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The official publication of the Canadian Maine-Anjou Association

WINTER/SPRING 2016 Herdsire Edition

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The MAINE

Official Publication of the Canadian Maine-Anjou Association

Winter/Spring 2016

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Canadian Maine-Anjou Association

5160 Skyline Way N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 6V1 *Phone:* (403) 291-7077 *Fax:* (403) 291-0274 *Email:* cmaa@maine-anjou.ca www.maine-anjou.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8 AM - 4:30 PM





On the cover... Original painting by Mary Lou Williams ML Williams Farms



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Summer/Fall Issue Winter/Spring Issue Ad Deadline: August 1, 2016 Ad Deadline: January 1, 2017 Publish Date: September 10, 2016 Publish Date: February 10, 2017

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~ Maine Mail Winter/Spring 2016 ~



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Past-President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well hello again everyone. What a winter it has been! We are calving cows again here and the lack of snow and beautiful temperatures are a refreshing break from a busy year of association business.

I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of the Amnesty program on cattle over 24 mos. of age and thank those that have done so already. Like all good things, this program will come to an end Feb. 29 - so send those registrations in!

I am happy that the new programs (EPD's and Genetic Advancements) have started to pay off with people seeing the benfit of registering lots of females. American Maine-Anjou Executive Vice President, Blake Nelson and Dr. Bob Weaber have been helping to oversee our EPD evaluation and ensure that it continues in the right direction. We should start to see some EPD's in the coming months.

The fall shows saw one of the strongest representations of qualtiy Maine-Anjou cattle we have seen yet and as a result, there is a buzz about the breed. A certian level of excitement that I feel hasn't been felt in a long time.

Heidi continues to be a ray of sunshine in the CMAA office; answering the phones and keeping the work churning out in a good time frame. Remember to

continue to send in your weaning and yearling weights to help increase the accuracy of our EPD's.

The 2016 CMAA Annual Meeting will take place Aug 5-7th, 2016 in Wetaskawin, AB and hosted by the Alberta Maine-Anjou Association. I encourage everyone to take the time to attend the Annual Meeting and help direct the future of the breed. As always it is a great time to visit with the people who truly care about this great breed.

As bull sale season is beginning, I would like to wish everyone a succesful season. Don't forget that the CMAA website classifieds section is very affordable advertising option at only \$25/month. The website recieves over thousands of hits during the bull sale months!

I've enjoyed leading you, the membership, into the future with the help of Vice-President Kelly Smith-Fraser and the rest of the board of directors.

Happy calving! Scott McCormack. **CMAA** President

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Dear members,

Hard to believe that it is already 2016! Best wishes to all of you for a very successful 2016.

2015 has come and gone in a hurry. Needless to say that I have been very busy the two days I'm in the Calgary office with keeping on track with the Salers Association of Canada registry, the Canadian Maine-Anjou Association registry and office duties that belong to this job. At this point I feel very confident in my position and thank you members for your support.

Numbers for registrations and transfers are pretty close to last years at this time in our fiscal year.

Please remember there is an amnesty program in place until end of February to catch up with over aged animals. Animals over 24 months can be registered for a reduced fee of \$45 instead of \$85.

As well remember to send in weaning weights so we can generate EPD's in the near future. The more data we have in the system the more accurate the outcome will be.

CMAA OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays - 8am - 4:30pm Wednesdays - 8am - 4:30pm

With the financial aid of CBBC, the board of directors approved the transfer of DNA samples from Gerserve to Delta Genomics in Edmonton. This means that we will be using only Delta Genomics for all DNA testing in the future. Please send your hair samples to the office and I will send the DNA and appropriate forms to Delta Genomics. There might be a delay during this transition period to get parentage done for Fullblood animals. There is still funding from CBBC in place to get genomic testing done at a reduced cost, including 50k and higher panel genomic testing. Take advantage of this program to get some of your higher end animals tested.

The 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held August 5-7th in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Please make plans to attend and provide feedback to the Board of Directors.

Good luck with the upcoming calving season and have a great spring!

