

## 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.-- Diurna Kibbe***



### **IT'S CARD GRADING TIME**

**The Audience Sees Ruby Red While the Judges See Blue  
Photo Courtesy of Gina Slater**

## FEATURE ARTICLE: CARD GRADING-A TOOL FOR IMPROVING YOUR HERD

(Article Prepared by Editor Thomas Slater; Pictures courtesy of Thomas and Gina Slater and Bonnie Hall)

What is Card Grading? Simply put it is a method utilized to measure an animal against the Breed Standard. This method can be applied to various types of livestock as long as there is a Standard to measure against. The purpose of measuring livestock is to assess their potential as breeding stock. Card Grading, applied to a group of animals, such as a farmer's entire herd, exposes the strengths and weaknesses of the herd and enables the farmer to put a breeding plan together that improves the herd. One of the major differences between Card Grading and



Competitive Showing is that in Card Grading all of the animals get graded, while generally, in showing, only the top placed animals get ribbons. Card Grading, done by color and explained later, is best used in conjunction with pedigree analysis to develop a breeding program.

The Livestock Conservancy held its Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9-12, 2017 and invited the AMDCA to participate in a Card Grading exercise. The AMDCA Board of Directors thought it was a great idea that it could pair

**Left: AMD at Grading Event, Right: Curious herd, Colonial Williamsburg**

with its own Fall Gathering. Card Grading is accomplished with a team of three or four breed specialists, who must agree on the grade given to each animal. The Williamsburg Card Grading exercise utilized three judges with breed experience totaling over 150 years. The judges were John L. Hall III from Connecticut, President of the AMDCA; Bruce Farr, from New Hampshire, a Director of the AMDCA; and Jeremy Engh, from Virginia, Board Member and Treasurer of the Red Devon USA cattle association. All of the judges were familiar with the American Milking Devon Breed Standard and the Scale of Points used to judge the cows.



The Breed Standard is a narrative description of the attributes that an animal of that breed should exemplify. However, as John Hall stated at the exercise, "there is no such thing as a perfect cow." The Scale of Points is the weightings given to the individual characteristics of the Breed Standard indicating their relative importance.



These points add up to a hundred for a perfect cow. For example, Director Ray Clark states that the scale points for the udder in a strictly dairy breed is near 50 out of a hundred points, whereas, for the triple-purpose Devon, the scale points for the udder is only 20 out of a hundred points. Breed Standards can vary significantly from one breed to another, so it is important that anyone judging the animals be very familiar with the breed being examined.

**LEFT: AMDCA Directors at the Card Grading Event: Andrew Van Ord, Bruce Farr, Thomas Slater and AMDCA President John L. Hall III**

In Card Grading animals are not compared to each other, but only to the breed standard. In the show ring, in addition to being classified in show categories, they are also compared to each other, with the best specimens receiving awards. (For more information on showing cattle see Ray's Corner in this newsletter edition.) Allowances are made for age and sex in Card Grading, but condition and presentation are not factors for evaluation. When grading a group of animals there is no expectation that the

## FEATURE ARTICLE CONTINUED

animals will be evenly distributed across the grading colors. Theoretically they could all be graded the same color.

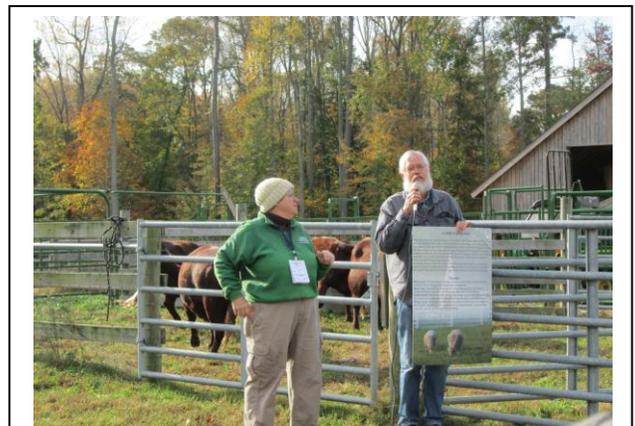
During the Card Grading procedure, each animal is brought into the space provided and moved around the ring so the judges can view the animal in motion and from all angles. The space for the grading should be large enough for the judges and the cow to casually move about. It's also best to not have too much bedding or sawdust on the ground that could obscure the feet.

