

# Spring Newsletter

**Hello, Juniors!**



**Welcome to our 2018 Spring Newsletter**

This Newsletter is created by the Canadian Charolais Youth Association National Board. The CCYA is off a great start in 2018! We had a record number of participants in our 2018 Genetics Program. Thank-you to those participants! We also have a number of new members joining us. We look forward to meeting you at our 2018 Conference & Show as well as seeing old friends.

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### Save the Date

**June 1- CCYA  
2018 Conference  
Registration due**

**June 15- 2018  
Essay Competition  
deadline**

**July 25-28- 2018  
Conference &  
Show in Brandon,  
MB**

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[nationalboard@gmail.com](mailto:nationalboard@gmail.com)

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## 2018 Conference & Show in Brandon, MB

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**July 25-28, 2018**

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The Manitoba Juniors are gearing up for the 2018 CCYA Conference & Show. We will kick off the week with a fun filled activity, followed by many educational activities such as judging, marketing, grooming, showmanship and the conformation show. This year we will have a few new and exciting things. 15 International guests are joining us for the week, and we are also going to have a program for our “Little Char’s”- those who might be coming to Brandon for the week with their siblings but not yet old enough to participate in all of the activities. Stay tuned to our website and the May Charolais Banner for registration and more information.

### **International Charolais Members join us for CCYA 2018!**

As some of you may have heard, the CCYA conference this year will be even more exciting than usual and you are going to see many unfamiliar faces. These faces will not just be new CCYA members, but rather guests from countries all over the world who are just as interested in the Charolais breed as you are!

Helge and Candace By, along with Charolais International have developed program where senior-aged participants from Junior Charolais Associations all over the world have the opportunity to travel to a host country and attend their Charolais youth conference! 2018 will be the first year for this program and we are very excited that Canada will be the first host country! At our 2018 CCYA conference in Brandon, Manitoba, we will host 15 international participants! These guests will be travelling to Canada from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Hungary, Estonia, Czech Republic, Sweden, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

This will be a great experience for not only the international members who will be attending CCYA, but for all of us CCYA members as well! We will get to learn how different countries show and groom their cattle as well as teach them how we do it here in Canada. Our international guests will have the opportunity to participate in all CCYA activities, but don't worry... it will not take away from the usual CCYA competitiveness and fun we are all used to!

In the years to come, Canadian Charolais Youth Association members will have the opportunity to travel to the future host countries to attend a conference there, making the next few years very exciting to be a CCYA member!

So make sure you bring your most welcoming smiles out to CCYA 2018 in Brandon and get ready to meet some young Charolais enthusiasts from all over the globe!

Shelby Evans, President



## The Essay Competition

At the 2018 CCYA Conference and Show in Brandon, Manitoba there will be a lot of great events to participate in. For example, there is an Essay competition for all age groups. This is one of the few competitions that must be completed and handed in before the actual conference. For juniors, the length must be 1-2 pages. Intermediates must be 2-3 pages in length and for Seniors 2-4 pages.

At this past year's National Board meeting we decided on the topics for the 2018 competition. For Juniors, the topic is "What would you tell your friends if they asked you about hormone free beef?" For the Intermediates and Seniors the topic chosen was "Compare the positive and negative effects of hormone free/non GMO beef campaigns (Such as A&W) on the Industry".

The deadline to get your essay in is June 15<sup>th</sup>. The prizes for this event are great, first place junior will receive \$125 and second will get \$75. For intermediates first prize is \$200 and second is \$100, and for seniors first place is \$300 and second is \$200. To find out more information go to [www.youth.charolais.com](http://www.youth.charolais.com) and look under CCYA programs.

