



The Dexter Bulletin

Volume 37 - No. 5

September / October, 1997

1997 Calgary Stampede Hosts Dexter Cattle Debut Show

Dexter cattle breeders competed in their own beef breed show for the first time at the Calgary Stampede, July 12. This show was the first-ever Dexter breed competition at a major international livestock event anywhere in North America.

The breeders exhibited around 40 head. Judge Douglas Henderson, Lacombe, evaluated the entries.

HIYU Salty Rambler IV, a two-year old bull, won the Grand Champion honors. Rambler, earlier named Senior Champion Bull, is owned by Carol Davidson, Ladysmith, B.C. Holly Hardman, Calgary, took Reserve Champion Bull award with Darby Day Fauntleroy, a yearling, who had been earlier chosen as the Junior Champion Bull.

Among the female line-up, Henderson opted for HIYU Scilla with her calf at side as the Grand Champion Female. The pair owned by Davidson, had been previously named Senior Champion Female. The Reserve Female Championship went to Davidson also. HIYU Buxom Rose had previously taken the Junior Champion Female ribbon.

Other female category winners included: Female Calf Champion — Davidson; Res. Female Calf Champion — Davidson; Res. Junior Champion Female — Davidson; and Res. Senior Champion — Donna Hutchinson, Rimbey.

In the bull division, other winners included: Bull Calf Champion — Davidson; Res. Bull Calf Champion — Davidson; and Res. Junior Champion Bull—Hardman.

Davidson completed her successful day by winning the two group classes: Breeder's Herd and Get-of-Sire. She was also chosen the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor.



HIYU Salty Rambler IV and HIYU Scilla with her calf.



The Dexter Show is one of more than 40 agriculture-related International Stock Show events at the 87th annual Stampede, "The Greatest Show on Earth." About 1,000 head of beef cattle are entered in competitions. The Bank of Montreal is the major Stock Show sponsor. ♦

American Dexter Cattle Association

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1998 ADCA ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

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THANK YOU

from the '97 AGM Committee to all those who supported the International Show at the Calgary Stampede '97.

We couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks go to Ross Cursons, Carol Davidson, Donna Hutchinson, Allyn and Rita Nelson, Cathy Nelson, Monique Schmaltz, Ruth Stone, Judy Taylor, Elena Torn, and Peter Zuchetto for entering their animals, and to Don and Natalia Carroll from the Canadian Dexter Cattle Association who brought animals from Saskatchewan. Thanks also to Holly Hardman. In all, there were almost 50 Dexters present at the Stampede.

Guest "Speakers" Bill Cranston and Dan Wilson were a popular duo Thursday and Friday. Thursday morning, Bill used a 3-month old calf to demonstrate how to trim unsightly hair, and spent the better part of the next two days trimming up most of the other Dexters at the Show. By the time we got to the Ring on Saturday morning, all the Dexters looked their best and we provided a well turned out performance. Dan, a representative of the BOS Evaluation System, did an evaluation on the trimmed calf, pointing out the various pros and cons and explaining why. This provided a real insight for many of the breeders, who reported learning a lot about what to select for. Most of the owners had Dan evaluate all their animals, too.



CALGARY AGM & SHOW

THANK YOU

The Show was a terrific success, despite being rained out, and having to move into the Sheep Ring in the Agriculture Building, to complete. Several classes had more than 10 entries, and the quality of animal shown was excellent. The judge, Doug Henderson, is a well-known and respected Angus breeder. Fifteen years ago, Doug became interested in Dexters and visited many breeders in England. He also spent time in South Africa looking at Dexters there. We were very lucky to get a judge who is knowledgeable about cattle, and who is also familiar with Dexters.

As well as having the Dexter Show, the Stampede also had a Dexter at the Petting Zoo. Bev Bertsch, a Canadian Association member who lives near Calgary, regularly provides a Dexter to the Stampede for the children. This year, Bev's cow had a lovely bull calf right at the Stampede, and the event was written up in the Calgary paper.

The Sale was quite successful, too, in that it established high prices for quality stock. Some of the reserve bids limited buyers, and there was not as much outside interest as we would have liked. However, the Sale should start a new trend in pricing animals by quality, rather than by sex and age, as has often been the case up to now.

