

Gelbvieh

SPRING 2010 

M A G A Z I N E *guide*

CGA Hall of Honor Recipients

Farmfair
INTERNATIONAL

2009

Does Your Bull Pass the Test?
Will he settle your cows?



Repairing Broken Legs on Calves
Up to a 90% success rate



LAND & CATTLE

SEVERTSON 17TH ANNUAL AT THE FARM - INNISFAIL AB

BULL SALE **MONDAY**
MARCH 8

1 PM 2010

OFFERING...

80

**RANCH RAISED
BULLS SELL!**

ALL COMING 2 YEAR OLD BULLS

ALSO OFFERING...
**50 COMMERCIAL
HEIFERS!**

**TO BE SOLD IN UNIFORM
GROUPS OF 5**

**BLACK & RED ANGUS
BLACK & RED GELBIEH
BLACK & RED SIMMENTAL**

**VIEW THE CATALOGUE ON-LINE
IN EARLY FEBRUARY AT:**

**SCOTT & LISA SEVERTSON
(403) 224-3756
RR #2, INNISFAIL, AB T4G 1T7
EMAIL: slcgelb@explornet.com**

www.severtsoncattle.com

Beck Farms & McCoy Cattle Co.

Two Programs Driven to Produce Herd Bulls for the Beef Industry



McCoy 90J Whistler 2W
Agribition Junior Bull Calf Champion
90J x Yukon BW: 97 lbs. Adj. 205 Wt: 873 lbs.



McCoy 301P Wisdom 8W
Yukon x Intrigue BW: 95 lbs. Adj. 205 Wt: 751 lbs.



McCoy 147T Wishlist 122W
Totem x Special Agent BW: 93 lbs. Adj. 205 Wt: 718 lbs.

1st Annual Bull Sale

Saturday, February 27, 2010

1:00 PM

Optimum Genetics
Regina, Saskatchewan

*80 Gelbvieh, Hereford & Charolais
Yearlings & Two Year Old Bulls on Offer*

View catalogue online at
www.mccoycattle.com

Ask us about our repeat buyer and
volume discount programs.

Sale Management: T Bar C Cattle Co. Ltd
(306) 933-4200



**BECK
FARMS**

Wade: 306.436.4564
306.436.7458
wbeck@sasktel.net
Box 5, Lang, SK S0G 2W0


McCoy Cattle Co.

The Nicholas Family
Box 479, Milestone, SK S0G 3L0
Gary & Florence - 306.436.4301
Chad & Carrie - 306.436.2086
cnicholas@sasktel.net
www.mccoycattle.com

WHO SAID GOOD THINGS DON'T COME EASY?



RWG 9215 - HE SELLS!



**RWG TRACTION 7412 - Res. Champion Sr. Bull
National Western Stock Show.
NEW HERDSIRE - Maternal & paternal sibs for sale**

PURCHASE BULL THAT HAVE DAMS LIKE THESE...



**Dam of RWG 7104 - 2008 National Champion Bull
also the dam of RWG 8408 & RWG 9410, both for sale.**



Dam of RWG Traction 7412 & RWG 9409, for sale

BULL BUYING MADE EASY!

FOR SALE AT THE FARM...

**OFFERING: 30 PERFORMANCE TESTED BULLS,
MAY/JUNE BORN COMING 2 YEAR OLDS AND
CALENDAR YEAR YEARLING BULLS.**

**ALL BULLS ARE FULLY GUARANTEED,
SEMEN & HEALTH TESTED, PERFORMANCE
TESTED AND POLLED. ALL BULLS WILL BE
KEPT UNTIL NEEDED AND DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR.**

ROYAL
Western
Gelbvieh

Rodney & Tanya Hollman
Site 8, Box 25 RR#4, Innisfail, AB T4G 1T9
Ph: 403.754.5499 • Fax: 403.886.2813
Rod Cell: 403.588.8620
Tanya Cell: 403.352.9283
rodscattle@platinum.ca



www.royalwesterngelbvieh.com



CGA Secretary/Manager
Wendy Belcher

Member Advertising Rates

Please send ads and make cheques payable to :
The Canadian Gelbvieh Association

- Full Page\$500.00
- 2/3 Page\$365.00
- Half Page\$275.00
- Third Page\$210.00
- Quarter Page\$165.00
- Sixth Page\$120.00
- Business Card\$50.00
- Classified (25 words)\$10.00
- Per Extra Colour\$100.00
- Full Color
(plus separation charges) ...\$300.00
- OBC, IFC, IBC
(Full colour)\$800 + GST

Contact the CGA to book advertising space or for rates on overruns, inserts, catalogues & mailing lists.

