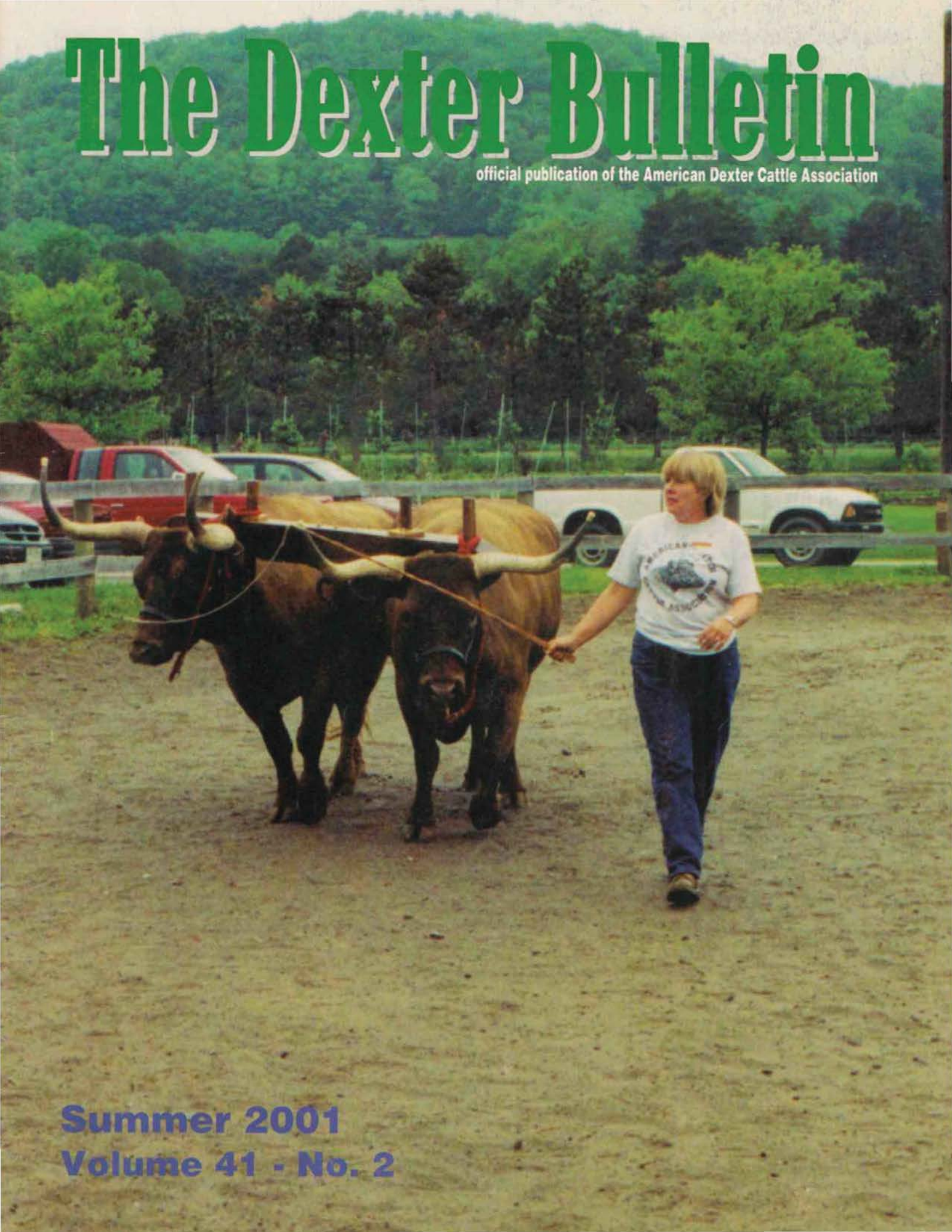
The Dexter Bulletin

official publication of the American Dexter Cattle Association



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From the Editor

Another ADCA Annual Meeting has come and gone. I'll try to give everyone a brief recap here of the highlights as I remember them, but we'll have the full minutes from the meetings and more details in the Autumn Bulletin.

I arrived in New York on Friday afternoon. From what I heard the ox training workshop held by Drew Conroy on Thursday was informative and very worthwhile to all of those that attended. For those that were unable to go to this year's AGM, "The Ox Man" on pages four and five in this issue will give you an idea of Drew's recount after the Saturday night banquet of his experiences in Africa.

Roger Neitzel of the Brown Swiss Association attended the meeting and was very helpful answering questions regarding classification. A new ADCA classification committee was formed to revamp our Dexter classification scoring system and try to accommodate and make it a more useful tool for members to use. The new committee, composed of Dean Fleharty, Marvin Johnson, Mark Muir and Sandi Thomas, worked long hours during the weekend in New York. As soon as this is completed it will be posted on the ADCA web site (www.dextercattle.org) and we'll also publish it here for those interested. We'll have the updates to some of the other committees in the Autumn issue. Also, we'll give you information about a new ADCA position that the Directors hope one of our members will be able to fill. It will entail the ADCA advertising, web site and membership book, so if you're multi-talented and can multi-task keep this in mind.

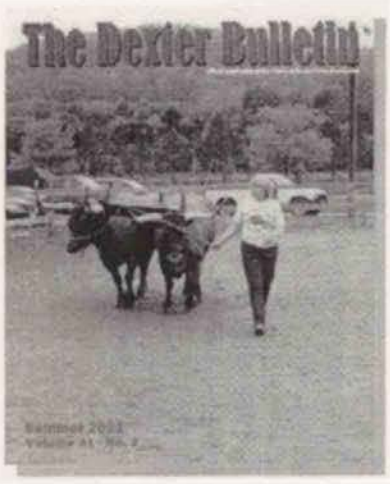
The ADCA offers their apologies to the advertisers for any inconvenience caused by the delay in publishing of the Membership Book, and all of this year's advertisers will receive a 20% discount if they wish to advertise again next year.

By now, everyone should have received the ADCA Membership Book... finally. Original plans were to have it out sooner, but on January 1st the membership list that is used on the ADCA computer was erased to begin the new year. So in order to accommodate as many members as possible there was a delay until membership dues arrived and the data was entered. Following 'Murphy's Law,' once it was completed and at the Printers the person in charge went on vacation and it didn't get worked on as it was supposed to have been until she got back. The ADCA offers their apologies to the advertisers for any inconvenience caused by the delay in publishing of the Membership Book, and all of this year's advertisers will receive a 20% discount if they wish to advertise again next year. I believe Rosemary plans to compile the membership list earlier so that we avoid any problems with the computer program next year.

One other note of significance from this year's AGM is that James Johnson has been granted an honorary ADCA membership in recognition of his work on behalf of the Association and Dexter cattle. Jim served as ADCA president from 1979 to 1987 and also recently from 1997 to 1999. Congratulations!

I want to thank Robert Richardson for his thoughtful letter and for his article, which appears in this issue on pages 8 & 9, that has introduced so many people to the wondrous world of Irish Dexter Cattle. ❖

Richard Henry, *Editor*



Cover photo: **Kathy Smith warms up her team of Dexter oxen before the Saturday show in Cobleskill, New York.**

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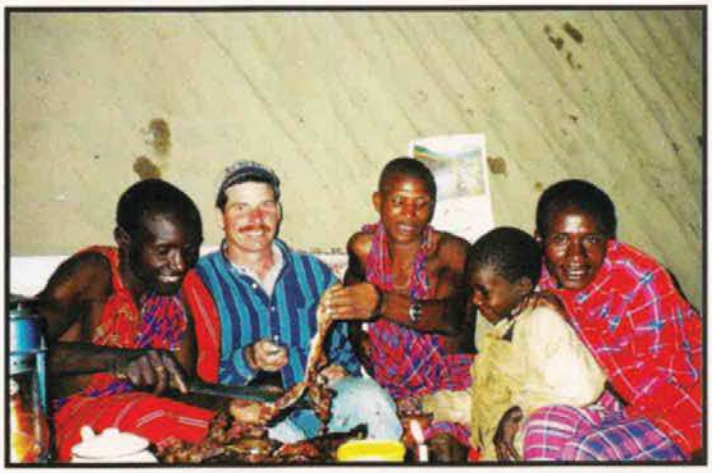
• August 1st •

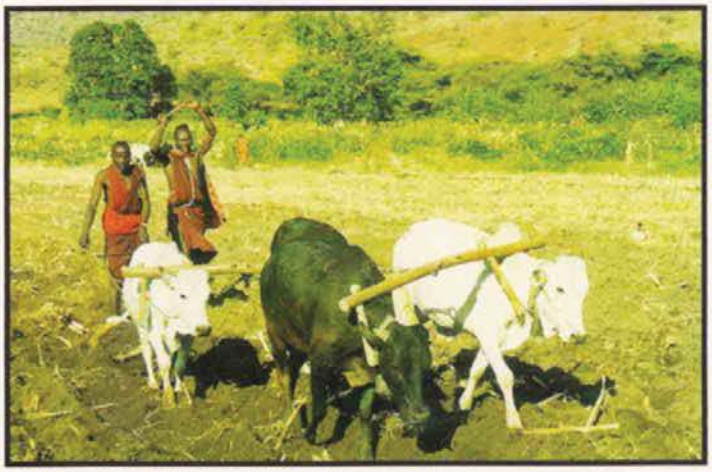
The Ox Man

Interviewing Maasai ox drivers in Northern Tanzania, while sitting in a corral.

Drew at the 2000 Tillers International Oxen Basics workshop.



Eating in a Hut - This is Drew and 3 other Maasai men, including his research assistant. They are eating a meal of goat meat and talking about oxen and cattle.



Maasai oxen in Engaruka, Tanzania. They are as well trained as any Drew has seen in America. The key: understand your cattle and work them.

Drew with Maasai friends in Tanzania.

Drew's son (Ross) using the proper yoke technique.

The Ox Man

Drive oxen and see the world

Drew Conroy '86 has the kind of unflappable self-confidence that comes from being able to control a team of oxen weighing more than 6,000 pounds with his voice and a thin, four-foot switch.

If they wanted to, his oxen could step on his foot, rake him with a horn or mash him against the side of a barn. Or they could just bed down and refuse to get up. But none of the above are options for oxen raised and trained by Conroy, an associate professor of applied animal science at UNH who was once described in a *Smithsonian* article as "purged of uncertainty." Where Conroy goes, his ox teams follow.

In a sense, however, it's Conroy who has been following oxen, starting with the day he convinced his father to load his newly-purchased Brown Swiss twin calves into the back seat of their two-door Toyota sedan. He's known across the state as The Ox Man and on campus as The Cow Man, and it's a calling that has led him to a host of far-flung experiences, from teaching Daniel Day Lewis to drive oxen to drinking a toast in cow's blood with Maasai tribesmen in Africa.

As a child growing up in Weare, N.H., Conroy learned how to train oxen from the small cadre of ox teamsters in New Hampshire who still carry on the tradition. By 1990, when he came to UNH to teach courses in dairy science at the Thompson School, he began to find that the cumulative effect of his first book, *The Ox Handbook* (written with Thompson School associate professor Dwight Barney '66), plus a half dozen videos and 60 articles, was to make him almost the resource of choice when it came to ox training. (A second book, *Oxen, a Teamsters Guide*, has just been published.)

"People were writing me from all over the world," he recalls bemusedly. Living history museums like Plimoth Plantation wanted training sessions. Tillers International, a historic farm skills preservation group in Michigan, asked him to participate in workshops to train Peace Corps volunteers and mission workers.

