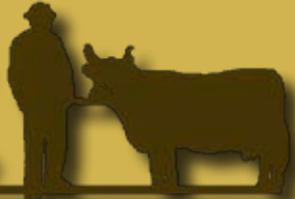




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DEXTER DISPATCH



No. 65

August 2009

Class 1 - AGM Photo Competition



1st: Riverlea Ducati. Photo: Anne Burdon

2nd: Gulliver. Photo: Steve & Carol Ring



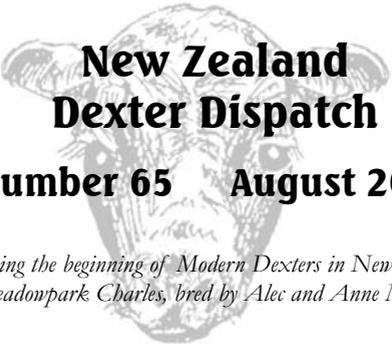
3rd: Summer Wine Thady. Photo: Maureen Petterson

*Photographs from the Mystery Bus Tour after the Annual General Meeting held in New Plymouth, 5-7 June 2009
Photos by Gordon Read*



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Kath and Josie Aker, 115 Main North Rd, Geraldine.
Ph: 03 693 9380 Email: peelviewdexter@xtra.co.nz

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New Zealand Dexter Dispatch

Number 65 August 2009

*Marking the beginning of Modern Dexters in New Zealand -
Meadowpark Charles, bred by Alec and Anne Meades,*

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Front Cover: 2 day old Dexter calf - Photo by Anne Burdon.

Winning Photo of Class 3 (Best Single Dexter) and

Winner of 'The Peoples Choice' at the 2009 AGM



EDITORIAL

Well, here we are again with another Dispatch!! This time it is the 65th issue of the Dexter Dispatch and I hope you enjoy it.

In this issue we have set a new record - our youngest contributor ever!! A special thanks to Cameron Ellis for allowing us to reprint his school project on pages 26 and 27. Make sure you read this. The standard of this project is well above anything I ever did at school and it makes good reading. Well done Cameron.



We have a couple of reports on the AGM that was held in New Plymouth in June plus a few photos from that weekend. Already we are planning the 2010 AGM which will be in Dunedin, so you can start making your plans if you wish to be there.

Look on page 8 for the last report from our retiring Herd Registrar, Peter Lucking. Peter has contributed to most of the Dexter Dispatches during his eight and a half years in that roll and I want to thank him for not only his reports but also his significant contribution to the society as a whole. Thank you Peter!

Contact me if you did **NOT** receive a survey form with this dispatch from the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic. Please fill it in and send it back **TODAY** - thanks.

In the next Dispatch, we will be starting a new advertising page where you can promote your Dexter Stud with the reproduction of a business card type advertisement. We will fit 8 of these to a page and the cost will be \$10 for one insertion or \$30 for one insertion for each of four consecutive issues. Contact me if you want to be part of this.

Thanks again to all who have contributed to this dispatch. Happy Reading.

-Keith

WRATT'S WRAMBLINGS

I usually have ended my Wrablings with a few comments about Rugby but this time I thought I would start the way I usually finish, if that's not too double Dutch! I have been pretty anxious to get these Wrablings under way while we here in the Bay of Plenty, enjoy a bit of Chart Topping Success. Most of you have probably not even noticed, but our local Steamers team has won their first four matches in the Air New Zealand Cup - that is New Zealand's Provincial Rugby Championship. So far we have beaten Counties, Northland, Wellington and Waikato and we are the only team to have had four wins so far this season. We are on a roll!! Now that all may change..and it probably will, but we are pretty proud of our boys and are enjoying a slice of success and excitement. Which is more than I can say about The All Blacks. Dear oh dear what has happened there????!!!! Three losses already in the Tri Nations



Tournament and do you know what made the news this week about the All Blacks? They have been training seriously on the basic skills of the game..that was the greatest news out of the All Black camp – apart from Carter being rushed back in as an expected saviour to the team. No pressure Daniel. Not half!!! The rest of the series will be very interesting especially when highly paid professionals like these guys have to spend time relearning the basic skills of the game that most of us learnt as boys in the back yard. Catching, passing, tackling and running with the ball should have been learnt years ago, not now as an All Black. I don't think there is much hope!!