Publisher/Editor

Gaylene Groeneveld

Phone: (403) 250-8640

Fax: (403) 207-9543

Email:

guide@gelbvieh.ca (Gaylene)



Electronic Composition

Kim Matthews

Box 19, Site 5 RR#2,
Olds, Alberta T4H 1P3

(403) 556-8836

(403) 556-8077

prime.cut@telusplanet.net (Kim)

Printed by: Apache Superior Printing

Calgary, AB, Canada
Mailed under permit number 40012883
Postage paid at Calgary, AB
Canadian Publication Agreement
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
Canadian Gelbvieh Association
Suite 109, 2116 27 Ave NE, Calgary AB T2E 7A6

Publisher's Statement: All statements, including product claims, are those of the person or organization making the statement or claim. The publisher does not adopt any such statement or claim as its own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher.

Rates/Policies

Canadian Gelbvieh Association

109, 2116 - 27th Avenue N.E.

Calgary, Alberta T2E 7A6

Phone: (403) 250-8640

Fax: (403) 291-5624

Email: gelbvieh@gelbvieh.ca

www.gelbvieh.ca

The official publication of the Canadian Gelbvieh Association

Advertising Deadlines/Publication Dates

Summer - May 1 / June 1 - *Golden Pages*

Fall - September 1 / October 1 - *Commercial*

Spring - January 1 / February 1 - *Herd Sires*

In This Issue...

- President's Report7
- CGA Office Memo8
- Rancher Rob9
- Gelbvieh Association of AB/BC News10
- Man-Sask Gelbvieh Assoc News13
- ECGA News16
- Show Results36
- BIC Report48
- Junior News45
- Sale Results49
- Coming Events56
- Advertiser Index58

Feature Articles

- Repairing Broken Legs on Calves12
- Does Your Bull Pass the Test?14
- Genomic EPDs22
- CCA Recommends Management Practices23
- Hall of Honor Inductees29

Front Cover Photo:

The 4 finalists of the People's Choice Bull Futurity at the National Gelbvieh Show at Farmfair International, Edmonton, Alberta

Advertising Content

The Gelbvieh Guide assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and truthfulness of submitted advertising copy, and has the right to refuse any ad copy or photos. Advertisers shall indemnify and hold harmless the Guide containing pedigrees or statements regarding performance must conform to records kept by the Canadian Gelbvieh Association. Copy deviating from official records may be changed as necessary without advertiser consent.

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of Gelbvieh Guide or the Canadian Gelbvieh Association. Photographs are welcome, but no responsibility is assumed during transit or while in the office.



Directors

President

Scott Severtson

RR# 2, Innisfail, AB T4G 1T7
Phone/Fax: 403-224-3756
slcgelb@xplornet.com

Past President

Vern Pancoast

Box 37, Redcliff, AB T0J 2P0
Phone: 403-548-6678
Fax: 403-548-6955
vffarms@xplornet.com

Vice President

Darrell Hickman

RR# 2, Vermillion, AB T9X 1Y7
Phone: 780-581-4510
Fax: 780-853-4776
Darrell.Hickman@lakelandc.ab.ca

Ross Davidson

Box 147, Ponteix, SK S0N 1Z0
Phone/Fax: 306-625-3513
lonesomedoveranch@sasktel.net

Leila Hickman

RR#2, Vermilion, AB T9X 1Y7
Phone: 780-581-4510
Fax: 780-853-4776
leila.hickman@gov.ab.ca

Romacordelia Cox

P.O. Box 11, Tatla Lake, BC V0L 1V0
Phone: 250-476-1221
Fax: 250-476-1280
cordy_cox@hotmail.com

Darcy Hrebenuik

Box 379, Hudson Bay, SK S0E 0Y0
Phone: 306-865-2929
Fax: 306-865-2860
firriver@xplornet.com

Jason Hurst

6926 - 3rd Line West,
RR# 1, Elora, ON N0B 1S0
Phone: 519-846-8518
Fax: 519-846-9996
carrollcreekcattleco@sympatico.ca

Provincial Association Representatives to the CGA Board of Directors

Gelbvieh Association of Alberta/BC

Representative - Darrell Hickman
RR# 2, Vermillion, AB T9X 1Y7
Phone: 780-581-4510
Fax: 780-853-4776
Email: Darrell.Hickman@lakelandc.ab.ca

Secretary - Merv Tuplin
4215 - 83rd Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6K 1C8
Phone: 780-450-1280
Email: mtuplin@shaw.ca

