



## American Belgian Blue Breeders, Inc.

### The Beef Solution™ Newsletter

Belgian Blue Beef in North America ▲ [www.belgianblue.org](http://www.belgianblue.org) ▲ December 2006

#### SEASON'S GREETINGS



2006 is coming to a close! So many good things happened for the Blues this year with a lot of interest in the breed! Thank you to all the breeders for making 2006 a success. We also wish to salute the Canadian Belgian Blue Association and thank the Belgian Blue International office for their support.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, we wish everyone a **"Very Happy, Safe, and Healthy Holiday Season"**. We look forward to helping you 2007.

Rest well, 2007 is already promising to be very busy!

#### HLSR 2007 DATES

**Dates for the 2007 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ and information:**

**Entries due** - January 5, 2007

**Arrival** - Feb. 26, 2007

**Show** - Feb. 28, 2007 @ 3 p.m.

**Release** - March 1, 2007

**Visit** - [www.hlsr.com](http://www.hlsr.com) - entry information is currently available online.

Events in your area? Keep us informed!

#### JUNIOR POINTS

Junior Points are due in the office by Dec. 15, 2006. All necessary junior information is on the ABBB website.

#### MEMBER NEWS

**Adam and Lisa Horman** had a baby girl on January 6th 2006, her name is Samantha Marie Horman. Samantha and Adam look through cattle magazines and she points to the ones she likes, so you might say that she will like to show when she gets big enough.

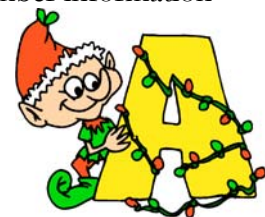
**Ryan Williams and Angie Horman** had a baby boy on April 11, 2006, his name is Logan Christopher Williams. Watch out for this little guy, he is busy all the time. Not yet crawling but on the edge ready to go. We would like to invite everyone to our special day; Ryan and I are getting Married on May 19 2007, in Lowden IA.

**Jennifer and Craig Phillips** had their boy! Brody Colt 9 lbs. 9 oz. born November 11, 2006.

Congratulation to **Scott and Kelly Parshall** from Skidmore, Missouri - they were married on Oct.05,2006. Way to go!!

Our Sincere sympathy to **Harold Brubaker** and his family on the loss of Harold's mother.

Anyone having any member information - please keep us posted!



## **DNA LAB CHANGE**

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Please remember that our DNA lab, ImmGen, is going to close as of Dec. 31, 2006. Any blood typing kits or DNA work needs to be finished by the end of Dec. We will be changing to U.C. Davis in Davis, CA on Jan.1, 2007.

This lab will of course DNA and they will also continue bloodtyping until Dec. 31, 2008. ImmGen and U.C. Davis will work together to maintain our historical records.

If you have any questions please call the office. All registration forms are on the ABBB site: [www.belgianblue.org](http://www.belgianblue.org).

## **11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SALE**

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The 11th Annual Belgian Blue Sale will be March 31, 2007 in El Dorado Springs, MO at the Heely Sale Barn at 1 p.m. All necessary information is on the nomination form. Hotel reservations may be made at the Country Inn, Tel. 417.667.9292. There is a block of ABBB rooms reserved at the Country Inn. Suites are \$84.60 and Kings and 2 Queens are \$75.60. There are 29 rooms held at the Country Inn like last year. Information on the dinner will be coming soon.

For more information, please contact the following members:

### **Ken McManigle**

days - 319-634-3788

evenings - 319-634-3768

email - [kenskars@insnet.net](mailto:kenskars@insnet.net)

### **Steve Dollarhide**

phone - 580-245-2370

email - [stevedollarhide@yahoo.com](mailto:stevedollarhide@yahoo.com)

### **Harold Brubaker**

phone – 336-629-420

email - [hjbrubaker@yahoo.com](mailto:hjbrubaker@yahoo.com)

The Nomination Form is at the end of this newsletter.

