



American Belgian Blue Breeders, Inc.

The Beef Solution™ Newsletter

Belgian Blue Beef in the USA www.belgianblue.org May 2006

2006 BB SALE IN EL DORADO SPRINGS, MO

The 10th Annual Belgian Blue Sale was held on April 1, 2006 with 70 lots. The highest selling animal was a bull SCH Ralgros Renegade sold by Schlichte Cattle Company of Merrill, IA for \$4200 purchased by John Fillingham of Morrill, NB. The highest selling female was KF Christine sold by Belinda Rickman of Urbana, MO for \$1800 to Joe and Becky Pumphrey of Prattsville, AK. The sale grossed \$84,345.00.

Prior to the sale a dinner and benefit auction were held in Nevada, MO with 61 people attending. The members raised a lot of laughs and \$2,153 for the association. All in all, it was a successful weekend for the Belgian Blues!

Marvin and Donna Beyer of Freeport, IL were surprised with a 'Belgian Blue Breeder Award' plaque. The award, presented during dinner, complimented them on their years of breeding cattle. (Photo – Connie Brooks presents the Beyers with the plaque)



DNA LAB CHANGE

BovaCan of Canada informed the ABBB that as of Jan. 01, 2006 they would no longer blood type. BovaCan recommended the only facility that now does blood typing, ImmGen of College Station, Texas.

The board was concerned with the need to continue blood typing in order to keep the quality of the parent verification intact. ImmGen was contacted to start the process. Both BovaCan and ImmGen work closely to maintain the DNA and blood typing records for our Elite and Verified registration papers. We may use either lab to keep our records up to date.

Board members were also concerned with the delays encountered crossing the border with samples due to inspections as well as the cost of shipping samples.

ImmGen has assured us that they will continue to work with us to keep our verification program intact.

We appreciate your patience in working thru this transition.

JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Forms for Juniors graduating from high school are available on the ABBB website.

Entry Deadline is July 1, 2006. Contact the ABBB office if you have any questions.

HOUSTON LIVESTOCK AND RODEO 2006

Grand Champion Bull - SCH Dakota's Lakota, bred and owned by Schlichte Cattle Co., Merrill, IA

Reserve Grand Champion Bull - L'Original JBB Poppin Johnny ET, Owned by Jones Cattle Co., Nacogdoches, TX

Grand Champion Female - DeShazo's Princess, bred and owned by Lacy DeShazo, Bokoshe, OK

Reserve Grand Champion Female - DeShazo's Ravishing Ruby, owned by Sieren Cattle Co., Hedrick, IA

Herdsmen Award – Linder Belgian Blues, Craig and Shannon Linder, Marshfield, MO

REGISTRATIONS

Following is a brief description of the various registration papers available. In the process of combining the two associations, we are working on the registration of the cattle to accommodate the breeders. We currently have standards to register the cattle in order to maintain the integrity of the breed. The following guidelines are in place to help each breeder:

Elite papers – reserved for fullbloods that are blood typed or DNA tested showing no parent verification gaps on the papers.

Parent Verified Papers – reserved for purebred animals with continual parent verification from the base cow to present animal.

Regular papers – those for fullbloods, purebred animals which are DNA tested and not continual parent verification.

Percentage Papers – Papers which show the pedigree of the animal with or without blood typing or DNA and parent verification as well as the percentage of the animal.

Certification of Belgian Blue – for those animals which have less than 50% Belgian Blue in their pedigree and which to use in a breeding up program. They may or may not be DNA tested.

In the registration process – all fullbloods and purebreds need to be DNA tested for reference of future research in case a genetic attribute or problem occurs.

All registration forms and fees are on the website www.belgianblue.org.

BELGIAN BLUE JUNIORS

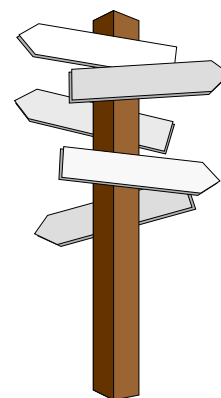
Changes have been made to the Junior Program Points System. Please visit the website for new details effective January 1, 2006. Forms are available on the website to record the Juniors Belgian Blue activities.

Please follow all the posted guidelines. Points only accumulate *after* membership has been paid.

