

# The Dexter Bulletin

Volume 36 - No. 5

September / October, 1996

# **Feeding Dexter Steers**

The following two breeders share their experiences about the way they have finished steers out for home use or for sale. The first breeder being from Missouri, and the second from California.

One of the fun things about Dexter raising is trying new things. Being small dual purpose cattle implies that Dexters are a small beef cattle. I would like to share my experiences over the past year of feeding Dexter steers.

If you attended the ADCA annual meeting, you got to share in the experience by eating one of the steers. The other one you saw in the show ring.

Over the past twenty-eight years I have tried several different feeding programs with mixed results. Early on I tried butchering animals right off grass. The meat quality wasn't what I had hoped for. Even later when I fed animals for shorter feeding periods, the quality of beef still was not what I had hoped for.

About five years ago I decided to try and do a better job of feeding steers. I started feeding lots of grain for longer periods of time. The result was better beef. But, I kept having one problem steers kept going off feed.

This past winter I tried something different. I left the steers in with the cows and young animals. Once a day I brought all the young animals and the steers into a pen and fed them some grain (mostly soy hulls). I started this about the first of the year and by the end of March the steers looked good. By this time I was giving the steers three times as much grain as the calves. At this point I moved the cows to pasture and started feeding the steers twice a day.

This made it easier to gradually increase the amount of grain fed which was by this time two parts corn and one part soy hulls. Through April and May I increased the amount of grain fed while the steers ate less and less hav. I gave them no pasture. By the middle of May we had to slaughter the first steer for the meeting. His live weight was 600 lbs., he graded select, and dressed 59%. The second steer was fed three additional weeks--thru the show. His live weight was 585, he graded choice, and dressed 61%. additional weeks made a lot of difference

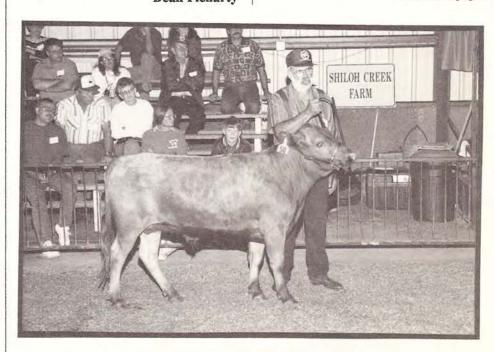
Watching animals grow like this can be a lot of fun--start them after Christmas and finish them before school is out.

Dean Fleharty

Actually, I have taken three approaches and have been satisfied with all. I know that Dean has not been happy with the results of grass fat Dexters, but the one I did that way turned out great. The meat was tender and had good taste and juiciness. Could there be a short/long leg difference here? Mine was a very short fellow and tended to put on extra fat easily even on pasture. He was only about 14 months old when we processed him, so that could also have been a factor. However, samples of one are not too reliable.

The second approach was done at Chico State, where five calves were put on feed in the Northern California Fed Steer and Heifer Evaluation Program. This is a program run by our students to benefit the beef producers in our region.

Continued on page 4



Dean Fleharty with Dexter steer at 1996 ADCA Show

# **American Dexter Cattle Association**

Route 1, Box 378 Concordia, MO 64020

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### From the President

During a recent conversation with Rosemary she said, "Everything is so calm it is almost scary." This is a good feeling. There has been very little activity since our Annual General Meeting.

The banners that were approved by the Board have been sent to the Directors and are available for use at shows or exhibitions. Please contact your Director to use them. They are for the use of all members at shows and fairs.

The farm signs are available for order. We will only order twice a year so get your order in no later than October 15th for our first shipment. The sign includes the Official American Dexter Association Logo with your farm name or your or both as you prefer. They are aluminum painted white, the logo is black and your name is in green. Those of you who attended the AGM had an opportunity to see a sample. The 18" x 24" size is \$50.00 for one side. \$65.00 for double sided. A 24" x 36" size is \$80.00 for one side and \$115.00 for double sided. This is the delivered. to you, price. If we get 10 or more orders there will be a discount to the ADCA. It is an opportunity to support the ADCA and advertise your farm as well. Send your order with your desired printing, farm name, or your name, or both along with full payment to me by October 15th. You should receive your sign by November 1st.

It appears as though the overall cattle industry is experiencing a downturn, and sales are off. I feel we are now starting an upswing again. I think we will see a gradual improvement in prices and sales in the coming year. This should also have an effect on Dexter prices and sales.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Director or any Officer with any ideas you might have to better the ADCA. The Directors and Officers try to help with problems too.

R. S. "Shep" Springer

# **Region 9 Meeting**

Our regional meeting for this year was held on Saturday, June 22nd at Wes and Jane Patton's farm in Orland, CA. The topic for this year's meeting was fitting and grooming Dexters for the show ring and/or to show prospective buyers. We had 9 or 10 members plus their families and friends in attendance making up a group of about 25. Wes Patton and Casey Lawlor, a graduate of Chico State, provided most of the information and instructions for the class and did an excellent job.

Topics that were covered included imprinting calves, selection of animals for various classes at fairs, polled, dehorned, or horned cattle, halter breaking, vaccinations and tattooing, warts, equipment needed for grooming and showing cattle.

There was some discussion about transporting your cattle to the veterinary office for vaccinations, branding, dehorning, tattooing and any of the other things that generate a lot of stress. This would serve as a method of not having your animals associate these stressful instances with you or a particular pen or corral that you currently use for these types of treatments. However, you need to decide for yourself as this may not be very practical or work in your situation.

We had an excellent lunch featuring Dexter burgers and then looked over the rest of the Patton herd. We finished off the day by being taught how to make our own rope halters and neck safety ropes which are commonly used at fairs to prevent cattle from getting loose where where they are tied.

Additionally, we had a newspaper reporter from Anderson, CA., at the regional meeting. He was writing an article on the Dexter breed for publication in the local newspaper.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and I know that I gained a lot of valuable information that I can put to good use. I would like to extend my appreciation to Wes, Casey, Matt and the other people that assisted Wes in hosting another field day for our region. Thanks again!!! �

Bill Kirkland Director for Region 9

### From the Editor

I'd like to hear from other breeders about their experiences and methods of finishing out steers. There is variation in pastures, feed, and climates, so everyone's input can be a benefit to the breed.