Man-Sask Gelbvieh Association

Representative - David Gavelin
Box 149
Meyronne, Saskatchewan S0H 3A0
Phone: 306-264-3635
Fax: 306-264-3635
Email: deepsands@sasktel.net

Secretary - Carrie Nicholas
Box 479
Milestone, Saskatchewan S0G 3L0
Phone: 306-436-2086
Fax: 306-436-4613
Email: cnicholas@sasktel.net

Eastern Canadian Gelbvieh Association

Representative - Jason Hurst
6926 - 3rd Line West, RR# 1
Elora, ON N0B 1S0
Phone: 519-846-8518
Fax: 519-846-9996
Email: carrollcreekcattleco@sympatico.ca

Secretary - Sylvia Londry
RR# 2, C22545 Lloyd Sideroad
Cannington, Ontario L0E 1E0
Phone/Fax: 705-437-4959
Email: sylvia.londry@hotmail.com

Don't Miss Out! Gelbvieh Keep in touch by reading the official Gelbvieh Magazine.

The Gelbvieh Guide magazine is mailed FREE OF CHARGE for two years to purchasers of registered Gelbvieh cattle when the registration certificate is transferred into the purchaser's name. Ask the seller of the animal for a registration certificate when you purchase a Gelbvieh animal.

Note, according to the Animal Pedigree Act (Chapter 13, Section 64(j)), no person shall sell a purebred animal without providing to the buyer, within six (6) months after the sale, the animal's duly transferred certificate of registration.

If you are not a CGA member and wish to continue to receive the GELBVIEH GUIDE or know of someone who should be on our mailing list, please clip out and send in this coupon and remit \$20.00 Canadian and send to the Canadian Gelbvieh Association office.. For out of country subscribers, please fill out the Subscription Form, remit \$50.00 Canadian, and send to the Canadian Gelbvieh Association office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Mail to:

Canadian Gelbvieh Association

109, 2116 - 27 Ave. N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 7A6
Ph: (403) 250-8640 Fax: (403) 291-5624

- \$20.00 Enclosed for Canadian subscription fee.
- \$50.00 Enclosed for foreign subscription fee.



Scott Severtson

President's Report



2010 CGA Board of Directors...Front Row: (L-R) Romacordelia Cox, Darrell Hickman (Vice-President), Ross Davidson. Back Row (L-R) Vern Pancoast (Past President), Wendy Belcher (Secretary/Manager), Leila Hickman, Scott Severtson (President)
Missing: Jason Hurst and Darcy Hrebeniu

Hello, it is my pleasure to greet you as the President of the Canadian Gelbvieh Association. Although I have filled this role some time ago, I think that this is a great opportunity to again work with board members that offer their support and dedication to the entire Gelbvieh industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vern Pancoast for his dedication and hard work while serving two years as your president, and I look forward to his input as past president of the association. Also, welcome new CGA board members; Cordy Cox, Tatla Lake, BC; Darcy Hrabeniuk, Hudson Bay, SK and Jason Hurst, Elora, ON. These young aggressive cattle producers will bring new ideas and opportunities to grow our breed and make it truly the "Continental Breed of Choice."

For many Gelbvieh breeders, calving season is well under way and bull sale season is just around the corner. I urge all of our members to get out and attend as many Gelbvieh events as pos-

sible this spring. Also bull producers, get those bulls transferred to their new owners - even if they say they "don't need the papers." The registration paper proves to the buyer that the animal he or she purchased is of Gelbvieh blood, and in turn, their faith in you as a Gelbvieh breeder is maximized.

I feel the economic down turn is turning the corner. Good quality bulls and females will command top dollar this spring and if feed prices stabilize, our bottom lines should reflect that. Our association has also weathered storms; however, the board is working very hard this year to



still be fiscally responsible. We have a very conservative budget for 2010 and we encourage the provincial organizations to keep promoting Gelbvieh with their various events and programs. If there is anything that the Canadian Gelbvieh Association can assist you with, please give the office a call.

I look forward to 2010, and as we progress, the Canadian beef industry will rebound and once again there will be a bright light in the agriculture industry.

Scott

**The Canadian
Gelbvieh Association
wishes all
Gelbvieh Producers a
PROSPEROUS
Bull Sale season!**



Wendy Belcher

SECRETARY/MANAGER

CGA OFFICE MEMO..

I would like to wish everyone all the very best in 2010. It is amazing how fast the time passes, it seems like just yesterday that we were worried about the New Millennium, and now it is 10 years old. Guess that explains all the grey hair.

The CGA welcomes three new members to the Board of Directors; Cordy Cox, Jason Hurst and Darcy Hrebenuik. As new members of the Board of Directors, they bring fresh new ideas and perspectives to your organization. With a tight budget, creativity is key, and these young minds fit the bill.

