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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.-- Diurna Kille



DEVON'S MAKE GREAT SUBJECTS (AND GIFTS) American Milking Devon Portrait Complete Story Inside

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Tom Slater
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FEATURE ARTICLE: “Yes YOU Can”- Make Great Cheese With American Milking Devon Milk (Part 2 of 3 Parts) (Article Prepared by Editor Thomas Slater; Pictures courtesy of Marilyn Covey and Christine Bunten)**Should We Make Cheese?**

A couple of factors played into Christine’s interest in making cheese. The first was related to the quantity of milk produced by the Devons. Since Devons don’t produce the quantity of milk that some other cows such as Holsteins do, their herd size didn’t produce the pounds required for a tank truck pick up. This meant they had a lot of milk they needed to preserve in some fashion. Making cheese is one way of preserving milk. The second factor was that they used cheese in the restaurant, so why not make it instead of buy it. It seemed like a logical choice to turn their milk into cheese. This idea lead to a progression of discovery and learning that eventually resulted in the making of cheese on the Bunten Farm.



Christine in their restaurant kitchen with some of her cheese

Small farmers, unlike larger corporations, cannot often afford to hire consultants. That was the position in which Christine found herself. She did have a friend that she could work with, but most of what she did was experimenting through trial and error. A cheese maker was hired for a weekend and Christine read and studied the art. Some practical book resources she utilized were Ricki Carrol’s cheese making books, sections of a cookbook called *Mrs. Restino’s Kitchen, A Cheesemaker’s Journey* by Mary Jane Toth, and *Milk Cow Kitchen* by Mary Jane Butters. She also recommends a humorous book by Gordon Edgar called *Cheesemonger: A Life on the Wedge*. On the web, she found Professor David Fankhauser’s site (<https://fankhauserblog.wordpress.com>) very helpful. The site is currently being updated and it contains information on cheese making, cheese recipes & related topics, links to cheese making sites and discussion groups, links to supplies, and a question/comment section. A much more technical resource that she has consulted is Margaret P. Morris’ *The Cheesemaker’s Manual*. It was a huge learning curve for Christine, but she found it fun and exciting.

The Commercial Kitchen and Cheese Making Plant

A commercial kitchen had already been developed for the farm and a Food Service License had been obtained. To move the cheese making project along they would also need a Cheese Making Plant License. Normally the two types of services cannot operate out of the same location. However, at the time, the USDA and the Farm Service Agency was promoting farms, so they were flexible. They allowed the “Cheese Making Plant” to be located in a portion of the “Commercial Kitchen,” however, they could not operate simultaneously. As they became more serious about the cheese making operation they reached out to the regulators and inspectors before they actually did anything. The regulators and inspectors were willing to work with them to guide them through

all the requirements. Christine recommends that anyone considering either a commercial kitchen or a cheese plant or both, do the same and reach out to the regulators and inspectors before proceeding with anything.



Bunten Farm American Milking Devon young stock chowing down

Making the Cheese

Christine has experimented making many different things with the Devon milk among which were ice cream, Devonshire Cream (a thick clotted cream), yogurt, Dulce de Leche (a thick caramel tasting product), bleu cheese, mozzarella curd, feta, and her own creation called Devondale. One of the things that frustrated Christine was that in certain cases you cannot legally sell some great tasting products that you can make for yourself in your home. If cheese products are not aged, the milk has to be pasteurized before making the product in order to sell it. If you were making the same product for your home you probably would not pasteurize the milk. When you are making cheese for yourself, you generally are not concerned about the fat content or the pasteurization, you just make the cheese. Pasteurization changes the product.



