



# The Dexter Bulletin

Volume 40 - No. 4

July/August, 2000

## THOSE LITTLE BLACK DEXTERS

by Otto C. Jensen

*Otto C. Jensen served as president of the American Dexter Cattle Association for six years, replacing John Logsdon on April 28, 1960.*

*This article was published in American Livestock Journal in March 1962.*

**J**UST what do you, Otto, a fulltime businessman, get out of raising those Irish Dexter cattle?" That's a question I am often asked and it doesn't take long to give an enthusiastic reply: (1) Satisfaction and pride. (2) A worthwhile revenue through milk, breeding, and prize money at stock shows.

As a nine to five o'clock food broker, five days a week, I found business taking up all my thoughts and creating a dangerous nervous tension. So, in 1940, Mrs. Jensen and I decided to look for a quiet spot in the country where we could really enjoy life. Although my boyhood days were spent on a stock farm, Mrs. Jensen had never been more than a few minutes from city pavements but, real helpmate that she is, agreed to our revolutionary move.

Finding a suitable farm wasn't easy. It had to be within reasonable distance of my Buffalo office. However, before the year ended we found an ideal spot—60 acres of arable land and fine pasture with the dreamer's bonus of a cheerful creek winding its way between wooded banks. House, barns, and poultry buildings were old and rundown, but did not deter us. We set out on a do-it-yourself jaunt which resulted in a thoroughly remodeled, modern home, spic and span barns, and poultry houses whose roofs no longer sagged in weary dejection.

We called it "Tak-sca-du-hav."

It's an expression of appreciation used by Scandinavian people of Danish descent. Liberally, it means "Thanks shall you have."



Now we were ready to live; subscriptions went out to farm, cattle and poultry journals. In the summer of 1946 I read a story in a farm magazine lauding the merits of Irish Dexter cattle. The description of their hardiness, small size, thrifty eating, and high milk production intrigued me; they seemed to be the ideal breed for a part-time small farm operation; cattle that would thrive on one-third the pasture land required by larger breeds.

Out went questioning letters to experienced breeders and it wasn't long before I took a trip to Decorah, Iowa, where I bought 8 heifers from John Logsdon, one of the few American Dexter breeders of that day. Recalling the chores and cattle nursing days of boyhood helped; then a study on the care and breeding of dairy herds added more know-how. Now my business thoughts were confined to business hours. Each morning and evening the little black ladies received their full share of attention and care.

I soon recognized the idiosyncrasies of each individual cow, knew them well, and they learned to know me until, today, I can quickly tell whether any animal has missed a meal or watering, if she is at peace or is disturbed, uncomfortable or sick. And I regularly help each bossy when she drops a calf. *Continued on page 7*



Jack Shipley hosted the Region 2 ADCA Meeting. Story on page 4.



# American Dexter Cattle Association

## 26804 Ebenezer

### Concordia, MO 64020

#### 2000 Officers

##### President

**Patrick Mitchell**  
7164 Barry Street  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
(616) 875-7494  
shamrockacres@hotmail.com

##### Vice President

**Kathleen Smith**  
351 Lighthall Road  
Ft. Plain, NY 13339  
(518) 993-2823  
Kesmith@telenet.net

##### Secretary - Treasurer

**Rosemary Fleharty**  
26804 Ebenezer  
Concordia, MO 64020  
(660) 463-7704 (Evenings & weekends)  
dfle@almanet.net

#### Regional Directors

<i>Region 1</i>	Missouri and Illinois <b>Jerry Starnes</b> , Rt. 13, Box 75, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901	starnesj@semo.net (573) 785-2719
<i>Region 2</i>	Oregon and Idaho <b>Anna Poole</b> , 13474 Agate Road, Eagle Point, OR 97524	AnnaPoole@aol.com (541) 826-3467
<i>Region 3</i>	Washington, British Columbia, Hawaii, and Alaska <b>Carol Davidson</b> , Bright Meadows, RR 1, Ladysmith, BC VOR 2EO	cddexter@islandnet.com (250) 245-4046
<i>Region 4</i>	Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Utah <b>Dawn Bittner</b> , 1001 W. Hwy 118, Monroe, UT 84754	(801) 527-3187
<i>Region 5</i>	Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan <b>Cathy Nelson</b> , Box 418, Marwayne, Alberta, Canada TOB 2XO	(403) 847-2628
<i>Region 6</i>	Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas <b>Marvin Johnson</b> , P.O. Box 441, Elkhart, KS 67950	papajohn@elkhart.com (580) 696-4836
<i>Region 7</i>	Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio <b>Stan Cass</b> , 19338 Pigeon Roost Rd., Howard, OH 43028	whol_cass@tccsa.ohio.gov (740) 599-2928
<i>Region 8</i>	Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, and Tennessee <b>Jim Moody</b> , 555 B N 15 Street, Immokalee, FL 33934	(941) 657-3464
<i>Region 9</i>	California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico <b>Wes Patton</b> , 7069 County Rd. 20, Orland, CA 95963	jpatton@orland.net (916) 865-7250
<i>Region 1</i>	Pennsylvania, W. Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, & Delaware <b>Gwen Casey Higgins</b> , 4533 Lockes Mill Road, Berryville, VA 22611	dogrun@intelos.net (540) 955-4421
<i>Region 11</i>	New Jersey and New York <b>Slavka Perrone</b> , 8703 Murray Road, Red Creek, NY 13143	(315) 947-6912
<i>Region 12</i>	Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont <b>Gary Williams</b> , RR 1, Box 5131, Sedgwick, ME 04676-9714	(207) 326-4717
<i>Region 13</i>	North & South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Manitoba <b>Paul Anderson</b> , 773 Jesup St., Indianola, IA 50125	panderson@holmesmurphy.com (515) 961-6772
<i>Region 14</i>	Michigan, Ontario, Quebec, and Eastern Provinces <b>John Potter</b> , 2524 W. Elm Valley Road, Galien, MI 49113	jpotter@remc11.K12.mi.us (616) 545-2455



## Message From the President

The 2000 annual meeting is fast approaching. I'm looking forward to all the planned events and to meeting many old and new friends as we come together to build a stronger Association.

