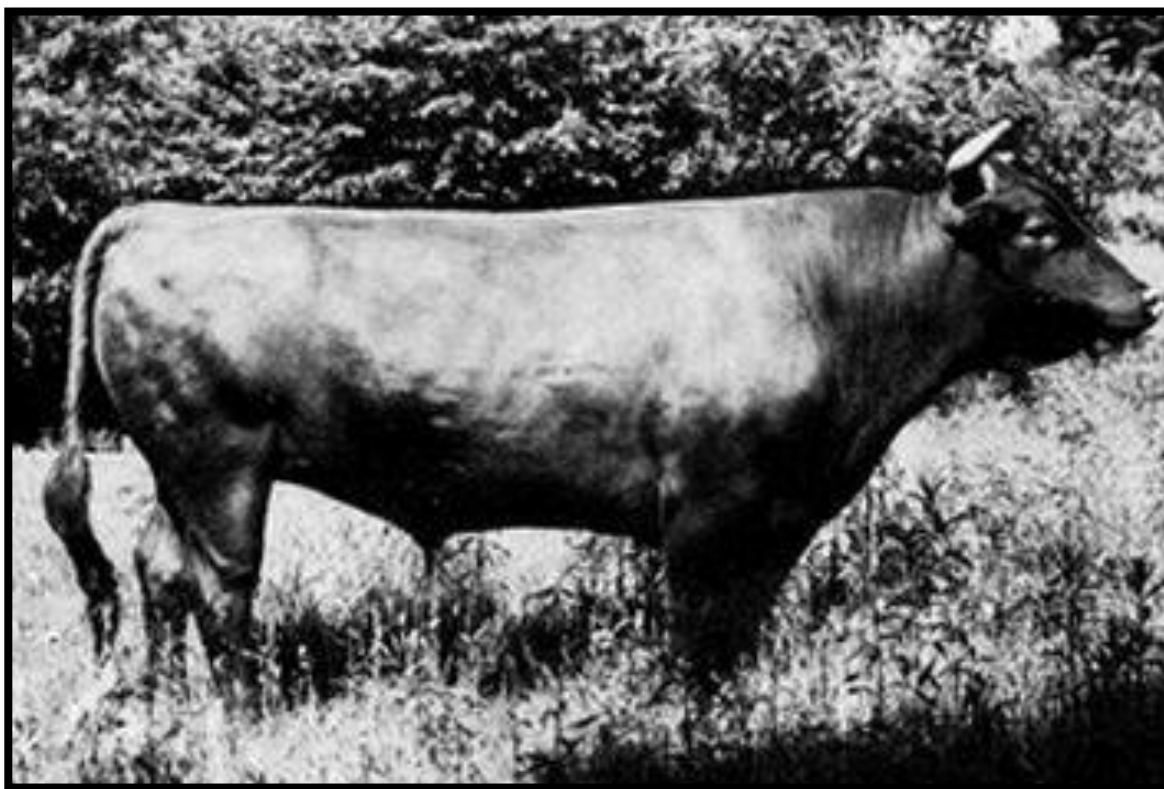


American Milking Devon Cattle Association

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.



Harvey 9985

Feb 28, 1932. Bred by Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs, Connecticut

Sire: Bachelder's Delay 9512.

Dam: Rosecroft of Dolly Dimple 16585

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Shelly Oswald (814) 786-7687 or myorjojr@verizon.net.

News from the Directors:

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 2015 annual meeting of The American Milking Devon Cattle Association will be held **Saturday, May 9, 2015** at the Town Hall in Tunbridge, Vermont. The meeting will begin at **10:00 am** 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 2014 Annual Meeting
2. Officer's reports
3. Committee reports
3. Announcement of Directors election results*
5. Open discussion

*PLEASE NOTE: In order to accommodate all Voting Members, we use a mail ballot. If your 2014 dues have been paid, the ballot will be mailed to you. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to participate.

