



The Dexter Bulletin

Volume 40 - No. 3

May/June, 2000

ADCA CLASSIFICATION

As you are aware, for several years the ADCA has been working toward establishing an evaluation system for Dexter Cattle that will allow Dexters to be classified and provide breeders vital information to assist in the selection of animals. At the present no system exists and animals are bought and sold without regard to consideration for any particular breed characteristics. Many times price, color or disposition is the determining factor. All of these are important attributes, but beyond that no information is available. Does this animal have good feet and did the dam have good feet? What other things would the buyer like to know before making a purchase?

Classification and linear scoring of individual traits have become the most popular herd improvement tools available to producers of many breeds. Both can be used as herd improvement tools. In a linear evaluation program an animal is totally evaluated and the entire animal is looked at (from head to tail, shoulder to feet) and is given points for all areas of the body. This will allow an individual to know what is good, average, below average and poor for each animal. A pictorial description and scale of linear type traits are presented with a numerical value. The parts of the cow are evaluated relative to the True-Type Model. After all of the linear traits are scored, an overall classification score is given to the animal. There will be excellent, good and poor cows. If you have a herd with poor topline, it would be good to bring a sire into your herd that has a good topline. You would be able to determine from the numerical value if an animal did indeed have a good topline. Associations and individuals that have adopted a scoring system have found it to be a very valuable selection tool.

Continued on page 4



Classifiers trained to do Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn and Dexter Cattle. Wearing the red shirt in the front is Roger Neitzel, Superintendent of Records, Brown Swiss Association.



Dean and Rosemary Fleharty, Diane Mills-Frank and Daryl Frank in Beloit, Wisconsin.

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

Message From the President

Spring is here. I hope everyone is looking forward to lush pastures and calves running with their tails in the air. We are still waiting patiently for the first calf to drop.

Plans are moving forward for the 2000 Annual Meeting. Everyone should have received information via the Bulletin or the web site about the activities – live show, video show, sale, heifer raffle, "White Dexter" auction. There is something for everyone. I look forward to meeting many new Dexter owners, as well as those that have been in the Association for a longer time.

One of the things that should be done for the annual meeting is to create an agenda for the business meeting. It is the President's responsibility to create this portion of the meeting, and I am looking for input from all Directors, Officers and also the general membership. Items of interest to the membership should be sent to me as soon as possible. I will work with the Directors to make sure that agenda items and motions from regional meetings are reviewed and considered. It is my intention to publish this agenda in the next issue of the Bulletin, so that everyone will have advance notice of topics for discussion.

I want to personally thank everyone who has taken the time to send me ideas on making the Association better. It is good to hear that we have concerned people out there that care about how we can continue to improve. Please continue to send the ideas – I will find a way to compile them into a readable format so they can be presented.

Patrick Mitchell
ADCA President

This year, two heifer calves will be donated by Smiling Papa Johnson Ranch and Rainbow Hills Irish Dexter Farm.



IRISH DEXTER 2000

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

A · N · N · U · A · L M · E · E · T · I · N · G

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are adequate accommodations in the area, but the small town of Marshfield has three motels.

* Holiday Inn Express, 1301 Banning St.; 417-859-6000

* Fair Oaks Motel, Exit 100; 417-468-3075

* Plaza Motel, Exit 100; 417-468-2491

* Budget Inn (located in Conway - 5 miles from Marshfield); 417-589-2503

Marshfield is only 13 miles from Springfield, which is Missouri's third largest city and has every possible type of hotel for your convenience.

VIDEO SHOW

The rules have been published in a recent "Bulletin." Any ADCA member can enter. Videos **must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2000.** They should be mailed to Wes Patton, 7069 County Rd 20, Orland, CA 95963. For questions contact Wes at 530-865-7250 or e-mail him at jpatton@orland.net

LIVE ANIMAL SHOW AND SALE AT MARSHFIELD

Complete information was published in a recent "Bulletin." All entry forms and entry fees **must be received by June 1, 2000.** Please send them to 2000 Show and Sale Committee, c/o John Foley, 5668 North Farm Road 189, Springfield, MO 65803. Any questions contact John at 417-833-2186 or e-mail at jfoleyarc@aol.com or Jerry Starnes at 573-785-2719 or e-mail starnesj@semo.net.



REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING

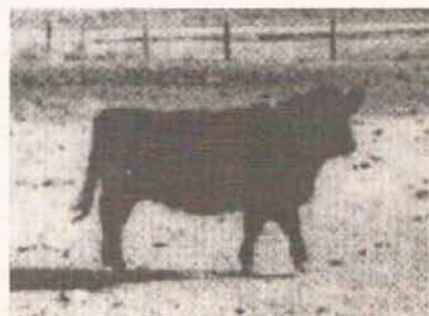
Registration for the three-day event is \$30. This includes the Friday Bar-B-Q, the Dexter burger luncheon, and the annual banquet dinner. *(There will be door prizes and other give-aways so be sure to register).* Please send your registration fee **no later than May 15** to Rosemary Fleharty, ADCA, 26804 Ebenezer Rd, Concordia, MO 64020; phone 660-463-7704 or e-mail dfle@almanet.net.

GREAT WHITE DEXTER SALE

Items donated to raise funds for the Association will be auctioned off on Saturday evening. Bring your donations to the meeting. Questions about the sale contact Brenda Stringham at 913-755-4704.

DEXTER RAFFLE

Two Dexters have been donated for a raffle – a black heifer by Marvin Johnson and a red/dun heifer donated by Jerry Starnes. If you haven't received your ticket, tickets can be purchased through your Regional Director, Jerry Starnes, John Foley, or contact Betty Waller at 573-358-3250 or mdba@jun.net. Don't miss out on winning a heifer. The drawing will be held during the Annual meeting. ❖




ADCA Classification

Continued from front page

Following a very long planning program between the American Dexter Cattle Association and the Brown Swiss Association, a classification program has been developed for use by the ADCA. Wes Patton was instrumental in working out the detailed scorecard that will be used by classifiers in classifying Dexters. Wes, as most of you are aware, is a faculty member in the College of Agriculture at California State University, in Chico, California and served as a judge at the Dexter World Congress in England.

On March 6 and 7, a Joint Classification meeting was held in Beloit, Wisconsin at the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association Office. Classifiers from across the U.S. who classify Guernseys, Milking Shorthorns, and Brown Swiss cattle were in attendance. Wes was unable to attend this meeting. However, he had met with one of the classifiers earlier in the year when Mr. Bernard Monson (who judged the 1999 ADCA video show) had traveled to his farm in California for a hands-on evaluation and discussion about Dexter Cattle.

Dean and Rosemary Fleharty attended the session to represent the Association. A local ADCA member, Mrs. Diane Mills-Frank, graciously offered to allow the classifiers to visit her farm and spend part of a day evaluating Dexters. This allowed the Brown Swiss classifiers to come to a mutually agreed upon scoring of Dexters. Mr. Roger Neitzel, Superintendent of Records, Brown Swiss Association, spent the morning with the classifiers and led them through the training process for the classification program for Dexters. Each of the classifiers would come up with a completed scorecard for each animal and then compare scores and give an oral explanation of the score they had given. It was a learning process for all of those who attended.

The classifiers who attended this meeting have been classifiers for the various breeds and many have years of experience in classifying cattle. 



The Joint Classification meeting was held in Beloit, Wisconsin.



Part of the day was spent evaluating Dexters at Mrs. Diane Mills-Frank's farm.



Classifiers from across the U.S. spent time examining Dexters.

2000 TYPE CLASSIFICATION TOURS

1. STATURE

5 - Very Short

15 - Short

25 - Intermediate Height

35 - Tall

45 - Very Tall

2. STRENGTH (Chest & Body)

5 - Very narrow & frail

15 - Narrow & frail

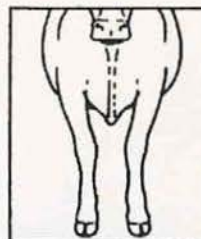
25 - Intermediate width & strength

35 - Wide & strong

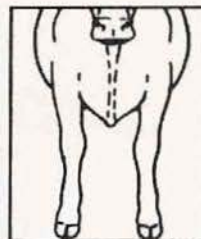
45 - Very wide & strong



Very narrow & frail



Intermediate Width & Strength



Very Wide & Strong

3. BODY DEPTH

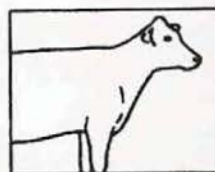
5 - Extremely shallow

15 - Shallow

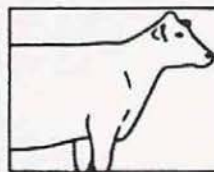
25 - Intermediate depth

35 - Deep

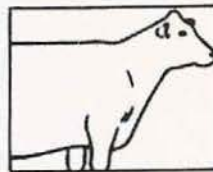
45 - Extremely deep



Extremely Shallow



Intermediate Depth



Extremely Deep

4. DAIRY FORM

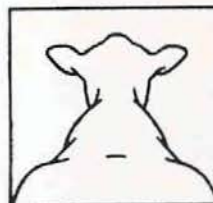
5 - Very coarse & tight ribbed

15 - Coarse & tight ribbed

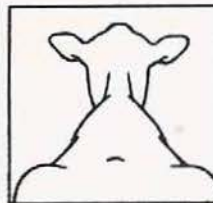
25 - Intermediate sharpness, openness & cleanness

