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Bull Proof Accuracy and Stability

With the globalization of genetics, the accuracy and stability of domestic genetic evaluations within any country is of great importance.

By Brian Van Doormaal, Canadian Dairy Network

Given that Canada exports twice as much semen internationally compared to what is needed to meet the needs of Canadian dairy producers, proof accuracy and stability is even more critical. Of course, the primary goal at Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) is to provide timely genetic evaluations to assist Canadian dairy producers and industry partners in making accurate genetic selection and mating decisions in order to maximize profitability at the farm level.

Defining proof accuracy versus stability

With traditional young sire testing programs, bulls are normally five years of age before achieving progeny proven status and receiving an official LPI. On average, bulls proven in Canada have a Reliability of at least 85 per cent for both production and type when they attain their first official LPI. When CDN refers to proof accuracy, the goal is to provide genetic evaluation services such that each bull's first official proof closely resembles what it becomes years later when the performance of several thousand daughters is included. Proof stability, however, makes reference to any changes that may occur from one genetic evaluation release to another over time. The ideal scenario is to have each bull's first official proof as close to what it will be years later (i.e. high accuracy) and that very little change occurs over time between these start and end points (i.e. very stable).

Factors affecting proof stability

Once a bull receives its first official progeny proof and associated LPI, there are numerous factors that can affect how stable it remains from run to run. The most obvious source of proof change is the addition of more daughters as well as more performance data on daughters already included. Since genetic evaluations

for production traits are based on test day records, the addition of more performance data means that test day records later in first lactation are added to those already recorded with fewer days in milk. In addition, once daughters progress to second and third lactation more test day records contribute to the sire's published proof and LPI. Other traits, such as somatic cell score, daughter fertility and herd life also have daughter data being continually added as a bull ages, which may result in some change to their official proof over time.

Since August 2009, genomics has also become a potential source of change in published genetic evaluations for males and females. While a change may be expected for newly genotyped animals, since genomics is an independent source of information for predicting an animal's genetic merit, other animals may also be affected. For example, the published evaluation for an animal may change when either or both of its parents are newly genotyped even if the animal itself is not genotyped. Also, with the release of new official genetic evaluations in April, August and December of each year there is a group of over 500 newly proven sires genotyped in North America that are then also included in the process for estimating genomic evaluations in Canada. The addition of these new sires

creates changes in direct genomic values for various animals in the population.

A third factor affecting proof stability includes changes in the genetic evaluation methods and models. For example, in 2009 the genetic evaluation system for production traits was modified to account for the number of days pregnant each cow was on each test day compared to open cows as well as the inclusion of an adjustment for extreme test day yields relative to normal expectations. More recently, proofs released in January 2010 experienced increased change following the implementation of updated estimates of heritabilities and genetic correlations across each of the first three lactations. These new genetic parameters had little impact for the majority of bulls but did result in more variability from the August 2009 proofs for bulls adding daughters in second and/or third lactation.

Analysis of proof stability

Geneticists at CDN recently conducted an analysis to quantify the degree of change in proofs calculated for the August 2010 release compared to April 2010 evaluations. The graph (see Figure One) shows the results for LPI for all bulls first proven since February 2000, grouped by the genetic evaluation release when they received

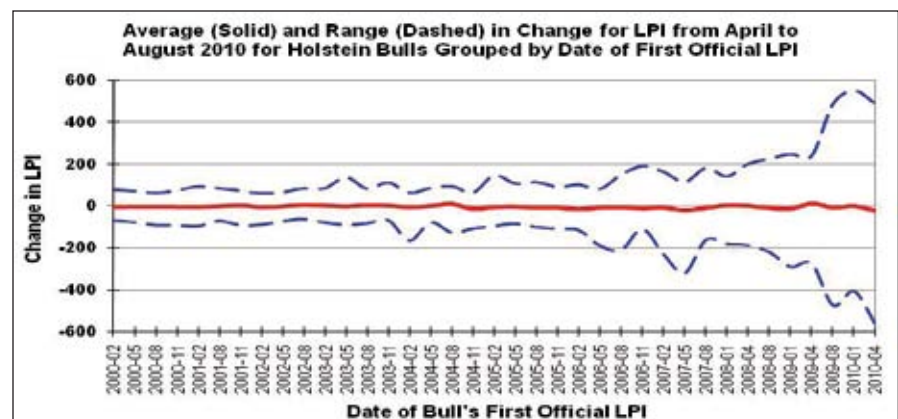


Figure 1.

Focus on Dairy

- Canadian milk and dairy products are world-renowned for their excellence. Enforcement of strict quality standards on dairy farms and in processing plants adds to this international reputation.
- In 2010, dairy production in Canada generated total net farm receipts of \$5.5 billion and generated sales of \$13.7 billion, representing 15 per cent of the Canadian food and beverage sector. The dairy industry ranks third in the Canadian agricultural sector following grains, and red meats.
- About 81 per cent of Canadian dairy farms are located in Ontario and Quebec, 13 per cent in the Western provinces and 6 per cent in the Atlantic Provinces. There are 455 milk processing plants (including 274 federally-inspected) contributing to more than 22,650 jobs across Canada.
- The Canadian dairy cattle population totals 1.4 million. Based on milk recording records, the typical Canadian dairy farm has 72 cows.
- The Canadian dairy sector operates under a supply management system based on planned domestic production, administered pricing and dairy product import controls.
- The Canadian dairy industry is famous for the superior genetic quality of its herd as well as its strong dairy cattle improvement and genetic evaluation programs.
- The Holstein breed is the most common dairy breed (93 per cent of the dairy herd); Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Canadienne, Guernsey, Jersey and Milking Shorthorn breeds are also found on Canadian farms.
- In 2010, Canadian cows enrolled in official milk recording programs produced on average 9,768 kg of milk per lactation (305 days) with an average content of 3.79 per cent fat and 3.21 per cent protein.
- Canada is at the forefront of new and innovative research into dairy genetics. Through genotyping, geneticists determine animals DNA profiles and are currently estimating genomic evaluations for over 60 different traits. Genomic evaluations published by the Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) are calculated using imputed genotypes (3K and 50K) since October 2010.
- Canada is a net exporter of dairy animal genetics (bovine embryos, semen and live dairy cattle). Exports totalled about \$101 million in 2010 among a total of 98 countries. Canada's dairy bull semen exports represent about 20 per cent of world exports.
- For exports of Canadian live breeding cattle in 2010, the United States was the top market accounting for 58 per cent of total dairy cattle exports.

Source: AAFC

For additional information, please refer to: "Statistics of Canada's Animal Genetics" at http://www.dairyinfo.gc.ca/pdf/genetics_publication_2010e.pdf.