Standard of Excellence and Scale of Points of Devon Cow	
From the American Devon Record Book, 1926	
HEAD moderately long, with a broad indented Forehead, tapering considerably towards the Nostrils; the Nose of creamy-white, the Nostrils high and open, the Jaws clean, the Eye bright, lively and prominent; Throat clean, Ears thin, the Expression being gentle and intelligent; Horns matching, long, spreading, and gradually turned up, of waxy color, tipped with a darker shade.	10
NECK of medium length, growing from the Head to the shoulders, and spreading out to meet them.	4
WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping and well covered.	6
RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep and fully developed.	8
BACK straight and level from the Withers, to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, Hips of medium width and on a level with the Back.	12
RUMPS moderately long and level.	8
HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick and square.	10
UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed.	20
TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with a brush of strong hair, reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the back.	5
THE UNDER LINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top.	6
LEGS straightly and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking.	5
SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; white about the Udder is admissible, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks or any other part of the Limbs or Body.	6
Perfection	100

The Card Grading event was hosted by Elaine Shirley of Colonial Williamsburg. The Livestock Conservancy and AMDCA were also sponsors. The day before the grading event, President John Hall, Registrar Bonnie Hall, Director Bruce Farr, Director Thomas Slater, and Gina Slater had found the Devon herd on the grounds of Colonial Williamsburg and were admiring them when Colonial Williamsburg staff arrived to select out a few and move them to the By-Pass Facility where the event was to be held. A lot of interest was stirred up in the herd as they loaded the four cows they selected on an open-top trailer, which is fairly common to the warmer climates (see related picture).

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Elaine Shirley representing Colonial Williamsburg, greeted about 60 guests, introduced the three judges and explained the Card Grading process. D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D., representing the Livestock Conservancy, also provided some opening remarks on the event and on Milking Devons in general. The Milking Devons were graded in the morning followed by a sheep grading event as soon as the Devons were finished.

The first cow was let into the ring and the judges spent considerable time looking over the animal independently and then they conferred together to come up with a grade. The cow was not on a lead and had freedom of movement, and in fact, was encouraged to move around. While this process is similar to that used in a show ring, much more time is granted to the judges to examine the cows and explain their findings to the audience. Four cows were examined over a period of one and a half to two hours. The judges were applying the Breed Standard to all aspects of the cow, with each judge taking a specific characteristic: beef, dairy and draft. When they were finished making their decisions, they each took turns commenting on what they saw in the various parts of the cow: the head, neck, withers, ribs, back, rump, hind-quarters, udder, tail, the under line, legs and skin. While not every part was discussed for every cow, the judges emphasized the strengths and weakness of each cow. When the judges were done commenting on each cow they gave it a Color Grade. There are four possible Grades. The **Blue Card** is the best Grade and it is given to *"An excellent breeding animal conforming to breed*



Elaine Shirley of Colonial Williamsburg and Phil Sponenberg of the Livestock Conservancy

*standard and free from any genetically based unsoundness.” The **Red Card** is given to “A good breeding animal which shows most of the breed characteristics and is free from genetically based unsoundness.” The **Yellow Card** is given to “an acceptable, average breeding animal with no disqualifying deviations from breed standard or genetically based unsoundness.” Finally, the dreaded **White Card** is given to “An unacceptable breeding animal which does not conform to breed standard, is of another breed, or is genetically unsound.*

*These animals should not be used for pure breeding.”*

**President John L. Hall III, Director Bruce Farr, Registrar Bonnie Hall and Richard Larson**



As it turned out, one cow was assigned a Blue Card, two were assigned Red Cards, and one was assigned a White Card. While the Blue and Red Card cows were acceptable within the Breed Standard, the cow issued the White Card had a black nose. It was the first black-nosed American Milking Devon I had seen. The Breed Standard calls for a “nose of creamy white.” When breeding Milking Devons, it’s important to consider both purity and Breed Standard. Jeremy Engh, one of the judges for the event and a Board Member for the Red Devon USA Association, explained the importance of considering both in an article he prepared

