



STAMBOEK BLONDE D'AQUITAINE NEDERLAND

Dutch Blonde d'Aquitaine Herdbook

Origin

At the end of the seventies the need for high quality beef increased in the Netherlands. On a small scale, animals from French beef breeds were imported from France. Room for having beef cattle arose after the introduction of the quota system in dairy farming. By then, the Blonde d'Aquitaine was imported on large scale which led to the foundation of the Herdbook in 1982. At the moment, 500 members are registered at the Dutch Blonde d'Aquitaine Herdbook.

Registration

All cattle in the Netherlands with breeding registration are registered in a central database from the NRS, the Dutch Cattle Syndicate. The herdbook is part of the NRS. Registration within the herdbook is done by 3 scores from the Blonde d'Aquitaine herdbook.

Herdbook registration

Once a year, scores from the herdbook visit farms to inspect the animals. The linear and appreciative systems are used, equal to the systems used in dairy farming. At linear scoring, the animal receives a score between 1 and 9 for 22 parts. With the appreciative scoring, the animals are compared to a reference value which is the average of the population and set to 80. The average of the scores from development, breed type, muscles and legs is used to calculate the score for general appearance. The results of the inspection are registered within the NRS database and also used to calculate the breeding values of the bulls.

National show

Every November, a national show is organised by the herdbook in Marienheem. In 2009, the National Beef Cattle Event in Ermelo is held for the first time where different beef breeds are having their national show, including the Blonde d'Aquitaine herdbook. In the summer time also a regional show in Enter is organised.

Test station

Every year the herdbook selects a number of young breeding bulls based on origin and exterior, which are centrally bred and after the testing period sold by auction. The testing period lasts for 5 months where growth, character and exterior of the bulls are examined. The auction is held at the end of March where 10 to 15 bulls are brought under the hammer. The auction bulls receive the prefix BAC, which stands for Blonde d'Aquitaine Central Breed.

Breeding

The type of the Dutch Blonde d'Aquitaine is the same as the type of the Blonde d'Aquitaine in France. Fineness, length, development, a long and wide pelvis and a good character are important characteristics. At the moment, a good Blonde d'Aquitaine animal also has a 'grain de viande'. Differences between the farms exist, determined by the market of the farm concerned. At feeding farms bulls are slaughtered at the age of 20 months.

Bull choice

AI (artificial insemination) and natural insemination are used. Large farms often choose to use a breeding bull. The AI bulls used are often coming from the French Midatest or a Dutch AI station. Also Dutch breeding bulls are available via AI.

'De Blonde'

Four times a year the herdbook magazine 'De Blonde' is published. 'De Blonde' is a magazine full of information about the Blonde d'Aquitaine breed with for example articles about Blonde d'Aquitaine farms, shows and breeding reports of AI bull.

Contact

For questions about the breed, the Blonde d'Aquitaine herdbook and the magazine 'De Blonde' please contact the editor of 'De Blonde': Fredie van Dijk, email: fredievandijk@hotmail.com, phone number +31 6 53 123 506.

A lot of information can also be found on the website of the Dutch Blonde d'Aquitaine Herdbook: www.blondestamboek.nl (only Dutch).