KEEPING UP

Please help us keep our database up to date. Let us know of any changes in email address, street address, and phone numbers. Also please let us know if you have a new BBB meat distribution outlet.

Thanks.



VERIFIED BELGIAN BLUE BEEF PROGRAM RESEARCH

The ABBB board discussed the possible need for a **Verified Belgian Blue Beef Program**. This program would give producers the opportunity to verify their product "Belgian Blue" as a marketing tool.

The program would be designed to fit the needs of the producers. The board is interested in hearing from breeders interested in participating and how this type of program would best meet consumer and breeder expectations.

If you are interested in participating in such a program, please contact the office, Stanley Jones or Connie Brooks.

BELGIAN BLUE MEAT OUTLETS

Do you sell BB meats from your farm or via a cooperative? If you do, remember to check that your farm or the cooperative is listed on the ABBB's Belgian Blue Meat Outlet webpage.

Consumers from all over the US are visiting this page to get contact information for the closest supply of Belgian Blue beef.

BELGIAN BLUE HERD- BOOK IN BELGIUM

Have you visited the Belgian Blue Herd-Book website lately?

Articles, news and documentation are updated regularly on the English-language site at www.hbbbbb.be.

SHOW DATES

National Show - Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, Iowa

Entries due: July 1, 2006

Arrive: Thursday August 17, 2006

Show: Friday August 18, 2006 9 a.m.

Release: Sunday August 20

Superintendent:

Julie Buss, Denver, IA

Email: bussblues@aol.com

Phone: 319-984-5125

There will be a few changes in the rules. Please read them carefully. Visit for more information, as it becomes available- www.iowastatefair.com

Membership meeting – August 19 at 10:00a.m. Hereford Building at fairgrounds. Banquet and Benefit Auction August 19th at 7p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

Hotel Reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn (formerly the Four Points Sheraton) located at 4600 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA. Tel.: 515.278.4755

Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa, Ok

Entries Due: August 25

Arrival: Wednesday September 27 after 12noon

Must be in place by Thursday September 28 by 12 noon.

Show: Friday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Release: October 1

Superintendent:

Steve Dollarhide, Haworth, OK

Email: stedollarhide@yahoo.com

Tel.: 580.245.2370

Visit - www.tulsastatefair.com as information becomes available. Hotel details will be available soon.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale - 7/8 Bull.

Contact: Glenda Sieren, Sieren Cattle Co.
Hedrick IA at (641) 777-2963

For Sale – Fullblood Black Bull.

Calved: 11.10.01 Birth weight: 74 lbs.
Sire: Mystic's Shotgun Chester and Dam:
JRCL Julie. Used successfully on a
crossbreeding program.
Home (903) 569.3933 Cell (903) 571.3498
e-mail dannise75703@aol.com

For Sale - Fullblood and halfblood Bulls.

Call Lynn Kaufman, Underhill Farms, 187-
21st Ave., Moundridge, KS 67107, (620) 345-
8415 or visit www.underhillfarms.com

Full Bloods for Sale - 3 young females, two are 9-12 months of age and one is 15-18 months of age.

Call Harold Brubaker, Asheboro, NC at (336)
629-4202

Purebred Bulls available. Please check out www.mnppfarm.com and click on Sale Cattlelog!

Contact: MNP Farm at (417) 759-7916 or
info@mnppfarm.com

Wanted: halfblood and up Belgian Blue feedlot cattle. Prefer 600-900 pounds, but will take larger or smaller ones too.

Contact: Armin Hesterberg (217) 369-5976

Fullblood Bulls Needed

Contact: Stanley Jones (936) 564-5581 or
windhill@netdot.com

Phil Rhinehart – Halfblood feeder calves available. Phone: (217) 235-5693

Classified ads are FREE for members!
Contact Glenda at the ABBB Office.

WEBSITE & PROMOTION

Thinking of a website to promote your ranch or beef program? Depending on your budget and your needs, there is a website product out there for you.

In a nutshell, here are the main components of a website:

1. the domain name of the site, this can be www.myfarm.com or if you use free webhosting, it could be on the Tripod free service as tripod.com/myfarm, for example. If you purchase a domain name, it is renewable every year (or multiple years with discounts) and you can get “.com”, “.us”, “.org” extensions for example.
2. webpages make up the website, each page can have text, images, graphics and photos and links to other pages. Many free sites offer “templates” to allow you to build your own site with no experience required.
3. webhosting is where your website is “housed” on a computer (web server) somewhere in the world, it can be in your town, in the next state or even abroad. Hosting packages in the US can be free or commercially, as low as \$10/month, including an e-mail address.
4. linking to other websites and search engines allows visitors to find your site and compare your products to competitors’ offerings.
5. always use quality photos and try to have a catchy logo, web is all about LOOKING GOOD!