Sincerely, Heidi Voegeli-Bleiker



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2014 CWA Grand Champion Female



RRRC Magellan 350A (Polled PB) - Reserve Grand Champion Bull, 2014 FWSS - Calves arriving Spring 2016



CANADIAN AGM, WETASKIWIN, ALBERTA. AUGUST 5TH & 6TH 2016 FEMALE SALE TO FOLLOW SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2016 I PM " THE MAINE WAY" RAPID CREEK RANCH AND GUESTS



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ALBERTA ASSOCIATION NEWS KEVIN SHUCKBURGH

By the time many of you read this you will be well into calving and once again reaffirming your decision to raise maine cattle. Beautiful calves that get up and going with nice quiet mother cows. Good decision wasn't it!! I want to wish all of you good luck with calving and spring bull sales. Don't forget to get your sale bulls up on both the Canadian and Alberta websites. Its a great marketing tool!

Novembers 45th Anniversary National show held in conjunction with Farmfair was a huge success. The increase in entries increased the quality of cattle exhibited and ultimately interest for the Maine show. Add it all up and you had a full set of bleachers with a great show for people to watch and enjoy. I have not seen anything like it in a long time. Lots of new and old faces getting together to see how far we have come as a breed. Seeing the full bloods, purebreds, and the addition of a full Maintainer show gave everyone something to enjoy. A pizza party and live auction auctioneered by Don Oberg made for a perfect opportunity to socialize and raise funding for future events. It was a day to be very proud of for Maine Anjou breeders. Thank you to Farmfair International, our sponsors, and supporters of our auction event. An event like this could not have happened without the hard work and effort of our volunteer committee. Thank you to Brian Brown, Doug & Katie Roxburgh, Della Whelan, Clayton Elliot, Josie Pashulka, and Keltey Whelan, for the time and effort put into ensuring the success of a great National show!

I hope everyone is enjoying their Alberta Maine Anjou calendar. As it is our major source of funding for 4-H and junior sponsorship I encourage everyone to take part and advertise in it. It gets sent country wide and is open to everyone. Thank you to Bryan Zimmer and Miriam Cameron for the countless hours given to ensure the calendar pages are full and the finished product is professional.

With 4-H shows coming up this spring be sure and get those Maine steers and heifers in your club recognized by the Alberta Maine Anjou Association. Della Whelan can be contacted at djwwhelan@gmail.com to apply. As breeders I encourage you to help the 4-H leaders in your areas get the kids their Maine Anjou reward. Thanks again to Della for taking care of our 4-H members.

This Years Canadian AGM will be held in Wetaskiwin August 5th and 6th. Brian Brown will be heading up our AGM committee with events to be announced for the 5th with meeting to follow on the 6th. Please put the event on your calendar and plan to attend. Stay tuned to our website for details.

Spring jackpot shows, Summer Synergy, and the Alberta Junior Maine anjou show are just around the corner. I encourage people to support their kids and get them out to these events. These are important events in the development of our future Maine Anjou breeders. Contact Della Whelan for Summer Synergy or myself for the Alberta junior Maine anjou Show if you would like to donate or be a part of these events



EVC SUH O 1W X MISS RUSYLVIA 36U BW: 98 lbs - WW: 880bs on 9/26/14 - Homo Black - Homo Polled - THF/PHAF 2014 AS A CALF Grand Champion Bull All Breeds Vermilion Fair • Grand Champion Maine Anjou Bull Farmfair International • Grand Champion Maine Anjou Bull Agribition (Plus bull calf champion divisions)

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The SMAA hosted our major Fall Show at Agribition. The show, while lower in numbers, was high in quality. A great crowd was on hand as the cattle were sorted through and a great week was had making new friends and renewing old acquaintances. Agribition said farewell to some of the old buildings that have been there from the start to make way for a new, upgraded look to the show.

4-H WINNERS! The SMAA will award a special prize to Champion or Reserve Steers, Heifers and Cow/calf provided the animal is 50% or Maine-Anjou and shows breed characteristics. Please send qualifiers information (name, phone, award and a photo) to the temporary SMAA office - sasksimmental@yourlink.ca. In the event of more than one qualifying award, only one prize will be awarded.

The Sask. Maine-Anjou Association is planning a meeting in the near future to rebuild the Board of Directors. If you are interested in helping to revive the SMAA, please contact Scott McCormack to be part of the future!



Solid black polled Maine bulls for sale private treaty sired by BFW Fighting Irish 22U, BPF Middle Man 511A and Rapid Creek's Copenhagen 500Z



Thank you to all of the bidders and buyers in the fall JT-Livestock sale. Special thanks to Douglas Maines, Simalta Maines, and Carson Troidl for selecting our Maine females to add to your herds. With last falls JT-Livestock sale being the final one, I would like to say thank you to the Dolliver Family for being so great to work with over the years. So many good times and great memories as well as friendships started at this event. The venue will change but we will continue our commitment to selling our top end heifer calves. Check out our consignments to Rapid Creek's Maine Way sale this August.





