

# American Milking Devon Cattle Association

*Established in 1978 to promote the conservation of American Milking Devon cattle as a triple purpose breed by maintaining a breed registry, encouraging knowledgeable and responsible breeding, and educating the public about the historic role of American Milking Devon Cattle, as well as their place in a healthy sustainable agriculture.*



*Christmas Card 1995 with Drew, Janet and Ross Conroy, Zack the dog and the Oxen were Buck and Tom. Buck and Tom were in the Crucible (20th Century Fox movie) earlier that year with Daniel Day-Lewis driving them in a number of scenes.*

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Shelly Oswald (814) 786-7687 or [myorjojr@verizon.net](mailto:myorjojr@verizon.net).

## **News from the Directors:**

Please note the following are attached at the end of the newsletter:

- Call for Nominations for the Board of Directors.
- The revised Membership Policy with revision for dues being payable Dec 31 for coming year.
- The membership Dues Notice/form for 2015
- The Minutes to the 2014 Annual Meeting

### **Fall Gathering Report**

The American Milking Devon Cattle Association Board of Directors sponsored a fall gathering at Maple Breeze Farm in Westbrook, Connecticut on October 18, 2014. John and Bonnie Hall did a wonderful job hosting the sixty-eight attendees. The program started with Ray Ludwig and Eli Dube giving a great demonstration with their Devon working steers while Professor Drew Conroy spoke about working Devon oxen and moderated the resulting discussion. Everyone enjoyed a hearty lunch, completely grown on the Hall's farm. Next Drew Conroy examined and discussed the conformation of a number of bulls. Artificial insemination, and bull management were also discussed. Finally we viewed and critiqued the Halls wonderful herd of cows and heifers. Drew Conroy again led the discussion on topics including cow and heifer management, breeding age, conformation, culling and nutrition. Professor Conroy holds a B.S. Degree in Animal Science from the University of New Hampshire, a Masters Degree in Agriculture from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from UNH. He is a former president and board member of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association. In addition to the program everyone did a great job of networking and sharing information and experiences with one another. The day was a great success, and we are looking forward to more in the future. Photos are listed on this page of the website:

[http://www.milkingdevons.org/gathering\\_2014.html](http://www.milkingdevons.org/gathering_2014.html)

### **Did you know .....**

- That when selling/transferring an animal, our Association requires the SELLER to send in the **Original Registration Certificate**, along with the \$5.00 transfer fee. Please include the buyer's name, address, phone number and email address. Then the Registrar will issue a new Registration Certificate to the new owner.
- When registering an animal, please type or fill out the form in clear penmanship. When entering the names of dam and sire be sure to write the names exactly as they appear on their registration documents. Also, make sure to include any punctuation marks (apostrophes, etc.) for the sire and dam.
- Please include a phone number in case the Registrar needs to call for further information.

### **Reminders:**

- Send registrations and registration transfers to: Bonnie Hall, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-4611 [johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net](mailto:johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net)
- Send membership applications, dues, and address or email corrections to: Shelly Oswald, 1919 Harrisville Rd, Stoneboro, PA 16153 (814) 786-7687 [myorjojr@verizon.net](mailto:myorjojr@verizon.net)
- Membership dues should be sent in at the first of the year and if not received by the annual meeting, your name will be removed from the breeders and mailing lists and you will not be able to process registrations until the dues are paid.
- Make sure that all checks are made out to: "AMDCA", not to the registrar or membership.
- Direct questions, concerns, requests for information, etc. to Ray Clark at (802) 626-8306. Ray is the primary contact for the association.

## **AMD in the Media** *(Please email mentions of AMD or breeders to Lawrence Gilley at [lgilley@tds.net](mailto:lgilley@tds.net))*

Kendy Sawyer and her team were pictured in action on the front page of The Declaration newspaper, Independence, VA. Photo by Don Richeson, (2014, October 22)

Phyllis and Paul Van Amburgh, Milking Devon breeders in New York, had an article published in AcresUSA, September 2014. The article is entitled "Calf Rearing with the Madre Method".



