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

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Newsletter

December 2003

## Season's Greetings !

On behalf of the Board of Directors wishing you and your families a joyful holiday season and warm wishes for the New Year.



## COOL Program Delayed

The ABBB Board of Directors and farmers across the USA let out a sigh of relief when the USDA decided to delay the mandatory implementation of country of origin labeling (COOL) until September 30, 2006.

## National Show Moves to Des Moines, Iowa for 2004 and 2005

The Iowa Chapter submitted a bid for the National Show to be held in Des Moines for 2004 and 2005.

The Board approved the bid to move the National Show to help celebrate the 150th

Anniversary of the Iowa State Fair. The dates will be August 15 thru August 18, 2004. The Iowa State Fair is the largest in the Midwest with a daily attendance of 100,000 people.

Details and information will be updated on the ABBB website.

## ABBB Board for 2003-04

**President** - Connie Brooks  
Fair Grove, Missouri  
mnpfarm@aol.com

**Vice President** - Steve Kinser  
Hougaton, Kansas  
kinser@pld.com

**Secretary/Treasurer** - Scott Buss  
Denver, Iowa  
bussblues@aol.com

**Director** - Ronnie Price  
Farmersville, Texas  
rlprice@mindspring.com

**Director** - Ken Schlichte  
Merrill, Iowa  
slickte@willinet.net

**Director** - Stanley Jones  
Nacogdoches, TX  
jonesent@netdot.com

## Board of Directors cont'd

**Director** - Mike Ellis  
Holland, Indiana  
ellisfarm45@hotmail.com

**Director** - Marie Goubau  
Lafaire, Ontario, Canada  
eurogene@hawk.igs.net

**Director** - Craig Phillips  
Parker, Colorado  
CraigAPhillips@msn.com

## Tulsa National 2003

**Top National Show Honors to Buss' Beef Barn, Jones Cattle Co., and Phillips Pharms**

**Grand Champion  
Fullblood/Purebred Bull**  
Scott & Julie Buss, Denver,  
IA, Buss' Landry

**Reserve Grand  
Champion  
Fullblood/Purebred Bull**  
Jones Cattle Co., Nacogdoches, TX, Buss' De  
L'Original Kodiene

**Grand Champion Fullblood/Purebred  
Female**  
Jones Cattle Co., Nacogdoches, TX, Jones'  
Mattie

**Reserve Grand Champion  
Fullblood/Purebred Female**  
Phillips Pharms, Parker, CO, JTC Obelix  
Kendie

*A complete list of National Show Results is on  
the ABBB Website and will also be printed in  
the next ABBB Journal.*



## 2003 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

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**Membership Meeting:** Saturday Sept. 27,  
2003, Holiday Inn Select, Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Meeting was called to order by Connie at 10:07 a.m.
- A motion was made to dispense with minutes due to a computer failure and loss of information. Connie made the motion with a second from Ronnie. The motion carried.
- **Annual report:** Glenda (see attached report). Motion made by Ken to accept the Annual report with a second from Ronnie. Motion was carried.

### **General Meeting Business:**

- 1- Glenda with the current office situation. The current address is P.O Box 154 Hedrick IA. Glenda has done a very nice job with pulling the office together.
  - A- Notification is needed of any address changes or E-mail changes of members.
  - B- Office getting high demand for show calves, please let Glenda know if anyone has any available.
  - C- Updated classified ads are available to members and are updated on a regular basis. Notify Glenda of any changes.
- 2- **Grants/Marketing:**
  - A- We keep looking for opportunities for the association. Joanne is doing a good job of keeping the association informed of the grant possibilities. Many of the grants are matching funds, which make it difficult for the association.