KKS Miss Fighting Irish 411B Reserve National Champion Maintainer Female. Congrats Faith Shuckburgh & Kathryn Dolliver!



KJS Cattle Co. Smith Anchor Bar Ranch



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~ Maine Mail Winter/Spring 2016 ~ 13

Regular Bull Sale - April 2, 2016 >>>

The Manitoba Bull Test Station started the 2015-16 season with 149 bulls from seven breeds. There is also 25 heifer on test. Six bulls and five heifers are Maine-Anjou consigned by Badgerhill Maine-Anjou; Doug & Gerri Kerr, Ninette, MB.

The 84 day weights were taken January 25, 2016. Test station average daily gain 3.50 lbs/day and weight per day of age was 3.41 lbs. Average daily gain on six Maine-Anjou bulls was 3.30 lbs/day and weight per day of age of 3.37 lbs/day. End of test weight will be taken Feb. 22 & 23, 2016. Sale day is April 2, 2016.

This year all tested bulls and heifers must pass a veterinarian evaluation including structural soundness, semen test, scotal measurement, female palpation and pelvic measurements to qualify for sale. All eligible animals will have pictures and videos taken and will be posted on our website in March at www.manitobabulltest.com.

This year the sale will not be broadcast on the internet, we have had trouble with the internet signal provider and decided no to go that route this year. For sale day, there will be serveral phone lines used to take bids over the phone.

Bidders can also contact the test station if they would like to make a proxy bid on an animal; specify lot # and bid amount and the order will be handled in a professional manner.

Please contact the office to obtain phone numbers for making bids prior to sale day - (204) 763-4696.

Summer Sale - May 28, 2016 >>>

This year the Douglas Test Station will hold it 2nd Annual Summer Bull Sale May 28, 2016. First priority to enter this sale will got to younger bulls on test born late April, May and June 2015. All bulls are to be registered to be elegible. There will be two fullblood bulls in this sale.

Douglas Test Station is open at all times to visitors. Located 1/2 mile south of the Junction of Highway #1 and Hwy # 305 - 17 miles east of Brandon, MB.

For more information, call Ivan or Bev at (204) 763-4696 fax (204) 763-4102 email: bulltest@mynetset.ca. www.manitobabulltest.com



Congratulations to all 4—H Members who choose to use Maine—Anjou genetics in their 4—H projects!

Best wishes on a successful show season in 2016!

Myron, Myrna & Trevor Lees





Summer 2015 - GG 54X with cows



ALC: NOT STREET

MAC's 18Z - Polled FB Herdsire - summer 2015 Progeny on test at Douglas Test Station

Watch for our bulls & heifers at Douglas Bull Test Station Sale - April 2, 2016 Summer Sale - May 28, 2016

Progeny on test at Douglas Test Station

Here win the tax the state of a state of the state

GG 54X - FB Herdsire

Badgerhill Maine-Anjou

Doug & Geri Kerr Box 12, Ninette, MB ROK 1R0 Email: gerikerr@mymts.net Ph: 204-528-3293 Doug's cell: 204-729-6506





Judge:

September 2015

Lindsay Exhibition Maine-Anjou Show Lindsay, ON

Bulls:

Bull Calf Champion and Reserve JCF CROSBY - John & Corey Crawford PERRYS MR M M CRUSADER 8C - Perry Maine-Anjou Farms

Junior Champion Bull NORDICK NORM 4B - Nordick Maine Anjou

Senior Champion Bull RRRC MAGELLAN 350A - Kody Roddick

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Bull RRRC MAGELLAN 350A - Kody Roddick JCF CROSBY - John & Corey Crawford

Females:

Female Calf Champion and Reserve JCF COVER GIRL - John & Corey Crawford JCF CHICK FLICK - John & Corey Crawford

Junior Champion Female and Reserve BNWZ DESTINY 131B - John & Corey Crawford GILCROFT 23B - Christopher Roffey

Senior Champion Female and Reserve GILCROFT ZELDA 11Z - Gilcroft Farms GVC SCARLET 022X - Nordick Maine Anjou

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Female JCF COVER GIRL - John & Corey Crawford BNWZ DESTINY 131B - John & Corey Crawford

Percentage:

Percentage Champion Female and Reserve

KRR Miss Elba 8B - K-Rod Kattle KRR MISS BELLA BOO 6B - Brittney Weber

Breeder's Herd

1st - John & Corey Crawford 2nd - Nordick Maine Anjou 3rd - Gilcroft Farms 4th - Perry Maine-Anjou Farms 5th - Tim Roffey 6th - Kyle Martin

Get of Sire

1st - Nordick Maine Anjou 2nd - Perry Maine-Anjou Farms 3rd - Gilcroft Farms 4th - Tim Roffey

Progeny of Dam

1st - Gilcroft Farms 2nd - Nordick Maine Anjou 3rd - Perry Maine-Anjou Farms 4th - Tim Roffey Photos courtesy of Megan Burnside



Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull RRRC MAGELLAN 350A Exhibited by Kody Roddick



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull JCF CROSBY Exhibited by John & Corey Crawford



Champion Percentage Maine-Anjou Female KRR MISS ELBA 8B Exhibited by K-Rod Kattle, Wyoming, ON



Senior Champion Female Gilcroft Farms



Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female JCF COVER GIRL Exhibited by John & Corey Crawford



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female BNWZ DESTINY 131B Exhibited by John & Corey Crawford



Reserve Champion Percentage Maine-Anjou Female KRR MISS BELLA BOO 6B Exhibited by Brittney Weber



Breeder's Herd John & Corey Crawford

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45th Anniversary National Maine-Anjou



Farm Fair International, Edmonton, AB

Females:

PB Heifer Calf Champion and Reserve Miss Rusylvia 47C - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB JAR Contessa 8C - Rawluk Livestock, Moosehorn, MB

FB Heifer Calf Champion and Reserve Manitou Candycane - Partridge Hill Cattle Co, Ardrossan, AB Stenberg's Cutie 8C - Stenbergs Maine-Anjou, Alder Flats

Junior Female Champion and Reserve

KSIX Miss X's and OHS 1B - Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC Rapid Creek Miss 401B - Partridge Hill Cattle Co, Ardrossan, AB

Two-Year old Female with calf at side Champion and Reserve Daisy Duke RDRL 45A - Deagle Cattle Co., Consort, AB Stenberg's Alisa 4A - Stenbergs Maine-Anjou, Alder Flats

Mature Cow Champion DRR Xavia - Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Female

KSIX Miss X's and OHS 1B - Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC

Miss Rusylvia 47C - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB

Bulls:

PB Bull Calf Champion and Reserve

DRR County Line - Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB Smiths 38C - KJS Cattle Co., Wimborne, AB

FB Bull Calf Champion and Reserve

Stenberg's Commander 1C - Stenbergs Maine-Anjou, Alder Flats Wildberrys Casey 317C - Wildberry Hills Maine-Anjou, Thorsby, AB

Junior Bull Champion and Reserve

Mr Rusylvia Bennilli - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB MJK Mr. Bob 1B - Stenbergs Maine-Anjou, Alder Flats

Senior Bull Champion KSIX Wingman 2A - Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Bull

Mr Rusylvia Bennilli 6B - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB KSIX Wingman 2A - Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK

Premier Breeder Stenbergs Maine-Anjou, Alder Flats

Premier Exhibitor Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB

Complete show results for all fall shows at www.maine-anjou.ca



Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull Mr Rusylvia Bennilli 6B *Exhibited by* Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB

picture not available

Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female

KSIX Miss X's and Ohs 1B

Exhibited by

Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull KSIX Wingman 2A Exhibited by Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female Miss Rusylvia 47C *Exhibited by* Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB



Grand Champion Mainetainer Maine-Anjou Bull DRR Arctic Air 41A *Exhibited by* Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB



Reserve Grand Champion Maintainer Maine-Anjou Bull RDRL Man UP 155B Exhibited by Deagle Cattle Co., Consort, AB

Maine Influence Show:

Maine Influence Heifer Calf Champion and Reserve Miss Rusylvia 80C - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB JT Undercover Angel 151C - JT Livestock Ltd, Stettler, AB

Maine Influence Junior Champion and Reserve KKS Miss Fightin Irish 411B - Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC Bring It On - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB

Maine Influence Senior Champion and Reserve Miss Rusylvia Aint She Pretty - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB DRSS Legendary Princess 52A - Dun Rite Stock and Stables, Bentley, AB

Champion Mainetainer Female Miss Rusylvia Aint She Pretty - Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB KKS Miss Fightin Irish 411B - Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC

Maine Influence Bull Calf and Reserve Chiller - Deagle Cattle Co., Consort, AB JT Associate 162C - JT Livestock Ltd, Stettler, AB

Maine Influence Junior Bull Champion RDRL Man Up 155B - Deagle Cattle Co, Consort, AB

Maine Influence Senior Bull Champion DRR Arctic Air 41A - Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB

Champion and Reserve Mainetainer Bull DRR Arctic Air 41A - Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB RDRL Man Up 155B - Deagle Cattle Co, Consort, AB

Premier Breeder & Exhibitor Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB



Grand Champion Maintainer Maine-Anjou Female Miss Rusylvia Ain't She Pretty *Exhibited by* Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB

FARMFAIR JUNIOR FUTURITY SHOW Reserve Champion Commercial Miss Rusylvia Aint She Pretty & Chiller Rusylvia Cattle Co, Derwent, AB



Reserve Grand Champion Mainetainer Maine-Anjou Bull KKS Miss Fightin Irish 411B Exhibited by Konnect 6 Cattle Co., Abbotsford, BC



FARMFAIR JUNIOR FUTURITY SHOW Reserve Champion Jackpot Heifer MISS RUSYLVIA Class Act 80C Riley Pashulka, Derwent, AB

Canadian Maine-Anjou Association NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 5-7, 2016 Wetaskawin, AB

HOSTED BY THE Alberta Maine-Anjou Association



CWA Maine-Anjou Show, Regina, SK.

Percentage Females:

Heifer Calf Champion and Reserve

Miss Rusylvia 80C - Rusyvlia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB PSC Pin-Úp Girl 2C- Piller Show Cattle, Neudorf, SK

Junior Female Champion and Reserve

GF's Sweet Addiction 1B - Tiffany Peters, Perdue, SK TCF 727X Curly Jane 4B - The Cliffs Farm/Cody Sibbald, Saskatoon, SK Additional Owners Hailey Sibbald, Lazy RC Ranch

Senior Female Champion

Miss Ruyslvia Ain't She Pretty - Rusylvia Cattle Co. Derwent, AB

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Percentage Female GF's Sweet Addiction 1B - Tiffany Peters, Perdue, SK TCF 727X Curly Jane 4B - The Cliffs Farm/Cody Sibbald, Saskatoon, SK

Additional Owners Hailey Sibbald, Lazy RC Ranch

Females:

Heifer Calf Champion and Reserve

JAR Contessa 8C - Rawluk Livestock, Moosehorn, MB Miss Rusylvia 47C - Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB

Junior Female Champion and Reserve

LSCC Star 7B - Lightning Strike Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK LSCC Daddy's Lil Girl 22B - Lightning Strike Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK Senior Female Champion

DRR Xavia and DRR Cash - Deer Ridge Rach, Dewberry, AB

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Female JAR Contessa 8C - Rawluk Livestock, Moosehorn, MB LSCC Star 7B - Lightning Strike Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK

Bulls:

Bull Calf Champion and Reserve

Mr Rusylvia Chiller 25C - Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB LSCC High Roller 94C - Lightning Strike Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK Junior Bull Champion

Mr Rusylvia Bennilli - Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB Senior Bull Champion and Reserve

KSIX Wingman 2A - Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK RRRC Magellan 350A - Kody Roddick, Wyoming, ON Additional Owner - Rachel Ann Carlson

Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Bull

KSIX Wingman 2A - Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK Mr Rusylvia Bennilli - Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB

Get of Sire Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB

Breeders Herd Deer Ridge Ranch, Dewberry, AB

Premier Breeder & Exhibitor

Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB



Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull KSIX Wingman 2A Hansen Livestock, Weldon, SK



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Bull Mr Rusylvia Bennilli Rusylvia Cattle Co., Derwent, AB

picture not available

Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female JAR Contessa 8C Rawluk Livestock, Moosehorn, MB



Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou Female LSCC Star 7B Lightning Strike Cattle Co., Grenfell, SK



Champion % Maine-Anjou Female GF's Sweet Addiction 1B Tiffany Peters, Perdue, SK



Champion % Maine-Anjou Female TCF 727X Curly Jane 4B The Cliffs Farm, Saskatoon, SK Additional Owner: Hailey Sibbald, Lazy RC Ranch

Yearling bulls & heifers on offer

the legacy continues

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Big Jake

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Gary Smith judging Sydney Royal Maine-Anjou Australia, 1986



J.O. Smith, patriach of Poplar Haven Farms France, 1969



LW Challenger, 13 Grand Championships and 3 Supreme Championships, 1980-81



Sincere Condolences...