Beryl Rutherford contributed an article along with much appreciated compliments about our <u>Bulletin</u>. I agree with her that there is a "strong affinity between Dexter owners world-wide." It's always special to hear about Dexters from those abroad.

I'd like to thank Bill Kirkland, not only for his report on their regional meeting, but also for sharing some of the information about showing they learned, which we'll print in a future issue.

There was an error on the back cover of the last issue, as the photo was of Peggy and Anthony Wayne. It read Walters, which is the name of their nice parents I met at this years' show, Robert and Gloria. I'm not very good at remembering names but since they bought a heifer from me, I thought I better correct that.

The <u>Bulletin</u> is a lot like building a herd. It would be nice to buy the perfect cow and bull and forget about it, but you have to cull and select in hopes of improvement and so I continue to tinker with ways to make it better. I'd like to see members be able to include some quality photos of their animals for sale and I think eventually we'll overcome the problems of time, space and costs.

I had an overwhelming amount of material to work with this issue which I'm grateful for. Thanks to all of you that contributed. %

Richard Henry

# **Feeding Dexter Steers**

Continued from front page

Many of them have had no opportunity to follow their cattle through the feedlot and evaluate the carcasses. My calves were treated just the same as the other cattle in the trial, but of course were penned separately. If nothing else, they provided a good bit of amusement for the other cattle producers that came to visit. However, the results were not all that bad considering the body type and end weights of the Dexters. Actually, the most genuine interest was shown by the meats specialists who can see a definite market for the petite cuts. Anyway, the feeding program was a four stage one, starting off with a ration that contained about 40% concentrate and 60% roughage and ended with one that had 80% concentrate and 20% roughage. The ration contained alfalfa hay, almond hulls (probably fairly unique to our area; used for an energy source), rolled corn and barley and soybean meal. Supplemental minerals were supplied on a ad libitum (free choice) basis. The energy level of the ration got progressively higher as the cattle neared their end point, but the protein level was maintained at the 14-15% level throughout the feeding period.

The third approach was not a well planned thing, but turned out fine. The spring born heifer and steer calves were weaned in November and put in a pasture by themselves. As the irrigated pasture growth began to slow down in the fall, the calves were given a moderate amount of almond hulls (the almond has a hull around a shell which, in turn, is around the nut). The hulls have an energy value somewhere between the best hay and average barley. Some days we call them a roughage and some days we call them a concentrate depending upon the fiber content which ranges between 15 and 20%. The almond variety, the age of the orchard (old orchards shed more twigs which end up in the hulls) and the

amount of shell which is left in this byproduct feed causes a good deal of variation in nutrient composition. They have very usable protein, but animals dearly love them, so they can be used to replace some of the other ingredients at a cheaper cost. As less pasture was available, the calves were supplemented with some beardless wheat/pea hay. The beardless wheat has no awns to irritate the animals mouth. The pea portion includes the vines, blooms and pods containing peas. This crop is planted in the fall and harvested in May. The wheat tends to provide something for the pea vines to grow up and keeps them off the ground for easier harvesting. The feeding program for these cattle was based on the old principle, "The eye of the master fattens the stock", so exact amounts of hay and hulls was not recorded, but did not exceed 12 pounds of total feed per head

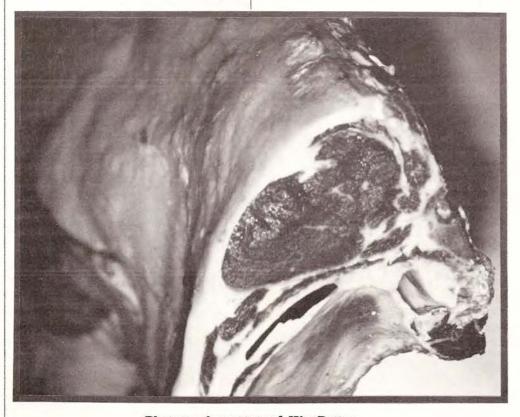
daily. The steers were processed when they reached a low select grade and the eating quality has been outstanding. Again, they were not more than 15 months old which probably had a lot to do with their tenderness.

In summary, as a breed, I believe that Dexter steers have fine textured, tender, flavorful meat when fed on any reasonable nutrition program and processed at an early age. \*

Wes Patton

We need to promote the Dexter breed to the health conscious public as a natural beef with no drugs, low fat, high protein and fine tasting. They will gain well on feed, dress out high percentage, and are small for the family freezer.

Marvin B. Johnson



Photograph courtesy of Wes Patton

# Regional Elections Obituary

Regions up for Election for Nov., 1996:

Region 10 - Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Region 11 - New Jersey and New York

12 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

New Region 14 - Michigan, and Canadian Provinces-Ontario and Quebec.

Because of redistricting Region 13 will be filled for one year by Paul Anderson.

Those interested in the opportunity to serve as a Director in these regions contact the American Dexter Cattle Association. Duties and requirements for Directors are on page 13. \$

#### Walter Record

LYME, N.H. - Memorial services for Walter L. "Walt" Record, 58, who died suddenly in his barn Aug. 18, 1996, were held Aug. 21 in the Lyme Congregational church.

He was born in Hanover, N.H. on Aug. 9, 1938, son of Donald and Ada (Olsen) Record.

Mr. Record, known to his friends and acquaintances as "Walt" was a dairy farmer from the age of 22, when his father died. He loved his animals and farm life, and found a partner, in life and work, in his wife Amy (Mintz). They would have celebrated their tenth wedding Anniversary Aug. 31.

Walter and Amy enjoyed showing their animals in exhibitions throughout the Northeast, and won a host of ribbons, honors, and prizes for champions. Walter was in demand as a

judge of animals at Shows and Fairs for his keen eye, good judgement and

fairness. He had been a 4-H member and became a 4-H leader.

Walter first raised Holsteins. He suffered a grievous loss in the mid-1970's when his barn burned to the ground one night, eliminating the entire herd. In true country spirit, his friends and neighbors built a new barn. contributed dairy cows, and raised money at community events to put Recordbridge Farm back in business.