The Stampede management went out of its way to make us feel welcome. The Stampede media department gave us maximum publicity on the air and in the newspapers. The Agriculture Manager, the Beef Chairman and the Barn Supervisor *all* said they had enjoyed having Dexters and hoped we would return. During the Parade of Champions, Dexters were singled out, and the announcer spent quite a bit of time telling the standing-room-only crowd about how useful and productive Dexters were.

We were very lucky to have tremendous support from other Dexter

Associations, too. Both the British and the Australasian Associations sponsored banners, and Piet Wilke of South Africa donated hats, magazines and special ebony salad servers which were given away as door prizes during the AGM. We wish to extend grateful thanks to all our international Dexter supporters. Your generous contributions were very much appreciated.

The AGM was run on a positive note, and much was accomplished (refer to Rosemary's Minutes for details). Dinner Guest Speaker, Dan Wilson (BOS Evaluation System), said we had a breed with some very special characteristics (genetic tenderness, mothering ability and fast growth), and that we should be promoting them more. He also mentioned the advantages he could see of using Dexters for crossing and suggested we work to improve our overall quality for those markets. ❖



Evaluation of Dexters at the 1997 Stampede

by Dan Wilson

I enjoyed evaluating Dexters at the Show organized by your association at this year's Calgary Stampede.

I was really impressed by the quality of Dexter brought to the Show. When I evaluate a herd, usually the majority of animals score between 45 and 70, with a few scoring lower, some scoring in the 70's and 80's, and rarely, one or two in the 90's. At the Stampede, most Dexters scored in the 80's or high 70's, and there were three who scored into the 90's, as well. Obviously, those breeders present were seriously promoting their best—this makes for an excellent Show and provides excellent publicity for the breed.

Most of your breeders appreciated the evaluation, and really LOOKED at their cattle, seeing them from a new perspective. The hardest thing for me to do was to get some of the breeders to look past the height; to see the qualities that make up a good or bad animal, regardless of size.

One of the features of the Dexter is its size. You can have your breed any height you want, but once this is established, you need to keep all body parts in proportion to that height; a miniature or cutdown version of a standard cow, if you like. Why? Because your cow must first be functional. She must be able to work, breed, feed, calve and nurse without intervention.

A few of the Dexters at the Show were out of proportion: their cannon bones were too short for the rest of their bodies. I understand that short legs are a feature in some Dexters, but you don't want the animal to look like a basset hound. The shorter-legged Dexters at the Show were extremely good little cows. The breeder could lengthen the cannon bones by breeding to a genetically small bull with longer cannon bones—a bull in correct proportion to his height. One of the

bulls there was of that type, and scored 91%. He would have scored higher, but his butt profile was a little light. By using this bull on the above mentioned cows, who had excellent butt profiles, the breeder could maintain the small stature, and work to lengthen the cannon bones while retaining the muscling.

Let me give you another example: a suckling udder is meant to be slightly above the calf, with fine teats pointing slightly forward, so a weak, wobbly calf's nose will find it quickly and easily. Nature designed it that way for a reason—don't try to fix it. Other udder shapes are not as functional. The exception to this is dairy cattle, where teats point straight up and down, which is fine for a cow that is specially bred to be milked by machine.

Narrow muzzle, winged shoulders, high tailhead, shallow body, etc., are all good examples of what not to breed for. An evaluation system can work for you by identifying an animal's shortcomings and strong points, so you can work to select the right mate, to improve offspring. You want Dexters to be beautiful little miniature cattle with all parts in proportion. Unless you know what to look for, or can have an evaluator show you, your eye will be distracted by the best points, you will subconsciously ignore the faults, and you won't be selecting superior animals.

The object of having cattle is to produce an animal that will give you either milk or meat, or both. The animal must also be functional. Without those things, you won't survive in the industry.

You have tremendous possibilities in your Dexter breed. You have more yield in your Dexters than can be seen at first glance. Many non-Dexter people have trouble looking past the size. I believe you also have little cover fat, and a higher rate of tenderness genetically than is found in many other breeds. If you are going to raise Dexters as viable

farm animals, you need to give your animals a chance to live up to their full potential. You need to work on selecting superior animals and then you have to feed them well, so they produce to their genetic potential.

Tenderness is the key to the beef industry in the future. Your breed has genetic tenderness. Get your academics working on DNA for tenderness—taste testing takes too long; document a scoring system for your breed that will take into account its dual purpose attributes; start to select for superior quality. You have a really useful little animal; it deserves the best you can do for it! ♦

Dan Wilson is an evaluator for the BOS System, a generic cattle evaluation system registered with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation in Ottawa, Canada, and used by both purebred and commercial cattlemen. Dan was one of the Guest Speakers at the AGM held recently in Calgary.



