



Welcome!

Welcome to this edition of the CCYA Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the articles the National Board has put together for you.

For more information on CCYA and our programs make sure you check out our website at youth.charolais.com or find us on Facebook and Twitter



This year's annual Canadian Charolais Youth Association Show and Conference was definitely one for the books! The show was held in Brandon, MB from August 25th to 28th with 71 Charolais youth in attendance from all across Canada as well as around the world. CCYA was honoured to host the very first Charolais

International Youth Program, where we welcomed 12 International senior members from Sweden, Estonia, Ireland, England, New Zealand, Australia, Czech, and the United States. These members competed in their own category in all of our regular CCYA events such as grooming, keep and cull, team judging and showmanship, which allowed them to learn how these events are done in Canada but it also gave us Canadian a chance to see some differences in showing and fitting techniques around the world. Once again, the quality of cattle exhibited at CCYA was second to none and the enthusiasm and willingness to learn from our youth members was something the Charolais breed should be very proud of. This year we ran a new program called the "Little Chars" program for our youngest Junior members where they had the opportunity to take a break from the competitions one afternoon to have some fun and learn the basics. They learned about different cattle breeds, played "pin the parts on the cow", learned about different types of feed as well as practiced their grooming skills. Another new event this year was the steak cook-off. Each herdsman group designed, cooked and presented a steak-based meal to a team of judges, which saw some stiff competition and exciting team costumes. As always, the CCYA show and conference was a summer highlight and I'm sure many members are already looking forward to the 2019 conference in Weyburn, SK next summer!

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Winter Auction - CCYA Fundraiser

Alright juniors, it's our time to show our skills! The National Board is having an auction where all the funds raised will go back to the youth program. It's time to show your talent; you can make any object, paint, build, or get something donated for the auction. Anything you can think of under the sun- small or large scale. We would like to have as many donations as possible, please don't be shy to put more than one item in. The Auction will be in the early new year, and we will accept donations as soon as possible. The auction will be taking place over Facebook so everyone has the opportunity to buy as many items as they please. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact myself or your provincial National Board members for more details. I can't wait to see all the work everyone puts in and shows off their talent, and how you can think out of the box. Thanks for all your support throughout the year.

Bret Marshall, Alberta Director

Upcoming Events

October 31, 2018- CCA Scholarship Application Deadline

November 22, 2018- Semen Auction at the CWA Charolais Sale

January 1, 2019- 2019 CCYA Membership due

Early New Year, 2019- CCYA Facebook Fundraising Auction

Genetics Program Deadline- February 15, 2019





Fitting Techniques Around the World

For anyone who was at the CCYA show and conference this year, I'm sure you would agree that we learned a lot of new things from the Charolais International Junior members who were in attendance. While there were several differences between how the the different countries judged and showed cattle, one of the most noticeable differences was in the team grooming event. If you have ever been to a cattle show in a different country and had the opportunity to watch around the fitting chutes on show day or watch a grooming demo, you have likely noticed that not everyone has the same fitting techniques as we do in Canada. Although there are always "trends" in the fitting world, there are also some major differences between how countries groom their cattle and the desired look they are going for.

In Canada, we typically try to use enough product to achieve the desired look we are going for while fitting the cattle, yet still trying to keep them looking natural. This includes boning the legs, putting product in the body hair to make it stand up, gluing the tailhead up to make the animal look more "square", etc.. In the last few years our fitting techniques have become more advanced and without doubt they have changed since our parents were young! Although different breeders have different preferences, for the most part it is quite similar.

Last summer, a few of us National Board members had the opportunity to travel to Grand Island, Nebraska to attend the American International Junior Charolais Association show and conference, where we watched a fitting demo put on by Sullivan's. One thing we all picked up from this demo and watching the juniors fit on show day was that in the States they "go big or go home" as they said. While fitting, they went the whole nine yards. They fit nearly every part of the animal. All four legs, the belly, flank, and topline all had glue in. The tail head was pulled up and rounded with clippers to achieve a "softer" look and nearly each animal had a very carefully designed tail ball that was just the right size for that particular animal. And paint. Those show heifers were just glowing white! We definitely came home from AIJCA with some cool new tips and tricks!



During the team grooming event at the conference in Brandon this summer, the juniors from each different country got a chance to show us Canadians how they fit cattle back home. While Australia, New Zealand, and the US had some similar techniques to us, I think one country that stood out to everyone was Ireland. In Ireland, they want to achieve a wavy look over the animal's entire body. When talking to them, they said they use a different type of glue than us that is similar to a bar of soap and they sort of rub it into the animal's hair. The glue is not just used in the legs, but rather over the entire body. While this

seems completely strange to us Canadians, it is completely normal and the desired look at their cattle shows.

Although it sometimes seems like there is a proper or right way to fit cattle, it actually varies between country, breed, generation, and even breeder. It is definitely eye opening to see the differences in fitting around the world and talk to others about why they want their animals to look a certain way and watch how they achieve that desired look!

Shelby Evans, President



2018 Conference Participants at the Keep & Cull Competition at HTA Charolais

CCYA Semen Auction

Once again this year the Canadian Charolais Youth Association will be holding their annual semen auction at the Agribition Charolais Sale in Regina, Saskatchewan on November 22nd starting at 3:30. This semen auction is a huge fundraiser for the Youth Association. In 2019, the CCYA conference and show will be held in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. The money that is raised by this event is then used for the Leadership Scholarships that will be given out at the conference. Each year CCYA has received many generous donations of semen from various breeders. We would like to thank each and every one of you for your past donations. This year I am responsible for finding the semen lots for the auction. If you would like to donate any semen please give me, Tyson Black, a call at 613-633-1169.