The CGA Board has agreed to increase awareness of the registered Gelbvieh Balancer® cattle. With a fiscally tight budget, it should be a win, win scenario. Increased revenue for the CGA through increased registrations which will, in turn, provide funds to promote Gelbvieh cattle period.

The CGA Board would also like to remind producers, that while not encouraged, multiple sire matings are al-

lowed. In fact, just about every producer out there does this on a regular basis. How many of you wait a full 24 days after you A.I. a cow before turning her out with a clean up bull?

CGA By-Law, Article 24.14 states:

Multiple Sires: The Canadian Gelbvieh Association defines a multiple-sire mating as any mating where the female is exposed to two (2) or more bulls, either A.I. or natural service, during a twenty-four (24) day period. Progeny from multiple-sire matings shall not be eligible for registration in the Canadian Gelbvieh Association herd book unless positive evidence of the actual sire is provided through parentage testing in a manner approved by the Board of Directors. Parentage verification will be done at the owner's expense (1/96)

As the spring breeding season approaches, it is time for producers to choose those genetic inputs for their herds which will have long term effects.

To help you choose wisely, there are several articles in this issue and on the website at www.gelbvieh.ca to assist you in your decision making.

As always, I encourage everyone to get out and attend your fellow breeders bull sales. The seed stock industry is a much (or more) about people as it is about great cattle. Bull sales are an excellent opportunity to get out and socialize with fellow cattle producers. Be it a seeds stock producer, commercial cattlemen and hobby farmer, just remember you are all cattlemen.

X marks the spot as the international year letter for 2010.

X-ray, Xylophone, Xerox, Xena, Xavier, Xerxes, Xenos and Xanthe.

*Why Gelbvieh?
A Good Bottom
Line Starts With
a Gelbvieh Bull!*

AGA New Board of Directors..



The American Gelbvieh Association elected directors and officers for 2010 during its annual convention in Denver, Colo. Front row: Ken Flikkema, Bozeman, Mont.; Nancy Wilkinson, Model, Colo.; Dick Helms, Arapahoe, Neb.; Vice President Jim Beastrom, Pierre, S.D.; President Al Knapp, Bonner Springs, Kan.; Secretary Randy Gallaway, Mulhall, Okla.; and Treasurer Mark Goes, Odell, Neb. Back row: Dan Warner, Beaver City, Neb.; John Huston, Starkville, Miss.; Jerry Grund, Wallace, Kan.; Brian Dunn, St. John, Kan.; Brian Schafer, Goodhue, Minn.; Bob Prosser, Winslow, Ariz.; and Gary Tilghman, Glasgow, Ky. Missing from the photo is Rob Arnold, Minot, N.D.

Rancher Rob

BY WENDY BELCHER

Rancher Rob and his cronies are fictitious characters created by the author to demonstrate different methods of utilizing the potential of the Canadian Gelbvieh Association "Performance Registry" computer program etc.

Rancher Rob put a lot of planning and thought into the selection and acquisition of his bull battery. As the breeding season approaches, Rancher Rob takes stock of his walking sires as well as the semen in his tank. While Rancher Rob will have Veterinarian Vern perform Reproductive Soundness Exams on his walking sires later in the spring, he is planning now to replace 25% of those bulls. Keeping new genetics in the bull pen and semen tank is one way the Rancher Rob improves the value of his future calf crops.

Jane Parish, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist states, "Identifying and investigating sources of quality herd sire genetics should be tackled well ahead of needing a breeding bull to turn out with the herd. Taking the steps necessary to procure the "right" bulls for the cow-calf operation takes some time and effort if done properly." The rest of her article is as follows.

Sources of Cattle

Sources of breeding bulls must be identified and investigated in enough time before the breeding season to have a good selection of bulls to choose from and to be able to make informed and well thought-out bull selection decisions. Potential sources of quality herd sires include private treaty purchases (direct sales), consignment sales and production sales. Electronic versions of bull sales are also common today. Internet sales, video sales, and satellite sales are now a routine occurrence. Extra effort may need to be

put forth by bull buyers to obtain good information about the sale offering prior to bidding at an electronic cattle sale. Many breeders and sale managers offer DVDs containing video clips and other information on sale lots that can be obtained prior to a sale upon the request of the prospective buyer.