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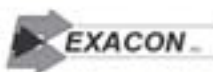
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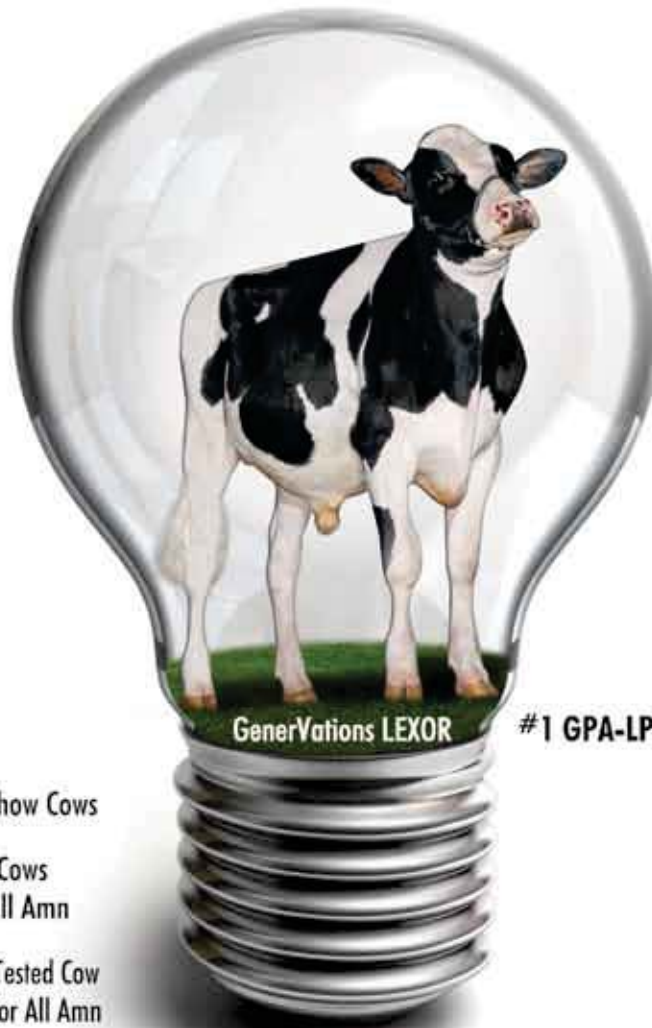
Ferme Lans in Saint-Albert, QC.

Continued on from page 28
their first official LPI. The solid line represents the average LPI change from April to August, which is very close to zero for all groups of bulls. This line demonstrates that no systematic bias exists and bulls have an equal chance of increasing or decreasing from run to run. The two dashed lines reflect the most extreme LPI change within each group that generally includes more than 100 proven sires. As expected, individual bulls newly proven in the past year may experience a wider range of change (i.e.: up to 500 LPI points in either direction), due to the numerous factors possibly affecting their proof. In addition, there is a second group of individual bulls first proven three to four years ago that may also experience increased proof variability as they add their second crop of daughters.

Summary

Genetic evaluations are used daily to make sire selection and mating decisions at the farm level and by AI companies for future young sire purchases. Pregnancies and resulting calves represent an important investment in the advancement of the herd and breed improvement in general. Also, given the lengthy time period that each cow is expected to remain productive in the herd, breeding decisions today have a long term impact on herd profitability. For these reasons, CDN aims to provide the highest possible level of proof accuracy and stability given the various factors that may contribute to their variability. A recent look at proof stability over time has shown no systematic bias in terms of average LPI change and a maximum range in change as expected given the average LPI Reliability near 85 per cent for newly proven sires. Analysis in this area will continue at CDN as it relates to the accuracy of first official proofs versus those three to four years later. 🇨🇦

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Canadian Sheep Options and Opportunities

Sheep have been a part of agriculture in Canada since the first settlement.

By The Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association

As the early pioneers pushed westward, sheep followed almost immediately as they offered the early settlers a steady supply of wool and meat. Sheep thrived on rough pastures that were unable to support cattle and were an important part of the country's early livestock industry.

Commercial lamb production has resulted in the selection of breeds with maternal traits such as prolificacy and mothering ability to cross with terminal sires, which excel in the production of lamb meat. The introduction of hair sheep has been the result of increased emphasis on meat production and a negative net return on wool sales. More recently, sheep dairying has become part of the Canadian industry. Consumer demand for high quality, specialty cheeses has stimulated recent growth in this area of sheep production. Canada still maintains a number of breeds raised primarily for supplying fleeces to hand spinners and specialty wool producers. This dedication to constantly improve and adapt production to a changing international marketplace has resulted in the development of a variety of breeds and individuals to produce a range of products.

The registration system is supervised by the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association and administered by the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. Four generation pedigrees provide accurate ancestry for each animal and random DNA blood testing of every 500th animal registered helps insure the integrity of the registration system. There are many breeds but by numbers of animals registered, the most popular are: Dorset, Suffolk, Arcott (Rideau), Romanov and Katahdin.

Genetic evaluation and improvement programs are available to Canadian producers. These programs are important management tools, which offer performance data to both the breeder and the purchaser of Canadian genetics.

A variety of federal and provincial health and safety programs provide a mechanism for monitoring, control and verification of both individual animals and the national flock.

As a result of the systems and programs available to Canadian breeders, buyers of Canadian genetics can make their selections with confidence. 🇨🇦



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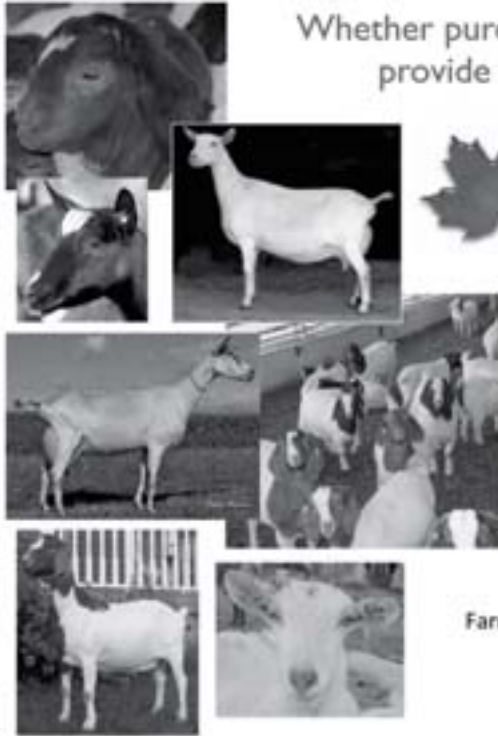
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Goat Sector Grows with Increasing Consumer Demand



By Jennifer Haley, MBA, CAE, P. Ag., Executive Director for the Ontario Veal, Ontario Goat, Ontario Rabbit

The Canadian goat industry, while relatively young, is growing by leaps and bounds. With a thriving dairy goat sector and a flourishing meat goat sector, the industry has been able to respond to the growing consumer demand.