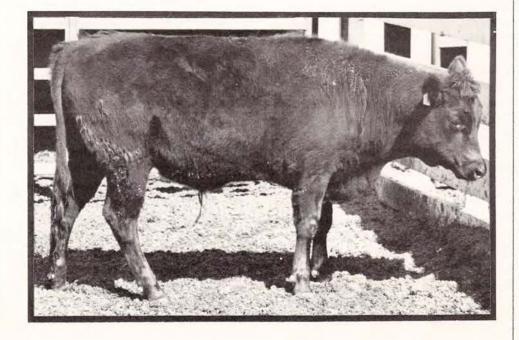
Walter and Amy switched to registered Jerseys in 1986, but as the price of milk declined and the price of feed went up, they held a dispersal sale of that herd and shifted to goats. At the time of Walter's death, they had created the largest dairy goat dairy in New Hampshire, milking approximately 150 goats a day.

Not only did the Records have their dairy animals, but they also created a virtual menagerie at Recordbridge, with reindeer, fallow deer, miniature Sicilian donkeys, Dexter cattle, a yak, a llama, peacocks and flocks of exotic fowl. They have kept the farm open to visitors, who have come there in droves throughout the years. They have been featured in many magazines and newspaper articles.

He is survived by his wife, Amy L. (Mintz) Record, Lyme, N.H.; his mother, Ada (Olsen) Record, Lyme, N.H.; three sisters, Edith Jenks, Lyme, N.H., Cynthia Wilkie, Cornish, N.H., Donna Hadley-Fisk, Lyme, N.H.; nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

Amy Record has served as the American Dexter Cattle Association's Regional Director for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Our condolences to her and the family.



# The World of Dexters (3)



#### **Australia**

The following is reproduced with permission from the Australasian Dexter Association's Magazine, Summer Edition, 1995/1996.

#### A COW'S LAMENT

I have just given birth to a calf sir, And with motherly pride I am full, But pray do not laugh And please do not scoff When I tell you I've not had a bull.

The farmyard's a drearier place sir, The meadows are no longer gay, Since the one bit of fun In the year's dismal run Has by science been taken away.

No bull has embraced me with passion, I've not had the ghost of a binge, I haven't been loved. I've been ruthlessly shoved By a girl with a flaming syringe.

## **United Kingdom**

I would like to comment on Fred Chesterley's excellent piece on "What is a Dexter" in your March/April issue. I have been involved in breeding out the dwarf in Great Britain for more than a quarter of a century, and feel some of the points he made need amendment.

Having been breeding Dexters for about eighteen years, with a milking herd of around forty, five out of six of my autumn calvers produced produced bulldog calves; the only exception being a small, neat, but non-dwarf heifer, which experience told me, was a type incapable of having a bulldog. This episode convinced me that I could not continue with my previous breeding policy. I picked my best, non-dwarf, small cow - Woodmagic Mudstopper, retained her second non-dwarf son -Woodmagic Mink, and founded my new breeding around them, selecting always for the longer animal, i.e. leg length short in comparison to spine length. In the case of the dwarf; contrary to visual impression; the whole skeleton is reduced in comparison to body weight.

When a long term semen bank was set up, the forerunner to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, I offered semen from Mink, which they accepted.

When R.B.S.T. was founded, I invited their technical consultant to visit a demonstration day, where I was explaining to other Dexter breeders, how I was trying to eradicate the bulldog calf, and produce a more uniform Dexter. Photographs taken by R.B.S.T., that visit. at were unfortunately used quite inappropriately, in their official publications, alongside a text describing the inability of the Dexter to breed true!

I am afraid my efforts to interest them, in what I was doing, never bore fruit. However, I did manage, over time, to get the message through to Dexter breeders, that by avoiding using dwarf bulls on dwarf cows, they could prevent the bulldog calf, and most dwarf breeders now use this system.

The R.B.S.T. has never been involved in approving bulls in this country. Originally, our Government licenced bulls of all breeds after inspection, and when this was dropped, the Dexter Society itself, instituted a system of inspection before registration, but dwarfs and non-dwarfs were equally eligible.

Newer E.E.C. rulings preclude this inspection approval. If we wish our Government to classify us as a recognised breed, making us eligible for subsidies, we have to agree to accept

animal into our Herd Book, providing both parents are fully registered.

All types of Dexters are still to be found in this country, and there has been an unfortunate tendency to describe larger dwarf animals as medium leg, although in my early days this term was confined, I believe correctly, to the smaller more compact long leg.

There are a growing number of herds in this country today, who are breeding a small compact long leg, and more are winning in the show ring, but the dwarf is far from extinct, despite the much greater use of a non-dwarf bull. It would take a very long time indeed to build up a uniform national herd simply by using non-dwarf bulls, since every dwarf cow would still be breeding 50% dwarf calves.

By coincidence, the charming reprint from the Australian Bulletin, in your July? August issue, has the same title - "What is a Dexter". Few Dexter devotees would fail to recognise it. It bears a lesson for us all, there is a lot more to the Dexter than what we can describe in visual terms, and speaking personally, these are the things I treasure most.

My Dexters have always had to pay their way, and this is why I adopted a policy of breeding which gave me reliability, instead of a gamble. Today my cattle are small, uniform and breed true, but in order to get there I had to sell all dwarf calves as they were born, and eventually, the time came, when I had to discard my remaining dwarf cows. I think true breeding has to be the way for the future, but there is no quick fix! \*

#### Beryl Rutherford

Ms. Rutherford is the recent past president of the Dexter Cattle Society and owns the Woodmagic herd in N. Devon, England. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Results from the "Achondroplasia in Dexter Cattle one gene or two?" questionnaire

We would like to extend our thanks to the Dexter breeders who responded to this questionnaire. We received 211 responses, correlating to half of the members that were sent questionnaires. Of the 211 that did respond, we empathize with a number of you who did not know how to respond based on the size of your cattle. The omission of good definitions of the two types of Dexters was not an oversight as we did not want to bias any results and we also wanted to get a handle of how much confusion really exists.

