

American Dexter Cattle Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 5, 2024 - 7 pm CDT

President – Laaci Louderback	Youth Interim Dir - Jim Woehl	Region 7 – Mark Ballard
Vice Pres – Jill Gurley	Youth President – Erin Chambers	Region 8 – Mark Chaney
IPP - Jim Woehl	* Region 1 – Skip Tinney	Region 9 – Rob Winslow
Secretary - Carole Nirosky	* Region 2 – Stefani Millman	Region 10 - Santiago Lizarraga
Registrar - Jill Delaney	Region 4 – David Cluff	Region 11 - vacant
Treasurer-Mark Chaney interim	Region 6 – Kimberly Jepsen	Region 12 – Rick Seydel

***designates member absence.**

- 1) Laaci Louderback called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- 2) Roll call was taken, Patti Adams, Member #3850, was also in attendance.
- 3) Reports
 - A. Registrar’s report – Jill Delaney
 - Total members as of November 1, 2024: 1752
 - Jill was unable to obtain registration and transfer numbers for last month. She is meeting with Susan Smythe this week to resolve a possible issue with the last software deployment.
 - B. Treasurer – Mark Chaney
 - September 30, 2024, Financial Statement balance: \$313,165
 - October revenue \$11,900 / expenses \$8898.58
 - C. YADCA – Erin Chambers
 - The YADCA is working on some fundraising projects. Another goal is to increase member participation and do some outreach to get more people involved in meetings before they try to do a reorganizational meeting next month.
- 4) Derived Genotype insight - Patti Adams / Kimberly Jepsen / Rick Seydel
 - A. Patti Adams, on behalf of another member, requested time to discuss recent issues that have come to light while a member attempted to have a derived genotype constructed at TAMU.
 - Background on approved labs:
 - ADCA genotype testing was initially done at ImmGen in College Station, Texas, a testing lab started by two professors from Texas A&M University (TAMU). ImmGen became the official ADCA lab for genotyping in 2003.
 - Genotype testing at ImmGen was done for: Out of herd AI bulls; Imported Dexter cattle; and for Parentage testing (when there was a question on sire or dam). ImmGen used a panel of 13 microsatellite markers for genotype testing and parentage tests. With the technology that they had back then, this testing was considered acceptable, however some of the ImmGen reports were incomplete and had fewer than 13 markers reported.
 - ImmGen's laboratory ceased operation in 2007 and transferred the ADCA's genotype database to Dr. Gus Cothran's lab at Texas A&M. At that time, in 2007, ADCA's Red coat color testing was done at Genetic Visions in Wisconsin; and Chondrodysplasia and Dun color testing were done at Bova-Can in Saskatchewan, Canada.
 - Until 2008, there were 9 microsatellite markers in the International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) recommended panel for parentage testing. In 2008, the ISAG added 3 more markers to their recommended panel, making a total panel of 12 ISAG microsatellite markers recommended for parentage testing.