While traditional livestock systems have had their challenges in recent years, Ontario goat producers have been able to bring the goat industry into the mainstream as a viable farming option through hard work and perseverance. Unlike other livestock production, goats are less capital intensive and provide the farm family the opportunity to match growth with demands in the market place.

Ontario represents almost 50 per cent of Canada's goat population and almost one-third of Canada's goat farms. While there is a thriving smaller scale or hobby sector within the goat industry, Ontario goat producers are commercially focused on the viability, profitability and sustainability of their operations.

The dairy sector is a driving force in the growth of the Ontario goat industry. With just over 30 million litres of goat milk produced in 2010, Ontario's dairy goat farmers and processors are projecting steady and increased growth year over year for the foreseeable future. Almost 85 per cent of the milk produced is currently processed into goat cheeses of various varieties with the remaining processed for the fluid milk market and other goat dairy products.

The average goat dairy herd would be approximately 200 milking does. Ontario's dairy goat producers are shifting from seasonal breeding to a more year-round breeding schedule to ensure that milk supply will be available for processors on a consistent basis. Popular dairy breeds include Saanen, Alpine, LaManchas, Nubians and Toggenburgs and top quality genetics with desirable production traits have been the focus for breeders.

Ontario Goat, a producer organization dedicated to serving the needs of the goat sector, has implemented a number of programs to help fulfill this mandate. GoGen is a goat genetic improvement program designed to look at milk recording, classification, registration, breeding strategies and herd health status as important benchmarks that will help producers make sound management decisions on their farms.

Another important project has been the development of generic consumer marketing programs for the dairy goat sector. Currently, Ontario Goat has launched a goat cheese awareness campaign in order to expand the category, drive sales and provide an opportunity for goat producers to grow their volumes of milk



A meat goat. Photos by Kendra Keels, Ontario Veal, Ontario Goat, Ontario Rabbit.

produced. Future campaigns will look at fluid milk consumption and other dairy goat products.

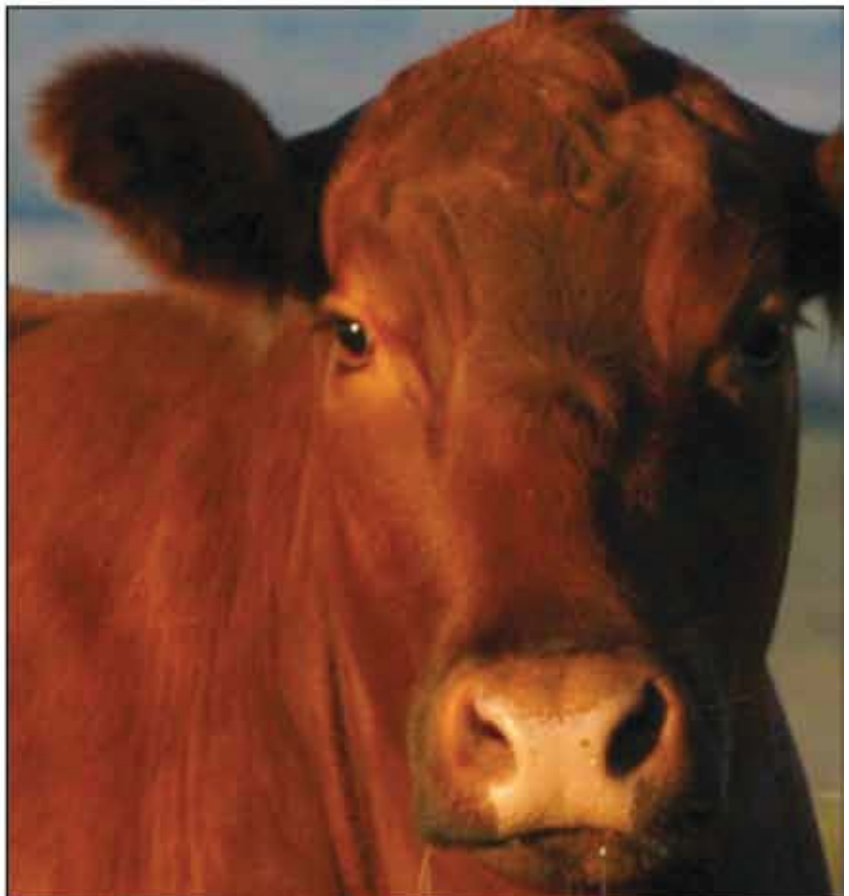
Raising meat goats is gaining more popularity with the number of operations growing. There are two predominant types of goats raised for meat—Boer and dairy buck kids. The Boer breed was only introduced into Canada in the very early 1990s. Boer goats have a high yielding carcass and excellent conformation, while dairy buck kids are raised to lower weights than Boers. Goat meat is also known as chevon. Currently, meat goat consumption is largely driven by various ethnic communities and their celebrations.

Fibre goats, while a small niche sector, is perhaps another area for growth for Canadian goat breeders, given the right opportunity. Angora breeders supply small quantities of mohair for processing in local mills. Currently, there is not a large demand for this natural fibre from the mills. Chewing lice is a problem that affects the quality of the fibre, however, like other goat breeders, fibre producers have limited access to approved pharmaceuticals that are labelled for use in the goat sector.

Make plans to come to Canada to take part in the International Goat Symposium, November 2-6, 2011, which is being held in conjunction with the 2011 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from November 4-13, 2011. Perhaps the premier goat event of the year, the International Goat Symposium has a program for everyone. Expert speakers, farm tours, an industry trade show, the Royal Goat Shows and so much more. Full program and registration details can be found at www.goatsymposium.com. We look forward to seeing you in November! 🇨🇦

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Canadian Swine Exporters Association: Resource Guide

CSEA's Vision and Member Benefits

The Canadian Swine Exporters Association's (CSEA) mission is to assist the Canadian swine industry and promote and market Canadian swine genetics worldwide. CSEA represents the top exporters from across Canada. Working very closely with Canadian Swine Breeders Association (CSBA) and Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI), our members produce and sell the best genetics with guaranteed purity, high health, and a reliable network of technical support for the client.

The main objective for every purebred swine producer is to breed profitable animals. The purebred industry has enjoyed successes for many years with exports to over 50 countries. Canadian swine genetics have made, and continue to make, a difference in the profitable breeding business globally and at home. Our success is credited to the dedication of the family farm, the larger multi-site producer alliances, Canadian technology, our high health status, our environmental stewardship, the low density of swine production, superior fast growing genetics with high sow productivity and good carcass quality.

As stated by the late Warren Stein, "Canada has become one of the largest exporters of pork, and it stands to reason that the success is based on the quality of our genetics. To get first-class meat, you must begin with first-rate genetics."

Canadian Swine Exporters Association is a national, not-for-profit, trade association assisting with market access and animal health interests of those involved in the sale, service and promotion of swine genetics both domestically and internationally. CSEA members supply the finest Canadian swine breeding stock, fresh and frozen semen, as well as technology, training and consultation.

