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AMDCA Newsletter April 2021
Volume 8, Issue 2



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 Kibbe



DARKS MAJESTY- 1908 New York State Prize Devon Bull

MAINTAINING BREED PURITY

“The AMD were compared with eight other beef and dairy breeds and in every case the cattle sampled were >99 percent likely to belong to the AMD breed. This implies the genetic purity of the breed and speaks to the commitment of generations of breeders.”—**The Livestock Conservancy**

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Tom Slater
patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com Submissions should be in Microsoft Word Format and pictures in JPEG format.

Feature Article: American Milking Devon DNA Summary

This article was prepared by The Livestock Conservancy, LivestockConservancy.org, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Phone (919) 542-5704 or info@LivestockConservancy.org. A list of bulls used in the pedigree study is available from The Livestock Conservancy.

Introduction

Small populations, such as rare breeds of livestock, can suffer from inbreeding due to the limited numbers of breeding animals available in the population. Severe inbreeding and diminished genetic diversity have negative consequences for a population, including reduced reproductive ability, hardiness and adaptability. Tracking levels of inbreeding and genetic diversity within a rare breed can help to guide conservation and breeding decisions that will alleviate some of these challenges.

To investigate the level of genetic diversity present in American Milking Devon (AMD) cattle, The Livestock Conservancy partnered with the American Milking Devon Cattle Association to complete a DNA analysis of the

AMD breeding population. Owners pulled tail hair samples for DNA and provided pedigree records on their animals. Sixty-eight samples were collected from 16 different farms in 12 states



Bunten Farms Dale #10961
Owner Gary Wingert
Wingert Heritage Farm



Diller Farms Jacob #11171 DOB 8/6/16
Bred by Kendra Diller
Owned by Grace and Dale Freier of Every Season
Farm, Seneca Falls, NY

and two Canadian provinces. Pedigree information allowed us to identify animals that were not closely related to one another, and from those, 33 animals were chosen to represent the breed (12 bulls, 21 cows). Hair samples were sent to UC-Davis for genotyping at 29 microsatellite genetic markers and the Y-chromosome. UC-Davis also provided A2 milk protein testing.

DNA Testing

The level of genetic diversity in the sampled animals was moderately high, at 60 percent. Inbreeding in the sampled population was low (0.06). These values indicate that significant diversity exists in the American Milking Devon, which at this time seems robust. Values in the

AMD are similar to or lower than 2017 values of inbreeding for the Ayrshire and Holstein (Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding), but slightly higher than the pedigree-based estimate (0.04)



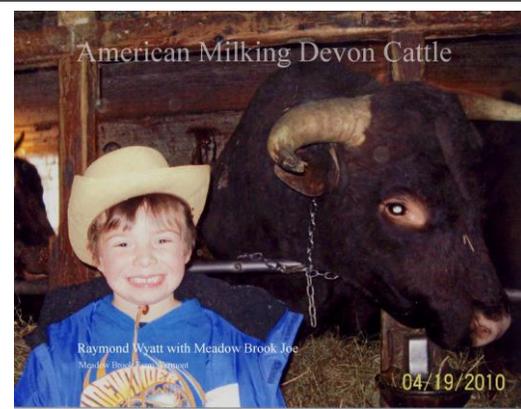
Three Eagles Knox #11050 DOB 5/5/15
Owned by Nels Crowser, Philip, SD
Bred by Rollie and Paula Johnson



Crowser Cuddles #11258 DOB 3/22/18
Owned and Bred by Nels Crowser
Philip, SD

using more than 1,000 AMD that was completed by Splan and Sponenberg in 2003. Note that, because the samples we tested came from unrelated animals to capture all the diversity possible, the measures of diversity and inbreeding in the overall AMD population may be lower. Holding the overall inbreeding coefficient to less than 0.10 reduces the risk of inbreeding depression. Careful and responsible breeding will reduce this risk.

In many small populations, some genotypes or alleles can become rare due to inbreeding and random genetic drift. Rare alleles are those that occur at a frequency of <5 percent in the population). In the AMD population, rare alleles were present at a level of 2 percent in the populations of alleles sampled (40 rare of 1,914 total alleles). Twenty-four of the 33 genotyped animals had a few rare alleles, but rare alleles had a higher occurrence in four particular animals (≥ 5.2 percent). Rare alleles and genotypes can represent important animals for conservation of rare breeds because their genotype or bloodline is unique and may be lost. Sometimes these animals are less than perfect specimens, but if bred to a good quality animal, they can produce quality offspring and bring new genetic variation into herds or breeds. In the four animals with higher numbers of rare alleles, three (Greene Acres Oliver, Mary Lynn of the National Colonial Farm and Brunello) already have a substantial number of offspring or half siblings. However, one bull, Devonside Fescue, only has about a dozen half sibs and may be a candidate for semen collection to preserve his genetic material. Like so many AMD, these four



