

# 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

BULLETIN

DEC 1990 - JAN 1991

Forwarding & Address Correction Requested

## AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>PRESIDENT:</b>   | <b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>   | <b>SECRETARY/TREAS:</b>   | <b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRES:</b>  |
| Philip R Martz<br>R D 4, Box 162<br>Berlin, PA 15530<br>(814)267-5052 | R S (Shep) Springer<br>708 Inverness Road<br>Ft Collins, CO 80524<br>(303)484-2711 | Rosemary Fleharty<br>Route 1, Box 378<br>Concordia, MO 64020<br>(816)463-7704 | Sandi Thomas<br>P O Box 135<br>Antelope, OR 97001<br>(503)489-3385 |

## REGIONAL DIRECTORS

|     |                           |   |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| #1  | North Plains              | N Dak, S Dak (570-575), Wis, Minn, Nebr (680-90), Iowa, Kansas (660-76), KY (420), MO, Mich (498 & 499).<br>Director: James H Mitchell, Rt 2, Box 71, Paris, MO 65275.<br>Phone: (816) 327-5585 |
| #2  | Rocky Mountain            | Utah, Ariz, N Mex, Colo, Idaho, Wy, Mont, S Dak (576 & 577), Nebr (691,2,3), Kansas (677,8,9).<br>Director: Jack Goodman, 4148 N 1100 E, Buhl, Id, 83316.<br>Phone: (208) 543 - 4461            |
| #3  | Pacific                   | Calif, OR, WA, Nev, Hawaii, Alaska<br>Director: Bonnie Boudreau, N 26712 Dennison Rd, Deer Park, WA, 99006.<br>Phone: (509) 276-6172  |
| #4  | Mid-South                 | TX, OK, Ark, La, Ala, Miss, Tenn (370-72) & (380-83).<br>Director: George Branson, Rt 2, Box 158, Goliad, TX 77963.<br>Phone: (512) 645-2207  |
| #5  | Central States            | Ill, Mich (480-97), In, Oh, Ky (400-419) & (421-27)<br>Director: James G Johnson, 4092 Broadview Rd, Richfield, OH, 44286.<br>Phone: (216) 659-4861   |
| #6  | Southeast                 | Va, N Car, S Car, Ga, Fla, Tenn (373-9) & (384-5)<br>Director: Rex Kramer, Beerex Farm, P O Box 906, Jupiter, FL, 33468.<br>Phone: (407) 747-4509   |
| #7  | North Central Appalachian | W Ny (140-49), W Va, Western PA (150-168).<br>Director: Philip Martz, R D 4, Box 162, Berlin, PA 15530.<br>Phone: (814) 267-5052  |
| #8  | Mid-Atlantic              | NJ, Del, Pa (169-96), Md, Dist of Col.<br>Director: Ruth Dunn, Box 54, Hackettstown, NJ 07840<br>Phone: (201) 852-4245  |
| #9  | Southern New England      | Rhode Island, Conn, New York (090-139).<br>Director: Sophia Stillerman, Yellowbird Farm, R D 4, Box 308, Middletown, NY 10940<br>Phone: (914) 355-8121  |
| #10 | Northern New England      | Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Mass.<br>Director: Jon Haskins, P O Box 707, Norwell, MA 02061   |
| #11 | Canadian                  | All Provinces of Canada<br>Director: Paul Taylor, Compartment Box #SW C70, Route 4, Nanaimo, B C, Canada V9R 5X9<br>Phone: (604) 753-9295   |

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

## FROM MILLERSBURG, OHIO

"My husband and I are on a large dairy farm which, at this time, provides all our basic needs, but we know there will come a time when we will want to be on our own so we started looking for "something". My mother, who's in her seventies, had property waiting to be used. After we made our decision on the Dexter breed because of their size and gentle disposition, we put them in an acre field next to Gramma's house. The two heifers were purchased in the spring of 1988. That year we trailered them to the bull but they didn't turn up pregnant.

We concentrated on opening up two other sections - an added acre and a half. One section had a cement water trough that's spring-fed. That solved our freezing water problem. During the first winter we opened up the end of a shed and let them eat out of a round bale. They would eat that and not forage. So, the following year we had Gramma feed them one slice of hay and one cup of grain each.

We glean the farm fields which produces free corn that we then have ground and mixed at the elevator. We save the fall leaves and use for bedding in their shed. It works great.