The Board of Directors

**The biographies for the nominees to the Board of Directors are attached at the end of the newsletter.

Reminders:

- Send registrations and registration transfers to: Bonnie Hall, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498 (860) 399-4611 johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net
- Send membership applications, dues, and address or email corrections to: Shelly Oswald, 1919 Harrisville Rd, Stoneboro, PA 16153 (814) 786-7687 myorjojr@verizon.net
- Membership dues should be sent in at the first of the year and if not received by the annual meeting, your name will be removed from the breeders and mailing lists and you will not be able to process registrations until the dues are paid.
- Make sure that all checks are made out to: "AMDCA", not to the registrar or membership.
- Direct questions, concerns, requests for information, etc. to Ray Clark at (802) 626-8306. Ray is the primary contact for the association.

Events:

May 9: Annual AMDCA Meeting at the Tunbridge Town Hall 271 Vt Route 110, Tunbridge, Vt.

June 12-14: Oxen in the Blue Ridge: A Driving and Training Workshop at Blue Ridge Farm Museum, Ferrum, VA. Lead instructor - Drew Conroy. Blue Ridge Institute & Museum at 540-365-4412.

http://www.ferrum.edu/campus_life/events/2015_oxen_workshop.html

Notices:

View the video of the 2014 Fall Breeders' Gathering at Maple Breeze Farm on the association website:

http://milkingdevons.org/gathering_2014.html

Hard copies of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association Herdbook Vol 2 (registrations to December 31, 2005) are available here for \$3.49 <http://bit.ly/19crb20>

Hard copies of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association Herdbook Vol 3 (registrations from January 2006 to May 2014) are available here for \$5.25 <http://bit.ly/1blnnhr>

Bookmarks available: Request up to five copies of the bookmark in the same design as the banner used at the Mother Earth News Fair in PA by sending a self addressed stamped envelope (no 10, 4.5 x 9.5) together with one additional “forever” stamp to L Gilley, PO Box 277, Deansboro, NY 13328.



Round Table Discussion at the Annual Meeting

By Shelly Oswald

I was asked to facilitate a discussion at the annual meeting where members can contribute content rather than having a “speaker”. This would be a “live” extension of our “discussion” topics for the newsletter and will provide content for the next newsletter. We have so much information and experience in our membership that this should prove to be an interesting and informative endeavor!

Feeding practices, minerals, basic forage needs of cattle, how to feed to increase milk solids or fluid milk, and overall nutrition for the health and welfare of our beautiful Devons are frequent topics of discussion by new and experienced owners alike. Here is some “food for thought” or some questions we might discuss:

- What percent of body weight do you use to calculate for forage intake when estimating feed requirements?
- Do you keep minerals with your cattle all the time? If so what minerals do you use and why?
- Do you test your forage/feed or hay?
- Do you balance your minerals to your forage? If so, how? Do you use ratios to balance your minerals to your forage?
- What effect does a higher protein or energy diet have on fluid milk or milk solids production?
- Do you feed grain? Why or why not? If you do, what grain?
- How do you manage calf nutrition?
- How much pasture do you recommend per cow/calf pair?

I am sure there are some answers that most of us will agree on and I doubt we will make it through my list let alone any questions that others may have.

If you have any suggestions, questions to be asked or would like to submit some content to be shared at the meeting, you can send it to me at myorjojr@verizon.net, mail it to: Shelly Oswald 1919 Harrisville Rd, Stoneboro, PA 16153 or mail it in with your ballot.



How much milk do you expect to get from a cow and how do you manage milking?

These are member responses to the Discussion Question from the December 2014 newsletter. They are not to be construed as advice, but as another member kindly sharing practices they use on their farm.

Doug Flack, Flack Family Farm, Enosburg, Vermont

Telephonic interview by Lawrence Gilley with Doug Flack February 17, 2015

Newsletter: How many Milking Devon cows do your ordinarily milk?

Doug Flack: two to six cows

NL: On average how much milk do you expect to get from a cow?

Flack: About 25 pounds

NL: In your experience how many months is the useful lactation period?

Flack: It seems to vary with bloodlines. I usually plan to milk from April to mid November, so I don't really know. I milked one thirteen year old cow from March to the 15th of December, when she was giving 10-12 pounds.

NL: How many times a day do you milk?