Private treaty purchases allow buyers to interact with sellers on an individual basis. The buyer can visit the seller's ranch and view the operation while asking the seller questions about individual head of cattle and the ranch management program. Private treaty purchases can develop into lasting marketing relationships when the seller provides a desirable product and associated customer service to result in a repeat buyer. The seller develops a reputation (good or bad) depending upon the experiences of potential and actual buyers. Cattle purchased by private treaty will often be farm-fresh with less disease exposure than commingled cattle. Special arrangements can sometimes be made for later delivery, volume discounts, site unseen satisfaction guarantees, and many other marketing possibilities. Sale terms and conditions should be discussed and understood by both parties in detail to avoid future confusion or related problems.

Private treaty purchases require that bull buyers do their homework regarding the reputation of the breeder. The bull buyer must also be prepared to communicate with the bull seller about specifics of herd sire needs. Many breeders will take the time to learn about the customer's operation and help select a bull that best matches the customer's herd and production and marketing goals. However, more preparation for the purchase on the buyer's part will often improve the comfort level with bull purchases. Also, there is more room for haggling with a pri-



private treaty purchase and less overhead marketing cost to factor in than with many other marketing alternatives. This is both an opportunity and a risk for the bull buyer. It is worthwhile to have a good feel for current market conditions, the overall quality of the bulls being offered, and the recent sale history of similar genetics in the region.

Production sales offer the production of one or more farms for purchase. These types of sales may be located at the ranch or another livestock marketing facility. They are often held on a regularly scheduled annual date. As with private treaty sales, farm visits and advance contacts with the breeder(s) involved in a production sale are a good use of time in preparing for a bull purchase.

Consignment sales usually combine cattle from several different operations into a sale offering. Many breeders who do not have the herd numbers, facilities, or interest in putting on a production sale will participate in consignment sales instead. Consignment sales allow bull buyers to compare cattle from multiple operations at once and can help establish value benchmarks for private treaty sales.

Source: Jane Parish, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Gelbvieh Association Alberta & BC Association News

Another year has passed and once again most of us are beginning our calving and bull sale seasons; hopefully 2010 boasts better prices in the cattle market than in the last few years. Both seed stock and commercial producers have weathered the storms of BSE and the recent financial crisis, and improved market prices in 2010 would be accepted with open arms!

The GAA/BC had a very busy year in 2009 with the National Show and Sale being held at Farmfair where Gelbvieh boasted the largest breed show and a fantastic bull futurity. The Wish List Sale went well although it was hampered by some severe weather that had highways closed. However, the bitter temperatures, howling winds, and blowing snow couldn't keep the show from going on. Both the CGA and GAA/BC had well attended annual meetings with many important issues being discussed. The great attendance at these meetings is what helps to propel us into the future and I encourage all of my fellow breeders to continue to attend the meetings, field days, shows and sales; your support is much appreciated. The GAA/BC saw the departure of Kelly Brittain and Wayne Wikkerink from the board; thank you both for your years of help and dedication. Aaron Birch is the new director on the GAA/BC and we are all looking forward to working with him, and as we all know, Aaron is very enthusiastic about the future of our breed and is full of many new ideas.

As I am writing this the GAA/BC is



2010 Alberta & BC Board of Directors... (L-R) Romacordelia Cox (Vice-President), Aaron Birch, Darrell Hickman, Adam Nielsen (President), Darren Dunford, Gary Pahl. Missing: Larry Fecho

planning their spring meeting and getting ready to make 2010 even better than last year. Although we will not be hosting the National Show and Sale this year, the board is planning to put together another great People's Choice Bull Futurity, shows, and sales, including the Wish List Sale and weekend which will once again include the GAA/BC annual meeting and social. In 2010, the GAA/BC plans to make the Wish List Sale an elite event that will promote both commercial and purebred Gelbvieh cattle in a grand fashion. Stay posted for updates on this event! I hope that everyone has a prosperous calving and bull sale season; the success of the Gelbvieh breed will continue to ensure that Gelbvieh bulls are in high demand this breeding season. Please do not hesitate to contact the CGA

for promotional materials to supply at your events; the farther the Gelbvieh message reaches, greater the demand for our genetics.

Cordy Cox

Vice President, GAA/BC

The Herd
Letter for
2010
is
X



Gelbvieh Association Alberta & BC

says
THANK YOU
and
CONGRATULATIONS!

2009 WAS A GREAT YEAR

Farmfair/People's Choice Sponsors...