As you are all aware, there are many activities planned for this year's meeting. My thanks to Jerry Starnes, John Foley and all the rest of the crew that are putting the finishing touches on this event. Without their help and support, it could not happen.

At the business meeting portion of the weekend's events, we will be sharing information and discussing a number of topics. They will include the following:

- State of the Association – where we've been, where we are and where we're going
- Dexter classification
- The Bulletin: do we change it? If so, how?
- Financial performance
- Committee updates
- Membership turnover
- Next year's meeting, and the World Dexter Congress
- Herd books / membership books
- Information flow
- Use of the ADCA logo
- Report on advertising
- The ADCA website
- Time for questions and answers from the membership

As you can see, the day will be filled. I look forward to a fast paced meeting, with good sharing of information **and ideas for improvement**. The Association is not perfect, and needs to evolve. In order to do that I ask one thing from all the membership:

If you do not like something that the Association is or is not doing, voice your opinion constructively and put yourself on the other side. Think about how you would do the task differently if given that opportunity, keeping in mind that change must benefit the entire Association, not just a few. Then, develop a plan. Be a part of the change to make the Association better. Together we can accomplish anything. Divided, everyone loses.

See you all in Marshfield.

**Patrick Mitchell**  
ADCA President

## Yahoo! Calgary Stampede 2000!

Come to the Stampede! Everyone is welcome and we have a great time! In the three years since I first started going - thanks to Carol Davidson and my dear friend Cathy Nelson - I have learned lots and met hordes of wonderful people: Dexter owners and potential buyers and many just curious folks who want to talk about Dexters.

Worried about showing procedures and how to stand and all that? Have no fear - get a 4-H person to train your animals and give you some pointers, or read a 4-H show manual and practice, practice, practice. Grooming standards for Dexters are very sensible so no worries about blocking, fluffing and puffing or dyeing of the coat; just wash, rinse and brush the coat in the direction of the hair growth; unsightly long hairs can be clipped and the bottom of the tail can be squared off if you wish. Exhibitors wear black pants, white shirts and dark boots - no runners or shorts/cutoff pants in the Show Ring, please. We all help each other out too with washing and so on, so don't be scared - just come and enjoy with us.

Move-in day is early on the 10th of July, the Dexter Show is the 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Outside Ring (subject to weather conditions), and then we have the 12th to display and start tearing down for our move-out the night of the 12th. The eligible birth date for calves to be shown in the Calf class has been changed to the 15th of May. We have 27 spaces to fill - please let me know what you are bringing so I can get organized and ready for this do!

So start pouring the feed into your show prospects (if you haven't already started), pull out your halters and sticks and let's get ready to go! It really is a lot of fun and a great way to meet people who are interested in the same things as you.

I look forward to welcoming you to Calgary Stampede 2000 - I'll be the short, blondish one who never stops talking or moving unless asleep.

**Ruth Stone**  
Dexter Representative  
Beef Cattle Committee  
Calgary Stampede

## From the Editor

I appreciate everyone that contributed to this issue for getting their material to me before and on the deadline this time. With upcoming meetings/shows the first part of July, the hope is that most members will get their Bulletin before these events.

Inside this issue is the first of a two part report from our secretary that will perhaps clear up some of the misinformation and rumors that are out there in Dexter land. Thanks to Rosemary—the A.D.C.A. office and registry remains solid.

Contrary to what you may have heard from someone, I am the only editor. If you have any questions or concerns about the Bulletin you can write or email me: Rchar@toast.net and I'm usually pretty good about responding. I would imagine that getting the correct information directly from the source probably won't be as exciting or serve someone's purpose as much as some of the stories you may have been told.

Sometimes someone will get an idea that they believe will walk on water but it's been my experience that it's generally a good idea to roll up your pants legs first. Opinions without basis of fact can sometimes be damaging to the association, the breeders and to a breeder's cattle. Never before in the history of the world has so much information been so easily accessible to everyone via the Internet. I spend a lot of time surfing to dissect different breed publications. If you're interested in fees you can find out on the Internet what they are with other cattle associations. If you're like me you'll be happy that you have Dexters. Just as there are fundamentals to follow for publishing, there are also fundamentals for breed associations.

Instead of what I've heard lately about marketing, it was refreshing to read Otto Jensen say that he had developed a sales policy for the protection of the buyer. My guess is that Otto sold a lot of Dexters. So when you're out in the pasture enjoying your Dexter cattle, remember Otto and "Tak-sca-du-hav."

My mouth is starting to water just thinking about that barbecue beef that the M.D.B.A. folks will have waiting for us at this year's AGM. Hope to see you there!

**Richard Henry, Editor**



# Regional Meetings



Region 2 members at Jack Shipley's farm. Photograph courtesy of Anna Poole.

## Region II

### Northwest Dexter Meeting

April 22, 2000

Our meeting started with a tour of Jack Shipley's hand-hewn barn that housed his wife's wool cleaning and carding business. Jack also demonstrated his squeeze chute system and members wandered through his herd which behaved like large dogs wanting to be petted.

JB Dimick, president of the Oregon Young Cattleman's Association was introduced and demonstrated how to evaluate beef cattle. One of Jack's cows cooperated in the demonstration and walked away with a high evaluation rating. Besides the evaluation, JB gave advice on vaccinations (use what you need for your circumstances), mineral supplements (use loose salt with selenium as trace minerals in the block form leach out), and marketing (more time needs to be spent in this area).

JB's talk was followed by a Dexter burger barbecue provided by Shy Guy. Patrice supplied the Dexter milk and Gail and Jenny the goats' milk cheese.

The business meeting began with an explanation of the Northwest Dexters' debt. Anna is currently \$480 in the red

for costs involved with the newsletter. Members present felt that Anna should ask for reimbursement at the national meeting as the newsletter is a good promotion for Dexter cattle. It was suggested that the newsletter be sent e-mail to those members with access to the internet in order to save money.

The next topic covered was leasing of bulls. Anna had contacted regional directors for advice on contracts in response to one member's inquiry and

*Continued on next page*

## Region VI

Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas

April 29, 2000

Region 6 has grown to 69 members. Glad to see such a good turnout for the spring meeting. We not only need new members, but we need to keep the old members in the Association. Dexter cattle are becoming more popular by leaps and bounds. If you need a list of breeders in Region 6, feel free to contact me and I will send them to you. If you have cattle to sell in Region 6 I will help you turn them. Looking forward to the Region Six Newsletter and the next meeting. If you have questions feel free to contact me.

