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AMDCA Newsletter December 2016
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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.-- Dianna Kille



(Picture courtesy of Richard Larson)

Pictured: Richard Larson with one of his American Milking Devon heifers at the Virginia State Fair. For more information see article inside.

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Tom Slater
patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com

FEATURE ARTICLE ON DAIRYING WITH GRASS-FED CATTLE: “A BREED LIKE THE DEVON WOULD HAVE A VERY DISTINCT ADVANTAGE”

This Feature Article is a transcript of a presentation made by Brent Beidler at the Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association held in Tunbridge, Vermont on May 7th, 2016. The subject is grass-fed dairying and will be presented in three parts due to the length of the presentation. Readers are welcome to respond to this article. Responses may be included in the OVER THE BARNYARD FENCE section of the next edition. The AMDCA Newsletter exists to promote the AMD breed, not individual breeders. Submissions for the newsletter need to be directly AMD related. The Editor reserves the right to edit any submissions in accordance with this policy.

Part 3: Benefits to Grass-fed Dairy and AMDCA Member Questions

One thing that really has been clear is that there's documentable health benefits to the--there's differences in the milk. There's a perception that comes along with the whole grass-fed market place, that the omega-3 content of milk from forage-based diets is much much higher, and you see it very dramatically when you completely eliminate the grain. Part of the perception, and the reality too, is that it fits the landscape as we go forward as far as climate benefits. I'm sure all of us are in agreement that forage-based diets and pasturing have benefits toward the soil and sequestering carbon. I think the information around that is becoming more well understood, much more mainstream, and the consuming public is starting to understand, is that it makes a difference how your milk is produced, and if you have the opportunity to choose, you can make a choice and stay there.



**The Beidler Family Enjoying the Grass Before It Becomes Feed
Regina, Erin and Brent**

This certainly is not a production system that works for everyone; it requires a larger land base for sure. You have to be able to graze your cows to a higher degree than many dairy farms are capable of doing. I would say too that you do put up a lot more feed than you're used to if you had a significant portion of the diet being in grain. Cows really have to eat, if you're taking out 5 pounds of grain it'll feel like you are feeding 7 or 8 pounds extra of forage to get her to the same place. Our farm, and I think many other farms that I know within the Organic Valley family, will say that the animals actually have done better than we expected. The health problems that we anticipated were not there for us. Maybe I'll stop now and see if there are any questions.

Question: you must feed some type of mineral supplements that go with that?

Part 3: Benefits to Grass-fed Dairy and AMDCA Member Questions (Continued)

Answer: yes, I just supplement with kelp, which is very common with organic producers, seaweed, dried kelp, so that's a wide range of minerals and Redmond salt which has some minerals in it. I think I'm relying more on having the minerals in the forage, like trying to get the soils built up, where it's putting it into the forage as well, so that I don't have to buy it in a bag as much. I've not seen any problems yet with that program. The salt definitely, that's one of the ways they like to come into the barn and they seem to like it as a treat. That's not nearly as much as I was putting into them with the grain.

Question: How many acres per cow are you up to to get this production?

Answer: It's about four and that's to be on the safe side. I could do it with less, but a dry summer makes everything change, but that's what I remember growing up, the old guy I hung out with always said "two for the summer, two for the winter". Four acres is what you should plan on, and asking around with other producers it seems to be like that.



Question: We live in a selenium deficient area, how can we compensate for that?

Answer: I get a high selenium salt, Redmond's salt has selenium in it, so that's what we have been doing.

Question: Is A2 a big factor in the industry or not so much yet?

Answer: Definitely talking about it. A lot of the critics that are turned on to talking about things like this are very much aware of A2. It's certainly something people think about.

(Photo at left: Brent Beidler with some adoring fans)

Question: Tell them the premium difference.

Answer: Organic Valley producers, if you are on the grass-fed route you are paid a \$5 premium, but \$4 is direct cash on your pay price, higher than the standard pay price. \$1 is tied to putting soil amendments on, so you submit receipts to the co-op and they reimburse you for \$1 per hundred weight. (Unintelligible question) You are paid well for components as well. It comes out to about, for me on our farm where we have 4.8 average for the year, just about \$48 per hundred weight. That is amongst the highest in the world I'm afraid to say. The components are factored into that, a regional premium for Vermont, which is paid more than the mid-west as is conventional.