- B- For grant writing purposes there is a need to inventory the number of cattle being produced ½ blood through fullblood.
  - C- Joanne has been working on an International Brochure sponsored by the Belgian Blue International. The brochure is now available in print and on our website.
  - D- Joanne has done an excellent job on maintaining our website.
- 3- **Journal:** Cindy did the first issue; Glenda did the fall issue, which was printed in Iowa at lower printing fees than previous journals.
- A- Spring Journal deadline Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 2004. All advertising prices will remain the same. Please work to sell ads in your area. Anyone having information for the journal or newsletters please inform Glenda.
- 4- **Blood typing and DNA:** The switch to BovaCan has had some small problems to start with but the process is starting to come together. With time and streamlining the process should get better.
- A- Bruce Randall is working on bridging the computer programming between BovaCan and ImmGen to solve the problem with opening certain files.
- 5- **American Blue Program:** Craig talked about characteristics of the true American Blue.
- A- Photographs of these types of Animals are needed to compare body style.
  - B- Motion Craig – to adopt a points system for natural calving cows with a second from Scott and the motion carried  
See attached point system information.
- C- Much discussion on American Blue class with concerns of emphasizing the natural calving which seem to reinforce the idea that everything has to be C-sectioned. Many or most breeders already have the natural calving, therefore Ronnie made the motion to eliminate American Blue class. After much discussion, the motion was seconded by Craig with motion carried.
- 6- **Internet:** Connie talked about the many beef links across the country that are linked to our site.
- A- A reminder that breeder pages for \$100 set-up fee and \$25 annual renewal fee are available.
- 7- **Show Situation:** Connie
- A- Iowa State Fair Show is off probation and is in good shape if numbers stay up
  - B- Houston needs entries, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline
  - C- Ozark Empire Fair is questionable due to not making the 50 this year. The Fair Board will make a decision in November of '03.
- 8- **International Conference:** Connie and Stanley
- A- In Houston 2005, Pierre needs help getting set-up and running. The board agreed to help with the conference.
  - B- Suggestion for the conference were seminars to educate young people about Belgian Blue Cattle, learn from other Belgian Blue Producers, research, meat producers etc.
  - C- A display was suggested of using the various halfblood crosses to demonstrate the capabilities of the Blues. The time frame for the

conference will be the middle of March in 2005.

Stanley made the motion to extend an invitation to host International Conference in Houston 2005. Scott seconds the motion with the motion being approved.

9- **Election of the Board of Directors for 2003-2004:**

A- Expiring terms were Mike Ellis, Stanley Jones, and Connie Brooks. Cindy Berner-Schlichte resigned the remainder of her two-year term due to her work schedule. Re-elected Directors were Stanley nominated by Craig and seconded by Scott, Mike nominated by Ken with a second by Ronnie, Connie nominated by Marie and a second by Scott. Ken Schlichte was elected to fill the remaining two years for Cindy. Ronnie nominated Ken with a second by Scott.

10- **Ken Miller** from Canada talked briefly, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Association. The Canadians would like to work with us on future projects. The association was honored to have Ken come to Tulsa.

11- **Following the general meeting.** The board elected officers for 2003-2004:

**President** – Connie Brooks  
**Vice-President** – Steve Kinser  
**Secretary/ Treasurer** – Scott Buss

Motion made by all to adjourn!



## **Welcome New Members**

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### **Ozark Belgian Blue Beef L.L.C.**

16325 S. 1425 Rd.  
Stockton, MO 65785  
Phone (417) 276-4536  
Fax (417) 276-6339  
Email: ozarkbbb@lakeozark.net  
Web Site: www.ozarkbelgianbluebeef.com

### **Mariah Meadows Farm**

Ron, Garner, Betty & Shawna Erdmann  
5424 Ridge R. West  
Spencerport, NY 14559  
Home (585) 352-4449  
Email: mariahmeadows@aol.com

### **Travis Blankenship - Junior**

14143 Craigen Road  
Beaumont, TX 77705  
Home (409)794-1178  
Email: jesse.b@sbcglobal.net

### **Walter & Susan Goen**

3050 Green Meadows Dr.  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
Farm (254) 898-8909  
Email: goenrance@aol.com

### **Kari Goen – Junior Member**

3050 Green Meadows Dr.  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
Farm (254) 898-8909  
Email: goenrance@aol.com

## **Journal & Newsletter Schedules and Info**

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Please keep the new advertising schedule and prices. Help us maintain the schedule and prompt delivery of the publications.

The advertising for the February Issue to be handed out at the Houston Show in March.

## Journal

**Winter:** February 2004 - Membership Issue

**Summer:** September 2004 - Show Issue

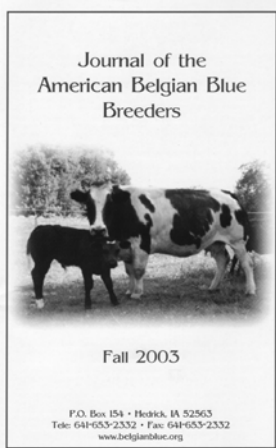
Inside Front Cover - \$125

Inside Back Cover - \$125

Back Cover - \$125

One Full Page - \$100

1/2 Page - \$65



Photographs and Logos will be an additional \$10 for each. Camera ready artwork will be needed for any logos. This first issue will be the membership directory. Any questions about the journal can be directed to Glenda at the office. We

encourage you to pay for both issues now at a reduced rate of \$5 per issue.

