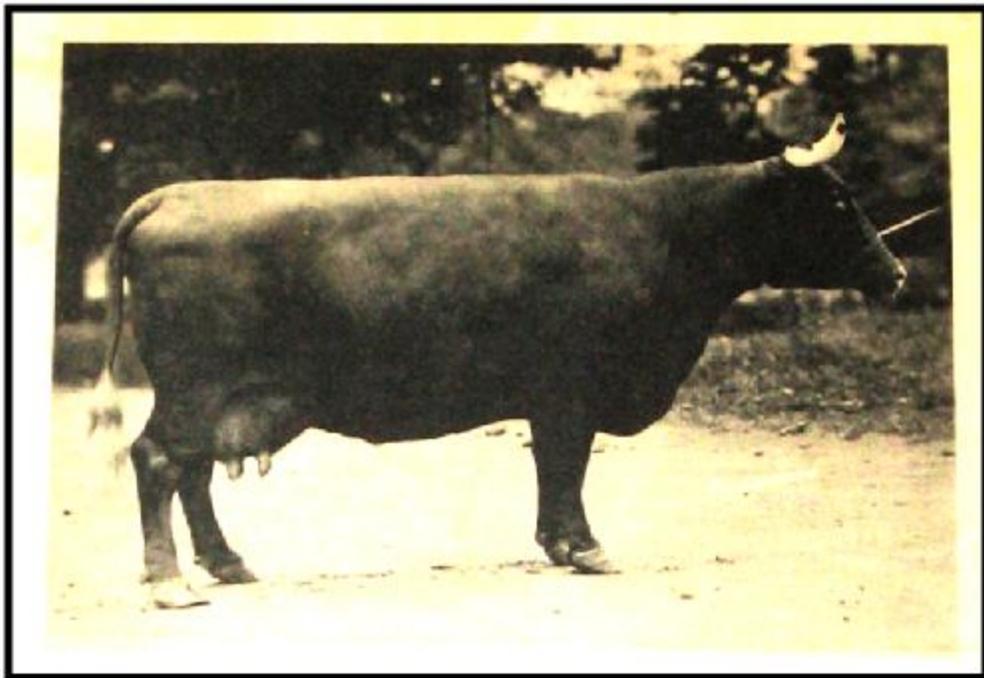


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AMDCA Newsletter June 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

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.



Stratton Sally 8th #17094 Advanced Reg #29, Class A

World's Record Milking Devon Cow. Produced 11,825.3 lbs. milk, 549.4 lbs butterfat (avg 4.64%) from 9/1/1936 to 9/1/1937. Age at start of test was 9 yrs, 9 mos & 11 days. By Compton Colonel #11808 DDHB, out of Stratton Sally 3rd G-769 DDHB, owned by E.B. Dane, Longwood Farms, Center Harbor, NH.

Welcome to the Newsletter!

Welcome to the new quarterly newsletter! If you received this newsletter, you are listed as a member or past member. To stop receiving the newsletter, or if you have suggestions or announcements to be included, please contact Shelly Oswald (814) 786-7687 or myorjojr@verizon.net. Future editions will only be sent to paid members, so please make sure your dues are paid! Once again, welcome!

Message from the Directors:

The annual meeting was held in Tunbridge, Vermont on May 10, 2014. Ray Clark and Andrew VanOrd were elected as directors for the 2014-2017 term. The association received the resignation of Sue Randall and offered heartfelt appreciation for her 25 years of dedicated service. Bonnie Hall will be the registrar and Shelly Oswald will handle membership for the coming year. The herd book was given to Lawrence Gilley to provide final edits for publishing on the website. The newsletter was discussed and will be issued quarterly

- 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
- Please be patient as the registrar and membership volunteers become familiar with their new responsibilities.
- 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.

Reminder: Membership dues should be sent in at the first of the year and if are 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

Call for Volunteers

The AMDCA will have booth #59 at the Mother Earth News Fair on September 12-14, 2014 in Seven Springs, PA. Contact Shelly Oswald if you would like to help “man” the booth –myorjojr@verizon.net or 814-786-7687 <http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/info.aspx#axzz31X1OsG4R>

Milking Devons in the Media *(Please email mentions of AMD or breeders to Lawrence Gilley at lgilley@tds.net)*

Paula and Rollie Johnson’s oxen, David and Dandridge, carried Penny May Burdick to her final resting place. Their story was in the [Tri-Lakes Tribune](#), February 11, 2014.

Bonnie and John Hall’s farm and farm store was featured on Page 34 of [Coastal Connecticut Magazine](#), Winter 2013 and in the May 20, 2014 [Middletown Press](#).