It [*meaning the higher pay*] was a boon for our farm because we had been doing it anyways. For a lot of farms it's a tough transition particularly if you are coming back from feeding eight or ten

Part 3: Benefits to Grass-fed Dairy and AMDCA Member Questions (Continued)

pounds of grain or even more. It's a tough slog, body weight and condition is something that's difficult particularly if you have those genetics that are just not quite there. **That's where I think definitely, a breed like the Devons would have a very distinct advantage.** As far as production parameters, it's all over, there is a lot of variation. On our farm our rolling herd average is 11,500 pounds. We have Jerseys and Holsteins, the Holsteins are small, our average size is just a little over 1,000 pounds. The Friesian Holsteins are much smaller animals. That's probably a little higher than the average for the grass-fed. A lot of those happen to be Jersey herds too and they're getting anywhere from 7,000 pounds per cow to 12,000 pounds. Some of the pure Holstein herds, there are a couple in the mid-west, that are 15,000 pounds.

Question: So how many Devons do you want? (laughter)

Answer: I tell you it's been very informative to me and very interesting, I would definitely like to try them in my system, I'm not sure I'm ready to take on a whole new breed.

(Photos courtesy of Brent Beidler)

AMERICAN MILKING DEVONS AT THE VIRGINIA STATE FAIR

Milking Devon did well in their debut at the State Fair of Virginia 2016 Dairy Show. Milking Devon competed in the All Other Breeds division authorized by the Fair Board for 2016. Old Ggjerpen Farm (OGF) exhibited two spring heifers and an aged cow. The Milking Devon were welcomed to the show ring as the show superintendent read the AMDC breed history to the audience. OGF Carolina Borgia was selected as Junior Champion and Grand Champion. OGF Carolina Bonnie was awarded Reserve Junior Champion.

The importance of the show, however, was outside of the show ring. Hundreds of fair visitors stopped to inquire about the breed. Was it because the American Milking Devon were the only cattle with horns or because of their beautiful color? Their motivation for stopping doesn't really matter. They all left with more knowledge of AMDC and breeds' conservation in general than when they arrived.

As we were getting ready to leave, the show superintendent informed me that we will need more breeders participating next year in order to continue. Virginia breeders may be asking – was it worth the time and effort? Well, any time we can educate the public about the breed and leave with orders for 2017 calves – I think it was. Next year's fair will be held September 29th & 30th, 2017! Please consider attending with your cattle.

Article submitted by Richard and Donna Larson www.oldgjerpenfarm.com

DEVON HISTORICAL RECORDS AVAILABLE

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

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.

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**Call For Nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted for the position of Director (member of the Board of Directors) for the term May 2017 through May 2020. Voting will be by mail, and ballots will be counted and results announced at the Annual Meeting in May.

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 we host one or more regional meetings 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.

The terms of two incumbent Directors expire this year; both are seeking re-election. Ray Clark and Andrew Van Ord are seeking re-election.

If you wish to put a name in nomination, please submit the following information not later than Friday, February 10, 2017 to Bruce Farr, AMDCA Director, 51 Catamount Rd., Northwood, NH 03261; e-mail farrviewsouthfarm@yahoo.com

Call for Nominations (Continued):

1. The nominee's full name,
2. A statement of the nominee's background, qualifications and his/her philosophy and goals for AMDCA. Please limit this information to ½ page.
3. A statement *signed by the nominee* that he/she is a voting member and agrees to serve if elected.
4. The nominee's record of attendance at Annual Meetings and regional meetings over the past three years.
5. If the nominee is an incumbent, present his/her record of attendance at the Monthly Director's meetings over the past three years.

All nominations will be acknowledged and the Nominating Committee will ensure that all complete nominations received by the above deadline are placed on the ballot.

Dues for 2017 Membership Now Due: The following is provided as a reminder that Annual Dues are now due. A form to renew your membership is found at the end of 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 Milking Devon cattle.
2. 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 outstanding and current year dues.

3. Junior Members, a category open to those under 21 years of age for a single dues payment (currently \$20), can access all membership services at 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.

Livestock Conservancy National Conference- A regional meeting of the AMDCA was held on Saturday, November 5th from 12:30-2:00 P.M. in association with the Livestock Conservancy's National Conference, which was held at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, November 3-5, 2016. President of AMDCA, John L. Hall III, and Registrar Bonnie Hall attended that meeting representing the AMDCA. Directors Dexter Randall, Ray Clark and Bruce Farr were also present, as was Past-President of the AMDCA, Drew Conroy. Twenty-two individuals attended the AMDCA presentation and discussed such topics as catching up registrations, back dues, DNA, and the herd book. The Halls donated Devon beef for the Heritage Breeds Dinner held on the Friday night of the conference. The Halls also had the opportunity to reconnect with Ridge Shin, who was instrumental in reinstating the preservation of the AMD breed. Director Dexter Randall cited the conference as "*a chance to meet other people he hadn't had a chance to meet before.*"

NEED BROCHURES??

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.

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. In October the website had 912 visitors for a total of 1,266 visits. Sixty-four (64%) percent of these visitors were new. In November there were 930 visitors for a total of 1,229 visits. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of these visitors were new. 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.