Flack: Once a day.

NL: Do you plan to milk seasonally?

Flack: Yes. When it turns cold I do not milk.

NL: When you are milking does the calf nurse and share the milk?

Flack: Most years but not always. Last year I sold all of the calves. Beginning at one month of age I separate the calves from the cows I am milking at four in the afternoon. I milk the cows in the morning. However, I learned that the cows then hold back the butter fat for their calves.

NL: Do you milk by hand or machine?

Flack: I milk by machine.

NL: Do you have other people help with the milking?

Flack: It varies. Sometimes I can find someone to milk two days a week so that I can do other things. Only once did I find a woman who was a really experienced milker.

NL: What do you do with the milk?

Flack: There are about 15 families to whom I sell milk. We make some butter and soft cheese.



Kendy Sawyer, HineSite Milking Devons, Fries, VA

I milk two to four Milking Devons, once or twice a day, by hand, all year long. They get 2 months vacation time prior to calving – but no vacations for the milkmaid. The cows are haltered and tied loosely in the corner of a box stall and given a snack of alfalfa pellets. I don't have a stanchion or a head-gate. The occasional "wiggly" first freshener is tied between parallel sections of fence about 30 inches apart to inhibit sideways movement.

My first priority is raising healthy calves. For 6 months the cow and calf spend at least half their time together in the herd.

All cows give milk on a curve with peak production occurring between 6 and 8 weeks fresh (after calving) to coincide with the calves' greatest need. First fresheners (first time moms) are 3 years old at my house they give about 1 gallon per day through their lactation in addition to feeding calves for 6 months.

My 4 year old cows give as much as 2 gallons at one milking in early lactation, in addition to feeding their calves. I generally expect an average of a gallon and in late lactation I am sometimes satisfied with ½ gallon. When I wean the calves I'll get more milk, which gradually tapers down. I have kept cows milking as long as 16 months when switching from spring to fall calving. The big difference in the milk after weaning is that I get the cream. Cream is the last part of the milk to let down from the udder and these momma cows hold a lot of it back to feed their babies.

Devons' production is said to peak between their 7th and 9th year of age. I have found it easier to train young cows so far. I've bought several older cows that will be freshening soon – I am hoping to collect data along with milk.

I am willing to accept that the diet I prefer for the cows' milk and beef quality may place a practical limit on the quantity of milk and the rate of growth we obtain. My goal is the best not the most. They eat fescue-clover pasture, third cutting alfalfa hay, poor fescue hay, vegetables (pumpkins or turnips), and alfalfa pellets. I currently offer Thorvin kelp and Redmond salt (no added calcium or magnesium). No grain, no protein tubs, no commodities.

I manage occasional days off – the calves are happy to milk for me. Once the calves are weaned I beg or bribe friends to milk.



Dan and Alice Singletary, Highland Hollow Farm, Jefferson, New York

I really appreciate you asking about our milking the cows. Alice and I still are plodding along building a milking parlor and only milking the cows in informal, makeshift stalls at times in tandem with the cow's calf.

We think that a parlor of some design or another except herringbone if the cows have horns is the best way to get the cows out of the field, milked and back chewing up the grass in the shortest possible time. We bought a used parallel parlor that was popular before the turn of the century and have a building built for it. A parallel parlor in our mind is idea for cows with horns since the operator can let in and out one cow at a time and horns are then not an issue.

How much milk a Milking Devon gives is really an unanswerable question on the face of it. Just take a look at the DHI Test in the Country Folks. Individual farms have significantly different production due mostly to genetics, obviously Holsteins give more milk than a Jersey and our cows would be expected to produce at the lower end of the milking cow list.

Furthermore, grass based cows can be expected to produce less milk than those that are being fed a selected diet geared to milk production. Some farmers claim that their milk production did not fall off appreciably when they switched to all grass. I will bet those cows were grazing a high percentage legume forage and not the volunteer grasses on the back forty that most of our Milking Devons are offered.

