

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.

Properly cared for Milking Devons will work for you, not you work for them.-- Dianna Kille



IT'S FAIR TIME

**The Michaud Family Working Steers at the Fair this Summer
Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Michaud**

FEATURE ARTICLE: “Yes YOU Can”- Make Great Cheese With American Milking Devon Milk (Part 3 of 3 Parts) (Article Prepared by Editor Thomas Slater; Pictures courtesy of Marilyn Covey and Christine Bunten)Cheese Making Equipment

If you are interested in making cheese what equipment is necessary? That is actually a difficult question to answer in a short article as different equipment is needed for different types of cheeses. Some cheeses need to be made from pasteurized milk, some need to be aged under specific conditions, some may need to be pressed, and different sizes require different sized hoops. Christine and Bruce invested in a 30 gallon pasteurizer that also acted as a cheese vat. Larger versions are available, but the 30 gallon pasteurizer/vat seemed to be a good fit for the quantity of milk they were working with. Some other equipment needed may be a cooler or cold space, hoops, molds, a press and various other items. If you are just making cheese for home use the equipment needs may be less.



Christine in their restaurant kitchen with some of her cheese

Having considerable restaurant experience, Christine and Bruce were able to recognize ways to utilize some existing restaurant equipment for cheese making. For example they were able to use a commercial dishwasher as a sanitizer. They were also able to make hoops from six inch water pipe, rather than buy them made from expensive stainless steel. Used equipment can often be purchased at reduced prices. As a cooler for aging her cheese, Christine was first able to use an old eight foot by eight foot by nine foot ice cellar located under the floor of the carriage house restaurant. The humidity and temperature of the space was perfect for aging cheese in the winter, however summer storage required something different. Essentially, says Christine, you can use whatever is available to you to keep cheese at a constant 54 degrees and 80 percent humidity. That would include commercial refrigerators with some modifications. As the Balch's operation grew, they eventually created a new fully inspected cheese room in the barn area that was separate from the restaurant. They also created a new cheese cave, next to the cheese room. They obtained a restaurant quality cooler that they had to disassemble and reassemble in the new area. To cool the new cave, they utilized a Koolbot to convert a household air conditioner into a cooling unit. Creativity can help make the equipment investment more reasonable.

Getting started is dependent on many factors which include: are you making for home or commercial use, how much milk can you produce, how many resources do you have to put into equipment, do you have a place to store aging cheese or does it need to be consumed immediately? If you do not have a pasteurizer, Christine



Dinner time on the Bunten Farm

recommends starting with an aged cheese which doesn't require pasteurization, such as bleu cheese. If you want to develop a commercial operation, realize that most of what you make for home use would be made differently under commercial conditions. That means recipes should be perfected for the conditions under which the cheese will be produced, otherwise a lot of your research will become less valuable. Christine also recommends



“Why is it you are always interrupting our breakfast?”