Rocky Ridge Dexters at the Calgary Stampede

by Ruth Stone

It was great! The first day in Calgary was a bit traumatic because of shortage of sleep combined with all the excitement of rush-hour traffic, finding the grounds, waiting in line, unloading, feeding, weighing, and setting up our display. From then on it was a blast! I talked to so many people in those four days. It was wonderful meeting so many ADCA and CDCA members and putting faces to names; I will feel much more comfortable about going to general meetings in the future. I enjoyed the general meetings and hearing all the different views on the various topics presented.

We had a very good demonstration of how to improve the appearance of our animals with a minimum of grooming, by Bill Cranston, a professional fitter. He emphasized that without a good nutrition program no amount of grooming can make the animal look good. I found his discussion very interesting and it was a real eye-opener to watch other breeds of cattle being readied for their shows. I was very happy that we were not required to do all that other stuff!

The other highlight of the day was the lecture by Dan Wilson on the BOS system of evaluating cattle. This system evaluates each animal by looking at 100 different criteria under the perspectives of **Function, Reproduction, Muscle and Consistency**. This detailed analysis gives a very comprehensive look at the animal and it is not specific to Dexters. It applies to any breed of cattle, including cross-breds, so is useful to any producer wishing to identify potential problems as well as good/excellent animals. I do not have a livestock background but I have a brother-in-law and a nephew in commercial cow/calf production who gave me good advice and many pointers on what to look for in a good productive cow. This helped me get some good animals to start with but I am still not

sure where I should go with my breeding program. I think the BOS system will allow me to improve quality and maintain productivity by making a point-by-point evaluation of each animal in my herd.

Dan evaluated the four animals I brought and three scored over 80% while the poorest one was above 75%. The potential tenderness of each animal was also determined and all scored 85% and up, so I can be sure of having tender beef if they really make me mad! The tenderness score was a surprise to me because I did not know that tenderness could be determined while the animal was still alive. I always thought it depended on how long the carcass hung, or what the temperature was while it was hanging and possibly what kind of mood the critter was in when it died. The BOS system would make it much easier to cull for a herd of tender meat animals in a world where only 1 in 4 steaks is truly edible. Awesome!

I was very pleased with the great location we enjoyed (next to the Breed Champions alley) and I think a lot of people came through our display area just because of that. This was an excellent opportunity for Dexter

breeders to promote our breed and I am sure we will see more interest in our animals because of the four days spent in Calgary. Thank you Carol, for convincing me to come and risk making a fool of myself. I look forward to going again next year! ❖

Perpetual Trophy for Grand Champion Female at the Calgary Stampede

Jonathan Stamper, an English sculptor, was commissioned by the Dexter Cattle Society (England) to create a classic Dexter cow. When Mr. Stamper learned of our Show at the Calgary Stampede, he offered one of his bronze Dexter cows as a prize. These cows are produced in limited edition, and each figurine is numbered. The cow he donated is number 63.

There is a story behind this cow; when Veronica Schofield (DCS President and head of their Technical Committee) was invited to be Guest Speaker at our AGM in Michigan several years ago, she happened to be seated during the Dinner on the chair marked for receipt of a door prize.

Continued on page 8



Cathy Nelson at the Stampede

Perpetual Trophy

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Ruth Stone of Elk Point, Alberta
on her purchase of:

HIYU RADIANT STALWART III
Champion Bull Calf and son of
HIYU SCILLA, Grand Champion Female

Cathy Nelson of Marwayne, Alberta
on her purchase of half interest in:

HIYU SALTY RAMBLER IV
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Based on current studies the Association recommends that the breeding short-legged X (to) short-legged animals be avoided because of a genetic condition existing in some Dexters.