I have had a bit of a refresher course in the last few weeks about where my (and your) tax dollar goes and I must say I am a bit disturbed by it all.

Firstly I learnt that it costs us \$100,000 a year to keep a prisoner. That is \$1923 a week or \$274 a day. Why? A room at the hotel in New Plymouth that Heather and I stayed in for the AGM cost us \$110 per night and with generous meals that would still be less than \$250 per day and that was for both of us. You do the maths and think about the costs and may be you will share my frustration and concern.

Secondly there is more bad news...we have heard a lot about beneficiaries in the last week or so on the news and how well off some of them are. The highest earning beneficiary in our country I understand is a family of 12. Mum, Dad and 10 children who have been beneficiaries for 15 years..yes 15 years and this year will take home \$86,000. Can you believe that? I ask that simple question again...Why? Why are these people entitled to so much money? Why in 15 years hasn't either Mum or Dad had to find a job? Why do we have people like this bludging off the tax payers of this country? We have a fair slice of our society who think they are owed money for this and money for that and all they do in return is breed and get more money!!

Now don't get me wrong...I think we do have a duty to support those in our society who are unwell, disabled and unemployed but not the unemployable, and the welfare parasites that latch onto the state for handouts year after year. We have too many welfare beneficiaries in this country, abusing the system who make up the unproductive sector of our society. Maybe Paula Bennett and her National Party cohorts have what it takes to make some hard calls on some of these people, bring things back into some sort of balance and reduce the wastage that concerns many of us.

Until next time..when I am sure to have a happier wramble!!

-Keith

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Taranaki turned on a great weekend for the 2009 AGM. The organization was excellent...thanks to those of you down that way who worked very hard to plan and organize the weekend. We all enjoyed ourselves and for me personally it was good to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. I am already making plans to be in Dunedin for the 2010 AGM.

It has been with deep regret that council have accepted the resignation from Peter Lucking our Herd Registrar after nearly nine years of faithful, dedicated service. Peter



has made a very significant contribution to the Dexter Society as Herd Registrar and we will miss him. Words can hardly express our gratitude for all you have done but Thank You Peter and a very special thanks to Merrial because behind every busy man is a very supportive Wife. We wish you both well in your retirement.

So the need for a new Herd Registrar has focused my thoughts and attention for the last three months and I am happy to say we have a good outcome but it has meant a bit of a shuffle around at council level. Colin Read will be the new Herd Registrar and processes are already in place for the change over which will officially occur around the 15th September. From that date, can you please send all registrations, transfers and herd registrar queries to Colin – his contact details are on page 16.

We welcome Phil Becker as a new council member and he has hopped in to the saddle, probably quicker than he ever expected, because he has taken over the treasurer's job from Colin. That change over has already taken place so please make contact with Phil for all financial matters.

Both these guys have a very steep learning curve as they come to grips with their new jobs. There will be period of settling in for Colin and Phil so understanding and patience will be needed by us all over the next few months.

We welcome back Kath Aker who has been on council in the past and returns after a break for health reasons. Kath has taken on the Area Group Portfolio and will be in touch with some of you in the year ahead. Rob Snelgar continues as Secretary, Maureen Petterson continues with Membership, Marion Corbett has Showing and Judging and Steve Ring keeps Promotions and Research. I will continue to be editor for the Dexter Dispatch. Marti Winn has moved off council and I want to thank her for her valuable contribution over the last year and wish her and Murray a good year ahead.

Until next time...