for their Association.<sup>1</sup>

Jeremy writes, “*Sometimes in the Devon breed an animal is born with a black nose, a white spot on its side, or a black tail.*” (And I would add no horns in the case of some AMDS). Engh goes on to give some possible explanations for the variations, some of which he has heard about but cannot verify. He comments, “*There is no question that over time breeders have made mistakes and some less committed breeders have probably been dishonest or poor record keepers. This along with some honest mistakes, has led to impure animals in our gene pool.*” Regarding Breed Standards, Jeremy writes, “*Our breed standards were set up centuries ago and with a noble purpose. The founders of our breed intended to keep our bloodlines pure and to improve the breed through the use of animals that breed true. What this (breeding true) means is that an animal’s offspring are uniform and typical in color and conformation to the rest of the breed.*”

Regarding the black nose Jeremy states, “*Regardless of how the black nose or white spot got there, the simple fact is that if a purebred Devon animal has one of these marks, it does not meet the breed standard and should not have a registration paper.*” On breeder responsibility Jeremy writes, “*...in a large country such as ours there’s no way to inspect animals before allowing registration as it is done in England. So, it remains the responsibility of the breeders to only register animals meeting the breed*



**Cow listening to herself being graded by the judges. Judges from Left: Bruce Farr, Jeremy Engh and John L. Hall III**

*standards and to only keep those animals in production that produce offspring doing the same.”*



**The Van Ord Family at the Card Grading Event  
Andrew, Kathy and Lily**

In addition to Card Grading, which can help in choosing the best cows for breeding, Jeremy offers five recommendations to assist breeders in making breed quality a standard. *“First, keep records on who produces what. Secondly, make notations on the animals that achieve the set goals and those that don’t. Thirdly, cull animals from the herd who do not achieve the desired performance. Fourth, do not collect semen from or flush embryos from any animals less than five years of age that have not proven to be top producers. Fifth, do not use a bull that has not been performance tested or that you have not seen progeny out of.”*

It was the consensus of those in attendance that the Card Grading event was highly educational and very worthwhile. It’s another tool Devon breeders can utilize to improve their herds. The AMDCA would like to thank Colonial Williamsburg and the Livestock Conservancy for co-sponsoring this event. We would also like to thank the judges for sharing their expertise with those in attendance.

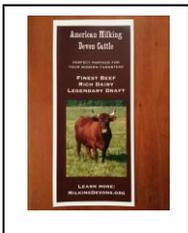
<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Engh, “Purity vs. Breed Standards,” Red Devon USA. Quotes used by permission.

### **DEVONS WIN BEST MATCH TEAM AND BEST OVERALL TEAM OUT OF 115 PAIRS**



This is a picture of American Milking Devon Team Duke and Dan at Fryeburg Fair this past fall with all their winnings, the team is 2 yrs. old. They won both best match team and best overall team out of 115 pairs exhibiting at the fair this past year, and won best overall team out of 135 pairs in 2016. Also pictured from left to right are Kim and Mark Winslow, and daughter Marissa Winslow, who showed them at the fair. Mark has been showing cattle at Fryeburg since 1970. The Winslow family/ Marston Homestead showed a total of 4 pairs this past show season, (3 pairs of Devons and 1 pair of devon/holstein cross).

(Article and picture courtesy of Mark Winslow)



**Brochures Available-** 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.

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON RARE BREEDS AND THE AMERICAN MILKING DEVON** (Article and pictures courtesy of Richard Larson)



**OGF Virginia Cornelia Exhibited By Rachel Cooper**

The 2017 Virginia State Fair proved once again to be an excellent opportunity to inform hundreds of fair goers about the conservation of rare breeds in general and the rich history of American Milking Devon in particular. The smile on young children's faces as they confidently pet the Devon calves; the wonderment in the voices of adults when they learn that Milking Devons have been in North America since 1623; and the rush of enthusiasm by the select few visitors who are considering investing in a "family" cow, are some of the reasons why exhibiting Milking Devon at the Virginia State Fair is such a rich experience.

Kendy Sawyer said it well, "...so many people can see that there are still cows suitable for small own-feeding families. Finding a breed that suits their needs and also allows them to participate in conserving the genetics represented by the Devon was exciting to many visitors." Felicity Hart spent her time tirelessly talking to children of all ages and adults, encouraging them to get closer to pet Snowflake and Sunshine. She was a great AMD Ambassador!