Dexter Cattle For Sale

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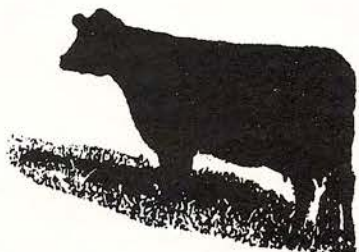
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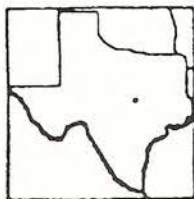
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Dexter Semen For Sale

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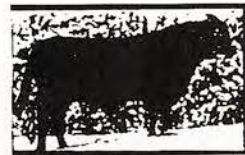
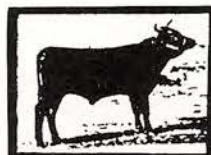
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Collected from Glencara Paddy, #3864 EX. Black, 44 1/2" tall, 1050 lbs. @ 4 yrs. \$15 / straw + s & h. Note his offspring do not carry EX.

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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.

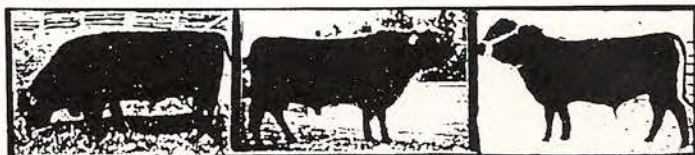
The above bulls are \$20 US / straw, \$25 Cdn. / straw, + S & H.

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 temperament, 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

1996 sales of Llanfair calves:

Fire Ball, black, polled to Mark Youngs WA.

Finnigan, red, horned to Stephen Camplin, Australia.

1997 available a very very few red or black, polled or horned bull calves and horned red heifers.

No polled heifers or duns.

Don't you feel just a little silly surgically removing horns when you can accomplish the same genetically with no pain to the animal or the purse. It is the way to go!

Saltaire Platinum, polled, black, recessive red. Straws \$30 each, 6 or more shipped free. Write or call:

F. D. Chesterley
4178 West Rd.
Blaine, WA 98230
Phone - (360) 332-8579

Canadians wanting Platinum see Carol Davidson's ad.

Platinum is more valuable than gold.

Collected from Anton of Mt. Carmel, #2871. Red/dun. 40½" tall, 8 yrs. old and 975 lbs. Proportionate, long bodied, fleshy. Producing clean - uddered heifers and fleshy bulls. \$15 per straw + shipping.

Phillip R. Martz, Sr.
1229 Leister Rd.
Fairhope, PA 15538
(814) 267-5052

Dexter Products For Sale

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:
Bright Meadows, RR 1
Ladysmith, B.C., Canada
VOR 2EO

From the Editor

I'm back! Had a wonderful time at the Calgary Stampede which can truly claim to be "the greatest outdoor show on earth", since they now have included Dexters. I'd highly recommend going if you have the chance as the surrounding scenery is gorgeous and the people were very hospitable.

Enjoyed myself, as about the only Dexter work I did while in Calgary was to squeeze all the Officers and Directors together to say cheese for a group photo. I want to thank Kathy, Palmer, and others for sending the photographs and articles for this issue to share with the members unable to attend this year's AGM and Show.

In regards to the Bulletin a few changes should be noted. It was decided to add a breeding disclaimer to warn people about the potential problems that can be incurred with a short to short mating. Also, the Board voted to only send the advertisement portion of the Bulletin to people that inquire about Dexters. This is one of those 'is the milk pail half full or half empty?' issues, which is all I'm going to say about it for now. I'd like to thank Carol for taking out a full page advertisement which evened out the pages and provided a cover for this *other* publication.

Plans are to put together a "sire issue" for one of the Bulletins and we may try to do other theme oriented issues as well. Ideas and contributions are always welcome. I know new members sometimes have a lot of questions and I'd be happy to find the answers here in the Bulletin for you. If you're afraid it might be a dumb question I'll be happy to print it anonymously upon request. It might help a lot of others that have the same question.

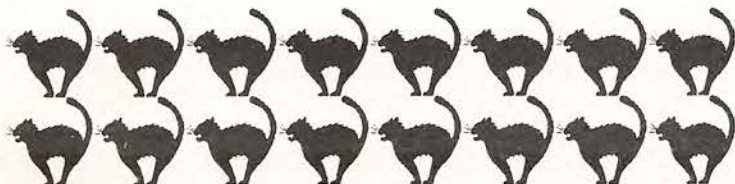
There's still one last chance to enter the poem and photograph contest as the deadline for inclusion in the year's last issue is October 25th.

Mention should be made of the work accomplished by Sophia Stillerman and the By-Laws Committee. The proposed revisions will be mailed to members.