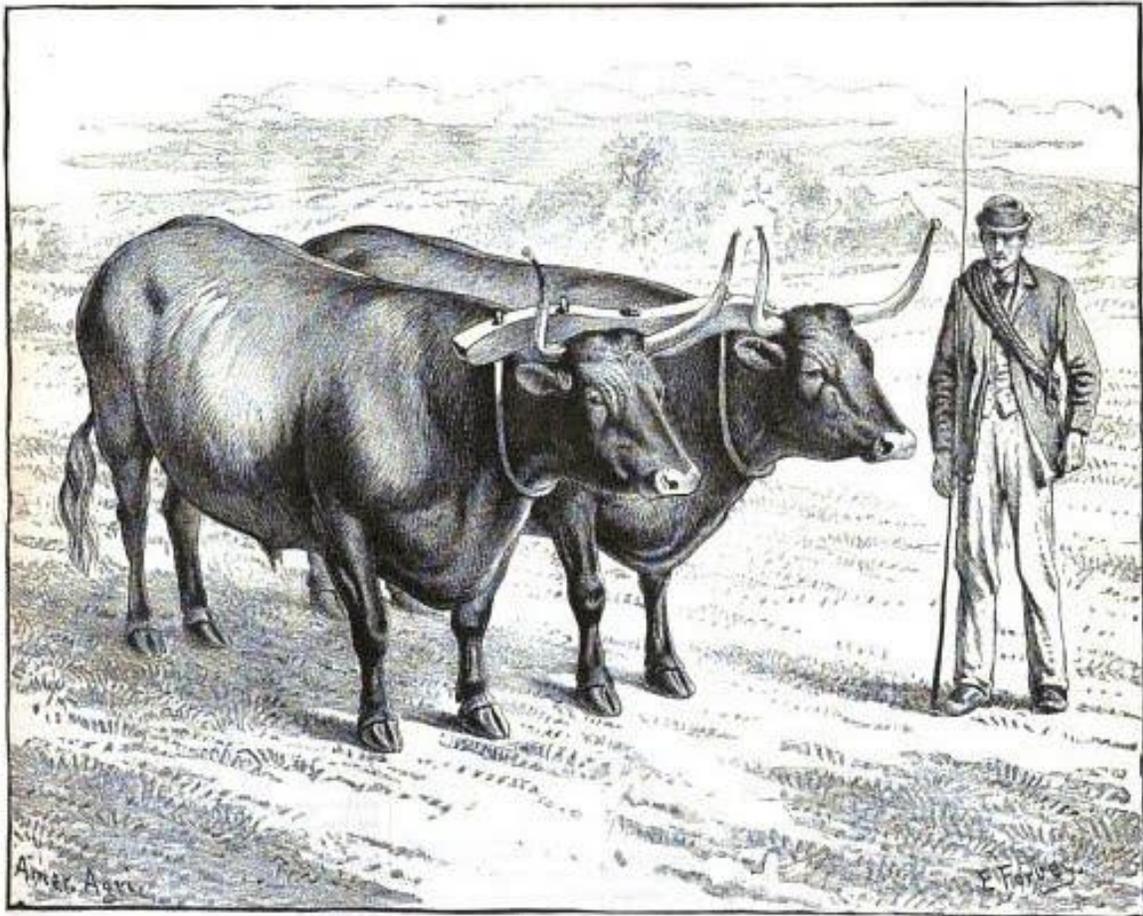
that you keep your cheese making process and equipment “scrupulously clean.” Finally, Christine recommends that you develop a relationship with the regulators and inspectors before you invest resources. Only having to do things once can save a lot of heart aches. The bottom line is that YOU can do whatever your energy, creativity and resources will allow and the Devon is the perfect cow to do it with! (End of Part 3)

THE HISTORICAL DEVON

This article and engraving comes from Volume 43, page 541 of the American Agriculturist courtesy of Andrew Van Ord.

Connecticut Red Cattle—Good Oxen.

In the early settlement of New England, the cattle of the colonists came from the south of England and were largely of the South Devon blood. They were uniformly reddish, coarser boned than the North Devons, and of more variety in their shades of color. Besides, they were not bred pure, yet the red color prevailed and has ever since been the predominant color. It is possible, as Mr. Allen suggests in his "American Cattle," that some pure Devons were imported into New England in the previous century, of which we have now no record, but more likely that care in breeding the South Devons, which were common, developed their finer qualities. Soon after the last war with Great Britain, noted cattle breeders of Baltimore imported some fine North Devon—or rather well bred Devon cattle, and other importations continued to be made. It was not very long before several herds were established in Connecticut, and they "picked" so well with the "native" red cattle that the progeny of Devon bulls and native cows could hardly be distinguished from thoroughbreds. As a result the bulls of the improved race were in demand and a great improvement was noticeable. The color was brighter and more uniform, white noses and white switches predominated, and the animals had better forms for beef, while their milking qualities were, to say the least, unimpaired.



A YOKE OF DEVON OXEN.

Drawn by Edwin Forster and Engraved for the American Agriculturist.