35 - Sharp, open ribbed & clean cut

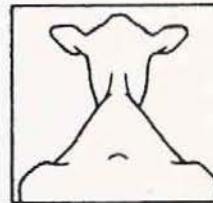
45 - Very sharp, open ribbed & clean cut



Very Coarse & Tight Ribbed



Intermediate Sharpness, Openness & Cleanness



Very Sharp, Open Ribbed & Clean Cut

5. RUMP ANGLE (Side View)

5 - Pins higher than hooks

15 - Pins level with hooks

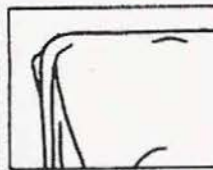
25 - Slight slope from hooks to pins

35 - Moderate slope

45 - Extreme slope



Pins Higher Than Hooks



Slight Slope From Hooks To Pins



Extreme Slope

6. THURL WIDTH

5 - Extremely narrow at thurls

15 - Slightly narrow at thurls

25 - Intermediate width at thurls

35 - Moderately wide at thurls

45 - Extremely wide at thurls



Extremely Narrow At Thurls



Intermediate Width At Thurls



Extremely Wide At Thurls

7. REAR LEGS (Side View)

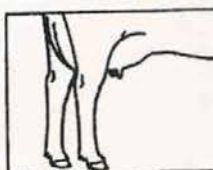
5 - Extremely posty

15 - Nearly straight in hock

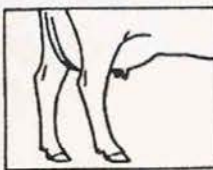
25 - Slight set in hock

35 - Moderate set in hock

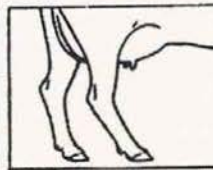
45 - Extremely sickle hocked



Extremely Posty



Slight Set In Hock



Extremely Sickle Hocked

8. FOOT ANGLE

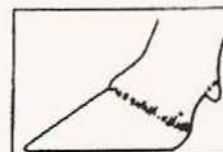
5 - Extremely low angle and extremely shallow heel

15 - Moderately low angle and moderately shallow heel

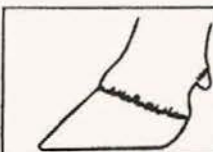
25 - Intermediate angle and average depth of heel

35 - Moderately steep angle and moderately deep heel

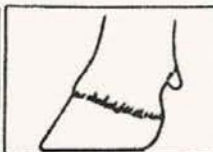
45 - Extremely steep angle and extremely deep heel



Extremely Low Angle & Extremely Shallow Heel



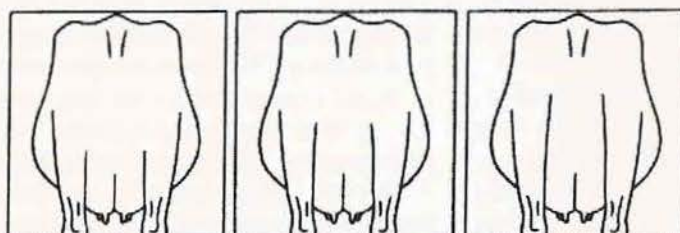
Intermediate Angle & Average Depth of Heel



Extremely Steep Angle & Extremely Deep Heel

Extremely Loose,
Weak or Broken

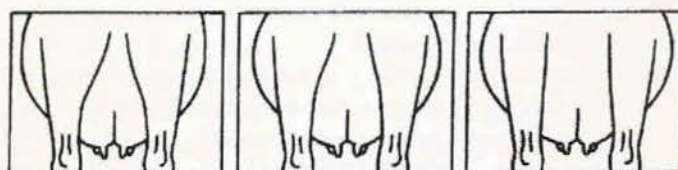
Strong Attachment

Extremely Tight &
Strongly Attached

Extremely Low

Intermediate Height

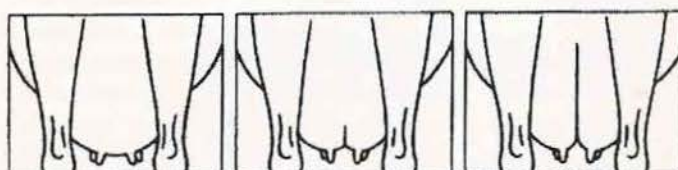
Extremely High



Extremely Narrow

Intermediate Width

Extremely Wide

Negative Cleft,
Broken Support

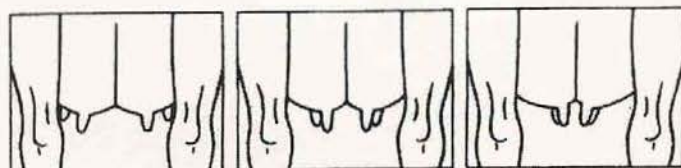
Defined Halving and Cleft

Extremely Deep Cleft

Extremely Deep -
Below Hock

Slightly Above Hock

Extremely High - Shallow

Base Of Front Teats
Extremely WidePlacement Slightly
Towards OutsideBase of Teats
Extremely Close

