

DEXTER BULLETIN

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

VOL 2023 | NO. 4

5 WINTER
FEEDING TIPS

**THE MILKING PARLOR:
SMILES AND LAUGHTER**

**EARLY
PREPARATION:
PREPARE YOUR
HERD NOW
FOR WINTER**

AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION MISSION

The mission of the American Dexter Cattle Association is to protect, improve, develop, and promote the interests, standing, and quality of the Dexter breed, and to assist members in adding value to their animals.

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As a member of the American Dexter Cattle Association, I agree that I will:

- Not knowingly make any untruthful statement in submitting applications for registry and not register animals of questionable parentage.
- Not neglect or mistreat my animal(s), but, on the contrary, at all times safeguard and further its/their well-being.
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- So act in my breeding practice and in dealings with others as to protect and improve the good standing and reputation of the breed and of the association.

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OFFICERS

Laaci Louderback

President
(360) 967-2229
presidentofadca@gmail.com

Dan Edgington

Vice - President
(937) 344-0094
adcavicepresident@gmail.com

Jim Woehl

Immediate Past President
(605) 745-4755
woehlsx4@GWTC.net

Carole Nirosky

Secretary
(216) 403-7298
adcasecretary@gmail.com

Roberta Weiringa

Treasurer
269-615-1729
wieringadexterfarm@yahoo.com

STAFF

Jill Delaney

Registrar
adcaregistrar@gmail.com

Ray Delaney

Web Developer
info@raydelaney.net

BULLETIN STAFF

Kimberly Jepsen

Bulletin Chair

TBD

Bulletin Co-Chair

Gabby Oh

Layout and Design
Goh@egmediamags.com

Shoshana Rudski

EG Media Representative
SRudski@egmediamags.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADCA PRESIDENT

Another year is just about over, and it sure feels like it has flown by in a flash. My family and I have had a great year being able to connect with fellow Dexter breeders at State Fairs, Regional Shows, and the ADCA Expo. Some of my family's best memories are made at these events. I know I say it a lot but there are no better people than Dexter people! As this new year starts, I am excited about the direction the ADCA is going. We are always moving forward and striving to make things easier and more streamlined for the members. The ADCA has a multitude of committees and we want our members to be a part of them; we want and need your input. As you flip through the bulletin see if there are any committees that speak to you and lend your services if you can. Your regional directors and I are always here to listen, help, and take your ideas to the board. I am proud to say we are also revitalizing the Jr. ADCA to get more input and participation from the youth that will be the ones to continue the Dexter breed for years to come.

Now that winter is upon us (at least that's what the weatherman is telling me) it is the time of year where we tell ourselves things are going to slow down— but we all know they never really do. It just a different kind of busy. This is the time of year I like to start planning for next year. I outline what fairs, shows, and agriculture events are we going to go to (The Expo in Oklahoma is already marked on my calendar!) I plan for who is going to calve and when. I decide what bull are we going to use and if it will be our herd bull or, if not, I start researching AI bulls. I think about what the new calves going to be named— that is always a favorite game in our house.

It also is the time of year to reflect. What did we do right this past year, what did we do wrong, and how are we going to make sure it doesn't happen again? As farmers, we might only have two cows or 200, but despite the varying numbers, it never really slows down.

That said, I hope you take the time to slow down and enjoy your animals, enjoy the reasons why you started your Dexter journey, enjoy the relationships with new people you have made because of your Dexters, and enjoy the crazy but always fulfilling life you have created. But most importantly, slow down and enjoy the time with your friends and family and all the blessings you have around you.

Happy Holidays from my family and farm to yours!



Laaci Louderback
ADCA PRESIDENT



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FALL TASKS TO PREPARE CATTLE FOR COLD WINTER CONDITIONS

Cattle are generally well-suited to cold temperatures, but prepare for winter now to ensure livestock health and comfort when the mercury drops.

BY ASHLEIGH KRISPENSE

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As leaves begin to fall and nights get cooler, daily management of your cattle herd begins to change and take on new upcoming challenges. During the summer the main concerns included navigating consistent heat and providing plenty of water and shade. Winter, however, requires us to pull on coveralls, break the ice and set up a dry place out of the wind—in addition to providing plenty of quality feed.

Cattle can adapt well to cold temperatures and bitter winter weather when properly cared for.

While you likely won't bring your cattle into the house to lay next to the fireplace, there are several steps you can implement to help your animals cope with harsh winter weather. These include:

- Ensuring good body condition before entering winter
- Setting up an adequate windbreak or run-in shelter
- Providing plenty of proper feed
- Providing access to non-frozen water

As Seasons Switch

Conditions can indeed be unpleasant for cattle during the hot summer days or cold winter nights. But spring and fall, with their extreme temperature fluctuations, can actually be harder on animal health.

During these times, it's not uncommon to experience more sickness running through the herd as the hot/cold begins to take a toll on their immune systems. Work to be proactive and jump on early signs of sickness. Do what you can to reduce their stress by offering a comfortable resting place and plenty of fresh water.

Preparing Facilities

As with most other areas of the homestead, it's good to make a list of tasks around the barn/cattle facilities to tackle before cold weather comes knocking. Basic chores include cleaning out any feeders that could use a good scrubbing after a summer of use. Also check the watering systems and ensure all of the heating elements are in working order.

The shelter provided for cattle can range from a full barn to a simple windbreak. Regardless of what structure you choose, make sure it's in good shape and well maintained so that it can do its job properly.

Repair barns or shelters to help reduce major drafts, while still keeping proper ventilation in mind. A more simple windbreak can be created with a shelterbelt (a group of trees in a row to help provide protection from the wind). You can even set up a group of round bales against each other or a fence lined with tin or metal sheeting to block cold winds.

Kolton Krispense, (a multi-generational cattle rancher, farmer and my husband!) recommends that, if any animals on your homestead do not have access to a body of water (such as a river or pond) and depend on a well, you should ensure a plan is in place in case electricity is knocked out and the well is unable to be run as normal.

I can remember times as a child when we would have an ice storm and the power would go out. My dad would pull the Ford tractor and generator out of the lean-to, back them up to the power pole in front of the house, and turn it on long enough for us to shower and do any necessary chores.

Lazy Days Farm

Registered Dexters
Picayune, MS

Stephanie Fussell
228-363-1328

Lazydaysfarm@aol.com



Beverly Faust
601-590-1778

Cattle require plenty of fresh, clean water year-round, and a winter back-up plan is critical. By having a plan, you can turn what might have been an emergency situation into just an inconvenience.

It is also a good habit to check over your wells and waterers before winter even arrives. Order replacement parts and make repairs while the weather is still pleasant enough for outdoor jobs.

If not using heated waterers, be sure to invest in a good pair of coveralls and a quality axe for when you need to chop the ice.

Feed & Body Condition

Just like people stay warmer with multiple layers of clothing on, cattle will stay warmer when they have enough extra fat (insulation) and a good quality coat of winter hair on them before entering the colder months. If you have any cows preparing to calve later in the winter (known as spring-calving), it's especially important to ensure they enter the colder season in good condition to avoid extra stress and compromised health.