Fencing was a problem at first. We used 3 strands of barbed wire, but they worked their way out during the dry summer looking for greener grass. We discovered an old section of mesh fence that wasn't attached at the bottom that was an escape-way for them. The new section we electrified and they have stayed in!

In November of '89 we brought the bull to them. They delivered two healthy bull calves on August 9th and 10th.

The two heifers had a close relationship and when the first one delivered her calf, the other heifer tried to kill it. After her's was born, she'd run between her calf and her friend, very confused. She soon settled down and accepted motherhood.

At first, the calves would get on the other side of the fence, being smaller, and then they'd bellow 'til Gramma would call us and we'd put them together again. After a week we turned the electric on and they've been inside ever since, happily eating and playing.

Some year, we hope to take a couple of Dexter steers to use to pull our covered wagon. Right now, we're hoping for heifer calves to add to our herd.

Sincerely,

Jerry & Lori Priebe

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## FROM THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

I was in New York City Oct 27th when the West Village Committee held the Hudson Street Harvest Festival. Much to my surprise they had, for all to pet, a Dexter calf. It came from the Green Chimneys Farm which is located 60 miles north of New York City near Brewster, NY.

Green Chimneys, situated on a 150-acre farm, is a voluntary, non-sectarian, multi-service agency dedicated to the development of basic education and living skills for children and adults to strengthen their emotional health and rehabilitation.

It seems to be a good organization, but of course it would be to have Dexters!

(Unfortunately, the only pictures were of a goose and a pair of beautiful Percherons.)

FROM "EARLONA", KEENE, ONTARIO.

Every once in a while I hear of Dexter owners who have bought animals and have trouble getting the registration papers. It is the seller's responsibility to register the animals and transfer the registration certificate to the buyer's name.

Just recently I have heard of a buyer who bought 6 animals last October from a breeder in the Western USA and has not received the registration papers yet. What recourse does he have? None. Until that person gets his paper work done, the buyer is sitting there with 6 purebred Dexters (which he paid for) with no registration certificates. He cannot register any off-spring nor can he sell these animals as purebred without the certificates of registration.

I find this type of business dealing unacceptable for any reason. I'm sure that it does not take too long for the sellers to cash the cheques for animals sold. Neither does it take too long to get the paper work done properly. After all, as breeders of purebred animals, record keeping is mandatory, and this is all part of record keeping.

If records are not up-to-date regarding sales, are they up-to-date regarding breeding practices, birth dates, sires etc? Should a breeder's credibility regarding these aspects of his/her operation be questioned?

At the 1989 AGM one of the members stated that after she sold an animal and was paid for it, she had no further interest in that animal. I'm afraid there are too many breeders with the same opinion. To say the least it is unethical to just "grab the money and run".

Once again I will say, "It is a buyer beware market" when dealing with breeders who neglect to complete the sale by not transferring the registration certificate to the buyer.

Perhaps the sellers who are guilty of this practice should be reported to the Board of Directors and denied further privileges as a member in the American Dexter Cattle Association.

Registering and transferring certificates of the animals you raise and sell is all part of the business. Come on, Members! If you have been lax in your paper work lately, sit down and get it done today!

Winona Crapp

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FROM "STONESTHROW HERDS", HARRINGTON, MAINE

We have lived with Dexters for eight years now, slowly building from just one house-cow to a breeding herd of four females and two bulls. Our major focus here on this rocky coast is sheep farming. We keep the cows mainly for our own needs. We do feel Dexters are ideally suited to this area, and don't miss the opportunity to take them to the fairs and generally show them off whenever we can. Having such a small herd and with calves so easy to sell, we never seemed to get a chance to sample the meat which we acclaimed to everyone. This fall we resolved to eat one! We wanted to be able to answer the occasional jibe from a "real" cow farmer - "What's them? Minute Steaks?"

There we were: up to our elbows in steaks and roasts, slicing, sawing and wrapping away on the kitchen table listening to the "Maritime Noon" radio show on the CBC when what to our wondering ears did we hear but Willie Truc from Nova Scotia expounding on the virtues of the Dexters to the radio show host! We had to pause from our labors for a moment just to wonder at the sheer coincidence of it all.

Ms. Truc who raises BIG beef cattle mentioned that many of her customers don't buy a whole carcass, but only want a half or a quarter. This is a fact I will remember when

Stonestrow Herds, cont.

chewing the fat with some of my "real" cow farmer friends. We find that our freezer could probably hold another Dexter or two (maybe).