Reading Recommended by Ray Clark

“Feeds and Feeding” by F.B. Morrison [http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b24896](http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b24896)

“Merck Veterinary Manual” <http://www.merckmanuals.com/vet/full-sections.html>

Safety Reminder

Please be careful around your cattle – especially around breeding and calving times. A sweet, mannerly cow can become dangerous if she sees you as a threat to her calf. Tie her up or contain her and/or be very cautious if you need to work with her calf. Always respect their size, strength and agility and make sure you are mindful of their demeanor when working around them.

Discussion *(Please send responses to Lawrence Gilley at lgilley@tds.net or visit the member created [Yahoo Group](#)*

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/milkingdevoncattle/info> or [Facebook Page](#): American Milking Devon Cattle for further discussion)

“If you keep a bull, how do you manage your bull? At what age do you start using your bull? How do you choose bulls? When do you breed first time heifers? AI or live cover? If AI, what protocol do you use?”

Identifying Sick Cows that Need to Be Examined

Noelia Silva-del-Rio, CE Dairy Specialist, VMTRC, Tulare, CA

Fresh cows have the greatest production potential in a dairy. However, fresh cows are very susceptible to diseases. The most frequent disorders observed in fresh cows are: mastitis, metritis, injury or lameness, milk fever, ketosis, displaced abomasum, pneumonia and enteritis. Losses associated with those diseases are estimated from \$200 to \$400 per case per lactation. Furthermore, 15% to 25% of all cullings take place during the first 60 DIM. Early identification and treatment of sick animals may reduce the overall cost of the disease (drugs and milk production), increase the chances for a full recovery, improve animal welfare, and reduce culling, especially of fresh cows. These benefits should motivate dairy producers to work with their herd veterinarians to implement a herd health program that will successfully **identify**, **examine** and **treat** sick cows in the herd.

While some dairies find it valuable to routinely check all fresh cows, others, due to time and labor, may limit physical exams to cows showing signs of disease or with abnormal attitude. The objective of this article is to describe a comprehensive way that may help dairy workers to **identify** sick cows requiring a thorough physical examination.

Some reasons that justify the need for a detailed cow exam are: 1) difficult calving, 2) twins, 3) retained fetal membranes, 4) foul smelling vaginal discharge, 5) abnormal udder, 6) deviation in milk production, 7) reluctant to lock, 8) poor appetite, 9) abnormal rumen fill, 10) diarrhea, 11) lame or walking with difficulty, 12) down cows, 13) fever, 14) extremely fat cows at calving, and 15) cows listed as recheck. All cows presenting any of these conditions should be included in the “*list of cows to examine*”. In most operations, these cows will be added to the list the day prior to the exam or the morning of the exam.

In order to ensure that the “*list of cows to be examined*” is complete, a systematic approach to observation and recording is necessary. The identification of sick animals in the fresh pen can be accomplished by teaming up two people who walk simultaneously through the front and the back of the cows.

Walking in front of the cows – check for and take notes on:

Appetite. Note if cows are eating, sorting or are not interested in feed at all. Check for undisturbed feed sitting in front of the cow at lock up. Before releasing the cows from the lock-ups, check for cows that consumed feed at a lower level than their neighbors.

Attitude. Healthy animals are curious about their surroundings. Their ears are wagging and if you approach them, they will try to smell or lick you. Sick animals tend to have their head down, dropped ears, dull eyes and are too tired to groom their noses.

Ears. Compare among cows the attitude and temperature of the ears. In healthy animals, ears are positioned above the point of attachment to the head, whereas sick animals have ears that are below. Droopy ears suggest a sick cow that is depressed, in pain or with fever. Cold ears will indicate decreased blood flow to the periphery which could be related to milk fever, acidosis or severe toxic states.

Eyes. Cows with sunken, dull and crusty eyes may be dehydrated and/or in pain. Note if there are visible eye lesions (pink eye, trauma).

Nose. Check for abnormal nasal discharge (white, green, yellow, or bloody) that may indicate pneumonia or acidosis. Sick cows are too depressed to maintain their noses licked clean and feed particles and nasal discharge will stick on their noses. It is also important to check if the nostrils appear dry, as it may suggest fever.

Cough. Cows that are coughing two or three times should be noted for observation.