During the winter, you should feed cattle a variety of dried forage, as access to fresh grass is extremely unlikely. To counteract the change in forage quality (dried as opposed to fresh), you'll likely need to supplement larger quantities of the right grain into your cattle's daily feed rations.

Bedding

Last year during one of the most bitter cold snaps, the guys went out to the pens and began unrolling round bales for the cattle to bed down in.

I don't think they had even finished unrolling a bale before the cattle curled up in it. To help reduce stress on your animals and offer another means of comfort, make sure you keep plenty of bedding on hand such as straw or hay to unroll during times of extra cold weather.

Supplies to Stockpile

Whether it's a helpful tool to keep in the shed or something you will need to stock a quantity of, here is a list of suggested items to make sure you have on hand:

- Plenty of feed (both forage and grain)
- Salt and mineral
- Tightly-lidded containers (for feed storage)
- Mouse traps and barn cats
- Bedding (such as hay or straw)
- Medicine
- First-aid items (for when the vet can't make it right away)
- Tools for breaking frozen water troughs (such as axes and ice picks)
- Heat lamps and bulbs
- Extensions cords
- Extra garden hoses (in case one freezes and splits)
- Water well and heated waterer components and parts
- Tractor and generator
- Fuel for machinery

Feed Storage

Stocking up on necessary items can be very helpful, but preparedness can turn wasteful if improperly stored goods begin to spoil. If you decide to store an extra amount of grain or other feed, make sure you have the proper means to store it, such as an overhead bulk bin or trash cans/bins with well-fitted lids.

Keep the feed in a dry, dark place with enough ventilation to prevent dampness and mold. (Fungus could present a whole other problem for your herd.)

Winter preparation can certainly feel daunting. But don't underestimate the sense of calm one gets from knowing animals are safely bedded down in the comfort of provided shelters. Just a little bit of forethought and hard work can go a long way to making sure your livestock stays comfortable and healthy all winter long. 📌



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How To Keep **YOUR CATTLE HEALTHY** This Winter

Cold weather increases your cattle's energy demands, so give them some help to ward off winter's bite. BY RACHEL ENDECOTT



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Q: *How can I keep my cattle's body condition scores in a healthy range through winter?*

A: Body condition scores describe the relative fatness of cattle using a point system, where the low number is "emaciated" and the high is "obese." Dairy and beef cattle use a different scoring system with the dairy one based on a 5-point scale and the beef on a 9-point scale. Because I'm a beef cattle specialist, I'll be using the 9-point scale here.

Provide Quality Feed

Keeping cattle in good condition over winter will be most dependent on feed quality. If cattle will be grazing brown and dormant forage, it's likely that the nutrient content will not be adequate to maintain body condition and they'll require supplementation.

If cattle will be fed hay, I recommend sending a hay sample into a laboratory for a nutrient analysis. If you're unfamiliar with how to collect or

send in a sample, contact your local extension office for assistance. Once the results come back, they can be compared with the nutrient requirements for your production class of cattle and a ration can be balanced. Again, your local extension office will be able to assist with this process, as will your local feed supplier.

Set Up Shelter

Another consideration for overwintering cattle is protection from the elements. All livestock have a range of temperatures called the thermoneutral zone in which they don't have to expend any energy to maintain body temperature. When the temperature drops below this zone, cattle have to use energy to warm up. That lower critical temperature depends on hair coat and weather conditions: With a summer or a wet-to-the-skin hair coat at any temperature, the lower critical temperature is quite warm at 59 degrees F. On the other hand, the lower critical temperature for a cow with a heavy winter coat is 18 degrees F.

Provide More Food

When a cow is experiencing cold stress, the major effect on nutrient requirements is an increased need for energy, which generally indicates the total amount of feed needs to be increased. A simple rule of thumb is to increase the amount of feed 1 percent for every degree of coldness below the appropriate lower critical temperature.

In the short term, cattle can make behavioral changes to alter the temperature in their immediate environment, such as finding protection from the wind. In the long term, the hair coat is their main defense against cold in combination with those behavioral changes. Energy requirements will increase with wet, windy and cold conditions. Creating conditions where cattle are able to find protection from the elements will help ensure a healthy body condition during the winter season. 📌

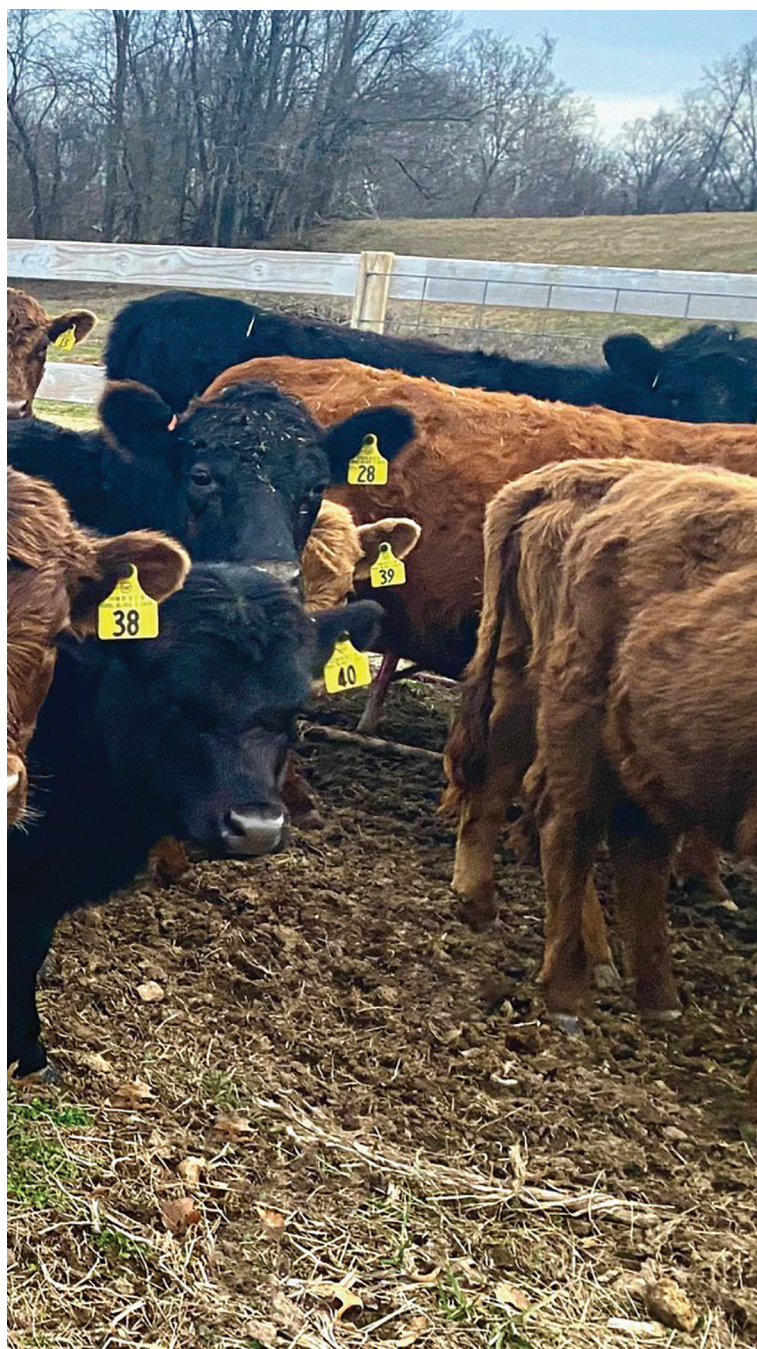


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Sharie Stocklin
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GREETINGS FROM THE MILKING PARLOR

