DEXTER CATTLE

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

LOIS JOHNSON, EDITOR 4092 Broadview Rd RICHFIELD, OH 44286





FIRST CLASS



John S. Merrifield Route 4 Box 21 Newton, KS 67114

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

05-5

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

On March 18 at 4:00 PM E.S.T. the officers and directors of the ADCA held a phone conference.

Concerning the herd book dedication, it was agreed upon to dedicate it to the history of the Dexter Association.

An audit of the treasurer's book was discussed and the Board wants a financial report to be received before the annual meeting, so if there are any questions, they can be brought forward then.

We had a report on the results of the by-laws. All the by-laws were passed, but there is a need to send out another questionnaire on the section #S-2 Regional Directors. We need to vote yes or no. Many people voted yes to both questions, but there has to be a choice either way. I strongly urge each member to vote and return the questionnaire. In order for the votes to be tallied, they must be received within 3 weeks of the post mark date. Otherwise the secretary will not be responsible for counting them.

To prepare the agenda for the annual meeting, I request that all proposals and questions be sent to me no later than May 15,1990.

Due to a request to the president from the Ohle's of Burnsville, N C, concerning the age of a heifer calf born to a female under 18 months of age - the Board decided that the calf and sire must be blood-typed. When this situation occurs, copies of the blood-type certificate must be sent with the registration form. The Board strongly discourages this practice because it is better for the cow to be at least 18 months of age before calving.

When talking with Rosemary on March 11, she informed me that she was planning to resign as secretary of the Association at the end of June. During the telephone conference she stated that she had too much work, so the Board gave her permission to hire a student to help her with the typing. She will be re-imbursed for the money paid to the student. Rosemary estimated that the cost to pay the student would be \$2000.00 a year. She agreed to inform the Board of how this situation is working before or at the annual meeting. Through previous approval, Rosemary was given permission to purchase a new typewriter.

The Board agreed that the "For Sale" ads in the Bulletin shall be limited to cattle, semen and books of historical value.

This Association has approximately 330 members at present, and we are growing. When an organization is growing, there are always problems. As president, I see a need to be prepared should a void occur in the administration. Individuals interested in submitting a resume' for the office of secretary, treasurer or registrar, should send them to me. They will be kept on file, and should there be an opening, they will be presented to the Board.

I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new friends at the meeting in Fort Collins, CO on June 22,23 and 24,1990.

Be There!

I encourage every member to attend this year's meeting, for there will be numerous important items to be voted on.

This is your organization, so let your voice be heard!

REGIONAL DIRECTORS COMMUNIQUES

PACIFIC REGION

Welcome from the Pacific region. Our spring get-together will be Sunday May 27,1990 at Chico State Farm, starting with speakers at 10:00 a.m. There will be a luncheon of Dexter hamburgers and the fixings. A tour of Jane and Wes Patton's Glennland Farms Dexter Herd will follow. RSVP's are to be made to:

Tom Dodson 20830 Vantage Dr Cottonwood, CA 96022

We look forward to meeting all the Pacific region members. See you in May.

Bonnie Boudreau, Director

CENTRAL APPALACHIAN REGION

Winter has passed and I'm glad to see spring arrive.

In discussion with some members of the Association about the various items to be brought up at the annual meeting, these thoughts were mentioned to consider:

Some members cannot afford the expense of, nor have the time to attend the annual meeting. They miss out on voting on matters that are important to them. It was suggested that the important items that are expressed at the annual meeting be sent out to the whole membership to be voted on. This would eliminate just a few individuals making decisions that concern the whole membership.

Any member of this region or the Association that is interested in this issue or if you have any suggestions or problems, please contact me.

Thanks

Philip R Martz, Sr., Director

CENTRAL STATES REGION

How nice to see our region growing so rapidly! A great big welcome to new 1990 members:

Fredericka Wagner
Allen Bontreger
Everett Spencer
Kerry Wrate
Indianapolis Zoo
Tom & Dianne Stivers

Piketon, OH Middlebury, IN Sorento, IL Plainwell, MI Indianapolis, IN Paris, KY

Our members are located in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Southern Michigan and Northern Kentucky. I hope to hear from all of you as to your choice for a meeting location. If you have been to a place you feel would be exceptionally nice for the meeting, please share it with us. It would, of course, be nice to visit a Dexter farm during the meeting. Let me hear from you!

A big "Thank You" to all of you who have contributed to this Bulletin both with articles, and with your ads for cattle and semen. The Bulletin is being typed right on schedule. And thank you to Jim Donovan for his kind words regarding our Bulletin. I love doing it, and I do want to make it look the best I possibly can.

Marcia Read called me to say that our valued member, Mrs Evelyn Jensen, had passed away last Spring. Thank you Marcia, and God grant her rest.