Canadian Swine Exporters Association is a high profile respected entity that can keep its finger on the pulse of market access and health issues and speak on behalf of the industry on a daily basis. Together, the members exhibit at international trade show events and coordinate marketing activities and training programs for international clients. From a marketing perspective, the association represents the best genetic suppliers in Canada and are able to promote the quality and value of Canadian purebred genetics internationally.

Canada has become one of the largest exporters of pork, and it stands to reason that the success is based on the quality of our genetics. To get first-class meat, you must begin with first-rate genetics.

For more information:

Rosemary Smart
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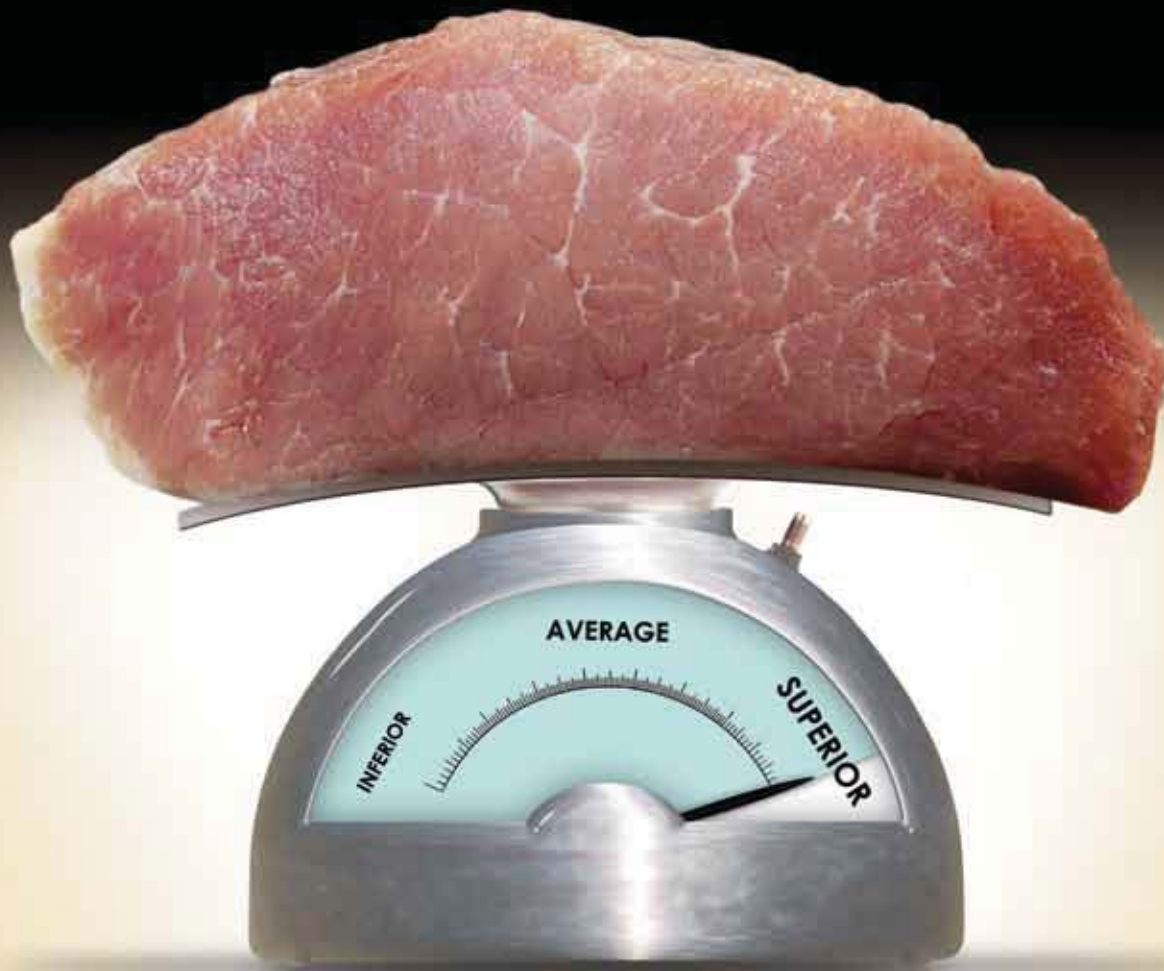
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Saskatoon, SK Canada • S7L 7E1
T 306.667.1420
E contactus@fastgenetics.com

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www.fastgenetics.com

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The Canadian Livestock Genetics Association: Resource Guide

CLGA's Vision and Member Benefits

CLGA Vision

To maximize global market access for Canadian livestock genetics.

CLGA Mission

CLGA acts on behalf of its members on issues related to market access, market development and animal health through government liaison, fostering industry partnerships and international governmental and non-governmental affiliations.

For over half a century, Canada has been a source of high quality, disease-free livestock genetics. CLGA is a not-for-profit trade association (NGO) with a membership composed of livestock exporters, artificial insemination companies, embryo transfer companies, poultry genetics exporters, herdbooks and other companies, agencies and associations that provide support to the genetics industry. Membership includes the dairy, sheep, goat and poultry genetics sectors.

CLGA members work together to continuously improve the livestock genetics industry and focus on providing high quality live animals, semen, embryos, hatching eggs, day-old birds and related products, services and technologies to customers in almost one hundred countries. We recognize the importance of fostering the development of strong technical skills to enhance the management and decision-making capabilities of the client and this provides the client with assurance that imported Canadian genetics will perform to the promised potential. Genetics are important; the effective management of those genetics is critical in terms of profitability. Thus, Canadian exporters can provide the international client with a complete package of value added genetics combined with profit building advice and training provided by recognized industry experts. The credibility and integrity of the programs and systems become the Canada Brand for the genetics export sector.

CLGA builds consensus among and then speaks on behalf of its members on all matters related to animal health (domestic and international) and market access. To enhance the strength of our message in support of member needs, CLGA also participates in broader agri-food industry initiatives and actively develops strategic partnerships.

In addition, CLGA is responsible for maintaining current long-term international marketing strategies for dairy and small ruminant genetics and for securing and administering funds that support market development activities.

In carrying out our mandate, we work very closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

With commitment, leadership, passion and vision, Canadian livestock owners will always be improving. The CLGA is ready to work with you.

CLGA members work together to continuously improve the livestock genetics industry and focus on providing high quality live animals, products, services and technologies to customers in almost one hundred countries.

For more information:

Rick McDonald
Executive Director
The Canadian Livestock Genetics Association
Tel: (519) 821-5200
Fax: (416) 850-8213
Email: clga@clivegen.org
Web: www.clivegen.org



MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS

Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic/ Canadian Pacific Genetics

Phone: (604) 850-7577
Fax: (604) 853-2545
E-mail: rvanderwal@abbvet.ca
Web: www.abbvet.ca

ABS Global (Canada) Inc.