FRANK AND BRENDA NUTT | WALNUT SPRINGS RANCH



SMILES AND LAUGHTER



It is the bright, brisk morning of a timeless late-winter day. The biting cold and gray skies of the past three months are beginning to fade into memory, while the arrival of the full warmth and blessings of spring-time remain eagerly anticipated. I look forward with excitement to the coming of sweet green grass and joyful Dexter calves playing in the crisp morning air upon open, rolling pastures. I dream of tall trees bursting with new leaves that twist and wave in the fresh breezes, and of grand old oaks lining the pastures to provide shade for long, lazy afternoon naps for our herd. Our garden will soon add to the lushness as tomatoes will grow tall, peppers will bloom, and melon sprouts will uncurl from the soil as they embark upon their journey to bring summer sweetness to our ranch. Bluebirds already perch upon our garden posts, and songbirds sing their greetings to me with a twitter of joy that infuses my day with purpose and enthusiasm. The sun shines brightly from one horizon to the other, and the morning is so peaceful that I can hear the sunrise sparkling upon the dew.

As I sit upon the soft green grass under the shade of the Petting Tree, I'm overwhelmed by four tiny Dexter calves clamoring for my affections. Clover, who is the oldest, stands close with her chin stretched high to show me that she wants her neck brushed. Huckleberry can't contain his jealousy and steps in and raises his neck at my other side, and then licks the rim of my hat in a successful attempt to wrest my attention from Clover. Hollyberry, not to be outdone, steps even closer as she pushes in front of Clover. Using a trick that she learned from her mother, she then reaches up and pulls my hat off and tosses it aside in a successful effort to elicit my praise. At the same time, adorable little Bowie pushes under my other arm to stand immediately in front of me where he gains the premium position, lifts his head high, and licks my face. My morning is filled with smiles, and suddenly three more little tongues are licking my face as I drown in laughter.

The calves dash off, leaping and kicking up their heels as they delight in their freedom. Bowie stops abruptly and turns towards the other three, stretching out his neck and giving them a playful calf moo. The playful calf moo is rare, sweet and special, more like the guttural bleating of a

lamb than the foghorn of a calling mama cow. Bowie leaps and hops in a circle, shakes his head at his friends as he gives another playful calf moo, and suddenly dashes off in an attempt to get the others to chase. Bowie's antics bring even more smiles, and I encourage him on his way with joyful cheering and laughter.

Our milk cow Maribelle delivered us the gift of Bowie on a crisp morning in early March as the murmur of spring cheered the forest along the secluded banks of our scenic dry creek. Tropical palmettos dotted the forest with bright green fans amidst the peaceful beauty of fallen leaves and berry-laden hollies that spoke of the recent season of joy and celebration. High along the banks stood wizened oaks that towered above the undergrowth as they raised their great arms toward the sky in praise and thankfulness for the wonder of the new life freshly arrived. Here and there the weathered elbows of limestone shelves poked through the soil and lined the creek bed that meandered towards drops and hollows that would soon transform into enchanting waterfalls and refreshing pools when the rains of spring arrived. We found tiny Bowie overlooking the idyllic scene as he lay nestled among the leaves with Maribelle dreamily looking on with motherly eyes. As we approached, Maribelle looked at us approvingly as we slowly knelt to tenderly greet her new little boy with welcoming smiles and gentle praise.

I sit upon the soft green grass that fills our front pasture where our peaceful Dexters graze under dusky skies at the end of a golden day. Our milk cow Maribelle stands nearby, watching her little boy playfully dashing back and forth. Once again, Bowie joyfully kicks up his heels as he dances in circles while making his playful calf moo. As I laugh at his antics, I rise and go to Maribelle and gently caress her neck as I thank her for all that she has done for us. As I admire her beauty, I'm reminded how much she has become a part of our life, and when you get a sweet Dexter milking girl of your own, you'll come to appreciate this as well. She will be there in the tall glass of milk that you enjoy with a bowl of ripe berries at the start of a new day. She'll be there in the birthday cakes cheerfully decorated with the richness of buttercream frosting. She'll be there in the milkshake that accompanies barbecue at the picnic

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GREETINGS FROM THE MILKING PARLOR

FRANK AND BRENDA NUTT | WALNUT SPRINGS RANCH



table on your back porch. She'll be there in the strawberry sundae that celebrates a sultry mid-summer's eve. She'll be there in the dollop of whipped cream atop an eagerly anticipated slice of pumpkin pie at the culmination of your late-autumn Thanksgiving celebration, and she will be there in the hot chocolate that melts away the cold on a snowy Christmas eve. Our Dexters are there at so many of the best moments throughout our year, and we are so very thankful for the smiles and laughter they bring to all of them.

As I wondered at the great blessing of Maribelle there in the pasture, Bowie continued his efforts to get his mama to play with him. Bowie dashed in circles around us with his tail held high like a flag of independence, and then raced off in the direction of his other little

Dexter friends as he let out a final playful calf moo. I cheered him on as he raced by, kicking his heels up high to wave goodbye as he ran even faster. I laughed exuberantly as we stood there and watched him go, and suddenly Maribelle- a fully grown milk cow- raced off after him, kicking up her heels as well, and then let out a playful calf moo of her own to share with me the joy of the heifer that she will always be in her heart.

I sit upon the soft green grass with precious little Bowie under the blue skies of a hopeful bright morning, brushing him gently as he looks into my eyes...a look of love and trust and thankfulness. I breathe deeply of the moment, and my eyes are opened wide to the wonder of the world around me. I feel energized by the simple warmth of the sun,

and marvel at this fragile little life as we rest here amidst the amazing miracle of a pasture full of wildflowers. Bowie's eyes sparkle in delight at the pleasure of my attention, and he stretches out, flips his tail, and exhales the tenseness of the day. As I brush his silky fur and softly sing to him of his beauty, he closes his eyes and sleepily nods his head as his cares drift away like the scents of the blossoms that color my morning and remind me of the sublime pleasures to be found in the simplicity of the pasture. Bowie dreams of the day when an enthusiastic family will greet him with open arms and welcoming smiles, providing a forever home with green grass, clear water, cheerful children, loving hugs and adorable heifers. Bowie dreams of the awe-inspiring moment of sunrise upon a fresh spring morning, the pleasure of soft grasses under shady oaks on a hot summer afternoon, the ease of cool breezes caressing lush pastures on lazy autumn evenings, and the comfort of soft hay and friends gathered closely together in a warm barn on a starry winter's night.