Bunten Farm American Milking Devons grazing

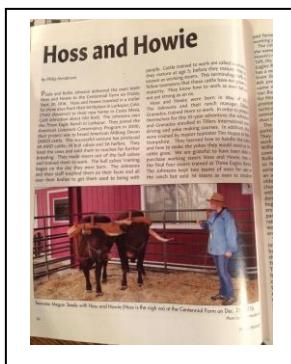
Variations in the flavor of cheese from mild to strong, as well as variations in the palates of cheese consumers, provided Christine with a great opportunity to be creative and produce a variety of cheeses that met with the approval of customers. Some of her “European” friends would taste a cheese and they would love the flavor, while some native friends would taste the same cheese and find it too strong in flavor. This left her in a quandary as to what she should do. She tells a story that is funny in retrospect, but not at the time, and she passes it along to others as advice. A representative from Jasper Hill Cheese had come to the farm to see their operation and they were hoping to sell some of their cheese through their market. Christine had been wrestling with a particular bleu cheese that she had made, some liked it, and some thought it too strong. Since the cheese



We've got their attention now!

“expert” was coming she thought she would get his opinion. He took one taste and walked out and into the barn to see the rest of the operation. When he returned, he invited her to go watch one of their blue cheese makers for a day, which she took him up on. Her advice to anyone that will heed it: always give prospective merchants the absolute best you have to offer. In addition, proper labeling of cheese is important, that way when people are taste testing you can steer them in the direction of the type of cheese they prefer. Within a cheese type, such as bleu cheese, Christine would label the products with names along a continuum that would indicate their relative taste from mild to strong. Distinguishing between flavor types with proper labeling helps promote a good cheese tasting experience and increases the likelihood of a sale. (End of Part 2)

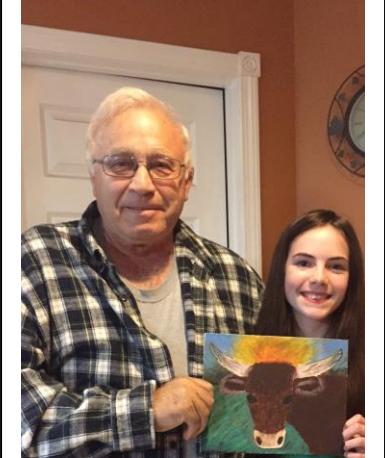
DEVONS IN THE NEWS



An interesting article on a new team of American Milking Devon working steers on Centennial Farm, Costa Mesa, California, appeared in the April/May 2017 Edition of *Rural Heritage*. The steers were raised and trained by Paula and Rollie Johnson of Three Eagle Ranch in Larkspur, Colorado. After three days of travel the team joined Centennial Farm where they will be working in an educational capacity. Hoss and Howie are the third team to reside at Centennial Farm. The article covers the ox qualities of the American Milking Devon, has some training tips, provides some history of Centennial Farm and Three Eagle Ranch, and contains some great pictures.

DEVON'S MAKE GREAT SUBJECTS (AND GIFTS)

You may have been wondering who painted the Devon on the front page. Well, it is acrylic on canvas and was painted by 14-year old Ava Guillette (on left). What makes it even more special is that she gave it to her Grandfather for Christmas. What a great job and great idea Ava. Her Grandfather is AMDCA Director Dexter Randall from Newport Center, Vermont. I'm sure this is a gift that Grandfather will cherish for a long time. (Dexter and Ava on right)

**DNA TYPING FOR PARENTAL VERIFICATION**

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Dr. Steve Burton. Dr. Burton is a veterinarian from Remsen, New York. He and his wife Jude raise American Milking Devon cattle, some of which they train to become working steers and oxen. The subject of utilizing DNA typing for parental verification has been discussed at a few Annual Meetings. Dr. Burton has graciously agreed to put together his thoughts on the issue and solicit feedback from the membership. Your feedback will assist the Association in making decisions in this vital area. Dr. Burton's contact information appears at the end of this article.

I am seeking input from the membership regarding a proposal to present to the American Milking Devon Cattle Association (AMDCA) Board of Directors promoting the adoption of a DNA Typing Program for Parental Verification.

There are a number of university laboratories and companies offering this service. Pricing is in the \$10-\$25 per sample range. Although the actual testing methods may differ, the end result uses the data generated to verify the parents of offspring. The most common procedure involves pulling a "pencil-width" number of tail hairs from the bull, cow, and calf. Although this sounds painful, the cattle don't seem to mind very much. It's easier than collecting a blood sample (which is also an acceptable test material at some of the labs.) By pulling hair samples, the hair root is still attached to the hair. This root is the source of the DNA for analysis.

