

**THE DEVON CATTLE BOOK.**

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**American Devon Cattle Club**



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## THE DEVON CATTLE BOOK.

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### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF DEVON CATTLE.

That the Devons are an ancient race of cattle there can be no doubt. There is no race in England that can claim such undisputed antiquity. Some authors claim that this breed of cattle were known in England at the time of the invasion of Caesar, 55 B. C. They bear all the characteristic marks of resemblance of the ancient races of the south of England and Wales; even the color, red, is traced in the Devon, Sussex and Hereford.

This race of cattle was bred by the Ancient Celtic inhabitants and constituted their chief subsistence. History tells us the native inhabitants were proud of their country, and prouder of their cattle, their choicest possession. When their country was invaded by their enemies, they fled to the mountains for safety and protection, and took with them their cattle upon which to subsist, and were preserved both themselves and their cattle, so that the races of cattle in these districts have been the same from time immemorial.

They bear the distinction of being the only breed of cattle in which it is impossible to detect infusion of the blood of other breeds. Efforts have been made to improve them "as Devons" but as yet no foreign blood has been found that adds to their excellence or beauty.

The improvement of this ancient race of cattle, which has resulted in the present perfected breed, was commenced about two centuries ago.

John Tanner Davy, of Rose Ash, England, the Editor of the first English Devon Herd Book, inherited the herd of his father, who had carefully bred Devons for fifty years. Mr. Francis Quartly endeavored by a long course of selection, and by an intimate knowledge of the principles of breeding, to combine the various elements in the idifferent herds, so as to attain the great object of the Devon breeds, the lessening of the parts of the animal frame least useful to man, as the bone and offal, and at the same time the increase of such other parts, as fat and flesh, that furnish food, and to do this at the earliest possible age, and with the least consumption of food.

Among others of those old English breeders who have done much to improve their herds, and bring the breed to a state of perfection, may be mentioned, the Earl of Leicester, James Davy, Mr. Richard Merson, James and John Quartly, who inherited the herds of their fathers, and continued their well begun improvement. Some of the English breeders, who have and are now continuing the work of their forefathers, are Samuel Kidner, John Risdon, A. Bowman, and they have always been bred in the Royal family.

The native cattle of New England resemble the Devons in many respects, and the fact that most of the early settlers were from the south of England, renders it quite probable that they selected their cattle from that region. It is tradition that the first furrows the Massachusetts coast were turned by a Devon ox at the plow. The first account that we have of the importation of Devon cattle into New England was in the ship *Charity*, in the spring of 1623, in the care of Edward Winslow, one of the Pilgrim Fathers, then agent of the colony of Plymouth.

- In 1800 Winthrop & Devenport imported Devons into Massachusetts.
- 1805 Gen. Eaton imported Devons into New York.
- 1817 Mr. Patterson imported Devons into Baltimore.
- 1818 Hon. Rufus King imported Devons into New York.
- 1825 Henry Thompson imported Devons into Maryland.
- 1835 John Cowlin imported Devons into New York.
- 1836 Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.
- 1839 Miles Vernon imported Devons into New York.
- 1839 Francis Rotch imported Devons into New York.
- 1841 Mr. Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.
- 1842 Daniel Webster imported Devons into Massachusetts.
- 1845 Massachusetts Society imported Devons into Massachusetts.
- 1848 Wainwright imported Devons into New York.
- 1850 Van Renssler imported Devons into New York.

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- 1850-1852 Ambros Stevens imported Devons into New York.  
1851 Col. Morris imported Devons into New York.  
1851-1856 G. Vail imported Devons into New York.  
1851-1852 Mr. Wainwright imported Devons into New York.  
1851 Abigail Catlin and C. N. Chase imported Devons into Conn.  
1851 W. R. Sanford imported Devons into Vermont.  
1852 Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.  
1853 Geo. Vail imported Devons into New York.  
1853 Howard McHenry imported Devons into Maryland.  
1854 Mr. Peters imported Devons into Georgia.  
1854 John Allen imported Devons into Connecticut.  
1856 Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.  
1857 Mr. Linsly imported Devons into Connecticut.  
1858 Col. Hoe imported Devons into New York.  
1860 Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.  
1865 Mr. Cameron imported Devons into New York.  
1868 Patterson imported Devons into Maryland.  
1872 J. C. Brown imported Devons into Rhode Island.  
1876 J. Murray imported Devons into Maryland.  
1879 Frank Brown imported Devons into Maryland.  
1886-1888 John Hudson imported Devons into Illinois.  
1893-1899 Dr. Morris imported Devons into Pennsylvania.  
1893 A. S. Warden imported Devons into Pennsylvania.  
1912 James J. Hill imported Devons into Minnesota.