As we sit together upon the soft green grass, little Bowie once again delivers a message of life, from his heart to mine, through which I feel the eb and flow of the Love that feeds my soul and brings clarity to my days. I contemplate the delight of a playful calf moo, the joy of my milk cow Maribelle kicking up her heels, and the peace of her boy Bowie trustingly dreaming beside me, and I can't help but smile and laugh at the unbelievable gifts that we have been given. 🐾

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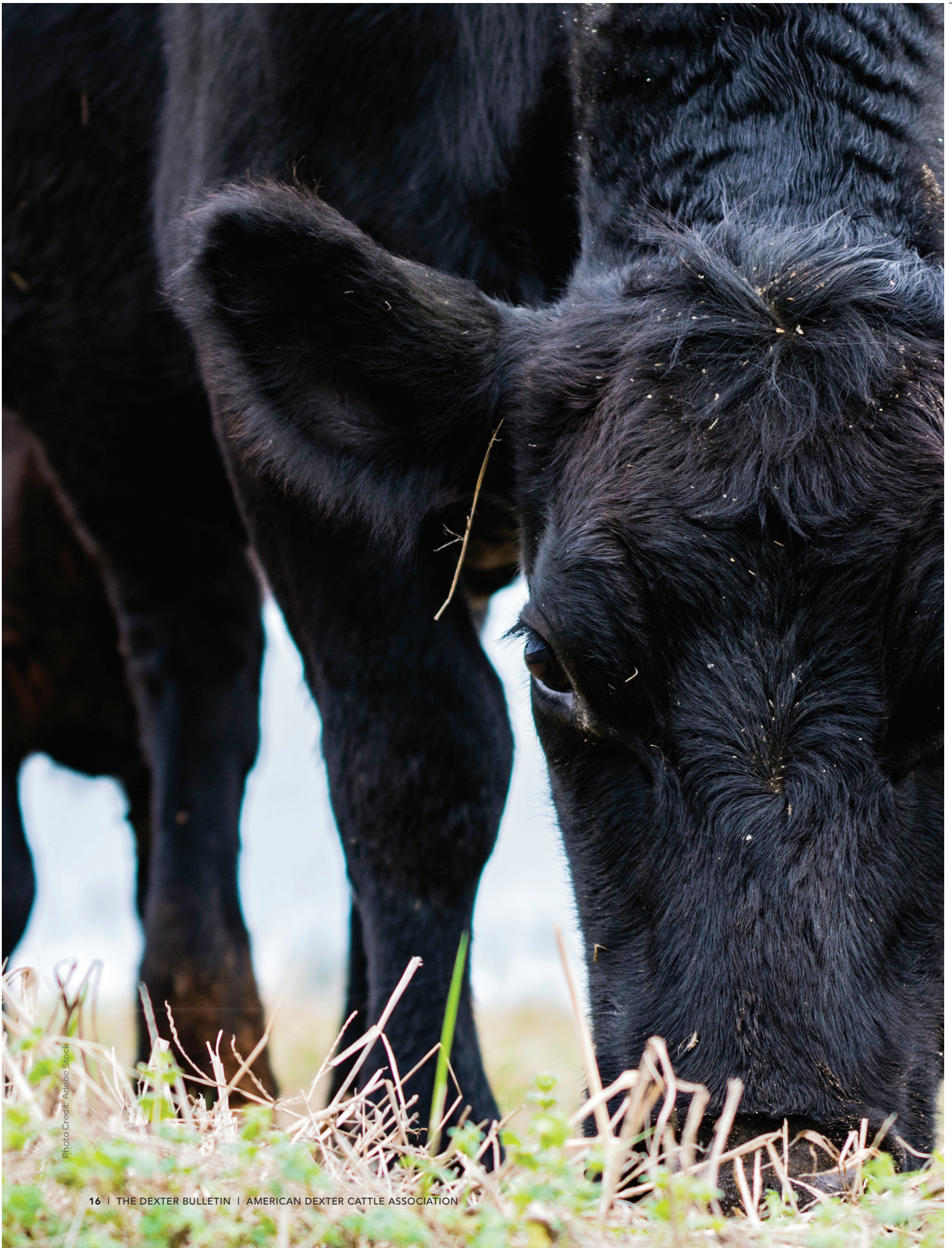



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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FROTHY BLOAT IN CATTLE

Are your cattle on pasture at risk of frothy bloat? Learn to recognize the warning signs and what you should do to prevent this fatal condition.

BY ANNA O'BRIEN

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Bloat in cattle is a different sort of digestive issue than it is in humans. For us, it's a bit of "tight pant syndrome" or water retention, most of the time due to diet or hormones. Although certainly uncomfortable, it's typically temporary and not fatal. For cattle, however, bloat can be fatal.

Here's what you should know about this condition in your animals.

2 Kinds of Bloat in Cattle

To clear up some initial confusion, there are two main types of bloat in cattle: free-gas bloat and frothy bloat.

Free-gas Bloat

Free-gas bloat occurs when there is a physical blockage of the esophagus and the animal can't burp to relieve the constant buildup of gas in the rumen. This can also occur in certain metabolic conditions when the rumen isn't churning as it should. This is called rumen stasis.

In both scenarios, a large gas bubble builds up inside the rumen which can't be released, causing distension, pain and death, as the buildup of gas pressure on the diaphragm causes suffocation.

Frothy Bloat

Frothy bloat is slightly different and is the development of a foam (hence the froth) that sits on top of the ingesta in the rumen. This blocks the escape of gas through the esophagus. Both types of bloat involve the blockage of gas from the rumen, just from different causes.

Frothy bloat is sometimes called pasture bloat. This is because it is commonly seen with cattle on certain types of pasture. Legumes such as clover (red, white and sweet clover) and alfalfa are at the highest risk of causing this froth.

But why? Legumes such as clover and alfalfa are high in soluble protein. This can result in the creation of a sort of "slime" that sits on top of the rumen, trapping gas. These grasses also have a highly digestible cell wall that also contributes to the creation of a foamy cap.

Recognizing Bloat

How can you tell if an animal is experiencing frothy bloat? Initially, if you look carefully, you may notice that the left side of the animal's flank is protruding, like a ball filling with air. This is because the rumen lies mostly on the left side of the abdomen.

From the back, the animal will appear uneven. This animal may act uncomfortable, such as repeatedly getting up and then lying down, kicking or looking at its flank, and it may go off feed. These signs may be

difficult to observe when the cattle are out on pasture.

As the condition progresses, the left abdominal distension becomes more obvious to the point where the trapped gas puts pressure on the diaphragm and it becomes difficult for the animal to breathe. At this point, the animal may be reluctant to move and be in respiratory distress. If treatment is not implemented at this point, the animal is likely to die from suffocation.

Treating Bloat

The best way to treat an emergency situation of frothy bloat is to call your veterinarian. She will pass an orogastric (OG) tube—a rubber hose inserted down the throat and into the rumen. This will sometimes allow the release of air from the rumen and offer immediate relief.

However, remember the challenge with frothy bloat is that the froth can block the release of gas via the hose, just as it prevents release naturally through the esophagus. If no gas is released from the OG tube, an anti-foaming agent will be administered. This can be a specific drug like poloxalene, which is a surfactant that breaks down the foam.

It is commonly sold under brand names like Bloat Guard. In a pinch, mineral oil can also be used.