Then in 1994, a PBS station in Nebraska needed teams of oxen for scenes of pioneer wagons rumbling over the plains in the documentary "In Search of the Oregon Trail." Conroy appears occasionally in the film, as a pioneer walking steadily alongside the team, controlling the oxen with short, clear commands, such as "Gee" for right, and "Haw" for left.

The following summer, Conroy and his ox team were asked to appear as part of the crew in *The Crucible*, a film starring Daniel Day Lewis and Winona Ryder. Conroy gave Lewis lessons on how to drive Buck and Tom, his team of Devons. "He picked it up really quickly," Conroy says. Buck and Tom turned out to be quick learners, too. Before the film was finished, they learned that "Action!" meant to start moving.

In an odd way, *The Crucible* became intertwined with the other recent major happening in Conroy's life, a series of four trips to Africa. Conroy first visited Africa in 1995, when he joined a Tillers expedition to teach Ugandan farmers how to use oxen to plow fields. The next summer, he decided to travel to Tanzania and research land use issues related to oxen for his Ph.D. thesis in UNH's Department of Natural Resources. To finance the trip, he sold Buck and Tom to a plastic surgeon in Georgia, who wanted "The Crucible Oxen" as living lawn ornaments. "They're still there, getting fat and doing nothing," Conroy says.

Conroy has been to Tanzania three summers now, and it has been a "life-changing experience," he says. Hiring two Maasai assistants and renting a four-wheel drive vehicle, Conroy headed into the countryside near three national wildlife parks to conduct more than 125 interviews with Maasai tribesmen. The tribesmen had recently turned from nomadic herding to farming large tracts. Familiar with cattle, their most prized possession, they quickly had become expert ox teamsters. Conroy wanted to know how this transformation was affecting the land and the local wildlife, so every day he headed into the bush to seek Maasai farmers.

"They weren't really interested in talking to a white man, but I would sit down on three-legged stools and introduce myself, and they'd offer tea and sour milk. This is when I'd pull out my pocket photo album, with pictures of my oxen. This made all the difference. We would walk and talk for hours about cows. They were really impressed that I had sold two oxen to come visit them. They called me a white Maasai. They were impressed with my oxen photos, too, and often a Maasai would offer one of his daughters for a pair of my oxen. But eventually we'd get to talking about wildlife, politics, government and land use, which were central to my dissertation."

Conroy discovered that using oxen enables the Maasai to cultivate hundreds of acres instead of just a few. They sell the surplus crops for cash, and are infuriated when wildlife migrate from one national park to another through their fields. "They'll use any means necessary to protect their crops," Conroy notes. Zebras, buffalo, wart hogs, elephants, even rare rhinoceros are being killed. Also, the intensified farming results in severe erosion. Ironically, he found that the oxen – which would be a great asset in many other parts of Africa – are an environmental negative in Northern Tanzania.

Now that his research is complete, Conroy's trips to Tanzania have come to an end. He thinks a lot about the farming vs. wildlife dilemma: he likes a Tanzanian government plan to hire the Maasai as wildlife managers, hoping to ensure the survival of endangered species and extra money for the Maasai.

"They told me, once you go to Africa, you'll never be cured. And it's true, I'm hooked," he says. If he does return, he'll be able to find the villages of his Maasai friends: he logged in the GPS coordinates for every one. ❖

– Meg Torbert, University of New Hampshire Magazine, Winter 2000

Region IV News

The following is reproduced from ***The Lariat****, Region IV Newsletter of the American Dexter Cattle Association:*

Region IV
Spring Meeting
April 28, 2001

Following the Small Acres Expo, 14 Dexter enthusiasts met for a BBQ potluck dinner, meeting, and farm tour at Hi-Country Achers Farm in Grand Junction.

Those in attendance included Kal C. Mickelsen, Chris Barnes, Jim, Chris, & Daniel Rockwell, Pamela Bertin, Philip Hassinger, Randy, Peggy & Melissa Haugen, Neil & Pat Sorensen, and Carol Ann Traynor. (Debbie Davis attended the Small Farm Expo, but had to leave prior to the BBQ and meeting due to spring calving concerns).

GJ Southwest Fest Exhibit - Kal Mickelsen reported that a 14-month-old black short-leg Dexter heifer penned next to a commercial beef cow with a three-month-old calf made quite an impression on visitors - the calf was taller than the horned heifer! In addition to saying, "No, she's not a baby bull." (horns) they handed out ADCA information, had lots of requests for petting, and answered questions including those regarding Mad Cow and Foot & Mouth Diseases.

Region IV Show - Neil & Pat Sorensen reported that plans are moving right along for the show, Thursday through Sunday, September 13-16th in conjunction with the Utah State Fair in Salt Lake. A dinner meeting for Region IV is planned for the last day of the show. Information will be mailed to each regional member and all ADCA Regional Directors as it becomes available.

Region IV Banner - A letter was read from Dawn Bittner, immediate past Region IV Director, indicating that she did not receive the banner, so we are hunting for the elusive banner or a replacement for the show in September.

Region IV BBQ Potluck & Meeting at Hi-Country Achers Farm, 4/28/2001, in Grand Jct., Colorado. Photograph courtesy of Carol Ann Traynor.

Mountains & Plains Region IV Website - The site is up and running, but we need to have more participation from the Regional membership. Debbie Davis reported the site has resulted in lots of inquiries as well as the addition of several new Dexter owners in our Region. There is no charge for participation on the site and the membership is encouraged to contact Debbie with information at **http://region4dexters.homestead.com/breeders.html**.

Region IV Newsletter - Carol Ann Traynor asked for volunteers to do the newsletter, but said she would continue to publish it quarterly until a replacement is found. Any volunteers??

Submitted by
Carol Ann Traynor,
Region 4 Regional Director

The Lariat

The lariat used on the ranch is composed of three cords wound tightly together. Each cord is strong but the real strength comes from the three strands woven together into one strong rope. We might compare the **ADCA**, the **Regional Directors** and **You** into a rope. Alone, each is effective, but real strength comes when the three are working together.

Woven together, we can:

- Inform the public about Dexters.
- Educate the public about Dexters.
- Promote Dexters as a viable cattle breed.
- Stay informed about issues that affect Dexters and the cattle industry as a whole.

A cord of three is not easily broken. **You** are needed to take a stand and support the growth of the Dexter breed.

http://region4dexters.homestead.com/region4.html

Region VI News

Director's Message

Well, it is a long way to New York State for an old Cow Trader like me, but I made it without getting lost. The Board of Directors of the ADCA voted to have the Annual General Meeting in Stillwater, Okla. in 2003. Details to follow in a later newsletter. They also voted to sanction a beef feedout at the OK Steer Feed-Out in Stillwater. They approved $1500.00 to be used to help in the costs of gathering the cattle. We would like to put together 25 head for this. Andy Kincaid will head a committee of Bill Moore, Candice Howell, and Joanie Storck, with myself as advisor. Another item we completed at this year's annual meeting was the classification system for Dexter cattle. I think it will work for everyone wishing to classify his or her cattle. All in all, I think that it was a good meeting. Everyone start planning to attend the 2002 meeting in Oregon next year. Anna Poole has set the dates of Aug. 2, 3, 4. Watch for more information later.

Your Old Cow Trading Buddy,
Smiling "Papa" Johnson

Information reproduced from the Region VI Newsletter, submitted by Joanie Storck.

Preferred Dexter Steer Feedout Information

The purpose of this controlled feedout is to obtain qualified data on Dexter cattle in a feedlot situation. The ADCA regional directors and officers voted to sanction and partially fund this feedlot test at the 2001 AGM. Region 6 Director Marvin "Papa" Johnson, Candice Howell, Andy Kincaid, Bill Moore, and Joanie Storck met with Fred Ray, Extension Animal Foods Specialist at Oklahoma State University on June 21, 2001. The following information is a brief summary of what was discussed and decided. If you have steers that will work, and you are interested, please contact Joanie Storck for entry forms. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The steers must be out of registered Dexter cattle; birthdates must be between Jan. 1 and April 15, 2001. The animals will be delivered to the background pen between Feb. 1 to Feb. 15, 2002. Backgrounding the calves will pre-condition the cattle per the requirements of the feedlot. The entry cost will be $20.00. $15.00 will cover the cost of the shear test (meat tenderness), and $5.00 will cover postage and awards. There will also be costs incurred with the backgrounding portion of the test. It is our intention that the $1500.00 voted on by the ADCA will cover these costs. After the feedlot test, the finished animals will be delivered to a local processing plant, where the test data will be obtained. The remainder of the animal will be available back to the consignor if they desire, or sold through a retail market. The entry forms will have a space for you to mark the intended destination of the finished product. If you desire to keep the finished carcass for your own use, you must make arrangements for delivery. The costs for the feed in the feedlot will be the responsibility of the consignor upon completion of the feedout. The manager of the feedlot shared this information: the large breeds are usually on feed 120 days and the normal cost to them is approx. $1.40 a day, so if all our statistics are right, our Dexters "should" only cost us about 70 cents a day, times 120 days, totals about $84.00. There will also be a cost of $1.00 per 100 lbs. for vaccinations upon entrance to the feedyard, so that would only be another $3.00 per head. If you are interested in including your steers in this program, please get your entries in early.

Contact: *Joanie Storck, 401 W. 89th St. So. Haysville, KS 67060*
email: *storckranch@yahoo.com*

Region VI Spring Meeting

The Region 6 spring meeting was a great success. Candice Howell and her very competent friends hosted a very informative meeting for us and the weather was very cooperative. Many of us usually find ourselves finding reasons for not having the time to attend these types of meetings. "It is wasted time, or the agenda will not be informative, or it takes too long on one subject, or we never discuss what I want to" and on and on. But I'd like to say we have had two of the best meetings I've ever attended in the last two years. This year, we were provided with a very interesting tour through Reproduction Enterprises. Besides getting a very "visual" demonstration of how they collect semen from bulls for AI shipment, we also walked right next door to the barn where they collect eggs from cows. The speaker explained that sometimes breeders have a cow that is getting up in years, and they want to make sure they get as many calves out of her as possible. With this method, he explained, they can harvest up to 10 eggs in a session. Think of it, 10 little Dexters out of one cow in a year. Imagine that!

We also had a very productive business meeting. We discussed having a show and sale with our Region 6 spring meeting next year. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to exhibit and sell our animals. We are a very productive region. The reason we are is because we unselfishly sell some of our breeding stock to people that will continue to produce and promote the breed. The region's membership has grown by leaps and bounds, and it will continue to do that as long as we continue to sell to people that are going to breed responsibly and keep the papers up on the animals. We are very blessed in having a regional director that spends many many dollars every year advertising the breed. He has the space to carry a large herd, and he is educated on the qualities of the breed. If you ever want to learn a good selling speech, just sit around him and listen to him when he is talking to someone that doesn't know about the breed, and you will learn several lines! ☺

Kansas State Fair Update

If you have not received your state fair books and entry forms, please let me know right away, or contact the state fair office at (620) 669-3600 or www.kansasstatefair.com. If you are planning on staying on the grounds in a camper, you will need to make reservations for that at the same time, on the same form. There are a limited number of spaces available for camping on the grounds, so get your entries in early (see page 26 of state fair book). If any of you have an exceptional little calf, or you have bought a new Dexter that you are wanting to show, it is not too late to be part of the fair. The deadline to be part of the show is Aug. 15th. Everyone is welcome! Come join us! ❖

Another 'Small World' Story - The Dexter Version

by Robert Richardson

Years ago I was a field man for the Sauk County Dairy Herd Improvement Association in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. I liked moving among the placid cows at milking time and keeping company with the families who cared for them. Some days it scarcely seemed like work at all. One thing bothered me, though: there in the very heart of the heart of dairying, Holsteins had conquered the land.