*~Marvin Johnson, Director*

We drove the winding Texas roads, through the blue bonnets and other wild flowers, on our way to the regional meeting held at Adanal near Yorktown, Texas. There we were greeted by small donkeys, big longhorns, a big herd of Dexters, and Texas hospitality by the Gabberts, their friends and family. This is the second time Region 6 has been invited together by our current director Marvin Johnson, for planning the goals for our region and the Association. Unfortunately Marvin was unable to

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Members in Region 6 discussing Dexter cattle. Photograph courtesy of Carol Johnson.



# Regional Meetings

## Region II

*Continued from page 4*

had received several responses. Wes Patton sent a list of what should be looked for in a lease agreement. Most directors and members present felt leasing a bull is not a good idea because of the risk to your herd if disease is transmitted along with other liabilities. Members felt that selling a bull or using AI and selling a steer for heat detection was a better option. Gail mentioned the use of a "goat rag" for determining if a doe is in heat. Everyone got a chuckle out of the idea of a "bull rag." Sandi Thomas shared her experiences at local fairs including Benton, Lincoln and Deschutes. Ann and Jack agreed to promote Dexters at the Harvest Fair this year.

In response to an inquiry from California about donating steers to 4-H kids, there was no interest shown by members present.

Discussion on what to take to the National meeting started with John Wolfe's dissatisfaction with the new registration certificates. All members present thought they were of poorer quality than previous documents. Members also thought that there was too

much unnecessary information in the herd book. This discussion led to the observation that northwest members felt that not enough national money was getting back to local organizations and there was a lack of monetary support from the national organization. The question was raised as to how much other regions get.

Jack Shipley suggested that our Northwest Dexter meeting be moved around to cover different parts of the northwest. Sandi suggested that members in Washington be invited to our meetings. Anna explained that she had contacted Washington members but only got one written response.

Anna was concerned with the fact that the Dexter Association seems to lose as many members as it gains each year. This topic was discussed at length and it was determined that Anna should check into this problem with other directors at the national meeting.

Jack said he would draft a letter to support Anna in receiving national money for our region. Members also felt that the regional directors should be paid expenses for attending the national meetings. Raffle tickets were sold and the meeting was adjourned. ❖

## Region VI

*Continued from page 4*

make it to the meeting, due to doctor's orders not to travel, but he sent us an agenda, and we had a very productive meeting. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half, with each of the 45 people in attendance introducing themselves and describing their involvement with Dexters, either as current owners or prospective owners. We talked about different techniques used by different owners, on various issues, and of course "everyone had bulls for sale." (1999 must have been a banner year for bull calves.)

We discussed what issues the Region 6 members wished to have discussed at the ADCA annual meeting in July, by our director. That information was sent to Marvin Johnson.

There was lengthy discussion on what we, as a region, could do for each other in the matters of marketing our live cattle and beef. We decided to start a regional newsletter, as to keep each other better informed on current animals for sale or trade. Shannon Avery and Joanie Storck volunteered to get it in progress.

The meeting was informative, and most of us left the meeting with great anticipation of continued success with our Dexter cattle. We were already talking about where we could have next year's meeting. It was really good to get together with people that have the same interests, to share their experiences, both good and bad, so each of us can learn from them.

The Gabberts and their family and friends were typical Texas hosts; we were treated to lots of good food, tours of the ranch, a Texas-sized meeting room, and the best of hospitality. Thank you all, very much. See ya in Missouri!

*Submitted by Marvin Johnson*



**Host Ken Gabbert welcomes everyone to the Region 6 meeting.**

*Photograph courtesy of Carol Johnson.*





## Effect of P.M. Feeding on Daytime Calving

Calving season is the most labor-intensive time for cow-calf producers. It often involves long days and sleepless nights. University studies and observations by ranchers have shown that by changing time of feeding there can be an increase in the percent of calves born during daylight hours. Feeding late in the day, at 5 p.m. or later versus before noon, resulted in more calves born during daylight hours.

Gus Konefal, a purebred breeder from Manitoba, Canada, was one of the first individuals to investigate the possibility of changing calving time by manipulating feeding time. He established two different feeding programs for his cows. One group was fed at 11 a.m. to noon and at 9 to 10 p.m. The second group was fed at 8 and 9 a.m. and again at 3 to 4 p.m. He continued these feeding regimes from about 1 month prior to the start of calving. He recorded the time of day when each calf was born. The results are shown in Table 1. Cows fed later in the day had 80% of their calves born during the daylight hours compared with 38% for those fed earlier in the day.

Iowa State University conducted a survey of 15 cattle producers that fed either early in the day (before noon) or late in the day (5 to 10 p.m.). Cows fed late had 85% of their calves born during the day while only 15% were born at night (Table 1). Only 49.8% of the cows in the morning feed group calved during daylight hours.

In a three-year study conducted at the Livestock and Range Research Station (LARRS) at Miles City, Montana, the effect of time of feeding on calving time was likewise recorded (Table 1). Approximately 67% of the cows fed early (7 to 9 a.m.), calved from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 33% calved at night. In the cows fed late 78.1% calved during the day and early evening hours and 22.8% calved at night. In the Konefal study and Iowa survey, feeding occurred as late as 9 to 10 p.m., whereas cows in the LARRS study were mostly fed at 5 to 6 p.m. in the late feeding group. This 3 to 4 hour difference may account for more cows calving during the daylight hours in the earlier studies.

