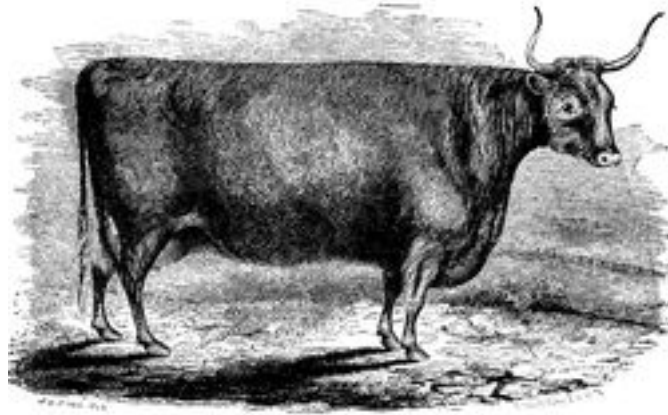


American Milking Devon Cattle Association
Spring 2009 Newsletter



A rare breed that deserves a good future

Board Directors, positions and email addresses

John Hall	President, Treasurer	johnandbonniehall@netzero.net
Ramona Huff	Vice-president, communication, education	info@gryffonsaerie.com
William C. Blaiklock	Secretary, communication	williamb@gwi.net
Susan B. Randall	Registrar, registration	mdevons@worldpath.net
Ray Clark	Clerk, genetics	
Richard Nicoll	registration	micoll@cwf.org
Bill Gallagher		

Volunteer Staff

Lawrence Gilley	webmaster	lgilley@tds.net
Bonnie Hall	newsletter editor	johnandbonniehall@netzero.net
Nils Berglund	advisor	nilsdon@together.net
Drew Conroy	advisor	
John Wheelock	advisor	

Annual Meeting Notice

The twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association will be held Saturday, May 9, 2009 at the Town Hall in Tunbridge, Vermont. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until all necessary business has been concluded (usually by noon). Coffee will be provided and you are welcome to bring a lunch. Please bring photos of your cattle to share with the membership.

Agenda (at this time)

1. Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting
2. Officer's reports
3. Committee reports
4. Election of Directors*
5. Speaker: Shannon Nichols, North East Region ALBC
6. General Discussion

*PLEASE NOTE: In order to accommodate all voting members, we have instituted a mail ballot. If you are currently a Voting Member, the ballot is attached to this notice. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

Board of Director nomination biographies

There are three openings on the Board of Directors. Two incumbents are running for re-election. The candidates are as follows:

Incumbent: William C. Blaiklock

William C. Blaiklock and his family own and operate a certified organic family farm in Arrowsic, Maine. Established in 1974, the farm currently keeps Milking Devon cattle (since 1985), sheep, pigs, poultry and bees. William has been a Director of AMDCA since 1985. In addition, he has been active with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), serving several terms on the MOFGA Board; as well as town committees and the local land conservation trust.

Consistent with the AMDCA Mission Statement, William believes strongly that the primary goal of the Association is to ensure the genetic health of the breed by promoting conservation breeding practices and working to provide a genetically diverse selection of bulls. As well, the Association can complement the marketing efforts of individual members by promoting the breed to the general public.

Nominee: Jeremy Michaud

Jeremy Michaud resides in East Hardwick, Vermont 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.

Incumbent: Sue Randall

Susan B. Randall graduated *summa cum laude* from Notre Dame College in 2002 with a B.A. in Elementary Education/General Special Education. She currently works as a Special Education and Reading Recovery teacher.

Actively involved with livestock for more than thirty years, Susan, her husband Clayton, and their son Ben established Sunny Knoll Farm in 1981 when they purchased their first Milking Devon. Over the next twenty years they exhibited their Milking Devon cattle at state and local fairs, and provided historically appropriate cattle for movies such as "Hocus Pocus" and "The Crucible." A 4-H family from 1987 to 2000, Susan served as a 4-H leader in the areas of swine, poultry, beef and working steers. In 1990 the Randall's founded the well-known Yankee Teamsters 4-H Working Steer Club, now in its nineteenth year.

Registrar of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association since 1991, Susan entered the entire registry into a computerized, searchable database; produces a new herd book and yearly updates; collaborated on and published the Association's first information brochure; designed and implemented the Association website; acted as contact person for prospective breeders, and funded Association projects through the design and sale of Milking Devon clothing. She was the 2007 recipient of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy's Bixby-Sponenberg Breed Conservation Award.

Susan believes maintaining genetic diversity is critical to the long term survival of the breed. She strongly urges breeders to target markets that utilize the traits inherent in the breed today rather than "improving" the breed in order to compete in markets for which the Milking Devon is ill-suited.

Nominee: Elaine Shirley

Elaine Shirley grew up on a family dairy farm in central Maryland where her family milks 80 cows on a grass based system. She has worked at Colonial Williamsburg for 24 years overseeing the Rare Breeds program which includes American Milking Devon cattle, Leicester Longwool sheep, American Cream Draft horses, Canadian horses, Dominique chickens and Nankin bantams. She has served several terms on the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) Board of Directors.

Elaine became interested in rare breeds when she saw several of the breeds she knew as a child on the ALBC conservation priority list. Elaine says that it is very frightening that breeds can go from being popular to being endangered in such a short amount of time.

REMINDER: The clothing sale has been continued to April 15th. Order forms were enclosed in the last newsletter.