



New Zealand Red Devon Cattle Breeders Assoc.

February 2010



President's comments.

Some of you may have had a delay with getting paperwork from our office. This is because our fragile aging printer and computer monitor having not only been playing up, but have now completely failed. This was the risk which Kevin Fletcher brought to Council's attention last year. At present we have been able to hook another old printer to the system, and have borrowed an old monitor which has been stored in Robyn's garage. It is all rather shaky, but hopefully will get us through to March end. If our 'cobbled' together system gives up, we will be forced to wait until we change over to PBB to get reports and certificates printed.

We are in constant contact with both ABRI and PBB to ensure a smooth changeover at the end of March. This fits in well with our end of financial year. Thank you to everyone who has been sending your calving sheets in, we do need to have all the records up to date before the changeover to the new system. Robyn will continue to process information until 20th March, at which time we will be taking the information to transfer to the new system.

Planning is well underway for the next Association field day, which will be in Taranaki. I am pleased to advise that Russell Priest is again going to facilitate the day. His talk is informative and very high quality.

I am in regular contact with the Presidents of both the Australian and UK Red Devon Assn. Like us, they are grappling with how to increase membership, changes to ABRI (UK), maintaining standard of excellence in the breed, and with the need to increase exposure of the breed by promotion. This has meant increases in membership fees have hit everyone. The UK Assoc has had a strong response to their proposed mini tour, and it is pleasing to report that a number of people from NZ are attending.

Over the last few months I have been in contact with quite a number of you, and I have appreciated the feedback from you. It is challenging rolling out the new direction which was voted on by members at the last AGM, and your comments indicate we are heading in the right direction. A number of members having been giving me feedback on our promotional strategy. Over the coming year we have I believe a good strategy and focus. A scattergun approach can use up a lot of money with little return, so Council has been putting in a lot of effort in this area.

I hope to see many of you at the next field day. Don't forget these are for you, the members, but are also open to the public.

Regards

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ABRI / PBB

We will continue to process member's paperwork until the 20th March. After this, the data will be copied and given to ABRI to enter into the new system. Once this is done and back onto the PBB system, they will send out an ADL sheet to every member. PBB will at that time send out an information sheet to everyone, giving you background information on them, key dates for reports to be in etc. You will be asked to check this is correct and send it back to PBB. If you have changes, you will need to make them and send them back to PBB. I.e. All the forms need to be returned.

All our old registry records will continue to be kept, and will be stored at PBB. Kevin and I have just finished shifting all of this last week.

There will be a new deadline date to have your calving sheets in to PBB. This will be the end of February.

Until now we have been relaxed about having a deadline date for the return of ADL sheets. This will change and a deadline date will be implemented. If your sheets are not returned on time, it will be assumed the information has not changed and you will be charged for the animals on your report. If your reports are returned late there will be a penalty charge applied.

PBB are authorised agents for the purchase of ear tags. If you have been buying from Robyn, you will in future be dealing with Megan at PBB. Your invoice for these will be from PBB.

AGM

The AGM this year will be on the 8th May. This is the weekend before Beef Expo. We are mindful some members are off to the UK, so this date will allow members to attend. The AGM will be held in Feilding at the PBB Boardroom. More details will be in the next newsletter. Please start thinking about Council positions.

Web page

A reminder that you can promote your stud on our web site. I have had some e-mails from UK members complimenting our Assoc on the changes to our web page. It is good to know people globally are visiting our site, so please use it. I have requested an update to the link from the Rare Breeds site to ours. Have you got yourself on this site, there is no charge and promotes our breed.

During December and January we had hits on our site.

You can advertise your cattle for sale for 60 days for \$10. You can send your stud profile and details of the cattle for sale to Kevin and get great promotional exposure. k.fletcher@inspire.co.nz Don't forget to keep your e-mail, phone, and address details up to date so you don't miss out on the news letters or any other useful pieces of information (see members list)



Field days.

The first field day was held in Northland and was very successful. Russell Priest from Meat & Wool NZ was the guest speaker, and was really good. He made the day interesting, everyone learnt something, and the general feeling was that it was worthwhile. Council plan to hold another day on 27th March in Taranaki. It will be held at the Inglewood Saleyards, commencing at 11 am. The flyer is at the end of this newsletter.

Semen available.

For those who are mating for autumn calving don't forget there is a variety of bull semen available in NZ. A number of members have overseas semen they have brought in which is also for sale. If you are planning on importing semen make sure you check first to confirm progeny can be registered. If you have semen for sale let us know and we will put a list in the next newsletter. I know having bulls can take the guess work out of mating, and I can put my hand up to unsuccessful AI breeding. There is a brief article later from Alan Cudmore on how he succeeds with AI.



NZ Bulls

Although it is early to be thinking about your bull requirements, we are keen to promote pre loved bulls in the next newsletter. Quite a number of our members have small numbers and cannot

UK Bulls

In the UK, bulls cannot be registered unless they have been inspected. During 2009 the UK Assoc inspected and 121 bulls. Bulls are eligible to be inspected for registration from 1 year old.



Bulldust

Congratulations to John and Cushla Dunn for the great article in the last Bulldust. This magazine has readership in Australia, UK, America, Brazil, and NZ. It was good to see such a positive article showing how well the Devon's are doing here in NZ. We encourage members to continue to subscribe to this magazine.

OESTRUS SYNCHRONY IN BEEF CATTLE by Alan Cudmore

In our early years with the Devons we had a problem 30% success rate with AI [Artificial Insemination] AB [Artificial Breeding] whichever you prefer.

