

RED DEVON

— *Cattle Breeders Association* —

Newsletter 🌸 March 2021

NEWS FROM AHUROA STUD

This is Rufus (20-01). When he was born and his mother (first time calver) abandoned him, we had to hand rear him.

No 18-17 (another first time calver) had a breach calf which died so the vet and I got Rufus and rubbed the afterbirth over him and luckily, she took him on as her own.

So happy endings after all that and she has been a wonderful surrogate mother to him.



CALVING

Spring calving started mid September and lasted until early November.

On the ground we got 24 Bull Calves and 18 Heifers. They are all growing well and we will be weaning them in April.

This year we will be selling the calves as weaners and, also all our R2 year old Bulls (19) due to us deciding to do more under-sowing, therefore available pasture is reduced.

If you are interested in any stock please call Maggie on 021 940 860 or email info@reddevon.co.nz.

The only stock we will carry over winter will be our breeding cows (55) and 2 breeding bulls.

It is nice to be able to take a breath and slow down a little as the lead up to Christmas was busy.

Within a fortnight we had to get all stock in for BVD testing, 7 in 1 vaccination, TB testing along with Mycoplasma Bovis Testing. Ospri has brought in for beef farmers that it is mandatory to have Mycoplasma Bovis Testing on herds with over 50 head of cattle. The lady who does the TB testing also did the Mycoplasma Bovis testing at the same time. All results came through quickly and as expected were negative.

During the lockdown period last year, we took advantage and under sowed a large portion of our farm with perennial rye and clover. Following on from that we have done extensive fertilising using a blend of DAP, Potash and PhaSedN. As a result, we have good grass growth and the cattle are thriving and having the odd passing shower helps keep the ground moist.

DAIRY BEEF PROGENY TESTING

Tinopai BA Jed 1633 was accepted in the Dairy Beef Progeny Testing in the 2020 intake.

Last year we submitted 3 of our bulls for the Dairy Beef Progeny Testing and Jed was accepted.

We sent him off to Animal Breeding Services in the Waikato where they had to get 77 straws to send off to B+LNZ Genetics.

They managed to get 144 straws, so the balance is in storage with Animal Breeding Services. We await the first reports.



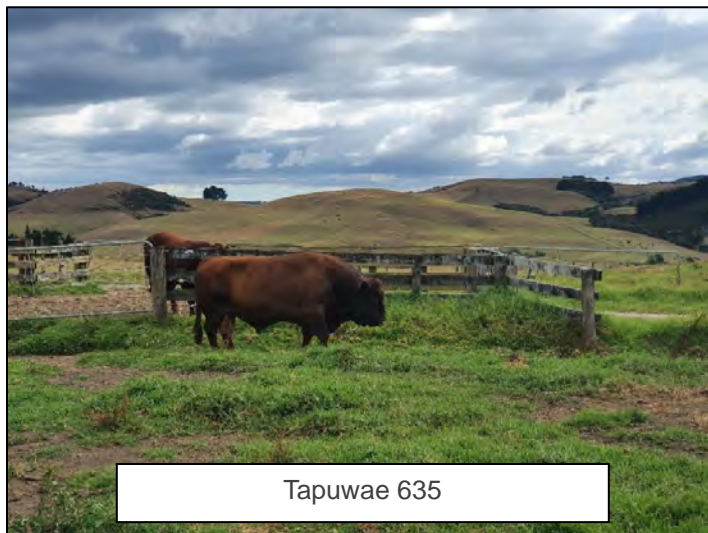
This year if you get an email from PBB inviting breeders to nominate bulls for the Dairy Beef Progeny Testing it is well worth nominating your Bulls as it is a great way to get the Red Devon breed name out in the marketplace.

VISIT TO TUPPY JONES AND ARTHUR BEAZLEY'S FARMS

Hutch and I went for an overnight trip up north and called in to meet with Tuppy and Arthur who kindly showed us around their respective lovely farms, showing us their wonderful stock.

They were gracious in imparting advice on the Red Devons and we came away with a lot more knowledge with regards to the Red Devon cattle.

We could have stayed for longer chatting about the Red Devon cattle and farming but sadly, we had to leave to get to our accommodation, but not before we had a lovely dinner whipped up by Tuppy of smoked fish cakes (the fish had been caught and smoked by Arthur).



Tapuwae 635

NZ RED DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

As Dirk has mentioned, the new website is up and running and we encourage everyone to:

- Submit photos for the gallery
- Advertise their stock on the website
- Any comments on any improvements that are needed on the website

If you are looking any Red Devon cattle, please email either Dirk Sieling on **dirk@sieling.nz** or myself Maggie Hutchinson on **maggie@hutchinson.co.nz** with a blurb of what you are looking for. We are putting a new section under the “Buy Red Devon” called “Cattle Wanted” and we will then post it under this section.

If you have any news with regards to your Red Devons or advice you wish to share with members we could post it under the news section.