Have fun with your website!



DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2006

July 1 Entries due for National Show at the Iowa State Fair

July 1 All Registration applications for animals for the National Show need to be submitted in order to receive them for the show

July 1 Junior Scholarship Applications Due to the office

Aug. 1 Reservations due in the office for the Annual Membership Dinner

Aug. 17 Animals arrive at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, De Moines, IA

Aug. 18 National Show, Iowa State Fairgrounds at 9 a.m.

Aug. 19 Annual Membership Meeting, Hereford Building, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA at 10 a.m.

Aug. 19 Annual Dinner, Awards, and Benefit Auction at 7:00 p.m. Holiday Inn, Des Moines, IA

Aug. 25 Registrations required for the Tulsa Show need to be in the office

Aug, 25 Tulsa State Fair Entries due

Sept. 27-28 Animals arrive at Tulsa State Fairgrounds

Sept.29 Tulsa State Fair Show – Tulsa State Fairgrounds, Tulsa, OK at 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 1 Animals released from the Tulsa Show

Oct. 7, 8 & 9 Farmfest, Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, Springfield, MO

Dec. 15 Junior Points are due in the office.



Photo: Craig Philips

T-SHIRTS FOR SUMMER

For ABBB T-Shirts, contact Glenda at the ABBB Office for more information.

BIODIVERSITY IN BBB

The dual purpose Belgian Blue Beef (BBM) is making a comeback. Fuelled by renewed interest in the BBM and an international attention to biodiversity, the Belgian Walloon Ministry of Agriculture has put in place a new BBM testing program.

The BBM is distinctively different from the double muscled Belgian Blue Beef. As a representative of the ancestral beef breed called “Beef of the Middle and Upper Belgium”, it has dual purpose beef and milk production. In BBB full blood stock breeding programs, the BBM is often used to reduce inbreeding.

Three BBM bulls are currently available in North America – Mars, Ajaccio and Jeton. Contact Marie Goubau at La Gantoise (info@lagantoise.com) for more information or Pierre Mallieu at the HB BBB (pmhbbbbb@skynet.be).



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

Welcome to the 2006 Belgian Blue Spring Newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mark Hodges, elected President of the CBBA in January of this year.

My family and I farm in the South West corner of Manitoba where we run a beef and grain operation and a small herd of purebred Belgian Blues. Our commercial cows are mostly bred to the Belgian Blue Bulls and we background the calves over the winter. (Not a good decision this year, should have sold them last fall). They are then sold in the spring at eight weights.

With the tough times we are facing in agriculture at the moment, it is good to see some optimism in the beef industry, especially the great demand for BB bulls, following the success that the Belgian Blues are having in the carcass competitions.

For the past 2 months your board of directors has been busy putting the finishing touches to the new web site. Special thanks to Marie Goubau and Joanne Gaudet who put in a lot of hard work and time. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do at www.belgianblue.ca. Let us know what you think!

All our latest news and information is going to be posted on the web page to keep you right up to date with what's happening. We are excited about the *Cattle For Sale Section* where members (for free) and non members (for a small charge) can place ads and information on their Belgian Blue Cattle. It was designed to be very convenient and easy

to use. Links to other Belgian Blue sites and all needed information is at your fingertips.

If you have any news or information that you think might be of interest to other breeders, please forward it on to us.

This year we are giving T shirts to anyone in 4H showing a Belgian Blue cross. All you have to do is send your name and name of your 4H club along with a picture of you and your animal to Ruth Hill, Box 114, Wiseton, SK, S0L 3M0. Don't forget to include the size of shirt! Good luck to everybody showing a Blue 4H calf this year.

If you are a member of the association thank you for your continued support. If you are not a member yet, I would like to invite you to join us (new & past members welcome) as this great breed continues to grow.

If there is any way you think I or the board of directors could serve you better or something you would like us to do or you would like to do, feel free to contact me.