All that said Alice and I believe that is not the whole story. The question to be asked is not "What is the quantity?", but rather "What is the quality of the milk from a Milking Devon?". We believe that the milk from a Milking Devon is a superior milk because of it's components and composition for the manufacture of dairy products. Now of course you add another dimension to the equation, the talent of the maker of the products. But don't be shied away, milk your cow and make some butter and cheese. Then you will know why we love these animals as did the settlers and farmers many years ago.

Tom and Krystal Beers, Highland Glenn Ranch, Washington

We 100% grass feed our AMD milk cow, Colette, and I calf-share so only milk once per day, separating the calf overnight for milking in the morning. Colette gives 1 gallon of milk per day. She is not truly halter trained, so at milking time she and I go to where the calf is and she stands very well while I milk. This is done out in the paddock, not under shelter, so that is one area I greatly desire to change sooner rather than later so I can stay out of the weather! I have been milking by hand partly because we live off-grid, but extreme pain in my hands is moving me toward getting a milking machine soon. That's okay, as long as we can have our incredibly delicious, sweet, Milking Devon milk!

Advanced Registry

by Lawrence Gilley

The American Devon Record, Volume 9, 1937, and Volume 10, 1947 contain an "Advanced Registry Section." Three bulls and 28 cows are registered as advanced in Volume 9. Eighteen cows were registered in Volume 10.

The registry provided several different levels of advancement. For example,

To qualify for Class A registration a three-year-old cow would have to produce 287 pounds of butter fat. If the cow produces 297 pounds of butter fat and carries a calf for 265 days in the year she is tested, she qualifies for Class AA.

To qualify for Class B registration, a three-year-old cow would have to produce 5,905 pounds of milk while carrying a calf for 265 days in the testing period. If that cow produces 5,905 pounds of milk, carries a calf, and, in addition, produces 227 pounds of butterfat, she is qualified to be registered as Class BB.

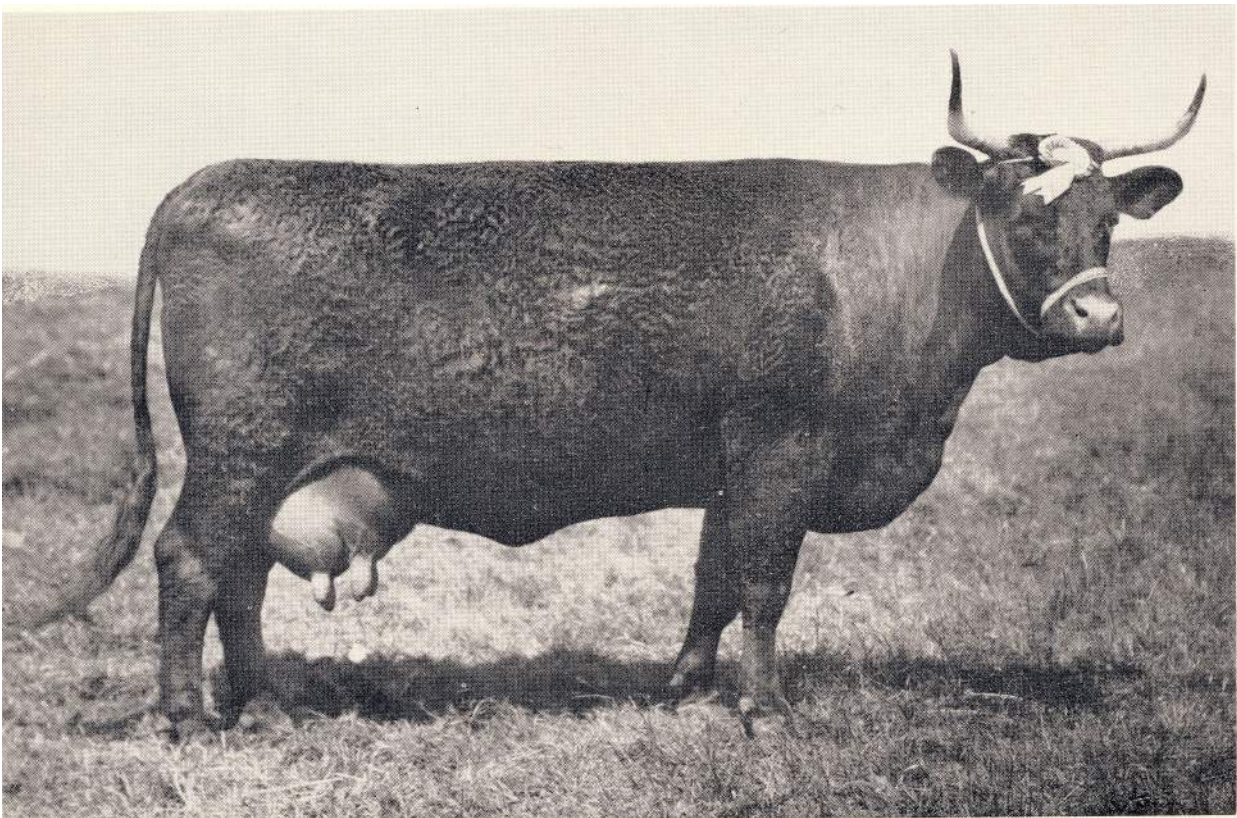
A bull qualified for entry in the Advanced Registry when the bull had two daughters from different cows, that had successfully passed advanced registry requirements.