From these importations descended the Devons which we have today in the United States. Some of the early breeders of this country who have contributed much time to the breeding and improvement of Devon cattle are:—

William Patterson of Maryland bred Devons from 1817-1835.  
Geo. Patterson, his son, bred Devons from 1835-1863.  
S. & L. Hurlburt of Connecticut bred Devons from 1819-1856.  
Samuel Baker & Son, Freeman Baker of New York bred Devons 1830-1904.  
Harvey Dodge of Massachusetts bred Devons from 1845-1883.  
James Bill of Connecticut bred Devons from 1845-1914.  
Harley M. Hall of Vermont bred Devons from 1846-1878.  
H. M. Sessions of Massachusetts bred Devons from 1850-1881.  
Mr. Sessions edited the first Devon Herd Book of this country, 5 volumes.  
E. H. Hyde of Connecticut bred Devons from 1851-1890.  
James Buckingham of Ohio Bred Devons from 1856-1912.

(Mr. Buckingham was secretary and edited the first four volumes of the second series of the Devon Herd Books.)

Joseph Hilton & Sons of New York bred Devons from 1857-1906.  
Dr. J. Cheston Morris of Pennsylvania bred Devons from 1861-1920.  
(Dr. Morris was President of the American Devon Cattle Club for many years.)

Ward Parker of New Hampshire bred Devons from 1865-1890.  
L. P. Sosson of Virginia bred Devons from 1866-1916.

Mr. Sisson was Sec'y and Treas., of the American Devon Cattle Club, from 1887 to time of his death 1916.)

J. Banker of Pennsylvania bred Devons from 1874-1904.  
Wm. H. and B. F. Jones of Pennsylvania bred Devons from 1879-1905.  
Thos. D. Coffing & Sons of Indiana bred Devons from 1882-1920.  
John Hudson of Illinois bred Devons from 1884-1903.

(Mr. Hudson came to this country from Devonshire, Eng., and imported for the foundation of his herd thirty Devon cattle.)

There are many other men who have bred Devons for a long time, and perhaps have done as much for the breed in this country as the men we have just mentioned. It is a common saying that "A man once a Devon

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Breeder is always a Devon Breeder." There is no breed of cattle that is so uniform in type as the Devon. They are the most bloodlike and active of cattle.

For a large portion of our country they are better adapted than any other. They are not excelled for hardiness by any other breed, thriving where other cattle would starve and yet showing care and good feed as much as any. Their strong digestive organs aid in giving profitable returns for feed consumed, and their robust constitution makes them freer from disease than any other breeds.

### COLOR.

Always red, varies from a dark rich color to a pale chestnut, no black or white hairs admissible excepting white on and in front of the udders and the purse of a bull and white hair in the switch of the tail. The white should not extend outside of the flank or beyond the naval.

Some breeders seem to prefer the light red color while others prefer the dark, but it is best to avoid either extreme. The very dark color tend to a wiry hair and a brash skin, the very light color is apt to be accompanied by a papery skin and a lack of hardiness in a cold climate.

### SIZE.

Owing to the fineness of the bone and compactness of the form the Devons do not look as heavy as they weigh. In moderate flesh the cows weigh from 1000 to 1500 lbs., the bulls from 1600 to 2200 pounds. A New England breeder recently sold a pair of Devon oxen for beef that weighed 5400 lbs., and a pair of four year old steers weighing 4400 lbs. The oxen were seven years old and gained 1000 pounds the last year they were fed. They had been kept for work up to that time.

### AS A BEEF ANIMAL.

For fineness of the flesh and the delicacy of its flavor the Devon is not surpassed by any other variety of cattle. In growth and size it matures nearly as soon as the Shorthorn, Hereford and Angus. The Devon shrinks light from live to dressed weight and yields under good feeding nicely marbled (lean and fat intermixed) fine grained juicy meat. They are good feeders, fatten quickly and the quality of their flesh is such that American butchers always prefer the Devon for their market. They are not so large as some animals, but their flesh is laid on in the choicest parts and their weight is right to meet the demand of the retail butcher.

### AS A DAIRY ANIMAL.

The Devon cow carries a moderate sized udder when in milk, so free from flesh that when dry it shrinks nearly all away. Their teats are large and good length and set well apart. Their milk is easily drawn, they are persistent milkers of fair quantity that will average to test about 5% butter fat.

The claim for the Devon is, that for the feed consumed, they will produce as much or more milk of a high per cent of butter fat as other breeds.

They cannot be forced to make so large records as some of the coarser and more angular breeds; neither do they require so much food.

Our best butter and milk record from Devon dairies vary from 40 to 54 lbs., of milk per day, 14 to 21 lbs., of butter per week, 6,000 to 12,000 lbs., of milk per year, 300 to 500 lbs., of butter per year. We have record of 15 to 17 lbs., of butter per week on grass alone.

