

Belgian Blue Retains Crown

Dec. 3, 2005 - Regina, Saskatchewan – A Belgian Blue Beef (BBB) cross won the Heifer Carcass Class Grand Championship, the third Champion carcass win in four years at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina. Andy Rock and Stan Skeels, Lazy S. Limousin, of Rimbey Alberta took both first and second place with Limousin-Belgian Blue crosses. In all, six BBB carcasses placed in the top 15. Owen T. Fork Feedmill in Regina bought the winning heifer carcass for \$2100.

“More and more breeders are identifying their Belgian Blues in these competitions as BB gains public recognition in Canada and the US. Even though Blues genetics have been around quite a while in North America, it’s seen as OK now to ‘call it a Blue’, so to speak” explains Marie Goubau, Director of the Canadian Belgian Blue Association.

Demand for BB bulls far outstrips supply both in Canada and South of the border. The number of customers visiting BB breeder booths and looking to buy bulls at this year’s Agribition was no exception. “I can sell my BB bulls faster than I can produce them” says Ken Miller, long-time BB breeder. “This first-place at Agribition confirms the last two wins weren’t just by chance. And of course, money talks: more meat equals more profit. The BBB has proven itself to Canadian farmers and is here to stay” he adds.

Wins in Regina also have an impact across the country. Breeder Denis Grenier, one of several in the province of Quebec, heard about the win. He’s been using BB genetics since the early 1990’s and his milking Holstein-BB crosses usually yield “about 100 pounds more per carcass. My butcher knows right away, and he’s always harping about the fact he can make nicer cuts of lean beef with them” he explains. Grenier is also considering branching out from crossbreds to include fullbloods as he sees a growing demand for the BBB.

Blues appear to be making winners out of breeders and consumers alike.

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