The great hold which the breed had and has upon the heart of the Connecticut farmer rests upon the style and excellence of the working oxen. There certainly is a style about them which no other cattle have, and their advocates claim extraordinary docility. They are high strung and mettlesome, like thoroughbred horses, quick in their motions, fast walkers, not timorous, willing to pull "for all they are worth," patient, good feeders, and make the very best beef. This last quality depends of course more or less on the age of the ox. It therefore pays to work them a few years and turn them into beef, when there are others coming on. Still, a good yoke of Devon oxen will last and do hard work for many years, and at twelve or fourteen years old will fatten well and make better beef than common cattle several years younger. It is rather remarkable that a team of oxen which will walk off on the road four miles an hour, or trot with a wagon like a pair of horses, will draw a plow in rough stony land slowly and carefully, being watchful when it strikes a stone or is "snagged" in a root, not to jerk, or throw their full weight upon it unless so directed, they as it were, trying to ease the plow over obstacles. In this respect good oxen seem to have more sense than ordinary horses, proverbial as the latter are for "horse-sense."

Breaking steers is the Connecticut boy's pastime and pride. He often begins with calves at six months old, yokes them and has them trained not only to "come up!" "gee!" "haw!" and "back!" but to drive without the yoke, single and double, sometimes to kneel, and to lie down. The steers are fit for some kinds of light service at three, efficient at four, and in perfection as oxen at five.

The engraving which we present is an accurate portrait of a pair of five-year-old Devon oxen, raised in Litchfield Co., Connecticut, which Mr. Stewart Hartshorn, of New Jersey, has just purchased, and which our artist has met and sketched on their passage through this city. The engraving likewise presents a life picture of the Yankee boy, who accompanied the oxen, with his long whip, and a coil of rope loosely swung over his shoulder, like a Highlander's plaid on his native heath.

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

IMPORTANT!! UPCOMING FALL GATHERING IN VIRGINIA!!— The American Milking Devon Cattle Association will hold a *FALL GATHERING* in conjunction with the Livestock Conservancy's Annual Heritage Livestock Conference. For details about the Conservancy's Conference, check out their website www.LivestockConference.org. AMDCA President John L. Hall III will participate as an evaluator for the Card Grading Clinic which is tentatively scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 12th. The *AMDCA FALL GATHERING* will be held on Sunday, November 12th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Conference location. While any topic is open for discussion at the *FALL GATHERING*, the Directors are particularly interested in hearing membership input on the topics of expanding the Association semen bank and increasing membership participation through the development of regional groups. See the following two paragraphs for more information on these ideas. There is a \$35 charge to attend the Card Grading Workshop, but the *FALL GATHERING* is free of charge. The Heritage Livestock Conference will be held at Fort Magruder Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia. If you do not have access to a computer and have questions about the Livestock Conservancy portion of the conference you may call (919) 542-5704. Any questions about the *AMDCA FALL GATHERING* should be directed to President Hall. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Semen Bank— The Board of Directors has asked Ray Clark to head up a committee to explore the possibility of drawing additional bulls for the semen bank of the Association. This search is in the very beginning stages and no firm plans have been established. If you have a bull that you think would be valuable to draw, or you know of one, please contact Ray. This could yield several thousand dollars over a period of time for the owner of the bull, while retaining bull ownership, if the bull meets the criteria. The Association would pay all related expenses, including testing of the bull. The bull's owner would receive a percentage of the income from the sale of the semen. The committee would like a picture of the bull, the bull's pedigree and his registration number. Ray's contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. The other committee members are Dr. Steve Burton and Shannon Rice-Nichols.

Member Participation- Some members have expressed a desire to participate in Association business more actively, but feel limited by their geographic location and the expense of traveling to Tunbridge, Vermont. At its Annual Meeting the Association acknowledged this concern and discussed two possible solutions to this issue. The first potential solution was using a conference call-in system for the Annual Meeting. After discussion this idea was tabled temporarily for future consideration. The second potential solution was to develop some form of regional structure that enables input from various regions of the country, with the possibility of the Association funding travel for a regional representative to attend the Annual Meeting. The membership present at the Annual Meeting instructed the Board of Directors to develop such a system. If you have thoughts on this idea please contact a Director.