Prevention Measures

This can all be quite dramatic if an animal is at the point of respiratory distress. So how do you prevent frothy bloat in the first place?

Pasture management is key. Experts recommend avoiding grazing cattle on pastures with more than 50 percent legumes. Dew increases the risk of bloat, so if you are moving cattle to a new pasture that contains legumes, don't move them until mid-day after the dew has burned off.

Poloxalene is available as a block and feed additive. In high-risk situations, farmers can consider adding this as a daily supplement. Adding hay feeding along with pasture grazing has also been shown to decrease the incidence of bloat.

As with most things, there is not one best method for prevention. Finding a combination of factors that work best for your herd is key. 📌

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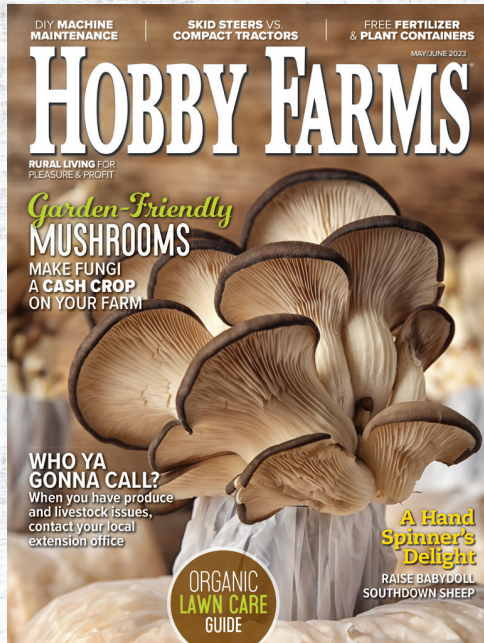
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5 TIPS FOR WINTER FEEDING LIVESTOCK

During winter feeding, cattle, sheep and other animals require increased nutrients. Here's how to get them the food and water they need.

BY HEATHER SMITH THOMAS



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Winter brings lower temperatures and higher nutrient requirements for livestock.

Animals need additional calories to stay warm, above and beyond normal requirements for body maintenance and growth. If they graze and snow covers their pasture—or grass is nearly gone—winter feeding is necessary.

1. Forage First

Forage must be high quality with adequate protein, vitamins and minerals. Otherwise you must also provide a supplement.

Ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats) create “energy” from digestion of forage (complex carbohydrates). But they also need adequate protein

to feed the rumen microbes that help digest the forage.

If forage (winter pasture or the hay you feed) is low in protein, provide the needed protein with pellets or some high quality alfalfa hay.

When winter feeding livestock, forage is better than grain for ruminants because digestion of roughage in the rumen involves fermentation (facilitated by rumen microbes), producing heat in the process. This “heat of digestion” helps the animal stay warm in cold weather.

2. Increase Forage During Cold Spells

In cold weather, livestock animals require more forage to maintain body heat. Appetite increases. Feed them as much forage as they will clean up.

Cows can do well on low quality roughages such as straw or mature grass hay (and consume more in cold weather) as long as they have adequate protein to go with it. But sheep won’t eat coarse, mature hay.

If you feed twice a day, feed the biggest portion in the evening so animals have adequate food through the long night when temperatures are coldest. They need feed in the rumen all night to keep producing body heat.

During cold weather, put out extra straw for bedding and eating or big straw bales in feeders. Oat or barley straw is more palatable and is utilized better than wheat straw.

3. Avoid Waste & Prevent Illness

When winter feeding, provide hay on grass or snow—not on mud or bare ground—and choose a new, clean place every day. Livestock won’t eat muddy hay or hay that has been stepped or pooped on.



Photo Credit: Danny Collins, Jesse's Hill

Garland Pride Farm
Steve & Susan Albritton

Sandy Hook, Mississippi
601-740-1989
mghrxsa@hotmail.com

When using feeders, move them to new locations regularly. This avoids the animals standing in mud and manure around a feeder and wasting the forage they pull out.

Many diseases—especially in young animals—are spread via feces (consuming pathogens from manure), so keep feed clean.

Spreading it out on clean areas will keep animals healthier. Feeding in a confined area creates more risk for health issues, but you can reduce the risk somewhat if you use feed bunks and feeders to keep hay clean.

4. Free Access

Often, it's best to allow livestock animals continual access to forage in winter.

They can consume what they need and not have to rely on you bringing it to them. This saves money and time.

If you have stockpiled pasture (forage left ungrazed, to grow tall before winter), livestock can utilize it during an open winter and with less waste if you strip graze the pasture with portable electric fencing.

Other ways to provide free access include:

- **Windrow Grazing:** leaving hay in windrows to eat in winter, which is also most efficiently done with strip grazing and portable fences

- **Bale Grazing:** leaving big bales in the field or setting them in the feeding area to allow livestock to eat free choice after you remove strings or net wrap

The most efficient bale grazing involves portable fencing. Make the animals clean up the bales they're using before you give them access to new ones.

For a small herd, you can set out enough bales for winter in the fall and have to use the tractor only once.

5. Remember the Water

Make sure water sources don't freeze in winter. Livestock need adequate amounts of clean water or plenty of snow.

Sheep grazing winter pastures can manage eating snow, but cattle usually need water, especially when eating hay. Without adequate water, livestock won't eat enough and will lose weight.

Winter Feeding Warnings

During cold and wet weather, some might predict that livestock need close to a 100 percent increase in energy requirements to maintain normal body temperature and functions.

But, according to Susan Kerr, Washington State University Klickitat County extension director, such a large, sudden and short-term increase in energy intake is not healthy for most animals.

"All dietary changes, be they increases or decreases, should be made gradually," she writes in *Winter Livestock Management*.

"Although dietary energy increases are necessary during inclement weather, livestock will fare better if they have sufficient body condition to call upon during times of need."

Body condition, also called fat cover or body reserves, can be assessed in all species through a process called body condition scoring.

"Livestock managers who body condition score their animals use anatomical landmarks and a five- or nine-point scoring system to objectively measure animals' fat cover," Kerr writes.

"Thick winter hair coats and fleeces can hide poor body condition, so body condition scoring requires hands-on assessment of animals."

Kerr says to use blankets daily or as needed to retain body heat for individual animals.

"This technique is most common for elderly or 'hard-keeping' horses or the occasional pet goat," she says. "The portion of the blanket closest to the animal should not become wet."

How you feed livestock during winter makes a difference.

You can keep animals healthy, happy and comfortable or let them be cold, miserable and losing weight. This is especially important for pregnant animals so they'll have a healthy gestation and give birth to strong, healthy offspring. It's also important for young, growing animals so that they won't be set back during cold weather.

Success in winter feeding also depends on the animals' condition when entering winter. Make sure they have adequate body condition in the fall, with enough fat to serve as insulation and reserve energy during cold weather. It takes a lot more feed to maintain a thin animal than a fatter one. 📌



Photo Credit: Danny Collins, Jesses Hill



Photo Credit: ADCA Members

Photo Credit: Adobe Stock

CONFERENCE CALLS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 6, 2023 - 7 pm CDT

President – Laaci Louderback
Vice Pres – Dan Edgington
IPP – Jim Woehl
Secretary – Carole Nirosky
* Treasurer – Roberta Wieringa
Registrar – Jill Delaney

Youth Dir – vacant
Webmaster – Ray Delaney
Region 1 – Skip Tinney
Region 2 – Stefani Millman
Region 4 – David Cluff
Region 6 – Kimberly Jepsen

Region 7 – Mark Ballard
Region 8 – Mark Chaney
Region 9 – Kim Newswanger
Region 10 – Santiago Lizarraga
Region 11 – John Wallace
Region 12 – vacant

*designates member absence.