For the purpose of our study, we defined "short" in the introduction of the questionnaire as being the Dexters that were shorter limbed and non-"Tall" was proportionate in type. defined as the Dexters with longer and finer bone structure and proportionate in type. It is a well known fact that Dexter cattle do not breed true, with "short" stature matings generating "tall", "short" and bulldog calves. Those of you that have P.L. Currans book can see on pages 85 and 86 a "short" (Dexter type) calf and a "tall" (Kerry-type) calf generated from "short" (Dexter) parents mating respectively. These however represent clear cut examples, where in reality there are a lot of animals that fall into a gray area. This is because height is a continuous trait and thus the two types have normal distributions reflecting genetic variation. There is overlap between the two populations causing the gray area. Medium height animals must fall into a "short" or "tall" category as described by Symes (1981) based on cannon bone measurement and not start a third category. For example, simply stating that your bull was 42 inches tall (which can fit into

either category) does not detail the bone structure nor does it state if the bull was proportionate in type.

There is confusion about whether one gene or one gene with two modifier genes controls the different types in Dexter cattle. Our understanding of the murky situation is as follows. The one gene theory is simple and follows the terminology that the human geneticists use when a condition controlled by a single gene is lethal - it is called dominant. The achondroplasia condition is quite obviously additive with the homozygous individual resulting in a bulldog (i.e. it has two copies of the allele that diminishes The "short" animals are size). heterozygous (possess two different alleles) thus having one copy and "tall" animals do not carry a copy of the allele that diminishes stature. "tall" x "tall" matings should only generate the "tall" type of Dexter and "short" x "tall" matings should generate equal ratios of "tall" and "short" types. Bulldogs should only arise in "short" to "short" matings where the ratio of "tall", to "short" to bulldogs calves should be 1:2:1.

Crew (1923) proposed the one gene with two modifier genes theory, to explain his observation of only 18% bulldogs and the range of heights seen within the "tall" and "short" types. The major problem with this paper is that the parent generation were not described for size or body conformation. Hence, any matings that were not in fact "short" x "short" matings will have decreased the observed incidence of bulldogs. In reality observing 25% bulldogs from "short" x "short" matings may be difficult if they are aborted earlier than the usual 5-9 months and hence may go undetected. Another thing to observe is perhaps the number of open cows but of course this will depend on the length of the breeding season. Now let us consider the findings from the questionnaire.

Based on a "tall" x "short" mating, from a total of 321 matings 40% of the offspring were reported "tall", 39% were "short", and 17% were indeterminants. There were 4% bulldogs fetuses reported. Of these questionnaires, there was a lot of concern stated about the size of the animals (and hence the high percentage of indeterminants) but especially in those matings where bulldogs resulted. Perhaps indicating that the "talls" were in fact tall "shorts".

Based on a "short" x "short" mating, there were 173 matings, of which 12% were "tall", 64% were "short", and 12% were indeterminant. There was the the highest occurence of bulldogs at 12% of the offspring. This mating too had over 100 less offspring than the previous two matings.

Based on our results two of the three questions support the one gene theory. For example our results generated equal numbers of "short" and "tall" animals from "tall" x "short" matings and predominantly "tall" animals from "tall" x "tall" matings. Some animals resulted in the indistinguishable category probably due to unclear definitions.

As stated previously Crew did not take phenotype into consideration in either the maings or in the offspring generated; he only observed the occurrence of bulldogs. The findings in this survey contradict the expected offspring from Crew's "tall" x "short" (exhibition) matings where only intermediate animals are expected; we found equal proportions of "tall" and "short" animals.

Continued next page

# Results from the questionnaire

Continued from page 7

The "short" x "short" mating where we expected a 1:2:1 ratio was not generated. Admittedly, there was a high level of indecision about assigning livestock to categories. We feel that because this mating is between one type of phenotype that does not breed true, there is perhaps a bias in some producers directing the majority of animals to the "short" category.

If the incidence of bulldog fetuses and their affects on the dam is a concern to the industry then the Association needs to establish criteria that will unambiguously assign animals to the categories. Until this is done we will continue to see confusion. To date the best probable live animal measurement is the metacarpal index where the cannon bone length is divided by the diameter of the cannon bone (Symes, 1981). Once the gene controlling achondroplasia (see John Williams' article in the May/June Bulletin) has been found, a definitive DNA test will resolve any remaining discrepancy between types of Dexter. Once the Association has set criteria for the two different types of Dexter a follow up questionnaire may be This would mainly be warranted. aimed at the producers that mate "short" animals. We can not help but think that once criteria have been set then perhaps those breeders who did not respond to this survey may. We would like to thank again those who participated in this survey, helping to highlight future areas of research. &

> Fiona C. Buchanan Ph.D. and Brad Foumier BSA Department of Animal and Poultry Science University of Saskatchewan

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#### **Online Chat**

The following is a long time Angus breeder's general overview of the breed.

I'm not sure I can adequately compare today's Angus cattle to the "originals", but when I first began to work in the industry the cattle were a good bit smaller and short legged, typically "old fashioned" with, what I would consider, a real Scottish look. Unfortunately, the showring then and now has a significant influence on breed types. Back then, in the 60's, short, stocky cattle were so popular that dwarfism became a concern and did crop up on occasion.

To counteract the fear of dwarfism, the cattle proceeded to get HUGE. That led to some infertility concerns! Amazing how all the breeds can swing from one extreme to another! However, through it all, many breeders stuck to solid breeding leading to the Angus you see today: A moderate framed animal finishing in, approximately, the 1200 to 1300 pound range and cutting out about a 65% carcass that "fits in the box" for the packer and grades choice a high percentage of the time.

One thing I miss with the large numbers of Angus cattle out there now is the ability to utilize the hybrid vigor available within the breed earlier in its history by breeding between strong family lines. It's way harder now with so many cattle out there and so much blending and creating of families.

I admire your and others enthusiasm for the Dexters. I must confess I've never seen one "in person"! Maybe at Denver (National Western Stock Show) in January I'll make it a point to look them up!

**Dori Steckley** 

Dori Steckley writes for the "Wyoming Livestock Roundup," a weekly newspaper published for Wyoming ranchers and farmers, and also puts out a newsletter for Wyoming and surrounding states' Angus breeders.

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# Book Review

A fun, interesting, and informative new book is <u>A Field Guide to Cows</u> by John Pukite. This is a "must have" for everyone who wants to identify the many bovine breeds of North America.