Once the hair sample is collected, it is taped to a small piece of lab-provided cardboard, and the excess hair is clipped and discarded. The remaining hair, with roots attached, is mailed off to the lab. No freezing or other special care is necessary. The lab removes a few hairs from the submitted "tuft" and processes it for analysis. Excess hair is archived for future testing if needed or desired, indefinitely. Note, this archiving would allow for future DNA Typing for other parameters if enough samples are collected to produce statistically meaningful results, i.e. heritable diseases, breed purity, etc.

Most labs are looking for about 30 different DNA "markers" that are unique in cattle. Each parent contributes the unique set of DNA "markers" to their offspring. DNA typing results for Parentage Verification are 100% accurate at excluding individuals as parents. Once an animal's DNA Marker profile is determined, the data is the property of the animal's owner with a copy archived by the testing lab.

Each lab's testing method differs enough that it is important to choose a lab to be our "forever" lab. Watching corporate pharmaceutical buyouts over the past 35 years and its impact on our veterinary practice, I think it's more prudent to use a university based lab for long term continuity...just my opinion.

So why even consider DNA typing for Parent Verification?

- 1) Positive Identification - There is no better, unalterable, permanent identification system for livestock or humans for that matter. Tattoos often fade and become illegible with time. Ear tags are commonly lost.
- 2) Breeding tool- Working with a small number of existing animals, it is prudent for breeders to be certain of the parentage of our future seed stock as we perpetuate this hardy breed.
- 3) Validity- Whether malicious or innocent, animals may be registered with the wrong parents. For buyers, this misinformation can wreak havoc in a planned breeding program. The ill effects of genetic combinations may not become apparent until many generations later.
- 4) Reduce Registrar Workload- Understandably, the registration fee's age scale, represents the additional work the Registrar must do to "Genealogically" confirm an animal's credentials for registration in the AMDCA. Quite simply, by submitting a copy of the lab's results, the tedious paper search is reduced.
- 5) Recovering lost AMD's- All too often, I hear of folks unable to register animals because of a lost, disrupted, or non-existent paper trail and/or illegible tattoos. Historically, we've lost herds of AMD's because of lost records, especially in the case of passing owners.
- 6) Heritable Disease recognition- Having archived samples gives future generations the diagnostic tool to pinpoint the genetics of heritable abnormalities, and thus more efficiently eliminate the malady.
- 7) Voluntary- There is no requirement for members to participate in the program, but as I can only speak for myself, I would be more likely to pay a premium price for additions to my herd, if the stock in question were DNA Typed. I believe the added value would be worth the investment.
- 8) AMDCA relief of dues- I'd like to persuade the AMDCA to credit one year's membership dues to those AMD registered bull owners that submit test results during the first year of the program as an incentive to contribute to the data pool. Current and future generations of AMD owners will benefit.
- 9) Not a "Witch Hunt"- This program assumes all registered animals are, to the best of our knowledge, truly what their registration indicates. If there are discrepancies, so be it. We will move forward with what we have and build from there. Maybe someday in the future, we'll have enough data to actually be able to verify purity of the breed. Until then, just enjoy these beautiful cattle!

The Draft Proposal:

- 1) The Board of Directors of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association (AMDCA) accept DNA Typing results from (Lab to be determined) as Parental Verification.
- 2) Direct the Registrar to accept DNA Typed qualified offspring of AMDCA registered parent-cattle as registerable cattle.
- 3) Direct the Registrar to duly note in the permanent records and note on the Certificate of Registration the acceptance of DNA Typing verification. (A simple initialed ink stamp will do.)



Steve and Jude Burton's Prudence and Petunia

- 4) For a period of one year from the acceptance of this proposal, the American Milking Devon Cattle Association credit one year's AMDCA membership dues to owners for each AMDCA registered bull they own, test and submit to the Registrar.

5) DNA Typing is voluntary and the results are the property of the owner. If individuals are willing to incur the testing fees, the AMDCA will accept DNA Typing results from non-owners of the cattle in question.