Phone: (519) 664-3776
Alt. Phone: (519) 635-7897
Fax: (519) 664-3631
E-mail: dhodgkin@absglobal.com
Web: www.absglobal.com

Alta Exports International Ltd.

Phone: (403) 547-4389
Alt. Phone: (403) 861-8311
E-mail: info@altaexports.com
Web: www.altaexports.com

Alta Genetics Inc.

Phone: (403) 226-0666
Fax: (403) 226-4255
E-mail: info@altagenetics.com
Web: www.altagenetics.com

Ayrshire Breeders' Association of Canada

Phone: (450) 778-3535
Fax: (450) 778-3531
E-mail: lindan@ivic.qc.ca
Web: www.ayrshire-canada.com

BEL International Inc.

Phone: (905) 793-7415
Fax: (905) 793-8554
E-mail: agrifred.ca@gmail.com

CANSEG Canadian Sheep and Goat Export Group

Phone: (705) 718-2879
Alt. Phone: (705) 424-2479
E-mail: atkinson@interhop.net
Web: www.canseg.com

Canadian Brown Swiss & Braunvieh Association

Phone: (519) 821-2811
Fax: (519) 763-6582
E-mail: brownswiss@gencor.ca
Web: www.browncow.ca

Canadian Dairy Network

Phone: (519) 767-9660, Ext. 301
Fax: (519) 767-6768
E-mail: vandoom@cdn.ca
Web: www.cdn.ca

Canadian Goats International

Phone: (306) 922-1767
E-mail: abg@sasktel.net

Canadian Guernsey Association

Phone: (519) 836-2141
Fax: (519) 763-6582
E-mail: guernsey@gencor.ca
Web: www.guernseycanada.ca

Canadian Milking Shorthorn Society

Phone: (519) 824-2119
Fax: (519) 824-2566
E-mail: milking.shorthorn@gmail.com
Web: www.cmss.on.ca

Canadian Poultry Genetics Exporters Association

Phone: (519) 837-3369

Alt. Phone: (519) 831-4653
Fax: (519) 837-0729
E-mail: bstevens@sentex.net

Canadian Sheep Breeders Association

Phone: (866) 956-1116
Fax: (506) 328-8165
E-mail: office@sheepbreeders.ca
Web: www.sheepbreeders.ca

Clinique Veterinaire St-Louis - Embryobec

Phone: (450) 377-3010
Fax: (450) 371-8938
E-mail: guy@embryobec.com
Alt. E-mail: roger@embryobec.com
Web: www.embryobec.com

Comtois International

Phone: (819) 336-7080
Fax: (819) 336-7088
E-mail: info@comtois-export.com
Web: www.comtois-export.com

Cormdale Exports Ltd.

Phone: (819) 357-4537
Fax: (819) 357-4539
E-mail: yvon@cormdale.com
Web: www.cormdale.com/cormdale_ex/
default.htm

Cormdale Genetics Inc.

Phone: (905) 873-8700
Alt. Phone: (905) 691-0740
Fax: (905) 877-1394
E-mail: homefarm@netcom.ca
Web: www.cormdale.com/

Cowsmopolitan

Phone: (403) 335-3780
Fax: (403) 335-9230
E-mail: lexi@cowsmo.com
Web: www.cowsmo.com

Dairy Farmers of Canada

Phone: (613) 236-9997
Alt. Phone: (613) 791-0274
Fax: (613) 236-0905
E-mail: rejean.bouchard@dfc-plc.ca
Web: www.dairygoodness.ca

EastGen

Phone: (519) 539-9831
Fax: (519) 421-7221
E-mail: mweber@gencor.ca

Export Development Canada

Phone: (613) 598-3586
Alt. Phone: (613) 513-5516
Fax: (613) 594-3824
E-mail: sbray@edc.ca
Web: www.edc.ca

Foundation Sires Inc. / Foundation Genetics Service Inc.

Phone: (519) 291-9916
Alt. Phone: (519) 291-0291
Fax: (519) 291-3523
E-mail: info@foundationsires.com
Web: www.foundationsires.com

Friesvale Farms International Inc.

Phone: (519) 424-9189
Fax: (519) 424-9250
E-mail: friesvalefarms@execulink.com
Web: www.friesvalefarms.com/

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Phone: (905) 873-8700
Fax: (905) 877-1394
E-mail: dave@generations.com
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Fax: (519) 621-0999
E-mail: ianross@grandvalley.com
Web: www.grandvalley.com

Grasshill Farm Ltd.

Phone: (705) 738-2787
Fax: (705) 738-4580
E-mail: lwicks@nexicom.net
Web: www.nexicom.net/~grasshil/

Greaveston Genetics Inc.

Phone: (905) 877-7356
Alt. Phone: (905) 873-4288
Fax: (905) 877-3983
E-mail: paul@greavestongenetics.com
Web: www.greavestongenetics.com

Hays Genetics International Ltd.

Phone: (519) 647-3523
Alt. Phone: (905)-912-2697
Fax: (519) 647-3523
E-mail: hgenetics@sympatico.ca

Hoken Agritech International Inc.

Phone: (416) 298-4006
Fax: (416) 298-6809
E-mail: hoken@rogers.com

Holstein Canada

Phone: (519) 756-8300
Fax: (519) 756-8202
E-mail: kflaman@holstein.ca
Web: www.holstein.ca

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 Alt. Phone: (604) 317-0068
 Fax: (604) 522-6331
 E-mail: selen@ind.ca
 Web: www.indlifetech.com

International Genetics Ltd.

Phone: (705) 445-2734
 Fax: (705) 445-6255
 E-mail: byoung17@rogers.com
 Web: www.internationalgenetics.com

J.C. Matheson Livestock

Phone: (519) 638-5838
 Alt. Phone: (519) 570-6708
 Fax: (519) 638-2930
 E-mail: jcmatheson@on.aibn.com

JAY-LOR Canada/Fabricating Inc.

Phone: (519) 787-9353
 Alt. Phone: (519) 830-7000
 Fax: (519) 787-7053
 E-mail: mp@jaylor.com
 Web: www.jaylor.com

Jersey Canada

Phone: (519) 821-1020
 Fax: (519) 821-2723
 E-mail: phyllis@jerseycanada.com
 Web: www.jerseycanada.com

Kire Agro Canada Inc.

Phone: (905) 702-9288
 Alt. Phone: (416) 565-5040
 Fax: (905) 877-2844
 E-mail: kireagro@hotmail.com

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 Alt. Phone: (519) 421-8341
 Fax: (519) 474-6092
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 Fax: (403) 748-2667
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 Alt. Phone: (403) 357-2101
 Fax: (403) 783-3780
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 Web: http://www.morsan.com

Nipponia Export Ltd.