## **INTERESTING SITES**

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[www.belgianblue.org](http://www.belgianblue.org) (of course!)  
[www.belgianblueinternational.com](http://www.belgianblueinternational.com)  
[www.belgianblue.ca](http://www.belgianblue.ca)  
[www.farms.ca](http://www.farms.ca)  
[www.tractorhouse.com](http://www.tractorhouse.com)  
[www.Cattletoday.com](http://www.Cattletoday.com)  
[www.Agrimarketing.com](http://www.Agrimarketing.com)  
[www.tractorbuyandsell.com](http://www.tractorbuyandsell.com)



## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

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Membership Renewals are due Jan. 1, 2007. Please send your fee of \$50 for members, \$25 for associate memberships, and \$25 for Junior memberships. Renewal letters will soon be in the mail.

Thank you for your support.

Tattoo letter for 2006 is "S" and for 2007 "T".

## **CALLING ALL JUNIORS**

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The association is extremely pleased with all the Junior participation in 2006. The ABBB Board would like to create a Junior Belgian Blue Association for 2007. The association would greatly appreciate that all juniors and their parents to fill out the attached survey to get things rolling. Thanks to all the parent and their great juniors. We have had record breaking number of the junior entries at the shows. Please fill out the survey (at the end of this newsletter) and send it to the office as soon as possible.

We would like to have the juniors and their parents involved in organizing the program.

## **TULSA 2006 RESULTS**

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The Tulsa 2006 show results are now available on the ABBB website!

## **DNA MARKERS DEVELOPED TO IMPROVE FOOD BEEF QUALITY**

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Article published in *Cattle Today*  
by: Michael P. Heaton, Ph.D

Researchers at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Neb., are developing a set of 100 DNA markers that will provide essential genetic information for improving food safety and beef quality in North American beef and dairy cattle.

This powerful set of markers has been thoroughly screened to accomplish both DNA fingerprinting and parentage testing in essentially all U.S. beef and dairy populations an ability that only a small fraction of known DNA markers have.

One key to success has been the careful sampling of U.S. beef and dairy populations to create a test panel representing the vast majority of U.S. cattle. A group of 216 diverse sires from 19 beef breeds and four dairy breeds was selected for marker testing. Their DNA is being sequenced in selected regions and markers are chosen that work well for the entire group. The rationale is this: if the markers perform well in this diverse group of 216 sires, they will work well in most U.S. cattle herds and beyond.

Other researchers tend to agree and requests for marker information have been received from all over the world including: North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America. All of the information is being made freely available on the Internet through the National Center for Biotechnology Information ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)).

### **Accuracy counts**

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Surprisingly, there is so much genetic diversity in U.S. cattle that creating universal DNA

marker tests that will work in every animal becomes problematic.

The many DNA differences between animals interfere with the chemistry of the DNA testing process. To overcome this problem, USMARC scientists sequence key DNA regions from the group of 216 sires described above. Scientists then document the DNA diversity and use this information to design each DNA test so it will be accurate in more than 99.9 percent of the cattle to be tested.

Accuracy is important when using DNA markers to trace the origin of a diseased animal - such as the December 23, 2003, Washington State bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) case. This Holstein dairy cow was the first reported U.S. case of BSE (also known as mad cow disease). Scientists at USMARC designed and analyzed the DNA testing for this case and confirmed its Canadian origin by parentage analysis. In situations like this it is critical that DNA tests are as accurate as possible because one error can cause enormous confusion and raise potential doubts about the results. For that reason, scientists have gone the extra mile in developing a surplus of the best DNA markers possible.

