

New Zealand

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

News Letter 🌸 December 2013
www.reddevoncattle.co.nz



Season's Greetings

www.reddevoncattle.co.nz

President's comments.

Hi members;

The tour by overseas Red Devon breeders in February is just around the corner. If you are not travelling with the tour please consider attending the field days that are near you and give support to the host breeder. Come and view some of our finest Red Devons. Please inform the host or Tour Director Karen Schumacher if you want to stay for luncheon or afternoon tea.

Xmas is upon us and hay making on the Awhitu Peninsula is in full swing though lighter than other years. Our Tinopai Red Devons are looking great with 121 animals in one mob to give the main herd a rotation of 21 days. From a modest start of 4 cows and 5 maiden yearlings purchased from the Thelmara Stud in 2002 our total Devon numbers total 185 head plus 10 other animals farmed on 67 hectares of rolling to steep pasture. We are now finally at the stage of being able to sell breeding females as well as our annual line of bulls.

Council Business

The Genetic Recovery Programme is close to being finalized. We ran out of time at the November Council meeting before completion of the document. The council feels they need to be sure that all costs are covered in the per head entry fee before we can move on.

It has come to the councils notice that some breeders use the term Culled for an animal that is sold live and not transferred. The term Culled should only be used for animals slaughtered. Use the term sold or inactive otherwise (This information is supplied to the Aug ADL.) The confusion comes when an owner wants to reinstate a presumably dead animal or its later born progeny to the registry. PBBNZ recommend that Certificates of Registration not be given out unless specifically requested. It is a very expensive exercise. In doing so, we fall inline with all the other breeds who register with PBBNZ. It will now be done electronic and proof of registration will be on Animal Inquiry on our Website (the pedigree and EBVs can be printed from there on your own printer at a fraction of the cost.) The only Certificates given out will be transfers. To obtain the transfer electronically go to our Website; click on Association; Download forms and click on (animal transfer declaration). Otherwise write to PBBNZ with details.

Wishing you all Merry Xmas and prosperous green New Year

Wayne Aspin
President NZRDCBA

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Front page Hitching a ride, (by John & Gayle Couch)

New Member: Gavin Copper of Arcadia Stud. gkcooper@vodafone.co.nz

NZ Red Devon International Cattle Tour 2014

Although the registrations numbers have been lower than we wanted, the tour is going ahead. I have spent a lot of time working with Agri-Tours and together we have agreed we can make the tour work. At the time of writing this we have 23 people registered for the North Island tour and 11 people for the South Island tour. This has been disappointing as both during the Brazil tour and again with the replies to our Expression of Interest indications were of a substantially higher number. All we can do is ensure those who are supporting us have a great time visiting our cattle and country. We have people from Australia, Brazil and America joining us.

We have also done further work on the costing for local members planning on joining us for meals and /or stud visits. I will have final costs this coming week. The evening meals will be at a lower cost than what was first indicated which is great. You will have a Council member contacting you shortly to check (and encourage) you to come along. Let's make sure our visitors enjoy some great hospitality.

Merial have donated a 5 litre container of Eclipse which we are looking for someone to buy. It retails at \$1350.00. If anyone wants to purchase this please let me know.

Cheers Karen Schumacher
phone: 06 7568064

From the Far North

As most of you are aware we have moved to a new farm in the last 6 months. This farm is mostly flat volcanic with quite a bit of surface rock in places – completely different to what we have farmed previously. The winter was quite mild in the north this last year which meant we were able to feed out without much mess. Things changed in September when some of the lower country became water logged with surface water sitting around for several days. Then came October and November – very dry and windy. This has put a lot of pressure on feed supply especially for the dairy farmers. Recent rain has seen some freshening of pastures but most would agree we need a lot more rain to avoid another drought situation.

Bull sales have been quite steady again this year with around 30 2yr and 20 yearling bulls been sold or leased out. Most customers are repeat but we have had some new buyers.

Arthur Beazley



Harvey and Virginia Hutchison apologise for being unable to bring a report from Middle Earth (Middlemarch) this edition but will have a good sized report for the next newsletter on how things are progressing with their new life and adventures with their Red Devons in Central Otago.

Hello fellow Red Devon Breeders

August was looking promising for a early spring, but didn't last turning cold, windy for September and then some late frosts in October. Finally finished feeding out hay first week of November, this was later than normal due to the slow grass growth. Calving went well with an unusual amount of twins.

We sold 30 yearling bulls to a farmer down Oamaru way who leases bulls to dairy farmers. These bulls had grown out well over the winter months considering the conditions.

I have also leased out a yearling bull to a Highland cattle breeder just out of Dunedin, this could be an interesting cross, and look forward to the outcome.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the 2014 season.

John Squire and Sandra Lowrey

The Strengths of The Red Devon

The cattle for all seasons from the heat of the far north summer to the chill and snow of the far south winter Devons are able to cope with all that the weather can throw at them. From eking out meagre rations at the height of a summer too being able to squeeze out every last morsel in the cold wet winter days.

One of their many fine traits is to pass on most if not all of their abilities to do well when crossed with other breeds. The offspring of this cross inherit the docility, early maturity and hardiness. As people acquire these cross breed animals they begin to realise the advantages of Red Devon cattle



This Jersey x Red Devon was born early August 2013. Her Dam was a pure bred Jersey cow, sired by an AI Red Devon through LIC this Heifer shows the excellent cross that can be achieved with a diary breed. The owner is contemplating getting more of her 7 Jersey cows mated to Red Devon next season as she has had so many enthusiastic comments from people who see these crosses. She is always very impressed with the quietness of the Red Devons when she visits our herd. She has no trouble placing them with a nearby Sheep and Beef farmer who runs them with the Hereford x and Angus x breeding cows.



These heifers are a Red Devon x Ayrshire. They were October 2012 born and were reared on a kiwi cross nurse cow who reared 4x calves including these two they were weaned at 9 months of age.



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