The analysis of Devon milk shows it to contain 14 per cent of solids—5 per cent are butter fat and 9 per cent other solids, viz., Lactin  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and salts  $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. In other words, as much fat as the Jersey, as much casein as the Ayrshire and more sugar than either. Hence the fat globules rise more slowly than in the more watery milk of other breeds.

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This suspension of the fat globules, relatively large proportion of casein and especially the lacin or sugar of milk, make this milk the best known for human nourishment.

It is much esteemed by physicians for babies and invalids, as the Jersey has too much oil, the Holstein too much cheese, while the Devon has more sugar and nutritive value.

From a pamphlet published by the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society of England we have copied the following note:—

During the past half century the type of Devon has much changed. The small symmetrical bullock has given place to a much larger animal, yet retaining all the best points of the smaller cattle. As milkers, the old type of cow has been improved upon, and today there are numerous dairies composed entirely of Devons, especially in Dorsetshire, where the cows are let to Dairymen at prices up to £30 per cow.

In 1913, at the Royal Show at Bristol, a Devon cow gave the greatest quantity of milk of any breed, and the quality was highly commended.

As regards beef production. The breed cannot be surpassed. As an illustration the following is quoted: Recently a breeder in the Midlands, who is very partial to one of the favorite Breeds, had a Farm Bailiff who was keen on Devons as grazers. They had a practical test with 20 yearlings of each of the Breeds, costing the same money when purchased. The animals were all treated the same way as regards outdoor feed, and when in the stalls for winter, the food was carefully weighed. The result was that all the Devons were fat and sold to the butcher before the first beast of the other Breed was fit. The amount realized for the bunch of Devons was the same as for the other bunch, and further, it was found that three Devons averaged only the same cost in food as two of the other Breed.

Where the Devon is such a signal success is being so good a dual purpose animal. Steers are produced of the very first quality weighing 16 to 17 cwt., live weight, under 3 years old; and in 1915 at the Smithfield Fat Stock Show a Devon steer, under 2 years and 10 mos., old, weighed 1971 lbs., being the heaviest animal of any breed in the show, and those are bred from cows capable of bringing up two calves each year.

Numerically, the Devon in Great Britain came next to the Shorthorn, being a good deal in excess of the Hereford, Aberdeen Angus, Sussex and other pure breeds.

### STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND SCALE OF POINTS OF DEVON BULL.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| HEAD masculine, Forehead broad, tapering towards the Nose, which should be flesh-colored; Nostrils high and open, Muzzle broad, Eyes full and placid, Ears medium size and thickness, fringed with hair; Horns growing at right angles from the head or slightly elevated, stout and waxy at the base, tipped with a darker shade. | 10 |
| CHEEK full, broad at the root of the tongue, Throat clean.   | 4  |
| NECK of medium length and muscular, growing from the Head to the Shoulders, and spreading out to meet them.  | 8  |
| WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping and well covered.  | 6  |
| CHEST deep, broad, and somewhat circular in character.   | 5  |
| RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep, and fully developed.  | 8  |
| BACK straight and level from the Withers to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, HIPS of medium width, and on a level with the Back.  | 12 |
| RUMPS moderately long, full and level.   | 10 |
| HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick, and square.   | 10 |
| TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with brush of strong hair,  |    |

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the Back.   | 5   |
| THE UNDERLINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top.  | 6   |
| ARMS and THIGHS muscular.   | 5   |
| LEGS straight and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking.  | 5   |
| SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; a little white in front of the Purse is admissable, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks, or any other part of the Limbs or Body. | 6   |
| Perfection  | 100 |

### STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND SCALE OF POINTS OF DEVON COW.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| HEAD moderately long, with a broad indented Forehead, tapering considerably towards the Nostrils; the Nose of a creamy-white, the the Nostrils high and open, the Jaws clean, the Eye bright, Lively and prominent; Throat clean, Ears thin, the expression being gentle and intelligent; Horns matching, long, spreading, and gradually turned up, of a waxy color, tipped with a darker shade. | 10  |
| NECK of medium length, growing from the Head to the Shoulders, and spreading out to meet them.   | 4   |
| WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping, and well covered.   | 6   |
| RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep, and fully developed.  | 8   |
| BACK straight and level from the Withers, to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, Hips of medium width and on a level with the Back.  | 12  |
| RUMPS moderately long and level.   | 8   |
| HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick and square.  | 10  |
| UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed.  | 20  |
| TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with a brush of strong hair, reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the back.  | 5   |
| THE UNDER LINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top.  | 6   |
| LEGS straightly and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking.   | 5   |
| SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; white about the Udder is admissable, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks or any other part of the Limbs or Body.  | 6   |
| Perfection   | 100 |

**One of the many letters which we receive from breeders of Devon Cattle:**

Wagoners, Ind., April 19, 1920.