-Keith

FROM THE COUNCIL

The new council met for a brief meeting straight after the completion of the AGM in New Plymouth. Kath and Phil were not able to be there but we others discussed:

- Portfolio allocation for the new council – to be confirmed at our July Meeting.
- 2010 AGM to be in Dunedin over the weekend of the 12 and 13th June.
- Colin (treasurer) and Maureen (membership) reported on the reorganization of these two portfolios. Colin will mail out renewal notices and they are to be returned to Maureen.
- Options available for a new Herd Registrar, bearing in mind the discussions at AGM centering on keeping any extra associated costs to a minimum and member's reluctance to go fully commercial. Processes put in place for appointment of a new herd Registrar by the end of August.



- Council agreed the AGM was very successful and were pleased with the general atmosphere at the meeting. We discussed the high number of proxies presented at the AGM and options for starting the meeting earlier next year.

The full new council met at Ardmore over the weekend of the 25th and 26th July and had a busy couple of days. We attended to the normal business of minutes, correspondence, finance and following up previous decisions. We then had a lengthy discussion around the possibilities for a new Herd Registrar and with Colin being interested in the job this meant we had to discuss how all the other portfolios fitted the new Council. We came to good conclusions over these issues and the assigning of portfolios is listed with Council Contacts on page 16. Some other matters we discussed that are worth noting.

- New Member Packs
- Bringing Joint Membership fees in line with regulations. This will have to be by way of a remit to the 2010 AGM
- Supporting and funding local Small Farmer's Field days at New Plymouth and Rangiora.
- Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Dexter Cattle Research Project Survey – to go to all members with the August Dispatch.
- A number of Herd Registry Matters.
- How best to support and encourage local area groups.
- A Dexter Showing Uniform. Agreed that it is almost impossible to reach agreement on a color and a style so we are going to suggest a variety of options for color and style and have the same wording and logo placement. Each person can choose their own garment and we will have one central place to do the printing. Maybe Admore Print who we have used before to print garments. Black trousers will be encouraged. More details later.
- Various promotional options. Cool Flute Signs for individual studs with the Society Logo, Stands at the Royal and local A & P Shows and reprinting the information giveaway brochures.
- Animal Assessment Form to have its final draft presented at the 2010 AGM. We still need to find someone skilled in graphics to do the pictures and layout.
- Prices for Dexter Animals slaughtered and the discrepancies that exist between the North and South Islands.
- Introducing a new "Special Services to Dexter Cattle" award to be presented at AGM's in recognition of a persons significant services to the society and contribution to its members.
- Consider awarding Life Memberships only after 10 years service to the Society.
- Options for a new Website of our own. Colin and Phil were given the task of looking into options, make some decisions and to have this up and running before the end of this year.

If you have issues that concern you or matters you wish council to discuss, then please don't hesitate to contact any of us on council. Contact details are on page 16.

-Keith



FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Well it has been a busy 3 months, with the AGM in June, the first full Council Meeting in July, plus membership renewals and there has been a good influx of new members.

From now on as well as New Members, I will be in charge of membership renewals and any enquiries anyone may have around membership.

Thank you to those members who have renewed their membership for the 2009 / 2010 year. If you have still to do that then **DON'T FORGET to pay your 2009 /2010 membership fees before the 1st October 2009** or you will have to pay an extra \$10 as a late payment fee. So if you haven't sent me your cheque yet for your membership, do it now, so that you will continue to receive the Dexter Dispatch's and be able to registrar and transfer your cattle. It makes life so much easier for Colin (Herd Registrar) Phil (Treasurer) and myself when you are up to date with everything.

I will be going overseas on holiday from the 23rd September until 24th October, so don't worry if you don't hear from me during this time. If it's urgent you can always contact one of the other Council members.

NEW MEMBERS – As I mentioned above we have had good number of new members - a total of **25** since the last Dexter Dispatch and I thank all of the Breeders who have encouraged some of these people to join our Society.

