

American Dexter Cattle Association

Board of Directors Meeting

September 1, 2026 - 7 pm CST

President – Dave Cluff	Treasurer - Mark Chaney	* Region 7 – Nancy Bowers
Vice Pres – Jill Gurley	* YADCA – Peyton Collins	* Region 8 – Grant Collins
IPP /Youth - Laaci Louderback	Region 1 – Pam Baker	Region 9 – Rob Whitlow
Secretary - Carole Nirosky	Region 2 – Vacant	Region 10 - Santiago Lizarraga
Registrar - Jill Delaney	Region 4 – Don Swisher	Region 11 – Bob Fenton
Registrar - vacant	Region 6 – Patti Adams	* Region 12 – Erica Lantz

*designates member absence

- 1) Dave Cluff called the meeting to order at 7:03pm CST. Roll call was taken.
- 2) Registration Software – 701X Kimberly Jepsen
 - A.
- 3) Staff Reports
 - A. Registrar’s Report – Jill Delaney
 - Membership August 2026= 1545 (63 new) / August 2025 = 1453
 - Registrations August 2026 = 169 / August 2025 = 196
 - Transfers August 2026: 200 / August 2025: 172
 - Jill Delaney requests clarification regarding instances where buyers attempt to transfer animals that were not previously transferred into the seller's name. Patti Adams explains that to maintain an accurate chain of custody and correct record-keeping, the seller must be the owner of record on the certificate. Santiago Lizarraga discusses their previous practice of advising members on how to bypass the owner-of-record requirement during transfers. The group debates whether this practice conflicts with standard operating procedures and potential risks to record accuracy.
 - Jill Delaney clarified the process for handling transfers for non-paying members in response to a question from Pam Baker. Jill assigns a membership number to these individuals to allow the transfer to process while preventing them from appearing as active in the online pedigree system until membership is paid.
 - Don Swisher inquired about the administrative process for changing animal registrations from steers to bulls. Jill Delaney explains that she invoices the balance for the upgrade and may issue a replacement certificate if requested for an additional charge.
 - Dave Cluff and the board members discuss the necessity of formalizing transfer policies to ensure chain-of-custody integrity. PATTI ADAMS agrees to review old-standard operating procedures and provide recommendations for the next meeting to resolve inconsistencies.
 - B. Treasurer Report – Mark Chaney
 - July 31, 2026, Financial Statement balance: \$ 327.369
 - The July bank account activity:
 - Revenue: \$16,858 / Expenses: \$10,287.
 - Mark Chaney presented the financial report for August, highlighting strong revenue. They detail the process of finalizing the 990-tax form, which involved a dispute with an accounting company regarding the classification of advertising income as related or unrelated business income.
 - Financial strategy updates, Mark was able to optimize the organization's funds by moving assets into a high-yield savings account, which increased the interest rate from 0.2% to 1.5%.
- 4) Board of Directors Officers Updates/Report
 - A. Youth election update, Laaci Louderback provided an update on youth elections, noting that all candidates were unopposed. They outline plans to resume youth meetings following the start of the school year.
- 5) 701X Software Implementation:

American Dexter Cattle Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2026 - 7 pm CST