There are several advantages to calving during the day:

- ◊ Easier to observe the herd
- ◊ Assist with calving
- ◊ Fewer cows struggling through the night to calve on their own
- ◊ Fewer calves are lost
- ◊ Newborn calves get sunshine to warm them
- ◊ Possibility of hypothermia is reduced

A drawback to getting daylight calves is you will probably be feeding hay in the dark. Feeding cows in the evening has shown to increase the number of cows calving during daylight hours; however, this has not eliminated nighttime calving. Therefore, beef cattle producers still need to observe their cows during the late night and early morning hours. ♦

*Courtesy OSU Calving School  
Publication, Animal Sciences #106,  
December 1998.*



## When to...

**Table 1.** Influence of Feeding Time on Calving Time

Time of Feeding	No. of Calvings	Calving Time	
		Daylight	Nighttime
<u>GUS KONEFAL</u>			
Fed 8 to 9 AM & 3 to 4 PM	39	38%	62%
Fed 11 AM to Noon & 9 to 10 PM	44	80%	20%
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<u>IOWA STATE</u>			
Before Noon	695	49.8%	50.2%
5 to 10 PM	1331	85.1%	14.9%
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<u>LARRS</u>			
Early-fed (7 - 9 AM)	334	66.9%	33.3%
Late-fed (5 - 6 PM)	347	78.1%	22.8%

### Dehorn

It's best to dehorn a calf as young as possible for humane reasons. If you can catch and have a way to restrain the calf, branding when the buds appear is probably the best method. If you have the vet or someone saw the horns off, then you should do it in the winter months when it's not fly season. This prevents flies from laying eggs in the cavity, which can lead to infection. Some do not recommend using paste because it can run if it rains, causing additional problems.

### Steer

You can make a bull a steer at any age, but in general, it's best before 7 months. A purebred cattle breeder might wait 6 months in order to determine if it's worthy to be a bull or not, whereas a commercial breeder will steer them young and may also add implants for growth. The procedure can be done at one day old, but it is advised to give the calf a few days to get on its feet. Like dehorning, it's less painful the younger the animal is. Veterinarians still prefer castration as the best method. Some use banding but you have to be careful that you don't miss a testicle, which can cause a condition called cryptorchidism; the pain also lasts longer.



## THOSE LITTLE BLACK DEXTERS

*Continued from front page*

I know a lot about Irish Dexters, yet know nothing, for I feel it takes a lifetime to learn all there is to know about the efficient care and breeding of cattle.

Our farm acreage is now more than tripled and our current herd numbers 40 cows and heifers, an outstanding bull, and an up-and-coming youngster that promises to be another blue-ribbon sire. During the past 17 years with my Irish Dexters, I have shipped prize-winning breeding stock to 8 other states and Canada.

In breeding, our program is to protect cow and calf in a box stall for the first week so the youngster will get a good start in life with all the maternal colostrum it can take. At the same time, we start training the new mother to milking and, within the week, she milks quietly with all four quarters level and the udders square. We then return her to the herd, letting the calf nurse twice a day and having fine hay, salt and water available to the baby at all times. When a month old we turn her out to the calf pasture where a close watch is kept to prevent wetting or chilling; and a thorough daily check is made for scratches, colds or possible injuries.

The feeding program for the brood matron is simple: grain on the basis of 1 pound to each 4 pounds of milk. This, of course, may be varied if the cow does or does not eat the full ration given. Our cows are not fat but well-rounded, smooth and glossy with hair soft, skin loose and rolling, and no ribs showing. Pastures are rotated to keep fresh growth available all summer. In winter they get enough hay 3 times a day to keep them filled, but are cut down in quantity if they waste hay. Our hay is a mixture of clover, trefoil, brome, timothy, and alfalfa. The grain mixture is a commercial feed, 20% protein. Calves are fed a handful twice a day.

Our breeding is pointed to produce a small 36- to 38-inch dairy type animal which will milk 40 to 50 pounds daily with a 4.75 to 5.00 percent butterfat and we often have ones that do better. Four year olds come to this record of performance very readily.

We have developed a sales policy for the protection of the buyer. In the past we sold weanlings which, due to lack of knowledge or care by the new owner dur-

ing the growing time, did not develop as they should have. We now ship only bred heifers; this gives the new owner a definite picture of progress, in a short time building a firm foundation of continuity in his venture into the breeding of Irish Dexters.

If all factors are favorable, we breed the fresh cow on the second heat period, using an extra good, dairy type bull. When the cow shows signs of springing, we pen the cow 2 or 3 days before freshening, being sure she is tied in a corner until the calf is born.\* She is then turned loose so that she can sever the umbilical cord and dry the calf. The calf begins nursing in about 10 minutes and may need a little human help to get the milk started. The cow is milked half-dry 4 hours after the calf is born, then leveled off each night and morning until the calf takes all the milk. Every calf is registered a short time after birth. Bull calves that do not show definite promise are castrated and raised as steers.

Our cows are kept in stanchions and young stock in pens. All are trained to come to the barn morning and night.

Although this hobby entails a lot of work, it is a relaxation and a safety valve which relieves the pressure of business problems. Too, it is a challenge to develop

the best. We do have some mighty handsome individuals, but the ambition is always there to produce something better and we always look forward to the new calves, hoping the next little black toddler will be another champion. Folks who have seen our stock take blue ribbons at the shows and fairs are quickly won by this appealing breed, and love to talk with us about the Irish Dexter.

To me, this is enough reward for the care and attention we have lavished on the little blacks. Since 1944 the popularity of Irish Dexters has increased with each passing year, and today the American Dexter Cattle Association has members in 15 states and Canada.

So, at Tak-sca-du-hav Farm, the barns are full of hay and grain, the little cows are sleek, and I'm a lucky guy. ❖

*\*I should caution that while it was not uncommon in the past to leave a cow tied during calving, it is not recommended and could be dangerous to the cow and calf.*

*I would like to extend my gratitude to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy and their staff for sharing this article which was acquired from their archives. Ed.*

**Here is another story from a cattle improver that will tell you about a breed too little known. And when you get a Dane intrigued with Irish cattle, you get a lucky guy. Besides, those little blacks saved him from a nervous breakdown.**



**President Otto Jensen wants you to see "Grandma Dexter" and her bull calf.**



## 📁 **ADCA Secretarial Report** 📁

by Rosemary Fleharty

For the next two issues of the Bulletin, the secretary is going to provide a column to clear up some misnomers about what the Secretary/Treasurer does and does not do and also to answer some questions that were raised at some recent regional meetings. Please realize your secretary is also employed full-time and also has other commitments like most of the individuals that try to serve you. She is available most evenings and on the weekend. Mornings are difficult since I leave for work early—in the summer I leave at 6:00 a.m. The secretary is justifiably paid for about 10 hours a week. After reading all the duties that are involved and deducting the expenses she must pay for the Association out of her own pocket, be fair about the assessment of how much can be expected. Please understand in addressing the contentious issue of the secretary to serve the breeders, it is an incorrect assumption. The secretary serves the breed first. We must all collaborate in working together to see this is accomplished.

