



PO BOX 209 Stephenville, TX 7641 / 1-844-588-2322 / Website: <https://dextercattle.org>

## *W*elcome to the ADCA!

**Congratulations** on your purchase of ADCA registered Dexter cattle. You have joined the World's largest Dexter Cattle Association! The mission of the ADCA is to encourage the breeding of high-quality Dexter Cattle and to maintain a system of registry.

***Please review your contact information on the enclosed membership certificate to ensure the information we have for you is correct.*** Contact your regional director if corrections need to be made. They will be more than happy to assist you! You can find your regional director on the ADCA website: <https://dextercattle.org/the-adca/> You can update your contact information yourself at any time by using the online form at: [Member Information Update - American Dexter Cattle Association](#)

### **What is included in your membership?**

- Membership allows you to include your animals in the world's largest registry of pedigreed Dexter cattle. Since 1957, the American Dexter Cattle Association has offered breeders a quality registry where their Dexter pedigrees are recorded and maintained.
- Membership remains valid for one year from the date of enrollment. Various membership levels may be renewed for terms of 1, 5, 10, 15, or 20 years.
- ADCA Member Map – Inclusion on the online membership map. The map is made available on the website to anyone searching for breeders of Dexter cattle across the USA.
- Dexter Bulletin, this ADCA publication is produced quarterly. The Bulletin features educational articles, association business information, meeting minutes and event announcements. It is a great way to stay informed about the ADCA!
- Eligible ADCA members can also participate in ADCA leadership and association work. Requirements are available in the governing documents located on the ADCA website.

### **Basic Guidelines**

We have included some basic guidelines for you to reference regarding registration and transfer. The guidelines are based on questions previously asked by new members in the past. We hope it is helpful to you down the road when you need to register your first calf! Don't hesitate to contact your regional director for more information as needed.

We sincerely welcome you to the ADCA and the world of Dexter Cattle,

The ADCA Board of Directors

# BASIC REGISTRATION GUIDELINES



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## Herd Names and Prefixes

The Herd Prefix is the name used to identify your herd when registering your Dexters with the ADCA. Your Herd Prefix will be used as the first word or letters of the calf's name. Only 25 characters (including prefixes, spaces, and characters) are allowable for a registered name. Once a breeder has been assigned a Herd Prefix, it must be the one used consistently in the future. It is important for each calf to have the correct breeder and correct herd prefix.

*New members must register a herd prefix with the registrar who will record it in the registry. To check the availability of your desired herd prefix please contact your regional director.*

### **Examples: Options for Tried-and-True Farm (Farm name)**

- TTF (insert animal name)
- TirednTrue (insert animal name)
- True Farms (insert animal name)

**\*If you have purchased a bred back cow, upon registration, you will need to use the breeder's prefix for that calf. The breeder is the person who owns the dam at the time of breeding.**

## First Owner Policy

**Only the breeder OR the owner of the dam at calving may register a calf.**

The First Owner/Breeder, unless under exemption or designated as an Authorized Representative (see Section C of the Standard Operating Procedures on the website) must apply to the ADCA for registration. Registration may be completed online (preferred method) or by mail. Printable forms are available on the website.

## Genotyping/Parent Verification

Genotyping is a genetic test that produces a unique genetic profile of an animal. Parent Verification compares the genotype of an animal to the genotype of the sire and dam to verify that animals parentage. These tests help the association to safeguard the validity of our pedigrees and the Dexter breed.

Genotyping/Parent verification is done at the owner's expense at either of the ADCA acceptable labs, UC Davis or Texas A&M. **Genetic information, testing forms and lab links can be found on the ADCA website ([dextercattle.org](https://dextercattle.org)) under the registration tab.**

### **\*Required Testing\***

- SIRE GENOTYPE MUST BE ON FILE WITH ADCA FOR ALL ANIMALS REGISTERED AFTER 2009
- BULL CALVES BORN AFTER 2009 MUST BE GENOTYPED AND SIRE VERIFIED
- FEMALES BORN IN AND AFTER 2016 MUST BE GENOTYPED
- THE OFFSPRING OF ALL 2016 CALVES (AND THEREAFTER) MUST BE PARENT VERIFIED TO BOTH SIRE AND DAM
- ALL CALVES BORN ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, MUST BE GENOTYPED WITH FULL PARENTAGE VERIFICATION TO BOTH SIRE & DAM.

If it is impossible to attain a genotype for a registration, contact your regional director for your options

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## Elective Testing

The following tests are available, however they are **not** required for registration with the ADCA. Elective tests include coat color (black, red, dun), horned/polled status and milk protein (A2 genotyping). If you want color, PHA status, and Chondrodysplasia status of non-obligate animals to be listed on your certificate and pedigree page, the genetic tests for these characteristics must be attached to the Registration Application.

- Horned - Polled
  - Dehorned animals are registered as horned.
  - To be registered as polled one or both parents must be a registered polled Dexter
- Obligate Status
  - Obligate status refers to calves that are the offspring of parents that have the same test result. It can refer to the carrier or non-carrier status of PHA and Chondrodysplasia (as well as homozygous test results for polled, beta casein and color). In order to be considered an Obligate, test results must be on file with the ADCA on both the sire and dam. Obligate offspring from parents with the same results do not need to be tested for those traits.

## Tattoo Letters Guidelines and USDA 840 Tags

The ADCA **requires** a permanent form of identification in order for a calf to be registered. The three acceptable forms are tattoo or USDA 840 tags or BANGS tag. We do not accept regular ear tags as a form of permanent identification.

Most breeders use the following sequence for tattooing:

First, the letter initial of their farm, followed by the number of the calf for the year, and then the associated tattoo letter for the year.

EXAMPLE: If your farm name is "Cherrydale" Dexter Farm, and you are tattooing the 5th calf that is born in Year 2009, then the tattoo for this calf will be: C5W  
(Where "C" stands for the farm initial; "5" identifies it as the fifth calf born this year; and "W" stands for the tattoo letter associated with Year 2009.)

### **Tattoo Letters for year:**

A-- 1991	G-- 1997	N-- 2003	W-2009	C-2015	J-2021	R-2027
B-- 1992	H-- 1998	P-- 2004	X—2010	D-2016	K-2022	S-2028
C-- 1993	J-- 1999	R-- 2005	Y—2011	E-2017	L-2023	T-2029
D-- 1994	K—2000	S- -2006	Z—2012	F-2018	M-2024	U-2030
E-- 1995	L-- 2001	T-- 2007	A—2013	G-2019	N-2025	W-2031
F-- 1996	M-- 2002	U--2008	B—2014	H-2020	P-2026	X-2032

The international system does not use letters I, O, V or Q.