Jim Johnson is the new President and Kathy Smith the Vice-President. Both will be a great help to me and have been very supportive of the Bulletin. Congratulations!

Changes, flu, kids, and farm have slowed things down here a bit, which is probably for the best. The days have been warm and nights cool lately. The early morning has that hint of autumn in the air and so I hope everyone has a barn full of hay. I look forward to hearing from you.

Richard Henry



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:
Rosemary Fleharty, Secretary
American Dexter Cattle Association
Route 1, Box 378
Concordia, MO 64020

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 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 64083

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:

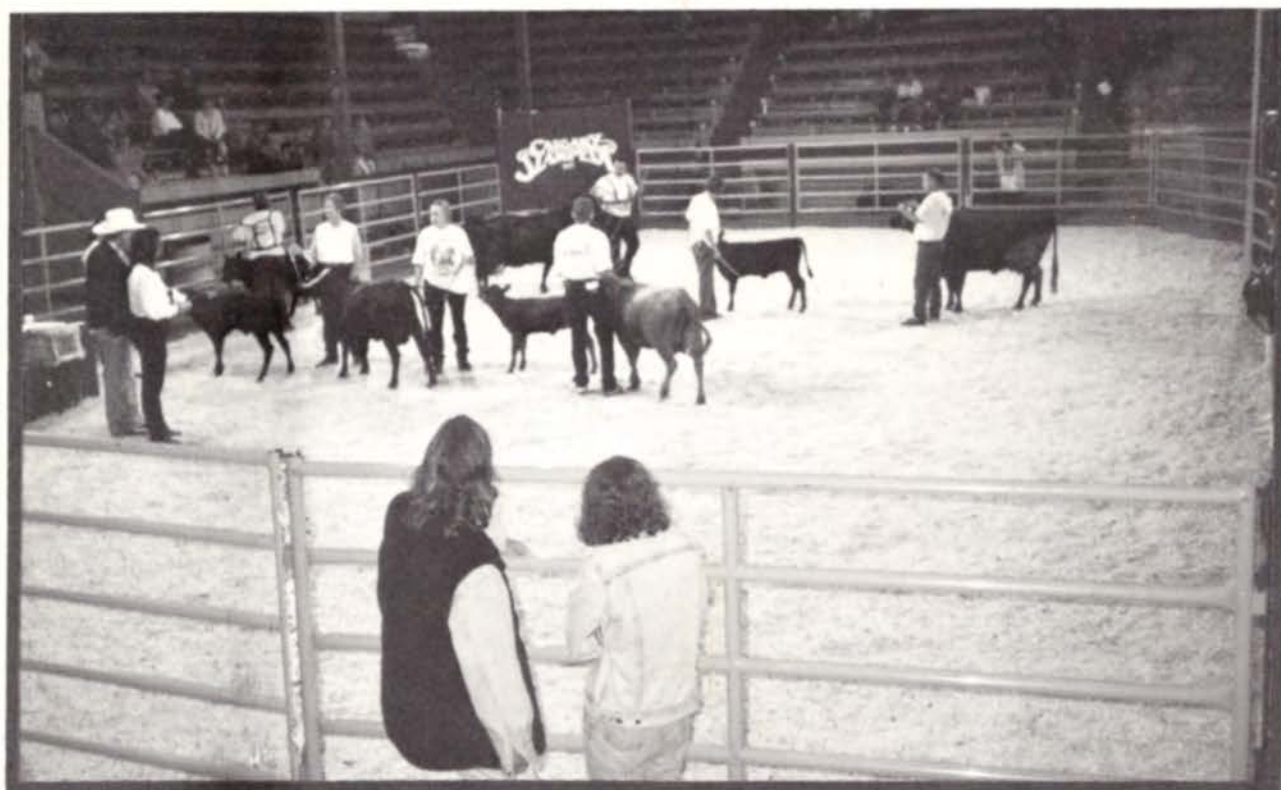
Cows up to 1 yr. old	\$20.00
Bulls up to 2 yrs. old	\$20.00
Cows over 1 yr. old	\$40.00
Bulls over 2 yrs. old	\$40.00
Animals from A.I. sires add	\$1.00

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
Subscriber (<u>Bulletin</u> only)	\$10.00

Names for registration cannot exceed 21 characters

The tattoo code letter for 1997 is "G"



◆ Dexters make a successful showing in Calgary. ◆

The Dexter Bulletin Sept. / Oct.

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

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