This reference for cow watchers includes tips on proper clothing and equipment for cow viewing, and information on the best times and places to see cows. You'll learn techniques for sneaking up on cows and rules of cow etiquette. There are scores of illustrated cow facts and a special section on famous cows in history. Also for the dedicated cow watcher, there's a life checklist of breeds and a genuine field-tested cow call.

A Field Guide to Cows features detailed descriptions of 52 cow breeds, including Dexters! Each breed description includes a tasteful illustration, invaluable information on the cow's origin and history, and statistics on abundance and popularity. You'll learn about the best-milking cow, the biggest cow, the smallest cow (Dexters), the longest-horned cow, the cow with the tastiest milk, the ideal family cow, the shaggiest cow, the belted cow, and the grunting cow.

A Field Guide to Cows can be purchased for \$9.95 from Falcon Press, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624; or call 1-800-582-2665.

#### ON THE INTERNET

Member John R. Phillips has his own home page online which includes graphics of his Dexter cattle. For those with access his URL: http://www.leanbeef.com

Juno Online Services (1-800-654-5866) and FreeMark Communications will each start offering free electronic-mail service in the near future. The only catch seems to be that you, the subcriber, must tolerate advertising. When you use the service, an ad will appear in the corner of your PC screen and it will rotate every 30 seconds.

The Dexter Bulletin Page 9

# **Dexters Threatened by Genetic Diversion Gimmick**

By Don Bixby

Genetic diversity is essential to the health of any species, and varation in characteristics allows the species to adapt to changes in the environment. selection Human has greatly emphasized subspecies diversity, and most domestic species contain a beautiful and useful variety genetically distinct breeds. There are, however, biological parameters. Animals that are too large or too small, for example, do not reproduce and persist in nature.

Of particular interest in livestock production has been the characteristic of size. The livestock industry has made great progress in increasing the size of production breeds of all species, because bigger is considered better. We know that size limits have been reached. however, when birthing problems, skeletal deformities, and physiological diseases result. Selection for extremely small size can lead to even more pitfalls. This is because many different abnormalities can result in retarded growth. If size is the only selection factor, then undesirable qualities will also be included in future generations.

Twenty years in veterinary practice demonstrated to me an amazing range of anatomical and functional disabilities associated with selection for tiny dogs. Serving as a companion animal is not taxing, but genetic infirmities can still lead to lives of suffering for the animals and heartache for their unsuspecting owners.

Selection of livestock for the single trait of small size makes even less sense, since these animals have real work to do. I was chargrined to see a promotional package which was sent recently to Dexter cattle breeders. The package solicited breeders to register their purebred stock with the Miniature Cattle Breeders Registry, Inc. (MCBR). MCBR is a for-profit organization designed to register and promote small cattle of any breed and background.

The function of a breed registry is

to document and record the pedigrees of all purebred animals born into the breed. Thus, a breed's registry becomes a genetic record of the breed as a whole. The information in a registry gives all breeders access to this genetic information, which can be used to make breeding decisions. The registration of purebred animals is one of the most important obligations of a purebred breeder.

In contrast, the MCBR is strictly a size registry that seeks to promote small cattle. Animals must be less than 42" at the hip at 3 years of age for registration in the miniature category, or 42-48" for registration in the mid size category. What is the point of registering these animals by size? A tape measure will give the same information for free.

The most amazing part of the mailing was the announcement of a new breed-the Dexford-with a photograph of the first (and only) member of the breed, a calf born in March 1996, to a purebred Dexter cow and a miniature Hereford bull. Is the Dexford a breed? The genetic definition of a breed is simple: breeds breed true. The MCBR literature refers to the Dexford as a breed, invites people to produce Dexfords, and offers to register them for a fee. While there are no claims made about breed consistency, the Dexford is a crossbred animal that will not breed true even if a bull calf is produced to mate with the heifer.

When I read this material I became concerned about the potential damage to the Dexter breed. The Dexter has a long and interesting history. It has been selected as a dual purpose house cow, an efficent forager, excellent mother, and producer of high quality beef and milk. Its size is just one of many useful characteristics. The Dexter breed is increasing in numbers, but it cannot afford to lose any of its purebred females for use in making "Dexfords." If Dexter females are not bred pure and documented in the American Dexter

Cattle Association registry, their genetics are lost to the breed.

Every rare breed has limited resources. Be sure to invest yours wisely. One way is to support your breed association with membership, energy, and timely registrations of your stock. A strong association is essential to the survival of each rare breed. I hope that Dexter cattle breeders and others will not be deceived into diverting purebred resources into this miniature cattle marketing scheme. ❖

Reprinted from the July - August issue of the ALBC NEWS with the kind permission of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312 USA.

Don Bixby is the Executive Director of 4LBC.

### **BSE & Rare Breeds**

The Spring Ark carried brief details of where we stood with the BSE crisis as we went to press soon after it broke. Now, we can bring you a little further up-to-date.

Behind the scenes, the Trust has been very busy on behalf of rare breeds of cattle and their keepers and several meetings have taken place with the Paraliamentary Secretary Angela Browning MP and several senior civil servants including Chief Veterinary Officer, Keith Meldrum.

The general crisis has been well recorded in the national press and farming journals. The RBST has promoted the fact that the main problem has been in the dairy industry and, to a lesser extent, intensive beef herds. Some rare and minority breeds have suffered infection but the incidence in rare breeds' herds - is negligible. Breeds such as the Kerry, Irish Moiled, Shetland and Dexter have had no recorded cases of BSE at all.

Excerpt from the August issue of the "Ark" the journal of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, NAC, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG, England.

# **Classified Advertising**

#### **Dexter Cattle For Sale**

Cows and heifers bred to 1994 National Champion bull. Also, 1995 CA State Fair Ch. bull and female. Weaned heifer, bull and steer calves available now.

Glenn Land Farm Wes Patton 7069 County Rd. 20 Orland, CA 95963 (916) 865-7250 Calves, cows, and bulls. Embryos also available. All from certified and accredited herd by Ohio Dept. of Agriculture.