### **How it works**

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A small amount of any tissue may be used as a source of DNA including: whole blood, skin, semen, hair follicles, or meat. First the DNA is extracted by technicians at a testing company. Next the DNA tests are run and simultaneously scored for all markers. The DNA test scores (i.e., genotypes) are assigned to the individual and become part of its permanent genetic record. This information can be used both as a unique DNA fingerprint and as a tool to determine parentage. The ultimate goal is to get the cost of DNA testing down to less than a penny per marker and the whole test less than the cost of a cheeseburger. At present, the lowest fees for

high volume testing are in the range of \$0.03 to \$0.05 per marker and \$10 per animal. Like computer technology, the price and availability are expected to improve with time and increased demand.

An essential tool for improving food safety. If the time and place of the animal's tissue sample collection are carefully recorded, its DNA marker information provides a unique genetic record that stays with the animal and its products throughout the food chain.

Thus, the identity of a beef product can be determined at any point in the food chain, including cooked products. The markers developed by USMARC scientists currently have enough power to uniquely identify all cattle in the United States.

This allows one to verify which carcasses test positive for disease at slaughter and to confirm a diseased animal's origin by parentage. More importantly, it allows DNA based verification of carcasses that have been certified as safe and healthy.

### **A bonus tool for improving beef quality and production**

The same set of genetic information used for DNA fingerprinting can also be used to determine parentage in settings where DNA from only one parent is available. For example, in multiple sire matings one can determine: (1) which bulls sired the best calves, (2) which bulls sired the most calves, (3) which calves were produced by artificial insemination, and (4) which calves were raised by the wrong mother. Assigning parentage is considered to be the foundation of genetic evaluation on commercial ranches. So whether it is beef improvement, food safety, or disease traceback, these new markers are available and expected to perform well in any population of U.S. cattle.

**Editor's Note:** Michael P. Heaton is a scientist at the USDA, ARS, U. S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE 68933; heaton@emad.marc.usda.gov; (402) 762 4362. This project is in collaboration with scientists at the ARS, Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory in Beltsville, Md., the University of Alberta's Beef Genomics Laboratory in Edmonton Canada, the Center for Genetics and Molecular Medicine at the University of Louisville, Ky., and Cogenics in Morrisville, N.C.



## **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

Glenda Sieren – Executive Director  
Connie Brooks President  
Harold Brubaker, Vice-President  
James Hunt, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ken McManigle, Director  
Marie Goubau, Director  
Steve Dollarhide, Director  
C. Stanley Jones, Director  
Ronnie Price, Director  
Cindy Schlichte, Director

### **American Belgian Blue Breeders, Inc.**

P.O. Box 154, Hedrick, IA 52563  
Phone (641) 661-2332  
Fax (641) 661-2332  
Website [www.belgianblue.org](http://www.belgianblue.org)  
Email : [info@belgianblue.org](mailto:info@belgianblue.org)



**Canadian  
Belgian Blue  
Association**  
www.belgianblue.ca

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **Seasonal Greetings!**

Dear Belgian Blue Breeders,

Another summer has gone by. Our eldest son got married and has bought his own place. The youngest son is off to University in Winnipeg. As is typical, the weather in Manitoba didn't let us down again. Three inches of rain immediately after we finished sowing and nothing till harvest. Only one cut hay and an early harvest with a wedding in between. Life has been very hectic. Some of the crops were a little disappointing. The cattle on the other hand did very well on the pastures. Cattle seem to gain more weight in a dry year than in a wet year. With the prices of feed grain going up, the value of feeder cattle declining, it confirmed that it makes economic sense to feed cattle with higher yielding carcasses like Belgian Blue crosses. That it is why they work for us.



We did get away to Agribition for a couple of days, met old friends and made some new

ones. Ken Miller's cow attracted lots of attention at the CBBA Association Booth. As in previous year, several people looked for Full blood Belgian Blue Bulls for their commercial herds. Most of the time we referred them to make use of our website so that they could get in contact with all Belgian Blue Breeders.

