

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter  December 2019

Dear fellow Devon breeders.

This is the last newsletter for the year.

Your Council has been quite active since the previous newsletter.

Following the cancellation of the **world conference** we have decided to not run a mini tour as some concerns were received that a mini tour could impact the US World Devon Congress in 2023 which will celebrate 400 years of Devon breeding in the US. The first bull and three heifers arrived there on the ship Charity in 1623.

Brendon Barnes from Suhail Stud has been **co-opted** as committee member, following Karen's resignation. In accordance with the constitution he has not been given voting rights. We have set up a number of work streams with a lead provider for each work stream and I am in a supporting role for each lead:

DNA testing. Maggie is researching the most compatible and cost efficient method (SNP) of DNA testing to be made available to our members in the near future. This will make parentage testing easier and uniform as there are several methods available, all of which are not always compatible. Council also plans to bring a proposal to the next AGM that all fully registered herd sires be subject to compulsory DNA testing in line with most other breed societies these days. As an aside to that Ohuka Stud, supported by PBBNZ is running a trial DNA testing a number of animals for homozygous polling. If successful the test will be available to all members.

Progressive Group. I have met with 3 breeding outfits from this group. They are keen to join us and Heughan is working on the admissibility of their animals. This is a big work stream requiring in depth research. Alongside that we are also talking to the Devon Cattle Breeders Society of Australia, where some of the Progressive cattle are registered, about closer cooperation and alignment. If any rule changes are deemed to be desirable, a proposal will be put to the AGM.

Induction Package. Brendan McQuade is working on a new information pack for new members, following complaints from new members that the information provided at the time of joining was inadequate.

Constitution. Brendon Barnes and I are working on a revision of our constitution which will result in a proposal being brought to the next AGM. Not only is our constitution outdated and somewhat unclear in places, there are also changes in legal requirements coming into force, necessitating a review.

Dairy Beef Progeny Testing Program. Those of you that receive the Bulldust magazine, may have noticed Vic Edwards article commending VJ Awhitu for being the first Devon to be accepted in these PBB run tests. If the bull performs well it will provide a boost to the popularity of the Devon.

Website. Brendon with input from Maggie is working on a rejuvenation of our website, which needs updating with a new look and feel and more links. With Kevin Fletcher's retirement PIVOT design will take over the running of the website. Please note that until PIVOT has been

fully briefed members needing to change or add details should contact Maggie on 021940860 or Maggie@hc.co.nz

AGM. We are planning to hold the AGM on Saturday May 2 at Hamilton Airport. This venue was chosen as being the most central and accessible to our membership. There will be a lot of important issues to discuss so I encourage all of you to pencil this dates in your diary now.

As always don't hesitate to contact myself or other Council members with your thoughts, concerns or suggestions, we love to hear from you.

Finally, all of us farmers are under the twin pumps of regulation and public perception. Take a break from worrying about that and think of all the wonderful things we are doing as the guardians of our land, made all the better by the fantastic cattle we deal with every day.

A great Xmas and New Year from your Council.

Dirk Sieling

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Members List

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Important Dates to Remember

31 st December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 st January	Calf entry sheets cut off
30 th April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
2 nd May	AGM
30 th June	ADL's sent out
30 th July	ADL's must be Returned (no Cow Credits for ADL's returned after the 15 th August)
10 th August	Calf Entries sent out
30 th September	Annual animals fees cows invoiced
2 nd of every month	Group Run Cut off for the performance recording reports