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- Beginning in 2008, TAMU genotype reports were done with 13 markers, 11 of which were from the ISAG recommended panel, plus 2 additional markers chosen by TAMU. This was the same panel of markers that was used by ImmGen.
- TAMU continued testing ADCA cattle using only 11 of the ISAG markers plus two additional markers consistent with the existing ADCA genotype database inherited from ImmGen, making a total panel of 13 microsatellite markers for parentage testing. TAMU did not report a value for the recommended ISAG marker BM1818.
- In 2009, Legacy Dexter group began offering discounted testing at UCD-VGL (UC-Davis) and many Dexter owners start testing with Legacy to save money on genetic testing. The ADCA started accepting UCD-VGL genotype reports officially in 2012. UCD-VGL genotype reports include all 12 ISAG recommended markers for parentage testing plus 4 additional markers chosen by UCD-VGL, making a total panel of 16 microsatellite markers. None of the 4 additional markers used by UCD-VGL were used or reported by TAMU.
- Starting in 2012, the ADCA allowed members to transfer TAMU genotype reports to UCD-VGL, and to transfer UCD-VGL reports to TAMU for a small fee with the purpose of parentage testing.
- UCD receives a maximum of 11 usable markers from TAMU reports (UCD normally uses 16 markers); however, some TAMU genotype reports have less than 11 usable markers. TAMU receives a maximum of 11 usable markers from UCD reports (TAMU normally used only 13 markers until recently)
- Problematic Example – TAMU
 - Presentation Slide shows a TAMU genotype test report that was done in 2016, and was missing three of the ISAG recommended markers, BM1824, BM1818, and INRA23
 - This TAMU genotype report shows that only 11 markers were used for parentage qualification of the sire and dam tested by TAMU.
- Problematic Example - Member
 - In January 2024 an ADCA member contacted TAMU for assistance in obtaining copies of his previously done genotype reports that were lost/damaged
 - In February 2024, this member initiated additional genotype testing at TAMU to prepare for his ADCA registrations.
 - In March 2024, the member requested assistance from TAMU to derive a genotype for a Dexter bull born in 2009. The Bull's sire and dam were already genotyped at TAMU, as were the Bull's offspring (6 daughters) and their dams. TAMU contacted the ADCA Pedigree and Genetics Committee chairperson about constructing a derived genotype. The chairperson contacted the member and told him to go through UCD-VGL to obtain a derived genotype. The member continued with TAMU because all the genotypes needed for the derived genotype were at TAMU. TAMU offered a derived genotype based on only 4 daughters to the ADCA Board for consideration. The ADCA Board did not approve the TAMU derived genotype due to a recommendation from the Pedigree & Genetics Committee to not accept it, since it was based on only 4 daughters and done by TAMU, not UCD.

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- In April 2024, the member paid to transfer all his TAMU genotype reports to UCD; only to find out that he had to retest at UCD to have enough usable genotypes for a UCD derived genotype.
 - In May 2024, the member received a letter from the ADCA rejecting the TAMU derived genotype because it was based on only 4 daughters and their dams.
 - In June 2024, the member started working with UCD-VGL to obtain samples from TAMU needed to retest specific animals at UCD for the derived genotype.
 - In July – August 2024, UCD requested samples from TAMU and TAMU complied.
 - In September 2024, UCD successfully completed the bull’s derived genotype and issued a VGL Case Number.
 - In October 2024, the member successfully registered his 2009 bull with the ADCA, Parentage DNA shown as “Genotype on File”
 - With UCD’s help the member was finally able to obtain a derived genotype for his bull but the process was lengthy, costly, and confusing.
 - Important to Note: TAMU genotypes transferred to UCD -VGL are not equivalent to UCD genotypes transferred to TAMU especially with older TAMU genotype reports (the TAMU genotype reports with only 13 markers or less). The number and type of additional markers used are different at both labs. Patti suggested that the P&G committee review TAMU genotype reports to ensure that a complete genotype (currently 16 markers, which includes all 12 ISAG recommended markers) is being transferred to UCD for a derived genotype request. The board held a discussion about how to better help members with the process and to encourage breeders to retest any breeding cattle that currently have incomplete TAMU genotype reports, especially AI bulls, to assure that both labs have complete genotype reports on file for parentage testing.
 - Patti stated that the member is now hesitant to submit any registration applications for the bull’s offspring due to the previous rejections, delays, and miscommunication. Discussion followed with the board agreeing that the member shouldn’t have any problem registering offspring from the bull, if they meet the requirements for registration according to the ADCA Registration Decision Tree. The board was sympathetic to the member and his frustrations and will be reaching out to assure him that decisions were not personal but strictly based on information received from TAMU and the Pedigree & Genetics Committee for the first denial of registration. While the board was not aware of the delays experienced by the member, they agreed that communication failed on both sides of this issue. The board stressed that if any member believes they are not receiving support or respect from a committee, they should follow the chain of command for additional help beginning with their regional director. The board expressed their gratitude to Patti Adams for bringing this case to their attention and taking the time to share her knowledge of the history of the approved labs and explanation of the genotype markers. The board will take this as an opportunity to reflect on and look for ways to improve future communications and follow up with all members.
- 5) Committee Reports –
- A. Show committee –
 - The show committee proposed changing the National show from one day to two.