It is clear that the American Devon Cattle Club in 1937, and at least for 10 years afterwards, was concerned with the dairy qualities of Devons and that it defined "advanced" cows firstly in terms of butter fat production and secondly in terms of milk production. The purpose of the registry must have been to identify cows with dairy qualities and to preserve, facilitate and encourage the dairy capacity of Devons.

Examples:

Marigold 17905, Class AA, aged 2 years, 5 months produced 7,392.9 pounds milk, 4.476%, 329.890 pounds butterfat.

Laurel 18004, Class BB, aged 3 years, 6 months, produced 6,619.4 pounds milk, 4.41%, 291.84 pounds butterfat.



Devon Dairy Cow

The Devon Cattle Book

American Devon Cattle Club, 1920

The Devon cow carries a moderate sized udder when in milk, so free from flesh that when dry it shrinks nearly all away. Their teats are large and good length and set well apart. Their milk is easily drawn, they are persistent milkers of fair quantity that will average to test about 5% butter fat.

The claim for the Devon is, that for the feed consumed, they will produce as much or more milk of a high percent of butter fat as other breeds.

They cannot be forced to make so large records as some of the coarser and more angular breeds; neither do they require so much food. Our best butter and milk record from Devon dairies vary from 40 to 54 lbs of milk per day, 14 to 21 lbs of butter per week, 6,000 to 12,000 lbs of milk per year, 300 to 500 lbs of butter per year. We have record of 15 to 17 lbs of butter per week on grass alone. The analysis of Devon milk show it to contain 14 per cent solids – 5 per cent are butter fat and 9 per cent other solids, viz., Lacin 4 ½ percent, and salts ¾ per cent. In other words, as much fat as the Jersey, as much casein as the Ayrshire and more sugar than either. Hence the fat globules rise more slowly than in the more watery milk of other breeds. This suspension of the fat globules, relatively large proportion of casein and especially the lacin or sugar of milk makes this milk the best known for human nourishment.