**Hinesite Hartburn Snowflake Exhibited By Felicity Hart**

The 2017 results for the All Other Breeds division:

Youth

Junior Champion Female – Hartburn Farm Sunshine, Felicity Hart

Senior Champion Female – Hinesite Hartburn Snowflake, Felicity Hart



**Mercy of National Colonial Farm Exhibited By Rachel Cooper**

Open

Junior Champion Female – OGF Virginia Cornelia, Richard Larson

Junior Reserve Champion Female – Hartburn Farm Sunshine, Felicity Hart

Senior Champion Female – Mercy of National Colonial Farm, Richard Larson

Senior Reserve Champion Female – Hinesite Hartburn Snowflake, Felicity Hart

Grand Champion Female – Mercy of National Colonial Farm, Richard Larson

Based on the increased AMD breeder participation at the 2017 Fair, the Fair has agreed to establish an American Milking Devon Division for the 2018 Fair. This decision puts AMD on equal footing with Holsteins, Jerseys and Brown Swiss.

### **AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE (Continued)**

The AMD Board of Directors, in a strong showing of support, has authorized a Regional AMD show to be held in conjunction with, and as part of, the 2018 Virginia State Fair. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beloved AMD stock. (More details will be provided in future newsletters.) I hope the 2017 breeders' enthusiasm will be contagious and we will see many more AMD breeders joining us at the 2018 AMD Regional Show at the Fair on September 27 – 30, 2018.



**Felicity Hart and Sunshine Engaging the Public**

### **THE HISTORICAL DEVON**

This article and engraving comes from *THE AMERICAN FARMER: A Complete Agricultural Library* Volume 2, © 1883. Pages 14-23. Edited by Charles L Flint (*Article and Picture courtesy of Lawrence Gilley*)  
 Editor's Note: Due to the length of this article it will be presented in several parts over the next several newsletters.

#### **PART 1: DEVONS**

THESE beautiful cattle date back to great antiquity; in fact, there is no well established breed in this country or England that dates back so far. It is claimed by some writers that they were known in England at the time of the Roman invasion. Be this as it may, their origin is involved in obscurity, and the blood of no other known breed can be traced in them. They are of beautiful form and color, admirably adapted to hilly countries and scant pasturage, as well as combining the three distinctive qualities of milk production, beef, and labor. The chief objection to them seems to be in their small size. In the latter respect different families vary considerably. Those of the southern part of the county from which the breed derives its name are large in size, and their bones and muscles of coarser texture than those of the northern portion, while their aptitude to fatten is less, although they possess superior milking qualities.

The portion of this country in which this breed is most numerous, is perhaps New England and some of the middle States, although it is quite extensively disseminated in some of the Western and Southern States. In a special article written expressly for this work, Hon. J. Buckingham of Ohio says:

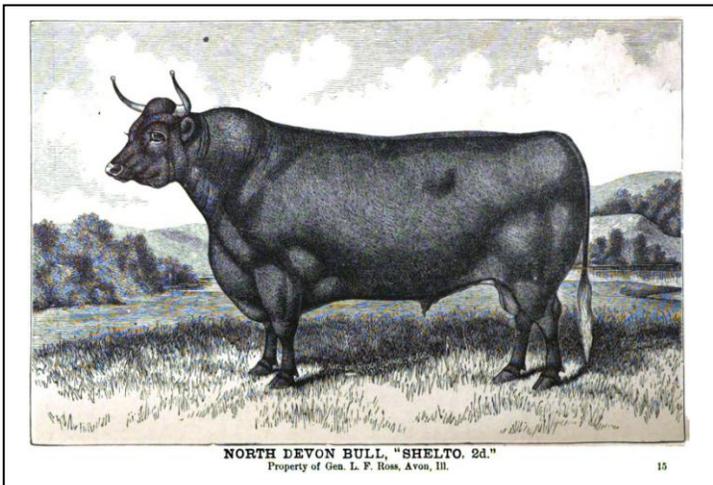
In all his points the Devon is the finest formed and most blood-like of cattle. He is to his congeners what the Arabian is to other horses.

Goodale defines the difference between a race and breed as follows: Races are varieties moulded to their peculiar type by natural causes, with no interference of man, and no inter mixture of other varieties; that have continued substantially the same for a period beyond which the memory and knowledge of man does not reach. Such are the North Devon Cattle.