PLATINUM SPONSORS

- 2W Livestock
- Canadian Gelbvieh Association
- Cattlemen Magazine
- Gelbvieh Association of AB/BC
- Grain News
- Norsk Metals Ltd./Dayspring Cattle

GOLD SPONSORS

- Alberta Beef Magazine/Beef Illustrated

SILVER SPONSORS

- Alta Genetics Inc.
- Apache Superior Printing
- DeWalt
- Don Savage Auctions
- Style-Craft Printing
- Unger Land & Livestock

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Davidson Gelbvieh
- EYOT Valley Ranch
- Jen-Ty Gelbvieh
- Mo-Roc Gelbvieh
- Prime Cut Publishing
- Severtson Land & Cattle
- Stone Gate Farm
- V & V Farms
- Wahl Manufacturing

Congratulations Go Out To...

- Unger Land & Livestock, Purebred Breeder of the Year
- Brittain Farms, Champion Commercial Pen of 3 Heifers
- Jonus Cattle/Keriness Cattle, Champion Purebred Pen of 3 Heifers
- Limestone Farms, winner of the GAA/BC Donation Heifer
- Meaghan Dunford, 4-H/Junior Heifer winner

Thank You...

- EYOT Valley Ranch for hosting the 2009 Field Day
- Unger Land & Livestock for the Donation Heifer
- Jonus Cattle/Keriness Cattle for the 4-H/Junior Heifer
- The buyers at the Wish List Sale



REPAIRING BROKEN LEGS ON CALVES

BY ROY LEWIS DVM

Contrary to what producers think most broken legs can be repaired economically and with a very good prognosis. This article will outline what procedures are done for different locations of broken legs and what affects the final prognosis. Several times each spring I receive calls from producers over broken legged calves. We discuss the location of the break how big the calf is etc., and they are often a bit shocked when I say it can be repaired with up to a 90% success rate. Young calves are growing rapidly putting down lots of bone so healing is in our favor.

Most breaks of course happen right around calving. It used to be we would see a lot of pulling injuries. These breaks generally occur just above the fetlock and are crushing injuries sometimes resulting in damage to the blood supply to the lower leg which worsens prognosis. Fortunately, most producers are being more diligent about pulling. Especially with harder pulls make sure and double loop the chains. This spreads out the force and minimizes any possibility of breaking a leg. We now see very few pulling breaks.

The lower down the break (either the front or back legs) the easier it is to repair. Any breaks below the hock on the back legs or carpus on the front legs are generally cast. The beauty these days is fiberglass cast material allows veterinarians to apply a cast that is lightweight, extremely strong and waterproof. Experience teaches us to put on the right amount of cast padding to prevent pressure sores developing and to have the leg set in a natural slightly bent

position. Most of these calves have the cast cut off in three to four weeks resulting in complete healing. The majority of breaks occur lower down from calves being stepped on. This cast material will support the weight of any calves right up to mature weight. We just use more material creating a slightly thicker cast on larger cattle. Make sure and follow your veterinarian's directions diligently as to the time of removal. Young calves if cast too long will literally start to grow out of the cast creating large pressure sores. To avoid confusion we mark with a large black felt right on the cast the day we want the calf returned to the clinic for cast removal.

You want to have calves with broken legs attended to as soon as possible. They are an emergency. Calves by trying to stand on a broken leg run the risk of the bone compounding out through the skin. The rubbing of the broken ends against each other scrapes off the periosteum (thin outer surface of the bone), which is where bone deposition comes from. For very unstable breaks: during transport they can be protected by a towel or disposable diaper wrapped around the site. Compound breaks must have the wound covered over and have minimum contamination. If straw, dirt, etc., has gotten in the wound the prognosis for saving the leg is very grim indeed.

For breaks higher up the legs Thomas shroeder splints are often applied by veterinarians. These splints are commonly used on tibial breaks and less commonly on radius and ulnar breaks. These splints immobilize the joints

below and above the break and the calf simply drags the splint around until healing has occurred. Keep a close eye on these calves for a few days as it takes that long for some calves to learn how to lie down and get up with the splint on.

A big word of caution in very cold weather (15 below C or colder); be cognizant of the fact these calves may not be able to lay down properly with their legs under their bodies. These exposed limbs are very subject to frostbite even though the cast or splint provides some insulative value, they may need to be kept in over the cold nights.

Fortunately breaks very high on the limbs seldom happen, and they are very difficult to repair. Femoral breaks require internal fixation in the form of pins and wires or plates. These are more costly procedures, as anesthetic with surgery is necessary. Valuable purebred calves or pet animals are where these challenging cases get tackled. The humerus (large bone at top of front leg) can sometimes heal with very restricted pen rest. Real quiet cattle may tolerate this and can heal.

If handled properly the vast majority of broken legs will heal very well and the calf can go on to be a very productive animal. Before doing anything rash - check with your veterinarian before giving up on any calf with a broken leg regardless of its size. You will find most can be helped and I guarantee in the majority of cases you will be very pleased with the outcome.