### Deadlines for Journal:

February Issue - Jan. 15, 2004

September Issue - July 15, 2004

## Newsletter

March 2004

May 2004

July 2004

December 2004

### Deadlines for Newsletter:

March issue - February 1, 2004

May issue - April 1, 2004

July issue - June 1, 2004

December issue - November 1, 2004

Members are encouraged to use the classified ads in the newsletter *free of charge*.

## Calendar of Events

**Where YOU and your BLUES make it happen !**

The ABBB has five major shows in 2004 for the Blues.

❶ **March 7-10, 2004 - Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR)** in Houston, TX  
Superintendent Stanley Jones

Arrival on March 7 by 5 p.m.

Show on March 10 at 4 p.m.

Release on March 11 at 6 p.m.

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 2004  
Show will accept late entries until February 15, 2004.

Contact the HLSR at:

[www.houstonrodeo.com](http://www.houstonrodeo.com), the office or  
Stanley Jones for more information

❷ **August 2004 - Ozark Empire** in  
Springfield, MO. For information contact  
Connie Brooks and watch for show dates.

❸ **August 2004 - Iowa State Fair "National Show" and "Membership Meeting"** in Des Moines, IA  
Superintendent Julie Buss

Arrival on Sun. August 15, 2004 by noon

Show on August 16, 2004 at noon

Release Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> after 2:00pm but by 5:00pm

More information will be available soon.

❹ **The Beef Expo** in Milwaukee, WI - watch for dates.

❺ **September 2004 - Tulsa State Fair** in Tulsa, OK.  
Superintendent Julie Buss - watch for dates.

We encourage everyone to support the breed in order to keep our shows strong. Call or email the office for more information.

Please inform us of any other Blue events. We will be happy to add them to the ABBB website.

**YOUR ABBB website:** [www.belgianblue.org](http://www.belgianblue.org)  
Up-to-date information 24/7, a reflection of your dedication to the Breed.

## Membership Renewal for Year 2004

Membership renewal is coming up for 2004. Renewal is \$50.00 for members and \$25 for Junior members. We appreciate your membership and support of the ABBB. Join **now** to be listed in the membership directory in the journal and on the web.

### Your ABBB Membership offers many **BENEFITS!**

- ✓ Complete Registry
- ✓ Youth Program
- ✓ Youth Scholarship Program
- ✓ International Recognition
- ✓ State Affiliates
- ✓ Listing in the Membership Directory
- ✓ Internet Advertisement in Membership directory
- ✓ Link your site to ABBB
- ✓ Free Newsletter Classified Ads
- ✓ Breeder Referrals
- ✓ Parent Verification & DNA Testing
- ✓ Internet Updates
- ✓ Advertising on the Internet
- ✓ Membership web page available

With your membership renewal or registration, please include a brief summary of your operation.

We regularly receive inquiries about meat markets, crossbred cattle, and fullblood cattle. The details you provide will help us refer potential customers to your farm or ranch.



**NEW** Belgian Blue Beef flyer available for **FREE!**

Visit the Belgian Blue International (BBI) website:  
[www.belgianblueinternational.com](http://www.belgianblueinternational.com)

## Classified Ads

**Semen for sale from Champion fullblood black bull, Chukka Chan.**

Contact: Sieren Cattle Co. (641) 777-2963

**26 Halfblood heifers bred to Belgian Blue bulls. Also, 25-30 halfblood calves.**

Contact: Odell Cason, Cason Cattle Co., Plain Dealing, Louisiana at (318) 326-5188

**3/4 Belgian Blue bull for sale. Black and White yearling**

Contact: Mathias Cattle Co. (641) 684-4872 or (641) 777-1025

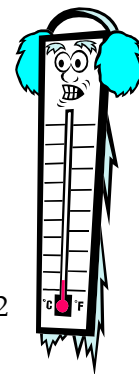
**Fullblood Bulls Needed**

Contact: Stanley Jones (936) 564-5581 or email: [windhill@netdot.net](mailto:windhill@netdot.net)

**Purebred Breeding Age Bulls and a Fullblood Heifer for sale.**

Contact: MNP Farm at (417) 759-7916 or email: [info@mnpfarm.com](mailto:info@mnpfarm.com)

Send us your classified ads. **FREE listings** on the Internet AND in Newsletters.