On behalf of the Dexter Society I would like to welcome these new members. If I can be of any help to anyone, please don't hesitate to contact me and hopefully I will get to meet you sometime in the near future. On page 17 of this Dispatch you will find a list of Area Group Contacts – you are welcome to make yourself known to the one nearest you as they are able to provide assistance with society information and local members within your area.

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PREFIX
771	Robert & Wendy Steven	NELSON	Pig Valley
772	Colin & Karen Brown	RANGIORA	Riverside
773	Bobbie Wisneski & Michael Dye	HAMILTON	Double Trouble
774	Carrick Denize & Karin Frost	HAMILTON	Crabapple Farm
775	Bryan & Colleen Old	PAPAKURA	Stone Bridge
776	Steve Ryan & Judy Jordan	HASTINGS	Meadows
777	Bernie O'Brien & Donna Gilbert	LEVIN	Annaghdown
778	Rosalind Abernathy & Peter Heale	PAEROA	Capricorn Park
779	Gordon Vize	CAMBRIDGE	
780	Michela Fox & Kim Blanchard	FIELDING	
781	Christine & David Scott	PALMERSTON NORTH	Shi-lah



782	Christine, Paul, Jeremy & Rebecca Ellery	LEVIN	
783	Brent & Sue Rodgers	PAEROA	Balomag
784	Allistair & Suzie Osmond	CAMBRIDGE	Earthstead
785	Victoria Walker & Rebecca Latter	ASHBURTON	Cheriton Park
786	Darryl & Maree Sims (Sims Farming Ltd)	INVERCARGILL	Mighty Rimu
787	Stuart & Barb Peel	ROXBURGH	Tally Ho
788	Debbie & Peter Bearsley	OAMARU	
789	Duncan & Emma Ward	RANGIORA	Flixton
790	David & Allison Syme	TAURANGA	
791	Julie Smith	RANGIORA	Eyretonelea
792	Angus Smith	RANGIORA	Eyretone Valley
793	Phillip & Helen Brodie	LEVIN	Heatherlea
794	Pauline Dean	NORTH SHORE	Riverhill
795	Carel & Philip Elvin	PAPAKURA	The Orchard

Just a reminder to ALL members. YOU MUST be a financial member of The Dexter Society to register and transfer all of your Dexter cattle at the time of birth or sale. Remember to pass this information on to people you sell your animals to and make sure they are aware of these rules.

-Maureen Petterson

PLEASE NOTE!

COLIN READ

is taking over from

PETER LUCKING

as the Society's new HERD REGISTRAR

from 15 September 2009.

Please direct

all Registrations, Transfers and Herd Book enquiries to

COLIN, 175 RUAHIHI ROAD, RD1, TAURANGA.

PHONE 07 543 4023 EMAIL colmar@clear.net.nz



FROM THE HERD REGISTRAR

I guess that this is probably my 'swansong' article as Herd Registrar - after over 8½ years at the job, recognising that age inexorably clocks up the years at an exponential rate, and the exalted status of becoming a Great-Grandfather a few months ago, all reminded me of my mortality and convinced me that it was time to hang up my boots and give someone else a crack of the whip. Accordingly, I contacted the President in Mid-May to say that I would like to be out of it within three months, which is now up!



I have very much enjoyed the job, for its challenges, its opportunities to develop it (electronic Herdbooks and the like), but primarily for the interaction with a great society of members - all of you! While it has not always been possible to agree on every issue, I would hope that none have felt that they were dealt with unfairly - it is the function of the Registrar to abide by the Regulations of the Society (which are put in place by the membership), and there has always been recourse to Council. So a big 'Thank you' to all of you who have encouraged - or put up with me, during these years which has seen huge growth in membership and cattle transactions. When I took over in 2000, there were 997 cattle registered; there are now, at the time of writing, over 5100.

I hope that the transition to Colin Read as the new Herd Registrar will be smooth and that this, 'new blood' will be able to further enhance the service to you, the membership.