Briar Hill Farm James G. Johnson 4092 Broadview Rd. Richfield, OH 44288 (216) 659-4861

Cows, heifers, and bulls. All ages and sizes. Very short to tall. All black. Some dehorned.

J & J Mini Ranch John and Judy Heisler 1600 17th Ave. Longmont, CO 80501 (303) 651-0420 For sale: Registered Dexter stock. Dehorned. Please call for more information.

Crow Hill Farm The Schlegels 5484 Force Rd. Shreve, OH 44676 (216) 567-3890

Herd dispersal sale. Will offer volume pricing. Call evenings.

> Wee Gaelic Farm 29417 - 22nd Ave. E. Roy, WA 98580 (206) 843-2851 / (206) 752-9818

#### GREAT SALE:

DEXTER'S

Registered dehorned black bull and cow. Bull - #4021. Manitou P-Bar Toby. Born 2/9/89. Short, great breeder was \$1100. Cow - #2935. Bricoe's Eleanor. Born 1/29/85. Was \$600. - Buy the pair for \$1100.

Jerry Sewrook 712 Hermosa Chaparral, NM 88021 (505) 824-4357

Registered Dexter cows, heifers, and bulls. Black, some very short to tall. Heifer calves dehorned and halter broken.

Morgan Ridge Farm Donna Martin / Robert Tobey 19615 Asheville Hwy. Landrum, S.C. 29356 (803) 457-4916 Jo - Ro Dexters Roger and Joan Kemp Box 922 Grand Forks, B.C. Canada, VOH - 1HO Ph. (604) 442-3402

2 large cows bred back to Anton Gold - our herd bull. Several calves on ground, all sizes & colors.

Rainbow Hills Dexter Farm Jerry Starnes Rt. 13, Box 75 Poplar Bluff, MO. 63901 (573) 785-2719 or (816) 826-5645 Upland Dexters & D3 Dexters offer for sale, dual registered Dexter bred cows & heifers, yearling & 2 yr. old bulls; short & long leg, black or red/dun.

Donna Hutchinson Gen Del Rimbey TOC 2JO Alta, Canada (403) 843-3076

#### **Dexter Cattle For Sale**



# LANE'S END DEXTERS

SANDRA CHANEY 5486 SPRING CLIFF LANE SCOTTS MILLS, OR 97375 For Sale:

(503) 873-3279

5 broke - to - lead heifers

Heifer's, Cows, & Bulls Some Black, Mostly Red/Dun Cattle are in North Carolina Delivery possible in the South

> Snow Bird Mt. Dexters 555-B N. 15th Street Immokalee, FL 33934

Phone (941) 657-3464 or (704) 367-9442

Jim Moody

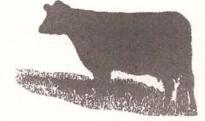
Mix or Match - Red/dun cow 8 years old - dehorned "Emerald Cinnamon Fern" #3626. 2 red/dun offspring with horns / out of "Fairyhill Peter" - Heifer 8/1/94 "Mountview Cinnamon Rose" #7234. Heifer calf 8/27/95 (not registered yet).

Eileen Dyer Maple Hill Farm 233 Shrewsbury St. Holden, MA 01520 (508) 829-5688

For Sale: Registered Dexter bull calves - 1 black, born 2/11/96; 1 red/dun born 4/27/96, and 1 red/dun born 6/2/96; also several 1996 steer calves for your own beef production. Would like to buy or will consider a trade for a registered red/dun bull calf (1996) for future herd bull.

Call John Clouse, (919) 542-3339 or e-mail rhillfarm@aol.com

#### **QUALITY DEXTERS**



Bright Meadows RR 1 Ladysmith, B.C., Canada VOR 2EO Carol Davidson (604) 245-4046

BREEDING FOR CONFORMATION-SIZE-DISPOSITION

Registered Dexter cattle. Cows, bulls, and calves.

Elmer E. Templeton Rt. 1, Box 65 Fleming, OH 45729 (614) 373-4892

Windy Hollow Dexters
Larkspur, Colorado
(303) 681-3838
Heifer and bull calves
Registered - Horned

Registered Dexter cattle. Cows, bulls, and calves. Black. Both short and tall.

Lazy L Ranch Larry Crompton 3871 Skyhawk Lane Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 446-4880

Red/Dun Dexter Bull 4 yrs. old. Very nice. 1996 Red/Dun & Black Bulls and Heifer calves.

David Lenz 30302 Nature Rd. Royalton, MN 56373 (320) 355-2369



#### **Smiling Johnson**

Dexter Headquarters P.O. Box 441 Elkhart, Kansas 67950 Phone (405) 696-4836

Stationed in the Oklahoma Panhandle

Specializing in the original horned cattle under 40". Choice breeding stock, prices upon request. Breeding for the ultimate in flavor and low fat for the health conscious consumer.

### **Dexter Cattle For Sale**

THOMAS' DEXTERS AL & SANDI THOMAS P.O. BOX 135 ANTELOPE, OR 97001 PHONE/FAX (541) 489-3385



- \*20 Years of Breeding Champion Dexters.
- \*We are dedicated to the Breed, and its improvement.
- \*Specializing in TRUE RED color, we believe we have the largest herd of **Red**/dun Dexters in North America.
- \*Always have cows and heifers for sale. Check for availability of bulls, we only offer the best each year.
- \*Please note our new State Telephone Prefix number (541).

For Sale: Hubbell's Geronimo. A small to medium size yearling bull, DOB 9-19-95. Red/Dun in color. Ready for light service. "Geronimo" has excellent conformation and an outstanding disposition. He is well mannered, ties, loads & clips without fuss. For pedigree, photo's & additional info contact:

Slavka Perrone Serendipity Farm 8703 Murray Rd Red Creek, NY 13143 (315) 947-6912

Registered Dexter cows, bulls & calves
Richard C. Keep of Ninepipe Farm

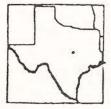
1394 Olsen Road - Charlo, MT 59824 - (406) 644-2642

Also available for custom hauling



### Texas Registered Stock

Both Types of Registered Dexter Stock Usually Available For Sale



We need more breeders in Texas. Therefore, if we don't have the animal you want, we will help you find it from our Texas Breeders.

