

**A Breed from the past,
for the present and the future.**

DEXTER CATTLE

LOIS JOHNSON, EDITOR
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FIRST CLASS



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AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

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REGIONAL DIRECTORS

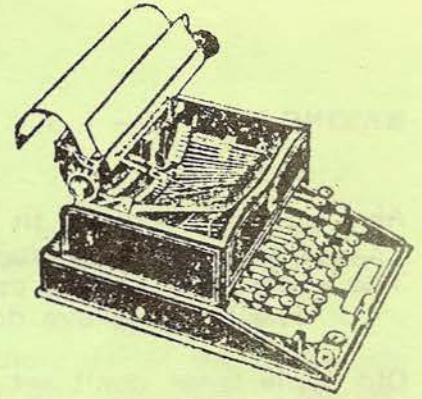
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Note: Division of states is indicated by first 3 digits of zip code.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE ! ! !

Can you believe the time has gone so swiftly? Here we are at the Christmas season already, and looking into 1990.



In this issue, I have included an article that Eric Lawlor sent to me some time ago to use whenever we had the space or need. I personally think it is a terrific article - not for the squeamish, however. It is full of practical, everyday advice for the care of your Dexters' health. And, it would be especially helpful to first-time cattle owners, as many of us Dexterites are. Thank you, Eric.

And this is something I have been thinking about for some time. No one has offered any suggestions nor has there been any ruling, to my knowledge, as to which issue of the Bulletin should carry the names and addresses of the newly elected officers on the Directory page.

My feeling was this - the present officers are IN office until December 31st. Therefore, as the Fall issue is out at least one month before their terms expire, I thought their names should remain on the Directory page in the Fall issue, and the new names appear in the Winter issue.

You have already been informed of the new appointments in the minutes of the 1989 Director's Meeting, mailed to all members by the secretary last August.

They are:

Phil Martz, President
R S (Shep) Springer, Vice President
Rosemary Fleharty, Secretary

The Directors' names should, of course, be changed with each Regional Election.

If there are any thoughts out there contrary to what has been done, perhaps it is something we should get a ruling on at the next general meeting. I don't want our present officers to feel they are being pushed out, and by the same token, I don't want our new officers to think they are being ignored.

Are you going to have any little Dexter packages under your tree? Our Tara is the only one that hasn't calved yet - she's a little off schedule from the others - and she just might be the one to give us a Christmas present.



All of the Officers and Directors of the American Dexter Cattle Association wish each and every one of you the happiest and most prosperous of Holiday seasons. ENJOY ! ! !

DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE - February 15, 1990.

WAXING POETIC - L.J.

As I burned the wood in the stove today,
 I recalled from whence it came -
 The apple orchard way out back,
 The locust grove down lane.

Old apple trees don't set good fruit,
 But little do Dexters care.
 No rotten apples on the ground -
 Under each tree it's bare.

They rubbed their horns and scratched their backs
 On the prickly locust wood,
 They took their naps and hid their calves
 Under that pile of wood.

I look out the door where the garden lies -
 As neat as it's ever been -
 The weeds are gone, the fence line clear
 From the day the Dexters got in.

Give Dexters a chance and they will help clean fence-row, orchard and patch,
 And then they give fresh milk and meat, and cute little calves to catch.



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES are due by January 1, 1990. They are:

Annual membership renewal	\$20.00
New membership	\$30.00

PLEASE REMEMBER to register your calves as early as possible. Only registered animals can be listed in the Herd Book, so if you want your stock listed, please do register .

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS for Regions 4, 5 and 6 takes place in 1989. Ballots have been mailed to all voting members of those regions, and results will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Rosemary Fleharty, Secretary
 ADCA
 Route 1, Box 378
 Concordia, MO 64020

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE !!!



FROM THE SPRINGERS - Ft. Collins, Co:

Dear Lois,

Just a couple of things of interest for the Bulletin:

CALFHOOD VACCINATIONS. I don't feel that we all realize the importance of calfhood vaccination of heifers for brucellosis (bangs). At present there are only 6 states that allow entry of non-vaccinated females, even though they may test negative. I was in contact with one breeder who has several young animals for sale that were not vaccinated. These animals cannot be brought into Colorado or 45 other states. This really limits the potential for sale. I hope all owners will check the existing regulations for their state and consider the importance of compliance. Some differences in age requirements exist in different states- i.e. 4 to 8 months in Colorado, 4 to 6 months in others and as young as 1 month in others. Regardless - **Do Vaccinate!**

CONVENTION - 1990, Ft. Collins, CO.