Raymond Wyatt with Meadow Brook Joe
Owned and Bred by Ray Clark
Lyndonville, VT

animals have distant ancestors listed as Unknown or Wild, and the rare alleles may or may not be related to those ancestors, whose identity has been lost to time. The Y-chromosome, which is passed to each male offspring from its sire, was examined for the bulls in the sample. The Y-chromosome was the same type in every bull, perhaps indicating a common historic source for many of the bulls. Only 12 unrelated bulls were tested, but it is possible that many AMD bulls were sourced from only a few farms in the first half of the 20th century, which would reduce the number of Y-chromosome types in the breed.

β -casein is a milk protein that makes up about 30 percent of the protein in cow's milk. The protein occurs in two forms, A1 and A2. A less common variant, B, is very similar to the A1 type. The percentage of each genotype of β -casein is presented in Table 1. Twelve percent of the AMD that were sampled have the A2/A2 form of the β -casein protein (Table 1). A2/A2 animals will pass one A2 allele to each offspring. A2 milk is popular with some consumers, though the health value and benefits of A2 milk have not been scientifically established (Brook-Taylor et al., 2017), despite indications in smaller studies that some lactose intolerant consumers may find benefit (Milan et al., 2020).

Breed inclusion analysis was also estimated by the UC-Davis laboratory. This is the statistical likelihood that an individual AMD belongs to its breed and not to another breed. The AMD were compared with eight other beef and dairy breeds and in every case the cattle sampled



Heamour Herk Mister Clark #10722 DOB 5/2/09
 Sire: Meadow Brook Glory's Herk Gilbert #10337
 Dam: Roseabell 1 #668
 Bred by Farmer's Museum
 Owned by Lawrence Gilley, Deansboro, NY



Fred of Sun Moon Farm DOB 8/17/12
 Sire: Jacob of Sun Moon Farm
 Dam: Davis Carolina Granda
 Owned and Bred by Eudora Franks
 Franks Ranch, Flynn, TX



Heritage Farm's Jack DOB 7/3/08
 Age 12 at time of photo
 Sire: Flint Hill Farm's Little Son
 Dam: Flint Hill Farm's Dawn
 Owner: Eudora Franks of Franks Ranch, Flynn, TX

were >99 percent likely to belong to the AMD breed. This implies the genetic purity of the breed and speaks to the commitment of generations of breeders.

Table 1. Frequency of each genotype of B-casein in the 33 AMD tested in this study.

Beta-casein genotype	Percentage (%)
A1/A1	21
A1/B	3
A1/A2	33
A2/B	24
A2/A2	12
B/B	6

Table 2. Frequency of each β -casein allele in the 33 AMD tested in this study.

Beta-casein form	Percentage (%)
A1	39
A2	41
B	20

Breeding recommendations

In summary, the DNA microsatellite genotyping of the AMD indicates that the breed is fairly genetically diverse and that overall inbreeding is low. It will be important to maintain this level of diversity (<10 percent) for the future of the breed's health and long-term conservation. Although the diversity of the sampled animals in this study points to the genetic health of the breed, it will be important for breeders as a whole to continue to carefully breed and perpetuate all bloodlines, even those that are less popular. Semen collection or targeted breeding of bulls from rare bloodlines may be needed to retain potentially important genetic variation.

By evaluating extended pedigrees from the AMDCA herdbook, we traced bloodlines of animals born from 1998-2016. For each animal's sire's sire (paternal grandfather) and dam's sire (maternal grandfather), we counted the number of offspring produced. More than 280 of these bulls had produced four or fewer offspring by 2016. These bulls, or their sons or grandsons, if of good type, should be targets for conservation breeding to preserve rare herd genetics and balance the contribution of bloodlines within the breed. A list of these bulls is available from The Livestock Conservancy.



Rainmaker of Pope's Creek #11255 (5 years old)
 Sire: Windhorse Farm Faramir
 Dam: National Colonial Imelda
 Owner: Sesalie Smathers of Israel Smathers Farm,
 Leicester, NC



Keyes Brook Myles DOB 6/14/11
 Sire: Heamour Herk Mister Clark
 Dam: Tinker Bell
 Bred by Lawrence Gilley
 Owned by Thomas Slater of Patriot's Retreat
 Heritage Farm, Central Bridge, NY

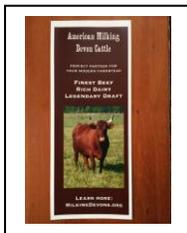


OGF Virginia Rebel #11290
 Bred and Owned by Richard Larson, Virginia
 Reserve Champion
 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Show

In summary, the DNA microsatellite genotyping of the AMD indicates that the breed is fairly genetically diverse and overall inbreeding is low. It will be very important to maintain this level of diversity for the future of the breed's health and for the next generations of AMD farmers.

