

— New Zealand —

RED DEVON

— Cattle Breeders Association —

Newsletter  August 2020

It's been a little while since the last newsletter. As most of our members I have been very busy getting our cattle through the winter. Having bought in feed, while it was still available, we have been feeding out all winter to four different mobs. The cows are holding condition while feeding the calves and the calves are growing well. The very mild winter following the drought has provided unprecedented growth which has been the saviour of a lot of members I have spoken to. Our members in the Hawkes Bay and Manawatu regions got the rain later than our northern and western members, but are doing OK now.

Our neighbours across the Tasman are also having fantastic grass growth following their massive drought. A fair few of them have had to reduce their herd numbers by more than half. The silver lining of their cloud has been the opportunity to select the hardiest of breeding cows, that still managed to rear a decent calf under very trying circumstances. That is quite relevant to us. We advertise our breed as "the tougher the conditions the further out in front". With that comes an obligation to back that up with our breeding. All members have their own selection criteria, but one of them must surely be the ability to rear a good calf in difficult circumstances and get back in calf. A drought provides an opportunity to test our animals. On my visits to members I have at times seen animals that are seriously spoiled and this may hide their ability or inability to do well when the going gets tough.

One of our dairy farming clients rang me up the other day. We haven't been leasing bulls for a couple of years due to M Bovis, so he went to Angus bulls. He runs a herd of medium sized Friesians and the Angus calves were too big and he had a lot of calving problems. He rang to say he wanted to go back to those wonderful Devons. We need more of those stories. As Ohuka Stud doesn't have any 2 year old bulls, let me know if you have 2 year olds available for lease next spring and I will put you in touch with him. Could be an opportunity to make some money before sending them to slaughter.

Your Council is revamping the website and we are looking for quality photos, not just pictures of big bulls but also calves, cows, pictures with people and animals showing the desirable traits of our animals. Send entries to Brendon Barnes brendon@quaysideholdings.co.nz before September 1.

The entry chosen for the front page will win a 20l container of drench, to be handed over at the AGM which will be held on October 31 at Hamilton. The venue is still to be confirmed due to our original venue at the airport becoming a Covid19 quarantine premise.

Council met last week and due to the sale of the Te Maewa herd, considered applications for the entry into the register of two Australian bulls Barnstaple Cirrus and Barnstaple Kraken, both descendants of the disbanded Australian Ban Ban herd, blood of which runs already through some of our NZ herds. Both animals descend from Barnstaple Marriot. Cirrus was already registered in NZ as Commercial, due to the fact that there was no supplementary register at the time, otherwise he would have been placed in that. A previous Council had already accepted Vix Jurassic for full registration. Jurassic is a fifth generation descendant of Marriot. Council considered however that

both Cirrus and Kraken, being less than 4 generations did not qualify for full registration and has approved them for entry into the supplementary register only.

If you haven't returned your Animal Disposal List, please do so asap, so you won't get charged dam fees for animals you have disposed of. There is still time to scan and email the forms to Linda Rule:

lindar@pbbnz.com

Shaun Green from Leader products has asked me to share his website www.leaderproducts.co.nz with you if you are looking for well priced tags.

That's all from us at Council, we plan to have another meeting in September to finalise the details of the AGM

Dirk Sieling
Acting President

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Members List

([click](#) [here](#))



Important Dates to Remember

30 th April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
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 animal pre-list dam fees invoiced
31 October	AGM in Hamilton
31 st December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 st January	Calf entry sheets cut off
2 nd of every month	Group Run Cut off for the performance recording reports

www.reddevoncattle.co.nz