Ms Truc, who is focusing on Dexters for beef, mentioned Peter Vido down the road from us in New Brunswick who is breeding Dexters for their dairying ability. We have always milked our old house cow, Mucha, and been well rewarded for the trouble.

All in all, it was quite a good Dexter advert, and just goes to show we are making headway in popularising this useful breed.

Walther Wefel

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#### LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I wish a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and joyful New Year to everyone.

1990 Has been a busy year for the officers and directors of our Association. We endeavored to solve past problems and find answers for the new difficulties we encountered.

We will have a telephone conference on December 2, 1990. This will provide an opportunity for the officers and directors to discuss the problems that have arisen since our annual meeting in June. I will give you the results of our conference in the next Bulletin.

I welcome all new members who have joined our association during this past year. I impel every member who gets inquiries about Dexters to encourage their potential buyers to join.

For those members who ran for directors in their region I say "Thank You". We will put the results in the next Bulletin.

We hope everyone is starting to make plans to attend our annual meeting this year. It will be in Texas, and we are planning a very educational and enjoyable meeting. The dates are June 14 to 16.

If anyone has a problem or resolution they would like to bring up at our annual meeting, please write your regional director. The director will forward it to me. This should eliminate some of the problems we had in the past.

If a member ever has a problem, he should contact his director. If a solution is not found, then contact me. If we still cannot find a solution, I will contact the Board of Directors to find an answer.

Again, I thank everyone for your cooperation and confidence in me as your president.

Sincerely,

Philip R Martz Sr.

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#### FROM THE EDITOR

The next issue of the Bulletin will be FEB/MAR 91 with material due in my office before February 1st. Thank you all for your response last issue. I hope someone else can send me material this time.

And thanks to everyone for the flowers. It is two months now, and I am just getting back on my feet after a violent reaction to a change of chemotherapy drug. This past two months have been a real fog, I tell you.

Lois Johnson

FROM BLAINE, WA.

Dear Editor:

Don Piehota's letter is thought provoking and, I suspect, unrealistic. Unrealistic because what people want is the dwarf. They have visions of raising a whole herd of dwarfs. What they fail to realize is that the dwarf does not breed true and never will. The dwarf doesn't have a full deck!

Last spring I had the good fortune to attend our regional meeting at Chico, CA. The main speaker is a geneticist and professor at Chico State. His topic was Dexter dwarfism. His opening statement was that the true Dexter is a dwarf, the non dwarfs are Kerrys. Dexter dwarfs are due to a mutation which is not the same as dwarfism in other breeds of cattle. The Dexter dwarfism derives from a missing gene - the gene which controls bone growth.

Perhaps the best approach is to illustrate the normal animal and then the abnormal dwarf. If one goes back in the records five generations, my cow Strawberry and Phil Martz's bull Anton have nothing but black ancestors, yet both are colored. Black is dominant, colored is recessive, if there is a black gene present black is what we see. To illustrate what occurred: B = Black C = Colored

|      |   |                     |   |
|------|---|---------------------|---|
|      |   | Dam                 |   |
|      |   | B                   | C   |
| Sire | B | BB<br>pure<br>black | BC<br>looks black but carries<br>recessive colored gene |
|      | C | BC                  | CC<br>pure<br>colored                                   |

figure 1

Normally each individual gets two genes for color from each parent. Shortly after fertilization of the egg, there is a reduction of the genetic material - half of each parent's genes are discarded so that the new individual has two genes just as each of the parents have two genes for color. Were we to take a thousand cows and breed them to bulls, both cows and bulls carrying a recessive colored gene, we would get about 25% pure black calves, 50% black but carrying the colored gene, and about 25% pure colored. It is from this that we can, through selection, develop lines breeding true.

Now let us examine the dwarf Dexter. The dwarfism is due to a mutation which eliminated one of the genes controlling bone growth. An animal having one gene for bone growth is viable but bone growth is abnormal - a dwarf. The fetus that doesn't have any genes for bone growth (a lethal condition) results in a bulldog. In the following illustrations B is for the gene controlling bone growth and O represents the missing gene for bone growth.

|           |   |              |              |
|-----------|---|--------------|--------------|
|           |   | normal sire  |              |
|           |   | B            | B            |
| dwarf dam | B | BB<br>normal | BB<br>normal |
|           | O | BO<br>dwarf  | BO<br>dwarf  |

figure 2

|           |   |              |                         |
|-----------|---|--------------|-------------------------|
|           |   | dwarf sire   |                         |
|           |   | B            | O                       |
| dwarf dam | B | BB<br>normal | BO<br>dwarf             |
|           | O | BO<br>dwarf  | OO<br>bulldog<br>lethal |

figure 3

Blaine, WA, continued.