Tyson Black, Ontario Director



## Breeding

With calving season winding down for many purebred operations, it's time to think about breeding and decide which bull to use on which cows. There are many factors to consider when choosing a bull to use on your females to make the best cross. The goal is to select a bull that will improve your herd. You select a bull based on physical traits like structure, feet, testicle, muscle, how the bull walks and just the general appearance of the bull. You also need to examine the bulls EPD's, along with his actual performance data, birthweight, weaning weight, yearling weight etc. Not only do you need to study the bulls appearance, EPD's and actual data, you also need to examine the females traits and track record. If the female doesn't have great feet or structure you need to select a bull that has good feet and structure. If you're breeding an older cow and she's consistently had high birthweight calves sired by different bulls, she's likely the one causing the high birthweight and you should choose a low birthweight bull to try and produce a moderate birthweight calf. When you're breeding a heifer you want to choose a low birthweight, calving ease bull to give the heifer the best chance to be able to have the calf on her own without trouble and save yourself having to help her. After a cow gets to be a few years old and raises a few calves you will learn what bulls work with her and what bulls don't. Knowing your cows is a big part of making a good cross but in the end it is a gamble no matter what way you breed your females. Good luck!

Wyatt Ching, Vice President



# Myths about Livestock and Livestock Producers

Here are some general misconceptions that the public has about beef cattle and beef producing. As producers it is our job to clear up and misunderstanding about the production of livestock.

## Myth #1- Grazing cattle is a waste of what could be good farm land and destroy the habitat

Fact- Grazing cattle more than doubles the land that is about to produce food because most used for grazing is unsuitable for raising crops. This land is either too dry, rocky or hilly. Properly managed cattle grazing can promote regrowth of beneficial grasses by fertilizing the land and preventing erosion.

## Myth #2- Beef is unhealthy and high in fat

Fact- Red meats are the best source of high quality dietary protein relative to the caloric intake as well as being rich in nutrients such as zinc, iron, and vitamin B12. Recent research has shown that the advice to eat less red meat could result in an increased incidence of iron deficiency. It has been documented that Canadians on average are not consuming the recommended serving of red meat within the current Canadian food guide recommendation for meat and alternatives. It is highly nutritious and loaded with healthy proteins, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals, along with various nutrients known to positively affect the function of both body and brain.

## Myth #3- Antibiotic-free/ hormone free beef is better for you

Fact-The use of antibiotics in food animals is strictly regulated and feedlots work closely with veterinarians to ensure they are antibiotics are used correctly. There are mandatory withdraw times between the use of an antibiotic and the harvesting of an animal to ensure that antibiotic has passed through the animal and the meat is free of any traces of the drug. Without the use of antibiotics, animals can get sick, suffer and die even though there are no known food safety benefits that come with not using antibiotics. To answer the second part of the myth about hormones there is no such thing as hormone free beef. All animals have hormones within their systems just like us.

Keegan Blehm, Manitoba Director

## Halter Breaking your Cattle

I think its safe to say halter braking is everyone's least favourite part of showing cattle. Halter braking takes much time, effort and consistency to help the animal be aware and become trained to the halter. One thing I find works well is to firstly tie the animal up. This shows the animal that the halter has control of and retains it from going anywhere. Also, while the animal is tied up I like to brush it with a comb allowing it to get used to having its hair worked with. Secondly by tying the animal up I find it helps to make it easier to teach them to lead on the halter because the animal will know it can't beat the halter and sooner learn to walk.

When it comes to teaching it how to lead on the halter I like to walk it myself with someone following behind, by doing this it shows to animal that I am the one making them lead and will show them in the future that when I pull it means to walk and go where I take it and allows the animal to become confident and familiar with me leading . It can also be a major help when it comes to you and your animal knowing each other in a showmanship class. Finally, consistency is a major factor being consistence and working with your animal will help allow you to make halter braking going easier ad smooth and help you get to the show ring!

Bradley Fergus, Ontario Director

# Why Attend a CCYA Conference & Show

Getting ready for spring and summer shows? I hoping you have the 2018 CCYA Conference on your calendar! It is one show you are able to go to where you only see your favourite breed of cattle, Charolais. Along with showing cattle you get to learn a lot of life skills.