By breeds are understood such varieties as were originally produced by a cross or mixture, and subsequently established by selecting for breeding purposes only the best specimens and rejecting all others. In process of time deviations become less frequent, and greater uniformity was secured, and this is in proportion to the time which elapses, and the skill employed.

Writers on cattle divide them into three varieties; the Short-Horn, originally found in northern and eastern counties of England; the Middle-Horns in the western and southern parts, and the Long-Horned in the midland counties, and in Ireland; all agreeing that the 'Middle-Horned,' of which the Devons form one variety, are descendants of the aboriginal breed of Great Britain.

## PART 1: DEVONS CONTINUED:



The North Devons (commonly called Devons) are a race of cattle indigenous to the county in England from whence they take their name, where from time immemorial they have reigned alone, admired for their beautiful red coats, elegant form, good disposition, active gait, and also for their strong vitality, as is shown in their power of reproducing their own form, color, and general characteristics in their progeny or their grades. The country and climate had much to do in the muscular development and constitutional vigor, which are so naturally fixed and perfected that crossing with any other breed would be more likely to injure them than improve them.

Originating centuries ago, when the wild grasses afforded them scant feed, it necessitated continued exercise in hunting for and gathering their subsistence. By such natural exercise continued through many generations, the muscles of the breed have been developed and rendered compact, and their bones solidified, till each bears a due proportion to the other, and both to the size of the body in all its parts, producing a form of the most beautiful symmetry.

The bulls, on an average, weigh from 1,600 to 1,800 pounds, though. When transferred to our rich valleys of blue-grass pastures and corn, not unfrequently reach 2,000 to 2,200 pounds.”

### ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

**GRACE PERIOD ENDS-NEW CATTLE REGISTRATION POLICIES NOW IN EFFECT:** At the 2016 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:

- **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.

**Call For Nominations**

Nominations are now being accepted for the position of Director (member of the Board of Directors) for the term May 2018 through May 2021. 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 the Association hosts one or more Regional Gatherings 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 three Incumbent Directors expire this year. All three Incumbents, Bruce Farr, Jeremy Michaud, and Dexter Randall are seeking re-election.

If you wish to put a name in nomination, please submit the following information not later than Friday, February 9th, 2018 to John L. Hall III, AMDCA President, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT, 06498; or e-mail [johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net](mailto:johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net) :

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.

**IMPORTANT!! TWO NEW FORMS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ALSO AVAILABLE IN FILLABLE FORMAT ON THE AMDCA WEBSITE**

**Membership Form- 2018 Membership Dues Now Due-** For your convenience a membership form is attached to 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 current year dues.

3. Junior Members, a category open to those under 18 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 1<sup>st</sup> of each year will not receive an election ballot.

**New Registration Form-** Due to the changes in Registration Policy, a new Registration Form has been created and approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the new form is attached for your convenience. **Old forms will not be accepted and registrations on old forms will be returned.**

**Forms are available in regular and fillable format on the AMDCA Website :**

<http://www.milkingdevons.org/forms.html>

***FALL GATHERING IN VIRGINIA***—The American Milking Devon Cattle Association held a *FALL GATHERING* in conjunction with the Livestock Conservancy's Annual Heritage Livestock Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia this past November. Twelve individuals gathered at the Fort Magruder Conference Center with four Directors to discuss topics of interest. President John Hall and Registrar Bonnie Hall attended from Connecticut; Director Bruce Farr attended from New Hampshire; Director Andrew Van Ord, his wife Kathy and daughter Lily attended from Pennsylvania; and Director Thomas Slater and his wife Gina attended from New York. Others in attendance included Richard Larson, Jeremy Engh, Dea Keen and Jeff Martyn from Virginia; David Sperling and Pauline Messenger from New York; Alison Martin from the Livestock Conservancy and Jenifa

Musselman. President Hall led the discussion as the Directors sought the input of members and others in attendance on a number of topics including the possibility of expanding the Association semen bank (see related paragraph on the semen bank), the pros and cons of DNA typing and increasing membership participation through the development of regional groups.



