

New Zealand

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

News Letter 🌸 December 2014

www.reddevoncattle.co.nz



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President's comments.

Hello everyone,

I was looking back over my last report for the August newsletter and unfortunately the weather pattern is the same. Here in Taranaki it's been windy, wet and cold. At a Council level plenty has been happening. Evan and I attended a Governance course which gave us a very clear picture of what is required when you are on a board, and really emphasised the changes the new Health & Safety legislation is going to bring. A summary of that day is in this newsletter.

We had a very successful strategy planning session with Malcolm and Bidy Sutherland. We are now working to develop our strategy into a document which we will present at the next AGM. We will of course be working on quite a number of priorities between now and then.

Our members Julian and Lee are very busy selling their meat at the Farmer's Market in Wellington and Gisborne and both are looking to secure more cattle. Selling our cattle via Farmers Markets is something that will be a feature in the next Bulldust magazine. I have a report from our registry system which comes from the information on the animal disposal reports, the breakdown of what happens to our cattle show some interesting information. This is detailed later in the newsletter, but in summary we had culled for infertility 23; culled other 484; sold for breeding 199. Many of you are selling to people who then finish the cattle. This is an area which both Julian and Lee may be interested in.

Next year will see an increase in our fees. We have now had five years with no increases. We have been advised from PBB that our charges are to rise from January 1st 2015, and the way they charge us will also change. To date we have had a fixed fee. They have found this has often not covered the actual hours of work, and in turn this has been subsidised by the other larger breed societies. I know there are complaints over the errors in paperwork. The last four examples have been 50% member's mistakes. PBB will be charging for this re-work, and in turn we will be passing that cost onto the member as we cannot afford to meet the cost. Please check your paperwork before you send it in.

I have mentioned before the corrections we needed to do to maintain the integrity of our stud register. This work was completed in early November. We are back to having our cattle as being either registered or commercial. If you change your cattle status to commercial it cannot be changed back to registered, nor can any of their progeny. If you have an error in your paperwork Linda will place the affected cattle into the not registered status until the query is cleared.

After five years of work we have signed off the "Supplementary register". This register includes both the "Genetic Recovery" and "Grading –up" sections. It is now simply called the supplementary register. Check out the details in the article. All cattle which are in this register will have a status on "not registered".

My thanks to all of the Councillors for your work, help and support.

If you have any queries please contact either me or any of your Council members. My email address has changed please see below.

Karen Schumacher

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Front Cover; An Eighteenth Century Red Devon Steer.

Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome to the Association ;

Dean & Barbara Shephard of Denbar Stud near New Plymouth,

Matthew & Rachael Hubbard of Mt Te Uku Stud near Raglan, and

John East of East of Devon Stud near Tauranga on becoming a full member

Supplementary Register – includes “genetic recovery and grading up”

A huge amount of work, discussion, draft policies, re-work, bits taken out then put back in along with considering members requests we have finally passed By-Law 23 which is our supplementary register. The “genetic recovery” aspect is quite straight forward, and provides members a pathway to bring in pure bred cattle which have been previously unregistered.

The grading-up has been on the table as work in progress for five years. At our Council meeting on 20th November after further robust discussion we have approved some grading up. There are a number of key points.

- The requirements for entry into our current stud registered herd book remain the same. This includes By-Law 1,2,3,4.
- The section covering grading up in By-Law 23 deals with bulls which are registered with approved international Red Devon societies who are one generation short of meeting our regulations. These bulls may if approved by Council be recorded in our Supplementary register and will permanently have G1 included in their recorded number.
- The export of any genetic material must comply with our By-Law 22.
- The bulls MUST have approval from Council before they are eligible for entry into the Supplementary register.
- Only progeny born after the bull has been approved at a Council meeting will be eligible for registration.

I would ask members to consider their options carefully before they decide to go down the path of bringing in semen. A number of the bulls which do not meet our current regulations have progeny on the ground which do meet our regulations. Think about investigating these options first. If you use these ones what will it look like?

- Your future animals will always be recorded as pedigree.

What we are now allowing is for our members to bring in and use semen one generation early. What will this look like?

- Your future animals will always have a “grading up G1” recorded on their pedigree in their background.

This allows members to make informed decisions on what they buy, what pedigree lines they wish to have, and also meets the needs of those members who wish to bring in semen which misses our regulations by one generation.

