



Welcome to the CCYA National Board Fall Newsletter

2016 has been a busy year for the Canadian Charolais Youth Association. Our membership numbers are up and we have new, exciting faces in our association. We had a fun filled week in Olds, Alberta for the 2016 Conference & Show. Have a look into the October Charolais Banner for all the conference coverage.

The National Board has welcomed new members to our team and we are excited to share some of their messages with you in the following page of this newsletter.

2016 Semen Auction

The National Board has received generous semen donations for our 2016 Semen Auction Fundraiser. The auction will take place in conjunction with the Charolais Sale at Canadian Western Agribition on Thursday, November 24, 2016 at 3:30pm. Check out the catalogue at buyagro.com

Contents

- Page 2- CAN vs AUS Charolais-
Shae-Lynn
- 3- What's Great about Grasslands? –
Tomina
- 3- The Perfect Steak- Keegan
- 4- Picking your 4-H Steer- Shelby
- 5- Food Security in Charolais Cattle-
Courtney
- 5- Membership
- 6- 4-H Steers- Wyatt
- 7- Contact Info

Save the Date!

**CCA
Scholarship**
Due October 31
Visit
Charolais.com for
more info!

Semen Auction
November 24 at
3:30pm
At the Charolais
Sale at Agribition

**2017
Membership**
Deadline January
1, 2017



Canadian vs Australian Charolais

This summer, I had the privilege to travel to Dubbo, Australia to attend the Australian junior show, called the National Youth Stampede. During my time there, I noticed quite a few differences between how we do things in Canada versus how they things “down under”. Here are a few things I learned:

- No tie-outs! Cattle are left in the stall each night
- A farm name is called a “stud”, so people would ask me, “What’s your stud?”
- Everyone dresses very fancy! Girls where dress shirts, jewelry, bows in their ponytails, and cowboy hats, and boys where cowboy hats, dress shirts, and dress pants
- For the confirmation show, everyone wears a blue “dustcoat”
- Showmanship is called “Paraders”, and you CANNOT take a comb into the ring!
- Instead of getting banners when you win a division, the animals are “sashed” with a big ribbon that gets hung over their shoulders or tucked into their halter
- The cattle don’t have much hair, and the breeders don’t want much hair because it doesn’t get very cold in most parts of the country
- There were lots of red factor genetics and lots of horned genes in the cattle. They were a bit bigger framed and have a similar style to full French cattle (in general)
- Lots of people use halters called “hackamores” and all cattle are required to have a humbug (“nosebug”) or a nose ring for safety
- Show cattle are more natural looking in Australia and generally not as fat as show cattle in Canada
- A show harness is called a “bib”, and we wore them all week instead of nametags
- Cows can get bit by snakes and die!

As you can see, there are quite a few differences in Australia! It was such a cool experience to see what things are the same and what things are not. I have learned so many things from this experience and I encourage each and every one of you to go to Australia whenever you get the opportunity! It is a truly amazing place with great cattle and people.

Shae-Lynn Evans, President



What's Great about Grasslands?

During the summer you probably take your cows out to the pasture. Lots of pastures are grasslands. **Grasslands** are areas of land where it doesn't rain or snow much and where only grasses and shrubs grow. We all know that cows like grasslands because the cows get to roam around all summer and eat nutritious grasses, but did you know that grasslands like cows too? It's true, let me tell you why:

Aeration: aeration is a funny word that means to poke holes in the ground to let the air in. Cows have pointy feet that aerates the ground. Aeration is important because it lets water, nutrients and air into the roots of the grasses which helps the grass grow.

Nutrients: I'm sure we all know that cows produce manure (also known as poop). Manure is an excellent source of nutrients for plants. In fact, manure has 3 major nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, that plants need to grow!

Birds: birds are a very important part of our environment and grasslands are a great place for birds to live. According to some studies, some species of birds prefer to live in grasslands that are being grazed by cows!

Tomina Jackson, Secretary

The Perfect Steak

As the days start getting shorter, the lure of cooking outdoors becomes less and less. But, there's still time to get one last grill in. From casual family dinners to easy, relaxed entertaining with friends, you can't beat a succulent beef steak cooked just the way you like it. Here are four easy steps to barbecue a perfect steak.

Step 1: Preheat the barbecue to medium-high. Make sure that the grill is clean by giving it a quick brush before you start cooking. Step 2: Wait until just before cooking to season your steak, as salt draws out the flavorsome juices from the meat, making it tough. Season one side with salt and pepper, then cook the steak, seasoned-side down first, to seal in the flavor. Season the other side just before turning over. Step 3: Cook the steak on the barbecue, using long-handled tongs (a fork can let the juices escape) to turn the steak, until cooked to your liking. Cooking times vary depending on the thickness. Turn steak once only during cooking - any more and the juices escape, which can make the meat tough. Step 4: Enjoy!!!