I will address the majority of things the secretary does or tries to do for the Association. Please understand there are many menial tasks not listed here. Many of these are time consuming but in the essence of time and space, I have tried to cover as much as possible.

**Most Recent Delays:** I must apologize for any delays that have been caused over the last several months. The herd book is presently the priority and having suffered a broken hand has incapacitated my speed in processing paperwork. I type at over 100 wpm and when you suddenly have only one hand to type with everything moves at a snail's pace. If other requests were denied, it was because there was not time to do them in an effort to keep the paperwork and the herd book on target. Even working several nights until midnight did not accommodate keeping

things caught up. It is the most busy time of year with dues and lots of new members generated from the herd book mailing. The only thing that was accomplished was some file drawers got cleaned because you cannot get a casted hand in a drawer that is over filled with folders. And, if misery loves company, you may feel comforted by knowing that my church suffered also as they were without an organist. However, I am now recovered and everything is now in a flurry to get things caught up.

**Duties/Non-Duties of the Secretary/Treasurer:** First the secretary is responsible for the inquiries, the registration and transfer of cattle and all functions concerning that duty and as the treasurer handles all of the money that is collected and expended by the Association. She does not proofread the Bulletin (I am sure Rich Henry would like that and I would like to have Rich as my proofreader as well). She does not do the web site (a member Oogie McGuire from California does the web site) and she does not do the advertising (we have a Vice President Kathy Smith from New York who does an excellent job without pay and I could not begin to compete with her skills). And, she does not prepare the brochure—these are distributed by the ADCA office, but are created and printed by one of the Directors.

The secretary does send out the Bulletin to our foreign subscribers and members (Canada). Rich Henry used to do this. However, the computer generates the labels and it just makes more sense since we get the additional copies of the Bulletin to do so here. Each foreign label requires two labels with a special form that must be filled out for use by the post office. The bulletins are placed in large envelopes to make sure they are received.

**Cost of Registrations/Transfers:** We understand there has been concerns about the cost of registrations and

transfers. The cost to the Association is \$4 and \$3 respectively (that is what the Secretary receives). The other \$16 or \$17 is used to run the Association. The secretary is not paid for reprinting certificates (regardless of where errors are made or if certificates have been lost, etc.) Any money collected for reissued certificates becomes a part of the general operating funds of the Association. There is a large cost in postage—we send out over 1,200 first class envelopes for the herd book alone. We send packets to inquiries, we do advertising, we send packets to school children and agriculture departments upon request. This additional money also replaces supplies like paper, registration certificates, toner for the copier and printer and envelopes (envelopes, envelopes). This money also provides for the replacement of equipment as well. In our disposable world equipment is quickly outdated and worn out. The copier is now at 68,000 copies. We have been told that after next year it will be eliminated from the active parts inventory. In other words, if they have a part on hand, they can fix it, if not, parts will no longer be available. The life of this copier is terminal.

**Inquiries:** Each person who sends in an inquiry to the Association Office or requests information through an E-Mail receives a membership book with all the members in the U.S. and Canada, two to three Bulletins (these are sent book rate) and a first class envelope with four sheets telling about the Association and encouraging individuals either to join the Association or subscribe to the Bulletin, warning individuals to check for up-to-date registration certificates before purchasing cattle and telling them what a completed registration certificate looks like. At no time do we only send a regional or state listing. All inquiries are handled on a weekly basis unless we receive a large amount in one week then they will be mailed out twice in one week. *Continued on page 9*



## **ADCA Secretarial Report**

*Continued from previous page*

We get on the average of 15-20 inquiries a week. If someone indicates to you that they have not received a response, please let the Secretary know the name and address of that individual. Sometimes messages on the answering machine are incomplete or garbled (cell phones/car phones sometimes cut out before we get the complete address). Sometimes individuals fail to leave an address or phone number—"Hi, this is Susie from Pennsylvania—I'd like more information on Dexters . . ." If the last name and first name are not too difficult or overly common, and I can get the correct spelling and the individual leaves at least a city and state, I will search them out on Who/Where on the Internet and try to get a current address.

And, sometimes in phone calls received an individual asks lots of questions but never gives us their name and address. We cannot force them to do so. If they ask for a list of breeders, they are sent one. We log all calls on the computer.

**Other websites and groups placing ads:** There are lots of Dexter related web sites that people are accessing. The Missouri Dexter Breeders do their own advertising, have their own web site and distribute their own brochures. They are independent from the National Association. Members pay dues for these services so when someone writes to them they get a copy of the Missouri Dexter Breeders listing. Sometimes individuals think they have reached the National Office. If the breeder is a long way off, sometimes the MDBA will give the individual the National Office address, however, they are under no obligation to do so.

There is currently a marketing group out of Canada that you will also access with "Dexter" or "Dexter Cattle" in certain search engines. I'm sure we will soon be hearing that individuals are getting listings of "only Canadian cattle or certain select areas." Please help everyone out in the Association when

you hear these stories by giving them the right E-Mail or mailing address. We do respond I assure you. There are also individuals who have their own web sites—they are under no obligation to give an individual the National address—they pay for their own site hosting, etc. If they can sell cattle because of their website, we cannot expect an individual to give them the Association address and phone and possibly lose a sale. When the animals are transferred, we will contact the person and at that time they will receive a membership book (if they are a new owner).

**E-Mail Responses:** We also have received more than 250 E-mails in a two-month period. These are answered at least twice a day and when possible three times a day. Originally Wes Patton, our Director from California, volunteered to answer these. However, when inquiries came he tried forwarding them to Directors—many Directors did not have time to respond—did not have E-Mail addresses, did not know of cattle for sale, etc. And, how does one assess if a person is from Pennsylvania but is making a trip to California and would like to look at Dexters along the way—his Region alone would not be helpful. Also many E-Mails were of the nature that then needed to be forwarded to me on Association questions—making more work for both of us. After a short period of time all E-Mail from the web site was changed to the Secretary's office. We tried to make it possible for Wes to continue to assist with the monitoring but the web designer suggested against this. I now have access to E-Mails from the website from my office and my home so if I have a free lunch hour, I check the E-mail and can answer them from work as well.