Are you scared of public speaking? At CCYA you have a chance to do team judging and be the judge. You get to speak in front of parents and your fellow CCYA members. It is giving you a chance to see how it feels to talk in front of a big crowd and be comfortable with it. Also there is individual judging where you have to give at least one oral reason depending on your age. You may not be in front of everyone however, you are still talking in front of someone that you might not know which allows another chance to practice your public speaking skill. You never know when in life you might have to talk in front of a large crowd, so being able to speak clearly and confidently is important.

Teamwork is a major part at a CCYA Conference and even in your everyday life. You are given your herdsmans at CCYA and these people are your family for the week. You need to work together to get everything washed, dried and fed. You need to work efficiently together to get the job done, so you can participate in the other events throughout the day. Also if your an older member you really need to help out the younger members as parent involvement is not allowed. Teamwork is a skill that you will always use and need in your life from helping on the farm to an everyday job.

One of my favourite things about the CCYA conference is all the people and friends you meet. Also the fact that there are so many life skills that can be learned at a conference, in which I just talked about two that I think are the biggest. Life skills are something you learn and no one can take those away from you and it will also help you in school and once you get a job.

Raelynn Rosso, Saskatchewan Director

CCYA offers so many fun, educational activities including judging events such as keep and cull, team judging, and beef judging. In my opinion, judging is one of the most important skills for a farmer. Whether you are selecting new bred heifers, buying commercial cattle, or investing in your next herd bull, you will need to have solid judging foundation in order to select quality livestock.

Understanding that cattle are constantly changing and improving, being a skilled judge can help you stay ahead. Not only will you remain a competitive force in the cattle industry but you will also create a positive reputation by providing your customers with nothing but the best.

Attending CCYA in Manitoba this summer can help you in the future by enhancing your judging skills through learning from the best in the business as well as through the judging activities CCYA offers youth. Practicing and improving your own skills by comparing your result with the judge will grow your knowledge and experience. As the 4-H motto says, "learn to do by doing."

Bret Marshall, Alberta Director



## National Board Contacts

SHELBY EVANS - PRESIDENT [SLE379@MAIL.USASK.CA](mailto:SLE379@MAIL.USASK.CA) 306-561-7490

WYATT CHING- VICE PRESIDENT [W.CHING476@GMAIL.COM](mailto:W.CHING476@GMAIL.COM) 306-476-7439

AIDAN JAMIESON- TREASURER [AWJAMIESON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AWJAMIESON@GMAIL.COM) 403-354-9402

RAEYLNNE ROSSO- SECRETARY [LITTLEROSSO@HOTMAIL.CA](mailto:LITTLEROSSO@HOTMAIL.CA) 306-690-3302

BRET MARSHALL- ALBERTA DIRECTOR [BLM5012@CESD73.CA](mailto:BLM5012@CESD73.CA) 403-877-177

KEEGAN BLEHM- MANITOBA DIRECTOR [KEEGB34@YAHOO.CA](mailto:KEEGB34@YAHOO.CA) 204-384-6913

TYSON BLACK- ONTARIO DIRECTOR [BLACKBERN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:BLACKBERN@HOTMAIL.COM) 613-433-1169

BRADLEY FERGUS- ONTARIO DIRECTOR [BRADLEYFERGUS3@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRADLEYFERGUS3@GMAIL.COM) 519-938-7103

SHAE-LYNN EVANS- EX-OFFICIO [EVANS32S@UREGINA.CA](mailto:EVANS32S@UREGINA.CA)

ADULT ADVISORS:

ALBERTA: KASEY PHILLIPS- [KPHILLIPS@MCSNET.CA](mailto:KPHILLIPS@MCSNET.CA)

SASKATCHEWAN: SUZANNE SMYTH- [SUZANNETYLERSMYTH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUZANNETYLERSMYTH@GMAIL.COM)

MANITOBA: DONNA JACKSON- [JACKSON7@MYMTS.NET](mailto:JACKSON7@MYMTS.NET)

ONTARIO: KAREN BLACK - [BLACKBERN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:BLACKBERN@HOTMAIL.COM)

YOUTH COORDINATOR: KIRSTIN SPARROW- [KPSPARROW@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:KPSPARROW@HOTMAIL.COM) 306-380-4508