Extremely Short

Intermediate Length

Extremely Long

9. FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT

- 5 - Extremely loose, weak or broken
- 15 - Very loose, weak
- 25 - Strong attachment
- 35 - Very strongly attached
- 45 - Extremely tight & strongly attached

10. REAR UDDER HEIGHT

- 5 - Extremely low
- 15 - Low
- 25 - Intermediate height
- 35 - High
- 45 - Extremely high

11. REAR UDDER WIDTH

- 5 - Extremely narrow
- 15 - Narrow
- 25 - Intermediate width
- 35 - Wide
- 45 - Extremely wide

12. UDDER CLEFT

- 5 - Negative cleft, broken support
- 15 - Little or no cleft
- 25 - Defined halving & cleft
- 35 - Deep cleft
- 45 - Extremely deep cleft

13. UDDER DEPTH

- 5 - Extremely deep - below hock
- 15 - Level with the hock
- 25 - Slightly above hock
- 35 - Floor well above hock
- 45 - Extremely high - shallow

14. TEAT PLACEMENT (Rear View)

- 5 - Base of front teats extremely wide
- 15 - Placement moderately towards outside (wide)
- 25 - Placement slightly towards outside
- 35 - Placement slightly towards inside (close)
- 45 - Base of teats extremely close

15. TEAT LENGTH

- 5 - Extremely short
- 15 - Moderately short
- 25 - Intermediate length
- 35 - Moderately long
- 45 - Extremely long

In-Breeding, Line-Breeding, and Out-Crossing

In-Breeding

In-breeding means the mating of closely related parents, the commonest being full brother and sister, sire to daughter, dam to son. In-breeding does not produce any new characters. It does intensify such characters as exist, good or bad, whether these be apparent through dominance or hidden in recessives. This intensifying of characters is accomplished by decreasing the lines of inheritance. Such characters as emerge come from the reshuffling of the genes already present, but there are fewer to shuffle and a greater degree of uniformity is certain to result.

In-breeding has been regarded as dangerous. By some it has been regarded as immoral. There is a quite commonly held opinion that it leads certainly to decrease in vigor and in size and a general deterioration of the inbred strain. People who hold these opinions usually admit the benefits of in-breeding but regard the risk involved as too great to justify the practice. It is true that many of the disadvantages feared have resulted, but it now seems probable that these faults arise more from lack of their timely recognition by the breeder than from anything inherent in the practice itself.

Unwanted results arise from the recessives that are not visible in the original parents, but can be located by back-crossing, and animals showing these faults should be discarded immediately upon their recognition, else they may become dominant. With their elimination the desirable characteristics are likely to reappear in intensified measure. Small animals have been inbred in laboratories for more generations than cattle have been known to exist. In many cases they show no lack of size, physical vigor, or reproductive power. On the other hand it cannot be denied that loss of size and vigor, and abnormalities have sometimes occurred in long continued in-breeding. When two inbred strains showing these

ill effects have been themselves crossed, size and vigor have been restored immediately and even intensified.

It seems certain to this writer that most rapid progress in cattle improvement may be expected to come from the practice of intelligent in-breeding accompanied by rigid selection on the part of individual breeders who then may, when they feel that they have the characteristics they are seeking well established, resort to cross-breeding with other inbred lines of other breeders who are seeking similar objectives. It is neither necessary nor desirable to resort to the so-called "cold out-cross." Neither is it necessary that the animal eliminated from the inbred line be sent to the butcher. Such an animal in other herds might well work greater improvement than would an individually superior animal of mixed inheritance.

Line-Breeding

Line-breeding is the mating of related animals of less close relationship than that of in-breeding, from which it differs only in degree. Such matings are half-brother to half-sister, cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. Line-breeding may hope to achieve, in time, approximately the same results as in-breeding. It is obvious that this system introduces into the strain greater numbers of probable variations. It is certain, therefore, that the breeder using this practice will need more years in which to achieve his goal. Of course, he may, get from some collateral ancestor unexpectedly favorable results, but he is no more certain to do this than he is to get unfavorable results. Which system is best to use will depend upon the skill—and luck—of the breeder.