Our solution was to talk to the vets from Inglewood and Waitara Vet Group. We agreed that the animals had been in good condition on the previous two occasions that AI had been tried.

We therefore looked at the system we were using, and felt this was where the problem lay. They were probably trying to save the poor Beef and Sheep farmer some hard earned cash. However with straws costing up to \$60 it was probably a short term saving long term loss. We all agreed taking shortcuts was not the way to have a high success rate with beef cattle. The system below is what the vets came up with. Work out the day you wish to inseminate, and then work the dates back to the start of the process.

Day -12 Administer CIDR Inject ODB

Day -6 Inject Prostaglandin

Day-2 Remove CIDR

Day-1 Inject ODB

Day 0 (target date) 16-20 hrs after 3rd injection inseminate

For us this has been very successful:
Result 90% success and some good
Devon calves on the ground.
I recommend working closely with your
vet, and have a go at using semen to
improve your herd.

Good luck and I hope to see you at the
Taranaki Field Day

Thoughts on “Calving ease” by Colin Nash

Its calving time for a lot of breeders, so I
thought a few comments on calving ease
in Devon’s might be appropriate. Over
the past few years I have weighed about
600 Devon calves at birth. They range
from 25 to 55 kgs for a full term birth.
Five years ago the average weight of a
calf at Woodlands was 36kgs, more
recently the average weight has risen to
just over 37kgs.

Traditionally we advertise our breed as
easy calving. Is this an honest assessment
of the breed’s capability? I feel a Devon
bull over a mature Devon cow (a 3 year
old and above) will produce a straight
forward calving in most cases. For those
calving two year olds, the situation is
rather different and the choice of bull for
these heifers needs to be made carefully in
order to have trouble free calving. These
heifers need a bull with a below average
birth weight and not too much
thickness/beefiness, a smooth shoulder
and not too heavily boned. In other words
a poorer typed Devon. The resulting
calves may not be the best but the object
is to have a live calf and a heifer able to
get back in calf early with a long
reproductive life.

The same situation applies if supplying
bulls into the dairy industry. Most
Devons will be OK to use on mature dairy
cows but care is needed when selling for
use on dairy heifers.

Now we are changing over to Breedplan
we will have access to birth weight

EBV's. This will predict the calf weight, a
lower figure will indicate a smaller calf.
Of course smaller calves turn into animals
with lower growth rates and heavier
calves turn into animals with higher
growth rates but there are exceptions to
these general rules. The key point here is
having the birth weight EBV's will make
available more information to breeders
and you don't need to performance record
to benefit because all information is
shared between breeders.



To conclude, instead of advertising
Devon’s as easy calving, we need to be
more precise and target the heifer mating
market with low birth weight(below
breed average) or low birth weight EBV
bulls. This is what the Hereford and
Angus breeders now do. Remember if a
client has a bad experience with calving
difficulties using a Devon bull, it doesn't
just affect the breeder who sold the bull it
affects the Devon reputation.
I would welcome feedback on this article.

NZ RED DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS:			Membership List as at 1 March 2010	
Name	Phone	E-mail	Herd	Stud
Life Member				
Walter Alison	Ph 09-437-1994		3000	
Ken & Pru McDowall.	Ph/Fax: 06-347-7860	Rotokawa.dev@xtra.co.nz	1467	Rotokawa
Mrs Eileen Porter	Ph 09-433-4737		2039	
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Full Member				
Wayne & Patricia Aspin	Ph/Fax: 09-235-1074	aspin@ps.gen.nz	1729	Tinopai
John & Thelma Bailey	Ph/Fax: 07-872-5562	folly.farm@farmside.co.nz	1716	Pinenui
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Dave & Esther Charlson	Ph 06 8578546	charlson@slingshot.co.nz	1770	Hillview
John & Gayle Couch	Ph/Fax: 07-308-0571	gayle_pre@msn.com	1750	Devand
Alan & Shelia Cudmore	Ph 06-752-3733	alan.cudmore@xtra.co.nz	1720	Indywell
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Chris & Briona Hehir,	Ph 06-329-7710	chehir@xtra.co.nz	1747	Maghera
B & S Ibbett	Ph/Fax 09-426-9799	bryndara@xtra.co.nz	1765	Bryndara

Name	Phone	E-mail	Herd	Stud
Don Jackson	Ph 027-333-3256		1755	Tandalar
Mrs.Tuppy Jones	Ph 09-405-0800	tuppyj@xtra.co.nz	2005	Thelmara
Teulon & Teresa Kingston	Ph/Fax: 09-407-8145	teresakingston@xtra.co.nz	1757	Dynamite
Sean Leslie	Ph 03-464-3214		1700	Flax Gully
Greg & Louise McConnell	Ph/Fax: 07-867-7573	mcconnell@no8wireless.co.nz	1719	Hau Hiwi
Clive & Barbara Mercer	Ph/Fax: 03-540-3022	barmer@xtra.co.nz	1743	Passaford
Colin & Julia Nash	Ph/Fax: 07-863-8833/6833	colin.nash@ihug.co.nz	2015	Woodlands
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Evan & Joanne Oliver	Ph/Fax: 06-376-7727	evanjo@xtra.co.nz	1763	Magnum
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Alf & Margaret Krissansen	Ph 09-436-5827		2075	
Alasdair & Jean McLaughlan	Ph/Fax 09-433-1170		1706	
Don & Josie Riesterer	Ph 07-315-5625		1673	
R. & C. Wright	Ph/Fax: 03-303-9004/9006		1724	