I must admit this has been a tough journey, it does not sit easily with your councillors, and we have passed the By-Law and will be taking a great deal of care reviewing all applications.



Important Dates to Remember

- Group run cut off 2nd of every month
- Annual membership due 30th April
- ADLs sent out 30th June
- ADLs returned 31st July
- Calf Entries sheet sent out Mid - August
- Annual animal fee 30th September
- Calf Entries sheet due back 30th January – if you want PBB to enter the information

Remember you will be charged for the cattle which are recorded on your herd records as at 31st August. We cannot give credits as PBB charge us a rate based on the cattle on our register at this date. It is your responsibility to get your ADL forms back on time.

We encourage you to enter your calving records yourself through internet solutions.

Internet Solutions

On the 19th and 20th November your Councillors had some intensive meetings and discussions. I will send out information later in the week giving you all updates.

One important thing we would like to encourage you all to start entering your own calving information, on Internet Solutions. Linda Rule will be sending you your user name and password information shortly. To access it go to our website and click on "member login".

I tested this recently and found it to be very user friendly as it followed the same steps as when you manually fill in the sheet. There is a very good help section if you get stuck; or alternatively you can contact Kevin, me or Linda Rule. This is only for calf entry information.

This will reduce errors, and allow you to enter regardless of whether you autumn or spring calve.

Once you input your "batch" and hit the file button it can take a few minutes to go through. That is normal. This creates a file and an e-mail note to Linda Rule at PBB. When Linda clicks on the file her system will have done a check to ensure your information is correct, otherwise it creates a big red error message and Linda cannot do the permanent accept to the system.

In other words your batch is not a live update, it takes a day or two for final acceptance.

A couple of useful links on help with Internet Solutions are;

[On Line Registration Help](#)

[Submitting the Performance Information](#)

Some interesting stats

During the year from July 2013 to June 2014 you have recorded the following information on your ADL forms. The busiest month for activity was September, followed by June.

Died within 48 hours	32
Died (non –accident)	13
Died / sold (accident)	8
Culled infertility	23
Culled calv ease	4
Culled other	484 – 174 of these were in Sept, with 115 being male 2 year and older.
Sold for breeding	199 of which 49 were 2 year old heifers, 36 cows and 114 were bulls.

Fees schedule for 2015.

PBB have advised us that their charges will be increasing from 1st January 2015. We have not had any increases for the last five years and we have been fortunate they have met all the general cost increases to date. Combined with this ABRI have had a significant increase in their charge out rate. It has been a challenge to set our charges to ensure we are not in a loss situation. The way ABRI charges our Association changed in October 2011 when they moved to providing monthly

performance information. We have decided to meet this cost as an Association and would encourage all members to performance record. You will be charged a royalty for each animal. This now aligns us with all the other breed societies and will also streamline our charging time. There is the same fee structure across all status cattle – that is including registered; commercial and Not Registered. The fee structure now includes all female 2 year olds at a reduced fee, and all female cattle 3 year old and older on the register have a set fee.

During the November Council meeting we approved the following fees commencing on 1st January 2015.

Annual fee	GST excl	GST inc
Full membership	\$150.00	\$172.00
Associate membership	\$50.00	\$57.50
Female fee (all 3 years and older)	\$25.00	\$28.75
Female fee (all 2 year old)	\$15.00	\$17.25
Transfer fee	\$20.00	\$23.00
Supplementary register admin set up charge per animal	\$30.00	\$34.50
Re-instatement fee	\$25.00	\$28.75
Re-work charge for member's error – actual time at	\$50.00 per hour.	\$57.50

PBB will be charging the Association for any re-work due to member's errors at the normal charge out rate of \$50 per hour for the time it takes. We cannot afford to meet this cost, this will be on-charged to you. Please take care when you complete your ADL sheet, take a copy and check when your computer printout is returned.

If the error is a PBB inputting error there is no charge to the Assn or to members.

Karen Schumacher



Why Devons

We live in Te Uku, which is about 10mins out of Raglan, a lovely seaside town, about 30 mins drive from the city of Hamilton. We own over 1000 acres of land, split between two farms, some nice flat and rolling paddocks and others quite steep, highest paddock is 470m above sea level.