Phone: (519) 822-1197
 Alt. Phone: (519) 835-9647
 Fax: (519) 822-3340
 E-mail: nipponiaexport@yahoo.com
 Web: www.nipponia.ca

OC Flock Management (Ovigene Partner)

Phone: (403) 357-8652
 Fax: (404) 224-2431
 E-mail: lynn@ocflock.com
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Phone: 519-824-2942
 Fax: 519-824-2534

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Phone: (780) 499-9937
 Alt. Phone: (780) 399-3439
 E-mail: info@ovigenecanada.ca
 Web: www.ovigenecanada.ca

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 Fax: (450) 829-4147
 E-mail: rapidbay@rocler.qc.ca
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 Alt. Phone: (519) 859-1865
 Fax: (519) 666-2344
 E-mail: stantonbros@sympatico.ca
 Web: www.holsteinworld.com/stanton/

The Canadian Sheep Federation

Phone: (519) 824-6018
 Alt. Phone: (888) 684-7739
 Fax: (519) 824-9233
 E-mail: info@cansheep.ca
 Web: www.cansheep.ca

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Phone: (416) 263-3400
 Alt. Phone: (416) 263-3488
 Fax: (416) 263-3488
 E-mail: kmcfadden@royalfair.org
 Web: www.royalfair.org

The Semex Alliance

Phone: (519) 821-5060
 Fax: (519) 821-7225
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 Web: www.semex.com

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Phone: (450) 649-1122
 Fax: (450) 649-4491
 E-mail: trup@videotron.ca
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Veterinary Management Services Ltd.

Phone: 902) 859-1843
 Alt. Phone: 902-853-7013
 Fax: (902) 859-1843
 E-mail: gmorgan@vetmanagement.ca

Walker Dairy Sales Inc.

Phone: (519) 765-2406
 Fax: (519) 765-2411
 E-mail: walkerds@amtelecom.net

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 Alt. Phone: (519) 868-0328
 Fax: (519) 268-8452
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 Web: www.weavercroft.com

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 Fax: (905) 852-2486
 E-mail: info@westportholsteins.ca
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Cell: 403-357-2101 • Office: 403-783-8784
Fax: 403-783-8733 • chris@morsan.com

Photos: Mike, Ariel, Aubry, Tools Gold, Jessie, Missy, Cash, Barb, Morgan, Suzanne, Food, Canada's Top 1000 Farms

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council: Resource Guide

CBBC's Vision and Member Benefits

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council is the recognized representative of Canadian seed stock producers by government and industry, while effectively promoting Canada as the source of quality beef cattle genetics.

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council's mission statement is "to represent and promote Canadian pedigreed beef cattle genetics domestically and internationally."

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council annually develops a marketing plan together with the focused engagement and participation of its various members, including 20 breed associations, as well as sector service providers, livestock shows and exporters.

CBBC is engaged with its membership organizations in representing Canadian seed stock producers to promote international marketing activities that best achieve developed goals and objectives. The coordinated activities are planned based on the identified needs in various markets and whether these prospects will result in potential sales of cattle and genetics. Activities are itemized and categorized in terms of achieving market penetration, promotion, and training and after sales support and technical transfer.

Comments from members:

"The CBBC is an essential partner in the success of our producer-members. CBBC helps us develop and execute our international marketing strategy. It plays a key role in the industry and stakeholder negotiations here and internationally that promotes and drives our sales of breeding cattle and genetics."

"Our Association benefits by CBBC membership through the availability of funding to support our in- and out-bound missions—which have generated substantial sales of genetics to international buyers."

"We appreciate CBBC's liaison with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to keep us informed of changing health regulations in regard to export markets. Thanks to CBBC's involvement with government officials, the profile and best interests of the purebred beef cattle sector are always promoted."

"The Canadian Beef Breeds Council (CBBC) has assisted our business with access to essential funding sources to support the promotion and sale of our services internationally. Our specialization is purebred beef cattle embryo sales, implantation and technical training for clients."

"CBBC helps us to develop and utilize relationships in Canada and internationally with government and industry representatives, and customers, that are essential to us in reaching our business goals."

We welcome your inquiries regarding Canadian purebred cattle genetics and related technologies. We offer presentations, support inbound and outbound trade missions, assist in hosting international beef cattle industry guests and can link you to diverse industry, business and government experts.

CBBC is engaged with its membership organizations in representing Canadian seed stock producers to promote international marketing activities that best achieve developed goals and objectives.



EXECUTIVE

President

Allan Marshall (Charolais)
Phone: (403) 227-2594
E-mail: futureal@telusplanet.net

Vice President

Byron Templeton (Hereford)
Phone: (403) 345 3889
Cell: (403) 308 9971
E-mail: xtcherf@shockware.com

Executive Member

Doug Fee
c/o Canadian Angus Association
Phone: (403) 571-3580
E-mail: doug1@cdnangus.ca

Executive Member

Dr. Roger Davis
c/o Davis Rairdan Embryos International
Phone: (403) 946-4551
Fax: (403) 946-5093
E-mail: embryos@davis-rairdan.com

Past President: Don Mackenzie (Angus)

Phone: (403) 653-2539
Fax: (403) 653-1927
E-mail: redmac@toughcountry.net

MEMBERS

Canadian Angus Association

Phone: (403) 571-3580
Fax: (403) 571-3599
E-mail: ceo@cdnangus.ca
E-mail: cudlobe@platinum.ca
Web: www.cdnangus.ca

Canadian Blonde d'Aquitaine Association

c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corp.
Phone: (613) 731-7110
E-mail: cbda@clrc.ca
E-mail: westwind@telusplanet.net
Web: www.canadianblondeassociation.ca

Canadian Brown Swiss and Braunvieh Association

Phone: (519) 821-2811
Fax: (519) 763-6582
E-mail: brownswiss@gencor.ca
www.canadianblondeassociation.ca

Canadian Charolais Association

Phone: (403) 250-9242
Fax: (403) 291-9324
E-mail: cca@charolais.com
E-mail: ngillies@charolais.com
E-mail: futureal@telusplanet.net
Web: www.charolais.com

Canadian Galloway Association

Phone: (613) 731-7110 ext 303
Fax: (613) 731-0704
E-mail: galloway@clrc.ca
E-mail: galair@telusplanet.net
Web: www.galloway.ca

Canadian Gelbvieh Association

Phone: (403) 250-8640
Fax: (403) 291-5624
E-mail: gelbvieh@gelbvieh.ca
Web: www.gelbvieh.ca

Canadian Hays Converter Association

Phone: (403) 245-6923
Fax: (403) 244-3128
E-mail: haysconverter@shaw.ca
Web: www.clrc.ca/haysconverter.shtml

Canadian Hereford Association

Phone: (403) 275-2662
Fax: (403) 295-1333
E-mail: gm@hereford.ca
E-mail: xtcherf@shockware.com
Web: www.hereford.ca