New Policies affecting Registration of Cattle: After discussion at the 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 at the June meeting:

- 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.

DEVONS MAKE THE NEWS...AGAIN!!

- Breeder Doug Flack and his farm were highlighted in an article entitled *American Milking Devons and the Flack Family Farm*. The article, written by Drew Conroy, appears in the Small Farmer's Journal, Volume 40 Issue 3 (Indian Summer 2016).
- The Livestock Conservancy News featured an article entitled *Ray Clark and American Milking Devon Cattle*. This article was also written by Drew Conroy and appears in Volume 33, Issue 4, Autumn 2016.

Tragedy Strikes A Devon Family's Home

On December 10, 2016, the home of Leslie and Jeremy Michaud caught fire due to a furnace malfunction. The house has extensive structural, smoke and water damage. Leslie and Jeremy have 4 boys, Lincoln age 12, Gabriel age 10, Morgan age 9 and Dawson age 6. As you might recall the Michauds were on the cover of the last newsletter with their oxen. Jeremy is a Director of our Association. Leslie's sister set up a gofundme account for donations to help the family replace clothing, shoes, winter gear, boots, pots, pans, towels and other household essentials. If you would like to contribute you can go to http://www.gofundme.com/leslie-jeremy-michaud-house-fire?utm_so

Ray's Corner- On Winter Feeding

Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

During the winter cows need proper nutrition to stem off the cold and nourish developing calves. To keep a cow, with a developing calf, fit in the winter when kept in a barn, they will generally require 3.5 pounds of hay for every 100 pounds of body weight. If kept outside they will require at least an extra pound per 100 pounds of body weight. In winter you want to ensure your cows don't get winter scours. If their manure gets runny and evidences scours you should feed course first cut hay. That would be a good mix of timothy, orchard grass and red clover. Course hay prevents winter scours which results in food going straight through the cow without the essential nutrition absorption. Alfalfa hay has too much protein, usually over 20 percent, and is not good for winter feeding. If your hay is poor quality, you will need to feed more. I keep my cows inside in the winter and feed what they will clean up. When they first come in, I feed first cut hay for a couple weeks and then switch over to second cut hay for a couple months. If they begin to evidence scours I go back to course first cut for awhile. When I go to feed I like to see a little feed left over. Hay should be supplemented with trace elements such as selenium, copper and manganese. Vitamin E should accompany selenium as it helps in the utilization of the selenium by the cow's digestive system. These trace elements should be formulated to your area and fed free choice if the cows are kept outside. Salt should also be provided. Since I keep my cows inside, I feed the trace elements, along with salt, once a week on top of the hay. Trace elements contribute to cow and calf health and help prevent white muscle disease. This is where newborn calves walk on their tip toes. If not treated these calves normally die. Devons are noted for their efficient utilization of food. An interesting fact is that Devon manure is poor quality when compared to conventional manure, as Devons take more out of their feed.

EVENTS YOU JUST SHOULDN'T MISS...

- American Milking Devon Cattle Association Annual Meeting, Tunbridge, Vermont, Saturday May 6, 2017, 10 a.m. to noon
- Mother Earth News Fair, Burlington, Vermont, June 10-11, 2017
- Virginia State Fair, September 29-30, 2017

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.



Stephen Burton's Christmas Ox Pair

AMDCA Welcomes New Members in 2016

New Voting Members

- Elsie Gawler- ME
- Jim Wright, ME
- David Dahlsrud- ID
- Sherri Fitzgerald- VA
- Catherine Diane Huff- VA
- Jim and Jacqueline Moyer- VA
- Thomas and Cara Brooks- TX
- Eudora Franks- TX
- Michael Crews- IN
- Robert Byrnes- NE
- Rusty Bitterman and Margaret McCallum- PEI

New Voting Members

- Rusty Wilder- FL
- Don and Mary Hollenbeck- SD
- Barry Viprino- MA
- Joan Walker- MA
- John Fleetwood- MD
- Paul Fusco- PA
- Karen and Caleb Niemela- NH
- Victoria Reck Ames- NH
- Randall and Gloria Benham- KY
- Garry Hiltz- Nova Scotia

New Associate Members

- SVF Foundation- RI
- Alex and Shannon Sillanpaa- ME
- Diane Schivera- ME
- Kirsten and Nicholas Nutter- VT
- Vlasta Cadieu- TN
- Ray and Hannah Morvan- VT
- Erica Spurrier- SD

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

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This newsletter is provided to AMDCA members in the United States and Canada for information 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.

American Milking Devon Cattle Association

610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

2017

Please check one.

- \$20 - Voting Member – individuals who own registered Milking Devon cattle
- \$20 - Associate Member – individuals interested in furthering the purposes of the Association
- \$20 – Junior Member (one time dues payment, non-voting, under 21 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.