Raised on the creamy, protein rich output of Jerseys, and having owned and milked a few of them myself, I had always favored these small fawn colored animals over the raw-boned black and white Holsteins and the thin blue fluid which they produced in copious quantities. "Why carry all that water to the separator?" was the question we used to ask.

But artificial insemination, an enormous gene pool and the careful selection of sires over several generations had remedied this defect. The Holstein's milk was almost as rich as the Jersey's now and Holsteins pumped out two or three times as much of it. Heifers in their first freshening would often peak at a hundred pounds of milk a day and stay at that level of production for many months.

It amazed me, but it didn't win me over. I asked the manager of the association to assign all the non-Holstein herds that he could to me. He did his best but I wound up with only three: one Brown Swiss, one Guernsey and one Jersey.

When a group of Japanese buyers visited one of the Holstein herds and bought the best and biggest heifers to ship back to Japan, the incongruity of it jolted me. Unless their hayfields were larger and more abundant than I could possibly imagine them to be, shouldn't they be buying small, efficient animals like Jerseys?

One day, just at this time, I was in the Reedsburg library browsing through the magazines when I saw an article that suddenly inspired a whimsical, but semi-serious thought. I rushed home and wrote it up and sent it off to *Organic Gardening and Farming*. This is how it read:

A SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS

A horse breeder down in Georgia named Moody Bond is, according to a recent issue of the *Smithsonian* magazine, "reversing equine evolution." Thirty years of Bond's selective breeding procedures have resulted in a three year old stallion that stands 19 inches tall and weighs 80 pounds. "I'll stop," says Bond, "when I get a horse down to 12 inches, the size of *Eohippus*."

It is possible to ask whether Bond is going too far, as well as to wonder why he has chosen this particular destination, (What after all do you do with a horse twelve inches tall?) but there is a notion here that merits consideration. Dairymen please note.

The modern dairy cow is bred for size. In most breeds now, bigger is definitely better. One result is that on the nation's farms the smaller breeds are less and less often seen. The diminutive Jersey especially is threatened with extinction. Too small to be economical is the general verdict. Her remaining defenders claim that in proportion to what she eats she produces more – and richer and better – milk than her sisters in the larger breeds, but this assertion goes pretty much unheard. She is asked to compete with the Holstein on the Holstein's terms and she seldom can.

But perhaps there is unnoticed potential in her very lack of stature, and it might be developed by taking her in a direction all her own. Breed her for her daintiness and scale her down to even smaller size. No need to aim for the twelve inches aspired to by the horseman Bond, and even the size of the dairy goat would probably be too small. But something around 250-300 pounds for a mature animal might be just about right. Such a dairy cow might find an economic as well as an ecological niche in many a back yard and it is pleasant to imagine hundreds of small homesteads where herds of them, dainty, deer-like and elegant might roam. True, recent agricultural history, science and common sense are all arrayed against any such idea, but there ought to be an enterprising breeder somewhere to whom that much opposition is just the necessary stimulus for devoting thirty years to bringing the miniature Jersey into her own.

The editors of *OGF* pared this down to its bare essentials or something less and ran it in their "Almanac" section, calling it "Short Cow." The response, while not terrific, impressed me with its zeal. Many readers mistook my vision for reality and demanded to know where they could get one of these little cows right now and exactly how much it would cost. Many more said the cow of my dreams was already to be had and was, in fact, a goat and they had to wonder how I could have been so dim as not to have noticed this. One man said there actually was a cow not much bigger than the one I had in mind. The breed, called Irish Dexters, was now exceedingly rare, but here and there a few of them could still be found and he urged me to seek them out.

I did some reading and some looking, located a few herds and visited one. Black as the Angus and sometimes nearly as beefy, with a rack of horns like a Texas steer, the Dexter, a dual purpose animal good for meat as well as milk, was not really all that much like my idealized Jersey. But, only three feet tall at maturity, it was definitely a short cow, and definitely worthy of more attention. I wrote another, lengthier article describing the promise and the problems of the little breed. It was published in *Organic Gardening and Farming*, and titled, "The Irish Dexter: A Homestead-Sized Cow."

In time, I moved on to other work in other places and more or less forgot about Dexters for the next 25 years. But circumstances took me to Ireland last summer and, riding through the Irish countryside, I saw many cattle of various breeds. Naturally, I thought of Dexters again and wished, without much hope, that I would spot a few of them on their native turf. That never happened, so I did what anybody looking for anything might do these days. I went online, typed Irish Dexters in the search engine box and up it came: www.dextercattle.org, the website of the American Dexter Cattle Association. I sent an e-mail message to its editor, Richard Henry, asking for help. "There's not many Dexter herds left in Ireland," he wrote back. "The person to contact for information about the ones

continued on page 10

Small Cattle for Small Farms

Generations ago, Irish smallholders - who had to earn a living on very little land - bred cattle which were small, hardy, and capable of the efficient production of both milk and meat.

Since then these cattle, known as Irish Dexters, have been almost crowded out of the livestock picture by larger and more specialized breeds. But here and there some of their descendants continue to thrive.

A Dexter cow at maturity stands only about three feet tall, weighs about 6 or 7 hundred pounds, and requires only half the feed needed by an ordinary dairy cow. But she has dairy capabilities which are impressive for an animal her size.

Robert Weber of Merton, Wisconsin, who has milked a number of Dexters over the years says, "The good ones are really good milkers, but the poor ones are terrible." But his wife takes issue with this. "Oh, that's not true," she says. "He just wants them all to milk like Holsteins. All of ours have milked well." They do agree, however, that the best cow they ever had would give two gallons at each of her two daily milkings.

Dexter milk is naturally homogenized, like goat's milk. Cream will not begin to separate out for a day or two without the use of a separator.

With Dexters, milk production is only half the story. The other half, of course, is meat. Dexters, especially male Dexters, are compact, beefy animals. A mature Dexter bull will generally outweigh the cow by 150 pounds or so, and sometimes may even approach a weight of 1,000 pounds.

Dexter calves weigh about 25 or 30 pounds at birth, but they grow rapidly and fatten well. A Dexter steer will grow, in about fifteen to eighteen months, into a 500-pound animal that will yield a high proportion of quality beef, and does not need much grain to do it.

Being small gives the Dexters another advantage. Their size makes them easy to handle. Dexter raisers tend to make pets of their animals, and it is often the children in the family who care for them and do the milking. They also are capable of fending for themselves and of calving untended without difficulty.

Mrs. Daisy Moore has a herd of thirty-five Dexters on the farm which she and her husband Robert own near Decorah, Iowa. All but half a dozen of these roam for seven or eight months of the year in eighty acres of woods and pasture where they largely take care of themselves. Mrs. Moore provides them with salt, and checks regularly to see that their supply of spring water remains adequate. The rest, including calving, is up to them.

During the four or five months of the year when the pasture is dormant or snow-covered, Mrs. Moore's Dexters are kept in a small field near the barn. They are fed hay - about a third of a bale each per day - but no grain, and despite the severity of northern Iowa winters, she does not find it necessary to provide shelter for them.

A small animal which fares well on a diet composed essentially of grass, produces both rich milk and quality beef, and is hardy and self-reliant yet makes an excellent family pet may seem too much like a homesteader's dream to be quite true. But Dexters are real - and like anything real - owning them poses some problems.

Just finding a Dexter to purchase is likely to be one of them. There are perhaps a hundred Dexter owners in the U.S. Of these, most own only one or two animals. Daisy Moore has one of the largest herds, but she does not often have any animals to sell. She knows of only two or three herds in the country with as many as 20 animals, and puts the total number of Dexters in the country at about 500.

If you would like more information on buying a Dexter, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the American Dexter Cattle Association, 707 W. Water St., Decorah, Iowa 52101.

That there are few existing Dexters also means that Dexter breeders work with a limited gene pool, and that makes the matter of maintaining and improving the qualities of the breed more difficult.

When Dexters were first imported, many breeders had difficulty with "bulldogs." These are deformed calves dropped between the fifth and ninth months of pregnancy. This genetic defect is still carried by Dexters. Although it is no longer the serious problem that it once was, the condition still occurs in about 5 to 10 percent of Dexter births. It does not adversely affect the cow, but it is always fatal to the calf. The defect has been attributed to poor interbreeding practices, not the animal.

A Pennsylvania breeder of Dexters, Don Piehota, has calculated from his experience with a herd of twelve animals that a person with three and a half to four acres of pastureland could easily pasture two cows and their calves for about seven months with no supplementary feeding. To keep the animals year-round, Piehota figures expenses of about $180 for 220 bales of hay (one-third bale per animal per day), $40 for one-half ton ear corn, $30 for miscellaneous costs (including vet fees), or a total of about $250 a year. From this investment you would get a heifer ready to be bred at fourteen to fifteen months, worth about $250 a year. The steer at seventeen to eighteen months weighs some 450 pounds and will slaughter out about 250 pounds of meat worth another $250, giving you a return of $500 for your $250 investment, plus the value of the milk.

For those people with limited land and money, and interested in getting enough meat and milk for their family, Dexters may prove to be the ideal animal. ❖ ***Robert Richardson***

Editor's note: My first introduction to Dexter cattle was also from Mr. Richardson's article, reproduced here from Organic Farming and published by Rodale Press (1977). ***Some of the data is no longer correct*** *but I wanted to share with our members the article that inspired and introduced so many people to the Dexter breed and thank the author for his contribution to Irish Dexter cattle.*

Region II Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2001 (1:35 p.m.)

Members present: Jack Shipley, Charlee Graham, Wendy Fultz, Ray Graham, Jack Goodman, Sandi Thomas, John Wolf, Lorraine Wolf, Stuart Paul Thomas, Evelyn Madison, Randy Madison, Bruce Dunlop, Joe Mielke, Joanne Mielke, Carrol Gosset, Patricia Gosset, Anna Poole, Sandra Chaney.

Our spring meeting was held at the gorgeous, hillside farm of Joe and Joanne Mielke, in Sherwood, OR. Anna thanked them for hosting the meeting and introductions followed.

The first item covered on the agenda was herd evaluation and the proposed classification system. It was explained that a committee was formed to work with the Brown Swiss association to come up with a classification system, and at this time a team of evaluators is on a data gathering herd tour. It was Sandi Thomas's understanding that every animal in a herd is supposed to be evaluated during a visit. No members present had requested an evaluation this year. Anna felt it was important to do regular evaluations on our own. It was mentioned that the classification system may not be accepted by all members as it leans towards dairy characteristics. Joe felt it wasn't worth having an evaluation team visit his herd because they are just a side-line for him. The question arose as to whether the evaluation team was local or on a nationwide circuit. A discussion followed concerning dairy vs. beef characteristics of the breed during which everyone agreed that dual purpose characteristics should be a priority in an evaluation. Sandi felt that classification was important, especially for new buyers, small farmers and hobbyists. She would also like to see a classification system that is voted on by ADCA members that we can all live with, and would like to see the ADCA check into classification in other Dexter associations. Anna passed around the OSU Extension Service evaluation chart and also a sample cattle production sheet that would be helpful in tracking calving records. The importance of keeping good records on AI and herd bulls was also discussed.

The second agenda topic covered was the importance of selenium and other trace minerals. John Wolf shared the fact that a new "bangs" vaccine is being used as of July 2000, which shows no titer reaction, and is used on heifers from four to twelve months of age. Sandi mentioned that when she sells heifers under four months of age, she prints out a "bangs" reminder for the new owners.

