

— New Zealand —

RED DEVON

— Cattle Breeders Association —

Newsletter 🌸 October 2020

Hi All

Kathy and I have visited four of our members as well as a prospective member during a quick tour of Northland recently and, as always, we were impressed by the passion our members have for their Red Devons. They struggle on with what is effectively an extended drought, alleviated by some winter rain. It needs to be acknowledged here that the cancellation of the World Tour caused Tapuwae Stud financial loss as Arthur had collected semen intending to sell it to the overseas breeders.

We all have different ideas how the breed should develop but the passion we have for our cattle is something we all have in common. It is time for us as an association to have a look at how we see the NZ Devon develop in the future.

For that purpose, I have attached the current standards of excellence, this needs updating. For instance, the white tail switch is not mentioned but they are a long accepted variation. A number of cattle have been showing up with a patch of straight yellow hair between the horns, predominantly in bulls. More recently I have seen variants of this where this patch is virtually white. Should that be allowed? Another area is where bulls have some white hairs around the end of the pizzle sheath, a white pizzle switch. What about a smoke ring? A not inconsiderable number of Tilbrook Sunset descended animals have black noses. Quite importantly the standards don't mention size. How big and rangy should our animals be? Some breeders overseas have bred bulls that weigh almost 1400 kgs, is that desirable for NZ or should we focus on our cattle continuing to fill a niche for a medium sized breed?

Within our standards there needs to be sufficient room for individual stud breeders to pursue their own purposes without compromising the integrity of the breed. We will also discuss why our Devons are not a mainstream breed and what our value propositions are for our members, both stud and commercial breeders. The future of the NZ Devon as well as our Association will be under the spotlight at the AGM and it is important that we have maximum attendance.

You have all recently received the Notice for the AGM on 31 October. If you are a full member and have not received the Notice please advise Lindy at lindy@pbbnz.com. If you are an associate member and have views to share you will be welcome also but will not have voting rights. Please contact Lindy if you're in that category.

Guest speakers at the dinner following the AGM will be Tony Egan from Greenlea Meats and Charlotte Gray from Livestock Improvement Corporation. Charlotte is LIC's dairy beef specialist and is involved with the PBB Dairy Beef trials. The agenda will be sent out prior to the AGM Council has approved Wayne Aspin as Honorary member and has recommended to the AGM that Tuppy Jones be approved as Honorary Life Member.

The new website construction is progressing and we expect to have a test site up and running prior to the AGM. Pages for dairy farmers and life-stylers have been added. The response to the request

for pictures has been fantastic, a big thanks to all who sent in their favourite shots. We have plenty to choose from and the winning picture for the homepage will be announced at the AGM. Quite a few of the pictures will be used on the new website. There is also a new slogan: 'The Quiet Achievers'. This slogan was voted on by Council but the AGM may have differing views in which case Council will be happy to revisit this, but that's it for starters.

The AGM will choose between two options for an update of our rules. The only difference between the two is the structure of Council. The current system with some minor updates and tidy-ups is one option, the other is to elect 6 Councillors who then elect their own Chair and Deputy Chair. On the one side there is the argument that members forfeit the right to choose their President and Vice president. The counter argument to that is the question of when there has been competition for those roles, i.e. when was the last time members actually had a choice?

The argument for a Council to select their own chairs is that the Chair will have the confidence of the other Council members, or at least, the majority of them. It will prevent a situation where a President, virtually single handedly, sets the direction of our association, possibly in an erratic manner. Council would have the power of intervention and could simply change the Chair if needed. It would also allow the Council to keep functioning which would be difficult if there was no nomination for president and vice under the current system. The decision is yours.

In other news Ahuroa Stud has submitted three bulls to the Dairy Beef Progeny trials and one, Tinopai bred BA Jed, has been provisionally accepted and sent away for semen collection. New members Logan and Barbra Craft have purchased the bulk of the remaining Te Maewa herd and we are in the process of bringing those animals into the registry. Due to the Te Maewa breeding program a number of these animals can only be approved for the Supplementary Register.

As Acting President I will provide a President's Report to the AGM and hope to see you there.

Dirk Sieling
Acting President

COUNCIL:

Dirk Sieling	Ph. 021 154 0123	dirk@sieling.nz
Heughan Gordon	Ph. 0278746195	hcgordon@xtra.co.nz
Maggie Hutchinson	Ph 021940860	maggie@hutchinson.co.nz
Colleen Hunter	Ph. 0210479471	reddevonbeef@hotmail.com
Brendan McQuade	Ph 021430202	brendanmcquade@hotmail.co.nz
Brendon Barnes	Ph 021411498	Brendon.Barnes@quaysideholdings.co.nz

Secretary

Lindy Lawrence

Ph.: 06-323 4484 / fax: 06-323 3878
Mail: PO Box 503, Feilding.4740
e-mail: lindy@pbbnz.com

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
15th May 2021	AGM in Whitianga
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