- A. Kimberly Jepsen joined the meeting to give an update on the transition to 701X software. She acknowledged that board members were recently given access to the software addressing initial difficulties with browser compatibility and login issues. Kimberly emphasized that bugs are being addressed quickly and that the software team will be focusing on staff-side workflows while the board members continue to beta test the member side.
 - B. Transfer Validation Concerns: Kimberly proposes tightening the online transfer process, specifically by disabling auto-population to prevent accidental selection of the wrong animals. The group discusses the trade-offs of this approach against the current rule allowing buyers to initiate transfers, with Santiago Lizarraga suggesting a broader discussion on standard practices. Kimberly discussed concerns regarding the potential removal of the buyer's right to transfer animals, advising that the association should maintain a "backdoor" policy, such as a printable online transfer form or staff intervention, to ensure animals are transferred even if sellers are negligent. Kimberly noted that in previous years, many animals remained untransferred until the policy was adjusted.
 - C. Kimberly emphasizes the importance of board members beta-testing the new software is crucial to identifying these and other potential operational issues before the official launch. Board registrations and transfers also serve as practice items for Jill so she can become more familiar with the staff functions.
 - D. Patti Adams raised concerns about whether the new software performs effectively on smartphones, as many members rely on them for internet access. The board and participants discussed the need to test registration and transfer procedures on both mobile phones and tablets. Kimberly confirmed that the registration page fits on mobile screens, and Dave Cluff noted that the software provider, 701X, has an Android app that should ensure functionality in mobile environments. Laaci Louderback reported that the software mobile interface struggles to process apostrophes in animal names (e.g., "Rusty's"), which prevents the system from locating the correct records even though this functions correctly on a computer. Kimberly acknowledged the issue and stated they would report it to the software team for correction.
 - E. Kimberly proposed scheduling a Zoom call in two weeks to walk board members through the new system and answer questions. The association aims for a live launch by November or December, utilizing September and October for staff to master the workflow. Kimberly committed to remaining available to support the transition even after the software goes live.
 - F. Beta Testing Expansion: Carole Nirosky suggested inviting 10 to 12 members to participate in beta testing to gather more feedback. Kimberly expressed support for this initiative, noting that the more eyes on the software, the better the final result will be.
 - G. Certificate Access Control: Kimberly and Carole Nirosky confirmed that the software has been configured to restrict the ability to view and print registration certificates solely to the animal's owner. This decision was made to ensure security and prevent unauthorized access to these documents.
 - H. Breeder Map and Privacy Settings: Kimberly explained that some members are missing from the breeder map due to incomplete addresses or the use of PO boxes and suggested linking the map to physical addresses to improve visibility. Santiago Lizarraga and Kimberly discussed the platform's privacy settings, which allow members to control the visibility of their personal information, such as addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, including specific controls for protecting the information of youth members.
- 6) Board of Directors Officers Updates/Report – continued
- A. Dave Cluff raised a question regarding the membership duration requirement for a potential Region 2 director candidate, as they were unsure if the three-year rule was still in effect. Patti Adams confirmed the requirement exists in the certificate of incorporation, but the board noted that exceptions have been

American Dexter Cattle Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2026 - 7 pm CST

granted in the past. Dave Cluff decided to coordinate with Laaci Louderback to vet the candidate before moving forward.

7) Region Updates

- A. Region 6 Banner Purchase: Patti Adams requested board approval to purchase a smaller 3x6 foot banner for region 6, explaining that shipping the existing 4x8 foot banner between events costs \$25 each way and creates logistical challenges. The board agreed this was a prudent expense, and after confirming costs (estimated around \$50–\$60), they authorized Patti Adams to proceed, suggesting the funds be taken from the supplies or marketing budgets.
- B. Region 10 Update and Breed Classification: Santiago Lizarraga announced a regional meeting for region 10 on the 19th and proposed re-exploring the implementation of cattle classification in the U.S. to help maintain breed standard. The group discussed historical challenges with this program, including the necessity of animals being in lactation, the requirement for a minimum of 10 animals for a classifier visit, and the associated costs. Patti Adams offered to share existing documentation, and Dave Cluff directed Santiago to investigate the current feasibility of the program and report back at the next meeting.