Anna shared last year's video show of her entries, explaining that it's not that difficult to make and enter tapes.

Our northwest region's finances were briefly reviewed. Anna hopes that sales from BBQ raffle tickets last fall, and of the Dexter breeding calendars will reach $1,000.00. This money will go towards the 2002 National Meeting. The ADCA will provide up to $2500.00 for the event. $1000.00 of that would have to be paid back.

Joe Mielke reported that due to a job promotion he has to resign as editor of "Northwest Dexters." Anna asked for volunteers for the editor position. (Patrice Lewis has volunteered to fill the position. Thanks Patrice!) Neighboring regions have been invited to help with getting ads to help pay for the printing and mailing. Several other regions have been included in the mailing list, but region #2 has been paying all of the expenses.

Everyone present was invited to share their questions and concerns involved with raising Dexters and the ADCA. Sandra Chaney inquired about hoof and mouth affecting any Dexter herds in the UK. Dexter herds were thought to be untouched, however, semen export is closed from the UK and South Africa. Randy Madison was concerned about purchasing a bull because of a closed gene pool. It was mentioned that most members present had different bloodlines. Jack Goodman felt the cost of registration and transfer was excessive and would like the ADCA to explore other options. Sandi will send information about Murray Grey "whole herd registrations" to Anna, and she will present that information to the general

Continued next page

Another 'Small World' Story - The Dexter Version

continued from page 8

there would be Carol Davidson." Using the e-mail address he gave me I wrote her.

She told me about two herds. One was near Belfast, the other in County Westmeath, midway between Galway and Dublin. I tried to arrange a visit to one of these, but to my great regret, it never came about. Before leaving Ireland I wrote Carol Davidson again to report my lack of success, and thank her for her help, even though I hadn't been able to put it to as much use as I had hoped. Up to then, I had said nothing to her about why I was looking for Dexters or what my interest was, so I took the opportunity to explain myself. I told her about my work long ago with the DHIA and how it led me to discover Dexters and the article I had published about the breed.

I had not been home many weeks when I received her reply. "It is interesting to me," she wrote, "that it was your article that led to my interest in Dexters. I was at a book wholesaler's and picked at random off the shelf one of the copies of the *Organic Gardening Compendium*, turned the book over to riffle through the pages, and the book fell open at an article on Dexters – your article. For me that was the beginning of a twenty year love affair."

It pleased me mightily to hear this – more perhaps than if I had seen all the Dexters in Ireland. It was a rewarding surprise after all these years to find a reader of my article, especially one who could say that it had led her to take Dexters so much to heart. ❖

Region II Meeting Minutes

Continued from previous page

membership at the AGM, in New York. Bruce asked if revenue is only generated through registration fees and wondered if this is how members wanted to fund the association. Joe felt that breeders were being penalized for getting big. Ray Graham felt that registration should be a convenient process to encourage people to register their animals so we don't run the risk of losing bloodlines. Charlee Graham related her problem of having to raise a 1,000 pound market steer due to rule changes at her local WA county fair. She asked for help from members in hopes of changing the regulations. Charlee also mentioned there was a great interest in Dexters at the fairs she's taken part in.

The final agenda item was planning for the 2002 national meeting. (August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at the Jackson County, OR Fair Grounds.) Sandi Thomas will be in charge of the Dexter show. Wes and Jane Patton will be in charge of the video show. The type of classes were discussed and will be looked into. Checks and information for registration will be sent to Sandi so she can write up stall cards. It was determined that we will need a clerk and clerk sheets, judge, ring master, vet check in person (for registrations) and award ribbons. A lengthily discussion produced a tentative schedule of events:

Friday

8-11 a.m.	check in animals with vet and clerk (health papers, tattoos and registration papers) all animals must be registered
11:30-1:00	box lunches available
12:00	video show
1:00-5:00	several demonstrations or classes (hoof trimming, AI, natural pest control, butchering-choosing an animal for beef, choosing good hay)
6:00	light buffet
8:00	director's meeting

Saturday

8 a.m.-12:00	general meeting
12:00-2:00	Dexter burger lunch
2:00	Show
4:00	Sale
8:00	Oregon Trail Chuck Wagon Banquet followed by "White Dexter" sale and awards

Sunday

8 a.m.-12:00	director's meeting and election of new officers

Registration deadline will be June 15th, and the cost of registration, etc. will be looked into and determined at a later date.

Anna asked for suggestions for newspapers and magazines to advertise in and encouraged members to submit articles to their local or favorite agriculture publications.

The meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed the sunshine while looking over Joe's herd.

submitted by Sandra Chaney

Ozark Farm Fest

Scheduled for Oct. 5th, 6th, and 7th, the Ozrk Farm Fest is a great venue with close to 100,000 people attending each year. If you are interested in bringing cattle or just want to participate by helping out, please contact John Foley at (417) 833-2186 or jfoley@thearcoftheozarks.org.

2002 ADCA AGM - Jackson County, OR

A Morning Stroll with the Dexters

by Lucas Henry

There's nothing quite like the warm, humid mornings of summer. Spring, winter, and autumn all have their good points, of course, but it's the warmth of a sun shortly after daybreak hitting the back of my neck as I'm walking in the pasture that really bolsters my spirits.

I love rising just as the stars are fading from sight and the morning sky is awakening with the brilliant colors of another day's sunup. Tramping through the tall dewy grass, I am captivated every morning by the surrounding beauty. Although I walk the same route almost every day, I have never tired of watching the robins adamantly hunting for worms, the line of Osage orange trees gently swaying in the wind, or our Dexter cattle munching on the thick clumps of grass in the pasture.

As these gentle beasts of nature slowly meander across the field, I carefully survey the herd, checking to ensure that none have strayed from home during the night. Satisfied that all are present and accounted for, I quietly approach a nearby young calf and her mother.

Surprised by my unanticipated appearance, the young calf takes a step back as I kneel down on the wet grass. But sensing no immediate danger, as her mother doesn't even look up from her breakfast, the calf juts her head forward, quizzically looking at this new fellow in her playground. I sit motionless as the calf cautiously approaches me. She stops from time to time to ponder what I'm doing, I suppose, but nevertheless, the gap between us slowly shrinks.

Having happily rested my bones for several minutes, the calf and I finally come face to face. A warm little nose stretches out and sniffs at my knee; I keep still. The little calf's investigation goes on for a few more seconds as she gently nibbles my pants leg. Suddenly, she springs away, retreating back to the safety of her parent.

I rise from my seat, taking a last look at the spry little Dexter, and continue my stroll around the pasture. Yes, there's nothing like a summer morning out with the Dexters...

Foot and Mouth Disease Threatens Rare Breeds

April 9, 2001
For Immediate Release
Contact:
Donald E. Bixby, Executive Director
dbixby@albc-usa.org
Marjorie Bender, Program Coordinator
mbender@albc-usa.org
American Livestock Breeds
Conservancy, PO Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5704

The following is excerpted from a letter from Lawrence Alderson, Secretariat of Rare Breeds International, 6 Harnage, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6EJ, UK, Tel: +44 (0)1952 510030

"I am sure that you all will have some idea of the development and progress of the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak in UK, but there will be many points which are not clear or which you wish to explore further. I am taking this opportunity to paint the background picture."

"Rare Breeds International has been monitoring the situation, and has been making representations to the appropriate veterinary and political authorities to ensure that important genetic stocks are not slaughtered unnecessarily. At this stage the impact on endangered breeds has been relatively slight, but some important genetic stocks of non-rare breeds have been lost. In particular, the heartland of the Cheviot (South Country) sheep and Galloway cattle has been severely affected, and the Devon focus has affected Devon cattle and Devon Closewool sheep to a lesser degree."

"Among rare breeds there have been significant losses among British Lop, which has a very small population, and Gloucestershire Old Spots pigs. There have been smaller losses among Manx Loghtan, Hebridean, Whitefaced Woodland and Castlemilk Moorit sheep and Dexter cattle. This is not an exhaustive list, and the situation is developing so rapidly that any survey is soon out of date. Agreement has been reached with the authorities that important pedigreed stocks will be evaluated with special care before any slaughter order is approved. It is not possible at this stage to give any forecast of the likely progress of the outbreak. It is still out of control. Since the army was drafted to assist, the rate of slaughter and disposal has improved, but it will remain a process of 'catch-up' for some time owing to the inadequate measures taken in the early stages. The incidence of new cases continues at a high level fuelled partly by the slowness of diagnosis and slaughter."

"Financial problems for individual farmers relate mainly to loss of production as farms may not be re-stocked until six months after the last outbreak in the area. For some farms that might mean empty fields and barns for more than a year. There is no compensation for consequential loss. Fortunately, the valuation of fallen stock is being maintained at reasonable levels, and in most cases seems to be taking account of the cost of replacement in a depleted livestock population."

"On a political front, the two major points of discussion are the use of vaccination and the timing of the general election. The first has generated powerful feelings and argument on both sides; the second is an unfortunate intrusion of political motives into a major crisis of animal health and national interest. The relevant argument of animal health (vaccination) has now moved to Europe, and RBI will be involved in a deeper scrutiny of methods of agricultural production which have been highlighted not only by Foot and Mouth Disease, but also by earlier problems of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "Mad Cow Disease"), genetically modified foods, E coli, salmonella, etc."

If you are outraged by what is happening in Europe, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy urges you to make your feelings known.

1. Call Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman (202) 720-3631.

2. Call President Bush (202) 456-1414 to let him know that rare breeds need special consideration if Foot and Mouth Disease comes to North America.

3. Write a short, hard-hitting statement about this issue and fax it to Secretary Veneman at her office in the USDA and to President Bush at the White House. FAX to USDA at (202) 720-2166 and the White House at (202) 456-2461. Many times big business and big government shunts phone calls off to machines, but thousands of faxes expressing outrage and concern make a powerful statement by themselves. If you don't get through the first time, try again.

4. Call your Congressional Representatives. U.S. Congress switchboard (202) 224-3121 can connect you to your Senators and Representative. Tell your Congressional Representative and Senators that they need to call and write Agriculture Secretary Veneman and President Bush to let them know about the special needs of rare breeds of livestock.