Remember.... A website is only as good as the content that is on it.

FIELD DAYS

Dirk mentioned in his newsletter that the Association would like to do 3 Field Days per year. If our members have any ideas with regards to field days or wish to host one, could you please email either me **maggie@hutchinson.co.nz** or Colleen Hunter on **reddevonbeef@hotmail.com**.

The first of the field days were held at Maggie and Hutch's farm at Ahuroa on Sunday. The event had to be postponed for two weeks because of the Covid-19 lockdown of Auckland as it had been originally scheduled for Sunday 28th February. A special thanks to all of those that travelled a very long way to attend the event and we appreciated the advice and kind words that were shared by all.

The America Cup boats may have missed their races but the perfect still weather made for the perfect Field Day.

After an initial morning tea, we viewed the bulls that were quite happy to be walked between as they gently munched away.



We were very lucky with the weather as it turned on a spectacular day for us all.



Following the bull viewing, we moved on to the cows with their spring calves. We are most fortunate that we purchased the Tinopai herd from Wayne and Trish Aspin as they had achieved something we are just starting to learn.



A quick look at the farm implements and shed on the way up to lunch maintained interest. Most of the interest was not farm-related at this point but Hutch's 1972 XY GT Ford Falcon Shaker. When these cars were produced they were the fastest most powerful production car in production and it is good for 140 mph (225km/h).



Lunch was a couple of rolled boneless lamb roasts rotisseriesed on the wood open fire and some ribeye steaks on the BBQ.



After lunch, it was off to the windmill to observe it during the light winds and we were fortunate enough to get a few odd noises out of it. When the windmill starts up and slows down it makes some interesting noises, a little bit like those western films they are most famous for.



Last of all Arthur and Hutch rounded up the Wiltshire sheep (with the assistance of Jack, he's the Jack Russell miniature Schnauser cross that can run faster than a greyhound).

They are the most spoilt farm dogs that one could find, no kennels and nights out in the rain for these two scoundrels.



Much fun was had loading two Wiltshire rams into Arthur and Tuppy's ute for the long trip back to Manganui.



The cattle crush and partial yard cover we had constructed over the summer is of great shade benefit during the hot summer days. We have found the shade benefit is greater than the dry benefit on a rainy day.



All in all, it was a most enjoyable day and it was great to catch up with fellow members and share stories. Thank you all that attended as Hutch and Maggie very much enjoyed hosting the event. Maggie and Hutch's website is <https://reddevon.co.nz/>

NEWSLETTERS

These go out monthly and if you wish to share information on your stud please let us know and we can incorporate it within the newsletter.

WATER MANAGEMENT

By Hutch – Maggie's husband

I have listed out a few things that I think make our farming life a lot easier now that they have been accomplished,

1. A good water reticulation system
2. Stockproof fences
3. All-weather races
4. Plenty of shed space
5. Essential implements
6. Good yards
7. A sharing responsibility and a sense of humor

When Maggie and I purchased our farm from her parent's family estate in July 2016 we were without 6 of the 7 efficient farming ingredients listed above. Although Maggie grew up on our farm, I had no previous farming experience and was unsure at the time we took over the farm what I needed to know. I soon sorted out that farming was no different to anything else I had tried, trial and error is a spectacular learning tool.

I did have the advantage of a wife with farming knowledge and good neighbours that were always willing to lend a hand.

I have learned much from the mistakes I have made over the last 4½ years and fortunately the calamities have subsided somewhat.

Although there is a long list of past errors probably the tractor incident tops the list. Fortunately, I always wear a seatbelt and the ROPS cab was my saviour. The tractor was a right off.



Whether you are a small lifestyle block owner or a full-on real farmer I believe these seven items ensure farming operations run as smoothly as possible.

Aside from working full time at my engineering consultancy over the last 4 ½ years in our spare time, we have managed to,

- install 7 km of water reticulation
- replace 14 km of fencing
- rebuild a new race network
- build a shed and container shelter
- purchase essential farm implements
- install new Te Pari yards

Laying 1 km of 63 mm HDPE pipework between the front gate and the windmill over our first Christmas holiday break was called "*the marriage tester*". The 100 metre rolls of 63 mm HDPE were very heavy and rolling them out by hand over steep slopes created much foul language.

From the day we arrived on the farm until today the daily work effort required has diminished from a never-ending slog to now needing to do almost nothing.

The work effort looks something like a diminishing logarithmic scale that one day might become a horizontal line.

I have many times thought about making a to-do list of tasks to complete but have never thought that was sensible until we could fit those tasks on a sheet of lined A3 paper. That time is getting close so I will need to gather up my 3B1 notebooks from my ATV, ute, shed, tractor and work desk and combine the to-do tasks onto one master list. I have found that if I don't write something down when the thought is fresh in my mind the next time it appears on the radar is 3 weeks later at 2:00 am. Yes, I forgot to say I have a notebook on my bedside table too as an essential device to record my middle of the night brainwaves and memory flashbacks.