Therefore, I urge all Belgian Blue Breeders to make the most of the Canadian Belgian Blue Website by advertising their stock and farm directly on the web. This is the direct gate to the outside world with lots of exposure. Using the Canadian Belgian Blue website is a free commercial tool and it is excellent exposure. Just one simple step is necessary to benefit from it: click on [www.belgianblue.ca](http://www.belgianblue.ca). Cattle for sale. Send your pictures and information (ask your kids if necessary) to Joanne ([forsale@belgianblue.ca](mailto:forsale@belgianblue.ca)) and all will be taken care of.

It looks as simple as this on the website:

“If you're reading these lines... Imagine how many other breeders are looking for what you've got. Canadian Belgian Blue Beef cattle. FREE service for members (up to 10 free ads per year). Non-members pay \$10 per ad. Send your posting photo and all pedigree information to Joanne. For sale postings only available with full payment of ad, by cheque to the Canadian Belgian Blue Association, c/o Marie GOUBAU, Director, 1489 Concession 1, Lefavre ON K0B 1J0. [info@belgianblu.ca](mailto:info@belgianblu.ca)”

To make our website even more exciting, we will be including international information on prices fetched for pure bred and commercial Belgian Blue Cattle, have portraits of Belgian Blue Breeder and more new features. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Belgian Blue Breed is making its place on the North American Beef industry. It takes effort and determination. This is the time to

recognize and thank people like Ken and Ria Holgferson for supplying five Belgian Blue Cross Steer at Olds College this year and Denis and Diane Dubé who have done this for so many years; the Sparks Family for putting Belgian Blue crosses in the Agribition Carcass Competition and Jessica Miller, who shows Belgian Blue Crosses in the Prospect calves competitions for the last 10 years.

A very special thank you note goes to Mr. Pierre Mallieu and the Belgian Herd book for their continuous support. Without their help, we might have given up.

Let's not forget to congratulate and thank our American friends from the American Belgian Blue Breeders Association, for their outstanding promotion of Belgian Blues in North America and friendly assistance to the CBBA.



CBBA Booth at Agribition 2006

Special thanks to Pierre Mallieu, Ken Miller and Marie Goubau for taking care of guests – small and tall at Agribition 2006.

Finally, I wish all Belgian Blue Breeders and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - Success, Happiness and Health.

Mark Hodges, President CBBA

### **BBB HUMOUR**

Two cow, Daisy and Dolly are in a field.  
Daisy says: I was artificially inseminated  
this morning.  
I don't believe it, says Dolly  
Its true, says Daisy, no bull!

### **Canadian Belgian Blue Association (CBB)**

[www.belgianblue.ca](http://www.belgianblue.ca)

Box 597 Hamiota, Manitoba R0M 0T0  
Tel: 1.204.764.2674 Fax 1.204.764.2939  
[info@belgianblue.ca](mailto:info@belgianblue.ca)

### **LAURA'S LEAN BEEF NOW IN CANADA**

Canadian Belgian Blue Association members have even more reason to smile this Christmas; Laura's Lean Beef is now in Canada.

Laura Lean Beef pays substantial premiums for lean high yielding carcasses. While discounting AAA, they pay, on today's market price, a 22.5 \$ per ctw premium for 67 % or more Canadian Lean Yield carcasses.

“Just like in all other industries, it is logic to reward cattlemen for sellable meat yield. All my Belgian Blue crosses have the genetic potential to capture this niche market that pays a substantial premium” says Ken Miller, longtime CBBA member in Avonlea , SK.

Packaged Laura's Lean Beef is for sale in the Loblaw's chain grocery stores in the province of Ontario.