**President John L. Hall III and Director Andrew Van Ord**



**From Left: Jeremy Engh, Director Bruce Farr, Richard Larson and Director Thomas Slater**

participation. The proposal is included at the end of this newsletter for your

perusal. Please contact any one or all of the Directors with your ideas and comments on this proposal and your willingness to participate. Director Slater presented the proposal for the development of Regional Groups which are intended to increase the opportunities for membership

perusal. Please contact any one or all of the Directors with your ideas and comments on this proposal and your willingness to participate. Director contact information is also included toward the end of the newsletter. Richard Larson shared his vision for a Regional American Milking Devon Cattle Show to be held in conjunction with the Virginia State Fair. He was seeking support from the Association for this idea. See related article in this newsletter for more information. Jeremy Engh, a Board Member and Treasurer of the beef Devon association Red Devon USA, shared his experience with DNA typing and cattle registration issues. He would like to strengthen the relationship between the two Associations and invited attendees and other AMDCA Members to participate in a mini-farm tour to be held in 2018 as well as the World Devon Congress to be held in 2024.



**Right side of room**



**Left side of room**

**Semen Bank**- The Board of Directors has asked Ray Clark to head up a committee to explore the possibility of drawing additional bulls for the Semen Bank of the Association. If you have a bull that you think would be valuable to draw, or you know of one, please contact Ray. This could yield several thousand dollars over a period of time for the owner of the bull, while retaining bull ownership, if the bull meets the criteria. The Association would pay all related expenses, including testing of the bull. The bull's owner would receive a percentage of the income from the sale of the semen. The committee would like a picture of the bull, the bull's pedigree and his registration number. Ray's contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. The other committee members are Dr. Steve Burton and Shannon Rice-Nichols. The Directors would like to bring this issue to a close, so if you have a suggestion please contact Director Clark **by the end of January 2018**.

**Member Participation**- Some members have expressed a desire to participate in Association business more actively, but feel limited by their geographic location and the expense of traveling to Tunbridge, Vermont. At the request of the membership to address this issue, the Directors have developed a proposal for Regional Standing Committees. The draft proposal is included toward the end of this newsletter. Please contact any Director or all of them with any ideas or comments you may have. The Director contact information is included toward the end 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. Website activity statistics for 2017 were quite impressive. For the months of October, November, and December there were 972, 935 and 868 visits to the website respectively. For the same three months there were 669, 634 and 579 visitors per month respectively. Sixty (60) percent of the visitors in October had not viewed the website prior, while fifty-nine (59) percent and fifty-six (56) percent of the viewership in November and December, respectively, had not viewed the website before. The statistics indicate that the For Sale page(s) continue to be among the most frequently viewed. The Board encourages you to use the 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.

**Buying Registered Cattle**- It has come to the attention of the Association that some AMD buyers are not receiving their transfer registration papers in a timely fashion as the result of sellers not submitting the appropriate paperwork to the Registrar. Some of these buyers reach out to the Association to seek assistance in rectifying the situation. The Association, however, has no authority to intervene in this type of situation. The buyer and seller should discuss the transfer paperwork **prior to the sale being completed**, and if at all possible, the buyer should receive a copy of the paperwork the seller is forwarding to the Registrar at the time the cattle are physically transferred. A potential buyer could contact the Registrar prior to a purchase to ascertain whether a seller actively registers cattle. No personal information beyond "YES THEY ACTIVELY REGISTER CATTLE" or "NO THEY HAVEN'T ACTIVELY REGISTERED CATTLE" regarding a seller will be given out by the Registrar. In order to maintain the integrity of our breed registry, the Registrar cannot register animals without the proper paperwork.

### **EVENTS YOU JUST SHOULDN'T MISS**

- **AMDCA ANNUAL MEETING**- The Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association will be held on **Saturday May 12th, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Tunbridge Town Hall, in Tunbridge, Vermont. In addition to the regular annual business, there will be elections for Directors. All members are strongly encouraged to attend as many policy issues are discussed and decided at the Annual Meeting. Membership determines policy at the Annual Meeting that is subsequently implemented by the Board of Directors.