1) Laaci Louderback called the meeting to order at 8: 03 pm central and roll call was taken.

2) Reports:

a) Treasurer's report: Total liabilities and equity \$377,093.51 as of May 31, 2023.

b) Registrar's report – Jill Delaney

- Total members 2023: 1515 (June= 83 new / 63 paid) / 2022: 1506
- Registrations 2023: 151 / females: 94 / bulls:44 / steers: 3
- Transfers 2023: 244

3) Committee / Task Force Reports – Committee Chairs

a) Bulletin Committee – Laaci Louderback will be acting as the temporary liaison between the ADCA board and publishing company. She asked board members to consider stepping into that role.

b) Expo Committee – Dave Cluff

- Overall, the committee felt the expo was successful. Skip Tinney requested a net gain or loss report and Dave replied that it was not available yet.
- Discussion followed about ways to measure the success of the expo and the need to establish metrics that would help accomplish that goal. The board agreed that tracking and recapping for the event needed to be improved upon as it would assist them in making better decisions for future expos. Efforts will be made to strengthen education seminars and

increase marketing of the expo to encourage members participation and increase public attendance.

- Skip Tinney would like to see more support offered to regional groups which in turn would help the ADCA to grow. Dave Cluff reminded directors that support funds for regional events doubled in 2023 and groups can now receive up to \$1000 for their event. Directors also have a \$600 budget for their annual region meeting.

- Jim Woehl gave a historical perspective on the expo which he stated used to be a money maker event due to the Dexter animal auction sales and the Dexter FUNdraiser auction. Volunteer help from members to help host the expo was exhausted in Kansas. Nebraska was the first attempt at a turnkey event, and it went way over budget. Since then, the expo committee has worked diligently to keep expenses to a minimum.

- Dave Cluff recapped the 2023 expo – educational seminars held were Training Your Cattle, Showmanship, Milk (Milking Basics Cheese Yogurt), Pregnancy Checking Methods, A.I. Fundamentals, Small Scale Cattle Handling, Minerals/Nutrition (Redmond Minerals), Dexter Conformation. All were well attended and appreciated. Eleven farms participated in the show. Youth judge was phenomenal. Open show judge gave great feedback on all animals. The expo committee expressed the purpose of the expo at their wrap-up meeting: to educate our members and promote our breed. The committee would like to obtain keynote speakers from the homesteading industry and increase promotion of the expo. Dave was disappointed in the lack of exhibitors, some cited the

cost for classes as a deciding factor. Ideas are being tossed around to give incentives for participation. The committee believes it is important to show Dexters and give members an opportunity to educate themselves by comparing their animals with other to keep them from becoming herd blind. The show was livestreamed on YouTube. Educational seminars were taped and will soon be available on the ADCA YouTube channel.

- Laaci Louderback requested for any leftover marketing items to be sent to Kimberly Jepsen in anticipation of next year's event. Kimberly stated that she will be sending sponsor swag items out as soon as she receives backordered t-shirts.

- Laaci Louderback was approached by Molly's Custom Silver, the company that supplies our belt buckles, about advertising on our website. In return they would supply us with two free buckles for every year that their logo and link are placed on our website.

- Jim Woehl made a motion, Mark Ballard 2nd, to develop a sponsor partnership page on the ADCA website. The motion passed unanimously.

4) New Business –

a) Region Director 12 – Kevin McAnnany had to resign as regional director effective immediately. The board will reach out to region 12 members to try and find an interim director.

b) Regional Director positions for regions 9, 10 and 12 are due to expire December 31, 2023. Letter seeking nominations for regional directors will be mailed to members in those regions August 15, 2023.

c) Pedigrees and Genetics committee – Kim Newswanger

- The P&G committee, per the request of the board proposed steps to begin moving the association towards full parent verification for all animals registered. Their proposal laid out a timeline for implementation and included a suggestion to move all testing to one approved lab.

- Discussion ensued about the proposal being two separate issues, one being full parent verification and the other moving to a single approved lab. Concerns were raised about moving to a single lab and the effect it would have on members while others thought it would eliminate confusion for full parent verification. Jim Woehl requested that the proposal be tabled until the next board meeting to allow board members time to thoroughly digest the proposal and bring back their recommendations.

d) Recognized foreign registries – Questions have been asked about the ADCA recognizing Legacy as a registry.

- Jim Woehl stated from a historical perspective,
 - Legacy is not recognized as an acceptable foreign registry by the ADCA. Legacy registered animals can be ADCA registered if they meet the requirements laid out in the standard operating procedures.

- In reference to PDCA, Jim said a letter was sent to all PDCA members nine years ago informing them of the new ADCA genotyping/parent verification requirements. The letter explained that the divide between genotyped and non-genotyped animals would increase over the year's making it harder and harder for PDCA animals to meet the requirements for ADCA registration.

- Santiago Lizarraga expressed concerns that some Legacy applicants would not be able to complete the registrations due to the first owner policy. Discussion followed and the board acknowledged that the first owner policy should not be overlooked for these cases. Some breeders intentionally left the ADCA and would be upset to learn that the ADCA allowed them to be registered without their permission. Concerns were also expressed for new buyers that try and cannot register Legacy or PDCA animals in the ADCA. The board was sympathetic to these situations, but the ADCA cannot solve every issue if animals do not meet registration requirements. The decision tree is a tool that can be used for all situations to help determine if animal is eligible for registration in the ADCA.

- Discussion followed about the added work and cost to enter pedigrees from foreign registries. Jill Delaney was quoted a cost of \$20,000 to upgrade the software to accommodate Legacy registrations.

- Concerns were raised about the ADCA being able to continue recognizing the PDCA as an acceptable foreign registry for various reasons, one being their intent to accept testing from Igenity/Neogen, a lab that uses different techniques and is not an ADCA approved lab.

- Due to the sensitive nature of this issue the board opted to table this topic and continue discussion at the August or September meeting. Laaci asked the board to collect their ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

e) Dave Cluff relayed to the board that Belle Hayes of the Talisman Herd passed away in December. John and Belle's daughter contacted Dave about donating some books to the ADCA. Dave will ask her to mail the items to Kimberly Jepsen at the ADCA's expense.

f) The board went into an executive session at 10:30pm to discuss a non-member issue. The board returned at 10:32pm.

g) Treasurer Position – Mark Chaney recommended using an accounting firm that works for non-profit organizations. The board asked him to contact the accounting firm about the services they offer and explore this option before posting an opening for a new treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm CST

Next BOD meeting: August 1, 2023, 7:00 pm CST

Submitted by Carole Nirosky



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 1, 2023 - 7 pm CDT

President – Laaci Louderback
Vice Pres – Dan Edgington
IPP – Jim Woehl
Secretary – Carole Nirosky
* Treasurer – Roberta Wieringa
Registrar – Jill Delaney

Youth Dir – vacant
Webmaster – Ray Delaney
Region 1 – Skip Tinney
Region 2 – Stefani Millman
Region 4 – David Cluff
Region 6 – Kimberly Jepsen

Region 7 – Mark Ballard
Region 8 – Mark Chaney
Region 9 – Kim Newswanger
* Region 10 – Santiago Lizarraga
Region 11 – John Wallace
Region 12 – vacant

*designates member absence.