*Picture of the sheep barn (where the living nativity scene was staged) May 1984. Daisy and Sue (Mary) in the doorway.*

*This is only part of the original photo published in Small Farmers Journal along with "Devons from Heaven".*

## **Devons from Heaven**

John Coffey, Dundee, New York

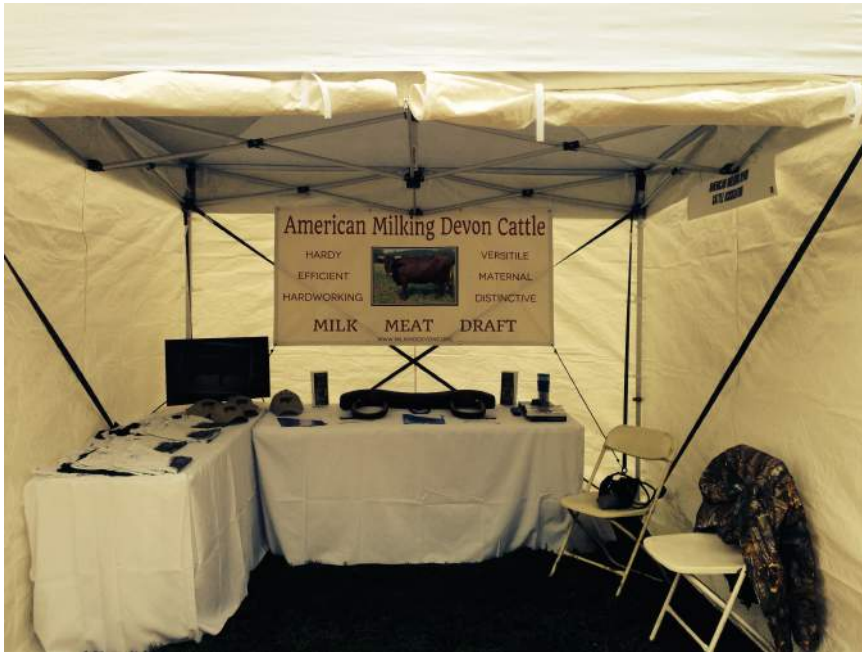
*This is an excerpt from an article published in Small Farmer's Journal, Summer 1996, Vol 20. No3. Reprinted by permission. Daisy in this story is Daisy #2, 172.*

Away in the manger, no fleece for his head, lay the bundle of fabric that was supposed to be the baby Jesus sleeping. We, the cast of the 1983 Butternut Hill Living History Farm and Village Christmas Live Nativity Scene, had decided the bundle of fabric in the straw laden antique wooden baby crib was good enough. We'd just tell the visitors the Christ child was sound asleep under the swaddling clothes. Yes, it was the Christmas season and my wife, Sue, and I had been asked to man the nativity scene.

The Nativity was set up in the old sheep barn, and to add to the live nature of things, lots of farm animals were put in the pens and stalls in the barn. There were sheep, pigs, geese, chickens, turkeys and two American Milking Devon heifers named Daisy and Baby.

Many families visiting the museum grounds for the special Christmas weekend came to see the live nativity. They seemed to enjoy it very much. But the star of the show turned out not to be the baby Jesus, not Mother Mary, nor Joseph, or a shepherd. No, it was Daisy the little Devon heifer. All slick and pretty with her red fur coat, white tail switch, little horns and big bright brown eyes, she beckoned all to come pet her. She leaned over her pen rail and soaked up all the attention everyone seemed to lavish on her. Baby, the heifer, on the other hand didn't care for the attention and stayed out of arms' reach. But Daisy well made up for her cousin's shyness.

For many of the children, and most of the adults too, it was, no doubt, the first time they had actually laid a hand on a "little cow", as they called her. Some even got to experience the feel of her raspy tongue when she'd give them a lick. The children would squeal with delight. Parents would just about have to drag their children away so they'd have time to see the rest of the museum sights. Sometimes I'd see the same small faces again before the day was over. The parents would say, "The children had to come back and say good-bye to the little cow." I must admit, I stood by Daisy and Baby's pen far more than I stood by Mary and the bundle of cloth. I think I liked petting that "little cow" as much as the visitors did. I also enjoyed telling them about Daisy and Baby's interesting heritage.