#### Briscoe's DBL D Stock Farms

Doyle & Delmoreen Briscoe 8218 W. FM 93 Belton, Texas 76513 817-939-6016 Reg. dehorned black bull, cow, or heifer.

Bull #4179 Billy's Buckshot - throws 38" cows DOB - 6/27/89 \$500,00

Cow #6411 Cottontail's Jeena - 40" - DOB - 5/16/93 \$800.00 Jeena's heifer DOB - 5/11/96 \$300.00

Karol Lowery Rt.2, Box 214 Seguin, TX 78155 (210) 379-6884

Available - Cow calf pairs, weaning age heifer and bull calves. Adult cows. All are black.

R.S. "Shep" & Mary Springer 708 Inverness Rd. Fort Collins, CO 80524 (970) 484-2711

Herd reduction sale: bred cows, heifers and bull.

Deliveries negotiable. Call day/eve. or leave message.

Deryl Schibbelhute

La Junta, Colorado

1601 Himebaugh

(719) 384-5257

Itchy & Scratchy are for sale. 2 darling matched steers perfect for oxen team, 10 mo. old. \$500 for pair. Also, 2 yr. black heifer with 3 mo. heifer calf \$950 for pair.

True Grit Farm (816) 476-5442

Registered Dexter cattle for sale: heifer & bull calves, bred heifers & cows, and bulls, red/dun or black, short or tall, large number to choose from.

Dave Friedrich 4704 Hwy 16 S Antelope, MT 59211 (406) 286-5219 Dale Friedrich PO Box 111 Antelope, MT 59211 (406) 286-5289

#### FOR SALE

Five year old bull, two year old bred female, one year old bull, one older female. Beautiful, small, all black, all registered.

Donald Cunningham 40765 Hwy 141 Gateway, CO 81522 (970) 931-2832

#### **Dexter Cattle For Sale**

#### BLACK BULL FOR SALE

Hungry Hollow Oak #7416 Born: April 19, 1995

Sire: Thomas' Prides Shade

#5818

Dam: Glenn Land Midnight Girl

#5692

Dehorned, halter broken, 44"

Dam calved at 14 months.

That calf was champion yearling bull at 1994 National Show.

She has calved at regular 12 month intervals since.

Michael E. Rodegerdts P.O. Box 136 Zamora, CA 95698 (916) 747-3110

#### Creekbank Dexters

Jerry & Valerie Boettger
RR#1, Tofield AB, Can. TOB4JO
(403) 662-2735
For Sale - 3 Dexter calves(SL &LL)
Sire - Kahoka Dun Buster
Weaned & Dehorned - Red/Dunn & Black

Congratulations to the following new Dexter breeders: Kim Pratt of Chimacum, WA, Brian Deerly of Roy, WA and Jack Shipley of Grants Pass, OR. After research and study they selected their starter herds and surely will be an asset to the Dexter community.

Best wishes from Charles and Bettie george of Grand View Farm, Graham, WA.

Registered Dexters from large herd. Cows, heifers, calves. A few Red/Dun. Transportation can be arranged.

IDA-J-MAR FARMS Jack Goodman 4148 N. 1100 E. Buhl, ID 83316 (208) 543-4461

#### **DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTORS**

- 1. Must have been a breeder and member for at least three years.
- 2. Must be a member in good standing.
- Is required to attend business meeting (except in cases of death or sickness in the family or some other legitimate reason).
- 4. Must notify the President of the ADCA concerning the aforementioned situation of nonattendance at the annual meeting.
- Should conduct at least one meeting per year within the region if at all possible. (Directors are allowed up to \$100 for postage and meeting costs.)
- Should keep record of all letters and correspondence pertaining to ADCA business.
- 7. Should always encourage potential buyers to join the ADCA.
- Should keep in touch with the ADCA officers and make timely responses to correspondence.
- Should keep members informed of important issues and always act in a courteous manner, assisting fellow members with problems and questions.
- Should keep the ADCA informed of problems occurring within the region.
- Should never get involved in squabbles between fellow members within regions.
- Should periodically submit reports pertaining to current news and happenings within the Region to the Editor for input into the ADCA Bulletin.

Approved by the Board June, 1991

#### **Dexter Semen For Sale**





Semen for United States and Canadian use:

BEDFORD ROMARC RAMBLER #5449, black, 39" @ 18 mos.
RIVERHILL SATURN'S GALAXY #5255, black, 43" @ 4 yrs.
WEE GAELIC MR. O'TOOLE #5741,red/Dun, 45" @ 4 yrs.
The above bulls are \$20 US / straw, \$25 Cdn. / straw, + S & H.
CORNAHIR OUTLAW #6703, RED/dun, 44" @ 4 yrs. (Irish import)
\$35 US (\$45 Cdn.) 1 - 5 straws, \$30 US (\$40 Cdn.) 6 or more, + S & H.
SALTAIRE PLATINUM #6504P, black, POLLED, 42" at 3 yrs.
(English import w/Fred Chesterley, WA), \$30 US (\$40 Cdn.) per straw.
Note: orders for 6 or more straws of Platinum get free ship/handling.
All these bulls are guaranteed free of dwarfism. All have good temperment, long bodies, deep frames and have produced outstanding calves. For more information and photographs, contact Carol Davidson, Bright Meadows, R.R. 1, Ladysmith, B.C., Canada or call: (604) 245-4046.



#### **Dexter Semen For Sale**

Collected by COBA/Select Sires from Jamie O'Callen, #1949. Black, proportionate type. Excellent disposition, 42" tall @ 39 months.

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

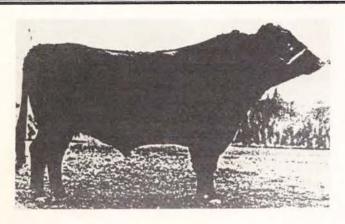
Saltaire Platinum: (2708) 6504P Your only source of polled genes in U.S. Height 42" @ 3 yrs.

For information, pictures and prices write:

F. D. Chesterley 4178 West Road Blaine, WA 98230

Very Rare. Looking for the shortest bull you can find to bring the height of your Dexter herd down? Here he is, Billy Bob's Danny Boy #7167, 32 1/2" tall at one year. Red/Dun, excellent temperment, very proportionate. Pictures and Pedigree sent on request. \$40.00 per straw plus S & H, minimum order 5 straws. Danny Boy is currently being used exclusively in an experimental crossbreeding program. For information contact Happy Mountain Farm.