Keegan Blehm, Manitoba Director

Picking your 4-H Steer

Hey guys! As fall is among us and weaning time is coming up quick, lots of you are probably starting to pick out your 4-H steer for the upcoming year. Choosing your 4-H steer can be difficult, whether you pick him out of a feedlot, your own herd, your neighbours herd, or a prospect sale, you are no doubt going to have a tough choice ahead of you. Sometimes it seems like there is no possible way you can pick a steer out in October or November and have any idea how he will turn out when it is sale time in June. But don't worry! All you need to do is go back to the basics of judging and analyzing cattle. When you are picking out your 4-H steer, you need to make sure he is structurally sound. No, he is not going to be around for a long time but this is still very important. If your steer has issues with his feet or legs he will not move around as well causing him to gain less. Also, you're going to want to look at the frame size of the steers you are looking at and consider their potential. How much are you going to want to finish them at? What is the approximate weight division you hope to compete at for your Achievement Day or Regional show? Think about this when you are picking out your steer. Another very important thing to look for is the muscle shape and definition the steer has when he is younger. Look for a steer that has a lot of natural muscle shape and definition, because that's something that the judge is going to look for when he's finished in June. Some other important things to look for are depth of body, width through the chest and over the topline, length of body, overall balance, and eye appeal. For younger or more inexperienced members especially, pay attention to temperament and disposition of the steer you are looking at. You are going to want a steer that is good to work with to make the year more enjoyable! One more thing to consider is the age of the steer. Typically, Charolais cross steers are a little bit later maturing meaning that they put on finish at an older age than some breeds such as Angus or Hereford. Take this into consideration along with your feeding strategy and when the date you will market your finished steer project to make sure you will be able to get him finished on time. These are just a few things to keep in mind when selecting your project calf. Good luck and have fun picking out your 2016/2017 4-H steer!



Shelby Evans, Saskatchewan Director



Food Security in Charolais Cattle

Within the Canadian landscape, generally speaking, food security is not near the top of the importance and priority list for most Canadians. We are fortunate to live in a country where food security is almost taken for granted. While thinking about food security, it is necessary to rewind the dial back to 1970 when food production was very much at the forefront of developmental thinking, especially in terms of global agricultural practices. The food security issue has always been present, although today the term food security is looked at from a different perspective. This concept has been widely debated and it did not simply emerge overnight.

Food security regardless of the type of food product has changed over the past 40-50 years because of enhanced agricultural practices and animal husbandry practices. Take the example of Charolais beef when considering how important it was in 1953, when the first Charolais were imported to Canada. Charolais were introduced to the commercial cattle man to be used in cross breeding programs to enhance yield. This change in animal husbandry was implemented at a local level initially, however, the Charolais cattle have moved across Canada and the US as a beef commodity.

As with other food commodities,

Charolais beef is interconnected with many factors such as population and demographics, needs, employment trends and income impacts, the environment, marketing, health and nutrition. These factors all affect consumption requirements and no longer are Canadian Charolais breeders only concerned with local needs. Breeders need to constantly be aware of global trends and other influencing factors, especially when looking at the Canadian beef market in a worldwide perspective.

Availability and access to nutritious and good quality beef along with other food products is essential for the global community. Charolais beef production is conducted to the highest standards at the governmental and private sector levels. The Canadian Charolais beef producers consistently excel when it comes to meeting food security standards since the food is grown with proper animal husbandry and sanitation practices. Additionally, Canadian Charolais beef producers actively monitor utilization and consumption practices by their consumers, and look further into how beef meets dietary needs and how it fits into various cultures. The Canadian Charolais beef producers truly act as a great example when examining issues of food security on a worldwide level.

Courtney Black, Treasurer

Membership is due!

Deadline is January 1, 2017 for CCYA Membership.

CCYA members can be youth who are 21 as of January first of the current year – the same as 4-H age in many provinces. Membership is \$20.00 annually and is payable to the Canadian Charolais Youth Association. For your membership you will receive a newsletter semi-annually, and be eligible to compete in the CCYA Conference and Show, the Genetics Program, the Buy & Show Program, Purchase Incentive Program and Essay Competition, as well as provincial youth events and activities. First time members will receive a membership package when they join.

If you would know someone who would like to become a member, fill out the form found at youth.charolais.com and enclose a cheque for **\$20.00** payable to the Canadian Charolais Youth Association.

4-H Steers

When you go to pick your 4H steer this fall, make sure you take a good hard look at your own calves before you buy one out of a prospect sale. Purebred Charolais and Charolais cross calves can make really good 4H steers. They might not have the hair the club calf influenced steers do but they will likely outweigh them and put more dollars in your pocket come sale day. Showing a home raised steer can eliminate or lower the cost of buying a steer as opposed to purchasing from a prospect sale. The 4H steer show is supposed to be a market steer show but these days many judges seem to be selecting the club calf influenced steers as champions. The club calves may be winning 4H shows but they might not be as good of a market animal. You don't see any commercial cattlemen using club calf bulls on their cows, because the calves wouldn't weigh up and they wouldn't make as much money when they ship their calves in the fall. If winning ribbons is important to you then maybe you should look at a prospect steer. If you want a steer that will grow and put pounds on and bring you a nice cheque sale day, I strongly encourage you to chose a Charolais or Charolais cross steer.

Wyatt Ching, Vice President



CCYA 2017 will be in Barrie, Ontario August 2-6, 2017!

The Ontario Charolais Youth Association is fundraising by hosting a Semen Auction at the National Charolais Sale at The Royal, November 4, 2016. Check out the catalogue on the Charolais Banner website.

2016-2017 National Board



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