## **Mother Earth News Fair AMDCA Booth**

*report by Andrew VanOrd, Shelly Oswald and  
Jackie Cleary*

The AMDCA hosted an informational booth at the Mother Earth News Fair in Seven Springs, PA on September 12-14. Andrew VanOrd, Howard VanOrd, Jackie Cleary and Shelly Oswald organized, set up and manned the booth for the 3 days of the show with the support of the Board of Directors, Lawrence Gilley and Kendy Sawyer – it was truly a team effort. The booth featured the new association brochure that was laid out by Jackie Cleary, the banner prototype created by Andrew VanOrd, Shelly provided the tent and a TV with a slide show of various AMD pictures provided by Lawrence Gilley, Andrew and Jackie. The booth was located adjacent to the Livestock Conservancy tent and was in one of the major walkways to get into their tent.

We think the booth was very successful. It was very well received and, if nothing else, we feel we educated a lot of people on the triple purpose versatility of the American Milking Devon. We introduced the breed to many who had never heard of it before. It is unclear whether we will ever know how productive it was because many of the interested individuals are not immediately in the market for cattle as some were in the process of getting land and some are just determined dreamers planning for the future, but there appeared to be a spike in website traffic reported by Lawrence Gilley after the Fair.

We met with people from Ontario to Louisiana and from Arkansas to the Eastern seaboard. The Mid Atlantic states seemed to be the most prevalent. Almost all of the people that showed interest were small holders interested in keeping just a few cows. We saw little interest in the historic aspect of the breed. They wanted to know about the breeds practical qualities today. We think all wanted to produce beef for themselves and perhaps a friend or two. Many also wanted to produce milk for their own use. The top concerns included temperament, ability to forage, quality of milk and beef, and availability of both semen and stock. We handed out approximately 250 copies of the new brochures as well as many invitations to the fall gathering and printed copies of the AMDCA "For Sale" page. We also sold \$119 worth of AMDCA apparel.

We told the board that the association would benefit from a booth at the Asheville, North Carolina, Topeka, Kansas and Puyallup, Washington Mother Earth News Fairs. It will require local people to organize and staff a booth as we organized the one at the Pennsylvania event. We found that people who might want to acquire Milking Devons were concerned about the cost of transporting them, so the usefulness of AMDCA presence at other fairs may depend on breeders in those areas making stock available for sale.. The Mother Earth News folks were actively seeking livestock to be at the Asheville and Topeka fairs. I understand that they are set up well for livestock to be displayed, which this show is not.

We would like to thank all of the individuals who contributed to the success of our booth at the Mother Earth Fair. We would also like to thank the Directors for their moral and financial support. This was truly a group effort.



## How Do You Manage Calving?

*These are member responses to the Discussion Question from the September 2014 newsletter.*

*They are not to be construed as advice, but as another member kindly sharing practices they use on their farm.*

### **Ruth Campbell, Missouri**

I try to have my cows all calve in March, but leave the bulls in for 90 days (June 1 – August 30), so usually a few stragglers are still calving up through May. If they are late in cycling back, I make note of this fact on the cow's records. Generally though, there's also some reason for the cow cycling later that I can correct by improving my management, so I note that on her record, too, and try to be watchful in that area the next year. I've tried it all kinds of ways – calving in the fall; just letting the bull run with the cows all the time and calving all year round; calving the older cows in the spring and the heifers in early summer; calving half the herd in the spring and half in the fall, etc. A number of factors finally caused me to settle on “everybody calving in March” as the approach that works best for my situation, and here are a few of the reasons: No flies in Missouri in March (this could change with global warming). Also the cold weather seems to reduce bleeding, etc

About 30 days before they are ready to calve, I bring the whole herd up to the paddocks by the barn and close to the house so that I can check on them many times a day (I can see them from the kitchen window). That makes it easier to keep track of everything and makes them easily accessible to the vet, a lighted area, a clean water source, etc., in the event of problems. When the herd stays together, everybody is happier – nobody likes to be separated from the group.