Although we have a 330 acre landholding and currently run 124 Red Devon cattle we consider ourselves lifestyle farmers. We are not farming for economic reasons we are farming to enjoy the lifestyle. There are not many things better than happiness on an animals face or the feeling of accomplishment at the end of a hard days work.

I must admit the summer heat is harder to work with than the winter cold when it comes to physical outside labour tasks as over this Christmas holiday some of the outside projects were rescheduled for the early morning or after dinner. During the heat of the day, we have an abundance of things to do in the shed in preparation for the cooler times of the day.

Anyway, I better concentrate on what we considered to be the essentials of water management.

Our farm is at Ahuroa and the Maori translation is 'long mound' so the mounded topography provided an ideal contour to reticulate water.

Our farm varies in vertical elevation from around RL70 m at our front gate to around RL165 m on a long elevated exposed ridge (mound) at the location of our bore, 6000 litre water storage tanks and windmill.

That 95m (9.5 Bar) of elevation differential delivers 140 psi of water pressure on the lower-lying flats of our predominantly rolling to steep pasture. A good part of the reason we had to replace all the original farm water reticulation system was the original alkythene pipelines could not accommodate the 9.5 bar of water pressure and they kept bursting.

We have utilised red-line MDPE pipework on the farm and the constant external diameter allows Plasson compression fittings to be used rather than Hanson type push fittings used on the constant internal diameter LDPE (Alkythene) pipework.



The Plasson type fittings are very easy to use and impossible blow apart once in place.

When using any type of rubber ring type fitting it is important to mitre the end of the pipework with a bevelling tool and lubricate the rubber ring before inserting the pipe. The bevelling tool is just like a large pencil sharpener that fits in the battery drill. The seal is attained at the rubber ring and the retainer and coupling are provided to hold the pipe in place. Although we do the couplings up fully a hand tight fit will provide sufficient restraint to allow a permanent seal.



Cows with calves drink about 70 litres per day and the pipelines feeding troughs need to accommodate a peak flow rate of around 14 litres per head unit per hour or around 230 ml per minute. This would mean 50 cows with calves would drink around 5000 litres per day with a peak demand of around 15 litres per minute.

The effective flow of water through pipes of any size is efficient at around 3 metres per second whether that be a domestic hose tap, 32 mm ring main or 50 mm principal water main.

A 20 mm trough feed will deliver around 60 litres per minute at that pipe flow velocity so there would be no issue with supply provided there is sufficient water pressure head on the pipe feed.

Water storage at the high point of a farm with gravity providing the head required for sufficient pipe flow velocity is a sure and safe way of ensuring sufficient supply capacity should power outages adversely affect those relying on pump pressure.

One of the principal reasons we installed a windmill with 60,000 litres of water storage at the top of our farm was to ensure we never ran out of water.

This handy little chart indicates water supply needs.

Animals	Litres/Head/Day	Peak Flow Litres/Head/Hour
Sheep:		
Ewes	4	0.40
Lambs	2.5	0.25
Cattle:		
Cows in milk	70	14.0
Beef cattle	45	7.5
Calves	25	4.2
Red Deer:		
Fawning Hinds	7.6	0.76
Mature Stags	8.8 - 10	0.88 - 1.0
Horses:		
Working	54	5.4
Grazing	36	3.6
Pigs:		
Brood sows	25	2.5
Mature pigs	10	1.0



BULLDUST MAGAZINE

We subscribed to this magazine last year, and it is worthwhile receiving. The articles are written by fellow Red Devon Breeders and are worth reading and informative.

If you don't receive this magazine you can subscribe through www.devoncattle.com website or email Tania Hill at admin@devoncattle.com.

Finally, something to have a little chuckle over

THE BULL

Three bulls heard the rancher was bringing another bull onto the ranch.

First Bull: "I've been here five years. I'm not giving this new bull any of my 100 cows."

Second Bull: "I've been here three years and have earned my right to 50 cows. I'm keeping all my cows."

Third Bull: "I've only been here a year, and so far, you guys have only let me have 10 cows. I may not be as big as you fellows, but I'm keeping all 10 of my cows."

Just then an 18-wheeler pulls up in the pasture carrying the biggest bull they've ever seen. At 4,700 pounds, each step he takes strains the steel ramp.

First Bull: "I think I can spare a few cows for our new friend."

Second Bull: "I actually have too many cows to take care of. I can spare a few. I'm certainly not looking for an argument."

They look over at the third bull and find him pawing the dirt, shaking his horns and snorting.

First Bull: "Son, don't be foolish -- let him have some of your cows and live to tell about it."

Third Bull: "Hell, he can have all my cows. I'm just making sure he knows I'm a bull."

Maggie Hutchinson, Ahuroa Stud

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