

— New Zealand —

RED DEVON

— Cattle Breeders Association —

Newsletter 🌸 March 2022

Greetings to all the Red Devon members!

Danielle here writing to you from the King Country. Summer time and the living is easy? Some days I'm humming that and other days not so much. Rain fell this week and my hum is back!

Rick and I went over to the farm visit at Millstone and are very glad we made the drive. I was inspired to fire the two of us for our poor herding efforts - I've decided we need a dog! Just a few little obstacles in my way, but something to aspire to.

It all starts with a dream, but I don't think I'll ever reach the impressive skills that were so casually demonstrated at Millstone. Colleen has kindly provided some words and pictures from the day below.

The Council continues to work to make the market more effective, and transparent to new arrivals. I know that many of you manage stock sales and purchase through established relationships, but that does not work so well for someone looking to get started with Red Devon. So please do share information about stock that you have available by listing on the website sales page.

Those of you who visit the website from time to time may have noticed there is a buyer request going unanswered. I have surveyed some members and it seems to be a matter of timing – this order could easily be delivered for next year but not this year as the stock available have already been committed to buyers. I had not realised how many members have stock sales arranged well in advance, and that is testament to good forward management by our members. But the buyer remains interested so let's see what we can put together for them this year, and thereby have the chance to incorporate their orders in upcoming years.

Farm visit tour THIS SATURDAY!

The **Northland Red Devon Club** is holding a farm visit tour on Saturday, March 26th 2022 and being hosted by Pencarrow Stud - David and Sue & son, Paul and Jo Dreadon.

Onfarm at Dreadon Rd, Tokatoka/Ruawai, near Dargaville.

Starts at 10am.

Tea/Coffee and Lunch provided.

All Association members are welcome to come and join us on the day,
we would love to see you there!

RSVP as soon as you can, please,

Paul Dreadon 021915941 or Colleen Hunter 0210479471

2022 AGM date and location

As flagged in the previous newsletter the AGM is set for the 21st of May at the Te Pahu Hall, in the Waikato. There will be an associated farm visit to Monte Pahu stud on the same day.

Millstone Farm visit

Colleen reports that we had the opportunity for a farm visit to Heughan Gordon's Millstone Red Devon Stud on February 19th 2022. Despite Covid ramping up its presence, the day went ahead regardless. We had fewer numbers than we were expecting sadly as travel plans changed for many. A number of new members attended including one from the South Island, who flew up specially for the farm visit. The enthusiasm is great to see!



We were spoilt with a gorgeous Hawkes Bay day of sunshine and a gentle breeze – it made the day out a real pleasure. All the cattle were incredibly well behaved and didn't even mind all the new people walking through their paddocks.

The R2 bulls were first up – they were in very good order and displayed their good temperament throughout the large mob. These bulls are for sale if anyone is requiring a new herd sire for next season. They were nicely put together bulls with plenty of promise.



The cow mob had 55 x mixed aged Cows, all with calves at foot. The cows were good, sound Devons and doing a good job of their calves. These cattle are all grazed on steep hill country, they are sure-footed and very level headed, they HAVE to be on hills like that! It was great to see a nice big mob of Devons and all handling the conditions so well.



The herd sires were not at all interested in seeing us and disappeared over the horizon to the far gate. They had all just finished working for the season and were in good condition. There was quite a selection of bloodlines throughout them and again, good natured bulls.

The 30 odd maiden heifers were a VERY even line up and will join the herd this coming season. It was hard to pick the best as they were all nice looking heifers and really easy on the eye!



The 2 & 3 year old heifers and their calves were what I was very interested in seeing. They had been through a drought when they were young and Heughan had said they had recovered well. What a treat to see them. They were a standout line-up of quiet, young dams with fabulous calves at foot! There was absolutely no indication that these heifers had been through VERY dry times - they were in top condition. Again, the mob are running with sheep on steep country, so it was impressive to see them doing such a good job of their calves and themselves.



We were lucky to be treated to a full farm tour as we went around each mob. This made the day out even more interesting as we were 'chauffeured' around the farm and got to really appreciate the countryside.

We all headed back to the woolshed for a very enjoyable lunch and a cold one! The event was well thought-out and had a nice relaxing vibe. A big thankyou to Heughan and family for their hospitality on the day. All the effort that had been put in to make the day happen, was very much appreciated! Well done guys!

Marketing

As discussed in the last newsletter you will now see a last updated date noted prominently on the stock trade pages. Keep in mind that we have a page for both those selling and those seeking stock.

Currently we have a request from Mt Cass Station in Waipara in North Canterbury. They are looking for up to 30 Polled Bred R2 Heifers, ideally calving September, and 30 polled R1 weaned heifer calves. They are currently looking to shake up the genetics of their beef herd to better align

with the target market of their direct to retailer meat brand www.washcreek.co.nz . This interest is based in part on the multiple appearances of Red Devons in the steak of origin contest. Kudos to former member Graham Dyke for his participation and performance in those competitions. If you have stock to contribute to this transaction, contact Dirk as we are putting together a summary of what is on offer for this year, and next.

The Council continues to support the market by sharing data on pricing, anonymously. Recent reported transactions include R2 heifers run with bull for \$1500 on average. 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.

Prioron Magnate semen deadline extended to the AGM

In the last newsletter we advised a March 1 deadline to request the straws from Prioron Magnate, but if you want some straws you can still get them. The remaining straws are going to be destroyed as they have not sold and there is a cost associated with storage. You have until the AGM to make your request, to one of the Council.

COUNCIL:

Heughan Gordon	Ph. 0278746195	hcgordon@xtra.co.nz
Dirk Sieling	Ph. 0211540123	dirk@sieling.nz
Danielle Boven	Ph 021446601	danielleboven@gmail.com
Colleen Hunter	Ph. 0210479471	reddevonbeef@hotmail.com
Gavin Cooper	Ph 0210524667	gkcooper25@gmail.com
Brendon Barnes	Ph 021411498	Brendon.Barnes@quaysideholdings.co.nz

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
21 May 2022	AGM Te Pahu Hall
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 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