I put the first-calf heifers together in a separate paddock where they have access to the shelter of a pole barn when they calve. I check them frequently and make sure that when they have their calf they and the calf get the nursing business sorted out, etc. No point in losing a calf just because I didn't pay attention and make sure the heifer understood the plan. When the calves all come at once I can match up pairs of steers better when selling calves for oxen or groups of heifers for breeders who must travel/haul some distance. Also, if you are selling to the sale barn (bull calves or steers for commercial feedlot buyers) the order buyers will pay more for groups of calves from the same farm that are almost all the same weight and age.

The grass is pretty weak in March, but the calves are still not eating much when they are just born, so later when the calves are really taking a lot of milk from the cow, the grass has gotten lush and it's easier on the cow. I can wean the calves all at once, making working them easier, less stressful on the cows and calves (the calves have their buddies with them when they are weaned and are never alone) and less expensive to have the vet come out only once to vaccinate and castrate, and saves time for me.

By fall the cows need to be putting on fat for keeping warm during the winter. If they have a calf on them, nursing, they give everything to the calf and then are having to try to stay warm and feed their new pregnancy during the hardest part of the year, weather-wise. If their body score is too low, they don't cycle back quickly, and then you end up not getting a calf every year or the cow is weak and pulled down when she is giving birth. Definitely not good! I can give the weaned calves access to the barn and they don't have to compete with the adult cows at feeding time. Rarely any frozen ears or pneumonia by avoiding the coldest months for calving. I have only a few months of anxiety and then I can breathe easy until next season, instead of the constant “threat” that year-round calving brings. Heifers that I keep back in large groups based on “same age” are easier to manage all through their lives because I can deal with them as a group, having needs in common that occur at certain life stages, and they get used to being together (sort of like classmates in school)

Just a few reasons I do things the way I do. Not everyone will have my time, climate, environmental or financial constraints, though.



*The cow is Charlene. The calf is SARAH, abandoned by her first calf dam ROXANNA, and readily adopted by Charlene who lost her calf that year. Charlene has calved twice since then, and Sarah has gone to live near Kansas City as a small holder milk cow - Ryan Rathje.*

### **Patricia Howell, North Carolina**

Because we milk our American Milking Devons, great care is given to our girls. The cows that are being milked are dried up 2 months before pregnancy due dates. The drying up is accomplished by a method taught us by our Amish friends, the Molners. If you want the calf born in the daytime, milk out in the AM. Count four days forward and repeat. This is repeated for a total of 4 milk outs. If you want a nighttime birth use the same pattern only do the steps in PM time. This does not work for first time moms!

I always check for mastitis during the 4 milk outs as it is essential the cow is dried up with a clean bill of health. Otherwise, mastitis that is unchecked before drying off can be deadly.

During the two months dry period, I use homeopathy to build the cow's health and as a preventative for milk fever and/or ketosis. As a general rule, American Milking Devons would not have this challenge unless they were totally grain fed. However, I take no chances.

Each cow gets Calcarea Phosphoricum 30c and Calcarea Carbonica 30c together in a small amount of grain once a week for the first month and 3 times a week during the second month. This prevents these birth time illnesses.

One month (4 weeks) prior to birth the cow gets Caulophyllum 30c added to the mix. This tones the uterus and puts the calf into birthing position.

We keep the mom-to-be close in a smaller area for birthing. That way she can be observed and fed well. When the calf is born, we give the mother a 6 gallon bucket of warm water with Pulsatilla 30c pellets in the water. The new mothers love the warm water even in summer and always drink it. They get as much as they will drink. It helps them recover faster and the Pulsatilla helps clean out the afterbirth. I also give alternately in a bit of grain, Vitamin C caps from Impro and Jump Start from Conklin.

My family has been involved in alternative health care since 1988. We make no exception with our family of animals. Dr C. Edgar Sheaffer, VMD and his book Homeopathy For the Herd have been invaluable in translating alternatives to the cows. Pat Colby's book Natural Cattle Care and Hubert Karreman's books have also been useful tools. My local vet cheers us on!