**The Answering Machine Doesn't Respond:** While we were gone to Wisconsin for two days to work with

the classification team, someone left a 20 minute message and filled up the answering machine. Someone wrote indicating that they couldn't get through. Things like this happen over which no one has control.

**I couldn't reach the Association—the phone is disconnected.** Our area code (along with many others) changed over two years ago. All current publications have the correct phone number. However, after six months the phone company stopped giving out the new correct area code and simply says this number is no longer available. What they are saying is that area code is no longer correct. However, many people keep old material, access old material from libraries, etc. and even our new web site for the first month had the wrong area code. This doesn't help, but again, there is little we can do. There will always be old information out there—we are still getting mail forwarded to us from Decorah, Iowa, after over 10 years.

**The Secretary gets extra pay for extra things:** The secretary is not reimbursed for any long distance calls or faxes. All calls that are returned to inquiries or members that are left on the answering machine are paid for by the secretary. Nor is the secretary reimbursed for travel to and from the national meeting or to travel to get supplies, trips to the post office, etc. She is paid a flat stipend which is all encompassing. She must cover all expenses from her stipend. She also is not paid for trips she makes for the Association—like the trip to Wisconsin to work with the classification team. Her plane ticket, car rental, etc. is all paid out of her own pocket. Someone needed to be present and I felt it was my obligation to do so. She also is not reimbursed if she hires someone to assist her. And her trips to the repair shop for the copy machine are also not paid—if the Association had to pay for a

*Continued on page 10*



## **ADEA Secretarial Report**

*Continued from previous page*

repairman to come out to fix the copier, that would not be included in the maintenance contract. We do try to save the Association dollars whenever possible.

### **Don't make unreasonable requests!**

If you know a show is coming up, don't wait until Tuesday to call and say you need brochures by Friday—I cannot get to the U.S. Post Office easily. This means my husband (Dean) must work it in his schedule. It is going to be Wednesday before we can get them in the mail and these will need to be express mailed—this is costly to the Association and unfair to other members who plan ahead. Also, we no longer can accept applications for registration via FAX—too many times papers have been completed and sent to members and **never** reimbursed. Plan ahead and send your papers in with plenty lead time—if you need them by a specific date indicate that but don't make it less than a two-week turn around time. You then make other more conscientious members wait for their paperwork.

And, in answer to a comment "how long can it take to run a few registration papers through the computer?" You as an individual are not the only person being served by the Association. Your papers may be among over 100 others to process in a week's time. **Be considerate of time and tasks related.**

**Late Fees:** Don't ask that late fees be waived for you. If your fees are waived, then we need to consider each and every member when they have late fees. Again, plan ahead—get your animals registered early on. If you are late, send the appropriate fees.

**How Important is Your Request—or is it only Your Request?** If you make a request, make sure others also want the same information. It is very time consuming to change programming for

one request that will never be asked for again. We all have wonderful ideas and many of them are very good and can be implemented and are useful to lots of members so we want to hear them, but please understand when your request cannot be filled. The Association secretary is not trying to be unreasonable but trying to treat everyone the same and make the best use of time and resources.

### **Read the material the secretary sends you.**

If you receive a paper with a herd name change, it is probably because someone else was the breeder. There will be a large printed document explaining the rule. If your name exceeds the 21 spaces and letters rule, and the secretary changes it, don't ask to have it reissued. Again, if every member would do this, the workload would double. Be fair to other breeders.

**Errors:** It is also not necessary to send copies of incorrect registration papers to the President. He knows I make mistakes—if you send it back, I'll correct it and mail it to you. Our President is unreimbursed and has far more important things to do than find out there was one error on a paper. He then writes me, I tell him it is already corrected and sent back, he has to answer you—we have wasted a lot of valuable time. We're all human and make mistakes. Sometimes handwriting is difficult to read and sometimes they are honest mistakes. Help us out by catching them and getting them corrected before the herd book is printed. We want our herd books to be a correct account of all animals registered. He doesn't want to see all the applications with missing information that I receive either. Please understand I have kept track of errors that were actually the secretary's error (including those that I misread handwriting), and the errors are 5% or less. In doing a survey of information that is available in various business courses, one expects at least 15% errors.

We are far below that. I know when it your paper and it has an error, it seems reprehensible, but there will be errors and I can only apologize, correct them and try harder. **I cannot guarantee there will be no errors.**

And, many times they are breeder's errors—I kept track over a two-week period and more than 10 papers were returned with errors—all of these errors were breeder errors—names were wrong, tattoo numbers were wrong even an incorrect sire (all which the breeder(s) admitted were their errors). The papers were corrected as quickly as possible and returned.

### **The computer system was too expensive.**

Some of the cost of the new system was software—we had no choice but to replace the old system. The old database system was based upon a two-digit year code. When we would have started entering cattle with a birth date of 2000, it would have listed them with a birth date of 1900.

### **The Association could have purchased a canned product that would have been less expensive.**

That is true—but it would not have done all the things the Association or its members need or want. The production of the herd book until the new system was implemented was done manually in a word processing system by changing the database to ASCII code and then back to a word processing form and then using a search and replace to put in tabs, paragraphs, etc. It was very time-consuming and not rational as the Association continues to grow. All registration certificates were hand typed on a typewriter until this past year since the old database was only capable of pulling one generation on an animal which means each animal would have required five different pages or pulls to get the information. This system will also get outdated I am sure.

*Continued on page 11*



## ADCA Secretarial Report

*Continued from previous page*

Some of us still remember the 5 1/4 inch disks—wow weren't they great. But again, we needed to do something immediate. Other bids we received would have been more than \$10,000 - \$15,000 to create a similar system without the financial part tied to it. The system now generates income for each individual member as registration certificates are printed. We can at any point in time see how much an individual member has paid and for what. We have come a long way from the hand written ledgers and spreadsheets we were using.

Almost any kind of report can be generated—probably some not without further programming, but this system has a future that a canned product would not have had.