Gary Dwayne Smith passed away suddenly November 11, 2015 at the age of 69 years. A Celebration of Life was held on Friday November 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Olds Cow Palace. The son of J.O. and Rebecca Smith, was raised at Poplar Haven Farms just north of Wimborne, AB. Poplar Haven Farms Ltd. was founded by John and Rebecca Smith in the 1930's and was one of the early pioneers of the Maine-Anjou breed in Canada. After experimenting with different breeds, the Maine-Anjou breed offered the characteristics that John and his sons Ron, Robert and Gary were seeking. They sold 3 half blood heifers, by AI sires, at the first North American Maine-Anjou sale in Edmonton. Afterwards, John and Rebecca travelled to France and selected four Fullblood heifers. The Smith families were then committed to the joint success of Poplar Haven Farms and the Maine-Anjou breed. They held 10 production sales in the 70's and 80's, which were considered the national pacesetters for the breed. Gary obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Alberta before returning home to farm and ranch with his father and brothers Ron and Robert. Some of his fondest memories were competing alongside Robert and friend Lorne Howard in rodeos throughout Western Canada first as bull riders and eventually as calf ropers. Upon the division of Poplar Haven Farms, NuHaven Cattle Co. was created and Gary remained active in the Maine Anjou breed.

During the 1980's, Gary also served on the Canadian Maine-Anjou Associations Board of Director's as well as president in 1988-89. From leading herd sires, to the infamous gopher races during the 1984 World Congress, Poplar Haven made its mark on the Maine-Anjou breed during the 70's and 80's. During his term in office, Gary saw the start of the Mexican Maine-Anjou Association and judged beef cattle shows in Mexico and many other National and International livestock exhibitions. He was also President of the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association for five years and ALSI.

Gary was also involved the livestock export business and has worked throughout Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Uruguay, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Russia, Kazakhstan and Asia. Alta Exports International, Gary Smith and Kate Kolstad, recieved a Golden Book Award from the Canadian Simmental Association in 2015 - recognizing Gary for his efforts and passion exporting Canadian Simmental genetics to the world.

Gary is survived by his wife Kristine, son Guy, daughter in law Emily, daughter Kelly Fraser and son in law Scott Fraser. His pride and joy, his grandchildren - Brayden, Taylor & Tilden Smith and Alex, Becca, Jill & Aubrey Fraser. Sisters Cleo Ross and Donna Bennett. Brother Ron and sister in law Ruth Smith. Sister in law Annette Smith. Brother in law Jess Block and sister in law Andrea and husband Walton Van Dyke. Numerous nieces and nephews along with their families. He is joined in heaven by his parents, brother Robert, brother in laws Jim Ross and Bill Bennett along with a few special cronies from across the cattle industry. The "ole cowboy" will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.



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GETTING IT RIGHT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE:

CONTEMPORARY GROUPING AND DATA REPORTING FOR BEEF CATTLE GENETIC EVALUATION

BOB WEABER, PH.D. - Associate Professor and Cow-calf Extension Specialist Kansas State University

The process of analyzing individual performance records and converting them to meaningful predictors of an animal's genetic merit is a process that has undoubtedly been debated in countless pickup trucks, sale arenas, coffee shops, kitchen tables and most certainly many professors' offices. In many ways the

genetic evaluation of beef cattle is very complex. However, the basic premise used to compare animals is very simple. The basis on which an animal is evaluated is how it (and/ or their progeny and grand-progeny) performed against its contemporaries. In other words, how did the animal perform within its contemporary group?

It is important to note that not only does contemporary group structure matter, getting data in the evaluation also matters. Data that exists in your herd records or computer system at your farm or ranch DOESN'T matter a bit if it never makes its way to the database and record system at your breed association. As far as the genetic evaluations system is concerned, data not in the database doesn't exist. Do yourself, your cows and your breed a favor, and submit all the data from your herd. Collecting performance data across a wide range of traits, including calving ease, birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, scan data and in some cases carcass data and EPDs resulting from analysis of that data is now considered essential information by commercial cattlemen.