Canadian Highland Cattle Society

Phone: (519) 229-6220
Fax: (250) 877-7783
E-mail: highland@chcs.ca
Web: www.chcs.ca/eindex.htm

Canadian Limousin Association

Phone: (403) 253-7309
Fax: (403) 253-1704
E-mail: aburgess@limousin.com
Web: www.limousin.com

Canadian Lowline Association

Phone: (780) 486-7553
Fax: (403) 248-5216
E-mail: theodorejensen@gmail.com
Web: www.canadianlowline.com

Canadian Luig Cattle Association c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

Phone: (403) 843-0094
Fax: (403) 843-0094
E-mail: ieaitken@hotmail.com
Web: www.clrc.ca/luig.shtml

Canadian Maine Anjou Association

Phone: (403) 291-7077
Fax: (403) 291-0274
E-mail: cmaa@maine-anjou.ca
E-mail: rcranch795@telus.net
Web: www.maine-anjou.ca

Canadian Murray Grey Association

Phone: (403) 938-7643
Fax: (403) 938-0042
E-mail: cmga@xplornet.com
Web: www.canadianmurraygrey.ca

Canadian Pinzgauer Association

Phone: (403) 507-2255
Fax: (403) 507-8583
E-mail: tracy@oldsagsociety.com
Web: www.pinzgauer.ca

Canadian Shorthorn Association

Phone: (306) 757-2212
Fax: (306) 525-5852
E-mail: info@canadianshorthorn.com
E-mail: red_rig@hotmail.com
Web: www.canadianshorthorn.com

Canadian Simmental Association

Phone: (403) 250-7979
Fax: (403) 250-5121
E-mail: cansim@simmental.com
E-mail: bholmquist@simmental.com
E-mail: bjudd@simmental.com
Web: www.simmental.com

Canadian South Devon Association

Phone: (403) 289-3836
Fax: (403) 289-3886
E-mail: info@southdevon.ca
Web: www.southdevon.ca

Canadian Speckle Park Association

Phone: (403) 946-4635
Fax: (403) 946-4635
E-mail: info@canadianspecklepark.ca
E-mail: remindachs@xplornet.com
Web: www.canadianspecklepark.ca

Salers Association of Canada

Phone: (403) 337-5851
Fax: (403) 337-3143
E-mail: salers@telusplanet.net
Web: www.salerscanada.com

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alta Exports International Ltd.

Phone: (403) 547-4389
Fax: (403) 547-5893
Cell: (403) 861-8311
E-mail: info@altaexports.com
Web: www.altaexports.com

Balog Auction Services Ltd.

Phone: (403) 320-1980
Fax: (403) 320-2660
E-mail: sold@balogauction.com
Web: www.balogauction.com

Bouchard Livestock International Ltd.

Phone: (403) 946-4709
Fax: (403) 946-4919
Cell: (403) 813-7999
E-mail: info@bouchardlivestock.com
Web: www.bouchardlivestock.com

Canada Livestock Services Inc.

Phone: (780) 808-2815
Fax: (780) 808-2816
Cell: (306) 821-1410
E-mail: sydney.palmer@canadalivestock.com
Web: www.canadalivestock.com

Canadian Bull Congress/Camrose Regional Exhibition

Phone: (780) 672-3640
Alt. Phone: (800) 296-8112
Fax: (780) 672-8140
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Davis Rairdan International

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Fax: (403) 946-5093
Cell: (403) 804-0213
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Phone: (613) 598-6601
Fax: (613) 594-3824
E-mail: lynn.cote@edc.ca
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Hawkeye Land and Livestock Ltd.

Phone: (306) 677-2589
Fax: (306) 677-2589
E-mail: gdeobald@gmail.com

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Phone: (403) 286-8193
Fax: (403) 286-8185
E-mail: mwenkoff@shaw.ca

Northlands Park

Phone: (780) 471-7210
Fax: (780) 471-8112
E-mail: sfelkar@northlands.com
Web: www.northlands.com

Olds Agricultural Society

Phone: (403) 556-3770
Fax: (403) 556-3333
E-mail: tami@oldsagsociety.com
Web: www.oldsagsociety.com

Peterosa Exports Ltd.

Phone: (403) 828-9815
Fax: (403) 233-7205
E-mail: roger.peterosa@gmail.com

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Phone: (416) 263-3402
Fax: (416) 263-3488
E-mail: bjadavji@royalfair.org
Web: www.royalfair.org

Semex Alliance

Phone: (519) 821-5060 ext 236
Fax: (519) 821-7225
E-mail: mimmerkar@semex.com
Web: www.semex.com

Xports International Inc.

Phone: (204) 873-2637
Fax: (204) 873-2294
E-mail: rod.g@xportsinternational.ca
Web: www.xportsinternational.ca

For more information about the Canadian Swine Exporters Association, contact Rosemary Smart at (519) 421-0997 or visit their website at www.canadianswine.com.

For more information about the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association, contact Rick McDonald at (519) 821-5200 or visit their website at www.clivegen.org.

For more information about the Canadian Beef Breeds Council, contact Brett Campbell at (403) 730-0350 or visit their website at www.canadianbeefbreeds.com.



Upcoming Industry Events

CANADIAN SWINE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

November 9-11, 2011
Hanoi, Vietnam
Vietstock

March 22-24, 2012
HCMC, Vietnam
Ildex

March 28-29, 2012
Red Deer, Alberta
Alberta Pork Congress

April 2012
Quebec, Quebec
Expo Congres du Porc du Quebec

June 6-8, 2012
Des Moines, Iowa
World Pork Expo

June 26-27, 2012
Ontario Pork Congress

November 13-16, 2012
Eurotier
Hannover, Germany

CANADIAN BEEF BREEDS COUNCIL EVENTS

Canada
September 30-October 2, 2011
Olds, Alberta
Olds Fall Classic

November 3-6, 2011
Brandon, Manitoba
Manitoba Livestock Show

November 4-13, 2011
Edmonton, Alberta
FarmFair

November 4-13, 2011
Toronto, Ontario
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

November 21-26, 2011
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canadian Western Agribition

January 20-21, 2012
Camrose, Alberta
Canadian Bull Congress

March 2012
Calgary, Alberta
Calgary Bull Sale

March 2012
Ottawa, Ontario
Canadian Cattlemen's Association

March 26-31, 2012
Brandon, Manitoba
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair

July 2012
Calgary, Alberta
Summery Synergy

July 6-15, 2012
Calgary, Alberta
Calgary Stampede

June 20-22, 2012
Regina, Saskatchewan
Farm Progress Show

September 2012
Olds, Alberta
Olds Fall Classic

November 2012
Brandon, Manitoba
Manitoba Livestock Show

November 2012
Edmonton, Alberta
FarmFair

November 2012
Toronto, Ontario
Royal Agricultural WF

November 2012
Regina, Saskatchewan
Canadian Western Agribition

International
September 7-18, 2011
Montivideo, Uruguay
Expo Prado
October 4-6, 2011
Kuala Lumpur
Livestock Asia Expo and Forum