References

- Brooke-Taylor, S., Dwyer, K., Woodford, K., & Kost, N. (2017). Systematic review of the gastrointestinal effects of A1 compared with A2 β -Casein. *Advances in Nutrition* 8(5): 739–748.
- Milan, A.M., et al. 2020. Comparison of the impact of bovine milk β -casein variants on digestive comfort in females self-reporting dairy intolerance: a randomized controlled trial. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 111(1):149-160.
- Splan, R. and Sponenberg, D.P. (2004). Characterization and conservation of the American Milking Devon. *Animal Genetic Resources* 34:11-16.



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 Bruce Farr. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

GILLEY'S GALLERY

AMDCA Webmaster, Lawrence Gilley, produces an AMD calendar annually that can be found at <https://www.cafepress.com/gilley>. In the process of producing that calendar he has solicited AMD pictures for many years. He has graciously offered to share many of the bull pictures he has collected with us. In the spirit of not letting a good bull picture go to waste, they are displayed here in a gallery. All of the bull pictures sent to the Editor for this Edition have been included in the prior article with descriptive information. These gallery photos have, at maximum, a name and a photo source, nevertheless, they are wonderful to look at. Enjoy!

Thank you Lawrence!



Billy Source: Cleary



No Name Source: Clark



Bully Source: Sawyer



Bunten Farm Neil Source: Colonial Williamsburg

GILLEY'S GALLERY CONTINUED



Burgoyne Source: Swanson



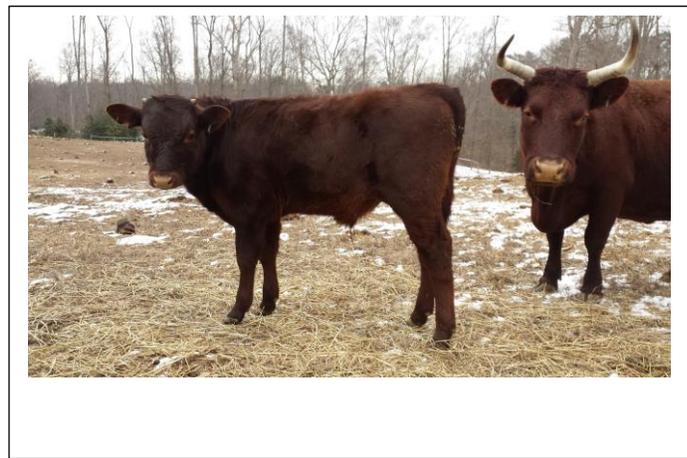
Burley Source: Ames



Clark Bull Source: Clark



Clyde Source: Patzer



Daisy's Bull Calf Source: Colonial Williamsburg



Davis Bull Source: Davis

GILLEY'S GALLERY CONTINUED



DSCN1977 Source: Bontrager



Duke Sir Source: Bilger



Eli Source: Taylor



Fergus Source: Taylor



Hans Source: Mount Pleasant



Jacob Source: Howell

GILLEY'S GALLERY CONTINUED



No Name Source: Lovins



No Name Source: Hickman



No Name Source: Cadieu



No Name Source: Tucker



Ramonas Thomas Source: Huff



Rex Source: VanAmburgh

GILLEY'S GALLERY CONTINUED



Snowman Source: Knight



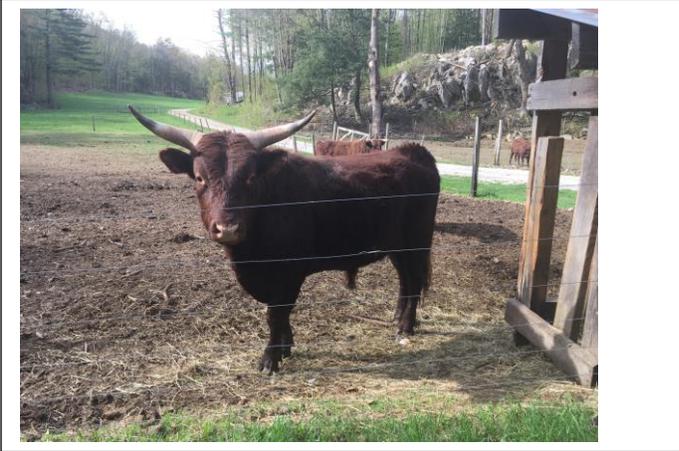
Stonewall Source: Taylor



Ticonderoga Source: Swanson



Trail Source: Cadieu



Willie Source: Miner



Harvey Source: Windhorse Farm

Breeding Tips and Comments From Some Old Timers

I do not eulogize this breed [Devons] for the sake of personal gain, by disposing of stock at a high rate for breeding, as we have none, nor do we expect to have any for this purpose. We dispose of them to the drovers or butchers, at an early age. But our object is to see them widely disseminated through the country, and it is our candid opinion that there is no one breed which comprises so many valuable qualities. I would recommend to all those farmers who do not feel sufficiently able to purchase an entire stock for breeding, to select a few of their best cows, and cross with a Devon bull, and by thus continuing, in a few years will have a fine stock, with nearly all the beautiful characteristics of this profitable breed of cattle....But how often is it the case that when some farmer has been to the expense of purchasing a superior bull, many of his neighbors will use an inferior animal, because it comes a few cents cheaper. Such men seldom have good stock, and never have an agricultural paper, unless it is a borrowed one. To such I would say, abandon this penurious principle, raise good stock, and take at least one agricultural paper. This is one part of the way to become "wealthy and wise."—S.G. Cone, Unadilla, NY, January 27, 1846; Appeared in the April 1846 Edition of The Cultivator, Albany, NY., p. 107.