Tyson Black, Treasurer



CCYA 2018 Champion Female

A Farm Kids Summer

What did you do this summer? Bale hay? Ha! Not likely very much.

During a normal Manitoba summer for example we would see on **average** about **182 mm in June and 136 mm in July**. This year however, the rain just never seemed to come and we **received a 65.1 mm for June and 41.1 mm for July**. That's only a **third** of the average precipitation over the last 30 years. Due to this huge rain deficit, hay ground and pastures definitely suffered, not only leaving the pastures to look pretty sad in appearance but leaving a lot of beef producers across the summer with way more free time than they knew what to do with (mostly because a cattle farmer rarely has any free time to begin with).



Due to limited hay cutting, raking, flipping, baling and stacking this year, that left a lot of hardworking farmer dads wondering what they were going to do with all this time on their hands. After spending a week or two rainless they turned to servicing equipment and checking every fence in every pasture. All those little “make work” jobs can only last so long though and if your dad is anything like mine he would be going stir crazy in no time, taking tape measures out to the field to see if the alfalfa is even growing at all! Good thing for farm dads that they have kids! No more excuses of “too much work to do” this summer as farmers had all the time in the world for family bonding activities that their kids have been asking about since the snow started to melt. Some of these things may be going to the beach, having a BBQ or taking (and I’m not kidding) a FULL WEEK off the farm to take a road trip to Brandon, Manitoba for the CCYA conference!

Farm kids no doubt had a blast hanging out with dad (because let’s face it, dad was always the “fun” parent and mom always had to keep everyone from getting too crazy: rule of thumb, if mom says no just ask dad! You will usually like that answer better.) all of July, but this drought wasn’t that fun at all for producers. Farmers across the country have definitely been getting creative this summer with storing alternate types of feed in preparation for winter. Farming is a volatile and risky business farmers are also tough and at the end of the day those who persevere (or maybe are just stubborn enough?) it’s always worth it to raise and market something you’re proud of!

Lindsay Verwey, Manitoba Director



Teamwork



Fun times at the Steak Cook-Off Competition

Picking out your 4-H Calves

It's that time of year again, time to pick out your 4-H string. I'm sure a lot of you have been watching your calves for a couple months now. Make sure you are looking for a well balanced calf.



When you are looking for a steer, look to see if your calf is wide through it's top when you stand behind them. Then when you get out in front of them, see if they are wider through their shoulders. A long loin on your steer is good. Hair is also always great to have too.

When looking at heifers, it's similar to steers, but not. You look at some of the same things but with heifers, I really like to look at the structure of the calf. Heifers are mostly going to come back into your herd, so you're going to want to have good feet and legs. You also want length then depth in your heifers.

One other thing is you want your heifer or steers to catch your eye, so they need to stand out to you. This is just a couple of things you can look at when picking out your calves this year. Good luck!

Raelynne Rosso, Secretary



Making new friends!

History of the Charolais Breed

The Charolais breed originated in France, specifically in the provinces of Charolles and Nièvre. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries white cattle were popular in French markets, however legends say that white cattle were first noticed as early as 878 A.D.. Like other cattle of continental



Europe, they were used for draft, milk and meat. The breed was generally confined in the area of which they originated until the French Revolution when Claude Mathieu took his herd to the province of Nièvre. It was here that the breed flourished and became known as Charolais. The French



have long selected their cattle for size and muscling. Unlike the British Isles, French cattle producers selected their stock based on bone, power and rapid growth. They recognized these cattle would ultimately reach a larger size than other breeds. At the time, little attention was paid to refinement, but great stress was made on utility. It was after the Second World War that the Charolais breed began making its



appearance in other parts of the world. It started with small exports of 3-5 bulls and 5-10 females to different countries in South America and South Africa. Exportation increased, and in 1953 cattleman Wayne Mallmberg imported commercial Charolais cattle to his Alberta ranch. Canadian's quickly realized the potential of the Charolais breed and in 1959 the Canadian Charolais Association was formed. Charolais cattle are continuing to prove themselves in the show ring, sale ring and feedlots. Whether purebred or commercial, the future is bright for this breed.

Reegan McLeod, Alberta Director

Keeping Cattle White



Having white show cattle can sometimes be hard when it comes to keeping them clean. Keeping them well bedded is very beneficial as it allows them to stay stain free and be comfortable. Rinsing daily is one of the best ways to keep them clean by rinsing them it allows you to wash the dirt out of them and hopefully reduce appearance of staining. Stains can be challenging to work with. Some products I like to use on them is *Sullivan's Bright Light*, *Sullivan's Natural White*, *Sullivan Stain Buster*. These products work very well for removing stains but it is very important to do a thorough job in removing all of the soap so it doesn't stain the animal, being a very strong purple pigmented soap. Making sure their tail is an appropriate length. Not allowing it to drag in dirt, mud, or manure. Which then the animal will swing their tail and put the dirt that's in her tail on her body cause her to become dirty. These are just some tricks and tips that can help you keep your heifers, bulls, or steers nice and fresh, clean, and white and looking great.

Bradley Fergus, Ontario Director

2018-2019 CCYA National Board



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