Contact Laura's Lean Beef in Canada:  
[www.laurasleanbeef.ca](http://www.laurasleanbeef.ca)  
877-ITS-LEAN (487-5326)  
[customersca@llbcorp.com](mailto:customersca@llbcorp.com)



**ABBB SALE NOMINATION FORM**  
**11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BELGIAN BLUE SALE**  
**MARCH 31, 2007 AT 1:00 P.M.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ANIMAL'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PERCENTAGE \_\_\_\_\_

ANIMAL'S REGISTRATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE GIVE A STATEMENT OF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ANIMAL TO GO INTO THE CATALOG INFORMATION SUCH AS ELITE OR REG. PEDIGREE, WINNER OF ANY SHOWS, ANY GOOD INFORMATION ON THE SIRE OR DAM OF THE ANIMAL ETC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU HAVE A PICTURE WE WILL INCLUDE IT INTO THE CATALOG ONLY IF THE PHOTO IS OF GOOD OR PROFESSIONAL QUALITY, THE ANIMAL IS CLEAN, OR THE ANIMAL IS IN GOOD CONDITION.

1. SELLER AGREES TO ABIDE BY THE GENERAL RULES FOR CONSIGNMENT, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS SALE.
2. SPACE IN THIS SALE IS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS AND ANY NOMINATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY **Thursday FEB. 1, 2007**. NOMINATED ANIMALS MUST HAVE A LEGIBLE TATTO THAT MATCHES ITS REGISTRATION. PLEASE SEND ONLY GOOD QUALITY PICTURES FOR REPRODUCTION.
3. ALL ANIMALS SHOULD BE SOUND BREEDING ANIMALS. . THE ASSOCIATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY UNSOUND ANIMAL.
4. A \$30.00 NOMINATION FEE & REGISTRATION PAPERS ARE DUE WITH THIS FORM FOR EACH ANIMAL. THERE WILL BE NO BUY BACK FEE IF NOMINATION FEE HAS BEEN PAID.
5. ALL CONSIGNORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ABBB. ALL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACCOUNTS ARE TO BE PAID IN FULL BEFORE PAPERS WILL BE FORWARDED OR TRANSFERRED.
6. CONSIGNORS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO GET THEIR CATTLE TO THE SALE.
7. ALL CATTLE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY PROPER HEALTH PAPERS IN ORDER TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE U.S. EACH ANIMAL SHOULD HAVE A SEPARATE HEALTH PAPER.
8. ALL CATTLE NEED TO BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION. NEED NOT BE HALTER BROKE AND SHAVED (Head clipped would be nice).
9. ALL BULLS OVER 1 YEAR SHOULD BE SEMEN TESTED. SEMEN TEST SHOULD BE ON FILE AS THE ANIMAL IS CHECKED. ALL FEMALES SHOULD BE POTENTIAL BREEDING STOCK.

YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS FORM WILL SERVE AS A TRANSFER FORM AND APPLICATION OF NOMINATION.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF OWNER/SELLER

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE CALL THE ABBB OFFICE AT 641-661-2332**  
KEN MCMANIGLE - DAYS 319-634-3788, EVENINGS 319-634-3768, EMAIL - kenskars@netins.net  
STEVE DOLLARHIDE – PHONE 580-245-2370, EMAIL - stevedollarhide@yahoo.com  
HAROLD BRUBAKER – PHONE 336-629-420, EMAIL - hjbrubaker@yahoo.com

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT TO: ABBB, P.O. BOX 154, HEDRICK, IA. 52563 by Feb. 1st**

**SALE HELD AT THE HEELY LIVESTOCK MARKET, INC.**  
Hwy. 32 and U in El Dorado Springs, Mo.

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# ABBB Junior Association Survey

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping with the organization of a Junior ABBB Association?

Would you be interested in becoming an officer in the Junior Association?

Would you and your parents be willing to come to an organizational meeting in the beginning of 2007?

As a Junior what activities would like to see in a Junior Program?

Any suggestions you might have to help with this effort:

Any other comments?

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Junior Signature

Parent's Signature

The ABBB board is surveying Juniors in order to look at the possible interest in forming this organization. Your input and interest will help the board with this effort. We look forward to your response.

Please send the completed survey to:      **ABBB**  
   **P.O. Box 154**  
   **Hedrick, IA 52563**