AMDCA Website- AMDCA hosts a website under the direction of Webmaster Lawrence Gilley. The website contains Breeder Information, Breed History, a Calendar of Events, a For Sale Section, Association Information, Member Services, Semen Sales, Frequently Asked Questions and Relevant Links. Website activity statistics for 2017 are quite impressive. For the months of July, August and September there were 912, 1,087, and 997 visits to the website respectively. For the same three months there were 635, 734, and 672 visitors per month respectively. Sixty-one (61) percent of the visitors in July had not viewed the website prior, while fifty-nine (59) percent and fifty-eight (58) percent of the viewership in August and September, respectively, had not viewed the website before. The statistics indicate that the For Sale page(s) are among the most frequently viewed. We encourage you to use our website as it is kept current with Association-related business. Lawrence's contact information and the web address can be found on the contact page of this newsletter.

URGENT TIME SENSITIVE New Policies Affecting Registration of Cattle (GRACE PERIOD ENDING):

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Membership directed the Board of Directors to develop and implement two new policies regarding registration. The first directive was to develop a policy that created an upper age limit for the registration of cattle, and the second directive was to create a sliding fee scale for registration that increased with the age of the animal being registered. These policies were deemed necessary by the Membership, as many problems and issues arise and increase the longer registration of an animal is delayed. The Membership felt that these two policies would encourage more timely registration of animals, contribute to a more accurate Registry, and reduce some of the problems which the Association has no control over that are currently occurring between buyers and sellers. The Membership also directed the Board to provide a grace period before these new policies took effect, so those who currently own unregistered cattle may have ample time to get them registered. Based on the directives of the Membership, the Board adopted the following policies:

- **Effective midnight December 31, 2017** no animals exceeding five (5) years of age will be registered by the American Milking Devon Cattle Association.
- **Effective midnight December 31, 2017** a new cattle registration fee schedule will be implemented as follows:
 - Cattle less than one year old -\$5
 - Cattle one year old but less than two years old -\$10
 - Cattle two years old but less than three years old-\$25
 - Cattle three years old but less than five years old- \$50
 - The Registrar is to receive \$25 of the \$50 fee for three years and older registrations due to the volume of work involved
 - Cattle five years old or older cannot be registered
- Mistakes in registrations that are corrected by the Registrar will be published in an Appendix of a future edition of The Herd Book.

Brochures Available- The Association has recently had a new batch of American Milking Devon Cattle brochures produced and is offering them free of charge to AMDCA members. If you would like some, please contact Association Secretary Andrew Van Ord. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Buying Registered Cattle- It has come to the attention of the Association that some AMD buyers are not receiving their transfer registration papers in a timely fashion as the result of sellers not submitting the appropriate paperwork to the Registrar. Some of these buyers reach out to the Association to seek assistance in rectifying the situation. The Association, however, has no authority to intervene in this type of situation. The buyer and seller should discuss the transfer paperwork **prior to the sale being completed**, and if at all possible, the buyer should receive a copy of the paperwork the seller is forwarding to the Registrar at the time the cattle are physically transferred. A potential buyer could contact the Registrar prior to a purchase to ascertain whether a seller actively registers cattle. No personal information beyond “YES THEY ACTIVELY REGISTER CATTLE” or “NO THEY HAVEN’T ACTIVELY REGISTERED CATTLE” regarding a seller will be given out by the Registrar.

EVENTS YOU JUST SHOULDN'T MISS

- American Milking Devon Cattle Association *FALL GATHERING*, Williamsburg, VA., November 12, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Heritage Livestock Conference, Fort Magruder Hotel & Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA., November 9-12, 2017

Ray's Corner- On the Color of Devons and Winter Feeding This Year Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

Two common questions regarding AMD's: 1) “Are some Devons black?” and 2) “Are some Devons born without horns?” The color red and the presence of horns are both recessive genes. This means that the color red and horns will only show up if both parents carry the recessive genes. If a Devon calf turns up black or with no horns that means that one of the breeding partners has black or no horns in its pedigree. Such calves, not meeting the breed standard, cannot legitimately be registered.