ALBC will be posting future notices about Foot and Mouth Disease and its implication for rare breeds on our web site www.albc-usa.org

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) is dedicated to the conservation and promotion of endangered breeds of American livestock and poultry. ALBC's conservation efforts include research on breed status and characteristics; developing breed specific strategies for conservation; maintaining a gene bank of rare breeds; strengthening the stewardship skills of breeders through various educational venues; and educating the public through workshops, conferences and publications. ALBC is the only organization in the United States that does this important work. Established in 1977, ALBC is a national, non-profit, membership organization based in Pittsboro, North Carolina. For more information about breed conservation, to join, and to contribute to ALBC's efforts, contact PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC, 27312, (919) 542-5704, www.albc-usa.org.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION
January 1 - December 31, 2000

Balance on hand (1-1-2000)	$18,914.48	
Income:		
Annual Meeting Show & Sale	$21,600.00	
Transfers	14,780.00	
Registrations	14,553.30	
Annual Meeting (Current Year	10,325.25	
2000 Dues	7,789.00	
New Memberships	5,240.00	
Late Registrations	4,831.00	
Herd Books (Ordered)	2,545.00	
Advertising	1,820.00	
2001 Dues	1,340.00	
Promotional Items	1,129.00	
Dexter Cattle Books (Hays) sold	413.45	
Dexter Cattle Books (Thrower) sold	405.50	
Web Site Listings	360.00	
Donations	103.00	
Inner Herd Transfers	100.00	
Interest	88.18	
Kerry & Dexter Cattle Books Sold	50.00	
Partial Registration	70.00	
Subscriptions	20.00	
A.I. Registrations	18.00	
Total Income	$87,580.68	
Grand Total		$106,495.16
Expenses:		
2000 Annual Meeting	$28,537.93	
Bulletin Expense	$10,772.41	
Herd Books	9,878.65	
Secretarial Stipend	9,178.00	
Advertising	7,531.69	
Postage	4,742.51	
Dexter World Congress (encumbered)	(3,240.87)(encumbered)	
Printing Costs	2,615.07	
Bulletin Editor Stipend	2,000.00	
Supplies	1,567.44	
Insurance Premium	1,565.00	
Promotional Items	1,209.00	
Web Page	770.00	
Classification	540.00	
Regional Meeting Expense	525.00	
Canadian Exchange (Adjustments)	457.34	
Registration, transfer & membership overpayment	210.00	
Bank Fees	190.74	
Copy Machine Maintenance Contract	175.00	
CPA Fees	150.00	
ALBC	100.00	
Bad Checks	22.00	
Corporation Fee	20.00	
Total Expenses	$85,998.65	$85,998.65
Net Income +$1,582.03		
Cash on hand January 1, 2001		$20,496.51
		(Encumbered $3,240.87)

Pasture FAQ

The following article is the second part of a selection written by ***Ronald Florence****, a distinguished author and historian. The full text can be found at the url: http://members.home.net/18james/rural/pasture.html. It is reprinted with permission and copyright ©2000 Ronald Florence.*

What do I need to do to maintain my pastures?

To maintain their productivity, pastures need adequate nutrition, clipping or controlled grazing to eliminate weeds and over-ripe grass, and protection from overgrazing. Fertilizers and added manure provide the nutrition. The simple soil tests available from fertilizer companies and university labs that receive funding from fertilizer companies are a useful guide test to soil pH and NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium), the three elements used in sufficient quantity to be profitable to fertilizer companies. Simple soil tests may recommend heavier application of NPK than your pastures need, and ignore other micronutrients.

Nutrients

The most accurate tests of nutrient levels are analyses of plant tissues taken from the pasture. These tests are moderately expensive compared to a soil test. There are also simple signals of some deficiencies. For example, earthworms are generally a good indicator of a organic matter in the soil. Remember that the uptake of most of these nutrients depends on maintaining the *pH* of the soil in the appropriate range.

nitrogen

Nitrogen is quickly taken up by grasses and promotes growth. Nitrogen application on a mixed grass-legume pasture will tend to shade out the clovers and allow the grasses to predominate. Animal urine is high in nitrogen. The usual sign of nitrogen deficiency is yellowish leaves, especially the older leaves of forage. Nitrogen is typically added as urea; an alternate source, which is less volatile on exposure to air, is ammonium nitrate. Don't try to mix them: even small amounts of urea will make ammonium nitrate so hygroscopic that the mix will set up to a consistency somewhere between a heavy sludge and a solid block.

phosphorus

Unlike nitrogen and potassium, phosphorus leaching through the soil is minimal. Grasses quickly take up available phosphorus; if the level in the soil is low, the clovers will not do well. Phosphorus is returned to the soil in manure, which needs to be broken down to be used by the plants. Clover growing better in areas where manure has decomposed is a sign that the pasture needs more phosphorus. Black spots on the undersides of clover or alfalfa leaves that do not go all the way through are a sign of low phosphorus, as are ryegrass leaves with a purple tinge.

potassium

Grasses absorb more potassium than they need. If additional potassium is not returned ot the pasture in the form of animal urine or supplemental potassium, the legumes in particular will suffer. Clover growing well in urine-patches and sparsely elsewhere is a sign of potassiuim deficiency. Too much potassium can lower the uptake of magnesium, calcium, sodium, and boron.

sulphur

Because it cannot easily be measured in soil analyses, sulphur is often ignored in soil tests. Symptoms of low sulphur include poor clover growth and yellowish leaves on forage, especially clovers. Unlike nitrogen deficiency, the yellowing from sulphur deficiency appears first on the younger leaves. Urine patches that are brighter green than the other forage may indicate sulphur deficiency (urine supplies sulphur, nitrogen, and potassium). Sulphur can be supplemented with application of ordinary superphosphate (phosphorus, calciuim, sulphur), gypsum (sulphur, calcium), or amonium sulphate (nitrogen, sulphur). Even in some apparently sulphur-rich environments, like volcanic soils, additional sulphur can dramatically improve the growth of clovers. If you suspect sulphur deficiency, add 40 lbs/acre of sulphate S if the *pH* is above 6.3; otherwise, 50 lbs/acre of elemental S.

calcium

Calcium is directly related to the soil *pH*, and is usually corrected when the field is limed. Calcium also contributes to the soil structure by aggregating clay and humus into granular soil particles. Calcium deficiency is more likely to show up in animals grazing a pasture than in the forage. Typical indicators of low calcium in a pasture are heavy infestation of dandelions, soil particles sticking to earthworms instead of earthworms emerging from the soil slimy and clean, and clover leaves which are smaller than normal.

magnesium

Magnesium is crucial for photosynthesis. A shortage shows up in the loss of healthy green color between leaf veins. The color gradually changes to yellow, then to reddish purple. In some forage, the leaves appear striped. Magnesium deficiency in grazing animals is called grass tetany or hypomagnesaemia. Magnesium is available in dolomite limestone or potassium-magesium-sulphate (sulpomag).

boron

Boron is important to alfalfa and clovers. The sign of a deficiency is shortened, rosette-shaped plants. The leaves turn yellow and appear drought-damaged, with hard, brittle edges. Burgundy color is another sign of boron deficiency. Boron deficiency is most likely to show up during dry spells or after application of lime. Boron can be added to fertilizer at a blending plant. 2 lbs/acre every three years is usually sufficient for alfalfa or clovers. Too much boron can kill grasses.

molybdenum

If the root nodules of clover, examined with a low-power microscope, are white instead of pink or brown, and they generate little or no nitrogen, it may be a sign of molybdenum deficiency.

copper, chlorine, cobalt, iron, zinc, manganese

These micronutrients are all important to pasture growth. The quantities necessary are minute. If you have tried everything else and still have problems with stunted forage, or if tests of your pasture forage tissues show deficiencies in these micronutrients, be cautious in getting second opinions and be extremely cautious that you do not apply toxic amounts of these micro-nutrients. If you do need one or another of these micronutrients, the small amounts should be well mixed into large quantities of other fertilizer for even distribution.

Fertilizer

If you cannot get soil or plant tissue tests, and do not have an opportunity to study the forage for signs of deficiencies, the typical guidelines are that legume or mixed legume-grass pastures generally need 30-60 lbs of phosphate (P_2O_5) and 90-120 lbs of potash (K_20) per acre once a year, with the lower rates for pastures where you spread manure or have fertile soils. Good legume-grass pastures need no additional nitrogen

Pasture FAQ

(N). Straight grass pastures typically need 80-120 lbs of N per acre annually in split applications (usually a first application in early spring in the east, late fall in California, and a second application sometime after first cutting of hay in your area), with 40-90 lbs of P_2O_5 and 60-100 lbs. of K_2O per acre annually. If you spread manure on the pasture, application rates as low as 40-60 lbs N, 20-30 lbs. P_2O_5, and 30-40 lbs K_2O are probably sufficient. Taller grasses, like orchardgrass and reed canarygrass, generally need the higher rates.

If you don't have access to a blending plant, or don't have the equipment to use bulk fertilizer, you may have to select from available bagged fertilizer, or mix two or more blends of bagged fertilizer to get the formulation you need. A good starting point for legume or mixed legume/grass pasture is 300-600 lbs/acre of 0-10-40 or 0-15-30. A starting point for grass pastures is a split application of 400-600 lbs/acre of 15-8-12.

One caution with applied fertilizer. Fertilizer application intereacts with soil *pH* and with the uptake of micronutrients and minerals. For example, heavy applications of superphosphates can lower soil *pH* which in turn can lower the uptake of selenium and other minerals by forage. A soil which had adequate selenium content to avoid white muscle disease in sheep or equines may suddenly see a drop in selenium uptake to the forage if very heavy doses of superphosphate are added to increase clover production in the pasture. Cautious steps and frequent soil tests will avoid most problems.

Manure

Applied manure, in addition to the animal droppings, is good for a pasture. Ten tons per acre of cow manure (two-thirds that amount of sheep manure), well-flailed and spread after grazing has stopped (late fall in the east), is ideal. Chicken manure application should be no more than 3-4 tons per acre, and the high level of copper in chicken manure may be too much for sheep pastures. If you don't have a manure spreader, you may be able to borrow one, or hire a neighbor to custom spread your manure. Small ground-driven manure spreaders are often available at auctions and used implement dealers; two manufactuers of new small spreaders are Mill Creek Manufacturing (717.656.3050) and Fuerst (800.435.9630). If you have problems with parasite worms in your livestock, it may help to compost the manure thoroughly before applying it.

Clipping

Unless you are using a very aggressive rotation scheme on small paddocks, you will probably need to clip your pastures at least once per year to control weeds, and to present fresh new growth to the grazing animals. Twice is better -- once around the time of first cutting of hay to eliminate ungrazed old growth, and a second mowing late in the growing season to get the weeds. Pastures with tall-growing grasses like orchardgrass or reed canarygrass may need three clippings per year. Some livestock, like horses, are selective eaters; they won't graze near deposits of horse manure or eat weeds, so an untended pasture soon consists of rank areas with eaten down grass inbetween. Domesticated deer will graze the legumes and herbs heavily and leave rank growth of grass. Frequent clipping will restore the health of these pastures by eliminating the woody overgrowth in favor of palatable fresh growth, and by depositing a mulch that will extend the growing season of cool-season grasses like bluegrass. Even on heavily rotated paddocks, clipping after each rotation can do wonders to eliminate nasty weeds like thistles.

Timing is all-important when you are mowing to eliminate weeds. You want to hit them before they produce seeds. Mow too late, and your brush hog will actually distribute the weed seeds in your pasture. Some grasses, like fescue, become so unpalatable when they are rank that if you cannot control your rotation to graze the fescue when it reaches 6-inches, you may need to clip the pastures before the animals graze. Be careful when clipping pastures before grazing that there is no cherry or maple on the pastures: the wilted leaves of either are toxic.

A sickle bar mower set at 3 inches will do an excellent job of clipping a pasture if it is adjusted well. A brush hog will also do a good job if the blades are sharp. For a nicer cut on pastures, use *hay blades* on the brush hog; these blades have a finer edge and a lift wing on the back that provides some lift to the grass, like a lawnmower. On a stony pasture, a brush hog will function as a missile launcher, so be careful. Flail mowers do a good job on stony pastures. If your pastures are free of stumps and stones, you can use a heavy-duty finishing mower or lawn mower. For smaller pastures, a walk-behind sickle-bar or DR-style mower will do a fine job of clipping. The best time to mow is just after a heavy grazing cycle. Some mowers may scatter the manure, or you can use a spike harrow or drag to break up and distribute clumps of manure. An alternative or supplement to mowing is a wether goat or two in with your other animals, if you've got the fences and secure enough gates to hold a goat.