It is interesting to note that if one wants dwarfs, using either a dwarf X normal (fig 2) or dwarf X dwarf (fig 3) one will get exactly the same percentage of dwarfs - 50%. However the figure 2 cross gives 100% live salable calves whereas fig 3 gives only 75% live calves.

To return to Don Piehota's point, he is right, but as long as people will pay top dollar to get those cute little dwarfs and refuse the "long legs", dwarfs will be with us. The good professor's closing statement was that if we want a small cow that breeds true, we will never get it from the dwarfs. Take Kerrys and breed down and we can succeed. For Don and me and others who recognize that the dwarf is a blind alley, the answer is for us to set our goals through selection, to breed down from our Kerry, long leg, proportionate, normal animals and when we get the size down, then perhaps we can see our way clear to eliminate the dwarf. Too many of us fail to recognize the dwarf for what it is, a quick fix which is really no fix at all.

Frederick D Chesterly

### DEXTER SEMEN FOR SALE

#### OHIO

Semen collected from Jamie O'Callen, #1949. Black, proportionate type, proportionate sire, Mertwis Howard, (by A.I.) #1415, and short, well proportioned dam, Malach's Bridget, #1727.

\$15.00 per straw, 5-straw minimum.  
For shipping details, contact:

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

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#### OREGON

Thomas' Reu' Grande' #3847. About 38" - 750#, black (siring reds, too). Good proportionate conformation. Sire and dam both proportionate. \$20 per straw, no minimum.

Thomas' Magic Pride #3848. Conformation and size same as "Grande". 15 Years building our herd from this line. \$15 per straw, no minimum.

Pedigree copy w/photo on request.

Thomas' Dexters  
P O Box 135  
Antelope, OR 97001  
(503) 489-3385

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#### PENNSYLVANIA

Collected from:

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

For further information, contact:

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

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#### CANADA

Lucifer of Knotting, #3122, available in both U.S. and Canada.

1 - 9 straws, \$50.00 ea.

10 or more straws, \$35.00 ea.

Both in Canadian currency.

Guaranteed not to sire a bulldog calf.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Semen is owned by individual breeders.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DEXTER CATTLE FOR SALE

## CALIFORNIA

Registered Dexter Calves of quality stock available throughout the year. Call or write for current availability.

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

## COLORADO

Bulls for sale. Young bull is short. We are looking for another bull to trade and/or heifers.

Della or Dan Turnbull  
11629 Co. Rd. 22  
Cortez, CO 81321  
(303) 565 - 7678

## MISSOURI

1990 Heifer and bull calves. (2 are dun). Also other females of various ages.

James Mitchell  
Rt 2, Box 71  
Paris, MO 65275

## OHIO

1990 Bull calves, excellent conformation for herd bull prospects. Sired by #3575, Martin o' Briar Hill.

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

## WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

**ARIZONA** - some bred heifers from good foundation stock. Need by February or March.

Pat Patskan  
Rt 1 Box 50-1  
Mountain Home, AZ  
72653  
(501) 481-5408

## OREGON

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

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

## PENNSYLVANIA

Yearling bull, small with excellent conformation. Great top-line and a super set to rear legs. Bred to excel in udder conformation.

Sire: Dillon of Old Orchard.  
(Cranworth Rory and Charity.)  
Dam: Malach's Bridget  
(Parndon Bullfinch & Malach's Julie)

Write or call for pictures.

The Reeds  
Old Orchard at Stockdale  
R D 2, Box 232  
Claysville, PA 38323  
(412) 663 - 5832

## WASHINGTON

Bull calf, black, best one we've had yet, sired by Clancy Callahan of Pisgah. Born 2/28/90. \$400.

Merlin Williams  
P O Box 665  
Vashon, WA. 98070  
(206) 463 - 2933

Ads \$5.00 ea, \$25.00 for 6 issues. (Year)

## OHIO

1990 Black heifer calves for sale.

Stan Cass  
Praise Him Farm  
4453 CR 51  
Glenmont, OH 44628

Ads are \$5.00 ea., \$25.00 yr. (6 issues.)