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Laaci Louderback and roll call was taken. Region 12 and the Youth Director positions are currently vacant. Quorum was met with 7 of the possible 10 voting board members in attendance. Laaci reminded everyone of the expectations for maintaining decorum during board meetings. While some topics may be controversial, board members must remain respectful while representing ADCA members with professionalism.

2) Reports:

- a) Registrar's report – Jill Delaney
- Total members 2023: 1549 (June= 44 new
 - Registrations 2023: 186 / heifers: 135 / cows: 23 / bulls:44 / steers: 7
 - Registrations 2022: 186 / heifers: 111 / cows: 9 / bulls:29 / steers: 6
 - Transfers 2023: 157 / 2022: 189
- b) Treasurer's report: Total liabilities and equity \$365,268.97 as of June 30, 2023.
- Laaci stated that Roberta was not able

to attend the call but wanted the board to know that she was able to correct the item in question on the financial report.

- Kim Newswanger asked for an explanation of the \$10,151.16 in Reconciliation Discrepancies reported on page 2 of the Profit & Loss YTD Comparison report. Laaci will contact Roberta for an explanation and ask her to resend the corrected report.

3) Committee / Task Force Reports – Committee Chairs

- a) Bulletin liaison - Kimberly Jepsen made a proposal to the board for a change in designers for the Dexter Bulletin. The Dexter Bulletin publisher EG Media, is able to supply an in-house designer at the same cost we are currently paying, and it would help to streamline the process and make it easier to complete future bulletins. The current edition is three weeks behind schedule due to communication issues.
- The board discussed the proposal, and it was noted that Brent Phillips our current designer has done an amazing job for the past

4-5 years but moving to an in-house designer at EG Media will simplify the entire process for publishing.

- Following discussion Kimberly Jepsen made a motion, Mark Ballard 2nd, to streamline the publication of the Dexter Bulletin by hiring an EG Media designer. The motion passed unanimously.
- Laaci will contact Brent about the Board's decision to change designers. Kimberly reminded the board Brent is due compensation for designing the expo t-shirt design, she will contact Kevin McAnany to find out what the dollar amount.
- Kimberly will contact EG Media about the board's decision to hire their designer.
- Kimberly agreed to be the new Bulletin liaison between the board and EG Media.
- John Wallace asked if the ADCA is advertising in Hobby Farms magazine. Kimberly stated that the ADCA is currently advertising in Mother Earth News and Grit. Hobby Farm magazine is more expensive. A great way to get bang for our buck is by submitting an

article about the association which they will print for free and run an ad in conjunction with the article. Kimberly will check with EG Media to see if they are able to offer a discount for advertisements in Hobby Farms.

b) Regional updates –

- Region 7 – Region meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday October 14, 2023.
- Region 4 – Utah State Fair - September 7-9, 2023. Show is on Friday at 2:00pm.
- Region 2 – Washington State Fair - Labor day weekend
- Region 8 – Tennessee State Fair–August 21,2023/ Tennessee Valley Fair September 16, 2023
- Region 11 – Region meeting via zoom – October 15, 2023
- Region 10 – Region meeting in September 2, 2023 / Portage county fair August Aug 22-27, 2023 Show is on Tuesday 9:30am
- Region 6 – Nebraska State Fair August 31, 2023
- Directors looking for swag items should contact Kimberly Jepsen

4) Continuing Business

a) Treasurer Position Update – Mark Chaney

- Mark informed the board that he has contacted an accounting firm that works exclusively with non-profit organizations. Jitasa offers various plans for bookkeeping, bill paying, tax preparation etc. Jitasa could handle all of the ADCA financials but would require a financial liaison or treasurer to work as a go between with them and the ADCA board. This person would still have the ability to write checks for the association. At first glance the cost for services would compare to what the ADCA is currently paying for a treasurer and accounting services. Mark and his team have set up another meeting with Jitasa to further explore this option and will report back to the board in September with their findings and recommendations.

b) Pedigree & Genetics Committee – Kim Newswanger

- At the July BOD meeting the P&G committee made a recommendation regarding testing at a single lab and moving the association to full parent verification. The board decided to handle these recommendations as two separate issues.
- The P&G committee asked the board to consider using only one lab for all testing

stating it would stop the need for transferring existing results from lab to lab for parent verification and help reduce errors in testing results.

- Directors shared feedback they received from members following the July meeting.
- Members were concerned that executive decisions would be made without consulting the members that would be most impacted.
- Another concern was the amount of work and the cost involved to move their lab results to another lab.
- Members would appreciate being notified with a good explanation and reasoning before any changes are made.
- Others were worried that moving to one lab would increase the workload of that lab and delay results for registration.
- Discussion continued and it was determined that errors in testing can happen occasionally due to human interaction or inaccurate samples submitted. The association will continue encouraging and educating members about properly identifying and tagging animals before pulling samples and sending them to the lab for testing. Proper identification will reduce the opportunity for mixing up samples.
- The board will continue working with the labs and express our expectations for accuracy in order to uphold the integrity of the pedigrees in the ADCA registry. The P&G committee will create a list of expectations to present to the labs.
- In summation, both of the approved labs are internationally certified genetic laboratories that must meet industry standards for accreditation. The board will continue using both Texas A&M and UC Davis as approved testing laboratories.
- Pedigree & Genetics committee recommendation to implement full parent verification.
- Jill stated that since the requirement for genotyping all females began in 2016, 85% to 90% of the registrations now being submitted are fully parent verified.
- In 2016 when the board required all females to be genotyped the expectation was to eventually mandate a fully parent verified registry. Most of the cases the P&G committee have worked on have been cases of mixed-up animals that could have been easily solved if animals had genotyped. Currently, cows born before 2016 are not required to have a genotype on file but could still be the cause of mix-ups in the future. Full parent verification

will protect the integrity of the registry and close any loopholes that may cause inaccuracies due to lack of genotyping.

- Jill made a suggestion to ask for members to clean up their herd files by reporting deceased or inactive animals. She also asked for members to email any genotype files for animals that are tested but not reported on the pedigree page.
- Jim Woehl made a motion, John Wallace 2nd, effective January 1, 2024 any calve born on or after January 1, 2024 must be fully parent verified to both sire and dam.
- Discussion followed about the motion. Dave Cluff was in agreement but expressed concerns that members might like to be notified and allowed more time before the change happens. The board was in agreement that the change should take effect sooner rather than later. Members are already accustomed to the process for genotyping and parent verifying and they believed the timing for notification is sufficient. Members will be notified in various ways such as the winter edition of the Dexter Bulletin, meeting minutes, regional meetings, and social media. January 1, 2024 is the effective date.
- Following discussion Laaci called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed by a majority vote with one director abstaining.
- Laaci will create an announcement to notify members of the new requirement for registration.

