

DRAFT FOR MEMBER APPROVAL
American Milking Devon Cattle Association
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
Tunbridge VT, May 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President John Hall at 10:16 AM with 15 members present. A MOTION to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2013 annual meeting was passed unanimously.

Reports

President: John thanked the Board for their efforts during the year; in particular, Jeremy Michaud and family for hosting a Board meeting at their farm in November. John summarized the policy change adopted by the Board to permit limited semen sales to non-AMDCA breeders for a trial period of one year. He then note efforts to expand our public outreach including production of a feature to air on Vermont TV, and a series of articles to be written by Drew Conroy. These initiatives will get underway after 'green-up' to afford better photo opportunities. John also announced the 2014 Fall Gathering, to be held at MJ Knight's Farm on November 11. Drew Conroy will attend and talk about cattle judging. (NOTE: time/place later changed.)

John noted the passing of long time member and former Director Nils Berglund, who died last Fall. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Nils.

Treasurer: John provided a written report showing a year end balance of \$17,066.81 in checking plus \$11,026.82 in CDs. John provided a line-by-line explanation of various expense items. A MOTION (Bill B/Ray) to accept the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

Secretary: Bill thanked Lawrence for his efforts as webservant and Bonnie for her service as newsletter editor. He noted that later in the meeting Shelly Oswald would talk about her ideas for an expanded newsletter. Thanks to Bonnie we are nearly out of T-shirts; should we order more?

Genetics: The decision to terminate the semen bank was revisited. Members were concerned about just how many private sources had emerged and who were they. The listing on the website was noted. Other breeders have semen but chose not to be listed. The AMDCA semen bank should not compete with the private sources. After discussion, the consensus was that the decision to phase out the semen bank (which will take several more years) was correct.

Registration: Sue is retiring after 25 year as Registrar, effective immediately. Her records have been transferred to the Association via. Bruce Farr, who brought them to the meeting today. John invited discussion as to how we should find a new Registrar, noting his opinion that the Registrar should *not* be a Director. Discussion revolved around splitting up the Registrar's duties into three categories - registration, herd book, membership - and what interim arrangements should be made for each:

Registrations & transfers: John will assume custody of the records. It was decided that the registers should be stored in a fireproof safe. Computer data should be backed up and archived to CDs, to be safely stored. Jeremy recommended that the Registrar be paid, noting that the work is critical and time sensitive and the incumbent must be held accountable. Various stipend arrangements were discussed. Registration fees might need to be increased.

Herd book: The most recent published herd book extends through 2005. Lawrence is in the process of posting the 2014 herd book will extend through April 2014. Lawrence has self-published the 2005 herd book with a limited number of copies available. He mentioned the Breedmate software as a tool to enable analysis of the herd book data. The possibility of an annual update and publication of a new book every 5 years was discussed.

Election of Directors

Bruce Farr reported the following election results: Ray Clark 34, Andrew VanOrd 33, M.J. Knight 13. Ray and Andrew stand elected to the Board for a three year term.

General Discussion/New Business

Membership policy: During the meeting confusion was note as to when the membership year ends. Our general practice has been to send out dues notices early in the calendar year with a deadline corresponding to the Annual

Meeting date. However, our fiscal year has been changed to the calendar year and the membership year should be changed accordingly. The Board will undertake to straighten out this discrepancy.

Newsletter: Shelly Oswald has offered to act as Newsletter Editor and provided a brief presentation of proposed format and content. The focus would be on education of new members concerning the breed, cattle health, breeding etc. Discussion covered frequency and cost. Shelly and Lawrence will develop a proposal for Board consideration. Subject to these considerations the idea was favorably received.

Advertising: Lawrence advised that he had placed a Milking Devon Breed advertisement in Small Farmers Quarterly. The artwork is available to anyone who would like to use it in another publication.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

William C. Blaiklock, Secretary

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