

AGM Educational Sessions

Thursday, June 14

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Breeder Discussion Panel:

Breeding Program and Herd Management Strategies

-Stefani Millman - Emerald Park Farm, Auburn, WA

-Jeff Chambers - Silver Maple Dexters, Adams, NE

-Dr. Richard Browning, Jr., Ph.D. - Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

How well thought-out are your goals for and management of your herd? This session will give you a closer look at how three different Dexter breeders manage their herds. You'll learn about their breeding program goals, and the tools and methods they use to reach those goals. Come be inspired to develop a more intentional plan for your herd.

2:00 pm

Dexters 101

-Lesia Reid, ADCA Vice President - Kirkhaven Farm, Rutledge, TN

This session is a general resource for Dexter ownership.

- What makes a Dexter a Dexter? Topics: Brief Dexter history, guidelines and important facts about Dexter beef, milk and oxen.
- What resources are available to help me evaluate Dexters? Topics: Conformation guide, temperament evaluation, online resources. When is "good" good enough?
- What should I know when buying a Dexter? Topics: Buyers' checklist and defining a herd-building strategy.
- Why should I register my Dexters with the ADCA? Topics: ADCA benefits, leadership and community.

There will be a table displaying helpful books for stewarding a Dexter herd. There will be lots of handouts. If you would like to download helpful spreadsheets and computer files for keeping track of your herd, bring a zip drive and you can download the files.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Grazing Land Management

- Doug Spencer, Rangeland Management Specialist, NRCS

The session will concentrate on basic management of the grazing land resource, identifying challenges and opportunities in your forage base, developing appropriate stocking rates and implementing grazing systems.

4:00 pm **The Decision Tree**

-Jill Delaney, ADCA Registrar - Delaney Cattle Co, Stephenville, TX

This session is an introduction to The Decision Tree diagram and accompanying tools on the ADCA website to help guide you through a seamless registration.

4:00 -5:00 pm **Youth Showmanship Clinic**

Details to follow

Friday, June 15

9:00 am **Rumenology 101**

-Dr. Ben Stegman, DVM, cVMA - Simply Natural Farm, Lidgerwood, ND

Are you in the dark about the world within your cow's digestive tract? Do you wonder what makes hay "good" or "bad"? The rumen has an exquisitely rich and productive ecosystem that controls nearly every element of a cow's life, health, and well-being. This session will help you understand what makes a ruminant "tick" to improve your management of feed and supplement resources.

10:00 – 12noon **Keynote Presentation:**

Selection of the Bull and Cow for Herd Improvement

- Gearld Fry

In his Keynote Address, Gearld will talk about the responsibilities of the bull and the cow in a breeding program. He will explore the role of each in reproduction, production and the utilization of Nature's cow feed, grass.

1:00 – 3:00 pm **Linear Measurement Demonstration**

-Gearld Fry

In this session, Gearld will move to the arena and give a hands-on demonstration of linear measurement, using a Dexter cow and a Dexter bull.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Youth Session:

Before You Call the Vet...

-Dr. Ben Stegman, DVM, cVMA - Simply Natural Farm, Lidgerwood, ND

Don't panic... emergencies will happen, and you can be prepared. This session will cover:

- How to recognize common bovine emergencies
- How to keep yourself and your cows safe during an emergency
- How to decide whether and when to call a veterinarian
- How to assemble and use a basic first aid kit for cows.

Case-based discussions will get everyone involved and more comfortable dealing with common emergency situations.

3:00 pm

Cheese Making

-Kimberly Jepsen - Freedom Hill Dexter Farm, Vinita, OK

Join us for a one-hour class and learn how to make 30-minute mozzarella and lactic cheese. During class I will be making cheese from my own Dexter cow's milk and at the end of class everyone will get to sample homemade Dexter cheese. We will talk about how to make hard cheeses, learn what equipment is needed and how to convert an old fridge into a cheese cave. Each participant will leave with a packet of recipes, including my famous garlic and herb cheese spread.

4:00 pm

Tips in Stockmanship for Dexter Cattle -

“How We Move and Corral Bossy”

-Brody Johnson - 5J Ranch Cattle Co, Collinsville, OK

In large or small herds--even with one cow--we need to understand how and what our cattle are thinking to handle them in a safe, effective and low-stress manner. Dexter cattle are similar to the other breeds in their actions, but in a smaller package. Brody will share practical, common-sense tips in stockmanship to improve your handling of your livestock. He will discuss animal and human behaviors as well as different holding configurations that will help move and corral your animals.