An alternative to mowing is to take a cut of sileage off the field when the forage is beyond the optimum grazing stage. Bruces clean pastures makes a convincing argument that taking a cut of sileage not only provides winter or dry season feed, but can dramatically improve the palatability and productivity of a pasture.

Grazing too early or late in the growing season takes a toll on a pasture. When a pasture is grazed too early, the young shoots are quickly nibbled off, plant root systems are destroyed, and weeds move in. Animals then churn the wet sod searching for palatable plants, turning the pasture into a muddy, eroding feedlot. Grazing too late strips the growth that forage grasses and legumes need to build up root systems during the winter or dormant season. Fields reserved for succession grazing on annuals can extend the grazing season.

How do I take soil and/or tissue tests?

There is a technique to soil sampling. It's easiest with a testing instrument, available from larger farm supplies and catalogs. The instrument is pushed into the soil and brings up a core. An alternate is an auger or a shovel. Be sure the instrument is clean before you try to take samples.

Generally, You need 10-30 soil samples for each field you are testing. If the fields have significant variances, such as bottomland, slopes, and/or substantial dry or wet areas, you should take separate samples for those areas. Walking a Z pattern over the field while taking cores will normally give a good distribution. The sample should be from 1-6 inches down for pastures. Avoid areas where the animals congregate, recently fertilized or manured areas, and urine patches. Mix all of the samples for a field thoroughly in a clean bucket, making sure no manure or plant matter is in the sample, then take a small portion of the mixed samples in a clean plastic bag for the laboratory. The soil test printout will be more useful if you specify exactly what you want to do on the field, such as *mixed grass-legume pasture* or *bermudagrass horse pasture*, and whether it is for maintenance or a new seeding. Remember that while you are sampling the level of the soil where most grass roots are, deeper rooted alfalfa and legumes may reach soil levels with quite different *pH* and mineral levels. The usual soil test (Standard Morgan) tests for available calcium, potassium, pH, and may include a texture estimate. For diagnostic purposes you may want to order more extensive tests, including micronutrients and soil organic matter. The

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Pasture FAQ

Continued from previous page

soil testing labs of state university agriculture departments frequently charge more for out-of-state tests; you may find that commercial soil-testing labs provide a wider range of tests for less money and with quicker turn-arounds than the state university lab.

Tissue samples of forage growing in the pasture cover far more minerals and nutrients than soil tests, and by measuring the actual uptake of minerals into the forage can detect deficiencies that will not show up on a soil test. To take tissue samples, make certain your hands are clean, and that you avoid any recently manured, fertilized, or urine-patch areas, or contaminants such as mineral water, animal water-troughs, or perspiration. Wearing disposable latex gloves is a good idea. Tear the grass or legumes off at ground level, making sure that no soil goes into the test sample. Clippers can introduce contaminants. Clean paper bags are better for tissue samples than plastic. The samples should be air-dryed in a warm, dry environment, in an oven at 120° F., or with short (2-3 minute) bursts in a microwave. Laboratory analysis of tissue samples is relatively expensive, so the procedure is best applied where you have questions arising either from the growth pattern of the forage or animal health issues from livestock grazing the pasture.

Using tissue samples as the basis of balancing animal rations is tricky. *Average* samples may fairly represent the distribution of forages on a paddock, but they will not represent the consumption pattern of the animals, who generally will favor the more desirable forage and ignore the stemmier or less palatable forage. I find it more useful to watch the grazing pattern of the flock or herd and target tissue samples to the areas of forage they consume most heavily. Remember too that the nutritional levels of samples will vary depending on the stage of growth of the forage and the nutrient and mineral level in the pasture. To refine models of grazing consumption, some labs and farmers are now using fecal sampling. The fecal samples are analyzed by near-infrared spectroscopy to determine the crude protein, digestible organic matter, and percentages of *N* and *P* consumed. The tests are approximately $30-40 per sample. For more information on fecal sampling, contact the Grazing Animal Nutrition Lab at Texas A & M, telephone 1.409.845.5838.

What is the best fence for pastures?

Fences have two purposes: keeping animals in and keeping predators out. The wood fences of fancy horse farms or New England stone walls may succeed at the former, unless you're trying to keep a bull away from cows in season, or unweaned lambs away from their mothers. To keep predators out, you will probably need woven wire, high-tension, or electric fences. Stopping a mother coyote who is trying to feed her kit may require 48-inch woven wire with additional strands of barbed wire at ground level and above the woven wire, or 6-7 strands of high-tension electric fencing.

Cattle and horses that are trained well to electric fences can be fenced in with a single wire. Many horse farms prefer to use a highly visible wire or one of the wide braided conductors. Smaller animals and animals with heavy coats need multi-wire fences to contain them, and pigs need carefully-placed ground level wires -- barbed or electric -- to keep them from digging their way out.

Woven wire fences are relatively simple to install. Depending on local supplies and aesthetic needs, you can use metal T-posts, pressure-treated commercial posts, or homemade posts of a resistant wood like cedar or locust. T-posts or sharpened wooden posts can be started with a pry bar and driven in with a post pounder. Corner posts should be stout, dug deep and may need braces. Use a fence-stretcher or a tractor to tension the fence before you staple it to the posts, and leave the staples loose on intermediate posts to allow the fence some play. A convenient tool for fence-stretching is a pair of 2 x 6 boards, longer than the height of the fence, drilled for 3 to 5 strong bolts. Sandwich the end of the fence between the two boards and tighten the bolts to hold the fence, then hitch a chain from the tractor or fence stretcher to the sandwich-boards to stretch the fence evenly. The newer high-tension woven wire makes a neat fence on level ground with fewer intermediate posts.

High-tension fences work best for long runs on level land, where they require few intermediate posts. Because of the tension in the wires, the corner posts need to be well dug and braced, or better yet, pounded in place with a hydraulic post-setter; old telephone poles can be cut up to make good corner posts. They generally need bracing in the form of an H-brace, diagonal brace, or a deadman, a bed log set in a trench next to the post in the direction of pull. In some cases high tension fences do not need to be electrified, but to look good and perform well, they require careful installation and no stinting on tensioners and other hardware.

For temporary fencing, portable electric fences using "polywire" or electrified netting are quick to set up and move. The various reel devices are useful if you plan to move the fence often. Gallagher sells hardwood posts that require no insulators, at least in relatively dry climates, which are convenient as end and corner posts for temporary electric fences. Welded hog or cattle panels can also be used for temporary holding pens.

Electrified scare wires, generally 6-8 inches off the ground and at the top, or on offset brackets, can be used as an adjunct to stone walls, woven-wire, or wooden fences to deter predators.

Premier Fence Systems, Gallagher and Kencove distribute catalogs with excellent ideas for electric and high-tension fencing. See also the excellent installation tips, including ideas for inexpensive and easily built braces for corner posts, by University of California extension agents and from the Sustainable Farming Connection. Reliable electric fences require adequate charger strength, good grounds, lightning protection, clearance from heavy or wet vegetation, good insulators, animals trained to fences by high-powered chargers or a training fence, and some thought to gateways, streams, and abrupt changes in terrain. For the longest life from fences, the wires should not be fastened to every post (don't drive staples all the way in), so the elasticity of the wire can absorb animal loads and stretching/shrinkage from temperature changes.

What else besides forage and fences does a pasture need?

Animals on pasture need a supply of clean water and salt. A running brook or stream in a pasture can supply water, although it is sometimes difficult to keep animals from trampling and fouling the banks of a stream or pond. In general, sheep, which prefer dry upland grazing areas, will do less damage to stream or pond banks than cattle. If you don't have a natural supply of water, you will need a watering tank, and possibly equipment to keep the water supply frost-free in the winter. During spring flush, animals on pasture may not require much water in addition to what is available from the forage. In hot summer months or during lactation, the water needs are high. In some areas, carefully planned use of snow fencing in the winter can maximize the use of runoff in the spring.

Water

You can supply water with buried pipe, hoses or surface-level pipes in summer or in areas with mild winters, or by hauling water. PVC pipe buried below the frost-line and frost-free hydrants are the most reliable, but in stony soils it can be a real chore to bury long lengths of pipe. A modified sub-soiler on a powerful tractor or a rented ditch-witch can be used to bury pipe in stone-free soils; otherwise you may need a backhoe. The

hardest part to keep from freezing is the riser pipe up to the waterer. Running vertical waterline inside a 6-inch diameter plastic or tile pipe, with minimal joints and the waterpipe centered will allow rising ground heat to keep the pipe from thawing. You generally need a poured concrete pad at the surface for the waterer. For aggressive rotation schemes, PVC pipe run on top of the soil along fencelines and quick-detach couplers can make hookup of the water tanks a simple and quick job. Larger pipe will allow for increased carrying capacity, avoids problems with occasionally clogging, and ie less susceptible to gnawing by rodents; it is also more expensive and may be more susceptible to trampling. The heavier-grade piping will resist trampling and abrasion from stones, but are considerably more expensive than the cheaper pipes; if you can inspect frequently, it is quick and cheap to repair occasional problems with the lightweight piping.

Especially with cattle, the area around waterers, even those in intensively rotated paddocks, can quickly get trampled into a muddy area that is bad for hooves. Unless you have a watering scheme that permits you to move waterers continuously, a good layer of coarse gravel, perhaps with geotextile fabric underneath, is a good idea for the area around the waterers to provide a dry surface underfoot.

It takes sense to plan a system in advance; the advice on water systems for controlled grazing is primarily directed to cattle, but can be adapted for other livestock. There are commercial suppliers of piping, quick-detach connectors, and tanks, but you can do just as well, for less cost, buying ordinary PVC pipe, T-fittings, and inexpensive hose valves at a plumbing or farm supply. A plastic 55-gallon or 30-gallon drum cut in half makes a good portable tank. The inexpensive float valves sold at farm supplies are fine if you check your pastures and waterers frequently, or you can build your own float valve from a floatless toilet tank valve (The *Fillpro* brand is inexpensive and reliable) and some pipe adapters to set the top of the valve at the desired water level. Toilet valve fittings are intended for the thickness of a china toilet tank, so you may need some shims made from an old inner-tube around the mounting holes in the waterer, along with pipe fittings to adapt from the tank valve thread to a garden hose thread for a supply hose. Hose clamps will work to attach PVC pipe to the plastic fittings, but a ClampTite tool and stainless steel wire is cheaper for quantities of fittings and some farmers have found them more effective; for information on the tools or stainless wire, contact Senora Early. One option for remote pastures is a solar pump; you will need water storage for at least three days for cloudy days or when the pump needs servicing.

The cooler the water, the more your livestock will drink. If you can't bury the pipe, covering it with woodchips will keep it cool and prevent early deterioration of the pipe from UV rays; as the chips rot, grass and clovers filling in over the pipe will keep it cool. At gateways or other areas where the pipe is subject to animal of vehicle traffic, it can either be buried or protected by a shield of a larger size of rigid PVC pipe.

The alternative to installed pipe is to haul water. Empty garbage cans in the back of a pickup, special pickup-bed tanks, water trailers, and tank trucks all work. In some situations it may be better to bring the animals to the water daily or every other day instead of hauling water.

Keeping pasture water frost-free in the winter is a challenge. Floating electric heaters work, but they are expensive to operate, and if the water level drops low, they can burn through rubber or plastic water tanks. The submersible heaters are safer. Some tanks, like the Rubbermaid units, have provisions for heaters that fit in the drain holes. For any electric heater, the exterior outlet should be a GFCI, and any extension cords should be rated for the heater load and for exterior use. Use shrink-wrap tubing or plastic electrical tape around the junction of the electrical cords. It is a good idea to have some sort of indicator light on the GFCI outlet, in case it trips.