While this photo appeared in our last issue, we could not leave it out of this issue dedicated to bulls. On the left, Honey Hill's next bull—the mighty Myron Emerald, with his buddy Paul Butler, who is currently handling the work. Photo Courtesy of Honey Hill Heritage Devons/Victoria Reck Ames

The offspring of some animals is very unlike themselves; it is, therefore, a good precaution to try the young males with a few females, the qualities of whose produce has been already ascertained; by this means we shall know the sort of stock they get, and the description of females to which they are best adapted.—Sebright's Essay on the Art of Improving the Breeds of Domestic Animals; Quoted on page 245 of the August 1846 Edition of The Cultivator, Albany, NY.

We believe the grand principle of improvement, both in plants and animals, is SELECTION. Always choose the best for propagation, and improvement may be advanced to the highest practicable point. The Cultivator, December 1846, Albany, N.Y., p. 372.

In 1845, the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, imported four cows and a bull, of the Ayrshire breed, and a bull and the same number of cows of the Devon breed....The Devons appear to be well bred stock. Two of the cows were very much to our fancy, being well made, beautifully limbed, and mellow skinned, with very fair indications of dairy qualities. The Devon bull, we thought a very superior one, though he was in poor condition from sickness. Mr. Phinney supposed his disease to be bronchitis, and he feared that it would prove

fatal. We should regard the death of such an animal as a great public loss. Should he live, we hope his use will be permitted in some of the districts where oxen are considerably reared; and we will venture the opinion that his progeny, from the best formed and proper sized cows, will prove to be of high excellence for the yoke. We noticed several Devon bull calves, of fine form and thrifty appearance; in fact, we thought all the Devons, with one exception, indicated a great tendency to fatten. – The Cultivator, February 1847 Edition, Albany, N.Y., p. 41.



Cheshire Farm Finnigan #11109 DOB 8/17/16
 Sire: Keyes Brook Myles
 Dam: MVLA Tinkerbell
 Bred by Douglas Cheshire
 Owned by Thomas Slater of Patriot's Retreat
 Heritage Farm, Central Bridge, NY

You may ask my opinion as to the stock imported by the Massachusetts Society....The North Devon cows were selected from the celebrated stock of the Earl of Leicester, and the bull was purchased of Mr. Bloomfield, and are all fine specimens of that beautiful breed of cattle. They are not so deep milkers as the Ayrshire, but for all the purposes of the New England farmer, are perhaps quite as valuable. We have now ten calves from the last importation of cows, eight of which are bull calves. The North Devon bull "Bloomfield," is very much in the same condition as when you saw him. He was attacked some months since with bronchitis, under which he still labors, and from which he will probably not recover. This is the more to be regretted as the specimens of his stock which we now have are very fine, and one whose pedigree is so good, could hardly be obtained in England. – E. Phinney. Lexington, Massachusetts. Appeared in The Cultivator, April 1847 Edition, Albany, N.Y., p. 123.

