

The Heart of the Breed
2007 Dams of Merit & Distinction Awards
The Canadian Gelbvieh Association is proud to honour these great matrons of
the breed.

The Canadian Gelbvieh Association is pleased to introduce the
308 Canadian Dam of Merit Award Winners
and
35 Canadian Dam of Distinction Winners
for 2007

Each year the Canadian Gelbvieh Association is pleased to recognize those Gelbvieh cows which excel in productivity, the heart of the breed. There are two levels of recognition which are honoured: Dam of Merit and Dam of Distinction.

Cows that calve as two-year-olds and have a healthy calf every year for ten to twelve years have a greater lifetime efficiency than cows that must be culled at a younger age because of infertility, bad udders or some other functional problem. *Longevity is essential.* Cows that get their job done, year after year with no problems, simply make more money.

A total of 343 cows qualified for Dam of Merit in 2007 and 35 cows were awarded with Dam of Distinction honours.

The average EPD's on the 68 Percentage, 273 Purebred, and 2 Fullblood Dams of Merit/Distinction are:

Calving Ease Direct EPD = 108.8

Birth Weight EPD = -5.1

Weaning Weight EPD = 38.6

Yearling Weight EPD = 67.6

Milk EPD = 13.7

Total Maternal EPD = 33.0

Gestation Length EPD = -1.6

Daughters Calving Ease = 101.1

In order for a cow to be recognized as a Dam of Merit she must:

- Have produced at least three calves, and all calves must have weaning information reported to the CGA.
- Have produced her last calf during the time period of January 1, 2006 to March 1, 2007.
- Possess a minimum average weaning ratio for all calves of 100.
- Have a calving interval not exceeding the maximum, calculated by the following formula: (Number of Calving Intervals X 365 days) + 30 days/Number of Calving Intervals = Maximum. In the formula, thirty (30) days are added to the total number of days possible to allow for situations where breeders purposely begin calving two-year-olds before the rest of the cow herd. As cows get older, the maximum calving interval decreases or the female may have had her third calf before her fourth birthday and maintained a 365 day calving interval thereafter.