As farming seems to go from one crisis to another BSE, low grain prices, weather, government, CAIS programs (chartered accountant income support) all things that keep the stress levels at boiling point, take time to slow down and enjoy life. Remember you only get one chance!!

Have a great summer!

Mark

Two cows were talking in a field one day.
1st cow: Have you heard about that mad cow disease ?
2nd cow: Yeah, sure makes you glad you're a penguin doesn't it ?

Canadian Belgian Blue Association (CBB)
www.belgianblue.ca

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info@belgianblue.ca

MORE PROFITABILITY – 155€ OF PROFIT PER ANIMAL BORN FROM A CROSSING WITH BELGIAN BLUE

Chosen by more and more American, Canadian, Australian and Eastern European breeders, the Belgian Blue is the number one beef breed for insemination in many countries. The crossbreeding with a Belgian Blue sire on dairy or beef breeds gives a profit of 155 Euros per calf born from this insemination in first generation.

“The BB breed is particularly well adapted to produce in first generation, by crossing on dairy or beef breeds, the type of product requested by the French market.” says Benjamin Hauzay, technician at the BB UPRA. “The profit per calf is at least 155 Euros and can reach 300. French breeders import 150.000 doses of BB sires for crossing, each year. At the European scale, more than 400.000 doses are sold for crossing by the main Belgian AI centre”.

It remains 450 Euros per BB calf at birth. Even if France mainly uses semen for crossbreeding, 120 breeders working in full blood and are members of the French Belgian Blue Herd-Book “the BB UPRA”. Michel Cauchy from Gommegnies (59), breeders, ex butcher and member of the UPRA considers that: “ the Belgian Blue is, in my mind, the best beef breed of the world. It is a breed with can be very profitable. Seeing its high carcass yield, its weak daily feed intake (average of 5.5 kg between 6 and 12 months), its best percentage of 1st choice meat, the cost related to the Caesarian don't spoil the profitability of the breed. However, the breed requires a particular supervision because all the calvings are done by C section [...in

fullbloods in France]. The calculation is simple: this operation costs on average 150 Euros and a calf at birth is sold for 600 Euros. So, it remains 450 Euros.”

“The breed had a bad image in France a certain time ago and I think it handicaps it still today” adds Michel Cauchy. “During a time, we have produced too young animals, with a too clear meat, too bleak which had not enough taste. Today, we have worked with a longer fattening time and we have developed more color and taste.”

Demanding on the diet quality.

“The Belgian Blue breed is a demanding breed on the diet quality which must be carefully well-balanced. but I think that it consumes less in quantity and that relating to the food costs, it is about equivalent to other breed such as for example the Charolaise” says the breeder. “For my part, I give them straw, hay and a food referred by the ‘Label Rouge’ (food with 21% protein in completion and 18% in breeding). With the ‘Label Rouge’, the young cows are sold between 5 and 5,50 Euros / kilo”.

Results of the crossings on calves weight and conformation at birth.

Due to its size and its muscular development, the BB is the best sire for terminal crossing. Presently it is the most popular breed in the North of France and at a national scale, its popularity continually increases.

With less than 2% of Caesarian in crossing, the BB produces butchery calves of first category. Moreover, the crossbred cows give 50% of meaty type calves in 2nd generation.

Source: French Belgian Blue Herd-Book - Upa Blanc Bleu Belge, email upra-blanc-bleu@wanadoo.fr.

Translated from Nathalie Petit, Web Agri. - www.web-agri.fr/Outils/Fiches/FichesDetail.asp?idRub=867&id=30214

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jason P. White – Junior
Semmes, AL

Carl Ghibaudy
Westville, IL

Courtney Pacha – Junior
Washington, IA

Roy Berrier, Jr.
Morristown, TN

Akers Ranch
James Akers
Fairdealing, MO

John Fillingham & Sons Farm, Inc.
John Fillingham
Morrill, NE

John & Bonnie Dornfeld
Tipton, IA

Windswept Ranch
Jerry Thiels
Lecompte, LA

David Tomas
Pawpaw, MI

Stauffer Cattle
Matt and Rachel Stauffer
El Dorado Springs, MO

Jonathan Brubaker
Asheboro, NC

Logan Beckham - Junior
283 Cumberland Road
Elkland, MO

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Memberships are \$50 for active members, \$25 for associate members, and \$25 for Junior Members.

Our membership is growing!! Thanks to all who joined or renewed.

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
Ken Schlichte, Director

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