BREEDING ANIMALS. –JOSHUA R. LAWTON, Esq., in his late address before the Berkshire County Ag. Society, observes;-- "What a wonderful triumph of human reason and power, that the animals given and subjected to man by the great Author of Agriculture, can be molded and fashioned to his liking, as the clay is fashioned by the potter! Form and figure, size and power of bone and muscle; adaptedness to the peculiar service required; kindness and docility of disposition, and even agreeable countenance and expression, by patient and skillful breeding, can be successfully attained."

*In relation to the same subject, Mr. S.B. Colby, in his address published by the Washington County (Vt.) Society, says:-- "It has been, and perhaps still is, the belief of many, that **care and keeping**, are the true sources of improvement in stock. That the qualities of the animal are determined more by the food that supplies the stomach, than the blood that flows in the veins. That keeping, care, and climate, influence the individual is true, and in the course of centuries, characterize the species; but it would be weak policy to decline the use of standard specimens of animals, which by selecting the good and rejecting the bad, for a long time, are now offered to your service, already finished to a high degree of perfection. Who can hope to transform our native cattle into Durham, Devon, Ayrshire, with their perfection of form, deep chest, straight limb, and majestic proportion, with the mere instrumentality of turnips and*

clover? And who expects to create the peculiar compact shape, comeliness and strength of the Morgan Horse, by even the most bountiful allowance of hay and grain? As well by diet and education may change...the leopard his spots.” -- The Cultivator, December 1847 Edition, Albany, N.Y., p. 381.

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

IMPORTANT!! TWO NEW FORMS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ALSO AVAILABLE IN FILLABLE FORMAT ON THE AMDCA WEBSITE

Forms are available in regular and fillable format on the AMDCA Website :

<http://www.milkingdevons.org/forms.html>

Membership Form- Reminder: 2021 Membership Dues OVERDUE NOW- For your convenience a Membership Form is attached to this newsletter.

Membership 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 American Milking Devon cattle.
2. Non-Voting Associate Members, who wish to further the purposes of the 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 current year dues.
3. Non-Voting Junior Members, a category open to those under 18 years of age for a single dues payment (currently \$20), can access all membership services as 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. At the Annual Meeting of 2016, the Membership passed a MOTION that Members not in good standing by April 1st of each year will not receive an election ballot and will be removed from the Breeder's Listing. **If you wish to be listed on the Breeder's List a completed Membership Form is required to be submitted annually with your dues.**

New Registration Form- Due to the changes in Registration Policy, a Registration Form has been created and approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the form is attached for your convenience. Failure to use the form will result in the return of your application unprocessed.

**AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING IS BY
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL THIS YEAR**

DATE: SATURDAY MAY 8th

TIME: 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

HOW:

- **A few minutes before 10 AM Eastern Standard Time Dial into the conferencing service using this number:**

1-712-775-8973

- **When prompted for the conference code enter**
392385
- **You should be allowed to enter the conference once it has started. If for some reason you are not allowed to enter the conference, hang up and try again. If you are denied a second time, call or text 1-518-705-0307 (Thomas Slater)**

Since the meeting is not in person, it will be largely informational and full of discussion on pertinent issues. Voting for Directors this year will be by mail. Please be sure to follow the directions on your ballots when you receive them. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

AMDCA Director Elections

Class of 2023 Election

Last year the Association solicited nominations for two expiring Director terms for the **Class of 2023**. Two nominations were received, those of incumbents Ray Clark and Andrew Van Ord. Due to COVID-19 the Annual Meeting was cancelled. Subsequently the AMDCA Board, without Ray Clark or Andrew Van Ord, appointed the two nominated incumbents to fill the vacancies until an election could be held. The Association is moving forward with elections this year along with a Telephone Conference Annual Meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is putting forward the two nominations it received for the remainder of the term of the Class of 2023. Short biographies of the nominees follow.

Nominee Biographies – Class of 2023

Ray Clark- Ray is an incumbent Director of the AMDCA, residing in Lyndonville, Vermont and has owned and bred American Milking Devon Cattle for decades. Ray has owned cattle all of his life including a dairy herd and studied dairy sciences at the University of Connecticut. Ray spent the earlier years of his life living in Connecticut and interacting with many prominent Devon breeders. Ray has a lifetime of experience and shares it freely with anyone interested in the breed. He has devoted and enjoys untold hours on the phone passionately promoting the breed to new and potential breeders. He also has traveled at his expense to promote the breed at nearly every Regional Gathering across the country.

He has spent many years on the Board of Directors serving the Association in several capacities, including Genetic Research and surveying bulls for the Association Semen Bank. Ray helps people with problems and helps to solve them. He helps to put people and animals together, whether they are looking to buy or sell.