My husband and I have raised beef cattle for 7 years together but he had been doing it for 8 years previous to that. We have raised our beef cattle on our 50 acres by the sea quite successfully and have only owned the other 1000 acres which is a little more inland for just on a year now. We did a lot of research into different breeds of cattle, and have trialled quite a few on the bigger block, but last year after buying some Red Devons from Alan Cudmore, they came out on tops for ability to handle the country and do well, even through the drought. We love the look and characteristics of the Red Devons, and feel that it is a breed which needs to be better known, and so have now made the decision to go fully into breeding them.

Of course we are new to this so we still have a lot to learn, but we hope we can make a success of it.

Kind regards
Rachael Hubbard

Favourite Red Devon Cow

Hello All,

I thought I would write a small piece about my favourite cow, we call her Big Thistle. She is the oldest cow in our small herd at rising 9 years, and as her name suggests, the biggest cow we own; not in height, she has a traditional Devon conformation; but perhaps in weight and size of her wonderful character.

She is beautiful. What I see as a true Red Devon, with a rich russet curled winter coat, sleek red summer coat, deep girth, good rectangular shape, and perfect pink nose she always makes me smile.

She is a wonderful matriarch in our herd. Always approachable, loving a good scratch whenever anyone is willing; she teaches the younger cows that I am nothing to be worried about.



Yet she is respectful and understanding when I need to get jobs done. For example, whenever I want to move the herd, I just call to her, she comes to me, and the rest of the herd follows. She has learned that when I bring cows through the yards, the cows are going through the yards, and also that the first one through gets the first grass - so she is the first to walk calmly through the chute and get back to eating. She has to her figure to think of!

This year we were greeted one wet morning by her beautiful 36 kg heifer, 'Little Thistle', who will join her mother in the herd. I sincerely hope she will share her parents' temperament and fabulous Devon character. I am looking forward to observing how she will develop.

Big Thistle is the one in the background of the photo who looks rather like a hippo intently watching the next bale of hay arriving, quite relaxed with me meeting and greeting her new arrival.



So there you have it, one well loved,
extremely useful cow enjoying her life
here on
Monte Pahu Farm.



Helena Barrio

Hawke's Bay Weekend

It is planned to visit four members' studs over the weekend 17th/18th Jan 2015. At some point during the weekend it is planned to have a demonstration on how to enter data in to the Internet Solutions to record new calves and animal weights.

Saturday

Mid-morning 10:30-11:30 am
Brent & Sue Penman of Okereru Stud
672 Glengarry Road

Lunch
Lindsay Scott & Linda Jones of Kaweka Solo Stud
1731 Puketitiri Road

Afternoon
Brendan McQuade of Tauhara Stud
75 Tauhara Road

Evening meal at
Puketapu Hotel Pheasant Nets
<http://www.thepuketapu.co.nz/>

Sunday

morning 10:30
Heughan Gordon of Millstone Stud
1796 Waimarama Road
Havelock North

For Directions Click on the link below
<https://goo.gl/maps/2qn3D>

You will have to arrange your own accommodation for the weekend; the Napier suburb of Taradale is close to the Puketapu Hotel and has a number of motels. If you would like to come along for the weekend could you please contact Evan or Don so that they can get some idea of numbers for catering etc..

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Donald Gates Ph 06-323 3408

evanjo@xtra.co.nz
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From the Far North

What a difference a good meat schedule has when farming beef. As most of you are aware we Northland Devon Breeders are not getting any younger, so most of us are downsizing our breeding herds to make life a bit easier and this decision has been made a lot easier due to the return we are getting with some of our herd sires getting over \$2500 on the hooks. Unfortunately a lot of very good Devon genetics, unique to the north are being lost to the breed due to the fact we can get a better return from the meat company than breeders are prepared to pay.

At Tapuwae I have decided to cut my registered herd from around 100 to nearer 50 following weaning next April. Sadly this is going to mean we will not be able to breed enough bull for the market we have developed by advertising and presenting cattle at local A & P shows and Dargaville Fielddays for the last 20 years. This spring we have not been able to fill the demand for 2year old bulls, between David Dreadon, Tuppy Jones and myself we have placed around 50 2year old bulls plus yearlings.