Man-Sask Gelbvieh Association

Association News

2009 is now behind us and with the arrival of 2010 comes another busy calving season and the start of successful bull sales for our members.

The fall show season has come and gone. Agribition saw purebred entries up across most breeds and Gelbvieh was no exception. There were 123 head entered at this year's show. Cam and Kerrie Sparrow of Vanscoy, SK sorted through a strong set of cattle. The Sweetheart Classic was once again a success with 32 memberships sold. A bred heifer from Goodview Gelbvieh, The Bentz family, was selected as this year's winner. The win brought tears to daughter Courtney's eyes as she watched her 4-H heifer lead off the Agribition sale. The Agribition sale was a success, averaging \$2,866.

A big thank you goes out to Blair Bentz, Goodview Gelbvieh of Punnichy, SK, for providing the Man-Sask Association with the Donation Heifer for 2009. The heifer raised \$3,530 for the Association. Hugh McNeil from St. George, Ontario, won the donation heifer.

The Man-Sask Association hosted its annual general meeting in Moose Jaw, SK on Dec. 12, 2009 at the Moose Jaw Exhibition Association. We were pleased with the numbers that attended the meeting and the input that was provided. David Gavelin was elected President and we welcomed a new member, James Jasper to the board. It was decided that we would hold a budget meeting and spring planning session in April as it was felt that this was necessary both for planning and involvement of members. Watch for further details to come.

The Association had their Christ-



2010 Man-Sask Board of Directors (L-R) Vern Davidson, Vice President; Wade Davidson; James Jasper; Carrie Nicholas, Secretary; Darcy Hrebeniuk; Blair Bentz and David Gavelin, President.



Hugh McNeil from St. George, Ontario, won the donation heifer.

mas fun auction following the Prairie Gelbvieh Alliance Sale on Dec. 12. Nearly \$2,000 was raised to help with the Association's expenses throughout the year. Thank you to all who supported the auction by providing items and to Wade Davidson for all the hard work in finding spon-

sorship for the event.

The Man-Sask Association would like to thank all of their members and Board members for their support over the past year and wish you continued success in 2010.

DOES YOUR BULL PASS THE TEST?

By Mark Parker



A breeding soundness exam cheap insurance against marginal breeders

Oklahoma State University
Veterinarian - Dave Sparks

He has the pedigree, the EPDs and the looks but the big money question is, will he settle your cows?

“Actually, a better question to ask,” says Oklahoma State University Veterinarian Dave Sparks, “is when will he settle your cows?”

“The major misconception out there is that the big issue is sterile bulls,” he explains. “Total sterility isn’t that common. What we’re really looking for in breeding soundness examinations are marginally fertile bulls. Those bulls are like having a hole in your pocket—they’re going to slowly bleed you to death.”

The ejaculate of a healthy bull will have billions of sperm cells. Of those, roughly 10-50 are going to survive the daunting obstacle course of the cow’s reproductive tract to arrive at the fallopian tubes at the right time for conception.

And if the bull is sub fertile, the odds of success go downhill like a Rocky Mountain sleigh ride.

“Under the right conditions, that marginally fertile bull will settle a cow,” Sparks points out, “but what if there are three cows in heat at the same time? There’s roughly a 12-hour window to settle that cow and a marginally fertile bull simply is not going to perform at the level you need.”

The catastrophic scenario, of course, is preg-checking the herd and finding out none of them are bred. That happens, according to Sparks, but it’s far more typical to end up with a strung-out calving season.

“What really kills you is having to go through two or three cycles to get a cow bred,” he asserts.

Consider this: A 21-day delay in breed-back deals you an estimated 35-lb. loss in calf weight at weaning time. If a 5-weight calf brings \$1.15/lb., that’s 40 bucks and change in lost revenue. Extend that scenario to several cows conceiving two or three heat cycles later than optimum and, well, you do the math.

During that period of lost productivity, the cow continues to eat and the upkeep meter keeps running. In addition, Sparks points out, once a cow descends into a late calving pattern, you’ll probably never catch her back up.

Translation: At weaning time, her calves will be light, young and less valuable year after year after year. Calves have to be about two months old or 200 pounds to adequately utilize nutrition from forage. That means calves born late not only don’t have as much time to graze and grow, they’re also probably hitting a late-season period when grass is on a lower nutritional plane so performance suffers further.

And if you’re a producer who has put some pride and effort into developing a quality cow herd, there’s yet another shoe to drop.