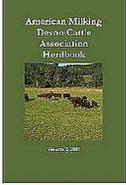
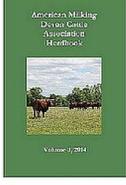
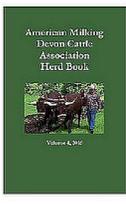
This was a very difficult year for harvesting hay in many areas. Late first cut hay is generally poorer in quality than hay cut earlier in the season. Cows have a tendency to pick over hay that is of poor quality which requires the feeding of more hay to maintain good body condition. Poor quality hay may require the addition of a little grain in the diet. A good mineral program is always important all times of the year. The mineral content of soil and plants varies by geographical location so it is essential to match your feed to the soil and plant conditions of your location. If you don't know what to feed, check with the feed companies in your area as they generally know what types of minerals are needed in your area.



DEVON'S AT THE FAIR AGAIN

These are the Michaud Family Working Steers at the Tunbridge Fair in Vermont
Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Michaud
(We love to have photos to share, if you have some please send them to the editor with some information about the photo)

DEVON RECORDS AVAILABLE

	Purchase Volume 2, 2005 at Lulu.com http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook02
	Purchase Volume 3, 2014 at Lulu.com http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook03
	Purchase Volume 4, 2016 at Lulu.com http://tinyurl.com/herdbook4

Webmaster Lawrence Gilley has made several historical documents/herd books available as follows:

American Devon Record Vol 10

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/ADR10.pdf>

American Devon Record Vol 9 Bulls

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/ADR9/bulls002.pdf>

American Milking Devon Record 1996

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/amdr1996.pdf>

He has also added parts 3 and 4 to make a complete copy of The American Milking Devon Record published in 1996. The cows and bulls were included in the American Milking Devon Association Herd Book Vol. 3, 2005, so this document is primarily of historical significance. You can download a copy with the following link:

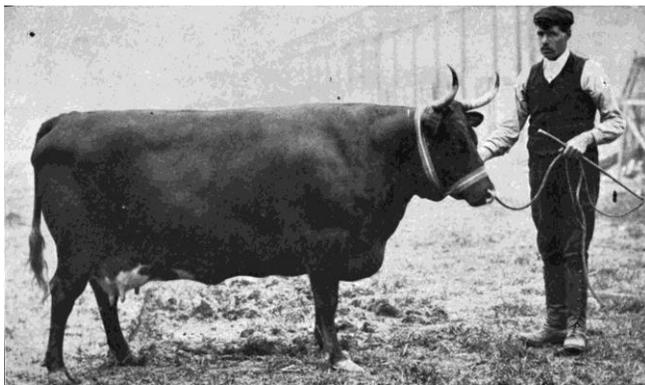
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/amdr1996.pdf>

Recent herdbooks available through Lulu

An earlier document, The American Milking Devon Association Herd Book published in 1986 is now available and can be downloaded with the following link:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/amdaherdbook1986.pdf>

The American Milking Devon Cattle Association Herd Book Volume IV is now available on the Association's website. (<http://www.milkingdevons.org>) It contains Bulls from number 10968 through number 11097 and Cows from number 2381 through 2734, up to the date December 31, 2016. If you find a copy of the American Devon Record Vol 8, please let Lawrence know as he has not yet succeeded in finding a copy. The Association thanks Lawrence for his work on these endeavors.

**FERN**

Picture Courtesy of Lawrence Gilley

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS
DECEMBER 15, 2017.**

AMDCA Officers

Director/President/Treasurer

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

Director/Vice-President

Jeremy Michaud
70 Michaud Farm Road
East Hardwick, VT 05836
(802) 472-6261
ljp6@cornell.edu

**Director/Secretary/Communications
Committee**

Andrew Van Ord
727 Townline Rd
Russell, PA 16345
(412) 795-5183
oxhilldevons@gmail.com

Director/Genetics Committee/Clerk

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

Director/Newsletter Editor

Thomas H. Slater
303 Cripplebush Rd.
Central Bridge, NY 12035
(518) 868-9328
patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com

Directors

Bruce Farr
51 Catamount Rd
Northwood, NH 03261
(603) 942-8128
farrviewsouthfarm@yahoo.com

