

RED DEVON

Newsletter 🌸 November 2022

Greetings to all Members,

November brings an end to most spring calvings with only two cows in the Millstone herd hanging on till the end of October. Apart from one late term abortion all mixed age cows have produced an unassisted calf. The heifers have required more attention this year, not due to large calves, rather smaller heifers following two poor growing seasons. All but one are rearing a calf though and growth is good in the Hawkes Bay at the moment.

Most areas seem to have had a warmer but much wetter winter and some dairy and cattle operations have had their winter management tested. Ground conditions are testing arable farmers patience with many crops going in late, especially in Hawkes Bay.

A word on Standards of Excellence

Following last month's newsletter, Council has received some negative feedback from members regarding a bull, Tinopai VJ Awhitu, discussed and pictured in Dirk's newsletter article. The issue being the small grey marking that arguably is a smoke ring, which Dirk referred to in his article. Some members felt that this bull does not meet the criteria described in the standards of excellence, for those unfamiliar with these guidelines they can be found in the members section of the website under 'New Member Information'.

Council discussed members concerns at the last meeting and while opinions varied the following considerations were taken into account:

1. Dirk did not breed the bull, he was bred and registered by another breeder and sold to Dirk as registered
2. This bull has at least 35 registered progeny spread across three herds, none of which inherited a similar marking, these herds and progeny would be adversely affected by a change of status of this bull

The standards of excellence are a guidance only and should be used in conjunction with other selection criteria such as structural soundness, calving ease, growth rates and temperament when considering which animals to retain as registered.

All studs have different breeding objectives and selection criteria and it is important for our members to have those freedoms. All breeding decisions should take into consideration the qualities that our Devons are renowned for in order to maintain or improve their reputation.

The argument for DNA testing

Recently council obtained DNA profiles for Prioriton Magnate and Tillbrook Prince, the semen held or formerly held by the association. Following receipt of the Prioriton profile the two potential progeny were tested and found to be unrelated to Prioriton Magnate.

Most breed societies, including the Australian association, now require a sire to be DNA tested and a profile forwarded to the breed society before allowing the registration of any progeny. It should be remembered DNA testing not only confirms parentage, if a sire profile is held, but also confirms horned /polled status.

At Millstone this year all herd sires were profiled along with 30 2yr bulls. 100% parentage match was confirmed and of the 30 2yr bulls there were 4 horned, 6 homozygous polled (all progeny polled) and 20 heterozygous polled (polled but carrying a recessive horned gene). Of the herd sires tested we now have 4 homozygous polled and one heterozygous polled bulls to use this year. Testing was done through GenomNZ by way of an ear punch sample costing \$26 plus vials per sample.

It will be an AGM agenda item this year whether to make sire DNA profile testing compulsory in the interests of herdbook integrity.

Heughan Gordon, Council President
Millstone Stud

Standard pricing guidance for Red Devon

As discussed in previous newsletters, interested buyers are regularly seeking guidance on pricing. The Council has been able to compile the following guidance table based on sales reported in the newsletter, their own experience, and the publicly available pricing indications provided by some breeders.

Category	Price, NZ\$ + GST
Calves of all types, newly weaned to 10 months	750-1250
Heifers, 10-18 months	1200-1300
Bulls, 10-18 months	1500-2200
Heifers, 20-30 months	1500-1700
Cows 2-5 years	1850 and up
Cows 5+ years	1700 and up
addition for in calf, depending on sire	+300-800
addition for calf at foot, depending on sire	+500-1000
Bulls, 20-30 months	2300-3000
Bulls, over 3 years	upwards from 3000 as demand dictates

Please note that some breeders are willing to offer more favourable prices for prospective members seeking to establish themselves with Red Devon stock. Queries on this should be taken to the Council with an indication of stock type and numbers sought, and intentions of membership. Handled on a case by case basis.

This table is now shared on the website on the Trade page detailing stock buyers are seeking to purchase. It is intended to assist prospective buyers and potential new members. If you have further input to refine this, please contact a member of Council.

We will continue to provide datapoints on recent sales, information which was relied on to generate this table and will update it in the future. Sales reported over recent months include several transactions of cows in calf for \$1850, many transactions of two year old bulls ranging in price upwards from a minimum of \$2300.

Welcome to new members

We welcome new members Carl and Sarah Sinclair. We look forward to introducing both them and Mark and Robyn Telford of Dannevirke in the next newsletter.

Remembering Joan Power

Joan passed away recently, she was one of our life members, an honour bestowed on a select few who have made a significant contribution to the breed.

Her “Isca” herd registered its first calves in 1984 and Joan served on council as secretary for a number of years. She acted as breed registrar handling all registrations, calving sheets and transfers in the period before this was assigned to ABRI and latterly PBBNZ. The Isca herd was dispersed around 2007 after 23 years breeding, and subsequent to this Joan was nominated for life membership.

Wayne Aspin’s Tinopai herd acquired most of the Isca females and their genetics live on in current herds today. The Chairman attended Joan’s service and in accordance with Stewart and the families wishes, a donation has been made to Whakatane SPCA on behalf of the association.

Transport to South Island completed successfully

The shipment of Red Devon to the South Island took place as planned in November. More than 50 stock were combined from four or five breeders across the North Island and reached buyers in the South Island reportedly fit and healthy. Stocklines was used for this delivery but there are also other options available, check in if you need to learn more and there will likely be a similar shipment arranged next year.

South Island buyer continues to seek Heifers

Pleased to have landed about 50 recently, Dave Woolridge is still looking for 13 nulliparous Red Devon Heifers before July 2023 and up to another 63 in the 12 months to follow.

The stock do not necessarily need to be registered but they do need to be of good quality, particularly in temperament. A video of someone walking amongst the stock would be valuable to assess the temperament.

Dave is looking for polled stock only and is fine with autumn calving stock as he plans to split the herd between autumn and spring calving. Heifers in calf are preferred. Mt Cass station is in Waipara in North Canterbury.

Reminder – please advise of sales so adverts can be removed from the website

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Members List

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Important Dates to Remember

31 st December	Balance Date; end of financial year
31 st January	Calf entry sheets cut off
30 th April	Membership Subscriptions Invoiced
May 2023	AGM
30 th June	Animal Disposal List (ADL) sent out
30 th July	Deadline to return ADLs, by post or email to Linda Rule at PBB lindar@pbbnz.com Please note no cow credits for ADL's returned after the 15 th August
10 th August	Calf Entries start
2 nd of every month	Group Run Cut off for the performance recording reports
30 th September	Annual animal pre-list dam fees invoiced

www.reddevoncattle.co.nz