Out-Crossing

It has been determined by such a mass of experimentation and evidence that it can scarcely be doubted that such characteristics as appear in an individual are usually, in practice, inherited from the first half dozen or fewer generations of ancestors. Atavism, which is the going back to a more remote ancestor, does occur. Recessives in the germ

plasm do emerge, but they are comparatively uncommon.

Out-crossed animals are those which show in their pedigree no common ancestor within the first four generations. Lines of inheritance drawn from so many different ancestors cannot be expected to produce a uniform herd. It is quite common for breeders who perceive some unwanted characteristics within their herds, to seek to correct this immediately by the use of a bull with entirely different bloodlines and an extreme development of the individual characteristics which it is desired to correct.

This is what is called a "cold out-cross." It rarely works. The first generation may show (it also may not) an average midway between the characters of the two parents and a consequent improvement of the characters desired. It is probable that subsequent generations will show a great degree of variation, and the resultant herd, in the long run, will be a group of dissimilar individuals. The man who practices this system is likely, at the end of more years than he may have left, to find that he has been a cattle multiplier rather than a breeder.

Correction of unwanted tendencies can be brought about with more speed and certainty through the use of satisfactory individuals from some other breeder whose animals happen to be satisfactory and whose general objectives are similar to those of the breeder wishing to make the correction. Then, when it is corrected, it will stay corrected. ❖

From Dual-Purpose Cattle by Claude H. Hinman, 1953.



HALTER BREAKING #101

The first step in training a calf is to halter break it. This means to gentle a calf, and get it used to wearing a halter. You can do that by tying it in its stall for a few days. (If the calf is still milking its mom, you will have to let it loose to nurse several times a day.) Tie 12 to 18 inches above the ground. Allow enough lead for the calf to lie down.

Check on it often. Petting, talking to it and giving it little special feed will help the process.

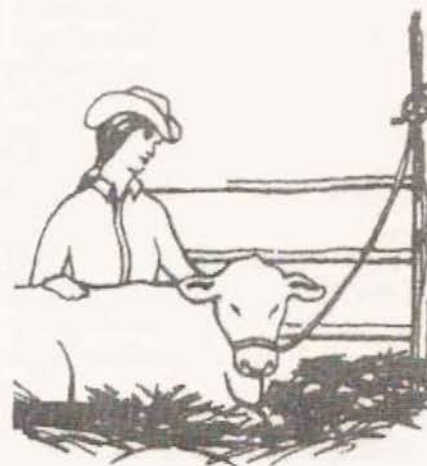
The next training step is to teach the calf to lead. Begin that as soon as it is used to the halter. Never start later than two weeks after the calf is halter broken. The older and larger the calf, the harder it is to train to lead. The calf will be stubborn at first, and try to get loose, so work

in an enclosed area. Once it gets loose, it will think it can again.

A good way to get your calf to start leading is to lead it towards places it already wants to go. Lead it toward its bunk at feeding time, or its water trough when its thirsty. Each time you reach your goal, reward the calf by removing the halter so it can eat or drink. Do this for a few days, and the calf will lead with ease.

When leading the calf for show, walk on the left side of the animal and hold the lead strap in our right hand. Keep the calf under control, with its head up, so its top line will appear level as it walks.

Submitted by Anna Poole



Inbreeding and Chondrodyplasia

Studies have indicated that when mating short-legged to short-legged Dexters there is a one out of four risk of a bulldog (aborted) calf. This is not a result of inbreeding and cannot be avoided by watching how close your lines are. In Kerry and Dexter Cattle, Pat Curran reported the following:

"Inbreeding in the Aberdeen-Angus breed ranged between 12.9 and 19.2% in the period 1932-1941, and there were no noticeable increase then in the proportion of abnormal calves born, nor in the level of abortions (Stonaker 1943).

Young (1953) estimated that the total inbreeding in the Dexter breed is only 2.4%.

It must be stated categorically that inbreeding is not a cause of the 'bulldog' calf problem in Dexters, and this fact was clearly recognized by Seligmann (1904)."

We hope that this clears up any misinformation that breeders may have regarding Dexters and inbreeding.

Chondrodyplasia research for a DNA marker is an on-going world-wide project.

Should you have the misfortune of having a 'bulldog' calf please contact:

Dr. Jon Beever

University of Illinois

Department of Animal Sciences

210 ERML

1201 W. Gregory Drive

Urbana, IL 61801

Phone: (217) 244-6745

Fax: (217) 244-6745

Email: beever@cagst.animal.uiuc.edu

Your assistance with this project is appreciated and will be confidential.



We wish the best for recent members Jean and Michael Slocum. Michael was in a serious accident and hopefully is making progress with his recovery.