Looks from here like June 22, 23 & 24 - that's a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The reason for Friday is a tour of the American Breeders Bull Farm just north of Ft. Collins. Also a visit to the embryo transplant program at Colorado State University. A busy Friday schedule, but I feel well worth while. Also a Friday evening picnic with the Springers' Dexters!

This is all subject to the approval of the Board, but seemed to meet the approval of those I have talked with.

VISITORS TO Ft Collins:

We were honored by a visit with Jean and Jim Mitchell in late August. They purchased our bull Rocky Sunlines and moved him to Missouri. I hope he produces them the quality calves he has for us.

Also, Rob and Betty Waller purchased 3 heifers and two bull calves from us the first of November. Hope they develop into the quality animals they desire.

IN CLOSING -

The Dexters seem quite popular - our phone keeps ringing. Even have orders for calves due in 1990. Understand there have been few if any ads placed in the flyer. Maybe the phones are busy with all the Dexter breeders!

So much for that!

REMEMBER JUNE 22-23-24 - - Ft. Collins, COLORADO

More information in the next Bulletin.

The Springers

RECORDS AND REGISTRATIONS - by Lois Johnson

Do you draw a blank when you pick up that "Application for Registry in American Dexter Herd Book"? I know I did until I realized exactly what records must be kept so that the required information was always at hand. With Jim's help, I have come up with some forms which make it easier to record this information.

LET'S START WITH RECORDS.

The very first thing to keep is a list of your cattle, showing at least the following: Neck Tag, Ear Tag, Registration No., Sex, Date of Birth, Name, Sire and Dam. Now, a typewriter and a copy machine make it easy to design a form for this purpose. The one we have designed, we use each year for up-dated lists, showing exactly what cattle are in our herd. Not only does this form give an exact record of stock owned, but it can be a handy reference in speaking with potential buyers. I have also included a space for Vial # which we use for the annual blood tests, giving our vet a work sheet from which to draw up his tuberculosis and brucellosis test papers which must be submitted to the State Department of Agriculture each year to maintain herd accreditation and certification.

Next, you need a list for each year of what cows are in the pasture with which bull. I have simply used a spiral notebook - 8½ x 11 - with columns ruled for:

Cow Tag	Name	Calving Date	Sex	Calf's Name	Comments	Calf Tag
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At the top of the page is the year in which cows were bred and the bull's name.

The third form I use is simply for a running list of calves as they are born, and assignment of their tattoo numbers.

[illegible]

REGISTRATIONS

Now you are ready, with the Registration Certificates which you should already have from when you purchased your cow and/or bull, to fill out the Application to register their offspring. From your records, you have all the necessary particulars on the calf to be registered. Please note that the tattoo numbers for the ears go to the **left** of the printed words "left ear" and "right ear".

REGISTRATIONS - cont.

Should you **not** have owned the sire of the calf, you would fill in all the top information on the calf, on the cow and her sire, sign and give your address in section B and then forward to the owner of the bull siring your calf. He will fill in the bull's name and number, and sign as owner of the bull in section C. (Section A is for the signature and address of a breeder who owns both the sire and dam of the calf to be registered). He will then return the Application to you to forward, with your check, to the secretary - fee, \$10.00 for members.

Frequently, especially in the case of a calf, it may already have been sold to another party when you register it. If so, simply fill in the bottom section as well - Transfer Application - and the secretary can do both operations at once. If this is indeed the case, the secretary will send the Certificate of Registration to the new owner, and a copy of said certificate to you for your records. (Additional fee of \$10.00 for the transfer, making a total of \$20.00 if both are done at once).

Of course, if the calf is not sold, the Certificate of Registration will be returned to you, the owner. Then, should you sell it later on, (or any other Dexter, for that matter), you fill in the first available section on the back of the certificate giving name and address of the new owner, date of sale, and your signature as owner. Now - and this is important - when you sell a registered Dexter, be sure to make yourself a copy of the Certificate of Registration. Otherwise, that information is gone from you and you would have to go to the Herd Books to re-establish it. This information is more important in the case of an older cow, for instance. Say you sold the cow, but still have a calf from her which has not yet been registered. Where do you get all that information quickly? Plus, keeping those copies gives you a ready record of animals sold.