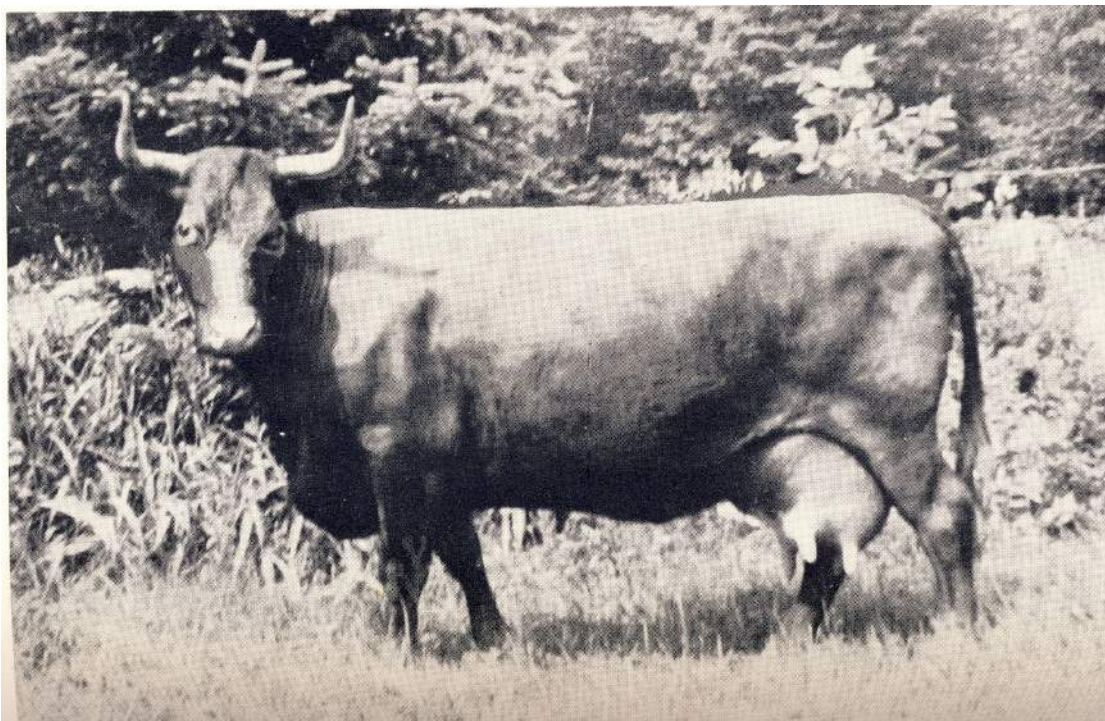
It is much esteemed by physicians for babies and invalids, as the Jersey has too much oil, the Holstein too much cheese, while the Devon has more sugar and nutritive value.

From a pamphlet published by the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society of England we have copied the following note:

During the past half century the type of Devon has much changed. The small symmetrical bullock has give place to a much larger animal, yet retaining all the best points of the smaller cattle. As milkers, the old type of cow has been improved on, and today there are numerous dairies composed entirely of Devons, especially in Dorsetshire, where the cows are let to Dairymen and prices up to 30 Pounds per cow.

In 1913, at the Royal Show at Bristol, a Devon cow gave the greatest quantity of milk of any breed, and the quality was highly commended.

(The Devon Cattle Book can be found on the website at <http://www.milkingdevons.org/hist005.html>)



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Ray's Corner

Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark.

“Always tie the cow before handling the calf for your own safety.”

“Remember to dip your calf’s navel in 7% iodine to eliminate coliform that can travel up the navel and kill the calf.”

Recommended readings:

“Feeds and Feeding” by F.B. Morrison
<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924002927238>

“Merck Veterinary Manual”

<http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/index.html>

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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.

It's Election Time

This year we have two directors running for re-election, and one retirement vacancy to fill. In addition, nominations have been received from three members. The biographies of all five are provided below. Ballots will be mailed shortly to all members in good standing. If you haven't paid your 2014 dues, please pay up immediately in order to receive a ballot.

Bruce Farr (nominee)

I was born and raised on an Ayrshire dairy farm in New Hampshire and have raised Milking Devons for the past thirty years. Professionally, I have been an instructor of Vocational Agriculture and an FFA advisor for Forty years. I currently I am a Career and Technical School Principal and operate a small farm with twenty Devons , selling both breed stock and forage crops.

I believe the Devon breed is unique in its ability to serve the small farm niche market. It's triple purpose and hardy breed characteristics make it an ideal animal for farms wanting a profitable bovine as part of their operation. The Association needs to continue to support both the long time breeders and the new generation of farmers discovering this wonderful animal.

Joe Janowski (Director)

I was born in 1966 at the Little Rock Air Force base in Jacksonville, AR and raised in the country in a small town in central AR. Growing up, I spent a lot of time with my father on constructions sites helping with automated control systems installation. I'm a licensed electrician, certified project manager & hobby chef. I was in the service (active and reserve) for 16 years stationed at Fort Gordon, GA, West Point, NY & Fort Huachuca, AZ. I've traveled to Germany, Korea, Japan, Italy, UK, Amsterdam & Mexico.