“If there are fertility issues, we usually assume it’s the cow’s problem,” Sparks says. “We think, ‘well, some of them are having calves so the bull must be okay.’ The result is that late and open females that we worked very hard to develop end up getting culled when it may not have been their fault—genetically superior cows go to town for salvage prices.”

The easy solution to all this is a bull breeding soundness examination for every bull, every year. Just because he was okay last year, Sparks points out, is not a good reason to bet on him this year.

“Last year has absolutely no bearing on this year,” Sparks says. “Bulls get injured, they get tumors, they get infections. God put that bull’s scrotum outside the body cavity for a reason. Testicles cannot function at body temperature. That means anything that causes a fever in a bull, even for a short time, can kill all of his sperm cells. It’s very possible that it’s a temporary condition and when his temp drops he’ll start making new cells. The problem is that there’s about a six-week pipeline for new cells to proceed through the male reproductive tract and become available for delivery. And if you’ve got cows in heat during that period...”

Continued on Page 34

Man-Sask Gelbvieh Association

★ Thanks-You!! ★



Sponsors 2009



Platinum Sponsors



CATTLEMAN
Cattleman
THE SHEEP MAGAZINE

**THE WESTERN
PRODUCER**

GOODVIEW
Gelbvieh

Gold Sponsors

CKSW 570
Local News, Local Weather, Local Sports



620
ckrm
the SOURCE

Silver Sponsors

Allflex Canada Alta Genetics V&V Farms Showtime Promotions Merial Canada
ABS Canada Vale Country Ranch Prime Cut Publishing BAK Ultrasounding
Don Savage Auctions McCoy Cattle Co. Saskatoon Gelbvieh Bull & Female Sale
Gelbvieh World Bodin Brothers Masterfeeds Bluff Island Stock Farm Jonus Cattle Co.

Bronze Sponsors

Gofflot Bar 2 Ranch Maple Grove Gelbvieh Davidson Gelbvieh Elanco Animal Health
Selin's Gelbvieh Intervet Canada Lonesome Dove Ranch Rocking Arrow Gelbvieh
Innovation Credit Union Semex West-Gen Fladeland Livestock Double JL Gelbvieh



Association News

As we embrace the beginning of the new year and a new decade, the time has come to reflect on 2009. The past year has been a quiet one

in the East without a Gelbvieh show at Lindsay Central Exhibition and a Fall sale. The highlights of the year included our presence at the East Central Farm Show in Lindsay, the first official Gelbvieh class at Youth Forum in Orangeville, and the Annual Picnic at the farm of Pat and Glynn Waterton in Owen Sound. In the photo, Glynn calls the cattle closer for everyone to see as we toured the pastures.

We are grateful that Mike Chell and Glynn Waterton agreed to stand as Directors for the year.

The E.C.G.A. would like to thank Paul Hurst, Diane Panrucker, and Ian Thackeray for their term of service on the CGA Board and welcome the new Directors; Romacordelia Cox, Darcy Hrebeniuk, and Jason Hurst.

The excitement of a new calf crop is upon many of us or just around the corner. Best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2010.

Gg

The Sweetheart Gelbvieh Classic



The Man-Sask Gelbvieh Association sponsored the 10th Annual Sweetheart Gelbvieh Classic at the 2009 Show at Canadian Western Agribition.

A total of 32 memberships were sold with 12 females competing for top honours. Members were to choose their top two heifer calves and top two bred heifers prior to the female show at Agribition. Upon completion of the female show, the top 4 animals were announced and would be re-judged the following day prior to the sale. The winning entry would become the lead-off animal in the Agribition Sale.

The Champion receives 79% of the jackpot of the sale proceeds, whichever is higher, with the three runner-ups each receiving 7%. Those who purchased a membership wait to see if they hold the lucky number.

This year's Sweetheart was exhibited by Goodview Gelbvieh, Blair and Lorie Bentz and family of Punnichy, SK. BLB Goodview Pld Maureen 7U was Courtney Bentz' 4-H project. She sold to Jonus Cattle Co. for \$6,100 and the Bentz family received the jackpot of \$7,313. Twin Bridge Farms of Lomond, Alberta was selected as the lucky recipient of the sale proceeds and used some of the funds to purchase some good Gelbvieh genetics for their herd.

The runner-up females were exhibited by: Cody Congdon, Oak Hill Farm, Melville, SK and McCoy Cattle Co., Milestone, SK.

Congratulations to the Bentz family and the Man-Sask Gelbvieh Assoc. for another successful Sweetheart Classic.

Get Noticed

The Canadian Gelbvieh Association is pleased to offer breeder members, and others, an economical way to promote their operations or market their products and services. Check these out at www.gelbvieh.ca