Ray is the “Go-to-Person” for the American Milking Devon Cattle Association. Ray continues to display Devon cattle at his local fair in Vermont. He fully supports the Mission of the AMDCA to preserve the triple purpose character of the Devons.

Andrew Van Ord – (Incumbent) I am a second-generation American Milking Devon breeder. My wife Kathy, daughter Lily and I graze our herd of Milking Devons on the same land I was raised on in Russell, Pennsylvania. I have served on the AMDCA Board of Directors for six years, served as the Secretary for five years and also manage the association’s Facebook page. In that time, I have actively participated in all but a few monthly directors’ meetings as well as traveling to participate at all annual meetings and numerous Fall Gatherings. I also currently serve on the 4-H Development Council of Warren County Pennsylvania and in the past I served as a director and Vice President of the Midwest Ox Drover Association.

I am passionate about promoting the American Milking Devon breed. My daughter Lily is a junior member of the association and finding ways to involve her and the other junior members is very important to me. We need to seek out and foster the future stewards of the breed. I am a staunch believer in conserving the unique traditional triple purpose qualities of the breed. The fact that this breed has changed little for centuries is something to be celebrated and while we look to the future we must also be sure to stay true to the history of the breed. Chasing short-lived fads and changing markets by changing the breed would be to destroy it.

Andrew Van Ord – (Continued) Regardless of how you plan to vote please consider attending the annual meeting. It is by far the best way to communicate your opinions and ideas. It is also a good time to meet other breeders and the more participation, the better for everyone.

Class of 2024 Elections

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee has developed the following slate of candidates to be elected to fill the three-year terms ending in May of 2024. The Committee solicited nominations from every member by written notice and three nominations were received. The nominee biographies follow. **Members will be voting for both the class of 2023 and the class of 2024 this year.**

Nominee Biographies – Class of 2024

Bruce Farr- (Incumbent) I have taught Agricultural Science for over thirty years and have served both as an FFA Advisor and 4H Leader. I have owned Devon cattle since 1976 and am currently maintaining a breeding herd. Farrview South Farm provides stock for oxen, breeding, and grass-fed beef and is located in Northwood, NH. As a fourth-generation farmer, I am committed to increasing the awareness of the Devon breed and their value both historically and in the current marketplace. I am proud of the association and the work the Directors have been doing to support both new and experienced members.

Jeremy Michaud- (Incumbent) Jeremy Michaud resides in East Hardwick, VT with his wife Leslie and their three young boys Lincoln, Gabriel and Morgan. Jeremy is part owner and general manager of his family's dairy farm operation. The farm consists of over 1,000 Holsteins and crops 600 acres. As a manager he is responsible for the care and health of the herd as well as consulting with the operation's many vendors and overseeing the farm's seven full-time employees. The farm also produces Vermont's finest maple syrup, Christmas wreaths and compost, all marketed at the farm. Jeremy and Leslie own and manage twelve rental units and recently started Lock & Go self-storage, a business with over thirty-five units at the present time. Jeremy is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the National Holstein Association.

Jeremy's interest in breeding cattle expanded beyond Holsteins with the initial purchase of two American Milking Devon heifers in 2006. Over the past three years the herd has grown to thirty Milking Devons and is presently known as Devons Gate Farm. Jeremy believes that in order for the Devon breed to remain sustainable the Association should play an even more active role in breed promotion. Programs encouraging youth to become more involved as well as supporting greater participation at farm shows and local fairs is important. More Devons need to be milked to promote the value of the Devon as a dairy breed and not primarily for beef or draft. The collection of accurate information, whether it be from bulls or cows will add substance to the historic value of the breed. Jeremy feels that his experience as a member of the dairy industry and knowledge of how other breed associations both operate and promote their cattle will prove valuable as a member of this Association's Board of Directors.

Dexter Randall – (*Incumbent*) I'm a native Vermont dairy farmer and grew up on a hillside farm in Lyndon, VT. My Dad was a logger and had used many teams of oxen in the early and mid-nineteen hundreds. His best team being a team of American Milking Devons, he logged throughout Northern Vermont. Time passed and I grew to have my own farm and family and decided I would like a team of Devons. To my disappointment, I could not find any. I have eventually found some, thanks to those that respect the Devon heritage and the value they had to our history, both in New England and nationally. It's great to see the breed being brought back from the edge of extinction and I enjoy being part of that conservation. Being a triple-purpose breed, it is good to work to improve and highlight their value of grass-based milk and meat as many people are demanding the slower, more healthy grass-fed products. If elected to a third term on the Board, I will do my best to help improve the breed and enhance the importance of keeping the purity of the American Milking Devon. I now own seven Devons and growing.