Six years ago we moved to a farm near Springfield, MO to get back to our roots. Our desire to produce quality grass fed meat and passion to help sustain heritage breeds led us to the American Milking Devon. We're currently in the growth phase of our operation with the intent of replacing our commercial cows with the Devon over time. We have 8 cows, 2 heifers, 2 calves and 2 bulls in addition to our commercial cows.

Jeremy Michaud (Director)

Jeremy Michaud resides in East Hardwick, VT with his wife Leslie and their four young boys Lincoln, Gabriel, Morgan and Dawson. 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 also owns and operates Kingdom Creamery of Vermont LLC an on-farm dairy processing plant that processes the farms milk into super premium ice cream, non-fat yogurt and a variety of other dairy products, marketed through-out New England in both retail and wholesale locations. Jeremy and Leslie own and manage twelve rental units and Lock & Go self storage, a business with over sixty five rental units at the present time. Jeremy is a member of the Knights of Columbus, National Holstein Association, Vermont Farm Bureau, Vermont Specialty Foods Association and the Farm Fresh Network.

Jeremy's interest in breeding cattle expanded beyond Holsteins with the initial purchase of two American Milking Devon heifers in 2005. 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, local fairs and education efforts relating to the breed are important. More Devons need to be milked to promote the value of the Devon as a heritage 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. Jeremy's knowledge of sales and marketing offers connections to valuable resources that the association could utilize in promoting the breed.

Dexter E. Randall (Nominee)

This is a short Biography of my life's interests in agriculture and why my interest in Milking Devon cattle. First off I am a lifetime dairy farmer owning a 480 acre farm in Troy Vermont; 115 milking, mostly Holstein cows plus 135 replacement animals, all Certified Organic.

Raised on a small hillside farm in Lyndon Vermont, a farm that was settled by my ancestors in 1799. Traditionally they used both horses and oxen. My dad was a great ox teamster and his most favorite team was a pair of Devons, Buck and Bright. Along with several men they logged winters on Wheelock and Stannard mountains.

Dad was quick to tell that they were easy to break and all around a good work team. He always talked about how the Devon cattle were the popular breed to provide meat, milk and animal power for the early settlers to homestead and clear the hills of New England.

There has been a renewed interest in homesteading and people wanting a more sustainable food system and the Milking Devon is the perfect breed for that idealist lifestyle, being a triple purpose breed.

I have farmed all my life, served two terms in the House of Representatives in Montpelier and am now retired and would like to do my part to advance the American Milking Devon Cattle.

Thomas H. Slater (Nominee)

Thomas Slater has recently retired from a career in criminal justice to what used to be his grandfather's 130 acre farm in Central Bridge, New York. The farm is named Patriot's Retreat Heritage Farm to reflect Tom's interest in all things related to American history. His retirement goal is to open his Heritage Farm to the public, with American Milking Devons as the centerpiece of various heritage breeds established on the farm.

Tom comes from a heritage of farming on both sides of his family. After years of raising unregistered cattle, Tom purchased his first three Devons in 2007 and has grown the herd to 23 animals as of the end of 2014. Maintaining genetic diversity in the domesticated animal population is a key interest of Tom's and American Milking Devon's have been on ALBC's Critical list for many years. These two facts, in addition to the major role American Milking Devon cattle played in early American history, made them a logical choice for Tom's farm. In addition to an already established maple business, Tom and his wife Gina are also considering the establishment of a micro-dairy on their farm to produce and promote various Devon dairy products.

Given his recent retirement, Tom has time to devote to the Board of Directors. He is interested in promoting genetic diversity within the breed and maintaining the historical triple purpose breed. Tom has a bachelor's degree with double majors in biology and history, including some education in genetics. Additionally, he is enthusiastic about educating the public about the historic role of these beautiful animals and the value they still hold for families and farms today. Visitors to the farm are always regaled with stories of the historical significance of the American Milking Devon and the precarious position in which their survival still remains.