Walking behind the cows – check for:

- **Manure.** Check the floor, vulva and tail for manure with abnormal consistency (too loose to form a pile), color (almost black) and/or foul smelling. Abnormal manure can be found in cows suffering from acidosis, digestive upsets, toxic diseases, or enteritis.
- **Retained Fetal Membranes.** Retained fetal membranes are not a health problem per se, but increase the risk for metritis. If you find retained fetal membranes, you should also look for abnormal vaginal discharge.
- **Vaginal discharge.** It is normal to find vaginal discharge for up to two weeks after calving. However, dark red and foul smelling vaginal discharges are found in cases of uterine infection.
- **Abnormal abdomen.** Cows with their left flank tucked in have poor rumen fill because of anorexia. If the abdomen is distended, cows may be bloated due to rumen gas accumulation.
- **Breathing rate.** The basal respiration rate is 12 to 36 breaths/min. Note if the animal has an abnormal respiration rate or if inspiration and/or expiration require additional efforts. Pneumonia, bloat and toxic diseases may cause difficult breathing.
- **Abnormal udder.** Note udders that are unbalanced, swollen, with abnormal color (reddish or bluish), or with damage in their suspensory ligaments. Check udder fullness; poor appetite will result in poor udder fill.
- Cows that **did not lock up** after feed was delivered. Sick cows are reluctant to lock up as they lack the drive to eat.
- **Cows' posture that indicate pain.**
 - Tail away from the body: irritation in the perineal region, vagina or rectum, or severe metritis.
 - Elbows pointing out: pain in the rib cage.
 - Arched back: peritonitis, severe lameness.

Some large dairies use colored chalk on the back of the fresh cows to write relevant information (calving date, calving difficulties, disease findings, and so on), and easily identify cows needing examination.

Sick cows can be found elsewhere in addition to the fresh cow pen. Therefore, all dairy workers, but especially those involved in feeding, breeding, moving cattle and milking should be trained to identify sick cows. They all should carry a little notebook and contribute with their observations to complete the “*list of cows to examine*”.

Feeders should look for cows reluctant to move when fresh feed is delivered. **Workers moving** cattle have an excellent opportunity to observe cow's gait and posture. They should look for cows that are depressed (react slowly to stimulus), with heads down, droopy ears, arching their backs, with the elbows pointing out, walking slowly and favoring one limb, or that have difficulty standing up and moving. **Breeders** will walk behind cows and should look for any cow with abnormal attitude, manure, vaginal discharge or abnormal udder. During rectal exploration, they can gather information on the uterus status and the temperature of the cow. In the milking parlor, **milkers** can easily note swollen quarters and discolored udders. Udder fullness prior to milking (too baggy) or after milking (swollen) should always be evaluated. By stripping udders, clinical mastitis cases can be identified in the milking parlor. Dairies recording individual milk weights should look for cows deviating from the expected production.

Readings Recommended by the Author:

Terra, R. 2001. Ruminant history, physical examination and records. *In: Large Animal Internal Medicine* by Bradford Smith, Chapter 1: pg 3-14 McGuirk, S. Examination of Fresh Cows:

http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/transition_cow.htm

(Thank you to the author for permission to use her informative article in our newsletter!)

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Devonshire Cream – in a Crockpot

First a warning: this recipe does not meet safe food handling guidelines. This version is based loosely on Episode 9 of the Edwardians in a segment called “Devon County Dairy Board School.”

Traditionally Devonshire cream is cooked “on the back of the stove” meaning long time and low temperature. An old caution is “if it boils, it spoils.”

- ✓ Place raw milk, still warm from the cow in a Crockpot with a ceramic liner.
- ✓ Adding culture is optional. Gently mix in one ounce of Flor Danica prepared culture or 1/8th teaspoon of Flor Danica DVI culture powder per gallon of milk. Do not over-stir.
- ✓ Allow milk to sit undisturbed for 12 to 24 hours at room temperature. This allows the cream to rise and the bacteria to grow.
- ✓ Turn the Crockpot to the setting required to maintain a temperature between 175° and 195° F. Cook uncovered. Do NOT stir. Do NOT allow to boil. After many hours, 8 in my only attempt, the cream’s surface will have a wavy texture, and a buttery color, the edges will have a light brown tinge.
- ✓ Turn off heat. Allow cream and milk to cool thoroughly – several hours or overnight. Do NOT cover.
- ✓ Using a skimmer, gently lift sections of the cream layer off the surface of the milk. Allow any excess milk to drip off before gently sliding the rounds of cream into a stack in a small glass dish.

Chill thoroughly (several hours or overnight). Serve traditionally at your next “Cream Tea” with sliced strawberries and plain biscuits.

- from Kendy Sawyer, *HineSite Milking Devons in Fries, VA*



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