5) New Business

- Region 12 director
- Notice was sent to region 12 for an interim director. One person responded but they are not qualified.

6) Foreign Registries –

- Due to time running out for the meeting the board agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 7:00pm to discuss foreign registries.

7) Other – John Wallace stated that the expo seminar videos for YouTube are in transit to Carole.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm CST
Next BOD meeting: September 5, 2023,
7:00 pm CST
Submitted by Carole Nirosky

8/11/2023

HELLO ADCA MEMBERS!

The ADCA Board of Directors has an important announcement for its members regarding registration and parent verification.

We, your ADCA Board of Directors, understand that it is our responsibility to maintain and protect the integrity and accuracy of our registry to the best of our ability.

The decision in 2009 that required bulls to have a genotype on file was the very first step in protecting the accuracy of information being entered into the registry. In 2016 the membership voted, with 84% approval, to implement requirements for heifers to be genotyped as well. This was the second step in moving the association towards full parent verification.

The timing for this next & final step in the parent verification process was left open to the Board's discretion.

We feel that after 7 years, it is now time to take that final step. To that end, the decision has been made that all calves born on or after Jan 1, 2024 must be genotyped with full parentage verification (both sire & dam) in order to be registered. This will help to eliminate the problem of animal/sample mix-ups and will move our registry forward to the next level of accuracy and integrity. The vast majority of members already fully parent verify their animals, and thanks to the work of our breeders the board feels the time is right to make it a requirement for all.

Pedigrees you can trust, added value for your Dexters!

We encourage members to contact their regional directors with any questions or needed assistance with the new registration policy.

Sincerely,

The ADCA Board of Directors

HAPPENINGS

REGION 2

Pacific Northwest Dexter Club Show and Learning Seminars

April 11-14, 2024

Washington State Fairground

110 9th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371

<https://www.thefair.com/spring-fair>

REGION 8

Florida State Fair Open Dexter Show

Feb. 14, 2024

Florida State Fairgrounds

Location: 4800 U.S. Hwy. 301, N Tampa, FL 33610

All show information will be posted by Oct. 2023 on the Florida State Fair website

<https://floridastatefair.com>

Entries due prior to Dec. 2023

Photo Credit: Kim Newslinger, Seng Wood Haven Farm



REGIONAL DIRECTORS



REGION 1

Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri
(Term ends December 31, 2024)

SKIP TINNEY

(618) 521-0500 Skip@RedDexters.com

REGION 2

Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Ontario, Oregon,
Montana, Washington
(Term ends December 31, 2024)

STEFANI MILLMAN

(206) 571-4189 adcaregion2@gmail.com

REGION 4

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico,
Utah, Wyoming (Term ends December 31, 2024)

DAVID CLUFF

435-680-2360 adcaregion4@gmail.com

REGION 6

Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma
(Term ends December 31, 2025)

KIMBERLY JEPSEN

(918) 944-8816 adcaregion6@yahoo.com

REGION 7

Texas, Louisiana
(Term ends December 31, 2025)

MARK BALLARD

(830) 491-8730 adcaregion7@gmail.com

REGION 8

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico
(Term ends December 31, 2025)

MARK CHANEY

(423) 519-9611 adcaregion8director@gmail.com

REGION 9

Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland,
Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
(Term ends December 31, 2023)

KIM NEWSWANGER

606-843-2542 songwoodhaven@gmail.com

REGION 10

Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
(Term ends December 31, 2023)

SANTIAGO LIZARRAGA

(330) 465-7888 nmfdexters@gmail.com

REGION 11

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
(Term ends December 31, 2023)

JOHN WALLACE

(315) 297-7407 adcaregion11@gmail.com

REGION 12

Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin
(Term ends December 31, 2023)

ADCA YOUTH DIRECTOR

(Term ends June, 2024)

Photo Credit: Adobe Stock



Photo Credit: ADCA Members

Photo Credit: Adobe Stock

Photo Credit: Kimberly Jepsen MooShine Ridge



Photo Credit: ADCA Members



COMMITTEES

PEDIGREE & GENETICS

Kim Newswanger Chair
John Wallace
Kelvin Tomlinson
Zippy Stahl
Dan Edgington
Catherine Hall

WEBSITE & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

TBD Chair
Ray Delaney
Jill Delaney

REGISTRATION DATA & SOFTWARE WORKGROUP

Jeff Chambers
Pat Mitchell
Susan Smythe
Jill Delaney
Patti Adams
Charles Marcus Durrett
Carole Nirosky

TALISMAN AWARD COMMITTEE

Laaci Louderback..... Chair
(2023) Jeff & Melinda Chambers
(2022) Barb & Chuck Netti
(2021) Pat & Linda Mitchell
(2020) Norman & Mary Hoover
(2019) Vicki Jones
(2018) Jim & Peggy Woehl
Belle Hays - Honorary

ODOM AWARD COMMITTEE

Dan Edgington Chair
Kathy Chaney Co-Chair
Don Giles
Brody Johnson
Nancy Bowers
Quinlyn Dykstra

SHOW COMMITTEE

Santiago Lizarraga Chair
Clem Nirosky Co-Chair
Rick Seydel
Dave Cluff
Kathy Chaney
Becky Swisher
Kenny Endl
Britany Heaton
Quinlyn Dykstra

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

JohnWallace..... Chair
MariahWallace..... Co-Chair
Sandy Baker
Janice McKim
Dan Edgington
Mark Chaney

EXPO COMMITTEE

Dave Cluff Chair
Jim Woehl Co-Chair
Becky Eterno Hospitality
Becky Eterno Check-in-table
Dave Cluff Facilities
Carole Nirosky Website Expo Store
Clem Nirosky Barn Super, Animal Check-in
JohnWallace..... Education
Carole Nirosky Ribbons & Awards
Santiago Lizarraga Show
TBD Marketing & Adverting
TBD Photography
Santiago Lizarraga Technology
TBD Youth
Laaci Louderback..... Photo Contest
Carole Nirosky Social Media

BY-LAWS & STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Jim Woehl Chair
Laaci Louderback..... Co-Chair
Pat Mitchell
Kimberly Jepsen

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION COMMITTEE

Dan Edgington Chair
Carole Nirosky Co-Chair
Skip Tinney

MARKETING & ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

TBD Chair
Kimberly Jepsen Co-Chair
Audrey Dawson

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Dave Cluff Chair
Ad hoc

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Kimberly Jepsen Chair
Carole Nirosky Co-Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dave Cluff Chair
Skip Tinney..... Co-Chair
John Wallace
Kimberly Jepsen

BULLETIN COMMITTEE

TBD

Do any of these committees spark your interest?
We can always use more members to serve.
Please contact your regional director for more information on how to volunteer.



from the Board of Directors and Officers

Photo Credit: ADCA Members

Photo Credit: Adobe Stock



EXPO 24

OKLAHOMA

MAYES COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

**2200 NE 1ST. ST
PRYOR, OK 74316**

JUNE 19 - 22 2024