*“Maggie” with her calf at  
Mt Vernon ~ Lisa Pregent*

### **Ray Clark, Vermont**

Our heifers are bred when about 700-750 lbs so that they calve when approximately 2 years old. All the cows are bred to calve in a 6 week window from the end of March to beginning of May. I give the cows second cut hay until 1 month before calving then put the cows on first cut hay to increase solids and decrease volume of milk so the young calves get more butterfat, solids not fat, and nutrition when they nurse. The cows are tied when they calve and the calf's navel is dipped in iodine (I will be trying a new product, Vetericyn Super 7+ Navel Dip this coming year that I heard very good reviews about). Always tie the cow before handling the calf for your own safety. The cow and calf are put into a box stall for a minimum of 3 days for the calf to get the colostrum it needs for good immunity and to bond with the mother. The calves are then tied behind their mothers in the barn (where mother and calf can see each other) and are allowed to nurse 2x per day until the herd is turned out for the summer. I bed on hay, so they have access to hay 24/7. We milk the cows after the calf nurses for about 6 weeks to increase the milk production for the calf later. You have to milk after the calf nurses or the cow will “hold up” the milk. When turned out to pasture for the summer, the calves are able to nurse whenever they want until approximately 8 months of age and are brought back into the barn for winter.

Socialization of the calf is the key – it sets the calf up for the rest of its life when handled and tied early in life. A good mineral program and salt is also important for both mother and calf.

To wean, I tie the calf behind its mother for a month or so and do not let it nurse. I do not like to take away the milk and the mother at the same time because it stresses the calf too much. To dry the cows, we just quit milking them.

### **Lawrence Gilley, New York**

Lawrence Gilley suggested the article, 'Madre Method' of Calf Rearing" by Phyllis and Paul Van Amburgh. It is available at [http://www.nodpa.com/production\\_health\\_madre-method-08-18-14.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/production_health_madre-method-08-18-14.shtml) and in AcresUSA, September 2014

**Next question:** How much milk do you expect to get from a cow and how do you manage milking?

Please contribute your answer to the question and share your practices with others. Post to the Milking Devon Yahoo Group at [groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/milkingdevoncattle/info](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/milkingdevoncattle/info) or to the American Milking Devon Cattle Facebook page or send to Lawrence Gilley <[lcgilley@tds.net](mailto:lcgilley@tds.net)>, P O Box 277, Deansboro, NY 13328

## AMDCA Officers

### **President / Treasurer**

John L. Hall III  
610 East Pond Meadow Road  
Westbrook, CT 06498  
(860) 399-4611 (home) (860) 391-4044 (cell)  
(860) 399-2485 (fax)  
[johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net](mailto:johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net)

### **Secretary / Communications Committee**

William C. Blaiklock  
388 Arrowsic Road  
Arrowsic, ME 04530  
(207) 443-3725  
[williamb@zwi.net](mailto:williamb@zwi.net)

### **Genetics Committee**

Ray Clark  
1429 Red Village Rd  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
(802) 626-8306

### **Directors**

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East Hardwick, VT 05836  
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Andrew VanOrd  
727 Townline Rd  
Russell, PA 16345  
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[oxhilldevons@gmail.com](mailto:oxhilldevons@gmail.com)

### **Contact:**

Please direct questions to Ray Clark at (802) 626-8306

Website: <http://www.milkingdevons.org>

## Ray's Corner

Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark.

- Recommended readings:  
"Feeds and Feeding" by F.B. Morrison  
[http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b24896](http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b24896)

"Merck Veterinary Manual"  
<http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/full-sections.html>

Herd book: The American Milking Devon Cattle Association Herd Book, Volume 3, 2014 is available on the website at  
<http://milkingdevons.org/breed.html>

## AMDCA Volunteers

### **Registrar**

Bonnie Hall  
610 East Pond Meadow Road  
Westbrook, CT 06498  
(860) 399-4611  
[johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net](mailto:johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net)

### **Webmaster**

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Deansboro, NY 13328  
(315) 821-6628 [lcgilley@tds.net](mailto:lcgilley@tds.net)

### **Newsletter Editor, Membership**

Shelly Oswald  
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(814) 786-7687 [myorjojr@verizon.net](mailto:myorjojr@verizon.net)

**Newsletter Committee:** Lawrence Gilley, Kendy Sawyer, Andrew VanOrd, Jackie Cleary, Ray Clark

*This newsletter is provided to AMDCA members in the United States and Canada for information and educational purposes. The views, opinions and recommendations expressed herein are those of individual contributors and are not endorsed by, or represent the policy of AMDCA or its Directors, Officers and volunteer staff. Members must use their own judgment in deciding whether farming management practices described herein are safe and appropriate for their particular circumstances.*



## American Milking Devon Cattle Association

### Call For Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the position of Director (member of the Board of Directors) for the term May 2015 through May 2018. Voting will be by mail, and ballots will be counted and results announced at the Annual Meeting in May.