We know that not all the differences in an animal's performance are related to its genetics. Part of the difference is due to environmental effects. The result of the expression of an animal's genetics in an environment is an animal's phenotype. Every performance measure cattle producers take of an animal is a measurement of the animal's phenotype. For example, we know, and adjust for the fact that the weaning weights of calves born to 2-year-old dams are lighter than the weights recorded for calves born to 5- or 6-year-old dams. An individual calf's weaning weight is the result of the calf's genetics for pre-weaning growth and the environment in which the calf was raised. This environment includes the herd, year and season it was born, the amount of milk provided by the calf's dam, which was influenced by the amount of grass she ate, the age of the dam, the calf's sex, and other effects that would also be experienced by the calf's contemporaries.

EPDs were designed to predict an animal's genetic value after environmental effects have been removed. Since EPDs are calculated on the basis of comparisons, it makes sense that we must make fair comparisons. In a sense, we want to compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges. When animals are appropriately grouped with contemporaries in terms of similar management and environment, then differences in performance are likely due to differences in genetics. Thus, proper contemporary grouping is critical for EPDs to be accurate. The contemporary group helps animal geneticists separate genetic differences from environmental effects so that animals are compared on a level playing field. A common technical definition of a contemporary group is "a group of the same breed (not required in multi-breed systems such as the IGS multi-breed system), born within a specified age range, raised at the same location or in the same herd, of the same sex and managed alike from birth until time of measurement." More simply put, a contemporary group is a group of animals that have had an equal opportunity to perform.

Many breed registries help breeders to define correct contemporary groups according the breed percentage (not required in multi-breed systems), sex, calving period and herd, but producers must carefully group animals according to other management and environmental factors like health and nutrition. Even so, individual breeders are ultimately responsible for the accurate contemporary grouping of their animals. It is likely that only you know the management history of your herd. When completing performance data entry forms, consideration should always be given to the management and nutrition of the calves and their dams, and then they should be grouped accordingly.

In theory, contemporary grouping is easy, but the application of contemporary grouping in real life can present many challenging decisions. A common error in building contemporary groups is breeders not assigning enough groupings to accommodate calves that have received unequal treatment. Just as damaging, some breeders create too many contemporary groups. Assignments should be as simple as possible while still accounting for major differences in management. A useful method to aid in contemporary grouping is to assign distinct contemporary group codes to animals that are exceptions to regular management practices. For example, calves that received preferential treatment (cattle being fitted for show, for example) should be placed within their own contemporary group.

It is important to note that contemporary groups never increase in size after the calving season is over. A contemporary group may, however, decrease in size. Often, as calves get older the contemporary group will decrease in size due to culling, injury, sickness, death or assignment to sub-groups that reflect different management treatments. Contemporary groups cannot be recombined once animals have been defined to be members of separate groups.

Reporting complete data is an important part of contemporary grouping that deserves special attention. In order to make EPDs as accurate as possible, it is critical that complete and accurate performance data be submitted on every calf born in your herd. Incomplete or inaccurate data reduces the reliability of each animal's EPDs. The preciseness of an animal's EPDs, particularly animals that have no progeny, depend greatly on an animal's own performance record. It is important to report all the calves born on your farm or ranch and their respective weights. Granted reporting all data takes more effort, but the benefits far outweigh the costs. Sending performance data to many breed registries on "computers" or non-registered animals is often at a reduced or no charge. If you do not report all the data, the overall performance records of your operation will not be as accurate as they could be. Every calf should be weighed at birth. No exceptions! Yes, especially weigh the DEAD ones. It is important that both the sire and dam of a dead calf get the credit they deserve. Reporting only the good calves does not identify the poor producing parents. Not only will reporting each calf aid the accurate calculation of EPDs, it will also keep the dam's production record current. Often breeders will try to economize by only sending in data and registering a portion of their calf crop, usually the top end.

The practice of only reporting part of the contemporary group data is seriously flawed! It is as important, maybe more important, to identify the bottom end of the genetics and cull them, as it is to identify the top end. Additionally, by not reporting the bottom end of the calves, the top end doesn't get the credit they truly deserve.

For example, a producer has 10 bull calves. The average weaning weight for all 10 calves is 625 pounds (see Table 1). Note that calf #1 is 101 lb. below the group average and has a ratio of 84, while the best calf (#10) is 117 lb. above the average with a ratio of 119. It is important to remember that National Cattle Evaluation programs focus on the deviations (or difference) of calf weights from the average of the contemporary group rather than each calf's adjusted weight.