Now, these forms are our own - not approved in any way by ADCA, but I think they are invaluable, and should any of you want some, we surely will be happy to run off whatever forms you need, gratis. Just let us know whether you need any or all of them, and they are yours.

Lois Johnson
4092 Broadview Rd
Richfield, OH 44286

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION			
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION			
NAME _____			
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRY IN AMERICAN DEXTER HERD BOOK _____			
Sex _____	Tattoo No. _____	Left Ear _____	Right Ear _____
Name _____ <small>Give name of animal to be recorded on this</small>			
Color _____		Date Calved _____	
SIRE <u>Brian</u>			
Sire _____			
DAM <u>Cran</u>			
Dam _____			

A cross mark placed before any of the numbers below indicates the reason this application is returned.

1. This animal already recorded under the number _____
2. Name longer than allowed. (Not more than 21 letters permitted.)
3. This pedigree returned because of death of animal.
4. This pedigree cancelled as per your request.
5. If a twin, please so state on application.
6. Sex not indicated or does not agree.
7. Color description omitted.
8. Birthdate _____

NOTE: Only purebred stock may be registered with the A D C A.

FROM DON PIEHOTA - a letter we just didn't have room for before:

Just before Christmas, one of my last acts of service as Vice President of ADCA was to counsel with a new breeder from Texas over milking problems. Unfortunately, despite the caller mentioning that one of his two cows delivered a bulldog calf, both he and I focused on his problem of getting the last cup of milk out of each milking. The next day or so, when I realized my error, I could not locate his name or address. I hope he reads this, and I feel this is an important consideration for other new breeders.

The plain fact is that in dollar terms any breeder of Dexters finds that his largest source of income is the Dexter heifer at \$500 to \$600 followed by the bull calf for breeding at \$400 to \$500. At today's market price, even selling those bull calves at the market means at least \$200. In contrast, an extra cup of milk or two at milking time is worth less than \$50.00.

Had I been on the ball, I would have advised my caller to consider the reality that healthy calf production is far and away his principal product and there is not even a close second. The fact that bulldog carriers are in his herd should demand his full attention and immediate action, and is probably best resolved by using semen guaranteed to be from a bulldog-free sire.

Don Piehota
Rt 1, Box 118
Byars, OK 74831

IDENTIFYING COLOUR - by Carol Davidson

There seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding the colours red and dun, and the identification of same. There is a whole range of shades in both colours, and this, coupled with summer bleach and winter woolies sometimes makes them hard to identify. Also, if you have only seen one of these colours, you have no comparisons to judge by:

dun is a brown tone, from peanuts through buckskin, to cooked liver. The nose, tongue and feet are all BEIGE.

red is a red tone, from bright carrot through Hereford red to dark Irish Setter. Some of the very dark reds have darker faces and legs. The nose is SOFT PINK or BLACK.

From the comments I have heard, it is the dark shades of these two colours which give the most trouble. Check the noses, and if all else fails, confirm by back-tracking through the pedigrees.

Animals from Woodmagic or from the original 1910 imports may have dun genes. Animals from the mid-60's importation or from Knotting may have red genes.

If you have an animal which is not black, use the nose test. If you have already registered it as one colour, and now it may be the other, PLEASE contact Rosemary and have the registration changed.

EMBRYO TRANSPLANTS

English Embryos are available from England at \$700 each, U.S.

Carol Davidson
Box 179
Brentwood Bay, B.C.
Canada VOS 1A0

KERRY CATTLE - from Shirley Phillips of Kewanee, IL.

Lois,

I've been wanting to know the difference between the Dexter and the Kerry cattle, and this is what I've come up with:

There are only 4 Kerry imports in the United States. I found them at the Gatewood Museum of America, Frontier Culture, P O Box 810, Stranton, VA 24401. Phone number (703) 332-7850. They have for sale 1 Kerry cow, 9 yrs old, and 1 Kerry bull calf.

American Minor Breeds Conservancy supplied this information as well as the following:

KERRY CATTLE:

Kerry cattle are most probably the descendants of the Celtic shorthorn, brought to Ireland as long ago as 2000 B.C. They are still found grazing in the marginal pastures of the hill districts of southwestern Ireland. Kerries were imported to the United States beginning in 1818 and the breed prospered through the early 20th century. But by the 1930's however, the breed had practically disappeared from North America. Today there are no Kerries in the United States and only a few herds, based on recent imports, in Canada.