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- Santiago Lizarraga made a motion, Dave Cluff 2nd, to split the National Dexter show into two days with the Youth Show and Youth Showmanship to be held on Friday beginning at 9:00am, the Open Show and Adult Showmanship to be held on Saturday beginning at 9:00am. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Rick Seydel inquired about a check-in and check-out day suggesting that the show committee had also made a recommendation to include restrictions in the show rules that exhibitors will forfeit all prize money and any awards if they leave before the completion of the open show on Saturday. Discussion followed with Santiago suggesting to amend his previous motion. The board agreed.
 - Santiago made a motion to amend his previous motion, Rick Seydel 2nd, to split the National Dexter show into two days with the Youth Show and Youth Showmanship to be held on Friday beginning at 9:00am, the Open Show and Adult Showmanship to be held on Saturday beginning at 9:00am. Check in will be on Thursday and check out Saturday following completion of the Open Show. Exhibitors that leave before the completion of the Open Show on Saturday will forfeit any premiums and any awards they may have been entitled to receive. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Budget committee –
 - Laaci Louderback reported that the committee has met a few times and currently is about \$50,000 over budget. There are two significant costly items, the Dexter Bulletin and postage. To help cover cost, the budget committee has made two proposals.
 - Raise registration fees by \$5, they have not been changed since 2017/2018.
 - Convert to a digital Dexter Bulletin and eliminate published editions. EG Media quoted \$4,000 per quarter for a digital bulletin verses \$11,00 to \$15,000 for printed.
 - Discussion was held with most of the board members agreeing it was time to consider moving to a digital Bulletin due to the cost of production and postage. One suggestion was to print one edition per year, but discussion revealed that the cost to print and mail would be substantial. It was noted that postage had gone up several times this year and may continue to do so. Paper costs have also been soaring. We have received increasing numbers of members reporting that they are not receiving a Dexter Bulletin in the mail. The board is sensitive to the fact that some members may be disappointed but there are some benefits to a digital version. Articles and advertisements can be embedded with links or QR codes that will take viewers to members websites. Another thought was to print one edition per year but the cost to print and mail would be substantial. Eventually, if we continue to print the Dexter Bulletin, we will have to raise registration fees to cover the cost.
 - Other ways to reduce expenses were discussed. One suggestion was to offer pdf versions of registration certificates, this would help eliminate time, postage, and cost of supplies. Certificates could still be mailed to individuals that request them but at an additional cost. Another suggestion was made to raise the cost for replacement certificates, currently we are losing money.
 - Dave Cluff will be sending the board a spreadsheet he created with a list of membership and registration fees from other associations similar to the ADCA. The board continued to wrestle with the pros and cons of raising registration fees. Laaci Louderback requested for the conversation to be tabled until November 19, 2024, at 7:00pm CST, when the board will meet again to discuss and hopefully finalize the 2025 budget.
- 6) Continuing Business –

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- A. The board went into executive session at 8:48pm in regard to the region 11 director and returned at 9:00pm.
 - Laaci Louderback announced that Bob Fenton had been appointed by the board of directors as the interim region 11 director.
 - The new directors of 1, 2, 11, and 12 will be invited to the December board meeting.
 - B. Regional Director Policy – specifically not living in region they represent- tabled for a later date.
- 7) New Business
- A. 2nd Registrar update currently up to 18 applicants. Deadline for applications is Nov 15, 2024
 - B. Laaci Louderback requested volunteers for a hiring task force to go over applications to move on to board interviews.
 - Hiring task force was assembled: Laaci Louderback, Jill Delaney, Susan Smythe, and Carole Nirosky
 - C. 2026 Expo – Kimberly Jepsen received a request to host the 2026 expo in Missouri but was hesitant to bring it up as a location due to region 1 having a brand-new director. She encouraged everyone to decide on a location by January because venues will only get harder to find. Santiago Lizarraga reminded everyone that he offered to host it again in Ohio. Jill Gurley hasn't been able to locate a venue in Tennessee. Rick Seydel mentioned Iowa as an option. In the end the board decided to suspend discussions until the next meeting so the new directors can be included.
 - D. Conflict of Interest Policy – item tabled until a future date.
 - E. UNL Genetic Research – The board went into executive session at 9:09pm to discuss a research project and returned at 9:18pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm CST / Budget meeting November 19, 2024
Next monthly BOD meeting: December 3, 2024, 7:00 pm CST
Submitted by Carole Nirosky