Also from returned bulletins, we have learned that the Beimlers of Libby, Montana have moved to Ketchikan, Alaska! I wonder if they took their Dexters with them to add to the Alaskan population? Do let us know!

And Jeff Jalof of Sebastopol, California has moved to Eugene, Oregon. He stayed in his Pacific region, however.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE -- JUNE 1, 1990

DEXTER CATTLE FOR SALE

CALIFORNIA

2 Black Dexter heifers for sale. Born October 1989. Sire #2730, Dams #2111 and #2578.

Steve Moore Moore Ranch Co 5844 Casitas Pass Rd Carpinteria, CA 93013 (805) 684-8046

OHIO

2 Aged cows, 1 short black bull #4156, dob 10/1/88 and spring calves as available.

James G Johnson 4092 Broadview Rd Richfield, OH 44286 (216) 659-4861 * * * * * * * * * * * * *

OREGON

Small but select herd of Dexter cattle, usually some for sale.

Kelvin Grove Stock Farm 15060 S.W.Hillsboro Hwy. Hillsboro, OR 97123 (503) 628-1116

OREGON

For Sale: Terri bull, 6 month old black bull. Leads, and is vaccinated against about everything. Sire #2779, Dam #3334. \$400.00.

> Sandra Chaney 5486 Spring Cliff Lane Scotts Mills, OR 97375 (503) 873-3279

WASHINGTON

Proportionate black bull calf, date of birth, 8/29/89.

Sire: Thomas' Magic Elko, #3709 Dam: Thomas's Magic Emerald, #3405

> Fred Colclough 10418 16th St E Puyalup, WA 98372 (206) 927-4608

WISCONSIN

Heifer, black, short-legged, calved 10/89.

Jim Donovan Rt 1, Box 218 Endeavor, WI 53930 (608) 981-2289

DEXTER SEMEN AVAILABLE

OREGON

2 New bulls available for A.I. \$15.00 and \$20.00 per straw, no minimum. Call or write for information and pedigrees:

Sandi Thomas P O Box 135 Antelope, OR 97001 (503) 489-3385 PENNSYLVANIA

Collected from:

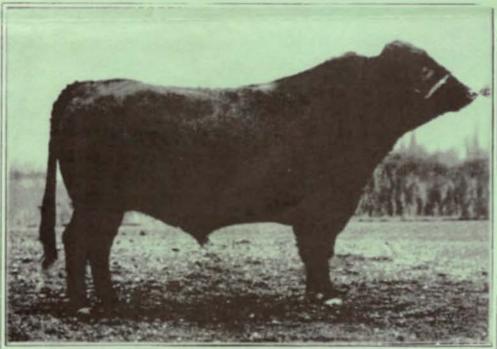
Anton of Mt Carmel #2871, 40' tall, red, 975 lbs.

Philip R Martz, Sr R D #4, Box 162 Berlin, PA 15530 (814) 267-5052

OHIO

Semen collected from Jamie O'Callen, #1949. Black, proportionate type. Jamie was quarantined both for U.S. sale, and for overseas. \$15.00 per straw, 5-straw minimum. For further details of shipping, etc., contact:

James G Johnson 4092 Broadview Rd Richfield, OH 44286 (216) 659-4861



LUCIFER OF KNOTTING BR2292 US3182 C-95-VANCOUVER ISLAND, CANADA

Available in U.S. & Canada.

1-9 straws \$50.00 ea. Canadian. 10 or more straws, \$35.00 ea. Canadian.

Guaranteed non-carrier of achondroplastic gene.

Guaranteed not to sire a Bulldog calf.

Order direct from:

Paul & Judy Taylor SWC 70, RR 4 Nanaimo, B.C., Canada V9R 5X9 (604) 753-9295

HISTORY

Jane Paynter started the Knotting herd in the early 1970's with nine hand-picked cows. She carefully matched these cows with bulls whose characteristics would improve them. Over the years, through bull selection and heavy culling she has managed to create a herd which rightfully dominates the English Dexter scene.

Miss Paynter has the only commercial herd of Dexters in England today. She is a consistent winner of both

milk and conformation classes at the many British shows.

Lucifer of Knotting is a grandson of her foundation bull Sarum Bullrish. All four of his grandparents were Register milk award winners. Lucifer was imported into Canada in 1985.

SOME NOTES ON BREEDING by SANDI THOMAS

When breeding, whether by Artificial Insemination or by "Natural" servicing, the bull must be considered half of your herd - - whether you have one cow, or twenty - - he is still half of what you produce, so knowing as much as you can about him and his offspring is very important!

When you are choosing a bull, check his record. Does he produce consistant characteristics in his offspring? Are they what you want? What is his disposition? His offspring's? Dairy characteristics? Every female should have the ability to produce and carry as much milk as possible, in a well formed, well carried udder for her to be a successful mother - whether you wish to milk her or not. To improve your calves over their mothers, you must depend on a bull's ability and background to do so.