The Kerry is a small-sized fine-boned dairy breed, mostly black in color. Cows weigh between 780-1000 pounds and are horned. Milk production averages 7000 to 8000 pounds, but can occasionally exceed 10,000 pounds, with over 4% butterfat. Kerries are hardy and long-lived, often still calving at 14-15 years of age.

By 1983 the world population of pedigreed Kerries had dropped to around 200. The Irish Department of Agriculture has since taken steps to support the maintenance of the breed and numbers are again creeping upwards.

Status: **RARE.** Kerries are globally rare, and thus the few herds in Canada are of great importance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contace:

American Minor Breeds Conservancy
(AMBC)
Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Phone: (919) 542-5704

Editor's Note:

Shirley called me later, and the reason she had got into the Kerry history was that she had purchased some cattle which were evidently tall enough that she thought she might have Kerries. But she says that they **are** Dexters.

Thanks for writing, Shirley.

Note 2: There is obviously some time difference between the more recent information in the first of Shirley's letter, and the publication sent by AMBC.

This is a brief summary of a Herd Health program that Dr. J Vanderbyl, D.V.M. presented to the annual meeting of the American Dexter Cattle Association in Guelph, Ontario. It is intended only as a guide, as I am far from an expert in animal care. Please consult with your vet regarding all the topics covered here and the numerous topics not mentioned. I have not covered everything that comes to mind but I feel I have touched on the most important aspects of herd health. Other sources of information are your feed reps, state and federal experts and pamphlets, county ag reps and experienced farmers. Again, your most important reference and friend regarding herd health is your vet.

VISUAL EXAM: things to look for in a sick cow.

Off Her Feed! not chewing her cud; thin, especially if not milking heavily; elevated temperature - normal is 39 C or 102 F, calves have a slightly higher temperature because of a higher metabolic rate; head down; off by herself; dull look in her eyes; eyes sunken in indicate dehydration; dull coat.

A well cow is alert, is eating or chewing her cud, has a full and active rumen, and a shiny coat.

FEED ANALYSIS:

To keep a cow in good condition her ration must be balanced. Have free choice salt and free choice mineral available. Loose salt and loose mineral are better than mineral blocks as a cow probably cannot lick enough off a block to satisfy her needs. Have your feed analysed to determine at least crude protein (CP), total digestible nutrients (TDN), crude fibre (CF), and calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P). Your feed rep or trusted feed dealer will help you balance your rations for your different production requirements. Ca and P in the total diet should be in a ratio ranging from 1.5:1 to 2:1, Ca:P. therefore, choose mineral based on your feed analysis to arrive at this ratio.

Remember, fertility is the first thing to suffer in cows in poor condition!

BULL EXAM:

Must have good hind legs to support itself: when walking the legs should move straight forward: look for a level back with a level tailhead (a high tailhead may be passed on to females and result in a horizontal vulva which lends itself to uterine infections from feces entering the vulva); testicles should be of good size and hang down freely; one can hang slightly lower than the other but do not use a bull showing signs of cryptorchidism (one testicle not descended or not fully descended).

RECTAL EXAM:

Your vet can determine pregnancy and stage of pregnancy from 30 to 40 days post conception. The vet can also determine stage of estrous cycle if not pregnant, status of uterus after freshening, ovarian cysts, and other aberrations in estrous cycles and suggest possible solutions or treatments. A normal uterus in a non-pregnant cow should be the size of a fist. It should return to this size within one month of freshening or slightly longer in older cows. If it takes longer the vet can prescribe shots to reduce it and to stimulate cycling. A cow should return to cycling within 60 days of freshening. Bloody mucous up to 15 days after calving is quite normal but if it persists beyond 20 days it may indicate uterine infection - have her examined. While doing rectal exams the vet should look for signs of Micoplasm infection. It appears as small pimples or postules in the vulva and generally leads to uterine infection. It is a bacterial infection that can and will likely be passed on to every cow in the herd via the bull or even her tail. This disease is spreading out from Ontario so all cows

Rectal Exam - continued

being sold from Ontario and surrounding states should be examined for it. All uterine infections and ovarian aberrations generally result in infertility but can usually be treated successfully.