Also, Rosemary Fleharty was involved in an automobile accident several weeks ago in which she suffered bruises and a broken hand. Please have patience as she is now learning to type with two fingers like your editor. The A.D.C.A. is very fortunate to have a breed secretary with Rosemary's skills. I think you'll all join me in wishing her continued progress with her recovery.

Obituary

We have sad news from the U.K. of the death of Ruth Thrower, on January 5th. Ruth with her husband, Dr. W.R. Thrower (author of "The Dexter Cow"), established the PARDON herd of Dexters.

HOW TO MILK A DEXTER IN 238 EASY STEPS

by Patrice Lewis

We obtained Bossy, unashamedly, as our Y2K milk source. This was actually a good excuse for doing something we'd been wanting to do for years, anyway. We'd been interested in Dexters as a dual-purpose breed for at least a decade.

Bossy came to us under slightly unusual circumstances. The seller had a spare heifer he was willing to sell, and we agreed that he would breed her around early fall. Then we'd pick her up in, oh, November or so. This would enable us to fence our pasture and build a barn.

In July, a very embarrassed seller called and said, "Uh, good news and bad news on that heifer you wanted to breed. The good news is that she's still yours if you want her. The bad news is that she dropped a calf this morning. I guess the bull got to her."

He thought she was too young to be bred, so he didn't separate her when he invited the bull in. She also did not look pregnant. Heck, I saw her and agreed - she didn't look pregnant. We like to say that Bossy is the bovine equivalent of a teenage mother.

The seller kindly threw in the little bull calf for free, but if we wanted to milk her, we were now faced with the dilemma of getting this cow home at a time when we had no facilities whatsoever to put her in. She lived for three days in our front yard (!) until we could fence in a small plot below the garden. Eventually we built a nice little barn for her and the calf (now a steer and destined for the freezer), and fenced the pasture.

Teaching myself to milk a less-than-tame cow had interesting moments, but the reality is that Bossy is just basically gentle, even though she had not been handled much. The prior owner treated his animals so well that handling Bossy gave us no trouble. The first few days in our yard, I brushed her a lot and worked my way down to her udder, where I'd get a squirt or two before she'd move away. Milking her was clearly impossible until we could separate the calf.

We have a lazy man's milking schedule. Even now, with that silly calf nine months old, I only milk in the mornings, and let the calf at her the rest of the day. Easier on our schedule.

So how do we milk? The first few

days, I desperately called around to the neighbors or anyone who had ever milked to learn the techniques. No one could help. The trouble was that Bossy's teats were so small that I simply couldn't grasp them adequately. Additionally, I knew she would never tolerate a stanchion, and the trick was to keep her reasonably immobilized during the milking procedure.

The teat question was just a matter of learning how to use a delicate three-fingered technique. It came with experience. As for restraining her, we didn't for the first month or so. I would give her goodies, such as COB and apples (we have apple trees), and hope she was occupied in eating long enough for me to milk her. Sometimes she'd finish before I was and move off, while I followed her around the pasture and squat next to her whenever she'd stop in order to get a few more squirts in without getting kicked. Sometimes I'd win, sometimes she would.

This worked until she discovered that if she didn't come up to me and eat, she wouldn't have to get milked at all. After three days of not milking her, I told my husband that we had to do something.

So my husband built an amazing milking station. Our tiny barn has two stalls. Bossy's has a clever folding gate arrangement, whereby we can close and latch the gate to keep her in, or unfold the gate, swing it inwards and latch it in place to create a "squeeze box." Thus open, Bossy eats her breakfast while I sit on a crate and milk through the gate. She's immobile, I'm positioned correctly, and I'm less likely to get kicked since the gate protects me somewhat.

As for the milking itself, I have a rather unusual technique. You know those lovely old illustrations of the milkmaid placing the bucket under the cow and squirting directly into it? It's hogwash. Cows kick, or perhaps I should say swipe, with such frequency that the bucket is essentially worthless. Additionally, I never developed the correct "aim" and would regularly miss if I tried to use a bucket.

Rather, I put the bucket nearby and use a one-quart plastic bowl, which I hold in one hand while milking with the other.

I start by washing her udder thoroughly with warm water and a little

bleach. I give two squirts from each teat to eliminate the most bacteria-laden stuff. Then, in rotation, I give fifty squirts from each teat into the plastic bowl, switching hands so as not to get too tired or cramped. I empty the bowl into the bucket every rotation or so. The rotations get shorter as the teats become dry.

Using the bowl has the advantages that I can put the bowl right under the udder and not miss at all. Additionally, I've become expert at predicting when Bossy will give a swipe with her foot, and can pull the bowl away. By emptying the bowl frequently into the bucket, if she does manage to kick the bowl out of my hand, I haven't lost much milk.