6) All lab fees associated with testing and result submission to the AMDCA is the expense of the applicant for a Certificate of Registration.

Please submit any questions, comments, and concerns to Steve Burton at drsburton1@gmail.com. Please reference AMDCA in the subject line.

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING – The Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association was held on **Saturday May 13th, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Tunbridge Town Hall, in Tunbridge, Vermont. In addition to the regular annual business, there were elections for Directors. Many policy issues were discussed and decided at the Annual Meeting. Membership determines policy at the Annual Meeting that is subsequently implemented by the Board of Directors. A few issues will be highlighted in this newsletter, however if you would like a more complete overview of the meeting, the DRAFT minutes of the meeting are available for your perusal on the Association's website.

(Picture at left: 2017 Annual Meeting in Tunbridge, Vermont)



Director Elections – This year there were two Director positions up for election. The Association would like to express its gratitude to all of the candidates for their willingness to step forward to serve the Association. Ray Clark and Andrew Van Ord were elected to serve three year terms. Congratulations!

Semen Bank- The Board of Directors has asked Ray Clark to head up a committee to explore possibilities 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. 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. 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 Represented at Mother Earth News Fair held at Essex Fairground, Vermont- The Association would like to thank Shannon Rice-Nichols, Dana Wakefield and the American Kerry Cattle Society for also representing the American Milking Devon Cattle Association. Both breeds were represented at a booth at the fair which was held this June.

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 2016 are quite impressive. Over the course of the year there were 17,316 visits to the website for an average of 1,443 visits per month. There was an average of 1,072 visitors per month. Sixty-seven (67) percent of the visitors had not viewed the website prior. 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.

(Picture at left: 2017 Annual Meeting in Tunbridge, Vermont)



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.

New Policies Affecting Registration of Cattle: 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.

EVENTS YOU JUST SHOULDN'T MISS

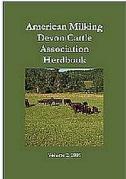
- American Milking Devon Cattle Association Regional Meeting, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, November 2017, specific date to be announced
- Virginia State Fair, **September 29-30, 2017**

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.



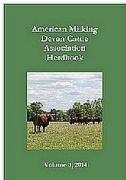
Group Photo AMDCA 2017 Annual Meeting, Tunbridge, Vermont

DEVON RECORDS AVAILABLE



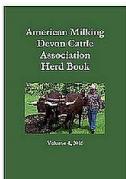
Purchase Volume 2, 2005 at Lulu.com

<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>

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://s.amazonaws.com/herdbooks/amdaherdbook1986.pdf>

Recent herdbooks available through Lulu

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.

Ray's Corner- On Poisonous Plants Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

It's time for pasturing the cows and sometimes the cows can get into things they shouldn't. There are various plants that are poisonous to cattle and Ray suggests that you contact your local cooperative extension to determine the varieties most prevalent in your area. However, there are two plants that are fairly common to most areas that are poisonous to cattle. These are wild cherry in a 'wilted' form and nightshade. Dry or green wild cherry doesn't have the same affect on cattle as when it becomes 'wilted.' Due to the differences in their stomachs, horses and cattle are often affected differently by plants. Something you might look out for in grazing cattle is leptospirosis. Cattle could pick it up through deer droppings as they graze. Leptospirosis can cause cows to have difficulty getting pregnant and it can cause fetuses to abort. If a cow is having difficulty getting pregnant you might want to have her checked for leptospirosis.

OVER THE BARNYARD FENCE – No responses this quarter

This section is for reader opinions and experiences with FEATURE ARTICLE topics from prior editions. The Association does not endorse or recommend policies and practices expressed in this newsletter. It is left to the reader to decide for themselves the policies and practices they wish to employ. However, we sincerely thank the author(s) of this section for their willingness to take the time to express their opinions and share their experiences. You can submit your articles to the Editor through e-mail at patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com. If you don't have e-mail, send a hard copy to Thomas H. Slater, 303 Cripplebush Rd., Central Bridge, NY 12035.

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

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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.

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