLLED FULLBLOOD
2010 NATIONAL CHAMPION BULL
He is FOR SALE! Available July 1st 2012**

★ We have open heifer calves for sale, and also bred females due to calve in May to AI sires & Umpire

★ Check out our bulls in the Alberta Blonde Bull Test Available for Summer 2012 breeding

★ We have a wide selection of semen and embryos for sale. Please check our website, call or email for more information.

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Springs
Stock Farm**

**Reed & Michelle Rigney
Westlock, Alberta
Ph: (780) 348-5308
Cell: (780) 307-2702
Email: rigney@clearwave.ca
Web: www.wsscattle.ca**

Healthy Beef continued

McNeill says consumers should look for beef products with "round" or "loin" in the name. Sirloin, tenderloin and flank steaks all fit the bill as lean red meats.

McNeill believes Harvard's guidelines on limiting red meat may come from a misperception that Americans eat too much meat already. She cited a Baylor University study which showed that Americans only eat, on average, 1.7 oz. of beef/day/person. For reference, 1.7 oz. is about weight of a medium-sized chicken egg.

"For calorie investment, that's making a huge nutrient contribution," McNeill says.

Adria Sheil-Brown, a National Pork Board dietician, adds that proteins found in red meat can actually help people lose weight, a claim confirmed by years of nutrition research. In a 2004 paper titled "High-Protein, Low-Fat Diets Are Effective for Weight Loss and Favorably Alter Biomarkers in Healthy Adults," a team of Arizona State University scientists wrote that high-protein diets are also more satisfying. This means dieters are more likely to stick to high-protein diets and continue to lose weight.

Like McNeill, Sheil-Brown believes there are misconceptions about the value of red meat. She said many people don't realize that red meat can contain many nutrients but few calories. For example, a 3 oz. cut of pork tenderloin has under three grams of fats and around 120 calories.

"Pork tenderloin is just as lean as a skinless chicken breast," Sheil-Brown says. "The problem is just keeping your portion size in check – and that's true with any food."

This article, and many other great articles on the cattle industry can be found on-line at www.beefmagazine.com



Do you have an email address?

To help us provide you with more timely updates, and save mailing costs please email your local Provincial Association.

All addresses will be confidential, and will only be used for sending Association messages on occasion.

Thanks!

Blonde Breeders of Western Canada

ALBERTA

Art & Sharon Breitzkreuz
Arsha Blondes
Carnwood, AB
780-542-2378
Email: arsha1@telus.net

Steve & Shirley Jackson
Spruce Vale Blondes
Westerose, AB
780-586-2800
Email: hootch@telus.net

David & Janet Kamelchuk
Little Creek Blondes
Ellscoot, AB
780-675-1227
Email: littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com

Stan & Sarah Konschuh
Westlane Farms
Didsbury, AB
403-335-4368
Email: konschuh@westlanefarms.com
Web: www.westlanefarms.com

Ken Mackenzie
Mackenzie's Ag. Enterprises
Drayton Valley, AB
780-542-2268
Email: kenkb@telus.net

Colin & Felicity Manuel
Shambani Farms
Rocky Mountain House, AB
403-845-4914
Email: colinmanuel@hotmail.com

Harry & Connie Nauenburg
Harcon Stock Farm
Strome, AB
780-376-2184
Email: harconsf@mcsnet.ca

Reed & Michelle Rigney
Willow Springs Stock Farm
Westlock, AB
780-348-5308
Email: rigney@clearwave.ca
Web: www.wsscattle.ca

Cathy Srayko
True North Ranch
Fairview, AB
780-835-4964
Email: csrayko@gprc.ab.ca

Dennis & Lyndon Szott
Denlyn Farms
Daysland, AB
780-373-2164
Email: lyndon@telusplanet.net

Shirley Bilton & Myrna Flesch
West Wind Blondes
Stavely, AB
403-549-2371
Email: westwind@telusplanet.net
Web: www.telusplanet.net/public/westwind

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jo-Lyn Ranch
Greenwood, BC
250-445-6401

Karl & Ann Musgrove
KAM Blondes
Charlie Lake, BC
250-262-3278

Dave Rounds & Shellie Wolfe
Dusty Acre
Dawson Creek, BC
250-782-8565
Email: swolfe@pris.ca

MANITOBA

Marcel & Gail Dufault
Bellevue Blondes
Haywood, MB
204-379-2426
Email: mgdufault@gmail.com

Dave Gerega
Blue Diamond Agra
Roblin, MB
204-937-3426
Email: dgerega@xplornet.ca

Bill & Brian Wood
Hazel Grove Blondes
Carberry, MB
204-834-2967
Email: wkwood@xplornet.com

Stephen & Bernice Dmytriw
Knobby Oak Farm
Rapid City, MB
204-826-2661

John & Debbie Carlisle
Triple C Blondes
Carroll, MB
204-483-2024
Email: info@triplebeef.ca

Art Kroeker
Triple K Blondes
Morden, MB
204-822-3174
Email: 8223165@sdnet.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

Nolan Erickson
Midale, SK
306-458-2505

Don Mehler & Pat Filz
Forty Acre Blondes
Lampman, SK
306-634-2174
Email: fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net

ALBERTA BLONDE d'AQUITAINE ASSOCIATION

Box 5959
Westlock, Alberta, Canada
T7P 2P7
(780) 348-5308
Email: aba@clearwave.ca
Web: www.albertablondcattle.com

Executive Directors

President/Office Contact - Reed Rigney

Vice President
Ken Mackenzie
780-542-2268
kenkb@telus.net

Treasurer
Dave Kamelchuk
780-675-1227
littlecreekagroforestry@gmail.com

MAN/SASK BLONDE d'AQUITAINE ASSOCIATION

Box 418
Lampman, Saskatchewan, Canada
S0C 1N0
(306) 634-2174
Email: fortyacreblondes@sasktel.net

Executive Directors

President/Office Contact - Pat Filz

Past President
Dave Gerega
204-937-3426
dgerega@xplornet.ca

Treasurer
Marcel Dufault
204-379-2426
mgdufault@gmail.com