October 7-10, 2011
Moscow, Russia
Golden Autumn-AgroTech

October 10-13, 2011
Poznan, Poland
Farma

October 19-22, 2011
Billings, Montana
NILE

November 5-18, 2011
Louisville, Kentucky
NA International Livestock Expo

November 9-11, 2011
Hanoi, Vietnam
Vietstock Expo & Forum

November 23-25, 2011
Uzbekistan, Tashkent
Uzagroexpo

January 7-22, 2012
Denver, Colorado
National Western Stock Show

January 31-February 3, 2012
Kiev, Ukraine
Inter Agro

February 2012
Kiev, Ukraine
Kiev AgriHort

February 1-4, 2012
San Antonio
NCBA (1) January

February 13-17, 2012
Moscow, Russia
ProdExpo

February 28-March 18, 2012
Houston, Texas
Houston Livestock Show

March 2012
Chihuahua, Mexico
Expogan Chihuahua

March 14-16, 2012
Astana, Kazakhstan
Exhibition AgriTek Astana

April 2012
Houston, Texas
Beef Improvement Federation

April 2012
Londrina, Brazil
Expo Londrina

April 7-9, 2012
Moscow, Russia
AgroFarm

April 5-18, 2012
Sydney, Australia
Sydney Royal Easter Show

April 30-May 4, 2012
Ribeirao, Brazil
Agrishow

May 7-12, 2012
Rockhampton, Australia
Rockhampton

May 16-18, 2012
Almaty, Kazakhstan
AgriTekAlmaty 2012

June 2012
Kiev, Ukraine
Agro Expo

June 2012
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Feicorte

June 13-16, 2012
Auckland, New Zealand
Fieldsays

June 21-24, 2012
Edinburgh, Scotland
Royal Highland

July 2012
Bogota, Colombia
AgroExpo

July 2012
Palermo, Argentina
La Rural

July 25-28, 2012
Orlando, US
NCBA Summer Conference

August 2012
Porto Alegre, Brazil
Expoiner Show

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK GENETICS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

November 4-13, 2011
Exhibition Place, Toronto
The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
www.royalfair.org

November 1-5, 2011
Toronto and area (including the goat shows at the Royal Winter Fair)
International Goat Symposium

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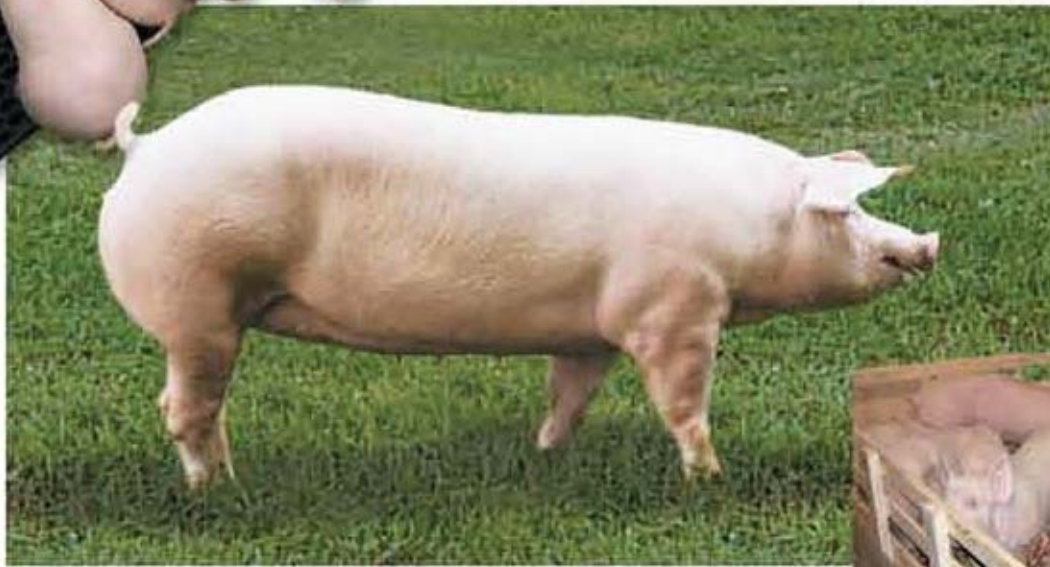
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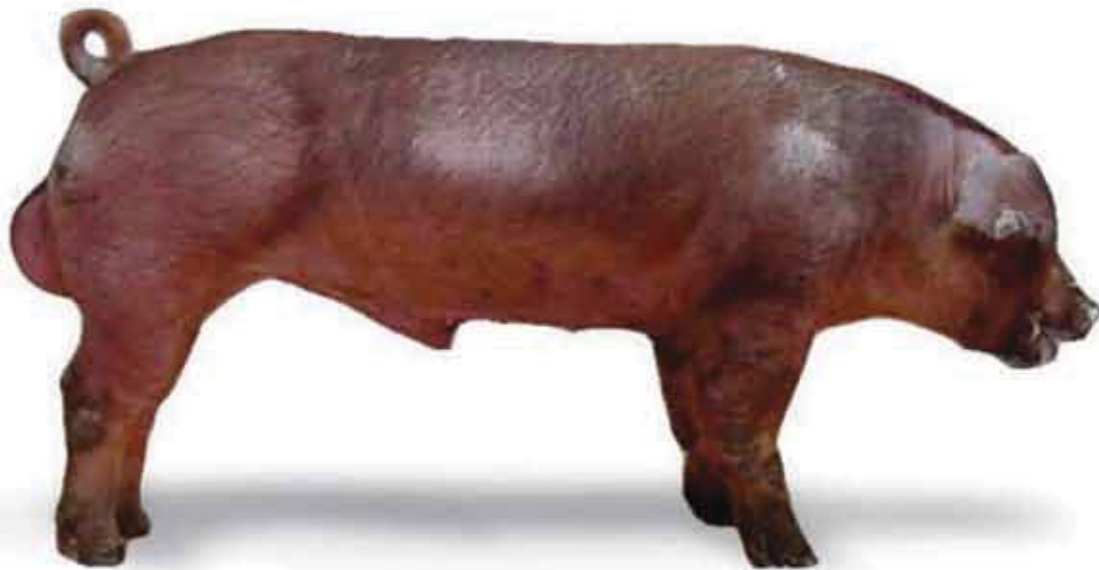


CONTACT Mark Ross, M.Sc.

661 Cordova Street ■ Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada ■ R3N 1A9

Telephone: +1 204 474 2399 ■ Fax: +1 204 453 0532

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