Insulating a tank and leaving a hole only large enough for the animals to reach the water can save on water heating bills. There are also donut-shaped devices that sit in the bottom of a tank and release a regulated stream of propane bubbles to keep a tank frost-free; a five-gallon tank of propane will power one for up to two months.

One alternative to heating water is the insulated waterers like the Mirafont or the pasture waterer sold in the NASCO catalog; these waterers rely on enough animal population using the waterer to keep the water flowing. Too few animals and the waterer will freeze up.

Another option, if your winters aren't too cold, is to set waterers into holes lined with manure or a manure and hay/straw mix. Heat from the composting manure will keep the water thawed. Rubber or plastic 55-gallon drums cut in half are good for these naturally heated waterers. You can break up surface icing with a stick, and if it isn't too deep the animals will break it with their noses or hot breath.

Salt & Minerals

Along with water, animals need salt. Salt blocks are popular for cattle. Loose salt works better for sheep. Often TM (trace mineral) salt is used to supply additional minerals, or minerals are added to the salt to supplement the regular diet. You may want to speak with your local veterinarian or local producers, and possibly test your forage and grain, before adding minerals or using a TM salt. Minerals are important, and many are not stored so that animals need a daily supply. For example a shortage of zinc or a combination of an excess of molbdenum and a shortage of copper can cause hoof problems or runny eyes. At the same time, the line between minimal requirements and toxicity is a fine one for many minerals, especially copper and selenium, and trace mineral mixes intended for some livestock may be inappropriate for other animals. Selenium, especially, has a narrow range: too little and an animal can suffer white-muscle disease, which leads to limpness and eventually death as it affects the heart muscles; too much can lead to restricted blood flow to the extremities, with effects like hooves falling off. The FDA standards for most mineral mixtures are based on nation-wide standards, with little allowance for the local levels of selenium in soil and plants. (The labels on trace mineral bags can be confusing: *ppm* or parts-per-million is the same as *mg/kg*; to convert from percentage (%) to *ppm*, move the decimal point 4 places to the right. 0.0032% = 32 ppm).

If your animals are getting their trace minerals from an on-demand TM salt mixture, be careful when you change their feed to, for example, hay that has been treated with salt. The animals may reduce their consumption of the trace-mineral mixture and deficiencies of essentials like selenium may show up.

Remember that the forage may be providing a substantial portion or all of your animals' requirements of some minerals. The uptake of minerals by forage grasses and legumes can be controlled by a careful selection of applied fertilizers. You can check on the daily needs of animals and the mineral content of various forages in the *Nutrient Requirements* publications of the National Academy Press, which are available for dairy cattle, swine, horses, sheep, beef cattle, goats, and poultry. *Continued next page*

Pasture FAQ

Continued from previous page

What is rotation grazing and how do I do it?

To obtain this constant supply of fresh grass, let us suppose that a farmer who has any extent of pasture ground, should have it divided into 15 or 20 divisions, nearly of equal value: and that, instead of allowing his beasts to roam indiscriminately through the whole at once, he collects the whole number of beasts that he intends to feed into one flock, and turns them all at once into one of these division; which, being quite fresh, and of sufficient length of bite, would please their palate so much as to induce them to eat of it greedily, and fill their bellies before they thought of roaming about, and thus destroying it with their feet. And if the number of beasts were so great as to consume the best part of the grass of one of these inclosures in one day, they might be allowed to remain there no longer;-giving them a fresh park every morning, so as that same delicious repast might be again repeated. And if there were just so many parks as there required days to make the grass of these fields advance to a proper length after being eat bare down, the first field would be ready to receive them by the time they had gone over all the others: so that they might be thus carried round in a constant rotation.

-- John Anderson, Scotland, 1777

Some pasture forages require a period of rest after a period of heavy grazing. Many other forage species also respond well to alternating cycles of grazing and rest. Most grazing animals, when they are confined to a limited area, will eat everything in sight, including weeds and coarse forage, instead of nibbling only the tender shoots that grew the night before. Rotation grazing takes advantage of these patterns of forage growth and animal habits to increase pasture productivity.

Rotation patterns can vary from super-aggressive "forward paddock grazing" which may move the animals two or three times daily, to a casual rotation between two pastures every three or four weeks. Two weeks is generally the minimum rest for a pasture; three or four weeks is better. Some farms rotate different livestock onto pastures in sequence, taking advantage of the different grazing habits of cattle and sheep. After the cattle eat the coarse growth, sheep are brought in to eat the fine grasses and clovers the cattle missed.

Livestock can be rotated between separate pastures, or between paddocks carved out of pasture areas with stone walls, cross-fencing, or portable electric fencing. Portable fencing is versatile, but requires more work to move and set up than the advertisements in the catalogs and magazines suggest. The alternative of permanently divided paddocks can be inconvenient for mowing, fertilizing, or taking an occasional cutting of hay. Whatever the rotation pattern, you will need shade, water, and mineral feeders in each paddock or pasture area; if you don't use portable fencing, you will need gates or bar-ways between the paddocks or pastures. Some farms save water piping and labor by arranging their paddocks around central islands with waterers and mineral/salt feeders; by opening and closing two gates, or moving a hog or cattle panel, they can rotate the stock to a new paddock. The disadvantage is that the areas around fixed water tanks and mineral feeders get trampled, overgrazed, and over-manured.

Strip grazing (sometimes called the Voisin system or MIG, *management intensive grazing*) uses one or two electric fences, moved as often as daily, to allow the livestock to graze fresh forage. On some operations, the lambs or calves are allowed to graze a paddock or strip first; when they move on to fresher grass and clover, the ewes or cows are brought in to clean up the old paddock. The biological activity and regrowth pattern in aggressively rotated pastures is so high that weeds are quickly choked out, and deposited manure quickly decomposes into soil additives. Often dragging and mowing that would be necessary with less-frequent rotation are not necessary when intensive grazing is alternated with substantial rest periods.

There are many schemes for rotation, from those which measure the total dry mass on the pasture, to those which use estimates based on the number of new leaves on forage or forage height to determine when to begin and when to end grazing of a paddock. Whichever scheme you use, the important distinction is that grazing intervals should be controlled by the amount and state of the forage available on the paddocks, and not by a fixed calendar rotation. Graze before the forage on a paddock gets rank; stop grazing before the pasture is grazed so low that regrowth is retarded.

A few rotational grazing cautions: some forages, like bermudagrass and tall fescue, show little or no response to rotational grazing. Jointed grasses, like timothy or bromegrass, do not respond well to grazing when the growing points are elevated to grazing height, and are better suited to haying or long rotation periods. The best results for intensive rotational grazing come from legumes, kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and orchard grass. Recent research suggests that rotation does not help with parasite control unless the animals are wormed frequently enough to keep the parasite populations low. The typical rotation periods of 2-6 weeks are not long enough for the parasitic organisms in the idle pasture to die, and the longer ungrazed growth of an idle pasture may actually shelter parasites from sunlight. A field generally will not be parasite-free unless the animals have been off it for a full year. In many situations, overall production (weight gains, milk production) from rotational grazing do not exceed production from continuous grazing of the same amount of land. Excessive pressure on forage, when animals are forced to consume all of the forage, can actually lead to significant drops in production.

But, if your pastures are predominantly alfalfa or timothy, or if animal management needs such as predator control make it advisable to confine the flock or herd to smaller pastures, or if you are using animals to aid in the improvement of pasture by forcing them to graze areas hard, rotation grazing can do wonders for your pastures.

Before rotation onto a clean pasture is an optimum time to worm your animals. Even if you don't have a planned rotation scheme, when you see animals moving about restlessly in search of forage, it may mean the pasture is temporarily exhausted and needs a rest. If you don't have an alternate pasture, it may be time to confine the stock to a feedlot until the pasture recovers, or at least to take pressure off the pasture by feeding supplementary hay or silage. ❖

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy 2001 Annual Meeting & Conference is Nov. 1-3 in conjunction with the Small Farm Today Trade Show in Columbia, MO. For information contact:
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Q: What does the word "Pasteurize" mean?

A: Too far to see.

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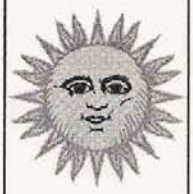
Classification Schedule 2001

Month	States
January	PA, MD, VA, DE, NJ, WV
February	OR, WA, ID, UT, MT, NV, CO, WY
March	CA, AZ, NM
April	KY, TN, IN, IL
May	OH, MI, AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, MS, LA
June	WI
July	AR, KS, MO, TX, OK
August	IA, MN, NE, ND, SD
September	NY, CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT
October	PA, MD, VA, DE, NJ, WV
November	OR, WA, ID, UT, MT, NV, CO, WY
December	CA, AZ, NM

(Applications due 45 days prior to Started Tour)



World Congress 2002
October 10 - October 15
South East Queensland
Australia

American Dexter Cattle Association
Annual Meeting
August 2 - 4, 2002
Jackson County, Oregon

ADCA Member Logo

ADCA Committees

Advertising
Kathy Smith, *Chair*
Gwen Casey-Higgins

Color Identification
John Potter, *Chair*
Rosemary Fleharty
Gary Williams
Sandi Thomas

Finance
John Foley, *Chair*

Membership/Information Booklet
Rosemary Fleharty
Richard Henry
Carol Davidson

Promotional Items
Gary Williams, *Chair*

Science
Wes Patton, *Chair*
Dean Fleharty
Lee McIntosh

Special Funding
Marvin Johnson, *Chair*

Technology
Paul Anderson, *Chair*
Rosemary Fleharty

Video Show
Wes Patton
Jane Patton

Website
Gwen Casey-Higgins
Oogie McGuire

Information

ADCA Research Project

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

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

Dr. Jon Beever
University of Illinois
Department of Animal Sciences
220 E RML
1201 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: (217) 762-2951
Fax: (217) 244-6745
Email: j-beever@uiuc.edu

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

American Dexter Cattle Association Website

www.dextercattle.org

For information contact:
Gwen Casey-Higgins
4533 Lockes Mill Road, Berryville, VA 22611
Email: dogrun@intelos.net **Phone: (540) 955-4421**

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.

Bulletin deadlines for advertisements/articles

Issue	*Date due by*
Autumn (September/October/November)	**August 1st**
Winter (December/January/February)	**November 1st**
Spring (March/April/May)	**February 1st**
Summer (June/July/August)	**May 1st**

Advertising

Classified advertisements of Dexter cattle or Dexter semen are $15.00 for up to a 2" column ad or $50.00 per year for four issues. Ads over 2" up to 4" are $30 per ad or $100.00 per year for four 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 and are subject to approval by the ADCA.

