

American Milking Devon Cattle Association
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
Tunbridge VT, May 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President John Hall at 10:15 AM with 14 members present. A MOTION (Gallagher/CRandall) to accept the minutes of the May 8, 2010 annual meeting as presented was seconded and passed unanimously.

Reports

President: John reported on the Fall gathering which took place in Hamilton NY last November in association with the ALBC Annual Meeting. and on the breed standard discussion which took place after our last Annual Meeting to record the collective wisdom of some of our most experienced AMD breeders. Subsequently the Genetics Committee developed an illustration of the typical AMD cow, consistent with the breed standard. The Board has sponsored milk/meat testing for CLA/Omega3 factors as directed by the membership at the last annual meeting. Recently, the Board undertook a review of our Mission Statement with a view toward a more concise definition of our mission and purpose.

Treasurer: John provided a written report showing a year end balance \$10,462.44 checking, \$10573.31 CD. Income for the year was well above expenses. A MOTION (Blaiklock/CRandall) to accept the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

Registration: Sue reported 1371 living females, 441 males. In 2010 there were 17 new registrations and 129 transfers. In response to a question Sue noted that she needed expert help in getting the herd book published on the website. The problem is the size of the data base; her efforts to reduce it have been unsuccessful. A MOTION (CRandall/Farr) authorizing the Board to expend the necessary funds to get the herd book published on the website was passed unanimously.

Communications: Bill thanked Lawrence for continued support of the web site, John and Bonney for help with the newsletter. We are continuing to increase our use of e-mail address, with paper copies to those who don't have or haven't provided an e-mail address. As well, the ballot mailing will continue to be sent in hard copy. We have tee-shirts and hats to sell, as does Lawrence.

Genetics: Ray noted that we are looking for bulls to add to the semen bank. Members were urged to contact Ray or John to nominate a bull.

CLA/Omega3 Testing: Ray next summarized the fatty acid testing conducted to date. A total of 12 samples (10 milk, 2 meat) from the Clark, Balch and Michaud herds were test by the University of Utah. The samples were taken in early Spring when all of these animals were on stored feeds including varying amounts of grain and corn silage. When compared with "average American milk" the analysis found higher values of TVA (x2), CLA (x3) and the omega 3/omega 6 ratio. These rather surprising results should be considered preliminary until confirmed by additional testing, which is planned for this summer. At least 10 samples/test will be needed.

In discussion it was suggested that someone should analyze the data and produce a layman's

interpretation of the results. Color copies of the report graphs would help. Tests should be on grass, as testing on—corn and grain lowers creditability. However, defining "grass fed" and ensuring compliance is problematic. As many variables as possible should be tested. This is a time sensitive subject; the niche markets may disappear. Joe Janowski offered to produce a guide to recommended feeds. A MOTION (John Wheelock/Tom Slater) to authorize an additional \$3000 to continue milk and beef testing was passed unanimously.

Breed Standard: Ray noted that The Board had commissioned a drawing of the typical AMD cow, which has been completed and posted on the website. He asked if a similar drawing of a bull would be desirable. After discussion a MOTION (Tom Slater/Nils Bergland) to authorize the sum of \$450 to be spent for this purpose was approved unanimously.

Senior Breeders Meeting: Concerning the meeting of senior breeders convened last year to discuss the breed standard, it was asked when or if the video of the meeting would be released. It was suggested that it be put on the website, with DVDs available for those who lack web access.

Election of Directors

John reported that, due to an oversight, some ballots that had been received on time had not been brought to the meeting. He suggested that the count be deferred until all the ballots were collected, the results to be reported later. No one objected to this procedure.

NOTE: The ballots were subsequently counted as follows: Ray Clark 22, Bill Gallagher 16, Joe Janowski 9. At its May 23 meeting, the Board approved the results and seated Ray Clark and Bill Gallagher for the ensuing year.

General Discussion

Testing for A1 /A2 Genetics: John described a conference held in Connecticut during which Shannon Nichols talked about milk genotyping, specifically for the milk protein (3-casein variants designated A1 and A2. It is claimed that the more prevalent A 1 has been implicated in a variety of diseases including heart disease and diabetes. Thus, there is interest on the part of some consumers in avoiding A1 milk. In response a test for this genetic characteristic has been developed and patented at UC Berkeley and assigned to the A2 Corporation, who require royalties from anyone advertising or selling A2A2 milk based on the results of this test. As previously discussed, the Board has taken the position that this type of testing is the prerogative of the membership and will not be sponsored or funded by AMDCA.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the A2A2 characteristic may not be prepotent, i.e. starting a herd with A2A2 cattle may not guarantee that their off-spring will retain this characteristic. Bill Gallagher has had his 6 cows tested with mixed results; 3 were A2A2 and 3 were A2A 1. The testing was done at the Veterinary Genetics Lab (530-752-2211), UC Davis CA 995616-8744; cost \$25.00/per test, no minimum quantity. Tail hairs are used in the test.

John noted at that during the conference in Connecticut, Shannon floated the idea of applying for a grant to test milk characteristics. She would like some support from other breed associations. The consensus was that Shannon should present her ideas for consideration at an AMDCA meeting.

Fall gathering: Joe Janowski is willing to support a gathering in Missouri. Alternatively, there will be a draft oxen weekend at Colonial Williamsburg which would be an ideal venue. The Directors will work this out.

Donation to the Kibbe Fund: A MOTION (S Randall/Blaiklock) to donate \$1000 to the Kibbe Scholarship Fund (Tolland County Farm Bureau) in memory of Cyril Green, on condition that the name of the fund be changed to The Cyril Green & Diaurna Kibbe Memorial Fund, was passed unanimously. John reminded us that the donation would be applied to principal with only the income being disbursed.

Non-profit Status: Lawrence expressed the opinion that AMDCA would be better served by establishing a non-profit sister organization to accept tax deductible donations, as opposed to using a Fiscal Agent. The same Board and officers could manage both. It was agreed the idea has merit, however the non-profit would have to meet the IRS requirements including actually providing educational programs, and that the Board was already "maxed out". However, the Board will give this some further consideration.

It was further MOVED (Farr/Blaiklock) that the Secretary draft a resolution noting Cyril Green's passing and his many contributions to the AMD breed. Passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

William C. Blaiklock, Secretary