Happy Mountain Farm 25204 - 156th Ave. S.E. Kent, WA 98042 (206) 631-1986



Use Lucifer of Knotting #3182, 45" at 3 yrs. if you are looking for a Top Red/dun Bull (Not Dun) to improve udders and milk production in your herd.

\$30.00 ea. U.S. 1 - 5 straws \$25.00 ea. U.S. 6 or more

> Paul & Judy Taylor P.O. Box 125 Colinton, Alberta TOGORO Phone/Fax (403) 675-3831 Cellular (403) 689-8360

**Thomas' Reu' Grande'** # 3847, 40" @ 3 yrs. Black w/**RED**/dun genes. \$20/straw + S & H. Available in Canada and U.S. International Export from Canada.

Thomas' Magic Pride #3848, Black w/RED/dun genes. 40" @ 3 1/2 yrs. \$20/straw + S & H.- U.S. sales only.

Red! Thomas' Prides Red Baron #4882, 42" @ 4 yrs. Very docile. \$35/straw + S & H. Available for International Export from U.S. (NO Dun here!) Good dispositions, proportionate in confirmation. Blue or Champion winners @ Dexter shows. Strong, correct feet & legs. Produce quality healthy offspring. No minimum purchase required. All costs C.O.D. Thomas' Dexters, P.O. Box 135, Antelope, OR 97001

Collected from Glencara Paddy, #3864 EX. Black, 44 1/2" tall, 1050 lbs. @ 4 yrs. \$20 / straw + s & h. Note his offspring do not carry EX.

Evelyn Colclough 10418 16th St. East Puyallup, WA 98372 (206) 927-4608

Limited amount of semen available from Rhea of Sunshine, #4588. Red/dun, 38 1/2" tall, 670 lbs. @ 4 yrs. High proportion of heifers. First come, first serve. \$20 per straw plus s & h.

Rainbow Hills Dexter Farm Rt. 2, Box 75 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901 (573) 785-2719 or (816) 826-5645

#### **Dexter Products For Sale**

#### HALTERS FOR DEXTERS

HEIFERS/SM COWS & BULLS SMALL}
MOST COWS/YOUNG BULLS MEDIUM}
BULLS/LARGER COWS LARGE} \$17.00

NYLON WEBBING, UNDER CHIN-CHAIN. GREAT AT HOME OR SHOW. USE TO TIE OUT, LEAD, & TRAIN.

BLACK, GREEN, BLUE OR RED CHECK OR M.O. WITH ORDER, POSTAGE WILL BE C.O.D. SEND TO: THOMAS' DEXTERS, BOX 135, ANTELOPE, OR 97001 (541) 489-3385

#### DEXTER AI BULL REVIEW

A comprehensive collection of facts, statistics & extended pedigrees, with a photo (where available) of each bull and in many cases, additional photos of precursors and progeny.

This booklet is a *must have* for anyone considering using Dexter AI bulls.

\$15 cdn / \$10 U.S. includes shipping and postage. Order from: Index Marketing & Research Group Box 308 Cassidy, BC, VOR 1HO

# Information

### **Books For Sale**

#### The Life and Times of Dexters

by Ted Neal

A full color book about Dexters direct from England. \$27.50 check or money order.

#### **Dexter Cattle**

by John Hays - USA \$7.95 per copy, plus \$1.55 postage and handling.

# The Dexter Cow and Cattle Keeping on a Small Scale

by Dr. William Thrower - England \$9.00 each, postage paid.

# Kerry and Dexter Cattle and other ancient Irish breeds, A history

by Patrick Leonard Curran Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture University College, Dublin Council Member, Royal Dublin Society, 1990 \$25

Please order all books from:

#### Sales requirements for semen

Advertising pertaining to the sale of semen in the **Bulletin**, requires one to state the height of the bull from the shoulder to the ground and the age at which the height was recorded. The bloodtype for any bull being used out-of-herd A.I. must be on file with the ADCA.

# All Ads Due by October 25



Happy Halloween!

#### Advertising

Classified advertisements of Dexter cattle or Dexter semen is \$5.00 for up to a 2" column ad or \$25.00 per year for six issues. Ads over 2" up to 4" are \$10 per ad or \$50.00 per year for six issues. All ads are limited to Dexters exclusively and subject to approval by the ADCA. Make all checks payable to the American Dexter Cattle Association. Please submit payment with your ad and send to:

17409 E. 163rd. St. Lee's Summit, MO 64082

All transactions are between buyer and seller. The Association trusts both will use their own good judgement and exercise the highest of integrity.

#### The Dexter Bulletin

The **Bulletin** welcomes articles and letters from the membership. Those published may be edited for length and clarity.

The reviews and opinions expressed in the **Bulletin** are those of the authors and may or may not agree with the American Dexter Cattle Association. The Association assumes no responsibility for technical data published by independent authors.

Send letters and articles to the editor:

Richard Henry 17409 E. 163rd. St. Lee's Summit, MO 64082

#### Fee Schedule

#### Cost of Registrations: Cows up to 1 yr. old......\$20.00 Bulls up to 2 yrs. old ......\$20.00 Cows over 1 yr. old ...... \$40.00 Bulls over 2 yrs. old.......\$40.00 Animals from A.I. sires add ...... \$1.00 Cost of Transfers: Regular transfers ...... \$20.00 Inner-herd transfers ......\$10.00 Registration and transfers for non members .......... \$100.00 New membership (owning registered Dexters) ........ \$30.00 Associate membership (not owning Dexter cattle) ..... \$30.00 Annual renewal (for all memberships) ......\$20.00 Names for registration cannot exceed 21 characters The tattoo code letter for 1996 is "F"



Dexter steers in the Northern California Fed Steer and Heifer Evaluation Program, photo courtesy

# The Dexter Bulletin

Richard Henry, Editor 17409 E. 163rd. St. Lee's Summit, MO 64082



LOVE USA

John S. Merrifield 5634 N.E. 12th Newton, KS 67114