Richard Pattee, Sec. A. D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter received and will give you what information we have on hand. My father has had a lifetime experience with Devon cattle and I grew up with them, but for the last five years have been handling different breeds of cattle along with Devons as I was engaged in a small way in the dairy business. I weighed both milk and feed for various breeds and have also tested the cows every month for a year. My experience has been that I find the Devons equal to any of the others I have handled as they give greater returns in beef, butter and milk than the others. While I have no war to wage on any one breed or all breeds, all pure breeds which are good producers of beef or dairy products are well worth any man's time, thought and money as they keep up easier than any scrub. I will say this to any one who is considering going into pure breeds that if he

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wants a cattle that have the feeding and finishing qualities of the Angus or Galloway and yet wishes to secure a good return also of milk and butter, he needs the Devons as no breed can surpass them on the combination. If he desires a beef cattle, get the beef type Devon and he has good as any. As to their milking qualities have had cows that made from 177.81 b. f., as a 2 year old from one calf to the next which is about 10½ months apart, to 350 lb. b. f., from a 4 year old cow in 1 year and she had her next calf inside the year. Will give you what she did on opposite side of this sheet and one also of a 2 year old heifer. These cows were not crowded for a heavy yield as I desired to know just what they would do under average farm conditions on farm grown feeds, which I believe is the real value to the average breeder under ordinary circumstances where crowding for advanced registry work cannot be undertaken on account of other farm work. I have had Devon steers, cows and calves run out on grass with other grades and pure breeds and never a time yet have the Devons failed to keep in better flesh than the others. Am enclosing check for \$5.00 to pay for half page and also cut of cattle under separate cover and am enclosing picture of heifer whose record I herewith enclosed. Am pleased to know that at last we are going to get some of the merits of the Devon before the public and that business is on a substantial footing and that we have a live and moving secretary interested in the breed. Wishing you and all concerned in good livestock, especially Devons, success.

### RECORD OF MEADOW BELLE, NO 15436.

She calved Jan. 13, 1918 and Dec. 12, 1918.

|          |      |           |          |             |
|----------|------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Jan. 17  | 612  | lbs. milk | 4.8 test | 29.87 b. f. |
| Feb. 28  | 912½ | lbs. milk | 4.4 test | 40.15 b. f. |
| Mch 31   | 985  | lbs. milk | 4.3 test | 42.35 b. f. |
| Apr. 30  | 863½ | lbs. milk | 4.3 test | 37.13 b. f. |
| May 31   | 928  | lbs. milk | 4.4 test | 40.83 b. f. |
| Jun. 30  | 761½ | lbs. milk | 4.4 test | 33.50 b. f. |
| July 31  | 674½ | lbs. milk | 4.5 test | 30.35 b. f. |
| Aug. 31  | 488½ | lbs. milk | 4.6 test | 22.47 b. f. |
| Sept. 30 | 375  | lbs. milk | 5.6 test | 17.22 b. f. |
| Oct.     | 107  | lbs. milk | 6.0 test | 6.42 b. f.  |
| Nov.     | Dry  |           |          |             |
| Dec. 18  | 627  | lbs. milk | 4.8 test | 30.96 b. f. |
| Jan. 14  | 400  | lbs. milk | 4.8 test | 19.00 b. f. |

7734.5 lbs. Milk Avg. 4.8½ tst 350.25 b. f.

### RECORD OF MAY QUEEN NO. 15739.

She calved Sept. 13, 1918 and Aug. 25, 1919.

|          |      |           |          |             |
|----------|------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Sept. 12 | 296  | lbs. milk | 3.9 test | 11.56 b. f. |
| Oct. 31  | 567  | lbs. milk | 4.9 test | 26.08 b. f. |
| Nov. 30  | 503½ | lbs. milk | 4.7 test | 23.66 b. f. |
| Dec. 31  | 458  | lbs. milk | 4.9 test | 22.24 b. f. |
| Jan. 31  | 447  | lbs. milk | 4.4 test | 19.66 b. f. |
| Feb. 28  | 438  | lbs. milk | 4.5 test | 19.71 b. f. |
| Mch. 31  | 428½ | lbs. milk | 4.6 test | 19.70 b. f. |
| Apr. 30  | 398  | lbs. milk | 4.6 test | 18.31 b. f. |
| May 31   | 436  | lbs. milk | 4.2 test | 18.30 b. f. |
| Jun. 30  | 424  | lbs. milk | 4.4 test | 18.65 b. f. |
| July 31  | 380  | lbs. milk | 4.5 test | 17.14 b. f. |
| Aug. 10  | 100  | lbs. milk | 4.7 test | 4.70 b. f.  |
| Sept. 18 | 306  | lbs. milk | 4.7 test | 14.38 b. f. |

5171 lbs. Milk Avg. 4.1 test 234.09 f. b.

We are yours truly,  
Ralph Coffing, for  
J. Coffing & Sons.

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