Over the last 12 months we have been buying cattle to fatten and have bought several different Devon crosses, these have included – Limousin bull, Devon cow, Santa-Devon, Salers-Devon, Angus-Devon, Devon bull – Friesian cow. Apart from the Salers which need to be grown to approximately 600kgs live weight before they are fat enough, the other crosses are now being marketed prime at over 500kgs plus live weight. The pure Devons at 500kgs live weight are bordering on graded as fat when run under the same conditions as the cross breeds.

It is now the 2nd week of December and the soil temperature is only just 14 degrees which means we will be planting our Millet this week. This is about 2 weeks later than the crop went in last year. All we need now is some nice northerly rain as we have been drying out quite noticeably in the last 2 weeks. (Overnight we have had 20mls)

We wish you all a Very Merry Xmas and hopefully a more Prosperous New Year.

From all of us in the Far Far North



Arthur Beazley



The Farmers Market is going very well.

Since September we have been selling 100% steak mince burgers and sizzling sausages. This has added value to our beef and made the market more fun and a little hectic at times. Brian has retired from the Police and he is earning his keep wearing his apron on a Saturday morning.

We are looking at buying a big place for us which will sort out our lack of land and supply of beef in the future.

Thank-you to all that have supported us with the supply of cattle from heifers to finished animals. For the next few years we will be needing to buy young stock to supply our market.

Cheers Lee & Brian Askew.

Stop Press.... we have bought some land. Stock needed to increase our breeding herd and supply the market.

Rannoch Meats – Red Devon Association Update

Our Red Devon meat continues to get great reviews from our customers and restaurants that we supply to and 2014 has been a year of growth where demand continues to exceed our little supply operation. We have this year worked with a number of association members in the lower North Island to supply us enabling us to meet the demand. Two of our key differentiators are

- 1) The fact we supply Red Devon beef, with a consistent quality and taste;
- 2) That people know where their meat has come from.

So working with dedicated Red Devon breeders continues to be our model for success.

One of our highlights this year was the Wellington on a Plate festival. This is a 2 week period at the end of August where restaurants and cafes through the greater Wellington region (includes Wairarapa and Kapiti) have special menus containing locally sourced ingredients. It is all about promoting food businesses from the Wellington region and is a busy time for all those involved. As well as the menu they have a burger competition with gourmet burgers on the menus of the cafes and restaurants involved.

For us this time is busy and often stressful as this year, like last year, the first time we found out that a restaurant was using our beef was when we read the published menus sent out to everyone in Wellington! So we frantically ring around the chefs to find out what demand they have to ensure we can meet the demand. This year we had 3 restaurants agreed before the menu's came out and

then after reading the menus we had 7. The most concerning thing was that some of these were large restaurants with our beef as their mains, so a little stressful ensuring we have enough animals at the right weights to meet the demand. Fortunately for us the larger ones were doing a beef stew so needed diced beef. Nothing worse than a large restaurant wanting only rib-eye and then what else do we do with all the other meat from those animals.

Ti Kouka on Willis Street Wellington is a restaurant we have been supplying for a number of years and last year won the Wellington on a Plate burger competition with a pork burger. This year they put on a double beef burger with two beef patties made up of Rannoch Red Devon & Greenmeadows Angus. Their aim, as well as producing a great tasting burger, was to see if people could tell the difference. I tried the burger, as did the owner of Greenmeadows and both of us got it wrong (assuming the chef put the patties on the right way)! This is not an accurate taste test in that the meats had been marinated before mincing, but was a fun way for them to promote their burger. It must have been good to customers also as they trebled their expected demand and sold out each day of the festival.

One the most interesting learnings have been the different cuts of meat different people are looking for. The chefs would take as much brisket, fillet or rib-eye as we can produce – if anyone has an animal bred with only these let me know! Whereas our retail customers although after the steaks, also love the mince flavour, the schnitzel and casserole cuts. In all cases the flavour of the Red Devon beef is what wins people over.

We will be looking to continue growing our restaurant and direct to customer sales of Red Devon beef over 2015. With this growth we will be looking for breeders interested in supplying throughout the year to us, whether big or small, so pop us an email or give us a call.

Julian Downs



Well another year has galloped past. Thank you to Helena for starting the profile of a favourite Bull or Cow, the first of many more to come about member's favourite animals. Also to everyone who has sent articles and other pieces of information for the newsletters over the year.

Have a great Christmas and an exciting new year.

Kevin

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