8) Committee Updates

- A. Marketing and Advertising Expenses: Pam Baker requested approval to use a \$12/month QR code service to track the effectiveness of magazine advertisements. The board debated whether this was the most efficient approach. Pam Baker decided to table the request for further research, while Carole Nirosky suggested centralizing all inquiries through the main ADCA number.
- B. Registered Dexter Beef Initiative:
- C. Chris Odom Memorial Youth Heifer Program: Don Swisher proposed replacing the existing Chris Odom Award with a new youth heifer initiative to improve participation. The program involves members donating heifers, which are awarded to youth for a two-year commitment; the first calf produced is returned to the association to sustain the program, while subsequent offspring remain with the youth. The board discussed concerns regarding the program's requirements and the care of the animals, but voted to approve the initiative, noting that the existing youth budget would support the purchase of heifers if donations were insufficient.
 - Laaci Louderback made a motion to implement the Chris Odom Memorial Youth Heifer program as presented, Patti Adams seconded the motion. Discussion was held followed by a unanimous vote to approve the heifer program.
- D. Pedigree and Genetics Committee –
 - Dave Cluff opens the discussion by noting the importance of clear association rules regarding the recessive white gene to avoid accidentally promoting the trait while attempting to breed away from it. He expressed concern that without a defined strategy, the association risks inadvertently validating a line of cattle that should be discouraged, despite current reliance on breeder ethics to manage the issue.
 - Patti Adams clarified that breeders are currently able to intentionally breed for spotted animals by purchasing spotted Dexter cattle, as they are eligible for registration. They propose developing a test for recessive white as an optional tool—comparable to tests for chondrodysplasia (chondro) and pulmonary hypoplasia with anasarca (PHA)—to help breeders reduce the frequency of the trait in their herds.
 - The board discussed the precedent of offering optional tests, with Patti Adams noting that previous difficulties regarding condro testing arose only when groups attempted to make optional tests mandatory. She emphasizes that the recessive white test would not be required for registration, remaining a personal choice for breeders who wish to eliminate the trait in their herd.

American Dexter Cattle Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 1, 2026 - 7 pm CST

- Don Swisher expresses concern that identifying the gene could negatively impact the market value of animals that test positive. Patti Adams counters that, similar to condro-positive animals, a market exists for various types of Dexters, and breeders who prioritize solid colors will simply choose to test their animals to avoid carriers. Patti Adams explains that the recessive white trait is widespread across various lines of Dexters, including traditional, polled, red, dun, and black varieties, making it a common genetic occurrence. She notes that because the trait is recessive, it only expresses in 25% of offspring when a carrier is mated with a carrier, necessitating a test to identify asymptomatic carriers. The board discusses the association's commitment to a solid-colored breed, as listed in the breed description. Patti Adams points out that while the breed description favors solid colors, there is no prohibition against registering other variations like brindle or those with black points, meaning the market already accommodates various preferences. Dave Cluff and Pam Baker raise concerns that providing an official test might inadvertently encourage some breeders to focus on, or "brand," the recessive white trait due to its market appeal as a unique aesthetic. They suggest that the association needs to be prepared for the long-term implications of making this test available and the potential for a "firestorm" of interest. Santiago Lizarraga and Dave Cluff discuss the parallels between managing chondrodysplasia and recessive white, noting that the latter appears more prevalent than initially expected across diverse herds. They emphasize that the current practice of culling spotted calves does not remove the carriers from the herd, which is why testing is necessary to manage genetics effectively. Mark Chaney and Dave Cluff acknowledge the value of identifying carrier AI bulls to prevent the accidental breeding of animals that would produce spotted calves. They agree that having access to this genetic information allows breeders to make informed decisions to avoid being caught in a difficult breeding situation. The board reaches a consensus that the recessive white test serves as a neutral, optional tool in the breeder's toolbox, similar to tests for other traits. Patti Adams notes that the test is not intended to be mandatory, and it will be up to individual breeders to decide whether to utilize it to align their breeding programs with the breed description.
- Patti Adams proposes a motion to support the research project on recessive white and to begin requesting samples from members, which is seconded by Santiago Lizarraga. Following a discussion, the board conducts a roll call vote, resulting in four votes in favor and three votes against, causing the motion to carry. Board members in favor: Patti Adams, Robert Whitlow, Santiago Lizarraga and Bob Fenton. Board members against: Laaci Louderback, Pam Baker and Don Swisher.

9) New Business

- A. Pam Baker introduces a new topic regarding the size of registered Dexter bulls, specifically referencing concerns about a 1,700-pound bull that recently appeared on social media. She suggests this issue requires further discussion at a future meeting to determine how it aligns with breed standards.
- B. Carole Nirosky provides an update on their upcoming vacation and commits to finishing the minutes promptly.
- C. Don Swisher reports on the success of new membership fees, totaling \$7,600 since March 17th, and urges the board to prioritize the tier system and scholarship program before the December renewal period.
- D. Dexter Milking Competition Proposal: Dave Cluff

The meeting was officially adjourned at 9:33pm CST following a motion by Don Swisher, seconded by Pam Baker with the next meeting set for October 6, 2026, 7:00pm CST.

Submitted by Carole Nirosky