Not only did the programmer do the entire system but has continued to help us throughout the year develop more things and change small things to make them better. He even at his own expense traveled to the printing company to make sure that we were providing the data in a manner that was proper to assure that Bulletins could be mailed to all members with correct and good addresses (adding the nine digit zip code). He has provided a year of service un-reimbursed—this has included numerous phone calls and changes and updates—almost all have been invisible to the members. It has made a better and more productive system.

**The computer was too expensive:** We now have a Pentium III computer—the most up-to-date software (or at least it was six months ago) and it is extremely fast—you cannot visibly see a macro being implemented. The computer was more expensive than what the

Association's Board of Directors allocated so the Association Secretary contributed the additional funds so we could have

the faster Pentium III over the Celeron Processor which would have been within the dollars allocated.

**There was a long delay in getting my paperwork.** We try (I say try) to move everything as quickly as possible through the system getting paperwork completed in two weeks. If there are questions on paperwork, if the herd book mailing is being generated or the herd book is being worked on or if (heaven forbid), the secretary gets injured or must be out of town, there will be delays. I don't like them any more than you do. I'll work long extra hours, but sometimes when I get 30 new members in one week, I just can't get everything done.

We think some papers may not be treated as first class even though we put first class postage on them. We are trying to make sure this is corrected. A "First Class" stamp will be used and books will be placed in brown envelopes and registration papers in white envelopes to make sure our postal employees don't accidentally send them the wrong rate. This will give them a visual assistance also knowing when they see the white envelope it is to go first class. We take large boxes of mail to the post office so it would be easy when they are putting postage on envelopes and going between book rate and first class to miss an envelope and put the wrong postage on it. Again, mistakes happen to all of us.

Also understand that any papers with Canadian and foreign animals in the pedigree must be manually generated. And, all of the information must be manually looked up. We do not have foreign registration systems incorporated into our system. If the animal doesn't have an ADCA number, it must be looked up. This is very time consuming. And, there are other problems—some animals are named differently in the ADCA than in the Canadian Association, etc. Any help

you can give is appreciated. If you know the animal is registered in the ADCA and know the number, please put it on the paper. It recently took over eight hours just to research the information for a group of Canadian papers. The member involved was very understanding and patient. He knows his papers are tough to do and he understands delays in getting them back. ❖ *Continued next issue.*

### Letter to the Editor

I just received the May/June 2000 issue of the Dexter Bulletin.

As usual, the Bulletin was done up in a very professional manner. The articles were very informative and interesting. I appreciate the explanations included in reference to the question on prices being shown in the one ad. As usual, it has required considerable effort and time on your part to make this a very informative and interesting publication.

Without doubt, I congratulate you on your time and effort in making the Dexter Bulletin the most professional and informative publication that the Association has had in the period of time that I have been associated with same. I know the difficulty that you have in getting articles and getting them on time so as to meet your deadlines.

Thank you for a job well done. Keep up the good work.

**Jim Johnson**

*Thank you Jim for the kind words and also for the renewal of your advertisements. Your continued support of the Bulletin and work on behalf of the American Dexter Cattle Association is appreciated not just by myself, but I'm sure by the other Dexter breeders as well.*

*Just to add some balance to your comments, I did get an email from someone that correctly pointed out that I had omitted the dates in the last issue for this year's annual meeting. So I guess I'll have to keep trying to breed for that "perfect" Dexter. ☺ RH.*





# ◆ Classified Advertising ◆

*Cost for an annual subscription (six issues) to the Bulletin is \$10 for non-members. Make check payable to the American Dexter Cattle Association and send to: American Dexter Cattle Association, 26804 Ebenezer, Concordia, MO 64020.*

*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

### ARROW WOOD FARM NEW JERSEY HERD REDUCTION

**FOR SALE:** 1999 and 2000 black heifer and bull calves, bred cows and bull. Very small and well conformed. Calves bottle fed and well handled.

Allan and Elaine Abrams  
104 E. Saddle River Road  
Saddle River, NJ 07458

Telephone: 201-327-0740  
Fax: 201-327-1912  
Email: EA43@aol.com

### Registered Dexter Cattle For Sale!

Bred cows and heifers, heifer and bull calves, red/dun & black.

David Lenz  
30302 Nature Rd.  
Royalton, MN 56323  
(320) 355-2369

### For Sale:

Herd Dispersal: I still have a few head of select original type Dexter cattle available; cows, calves and heifers.

Twainland Dexter Farm  
15076 Monroe County Rd. 819  
Paris, MO 65275  
(660) 327-5585

email: hwjlmbz@yahoo.com or hwjlbmdx@mcmsys.com

### DEXTER BULL FOR SALE

Short - legged but very proportionate, black, horned, 3 years old, proven sire - \$800.

Call:  
Eileen Dyer  
(508) 829-5688  
(Massachusetts)

A couple of black, horned, proportionate cows, 5 & 6 years old. Flawed, but inexpensive foundation cows with good pedigrees for someone wanting to begin their own Dexter herd.

Write or email for details:

**Haze Farm**  
17409 E. 163rd St  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082  
Rchar@toast.net

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 44286-9605  
(330) 659-4861

Red/Dun Dexter Bull Calf for sale or trade for Red/Dun heifer calf. Born 3/19/00, horned.

Daybreak Farm  
1968 Boston Post Rd.  
Guilford, CT. 06437-4339  
(203) 458-8317

### DEXTER BULL FOR SALE

Red/dun - small but proportionate. Claved 7-13-99.

CONTACT:  
Donald Darnell  
17477 Yankee Rd  
Morley, MI 49336  
(231) 937-5258



## Dexter Cattle For Sale

### HI-COUNTRY ACHERS

#### REGISTERED DEXTER CATTLE

749 24 3/4 Road Carol Ann Traynor  
GRAND JCT, CO 81505 PH: (970) 241-2005  
e-mail: hicountrycat@aol.com

Gentle cattle - handled daily - 2000 calves available

 *"You're welcome to visit!"* 

Call or write for current information.

BARN & BED for travelers with or without their Dexters!