As an all-volunteer organization, AMDCA depends on its Directors to both manage the organization and do much of the actual work. The Board meets monthly by telephone. In addition we host one or more regional meetings each year, which Directors are urged to attend. Directors must be voting members, i.e. must own registered American Milking Devon cattle and have paid their dues for the current year.

The terms of three incumbent Directors expire this year; one is not seeking re-election.

If you wish to put a name in nomination, please submit the following information not later than Friday, February 13, 2015 to William Blaiklock, Secretary AMDCA, 388 Arrowsic Rd, Arrowsic ME 04530; e-mail <williamb@gwi.net>. E-mail is preferred.

1. The nominee's full name,
2. A statement of the nominee's background, qualifications and his/her philosophy and goals for AMDCA. Please limit this information to 1/2 page.
3. A statement *signed by the nominee* that he/s is a voting member and agrees to serve if elected.

All nominations will be acknowledged and the Nominating Committee will ensure that all complete nominations received by the above deadline are placed on the ballot.

William C. Blaiklock  
Secretary

## **AMDCA Board Clarifies Membership Policy**

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, confusion arose as to the ending date of the “membership year” and the date on which annual dues were due. As a result the Board reviewed all policies related to membership and consolidated them into a single policy statement, provided below. As far as dues are concerned:

- Member dues are payable not later than December 31 of each year,
- To provide a transition from previous practice, for 2015 only, a grace period is provided, extending to May 9, 2015.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **American Milking Devon Cattle Association**

### Membership/Dues Policy

Membership is open to any individual or organization interested in furthering the purposes of the Association. An organization shall designate an individual to represent it at business meetings of the Association.

There shall be three categories of membership:

1. Voting Members, consisting of all members owning registered Milking Devon cattle,
2. Associate Members, who wish to further the purposes of Association.

The annual dues for these two categories as established by the Board (currently \$20) shall be due and payable on or before December 31 of each calendar year (\*). Lapsed members shall be reinstated on payment of dues for the current year.

3. Junior Members, a category open to those under 21 years of age for a single dues payment (currently \$20), can access all membership services at the established fees.

Only Voting Members are entitled to vote at membership meetings. Except for voting rights, no distinction shall be made between the three membership categories as to the availability or cost of services provided.

\*This policy shall take effect when adopted and supersedes all previous membership policies. Exception: the change in the “due and payable date” for annual dues shall take effect with calendar year 2015. Dues for calendar year 2015 remain due and payable on or before the 2015 Annual Meeting.

*Approved by the Board of Directors August 22, 2014*

**AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION**

Annual Dues Renewal 2015

Please check one.

- \$20 - Voting Member – individuals who own registered American Milking Devon cattle
- \$20 - Associate Member – individuals interested in supporting the breed and AMDCA
- \$20 – Junior Member – children under age 18 (one time dues payment, non-voting)

Send completed form and check to Shelly Oswald, Membership Secretary, 1919 Harrisville Rd, Stoneboro PA 16153 not later than May 9, 2015. Make checks payable to the American Milking Devon Cattle Association (AMDCA).

NOTE: According to our records the following members have **already paid** through 2015-16.  
(John Wheelock, Rob MacLeod, Sue Randall, Kendy Sawyer, Justin Rhodes)

**On-line Listings**

ALL voting members are included in the on-line Breeders Directory, as long as their dues are current. Please check the box below if you DO NOT want to be listed on-line. This choice will continue indefinitely or until you request to be listed.

I do not want to be included in the on-line Breeders Directory  \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to be listed but **want specific information omitted** (e.g. your phone number), so indicate in the spaces below. Otherwise, all contact information will be included.

Yes/No NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No FARM/ORG: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

**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 reprised. 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 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 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

*Recordings of the annual meeting are posted on the website at <http://www.milkingdevons.org/agm2014.html>*