**Ray's Corner- On Showing Cattle**  
Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

Ray has shown cattle all his life and has experience showing regular dairy cattle as well as the triple-purpose breed American Milking Devon (AMD). While some of the showing elements are the same for AMDs, dairy and beef cows, there are some differences. The requirements for the AMDs are as follows:

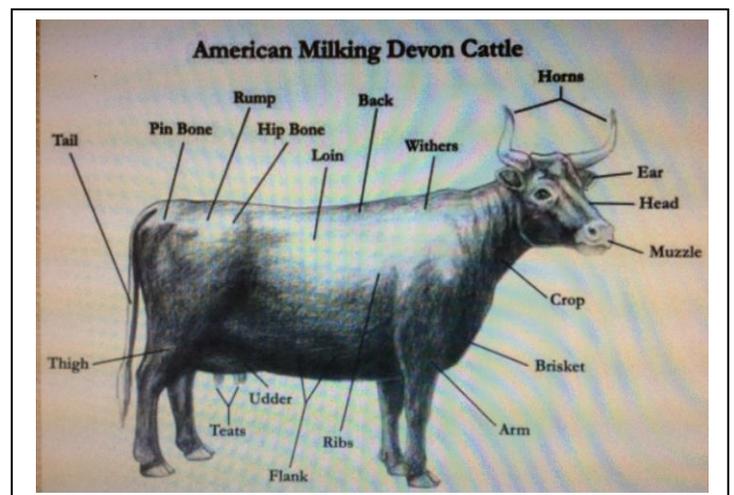
1. AMDs are not clipped for showing.
2. AMDs shown are required to have horns.
3. The cattle must be properly displayed when shown.
4. The cattle must be clean, washed and brushed.
5. The tail must be clean and well-brushed, fluffed up.

Ray indicates that the Breed Standard for the AMD differs in some substantial ways from dairy or beef cows. One example is



the udder. In a Scale of Points (See Feature article), the udder of a dairy cow is generally assigned 50 points on a 100 point scale, while on an AMD the udder is assigned 20 points. So it is important for a showman to completely understand and breed to the Breed Standard and show cattle that rank high on the Scale of Points. Another major difference between judging dairy and AMD cattle has to do with classification. Dairy cows are often classified into categories through breed association programs. In some breeds this categorization is not permanent until the cow reaches 5 years of age. When shown, a dairy cow competes within its own category. AMDs do not have this type of classification scheme.

Ray says the show is a sales promotion. It's a great way to sell cattle and introduce new breeders, so it's always best to put your best foot forward. To do so Ray recommends Hoard's Dairyman. They have many different things available that can help anyone getting ready for a show. Their website <https://hoards.com/> contains a bookstore that has books available regarding fitting and showing. They also have articles, blogs, and videos related to all aspects of showing. Some of the videos available on the site in a series called Showring Ready are: *What to Wear and How to Act*; *Appearance of Your Animal and Proper Equipment*; *Entering the Showring and On Parade*; and *Entering the Line and Posing Your Animal*. To beef up your judging skills Ray suggests that you enter Hoard's Annual Judging Contest which can also be found on the same website. There are even cash prizes for winners.



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER IS March 15, 2018.**

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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](mailto: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 Standing Committee Proposal

## Statement of Need:

With the success of the AMDCA in promoting the breed, the Association now has active members not only in the Northeast but throughout the United States and Canada. At the last Annual Meeting, the membership instructed the Directors to develop a system where all members could be actively represented in the Association and at the Annual Meeting.

## Proposal:

The Association creates four Standing Committees, in accordance with the By-Laws, to increase communication between members of the Association and to seek input from the four regional areas that comprise the United States and Canada as designated by the Association.

The committees would be: Northeast, Southern, Central and West as determined by the demographics of the membership roster. These regions are broken down by state as follows:

<u>Northeast Region</u>	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Southern Region</u>	<u>Western Region</u>
Maine	Pennsylvania	Maryland	Washington
Vermont	Ohio	Delaware	Oregon
New Hampshire	Indiana	West Virginia	California
New York	Michigan	Virginia	Arizona
Massachusetts	Wisconsin	Kentucky	Nevada
Connecticut	Illinois	Arkansas	Idaho
Rhode Island	Missouri	Tennessee	Montana
New Jersey	Iowa	North Carolina	Wyoming
Canada	Minnesota	South Carolina	Colorado
	North Dakota	Georgia	New Mexico
	South Dakota	Alabama	Texas
	Nebraska	Mississippi	Alaska
	Kansas	Louisiana	Hawaii
	Oklahoma	Florida	Utah

## Committee Structure:

Membership- These committees would consist of the total membership within those regions and one Director Liaison appointed by the Association's Board of Directors. The Director Liaison would be an ex-officio member (non-voting) of the committee unless the Director Liaison is a resident of one of the region's states, in which case, he or she has a vote within the committee just as any regular member.