In my opinion, the most important factor in using A.I. breeding is proper timing! One person should be responsible for watching for heat signs. A minimum of 20-30 minutes should be spent watching every morning and evening, by someone that has familiarized themselves of the stages of Heat Signs. When a cow is found to be in the Standing Heat stage the technician should be notified, and breeding should take place about 12 hours later!

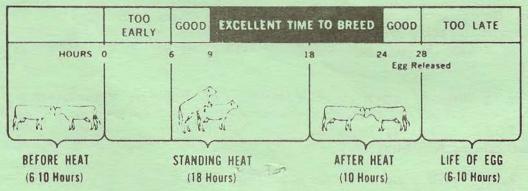
Have a reliable technician - - talk to him before you need his service - - know their methods and timing recommendations before you need them. With Dexters, you quite often will order semen ahead of time and have your technician store it for you until you need it, so you should have contact to set all this up before you suddenly realize your "ladies" need to be serviced next week!

Don't expect 100% of your females to become pregnant by A.I. procedures with one visit. Natural servicing isn't at a 100% level and A.I. won't always be either. There are so many factors that can be involved with a cow "not taking" - ie: diet, physical condition, improper timing, improper handling of the semen, etc. that a breeder can never expect perfection.

Anyone interested in considering A.I. as a method of breeding should acquaint themselves, to some degree, with a basic understanding of the procedure. There are many sources of free information available – State Extension Agents have a wealth of info!! Your A.I. Technician, Veterinarian, Semen Suppliers (ABS, SELECT SIRES, etc.) or the local library. Anyone considering A.I. usage should know what a "straw" is, realize the storage needs of semen, and should be able to recognize "Heat Signs" and what order they follow.

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WHEN TO BREED "Timing Guide" for the average cow



THE FOLLOWING IS SOME EXCELEENT INFORMATION on the handling of semen which was published by COBA/Select Sires Inc of Columbus, Ohio. I have contacted them, and Mr Chris Cavanagh, Member and Public Relations Coordinator, has kindly given us permission to use it in our Bulletin for the knowledge it will give our breeders in this area.

PROPER HANDLING MAINTAINS SEMEN QUALITY by Clif Marshall, Reproduction Specialist

"When handling semen during collection or processing at Select Sires or after thawing straws on your farm, there are three basic areas to which we must attune ourselves if semen quality is to be maintained. These areas are **Temperature**, **Osmolarity** and **pH**. Although there are limits in change of each of these that semen can tolerate, rapid change of any one of these will result in reduced semen quality and therefore, fertility.

TEMPERATURE (T)

Since semen is frozen to $-320\,^{\circ}\text{F}$, vast changes are tolerable with prescribed conditions of extender composition and cooling rates. Thawing for maximum semen recovery on your farm is regulated with a 95 $^{\circ}\text{F}$ thaw for 45 seconds. Rapid post-thaw temperature changes must be minimized by your attention to the outside environment. Protecting the semen against cold shock or heat shock will give you the best opportunity to get cows settled.

OSMOLARITY (O)

Osmolarity is a property of semen or extender that is dependent on the concentration of the salts or sugars in the solution. Semen is similar in osmolarity to blood, milk and other common body fluids. Glycerol is a cold temperature preservative found in extender which allows semen to be successfully frozen and thawed. Since semen extender with glycerol changes osmolarity, it is added slowly to semen to minimize cell damage. Your awareness of potential osmolarity changes on your farm to thawed semen might be helpful in maximizing your herd's fertility. The main thing you need to pay attention to in field conditions is the possibility of water mixing with semen. During thawing, be careful to wipe the straw with a paper towel prior to cutting the lab seal so that the water will not enter the straw and damage the semen.

pH (P) (ACID - ALKALINE)

Semen is particularly sensitive to any changes in acidity or alkalinity. When collected from a bull, semen pH is close to neutral (6.8) as are other body fluids. If held at body temperature for a long period, acidity increases rapidly since a by-product of semen metabolism is Lactic Acid. By getting semen into extender (buffer) and reducing the temperature as soon as possible after collection we minimize the Lactic Acid build-up during processing. Freezing semen reduces semen metabolism and therefore Lactic Acid production to practically nothing.

On your farm, using semen within a reasonable time after thawing (10 - 15 minutes) will result in maximum fertility since pH will change little in extended semen in that time frame. Holding semen longer will result in reduction of the pH, deterioration in semen quality, and lower fertility.

When I was a youngster back in the hollers of Western Pennsylvania, we had an expression that described an extreme deterioration of our existence. That was "Things are going to POT". That is basically what will happen to semen quality if we ignore the proper methods of handling semen in the laboratory as well as in the field.

On the other hand, with proper semen handling, high quality will be maintained and you will have TOP fertility in your herd.