Now let's consider the calves if the producer reports only the heavy half of the calves. The new group average is 675 lb. The average weight, ratios and deviations are shown in the right portion of the table. With the new grouping, the heaviest calf (#10) has a ratio of only 110 and a deviation of +67 lb. He still looks good, but not as growthy as he really is. More importantly, notice calf #6. When all the calves are considered, he was slightly above the average (ratio = 102, deviation = +14). If only the heavy calves are reported, he now looks inferior with a deviation of -36 and a ratio of 95. When data is only submitted on the best or poorest calves, they are being treated unfairly. And, the resulting culling and selection decisions the producer makes will be flawed.

Table 1.	Weaning Weight	Contemporary	/ Example
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		All Calves Reported		Top Half Reported	
Calf ID	Adj. 205d. Weight	Deviation	Ratio	Deviation	Ratio
1	524	-101	84		
2	562	-63	90		
3	578	-47	93		
4	605	-20	97		
5	606	-19	97		
6	639	14	102	-36	95
7	643	18	103	-32	95
8	655	30	105	-20	97
9	694	69	111	19	103
10	742	117	119	67	110
Average De	eviation and Ratio	0	100	0	100
Average W	eight	625		675	

Each calf you raise depends on you for a fair comparison relative to its mates. Many producers think it is advantageous to only report the best calves, when in fact it penalizes them. Only you know how your calves have been managed. Make sure your contemporary groupings reflect this knowledge. Common contemporary group criteria used in genetic evaluations are listed below. Some helpful tips for breeders to use in creating contemporary groups are included in the section 'A Guide to Contemporary Grouping.'

Another key issue related to data reporting is recognition that pedigree structure can affect the utility of data from a contemporary group. In the genetic evaluation, the focus is on evaluation of sires using data on the calves reported. To compare sires, progeny in a useful contemporary group should be sired by two or more bulls. Ideally, one of those bulls should be a high accuracy sires, either a proven bull herd sire used naturally or AI bulls. Providing good data take more than just collecting weights, it takes attention to detail, planning good contemporary

A Guide to Contemporary Grouping

1. Use group codes on registration application or performance data submission forms to assign calves to contemporary groups.

2. Use the group codes to put a sick or injured calf into a single animal contemporary group if the illness or injury affected the calf's performance.

3. Take weaning weights and measurements on all calves on the same day (when a majority of the calves are between 160 and 250 days of age), including as many calves in each contemporary group as legitimately possible.

4. Weigh all animals in a group before separating them, especially before separating show calves or bulls for a test station.

5. If the age spread of calves in greater than 90 days, choose two or more weigh dates, using as few as possible.

6. Have progeny from two or more sires in each contemporary group.

7. When calves are within an appropriate age range for each trait, record yearling weight, height, scrotal circumference, pelvic area, and ultrasound measurements on the same day.

8. If carcass data are to be collected on cull bulls, heifers or steers, report weaning weights on all animals. These data allows selection of replacement females and bulls to be accounted for in genetic evaluations and help prevent bias in the predictions.

9. Do not weigh each calf individually as it reaches 205 days of age but rather weigh each calf in a group individually when calves average approximately 205 days of age.

10. Do not include calves receiving special treatment (show, bull test, sale) in the same group with those that did not receive an equal opportunity to perform.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 16, 2016 The 'Maine' Bull Sale - SW Cattle Co./Wilson Stock Farm Online - www.teamauctionsales.com

Mar. 29, 2016 Genetic Destination Bull Sale Lightning Strike/McCormack Family Ranch Grenfell, SK

Apr. 2, 2016 Deagle Cattle Co. - Annual Bull Sale Veteran, AB

Apr. 2, 2016 Douglas Test Station Bull Sale Badgerhill Maine-Anjou Douglas, MB

Apr. 9, 2016 Wilkinridge Stock Farm Bull Sale Ridgeville, MB *May 28, 2016* Last Chance Bull Sale Douglas Test Station, Douglas, MB

Aug. 5-7, 2016 CMAA Annual General Meeting Wetaskawin, AB

Sept.17, 2016 Ontario Maine-Anjou Association Provincial Show Lindsay, ON

Nov. 9, 2016 Northland's Farm Fair - National Maine-Anjou Show Edmonton, AB

Nov. 25, 2016 Canadian Western Agribition - Maine-Anjou Show Regina, SK

Dec., 2016 Wilkinridge Stock Farm - Annual Fall Female Sale Ridgeville, MB

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