I shall not rust! The calendar continues to be filled quite enough with Church responsibilities, and Merrial (who has been a background tower of strength throughout the years) and I will continue to breed and to thoroughly enjoy, our small but delightful Dexter herd. We will continue to value our association with like-minded folk within this area.

May the years ahead see the Society growing ever stronger, and the quality of our cattle continue to improve.

-Peter Lucking

SHOWING & JUDGING REPORT



- I had great pleasure receiving on behalf of Cameron Walker, The Snowline Trophy from Mrs Geraldine McDonald, at our AGM held at New Plymouth in June. Cameron has attended shows from Christchurch to Winton, Balclutha to Wanaka, throughout the lower South Island with his girls, gaining a Supreme Champion, a reserve Champion, five firsts and two 4th placings. He is thorough and diligent in his attitude to showing and a worthy winner of this trophy presented annually to the new exhibitor who gains the most points in any one showing season.



- The Royal Agricultural Society (of which we are a member of) held their AGM in Invercargill over a few days in June. I attended as DCSNZ representative, primarily to the Beef Breeders Committee Meeting. First up in the morning was a talk by two ladies who are in charge of the very well run Upper Clutha A & P Show at Wanaka, the second largest show in the South Island. Their key points were **1.** Attitude comes from the Top. **2.** When things go wrong (and they do) the team gets stronger. They have had tornadoes, water mains being cut, deliberately released animals and **3.** Lessons from Geese - honking is for support and encouragement! The Beef Breeders Committee was interesting too, hearing from other breeds, problems common to all of us, and some even had suggested solutions! An article in newspapers since had indicated the future of A & P shows is under review, primarily due to falling stock entries in competitions.
- Mmmm food for thought as another Show Season is about to get under way. Maybe I need to look at leading by example and show some of my Dexters. Do you want to join me and take up the challenge? The Snowline Trophy is up there to aspire to again next season. I hope many of you will support your local show by attending and maybe taking along a couple of your Dexters. Contact me if you want to know more about your local show.
- The Royal Show is being held in Christchurch from the 11th to 13th November and it would be great to see a few more Dexter Entries there. Our Society will have a display there, so if you would like to help I would love to hear from you - if you aren't showing off your cattle.
- The 2009 North Island Breed Show is at Stratford over the weekend of 28th and 29th November, held in conjunction with their centennial show. Judging of the Dexters will be held on Sunday starting at 9am. There are classes for Pure-bred and Graded animals, also Handler and Novice classes. The Charming Stud Trophy will be awarded to the Best Taranaki owned and exhibited Dexter. Nancy Edge will be our Dexter Judge. For more details please contact me.
- Just some other Show dates of interest are, Waikato 1st November, Tauranga 23rd January and Rotorua 31st January
- Next year the 2010 Breed Show will be at Morrinsville in March, more details later.
- There have been some workshops held in the Regions over the last summer, supporting handling and preparation for showing. It would be great if some of you felt ready to 'show' this season. Perhaps you might try some of the local shows first, before hitting the big time.
Hopefully there will be more workshops in your area, for some confidence and brushing up the showing skills. To find out what is happening locally, get in touch with your nearest Area Contact person. Details are in the middle of this dispatch.
- From time to time the RAS hold Judging Schools. There are a series of Junior Judging Seminars to be held in Waimate, Blenheim, Masterton and Auckland. If any of these are of interest to you give me a call.

Please note my change of email address. We are now **corbettscorner@scorch.co.nz**
Happy Showing everyone.

-Marion Corbett



SO YOU'RE THINKING OF OWNING DEXTERS?

If you are, congratulations! They are wonderful little cattle, highly suited to small blocks, easy care, and great fun.

- Often people buy stock first, then think of joining the Society later on. The best way round is to join first, and get the benefit of meeting breeders in your area, learning about the cattle and their care, and discovering the best way to start – there are, like any enterprise, pitfalls for the unwary going in blind!