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

For current Bulletin deadlines and information go to:
http://www.geocities.com/rchar_d/bulletin.html

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
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
Herd Books	$10.00

All fees should be paid in U.S. currency.
Names for registration cannot exceed 21 characters.
The tattoo code letter for 2001 is "L"

Dexter bull calves enjoying the warm sun and green pasture. *Photograph courtesy of Evelyn Anderson.*

The Dexter Bulletin Summer 2001

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

Address Service Requested

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
PIP MAIL
SEDALIA, MO

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Dated Material

2*15**********ALL FOR ADC 670

JOHN S. MERRIFIELD
5634 NE 12TH ST
NEWTON. KS 67114-9450

REGION 6 T O K

MARVIN JOHNSON DIRECTOR

TEXAS OKLAHOMA KANSAS

YOUR CONNECTION TO DEXTER BREEDERS IN REG. 6 AND THE SOUTHCENTRAL UNITED STATES

Stated purpose:
To improve our association, through communication

ISSUE 7 **JULY/AUG 2001**

Whew, summer is here! What was my first clue? The heat, haying season, flies and the hectic schedules. Please accept my apoligizes for getting this letter out a few days late. Don & I have been very busy with two family reunions and sick family members, and along with that we traveled back to Stillwater Okla. to help with finalizing the feedout plans. What a nice town and friendly folks they have in Stillwater. You will read in our Directors Message, that we (Region 6) will have the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the American Dexter Cattle Association in Stillwater. This is quite an honor and a privilege to have the AGM in our region twice in five years, but we deserve it. We are one of the most active regions, with a membership that is growing in both size and knowledge. You will also find an article in the following pages on the Dexter steer feedout program. Lets not forget to mark your calendars for attending the Kansas State Fair. Fifteen breeders have committed to preparing animals and hauling them to Hutchinson Kansas. The cattle will be in the barns from Monday Sept. 10th through Wed. Sept. 12th. The show will be at 11 a.m. on the 12th, so please plan on attending and sitting in the bleachers during the show. Visitors will probably want to ask some questions, you know, those same ole ones, like, why would anyone want cattle that small, etc.

One thing that was brought up at our regional meeting was the brochure. Our Director brought that up at the national meeting, and it was decided that the national brochures would be changed. New ones will be made and distributed as soon as 4000 of the questionable brochures are used up.

Thanks to all of you that have sent ads for the Region 6 TOK. We will continue to operate in the black as long as we have breeders that are willing to help keep it going with their advertising dollars. Keep your TOK handy so when someone comes by and looks at your cattle, and you don't have any to sell, share with them the ones that are for sale. Don't be afraid to advertise something other than Dexters. To most of us, raising Dexters is a hobby/business, so you might be surprised what we are interested in buying! Keep your hats on this summer, and stay cool.

To place ads in the Region 6 T O K
Or send articles to : Joanie Storck
401 W. 89th St. So.
Haysville, Kansas 67060
Email: storckranch@yahoo.com

Business card size	$5.00 per issue
3 ½ X 3 ½	$10.00 per issue
Half page	$15.00 per issue

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Well it is a long way to New York State for an old Cow Trader like me, but I made it without getting lost. The Board of Directors of the ADCA voted to have the Annual General Meeting in Stillwater Okla. in 2003. Details to follow in a later newsletter. They also voted to sanction a beef feedout at the OK Steer Feed-Out in Stillwater. They approved $1500.00 to be used to help in the costs of gathering the cattle. We would like to put together 25 head for this. Andy Kincaid will head a committee of Bill Moore, Candice Howell, and Joanie Storck, with myself as advisor. Another item we completed at this year's annual meeting was the classification system for the Dexter cattle. I think it will work for everyone wishing to classify his or her cattle. All in all, I think that it was a good meeting. Everyone start planning to attend the 2002 meeting in Oregon next year. Anna Poole has set the dates of Aug. 1,2,3. Watch for more information later.

YOUR OLD COW TRADING BUDDY, *SMILING "PAPA" JOHNSON*

KANSAS STATE FAIR UPDATE

We are only nine weeks away from the Kansas State Fair. Are you ready? I had really planned on getting some diagrams out to all of you, showing you where you should stand while showing your animals, and some other tips on showing, but our lives have been too busy this summer. My Mother and daughter have been in two different hospitals with pneumonia, they are both home now, but I have been part of my Mothers home health care team since she was released. I have to beg out of a few of my commitments. I hope you understand. I'd like to suggest that you could call your local extension office and find out when your county fair is. Find out what day and time the 4-Her's will have their beef showmanship class, and go and learn from the best. The state fair classes will not be judged on showmanship, but if you don't have a clue as to how to show a beef animal, this would be your best bet to learn. There will also be two days of beef cattle being shown ahead of us at the State Fair. (If you don't even know which side of the animal you should be leading it from; you should go to the county fair, Ha Ha.) If you have been working with your animal, have it leading, and liking a bath, you are right on schedule.

If you have not received your state fair books and entry forms, please let me know right away, or contact the state fair office at 1(620) 669-3600 or www.kansasstatefair.com. If you are planning on staying on the grounds in a camper, you will need to make reservations for that at the same time, on the same form. There is a limited number of spaces available for camping on the grounds, so get your entries in early (see page 26 of state fair book). If any of you have an exceptional little calf, or you have bought a new Dexter that you are wanting to show, it is not too late to be part of the fair. The deadline to be part of the show is Aug. 15th. Everyone is welcome, come join us!

LITTLE APPLE DEXTERS
MANHATTAN, KANSAS

Registered Dexter Cattle

FOR SALE: 2 black med. legged polled bull calves, 1 year old; dehorned black cows with polled calves born May, 2001. Our herd sire is Circle H. Sweet Danny, sired by Llanfan's Polgaron, the sire of the Champion and Reserve Champion bulls at the American Dexter Cattle Convention held in Marshfield, MO last year.

Paul & Nancy Roth
6901 Deer Run, Manhattan, KS 66503
(785) 539-5246
e-mail: littleappledexters@networksplus.net

STORCKS RAINBOW RANCH

OFFER FOR SALE SJDH WILD BILL
DOB 7/15/93 Black 40inches #6052

We had all heifer calves this year, so we decided to keep the heifers and sell the Bull.
Bill has produced us quality beefy calves out of both long-leg and short let cows. He is gentle, horned, and will eat out of your hand.
His calves have been grand champion steers and grand champion heifers every year they have shown at the Sedgwick county fair.
If you are looking for a bull for a small herd, that will produce you beef type calves, HERES YOUR BULL

For more information call 1 (316) 524-0318

Sanderosa Ranch

Viola, Kansas 67149

For Sale: 1 very petite Blk. Bull born 4/01
1 long leg Blk Bull born 3/01
Also offer: Tenn. Walker Mule Colt
Dark Bay born 3/01

Marge & Ed Geiger 1 (620) 584-6575
E mail sanderosa@sktc.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kansas State Fair Sept. 9 –12, 2001

DEADLINES DEADLINES DEADLINES

Region 6 TOK	**Aug. 31**
State Fair Entries	**Aug. 15**
Dexter Bulletin	**Aug. 1**

FAN - C - DEXTERS

Registered Miniature Cattle

Neil Maureen McCready
15275 CR 446
Navasota, TX 77868
(936) 825-3411

"The Ideal Cow"

We would like to offer these Dexters for sale:

1 Black M/L cow 1/22/98
with heifer calf 3/24/01

1 Dun dehorned S/L cow 2/18/99
with heifer calf 4/13/01

Also available: A selection of,
Cows, Bulls, & calves All ages
Black or Dun

VISITORS WELCOME

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P-BAR RANCH

RT.2 BOX 43A SNYDER OKLA.73566
SMALLEST BREED DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE
GULF COAST SHEEP

OFFER FOR SALE: HEIFER CALVES
4 TO 10 MONTHS BLACK OR DUN

Don & Pat Piehota **(580)569-2631**

CHAPEL HILL RANCH

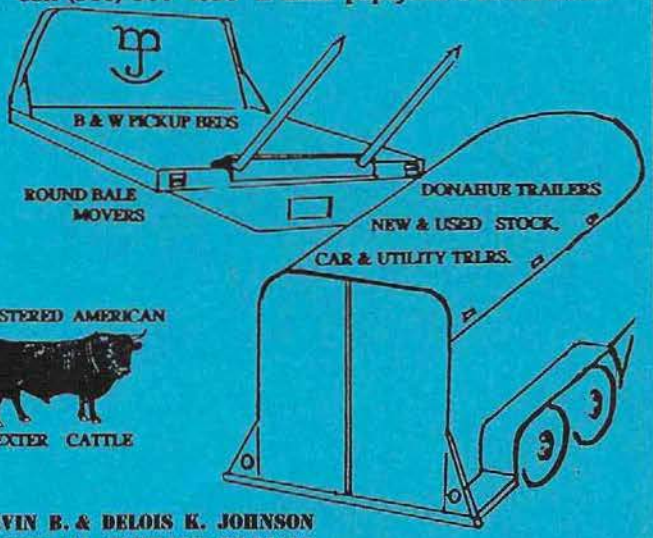
5982 SOUTH HWY #16
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624
80 MILES SOUTH OF AUSTIN TEXAS

OFFERING FOR SALE:
DEXTERS: COWS - HEIFER AND BULL CALVES - AND BULLS

RAYMOND CHRISTENSON
1 (830) 997-9386

SMILING "PAPA" JOHNSON RANCH & SALES

Pho. (580) 696-4836
cell (316) 360-4836 E-mail papajohn@elkhart.com



REGISTERED AMERICAN

DEXTER CATTLE

MARVIN B. & DELOIS K. JOHNSON
P.O. BOX 441 ELKHART, KS 67950

H & B DANDY DEXTER RANCH

P.O. BOX 639 NEWALLA, OK 74857

OFFER THE FOLLOWING DEXTERS FOR SALE:

1 Blk. Cow (bred) DOB 1/20/97
3 Blk. Bull calves

Harry & Burlene Lewellen 1(405) 391-5581

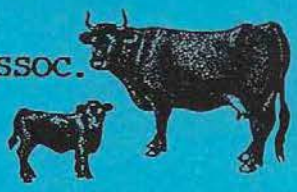
PREFERRED DEXTER STEER FEEDOUT INFORMATION

The purpose of this controlled feedout is to obtain qualified data on dexter cattle in a feedlot situation. The ADCA regional directors and officers voted to sanction and partially fund this feedlot test, at the 2001 AGM meeting. Region 6 Director Marvin "Papa" Johnson, Candice Howell, Andy Kincaid, Bill Moore, and Joanie Storck met with Fred Ray, Extension Animal Foods Specialist at Oklahoma State University on June 21, 2001. The following information is a brief summary of what was discussed and decided. If you have steers that will work, and you are interested, please contact Joanie Storck for entry forms. This will be on a first come first served basis.

The steers must be out of registered Dexter cattle; Birthdates must be between Jan. 1 and April 15, 2001. The animals will be delivered to the background pen between Feb. 1 to Feb. 15, 2002. Backgrounding the calves will pre-condition the cattle per the requirements of the feedlot. The entry cost will be $20.00. $15.00 will cover the cost of the shear test (meat tenderness), and $5.00 will cover postage and awards. There will also be costs incurred with the backgrounding portion of the test. It is our intentions that the $1500.00 voted on by the ADCA, will cover these costs. After the feedlot test, the finished animals will be delivered to a local processing plant, where the test data will be obtained. The remainder of the animal will be available back to the consignor if they desire, or sold through a retail market. The entry forms will have a space for you to mark the intended destination of the finished product. If you desire to keep the finished carcass for your own use, you must make arrangements for delivery. The costs for the feed in the feedlot will be the responsibility of the consignor upon completion of the feedout. The manager of the feedlot shared this information: the large breeds are usually on feed 120 days and the normal cost to them is approx. $1.40 a day, so if all our statistics are right, our dexters "should" only cost us about 70 cents a day, times 120 days, totals about $84.00. There will also be a cost of $1.00 per 100lbs for vaccinations upon entrance to the feedyard, so that would only be another $3.00 per head. If you are interested in including your steers in this program, please get your entries in early.

Contact: Joanie Storck 401 W. 89th St. So. Haysville, KS 67060 email storckranch@yahoo.com

REGION 6 T O K
AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOC.
401 W. 89th St. So.
Haysville, Kans. 67060



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