## Vision for Committees

- Each Standing Committee will be responsible to organize themselves.
- Annually, on a set date selected by each committee, a Committee Chairperson and a Representative to the AMDCA Annual Meeting held in May in Tunbridge, Vermont, shall be elected by a majority vote of each committee. Each regional committee has the option of sending a member to the Annual Meeting.
- Each committee should seek to engage as many members as possible within the region on a regular basis to discuss issues of relevance to the American Milking Devon breed. Method(s) of meeting (i.e. conference calling, in-person, video conference, etc.) should be determined by each committee.
- Each committee could host regional workshops, educational forums, social gatherings, and meeting speakers to benefit its regional members and the AMD breed.

- Submit quarterly updates for the region for the newsletter, complete with pictures.
- Prior to the Annual AMDCA Meeting (held in May of each year) each committee should meet to determine issues which they would like to have addressed by the Association at the Annual Meeting and prepare a written report. The report should be approved by a majority of the members in the region. The Representative elected to attend the Annual Meeting in Tunbridge, Vermont, should present the committee's written report to the Association at its Annual Meeting.
- Should issues or concerns arise that a committee determines needs prompt attention from the Association, it shall request the Director Liaison to inform the Board of Directors as soon as possible.
- If practicable, each region should host an Association-wide meeting once every four years, complete with an agenda of speakers and farm or agri-business tours. Association members would attend at their own expense.
- The committee will have no authority to speak on behalf of the Association.
- The committee will have no authority to commit the Association to binding decisions or agreements, including financial decisions or agreements.

### **Association Support of the Standing Committees**

- The President of the Association will appoint a Director Liaison for each regional standing committee.
- The Director Liaison responsibilities include the following:
  - Help establish the committee initially
  - Attend committee meetings as much as practical
  - Provide a direct line of communication from the committee to the Board of Directors
  - Interpret Association policy upon the request of the committee
- The Association will provide a maximum reimbursement of \$500 toward receipted travel and hotel expenses for the selected committee Representative to attend the AMDCA Annual Meeting in Tunbridge, Vermont. Meals are not included in this reimbursement.
- The Association will assist regions in their preparations for the Association-wide Meetings to be held once in four years in their regions. Assistance could be in the form of electronic and mail communication to all members, agenda preparation, speaker fees, etc.

### **Benefit of this Proposal:**

By creating a Standing Committee format the Association is actively seeking input from all members regardless of location. It also provides opportunities for members to proactively participate in Association business. Increased communication between members on topics vital to American Milking Devon conservation can only serve to benefit the breed.

If a Region sees no need to organize, the format is still in place, but places no obligation financial or otherwise on the Association.

**AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION**

The Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

**REGISTRY APPLICATION**

**Registration Fees:**

< 1 yr. \$5.00; 1 yr. but < 2 yrs. \$10.00; 2 yrs. but <3 yrs. \$25.00; 3 yrs. but <5 yrs. \$50.00

**Transfer: \$5.00** Name of New Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **TATTOO** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEX** \_\_\_\_\_ **TWIN** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX OF OTHER TWIN** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE OF BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIRE** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDSIRE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDDAM \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**DAM** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

MATERNAL GRANDSIRE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MATERNAL GRANDDAM \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ARTIFICIAL SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ NATURAL SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

IF Artificial Service, attach breeding receipt

IF Natural Service, give dates between which bull had access to dam: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER OF SIRE:** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER OF DAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

(At time of breeding) ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

In making this application, I hereby subject myself to all the provisions of the Constitution, bylaws, and rules of registry of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association as they now exist or may from time to time be amended, knowledge of which I now have or will immediately acquire. **I GUARANTEE THAT ALL MATTERS STATED HEREIN ARE TRUE.**

**OWNER** \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

# American Milking Devon Cattle Association

610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

2018

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 18 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.*