You can contact the local group in your area – on the website, click 'Contacts', and see 'Group Co-ordinators'.

So here are a few tips. Whether you're answering advertisements on the Internet, or the papers:

- Are the stock registered with the Society? Ask to see the Certificate of Registration.
 - Is the Seller a current member of the Dexter Cattle Society? Don't be afraid to ask that either!
 - If the stock is being sold as 'in-calf', or 'Run-with-Bull', ask if the bull used was theirs (and also registered with the Society). If it wasn't, they will need to give you a copy of the Bull Service Certificate from the owner of the Bull.
 - Unless you become a member of the Society, you will not be able to register any progeny born, or conceived whilst you were a non-member.
 - You need to know the TB status of the herd from which the animal comes, the Animal Health Board has strict regulations on stock movement.
 - Whether you will become a member first, or are buying first as a non-member, it is still necessary for the Seller to complete the transfer of stock details, get you to also sign it, and the Seller must then submit it to the Society to register the change within 30 days. If this isn't done, and you join later, all sorts of hurdles may arise, which can be easily avoided if things are handled correctly at the start.
 - If you are not sure on an animal's status, and want to check, you can contact the Herd Registrar – on the website, click 'Contacts', and see 'Herdbook'.
 - You can also put in an advertisement for the type of Dexters you are looking for by emailing an advert to the 'Dial-a-Dexter' service, details also on the website.
- There is an old saying, 'Caveat Emptor' – 'Let the Buyer beware!' it is strongly recommended that you take some (or all) of the steps above, especially making local contacts, to minimise any chance of future disappointment.

This article is being put onto the Society Website to help those looking to buy Dexters... it is good for us all to be reminded about these things.

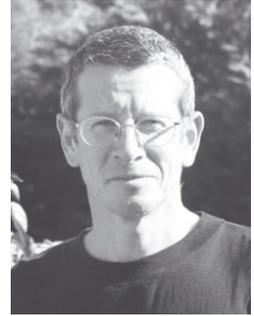
www.dexter-cattle.co.nz
CHECK IT OUT!!



RESEARCH

Pulmonary Hypoplasia with Anasarca (PHA), no I didn't know what it was either?

However, it is a genetic defect that has recently been confirmed by DNA testing in several breeds of cattle, including Dexters. The PHA gene is recessive so only rears its head when the sire and dam carry the mutated gene, this results in the calf being born dead with underdeveloped lungs (Pulmonary Hypoplasia) and swelling caused by fluid retention (Anasarca) . Apparently this is not a recent gene mutation with a record of a calf being born dead in 1906 in England with "extraordinarily anasarcaous condition".



The American Dexter society is urging its members to test their AI bulls to build an initial knowledge base to determine the extent of the problem. At the present time this testing is only available in the USA. I will keep you posted.

On a lighter note, a question was asked at the AGM, with regard to the "tenderness gene". Apparently scientists have discovered that the Calpain -1 gene, (which is present in all cattle and humans as well) controls both tenderness and toughness of meat. Scientists will no doubt be isolating the gene so as to exploit the tender version Piedmontese cattle have a unique form of this gene, which might explain why they swept the awards at the steak of origin this year.

Regarding the Dexter Cattle Research Project Survey by the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic as outlined by Marion Read at the AGM and on page 18/19, you will have found mailed with this dispatch Dispatch, a questionnaire. This needs to be completed and returned to Sue Barclay by the 15th September, so that the data can be analysed. Those of us who were at the AGM have already filled one in. SO BEFORE YOU READ ANYMORE DISPATCH, FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND SEND IT OFF.

