

The American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club.

Bulletin Five - January 1915

INFORMATION IN REPLY TO CORRESPONDENTS

BY THE SECRETARY

Many letters are being received at the office of the American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club, asking for information on matters connected with these two breeds. The same question is asked in many letters, and, inasmuch as the Secretary is a busy man in matters which do not relate to this Club, this bulletin has been prepared to answer some of the questions asked. If other information is desired, the Secretary will furnish it if possible, should further inquiry be made.

KERRY AND DEXTER CATTLE ORGANIZATION

In July, 1911, the American Kerry and Dexter Cattle Club was organized. Mr. G. M. Carnochan, New City, N. Y., was elected President; Mr. C. H. Berryman, Lexington, Ky., Vice-President; and C. S. Plumb, Columbus, Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer. These officers are still serving, January 1, 1915.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CLUB

Any reputable person is eligible to membership in the Club upon payment of ten dollars. On January 1, 1914, the following persons were members of the Club:

- G. M. Carnochan, New City, New York.
- Elmendorf Farm, C. H. Berryman, Mgr., Lexington, Kentucky.
- Howard Gould, Port Washington, New York.
- *Cecil D. Gregg, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Mrs. Clarence Moore, 723 Fifteenth Street, Washington, D. C.
- *B. Nason Hamlin, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Oak Hill Estate, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- F. J. Rodgers, Mills Bldg., San Francisco, California.
- F. E. Stevens, Glens Falls, New York.
- Albert N. White, Greenfield, New Hampshire.

*No longer active breeders.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CLUB

The purpose of the Club is to promote the breeding, improvement, registration and transfer of Kerry and Dexter Cattle in America.

IMPORTANT KERRY CHARACTERISTICS

The Kerry is a black breed, with horns, of the distinctly dairy type. Mature bulls in breeding condition should not weigh over 1,000 pounds, and cows should not weigh over 900 pounds. This is one of the smallest dairy breeds. These cattle have not been generally improved, but notwithstanding this, there are numerous cows that produce considerable yields of milk, which tests about four per cent fat. No official tests of the breed have been made in America. Mr. R. Tait Robertson, a noted Irish breeder, states that there are many instances of cows producing up to 20 and 22 quarts of milk per day. The cow, Babraham Bell in England, produced about 10,000 pounds of milk in a year while Red Rose, after calving on December 20, in the year 1893, gave up to the following September, about 12,000 pounds of milk.

IMPORTANT DEXTER CHARACTERISTICS

The Dexter is a distinct breed from the Kerry, though perhaps an offshoot from it. The Dexter is usually a deep black color, but reds occur, and are registered as such. Dexter horns are not usually quite as upstanding as are those of the Kerry. The Dexter is one of the very smallest breeds of cattle, a height of 38 or 40 inches being common. The bulls should not weigh over 900 pounds, and the cows not over 800 pounds. In Europe this is a dual purpose breed, and steers well fattened make beef of a very choicest quality, for which special classes are provided at Irish and English shows. The Dexter produces a comparatively large yield of milk that tests about four per cent fat. There are no official Dexter records in America, but Mr. Howard Gould has herd records of over 8,000 pounds of milk in a year for certain cows. In 1913, at the Royal Agricultural Society Show, one Dexter cow produced 47 pounds, ten ounces of milk in a day.

WHICH IS BEST FOR AMERICA, KERRY OR DEXTER

From the standpoint of milk production, the Kerry is probably the best suited for dairy purposes. A herd carefully selected and bred, should be very profitable. The Dexter no doubt will yield a large milk supply, considering its size. This breed has been considerably exploited by people who know but little about it, and their sensational articles in the newspapers and agricultural press, have

caused many people to expect more than conditions justify. Either one of these breeds, properly developed in America, should attract attention of a favorable nature. The Dexter is essentially a novelty, but where well selected, of the profitable sort.

HOW HARDY ARE THESE CATTLE?

These are among the most hardy cattle in the world. They originated in Ireland, and have been developed under conditions where food is often hard to get, where the winters are wet and cold, and where the shelter of stables is the exception and not the rule. The Kerry has been known as "the poor man's cow" in Ireland for many years. These cattle will, no doubt, adapt themselves to a wide range of conditions. Numerous inquiries have come in from Alaska and Florida, asking for information on adaptability. The probabilities are that either Kerry or Dexter will do well in these sections. Herds are now doing well on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, as well as in the Mississippi Valley.

WHERE CAN THESE CATTLE BE BOUGHT?

There are but few cattle of either breed in America, and females are not easily to be purchased. Probably there are not 500 cattle all told of both breeds in America. Correspondence may be directed to members of the Club, as given on page one. Messrs. Carnochan, Elmendorf Farm, Oak Hill Estate, Rodgers, Stevens, and White have herds of Kerries. Dexters are bred by Elmendorf, Howard Gould, Mrs. Moore, and Mr. Gregg. The latter has recently sold his herd to Mr. Adolph Busch of St. Louis, Mo. Correspondence directed to the English Kerry and Dexter Cattle Society, 19 Bloomsbury Square, London, or to the Royal Dublin Society, Dublin, Ireland, will no doubt secure the names of reliable breeders in England and Ireland. Without doubt, in future many of these cattle will be imported from these countries.

WHAT PRICE MUST ONE PAY FOR THESE CATTLE?

So few of these cattle have changed hands in America, it is impossible to specify what one should pay for individuals. Probably fairly good individuals may be bought for around \$200 per head. The choicer show animals will bring special prices, all depending on individual merit and other factors unnecessary to mention. At the dispersal sale of the herd of Kerries of Sir Gilbert and Lady Greenall in England in 1913, the cows and heifers averaged a bit under \$100.00 each, and the bulls \$112.50. The highest price paid was \$350 for an eight-year-old cow. Persons desiring to purchase, are recommended to correspond with members of the Club.

