

NORTHLAND RED DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB



IT'S MEETING
TIME AGAIN !



PRESIDENT :-

ARTHUR BEAZLEY
Ph 09 405 0690

SECRETARY :-

SUE DREADON
Ph 09 439 2154

NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

Hi Folks,

April Field Day

Sunday 19th April saw Club members travelling north to Arthur's at Matauri Bay. A slight difference from the usual theme of evaluating Devon cattle, today's topic was on forage crops and pasture production.

After assembling and a cup of tea we travelled to several sites on the farm, the first sown Spring 2007 with a mixture of Plantain Warrior Rye and White Clover, which was later, cut into 23 big silage bales. Lime at 1 tonne per acre and Urea at planting, and later 1 tonne of lime and pasture zeal – 500kgs/ha. Next stop was 36 acres sown October 2008 with Chicory, Plantain, Pasja Warrior Rye and White Clover. The paddock was fairly steep in places and had suffered heavy rain scouring at planting, but was an impressive crop to finish lambs. Several grazings have occurred. Through the fence was sown in 2003 with Chicory, Plantain and Red Clover, Matrix Rye was drilled in a year later. This paddock is still producing strongly for fattening and cutting a couple of crops of hay.

On the way back to the house we stopped to look at several mobs and individual Devon's (heifers, bulls and current show cattle and Arthur's Gold Star Cow) all looking very good.



After lunch we travelled several kilometres around the coast to Paul Shepherds property. By now the rain was persisting so we had brief stops to see his cropping and pasture renovating efforts. A paddock of Kale was growing to provide finishing fodder for bulls. Further on Chicory, Plantain and Pasja was being cell grazed by bulls. The flat area had been flooded prior to planting which affected the result. (Silt issues etc.) Paul is a very switched on young man with plenty of ideas and observations.

We retired to the woolshed for a cup of tea at the end of a very interesting and informative day.

Thank you, Team Tapuwae.

D. Dreadon

Hi Team,

Hope all is well down on the farm, should not go on about the weather but we did seem to go from summer to winter in one week, but I guess that is the challenge of farming, if it was less Challenging more mugs would be doing it. Will not complain, as the grass growth up here has not been to bad and the Beef trends seem to be on the increase (but Ho so slow)

Past Events.

Trip to Matauri Bay to look at forage crops and pasture production

We had a good time (in the light misty rain)and got a lot out of the day, and for those folk trying to kept on top of Kikuyu grass and into winter crops all the information

was there to see. Thanks to Arthur & Paul Shepherd (a Hereford breeder) for their time and knowledge

At Arthur's place I could not help notice the pasture and cattle. There has been a great Improvement in the grass quality, colour and growth, fencing and metal raceways, since my last visit.

The cattle were all looking great, rising two year heifers had very good growth for there age and were sure an eye opener. Bulls as usual looked good and had been doing there job well in the breeding heard, as the well framed cows had nice well grown calves at foot.



Tapuwae 511

One thing that stuck in my mind was the good size to all the cattle we saw and the uniform size to the up and coming cattle.



Tapuwae 720

Credit must go to Arthur for his breeding program and showing that you can breed good size pure breed Devon's with the right breeding program.

Regards,

George.