

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**  
**American Milking Devon Cattle Association**  
Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting  
Tunbridge VT, May 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President John Hall at 10:15 AM with 17 members present, representing 251 cattle. A MOTION (Berglund/BHall) to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2011 annual meeting was passed unanimously.

Reports

President: John reported on the Fall gathering which which Joe Janowski and Tommie Claire organized in Missouri last Fall. Some 25-30 people attended from several States. The program included visits to the two farms, lunch and supper and a group discussion.

John went on to note the various issues which the Board considered during the year, as discussed in more detail below.

Treasurer: John provided a written report showing a year end balance of \$10,637 in checking plus \$10,657.47 in CDs. Income for the year was about equal to expenses. There were unusually large expenses for semen sale commissions, CLA testing and a donation to the Kibbe/Green fund. A MOTION (Clark/CRandall) to accept the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

John noted that a misunderstanding of IRS reporting requirements had led them to suspend our not-for-profit Association status. John has filed the reinstatement papers (with fee) and we will be reinstated in due course.

Registration: In 2011 there were 220 new registrations (165F, 55M) and 220 transfers (171F, 52M). Sue believes there are roughly 1800 living animals. We have about 223 active breeders but only 114 paid up members. Many breeders only pay dues when they have animals to register/transfer. Those who have not paid are removed from the website. It was suggested (from the floor) that the Board consider this issue.

Sue has worked with a consultant from UNH to fix the herd book database problem; the book should be out by June.

Communications: Lawrence provided a written report on the website traffic, which was slightly higher than 2010. Visitors come from several sources including search engines (Google, Yahoo) and links to other sites (ALBC Oklahoma State, member sites). The "for sale" page continues to be most frequently viewed.

John asked for input concerning a possible gathering this fall. There will be a conference in Pennsylvania sponsored by Mother Earth News in October (VanOrd?). The ALBC annual meeting is scheduled for November 10-12 in Cary NC.

## Genetics:

*CLA/Omega3 Testing:* A report on the 2011 CLA/Omega3 testing was distributed. Samples were obtained from Jeremy (grain fed), Ray and Bruce (grass fed) and John (corn silage fed). The test results were similar to the 2010 testing, although the report is much more understandable and there were noticeable differences between grass and grain-fed samples.

Possible further steps were discussed: Dr. Ward would like to test a broader sample but our total herd size does not lend itself to this approach. Having done enough testing to show the way, the Board believes that further testing should be left to individual breeders in support of their own marketing efforts. A consensus developed that we should suspend further testing while we digest the existing test results. a MOTION (??/Ray): Any further testing should focus on helping AMDCA to further the breed in general, was passed unanimously. Further, a committee was formed to consider and advise the Board on what further steps should be taken. Member include Ray, Jeremy, Lawrence, Bill G.

*Breed Standard:* Ray presented for consideration a drawing of the typical AMD bull, by the same artist who did the cow drawing presented last year. Comments included: Head too feminine, horns too light, looks “wasty”, feet too tight. A MOTION (Bonnie/Ray) to fund a revision of the drawing was passed unanimously.

*Semen Bank:* John noted the Board's decision to discontinue the semen bank when present stock are exhausted. We don't wish to compete with breeders who are offering semen and ample supplies appear to be available from these private sources.

## Business Issues:

*Mission Statement:* Sue presented her draft mission statement, and rewrote it on the spot after discussion. The revised statement was accepted after the addition of a reference to “historical value”. A MOTION (Farr/Clark) to accept the new Statement was passed unanimously.

### **Mission Statement**

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.

*Director's expenses:* John summarized the Board's discussions concerning reimbursing Directors for expenses incurred in traveling to represent the Association at gatherings and other events. Compensation would be authorized on a case basis and not as a general policy. There was general agreement with this approach. A MOTION (Lawrence/??): The Directors should be compensated appropriately for travel incurred when representing the Association was passed unanimously.

## Election of Directors

Nils reported the election results: Sue 21, Bill 22, Jeremy 22. All three stand reelected.

## General Discussion

*Nonprofit Status:* There was no support for the idea of using ALBC as our 501(c)(3) fiscal agent due to

misgivings expressed concerning the fees they charge for this service. Several felt that the difficulty of establishing our own non-profit status wasn't justified by the potential returns. What is the goal - education? animal rescue? A MOTION (Bruce/Ray) to table the issue was passed unanimously.

*Director election procedure:* Nils expressed concern about the security of the election process. Completed ballots are sent to the wrong address, blank ballots could be duplicated etc. The Board agreed to consider improvements to the process.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

William C. Blaiklock, Secretary