-Steve Ring

SMALL FARM FIELD DAY Rangiora Racecourse 4 October 2009

*If you are close to Rangiora,
please support the Dexter Stand*

**Just remember . . .
REMITs are now due 1 December each year**



REPORT from the 10TH AGM of the DCSNZ

On Saturday 6th June 2009, 33 members met at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International at New Plymouth for the 10th Annual General Meeting. The facilities were ideal and the room was well set out with everyone at a table and plenty of displays and sponsors promotional material set out around the room.

The day started with morning tea as people registered and then the meeting got under way at 10.30am. All the reports as printed in the May Dispatch from the different council members plus the herd registrar were presented, discussed and accepted. The Audited accounts from the year ending 31 March 2009 were discussed and accepted, as was the budget for the ensuing year. These accounts are available from the treasurer. No election was required for the new council who are Keith Wratt as President, Kath Aker and Phil Becker who were elected unopposed. Marion Corbett, Steve Ring, Maureen Petterson, Rob Snelgar and Colin Read are all in their second year on the council and are up for re-election in 2010. Maggie Bentley and Hamish Ensor were confirmed as complaints officers for the ensuing year.

The announcement that Peter Lucking is to retire as our Herd Registrar after nearly 9 years was a bit of a shock to the meeting. There was good discussion about options available for maintaining our Herd Book and the feeling of the meeting was a reluctance to go commercial with the Herd Book, mainly because of the extra costs for all members. The new council was charged with the responsibility to look at all options and appoint a new Herd Registrar by the end of August 2009.

Results of the remits:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Remit 1. That current Membership Subscriptions be increased by \$5. | Lost |
| Remit 2. That Transfer Fees remain the same. | Carried |
| Remit 3. That Registration Fees remain the same. | Carried |
| Remit 4. That a \$10 late fee be charged for membership renewal after 1 October | Carried |
| Remit 5. That under special circumstances council may be able to register animals born to a lapsed or non member once membership is paid in full. | Carried |
| Remit 6. That the new closing date for remits for the AGM be 1 December | Carried |
| Remit 7. That the use of the In House Parent Verification System be stopped | Lost |
| Remit 8. That guidelines are agreed to when the In House Parent Verification System identifies a doubtful result. | Carried |
| Remit 9. That as from 1 June 2010 all new bulls registered must have an official DNA profile with a Sire Verification Certificate lodged with the society. | Carried |

The **Snowline Trophy** was awarded to Cameron Walker and accepted on his behalf by Marion Corbett who was entrusted to deliver the trophy to Cameron. Discussion continued on options for a Breed Showing Uniform but consensus was not reached and the new council was commissioned to investigate further.

Marion Read informed the meeting of the proposed Dexter **Cattle Research Project Survey** being undertaken by the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic in conjunction with the DCSNZ. Sample survey forms were available and will be sent to all members with the August Dispatch to be returned by 15 September 2009. A \$3000 grant has been made from the Polytechnic to fund this survey.

Other matters discussed:

- Another World Dexter Congress in the future
- Keeping AGM costs to a minimum
- Website options for the society incorporating the Herd Book, an interactive site and the Dexter Dispatch available electronically.
- Options to set up a Dexter Chat Room
- A new award for Special Services to The Dexter Breed and Society was discussed
- The 2010 AGM will be held in Dunedin

A full copy of the AGM minutes are available from the secretary and will be printed in full in the 2010 AGM Booklet due out in May 2010.

There were three other events we enjoyed over the weekend:

Firstly, on the Friday evening we met for a relaxed discussion run by Nancy Edge on A Dexter Breed Focus. Points we thought about were:

- Push for Polled Dexters – genetic dehorning
- Always breed for good temperament.
- Explain and educate breeders in basic animal husbandry
- Stock sales, price, sale yard information and producing prime animals
- Lifestyle Auctions and options using Trade Me.
- Assessment and education to produce good quality bulls.
- Promotion of Dexters as suitable for the dairy industry.
- Cooperation between members to promote and sell Dexter Meat – need to think about quantity, quality and consistency.
- Educate chefs, butchers and restaurants about the positive attributes of Dexter meat.