Voting Procedures

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, the Association hosts one or more Regional Gatherings each year, which the 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.

Since the Association did not vote on Directors last year, we are holding elections for both the Class of 2023 and the Class of 2024 this year. There will be separate ballots for each class. Members in good standing by April 1st will receive the ballots in the mail. You must follow the directions on the ballot to ensure a valid ballot. **As the Annual Meeting will be held by telephone conference this year all ballots must be mailed or hand delivered by the deadline.** Ballots should be returned to John L. Hall III, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, Connecticut 06498. **All ballots must be received by Wednesday May 5th 5:00 PM Eastern Time.** The ballots will be tabulated by a dis-interested third party and the results announced at the Annual Meeting Telephone Conference to be held May 8th at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time.

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. In order to maintain the integrity of our breed registry, the Registrar cannot register animals without the proper paperwork.

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. The most frequently viewed pages were: For Sale, Breeders, Breed, FAQ, and Semen. The most frequently updated information is the For Sale page and the Breeders list. The website consistently shows up in search engine results at or near the top. During 2020, the website received an average of 718 visits a month compared to 668 in 2019. Total visits for the year were 8,612 compared to 9,342 for 2019. The average number of visitors was 534 per month in 2020 compared to 496 in 2019. Eighty-one percent of the visitors each month were people who had not previously visited the website. This compares to 80 percent in 2019. We encourage you to use our website as it is kept current with Association-related business including the newsletter and the newly produced Devon videos. Lawrence's contact information and the web address can be found on the contact page of this newsletter.

AMDCA WEBSITE STATISTICS 2020					
Month	Visitors	Visits	% New Visitors	Page Views	Unique page Views
January	501	671	80	1894	1319
February	494	672	80	2001	1403
March	457	607	80	1570	1109
April	653	828	84	1966	1427
May	599	786	82	1766	1375
June	466	639	78	1778	1263
July	504	650	81	1899	1390
August	546	736	81	1899	1390
September	543	791	82	1856	1370
October	578	850	83	1997	1469
November	548	710	82	1744	1253
December	515	672	83	1642	1238
Average	534	718	81	1834	1334
Totals	6,404	8,612		22,012	16,006

New Devon Videos Available

Backyard Green Films worked with the American Milking Devon Cattle Association on documentaries about Milking Devon Cattle. In Parts I and II of the first documentary you can sit down with two old time Yankee farmers from New England who tell us stories as well as the history of the American Milking Devon from Roman Empire times to the present day. The second documentary is about one of the uses of this triple-purpose breed of cattle. The first documentary was partially funded by The Livestock Conservancy. All three videos, along with others, can be viewed from the videos section of the Breeders page of the Association website www.milkingdevons.org/videos.html

Videos Available

- Part I: The American Milking Devon: Past and Present (56 minutes)
- Part II: The American Milking Devon: Past and Present (12 minutes)
- The American Milking Devon Oxen (20 minutes)

MILKING DEVON HERD BOOKS

The latest AMD Herd Book, Volume 6, is now available!

Herd books are available as PDFs at <http://www.milkingdevons.org/amdca-herd-books.html>

Paperback printed copies are available for purchase from Lulu.com

Vol 6 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook6>

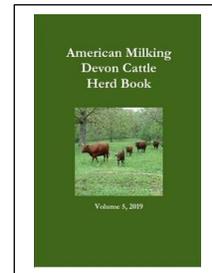
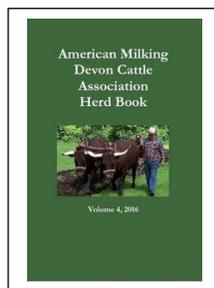
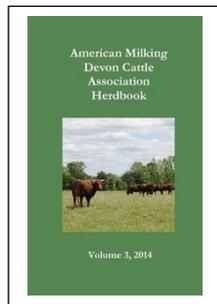
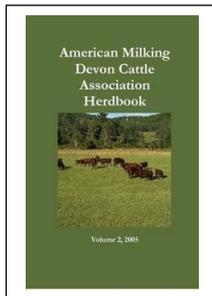
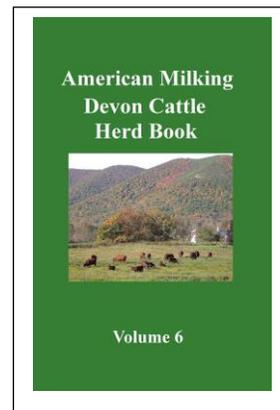
Vol 5 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook5>

Vol 4 <http://tinyurl.com/herdbook4>

Vol 3 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook03>

Vol 2 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook02>

....or go to Lulu.com and search for “herd book” and “herdbook”



Ray's Corner- Thoughts on Bulls and Calving

Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

Ray says, “Remember, the bull is half your herd.” Make sure your bull is well cared for. Keep his feet trimmed and be sure to provide trace elements, especially at breeding time. An adequate fly repellent program is important. If a bull is fighting the flies, he is not likely breeding the cow.