### DAVIS FARMS

Debbie & Mike Davis  
22000 C/R 196  
Nathrop, CO 81236  
(719) 395-6776  
E-mail: debsdexters@bwn.net

Cattle Available for Sale or Trade

### IRISH DEXTER CATTLE

*Jubilee Farm's Irish Dexter Cattle*  
**ms75615@alltel.net**

### Registered Dexter Cattle Bred Cows, Heifers & Bulls For Sale

Jubilee Farm's  
Mike Slocum Family  
Rt. 1, Box 50  
Friend, NE 68359  
(402) 947-6221

### DIXIE MEADOWS DEXTERS

Registered red/dun cattle. Bred cows, heifers, and bulls for sale.  
Was the "Snowbird Herd." Gentle disposition and easy keepers.  
Call & visit:

Helen L. Dixon  
37 Viewtown Rd.  
Viewtown, VA 22746  
email: dixiemeadows@erols.com  
phone: (540) 937-5186  
fax: (540) 937-4831

### THOMAS' DEXTERS

Al & Sandi Thomas  
P.O. Box 135, Antelope, OR 97001  
Phone/Fax (541) 489-3385  
\*Specializing in "TRUE RED" DEXTERS  
\*24 + Years of Breeding Champion Dexters,  
We are dedicated to the Breed, and its improvement!  
\*Cows & Heifers for sale. We offer only the best Bulls.

### Hammer Ranch Dexter Cattle

Breeding stock for sale.  
Open heifers, bred heifers and cows.  
A few good bulls, predominately black.  
We also have a bull lease program.

Ernest Hammer  
P.O. Box 184  
Wild Horse, CO. 80862  
(719) 962-3158



### *Smiling Papa Johnson Ranch*

Registered American Dexter Cattle

Marvin B and DeLois K.  
P.O. Box 441 - Elkhart, KS 67950

Phone - 580-696-4836 email: papajohn@elkhart.com

Specializing in the  
original horned cattle.  
Choice breeding stock,  
prices upon request.  
Breeding for the ultimate in  
conformation.

SMILING PAPA JOHNSON, DEXTER CATTLE BROKER



**Dexter Products For Sale****CUSTOM HALTERS FOR DEXTERS**

HEIFERS / SMALL COWS      **SMALL}**  
 COWS / YOUNG BULLS      **MEDIUM}** \$17.00  
 BULLS / LARGER COWS      **LARGE}**  
 Nylon w/Chin-Chain, **BLACK, GREEN, BLUE, RED**  
 Please add U.S. Postage \$3 for 1, \$4 for 2, \$5 for 3.  
**THOMAS', BOX 135, ANTELOPE, OR 97001**  
**541-489-3385**

**Dexter Semen For Sale**

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.

Evelyn Colclough  
 10418 16th St. East  
 Edgewood, WA 98372  
 (253) 927-4608  
 lmhoward@earthlink.net

## ADCA FARM SIGNS

Marvin Johnson, Region 6 Director, has received a quote from Jack Pratt Screen-Ad Co. in Oklahoma City, for farm signs.

The sign would have the ADCA logo on both sides in black and white. The frames would be 1" angle iron. The individual nameplate signs would bolt on the bottom, both sides painted with farm herd name, phone number and address.

	<i>Per Sign</i>	<i>In lots of 25</i>
12" x 24" Yard Signs in 42" frame	\$24.99	\$22.50
18" x 24" Yard Signs in 42" frame	\$49.99	\$26.99
24" x 36" Yard Signs in 60" frame	\$54.99	\$46.99
5" x 24" Nameplates for 12x24 & 18x24	\$12.50	\$5.25
6" x 36" Nameplates for 24 x 36	\$17.99	\$12.50

If you would like a farm sign with the ADCA's logo, you can order direct from :

Jack Pratt Screen Ad. Co.  
 409 N.E. 40th St.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
 (405) 534-5551  
 Toll free: 1-800-299-5551  
 Fax: (405) 524-1153  
 E-mail: jpratt@ionet.net

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 44286-9605  
 (330) 659-4861

**RFF FIREWEED #8056 EX****1998 ADCA Video Champion Bull**

(IRISH SETTER) RED/Dun Excellent disposition  
 3 1/2 years at collection, 43" tall, \$40 per straw plus S&H

Kathy Ireland  
 22 Rt. 347  
 Millville, NJ 08332  
 (856) 327-2368

**DEXTER SEMEN FOR SALE**

Thomas' Prides Red Baron, Red #4882, 42" @ 4 yrs \$25 straw + S&H. Avail. for International Export from U.S. NO DUN!  
 Thomas' Magic Pride #3848, Black w/RED/dun. 40" @ 3 1/2 yrs. \$15/straw + S&H. Shipping available from Canada &/ or U.S. Good dispositions Proportionate Confirmation Champion Wins. No minimum purchase required. All costs C.O.D.

Thomas', PO Box 135, Antelope, OR 97001, (541) 489-3385.

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION  
 Annual Meeting - July 14th - 16th, 2000  
 Marshfield, Missouri



# 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.

Please order all books from:  
**Rosemary Fleharty, Secretary**  
**American Dexter Cattle Association**  
**26804 Ebenezer**  
**Concordia, MO 64020**

## Advertising

Classified advertisements of Dexter cattle or Dexter semen are \$15.00 for up to a 2" column ad or \$75.00 per year for six issues. Ads over 2" up to 4" are \$30 per ad or \$150.00 per year for six issues. All ads are limited to Dexters exclusively and subject to approval by the ADCA. Prices for animals will not be published. 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

email: Rchar@toast.net

## 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.

## Deadlines for advertisements/articles

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Date due by</i>
January/February	December 1st
March/April	February 1st
May/June	April 1st
July/August	June 1st
September/October	August 1st
November/December	October 1st

## 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 ( <b>Bulletin</b> only) .....	\$10.00

All fees should be paid in U.S. currency.

Names for registration cannot exceed 21 characters

The tattoo code letter for 2000 is "K"





Giving tours of Dexters at the Adanal Ranch during the Region 6 meeting. *Story on page 4.*

## The Dexter Bulletin July/August

Richard Henry, Editor  
17409 E. 163rd St.  
Lee's Summit, MO 64082-4582

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID

**PI** MAIL  
SEDALIA, MO

Address Service Requested

1st Class Mail



John S. Merrifield  
5634 NE 12th St  
Newton KS 67114-9450



DATED MATERIAL