DEHORNING:

For ethical reasons all veterinary students are now being taught not to dehorn animals without first anesthetising the nerve. It should be injected midway between the eye and the ear in the groove that runs between them. If blood appears in the syringe withdraw it and reinsert. (This applies to any injection other than intravenous). Wait a few minutes for the freezing to take effect before dehorning. During winter a gouger or cutter can be used and then cauterize the wound or pull out the artery to stop the bleeding. During the fly season burn the horn bud off so as not to expose the sinus to fly and maggot infection. When burning ensure a copper ring evenly around the horn bud. Have your vet demonstrate anesthetising before you try it yourself. Dehorn calves as young as possible to minimize stress. Ideally all should be done by one month of age but try to at least do it by 3 months. However, horns of any size can be done on animals of any age.

CASTRATING:

When using a burdizo to pinch or squeeze the cords do as young as possible. It can be done when the calf is only a few days old. Squeeze one side at a time, do not squeeze across the middle as this will cut off the blood supply causing the scrotum to wither and drop off opening it for infection. Squeeze one side at a time above the testicle. You should be able to feel the cords. It is recommended to squeeze twice on each side and leave the burdizo clamped for half a minute each time. If the calf is more than 6 to 8 months it is easier to cut the testicles out. This should not be done during fly season and your vet should show you how. Again for ethical reasons the use of elastrator bands is frowned upon.

MAGNETS:

Magnets should be inserted into the reticulum of calves once they are eating mostly dry feeds. Use a bolus gun to insert. Magnets will attract metallic materials that may be eaten. Nails, wire, etc., if eaten, can cause hardware disease in which the metallic article penetrates the rumen wall into the thoracic cavity and will eventually puncture the heart or lungs causing death.

HOOF TRIMMING:

Hoof trimming should be done if the toes are growing excessively long or are mis-shapen, or the cow is low in the heel. Your vet can trim hooves or may recommend someone who will do it. Animals with proper legs and feet should not require hoof trimming as they will wear down evenly.

WORMING:

Many worming medicants are available for a number of conditions. Probably the best all round grubicide is "Ivomec" or Ivomectin, which has efficacy against almost all internal and external parasites. However there are many other very good products on the market and you should consult with your vet to determine the best time and medicant to use for your area. For example, medication to kill warble fly larvae should **not** be administered from early December until late March because the larvae are migrating close to the spinal cord at this time and killing them may result in paralysis and/or death.

VITAMIN INJECTIONS:

Vitamins A,D and E can be injected in the fall and spring before calving to act as a booster. However, they should also be included in their mineral mix and in the feed supplement.

UDDER CARE:

Before calving the udders should be clean. Wash them off with warm soapy water. Watching for mastitis is much easier for those who are milking their cows but everyone should carefully observe their cows' udders. Subclinical mastitis can be detected by elevated chloride (CL) levels or with a CMT (California Mastitis Test.) Mild clinical shows increased pH and reduced volume and watery milk. A cow with severe clinical mastitis may show a slight hunching, pain when touched, heat, redness, swelling and increased body temperature. If detected consult your vet for a proper treatment program.

VACCINATIONS:

Consult your vet for recommendations in your area. Some common diseases to vaccinate against are leptospirosis and rabies. Canada is now declared brucellosis free so testing is no longer necessary and animals should not be vaccinated. However, all animals brought into Canada must be tested prior to entry.

CALF CARE:

When calves are born the umbilicus should be sprayed or dipped in iodine, especially if born in confinement. An injection of vitamins A,D and E can act as a booster and special care should be taken for those in areas where the selenium (Se) levels in the soil are low. A gestating cow with a diet deficient in Se may drop a calf susceptible to white muscle disease. Balance her diet with a concentrate containing Se or give her an injection of Se and inject the calf at birth with Se.

Note: Se requires adequate amounts of vitamin E for its proper metabolism so both must be supplemented or injected.

NOTE: Se is extremely toxic if just slightly in excess of its normal level. Therefore, consult with your vet regarding the proper quantities to inject or your feed rep if it is being supplemented in the ration.

NOTE: Please remember that this is meant to be a guide and not a definitive paper on herd health. I have stressed at the beginning, throughout the text and now to consult with your veterinarian before undertaking any treatment or procedure of which you are not completely sure.

Eric Lawlor
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