I take the milk and strain it through a clean, damp mullin cloth placed in a colander over a measuring cup. This allows me to measure how much milk I get every day (unlike most dairy people, I measure in quarts, not pounds). I pour the strained milk into quart jars and place them, uncapped, in the freezer for an hour to eliminate any odors. Then I cap them and place the milk in the 'fridge for immediate consumption. The milk is delicious!

How much milk am I getting? Well, ah, this is a little embarrassing, but we're only getting about a quart a day. Before anyone sputters in indignation, let me point out that (a) we're only milking once a day, and the calf drinks all he wants otherwise, (b) this is her first calf, we're hoping for a heavier milk production the second time around, and (c) heck, we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. We'd never had livestock before, and are still tickled pink that we have a cow at all. We make cheese and cream cheese. The milk has such a low cream content that we haven't been able to make butter yet. Again, I believe that the cream content will increase with her second freshening.

We had Bossy bred AI in December, so we expect her to freshen in September. At this time, we will butcher the calf (I'm enough of a mommy that I don't want to butcher the calf until she has a new baby to occupy her). We plan to let her go dry in June or so.

Oh, and we're going to wean the calf soon. Any day now. Really. ❖

Article courtesy of Northwest Dexters.

From the Editor

If you're reading this then hopefully your mail service is now working properly. PIP Printing in Sedalia was gracious enough to help us conduct a test with the last issue, and the results showed significant differences in the mailings. There've been delays of weeks, and in some cases members haven't been receiving their Bulletins at all. PIP has been in contact with Senator Bond's office and has spoken to his person that is a consumer advocate dealing with the Postal Service. So if you're upset about not receiving your Bulletin, all I can tell you is to turn your bull loose on your mailman. We will no longer be mailing by standard bulk rate so that the Bulletin should get to everyone as it should.

I'm biased, but I sincerely believe that our breed publication is one of the most important services our association can give its membership. Whether a member has one Dexter or a hundred, it serves both equally. New members bring enthusiasm to the breed, and how many times have we heard them say, "this may be a stupid question but..." and the questions are good and unbeknownst to the new breeder the answers can sometimes be complex. Today's Bulletin may be a new member's first Bulletin and I'm not going to apologize if I reprint an article that we published 10 years ago if it might still be a help to a breeder starting out. For some, Dexters may be the first cattle they've owned and we hope that their Dexter experience is a good one. Cattle may not be for everyone, but while they're here we can be honest and give them all the information about Dexters and cattle that we can. Some will perhaps someday be like many of our members that have developed a lifelong passion and maybe they will desire a few easy-to-care-for Dexters around the homestead during the later years. Some will say that you must breed for dairy or for beef but we possess a breed that is dual-purpose and can do both, but we as breeders must have the skills and tools made available to accomplish this. My hope is that the Bulletin

continues to be a part of not only praising our breed's qualities but in recognizing its faults as well.

If a breeder is interested in the preservation of Dexters, perhaps we can have an article about cryogenics for them. If a breeder is interested in the conservation of Dexters, perhaps we can show how important it is for a breed to have purpose; the more practical uses an animal has the better its chances for survival. Conservation does make allowances for a breed to evolve. Few realize that the Aberdeen-Angus was threatened with extinction during the early 1800's when the Shorthorn became the craze. William McCombie is given credit for saving the breed that he had faith in. So just one breeder can make a difference.

It was pointed out to me that we have an advertisement with a price, which is forbidden. Some people are always looking for mistakes and they don't have to worry because I always try to put something in the Bulletin for everyone. In this case though, this advertisement was submitted before the rules changed about prices being listed, and I felt we had an obligation to fulfill our end of the contract. Usually, there's two schools of thought as to whether one wants to list their price in an ad. Some feel that by not listing the price it will increase their volume of calls and give them more opportunity to promote their cattle. Others feel that by listing the price it will cut down on the number of calls and so they'll only be dealing with serious inquiries. Personally, I think that there's probably a Dexter in everyone's price range but that they're not all going to be the same quality and people are smart enough to realize this. For now though, the restrictions are that you may not list prices for your cattle, and you must advertise your red/dun cattle as red/dun because you might not know the difference. Also, please don't advertise your cattle as polled if they are dehorned because that upsets and confuses people.

If you have questions or concerns about your cattle or Association, contact

your Regional Director and if they don't have the answer they can *direct* you. Remember that they have volunteered their time and expense on behalf of Dexter cattle so please be considerate. Don't call at midnight to complain that you read that Dexters were easy to fence and you've just chased your bull across three counties.

