

New Zealand

RED DEVON

Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter  April 2022

Hello Members

Autumn has arrived, most have had some rain and some too much. Here in Hawke's Bay we have had consistent rain this summer and feed is plentiful, a pleasant change from the last couple of non-existent autumns.

Covid restrictions are slowly being relaxed and signs of normality are returning albeit slowly. The Northland group held a successful open day at Dreadon's Pencarrow stud, a great day at one of our oldest studs, Colleen has done a report for the newsletter.

The AGM notice has been sent out, it is being held Saturday 21st May at the Te Pahu hall, 2 Limeworks Loop Road, Te Pahu, Pirongia, to be followed by a stud visit to Helena and Ed Barrio's Monte Pahu stud.

One item on the Agenda is British pedigrees. There has been a relatively widespread infusion of Saler in British herds. Now that we are quite a few generations on from the original introduction of those genetics the time is coming when we may be asked to approve some of these animals for use in NZ. The varying standards between breed associations upgrading registers do not help in this matter, the British consider 7/8th to be registerable, NZ 15/16th and Australia 31/32th. The question is if an animal has five generations clear of Saler should it be considered? There are very few herds in the UK that have no infusion so what to do. There is a very narrow genetic base in Red Devon and not allowing the bulk of British genetics narrows that even further. Council would like members views on this topic.

Also on the agenda is registry errors with PBB. If members have had errors in the handling of their data sent to PBB recently please email details to hcgordon@xtra.co I have an upcoming meeting with PBB about this issue.

If you are interested in the Prioriton Magnate semen let us know, time is running out.

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM.
Heughan Gordon, Chairman

2022 AGM date and location

As sent under a separate email:

- Saturday 21st May at the Te Pahu hall, 2 Limeworks Loop Road, Te Pahu, Pirongia,
- To be followed by a stud visit to Helena and Ed Barrio's Monte Pahu stud.

Every year we rely on several members to donate their time to serve on the Council, could we count on you for the coming year?

Two of the current set of Council members have indicated they need to recover their time for other activities. We will farewell them at the upcoming AGM.

We seek in particular to have new members willing to share duties with current Council members so that skills are duplicated and the Council is resilient in the face of the many unexpected demands we face nowadays.

Open day at Pencarrow Stud

David and Sue Dreadon & Paul and Jo Dreadon hosted an open day on Sat 26th March 2022. Member Colleen attended and reports:

We were graced with a gorgeous sunny day and the horrendous wind from the day before thankfully had eased up for us!



In the morning the quiet herd sires just stood and watched as we erected white gazebos, right next to their paddock. Nothing seemed to phase them as we set everything up.

The days attendance was again slightly hampered by COVID but we still had good numbers and as always, a bunch of keen breeders come along for a day full of Devons.

Breeders from right up the Far North and down to Puhoi made the trip to Ruawai and it was great to catch up with each other again.



The herd sires were first up and there was a good selection of mixed aged bulls to view. Gavin Cooper was quick to pick out and secure a future new herd sire to take home and he was a very nicely put together bull too. It is great to see these good bulls continuing on for other breeders and these farm visits are a great opportunity to purchase cattle like this.

The R2 bull's paddock was full with a very good selection of bulls. Again, the bulls showed their good temperament while we all entered their paddock. This farm has had a fairly dry summer after Christmas, as most of us have. The last token rainfall, did get some grass growing again but sadly, the follow up that we all desperately need has not arrived as yet. These bulls were in superb condition despite the dry summer this season. There is a good selection of bulls available, if anyone is looking for some new bloodlines.

The commercial cow herd was next up and there was a good-sized mob of approximately 30 cows with calves at foot. The calves were doing well and enjoyed a feed of hay off the bike trailer. The cows were quiet and obviously just ‘no fuss’ cattle, a real pleasure to farm with.

We were shown the registered cow herd next and this was another big mob of cows, happy to munch hay straight from the trailer, if need be. There were some terrific calves being raised by big, sound, solid cows who just enjoy raising a decent calf. Again, a dry season doesn’t seem to bother good quality cows like this.



One of the things that always stands out to me with this herd, is the feet! Cows with very sound feet, that very rarely, if ever, will have any feet issues. This is something that they have culled heavily for in the early days and it shows.

There’s been over 60 years of breeding gone into the Pencarrow Stud, it’s easy to see and it is a real credit to the Dreadon family.



Bert Dreadon (David’s father) first started the stud in 1961 and it is a pleasure to see this herd continuing on with David’s son, Paul gradually taking over the reins. Paul is the third generation taking charge at Pencarrow and this stud would be probably the only original stud, still registering their cattle today – kudos to the Dreadons for their dedication to our wonderful breed!

The last mob to view on the home farm were the R2 in calf heifers. This was a very nice, even line-up of young ladies which most of us would be happy to have entering into our own herds. They were quiet, well-grown and had good frames. It was great to see.

We all enjoyed lunch with extra family members coming into man the BBQ which was really appreciated. Sue and Jo had prepared salads which were thoroughly enjoyed by all as we sat and enjoyed the sun.

After lunch, the majority of us took the opportunity to pop out to the Ringrose block. There are mainly commercial cows out at Ringrose and we were in for a treat! The main mob was spread out down on the flats and when they saw the utes coming down the hillside, they were sure they were getting a new paddock of grass. These cows are lovely big ladies and they just ‘glide’ across the countryside – effortlessly! It was quite a sight! Beautiful, big calves with dark coats – the cows were doing themselves proud. It is moments like these, I am so very proud of our Red Devon breed – it is a seriously under-rated beef breed!



Everyone enjoyed the day and thank you to all who could make it along on the day. There is a lot of preparation work that goes on behind the scenes for the hosts and we need to support these outings whenever possible. It is always a very interesting day off the farm and well worth attending these days if you can.

Thank you so very much to the Dreadon family for their hospitality on the day and all the effort that was put in for the open day to happen. It made for a brilliant outing and was thoroughly enjoyable. Cheers!

Marketing

Currently we have not yet fulfilled the request from Mt Cass Station in Waipara in North Canterbury. They are still looking for another 10-15 R2 Heifers, preferably polled and bred, ideally calving September, and another 15, maybe more, polled R1 weaned heifer calves. Because of their organic designation, they can only take stock that have not yet calved.

Also, in listing stock, potential buyers encourage you to give some indication of price as they are reticent to call without being confident that a transaction is feasible. This based on the good intention of not wanting to waste anyone's time.

The Council continues to support the market by sharing data on pricing, anonymously. Recent reported transactions include R2 heifers run with bull for \$1500, cows in calf for \$1850, and cows sold into commercial operations at a discounted \$1300 per cow. All prices +GST. If you trade stock, please report your transaction values. Contact Dirk, Danielle, or any member of the Council, details for communication on the last page of this newsletter.

Priorton Magnate semen deadline extended to the AGM

The upcoming AGM is your last opportunity! The remaining straws are going to be destroyed as they have not sold and there is a cost associated with storage.