Safety is vitally important when working with all cattle, especially bulls. If you are inclined to interact with your bull, do not rub them on their face. This triggers an instinct to charge. Scratching them under the chin is acceptable. Always keep your eye on the bull when you are near him. There is a saying, “an ugly bull never killed anyone, the friendly one did.” Always be cautious, bulls are big and fast, and a friendly bull can hurt you unintentionally just by throwing his head and connecting with you.

When picking a bull for your herd, spend some time investigating. Examine the lines the bull came from. Herd books are available to track lineage. Look at the drawings on the AMDCA website, understanding that the pictures are not perfect as there is no such thing as a perfect animal. If you buy a seasoned bull, he will have a track record you can consider. One thing to consider is **repeatability**. **Repeatability** is whether the bull can transmit his good qualities to his offspring. If you have the opportunity you can look at the bull's offspring and the cows they came from to see if he improved the offspring. If he did not you do not want him.



Another trait to look for if the bull has a track record, is whether the bull throws predominantly bull or heifer offspring. The bull determines the sex of the offspring and sometimes they will throw predominantly one gender over the other. If they do, this will help determine if they are suitable for your breeding program.

If buying a young bull, go look at his parents. It is possible that two poor animals can produce a “super animal,” but that animal may not be able to pass on his traits. Instead the offspring may revert to the form of the parents.

CALVING

This is calving season. Be careful approaching a new calf. The cow should be tied before handling a calf if possible. Even friendly cows may react negatively to protect their calf. Spray the navel of a newborn calf with 7 % iodine solution to prevent infection. If you intend to milk a cow in the future, you should run your hand over the udder as often as you can to get them used to the touching. Do not mess with the teat, as you do not want to remove the plug that protects the teat.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 15th, 2021. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format and pictures in JPEG format

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This newsletter is provided to AMDCA members in the United States and Canada for information and education 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
The Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

REGISTRY APPLICATION

Registration Fees:

< 1 yr. \$5.00; 1 yr. but < 2 yrs. \$10.00; 2 yrs. but <3 yrs. \$25.00; 3 yrs. but <5 yrs. \$50.00

Transfer: \$5.00 Name of New Owner _____

Address _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone number _____ Email _____ Date of Transfer _____

NAME _____ TATTOO _____

SEX _____ TWIN _____ SEX OF OTHER TWIN _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

SIRE _____ NUMBER _____

PATERNAL GRANDSIRE _____ NUMBER _____

PATERNAL GRANDDAM _____ NUMBER _____

DAM _____ NUMBER _____

MATERNAL GRANDSIRE _____ NUMBER _____

MATERNAL GRANDDAM _____ NUMBER _____

ARTIFICIAL SERVICE _____ NATURAL SERVICE _____

IF Artificial Service, attach breeding receipt

IF Natural Service, give dates between which bull had access to dam: FROM _____ to _____

OWNER OF SIRE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

OWNER OF DAM: _____

(At time of breeding) ADDRESS: _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

In making this application, I hereby subject myself to all the provisions of the Constitution, bylaws, and rules of registry of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association as they now exist or may from time to time be amended, knowledge of which I now have or will immediately acquire. **I GUARANTEE THAT ALL MATTERS STATED HEREIN ARE TRUE.**

OWNER _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____ SIGNATURE _____

American Milking Devon Cattle Association

610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

2021

Please check one.

- \$20 - Voting Member – individuals who own registered Milking Devon cattle
- \$20 – Non-Voting Associate Member – individuals interested in furthering the purposes of the Association
- \$20 – Non-Voting Junior Member (one time dues payment, non-voting, under 18 years old)

Make checks payable to the American Milking Devon Cattle Association.

Send completed form and check to:

Bonnie Hall, Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

Voting members: Please circle if you **do not** wish to be listed in the on-line breeder's list

[NO] Do not include me in the on-line breeder's list.

Please circle "no" below to indicate information you wish **to omit** from the on-line breeder's list.

[No] NAME: _____

[No] FARM/ORG: _____

[No] ADDRESS: _____

[No] PHONE: _____

[No] E-MAIL: _____

[No] WEBSITE: _____

Note: A current membership is required for inclusion in the breeder's list, for voting at the annual meeting and for registering cattle and for transferring the registration of cattle Please ensure that your membership is up to date.