## Internet Reading and links to the BBB

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### European Union Healthy Beef Project

[www.healthybeef.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.healthybeef.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk)

### Olds College of Alberta Belgian Blue Steer-A-Year results for 2003

[say.oldscollege.ab.ca/spreadsheets/belgian\\_blue.htm](http://say.oldscollege.ab.ca/spreadsheets/belgian_blue.htm)

### Columbia Street Restaurant Tap Room and Grill – Belgian Blue Burgers are on the Menu!

[www.columbiastreettaproom.com/food](http://www.columbiastreettaproom.com/food)

## Heavily muscled breeds may be the future for Metcalfe cattle

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Extract reprinted with permission. Full article was published in The Herald News, Metcalfe, Kentucky and is available on-line at : [www.theherald-news.com/archives/080403/story2.htm](http://www.theherald-news.com/archives/080403/story2.htm)

by Shirley Mayrand

“Diversification is the keynote of the farming industry today. While the greater emphasis has been on finding new revenue sources for the tobacco grower, the beef cattle industry is also starting to move in a new direction.

Red meat has long taken a beating from the health conscious consumer for the amount of fat and cholesterol. Some people have expressed concern over the long term effects of the hormones, steroids and antibiotics routinely fed cattle.

The Limousin and Charolais are replacing the Angus and Herefords in many feed lots in an attempt to address the problem. Recently, two new breeds have appeared in Metcalfe County which constitute the 'golden fleece' of the health conscious beef lover: the Belgian Blue and the Piedmontese. The characteristics of these two breeds are very similar, although they originated separately.

The Belgian Blue was first developed in Southern Belgium in the early 1900's as Durham Shorthorns were infused into the local cattle population. During the 1950's Belgian cattlemen began to emphasize the beef qualities of the breed by utilizing genetic selection techniques to further the development of the heavy muscling.

This 'double muscling' drastically reduces the amount of fat and cholesterol while raising the protein content, and these traits remain dominant even when crossed with another breed.

Freedom Farms, owned by Roger and Toni Cory, first purchased one Belgian Blue bull and two heifers in April of 2000 from a breeder in Springfield, Missouri.

The animals can be white, blue roan or black, and the breed is known for its quiet temperament. When the Cory's bull arrived it was gentle enough to pet. After breeding to the heifers and loaning him to a neighbor, the Cory's sold him to a cattleman with a large herd of 'ladies' requiring his attention.

The crossbreeding is done mainly because the American palette craves the extra flavor a small fat content adds. But in the Belgian Blue or BB cross, the fat is evenly distributed throughout the meat, rather than found in large masses or as a thick layer along the outside.

The Cory's are raising the cattle strictly for their own consumption. Their interest lies in

the health advantages of a high protein, low fat meat free of additives.”

“...”

“With the trend toward more healthy eating habits, the Belgian Blue and Piedmontese may well be the wave of the future.”

## Youth Resources

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The Texas A&M University has put together a listing of resources for youth in Agriculture called “Youth Livestock Publications” on-line:

[animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/publications/youthpubs/youth\\_all.html](http://animalscience.tamu.edu/ansc/publications/youthpubs/youth_all.html)

Some of the articles made available are:

- ✓ **Approach to Placing a Market Steer Class** by Chris Skaggs and Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Breeding Beef Cattle Judging Outline** by Larry Boleman
- ✓ **Evaluating Market Steers from a Grading Standpoint** by Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Feeds and Feeding for Junior Beef Cattle Projects** by Steve Hammack
- ✓ **Livestock Judging Contest Scoring Procedures** by Chris Skaggs and Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Managing Beef Cattle for Show** by Larry Boleman, Dennis Herd and Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Presentation of Oral Reasons** by Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Reasons Terminology for Breeding Cattle** by Chris Skaggs and Chris Boleman
- ✓ **Why Judging Beef Cattle is Important** by Larry Boleman
- ✓ **Sample Sets of Livestock Judging Oral Reasons** by former members of the TAMU Livestock Judging Teams

## Videos for Rent

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Michigan State University’s Lapeer County Extension office offers educational videos for rent, including one on the Belgian Blue Breed and several others related to Beef and Dairy Cattle. Here is a sampling of titles:

- ✓ Beef Cattle Fitting and Showing
- ✓ Beef Reproduction, Breeding, Calving
- ✓ Calf Care

They can be reached at (810) 667-0341 and a small fee applies for rental. The on-line list: [www.msue.msu.edu/lapeer/videos.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/lapeer/videos.html)

## Meat-Related Events and Resources

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The Meat Marketing Conference, co-sponsored by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), will be held March 14-16, 2004 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center • Nashville TN.. The FMI website is at [www.fmi.org](http://www.fmi.org).

The American Meat Science Association website is at <http://www.meatscience.org>.

## National Headquarters

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