Dexter E Randall
813 Kittridge Rd
Newport Center, VT 05857
(802) 334-5966
(802) 744-2417

Registrar

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

Association Contact: Please direct questions to
Ray Clark at (802) 626-8306
Website: <http://www.milkingdevons.org>

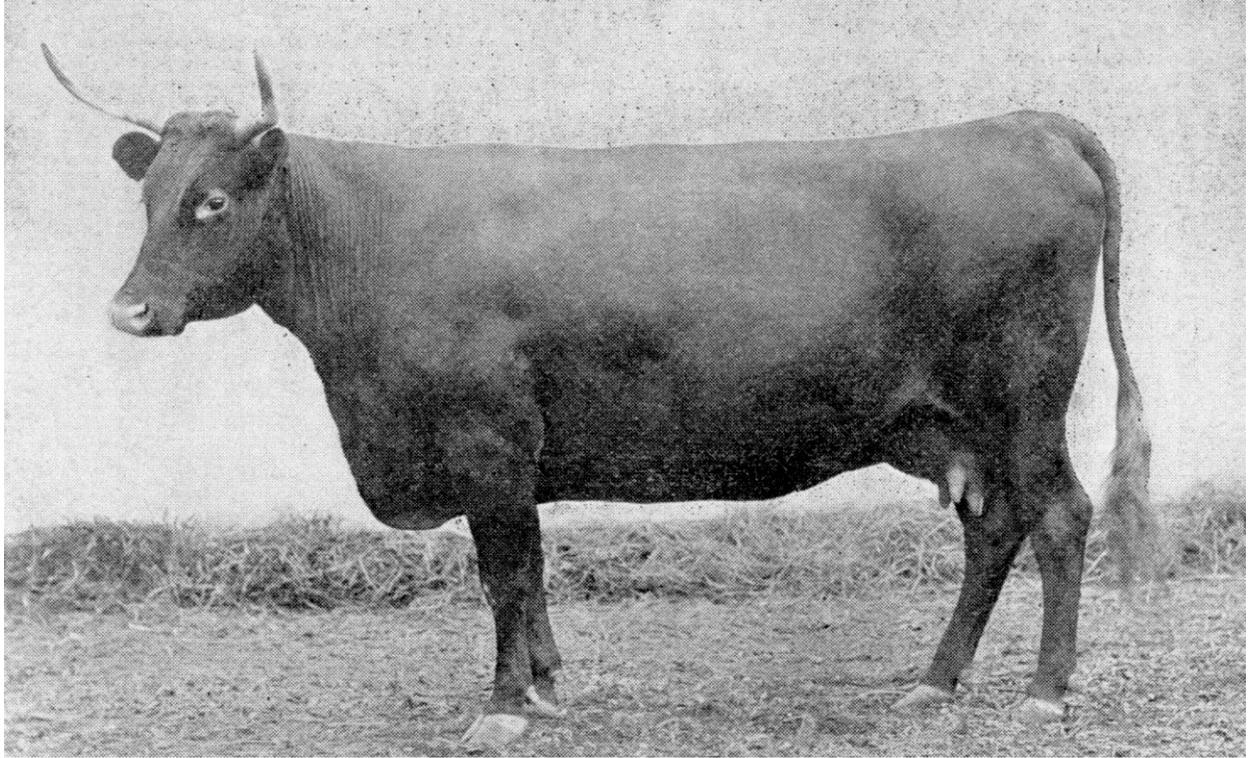
AMDCA Volunteers

Webmaster

Lawrence Gilley
PO Box 277
Deansboro, NY 13328
(315) 821-6628 lgilley@tds.net

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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.*

FEEDBACK- Your comments, ideas and "constructive" criticism
are always welcome. I would like to know what topics interest you
that could become feature articles. The best way to reach me is
through e-mail patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com . If you don't have
e-mail call me at (518) 868-9328 or mail me at Thomas H. Slater,
303 Cripplebush Rd., Central Bridge, NY 12035.Thank you in
advance for your assistance with this newsletter.



PRETTY PET

Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Gilley