I want to thank Winona Crapp for sending me the Canadian Dexter Cattle Association's Newsletters. I always look forward to reading all the Dexter publications of my colleagues and seeing the great work that all the under-appreciated Dexter editors world-wide do. I'd also like to thank Winona for sending me some of the articles from the last World Dexter Congress. You can still purchase the complete set of articles for £20. Make checks payable to The Dexter Cattle Society and order from: Mr. M. Hasshill, Little Gormellick Farm, Lodge Hill, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 4JX.

Finally, I'm glad to see that the A.D.C.A. is putting a classification system in place as another tool for our Dexter breeders. Pedigrees alone are not enough. Claude Hinman had this story on the subject of pedigrees:

❖ Attending a Boston convention of the A.O.U.W., at a dinner meeting, a pleasant young matron chanced to be seated beside a dignified local dowager, typical of the "proper Bostonians." This good lady finally unbent enough to say, "Pa'don me, my deah, what did I understand your name to be?"

"My name is Mrs. Sawyer," was the reply.

"Oh" (more warmly) "Perhaps you are one of the Wellesley Hills Sawyers?"

"No, I'm sorry, I am not."

"Ah, then perhaps you are one of the Brookline Sawyers?"

"No. I am from Oklahoma City. I have no relatives in New England."

"Oh," was the much cooler response, and after a pause, "You know, in Boston we think that breeding is *everything*."

"Well, we think it's a lot of fun in Oklahoma but we do not think it is everything. We have other interests." ❖

Richard Henry, Editor

◆ 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 Telephone: 201-327-0740
104 E. Saddle River Road Fax: 201-327-1912
Saddle River, NJ 07458 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: hwjlmbsz@yahoo.com or hwjlmbsz@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)

Dexter family for sale. Excellent, proven herd sire with docile temperament. Naturally polled longer legged cow, bred and with heifer calf at side. Whole family for ????

Call or write for prices:

Dome-In-Go Ranch
Ivan & Patty Preheim
P.O. Box 806
Capitan, N.M. 88316
(505) 354-2068

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

For Sale:

2 Dexter heifer calves born 5/99. Black with horns. Gentle, social, we curvy them.

Katy Sweeney
Malvern Hill Farm
306 Davis Rd.
Smyrna, N.Y. 1364
(607) 627-6638

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



Call or write for current information.

BARN & BED for travelers with or without their Dexters!

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

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

Registered Dexters For Sale or Trade

Red/dun Bull Calf Calved 2/7/2000
 Black Bull Calf Calved 1/8/2000

Both are Long-legged with a good disposition.
 Sire of both is LL red/dun, dam of red/dun is LL red/dun. Dam of black calf is SL black.

Will trade for red or black LL heifers or SL steers.

Mary Lynn Thompson
 42358 46th Street
 Lawrence, MI 49064
 (616) 674-8826

P.O. Box 850502
 Yukon, OK 73085

W. Mike & Deann Ross
 (405) 373-2733
 email: dross@telepath.com

FAIRGROVE FARM

Registered Dexter Cattle. 98-99 heifer & bull calves for sale.
 Black, horned, petite with good conformation. Consider trade for exceptional black herd bull prospect.



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.

Dexter Cattle For Sale

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

Herd liquidation sale!

Registered Dexter cattle. 4 cows, all less than 4 years old. 1 bull approx. 3 yrs. old. 1 red/dun bull at 1½ years old. 2 bull calves, this spring's. All cattle are hearty and well mannered. Two cows were once broken in ox yoke. Older bull has been led. One calf is exceptionally small.

Andrew A. Arnold
Route 1, Box 112
Fleming, Ohio 45729
(740) 749-3693

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

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.

Per Sign In lots of 25

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 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, contact:
Marvin Johnson, P.O. Box 441, Elkhart, KS 67950, Phone:
(580) 696-4836, Fax: (580) 696-4901, papajohn@elkhart.com

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

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

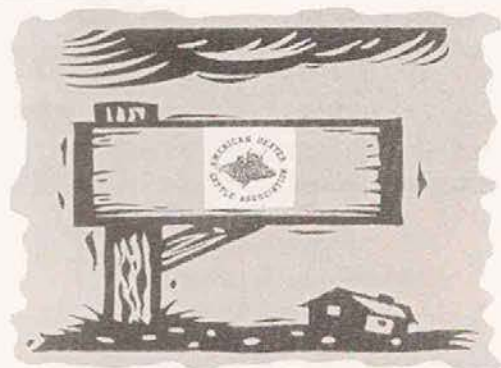
(IRISH SETTER) RED/Dun Excellent disposition
3 ½ years at collection, 43" tall, \$40 per straw plus S&H

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.



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 (Bulletin 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"



Dexter cattle are great at foraging.

The Dexter Bulletin May / June

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

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID

PIR MAIL
SEDALIA, MO



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



DATED MATERIAL