Secondly the AGM Dinner on the Saturday evening was well attended and a fun night. It started with the announcing and presentations to the place getters in the photo competition. Through out the night the raffle was drawn with a number of very good raffle prizes to choose from. Our guest speaker was Bryan Hocken, a local farmer who has been at the forefront of many political issues over recent years. Among other



things, he organized the march on parliament over the 'Fart Tax' and had a convoy of tractors drive through Wellington. He was a very entertaining speaker as he talked of his farming and political exploits over a number of years.

Thirdly we all enjoyed a mystery bus tour on Sunday and a drive through some of the Taranaki Farmland. The bus full of expectant members headed out of town at 9.30am. Our first stop was at a small rural property owned by Michael Lawley where he talked to us about energy generation. This was a very very interesting place. In these days of promoting safe renewable energy, Michael was at the leading edge of all this. His property produced and met all its own energy requirements. He walked and talked us around his property as we saw a small Hydro generation plant and a large voltaic solar panel that followed the sun around and charged up a battery bank to supply electricity to his property. He also talked us through a wide range of solar water heating panels and options – there was a floating hot tub that was used to utilize surplus hot water, relax in and float around the small lake in front of his house that fed the Hydro generator. Finally we saw a wide range of wind turbines used to generate electricity and had a good discussion on options and practical suggestions.

Our second stop was on the slopes of Mount Taranaki where we stopped off at Desiree Avey's place. She is a member of our society and has a very interesting place. She has a tourist venture where people can stay in lodges nestled in the native bush. She manufactures and sells electronic dog collars, she produces a lot of her own energy through solar and wind power and of course we saw her Dexters. We had a lovely lunch on Desiree's verandah and lawn, provided by the Taranaki group. The views from there were breathtaking as we looked out over the Taranaki farmland, down to New Plymouth and to the central North Island in the far distance. The day was cloudless and Mount Taranaki stood out in its impressive clear and dominant fashion– I think we had just the best day possible.

Local studs were open on Sunday afternoon for members to visit and many of us caught up with friends and family around New Plymouth.

That was it!!..the weekend was over and we headed home!!! A very big thank you to the local people who organized the weekend. Special mention must be made of Brian and Raewyn Rosser who took charge of the weekend. *-Keith Wratt*

THE AGM - A PERSONAL VIEW!

I enjoy attending Dexter AGM weekends. It is the one chance in a year that I can meet up with many of the Dexter Breeders, most of whom live too far away to visit. The New Plymouth get-together was no exception. It was a very enjoyable gathering.

The weekend was well organized and the Mystery Bus Trip on Sunday was a great success. Sunday was a perfect Taranaki day. Not a cloud in the sky and Mount Taranaki

(or is that Mount Egmont?) standing out it its snow capped glory dominating the landscape. Our first stop was to visit Michael Lawley who owns a small rural property that is completely energy self sufficient – he takes nothing from the national electricity grid. We got to see a small hydro generator in action and seeing what can be done with voltaic panels and solar panels, not to mention wind powdered generators, was very interesting. Ideas that can be incorporated into building a new house, when we finally get around to it!! There are so many alternative power generating machines on the market now, that doing one’s homework, takes a fair bit of study.

As the day of the bus trip was such a glorious sunny day, it was hard to imagine the place of our second stop had been covered in snow just a week before. We visited Desiree Avey, who is a society member and owns a property nestled in the bush, part way up Mount Taranaki. The views from the verandah were breathtaking. Their Dexters were very fortunate animals indeed, with their paddock getting such a nice view of the mountain and surrounding scenery though I don’t suppose they appreciated how lucky they were!!! Their covers looked snugly and warm, which was just as well, as the wind chill at those heights can bite.

We all had a good look around Desiree’s property. As well as Dexters, great views and lovely native bush we saw a couple of lodges that were built in the bush that were rented out to tourists and locals who wanted to ‘get away from it all!’ and they could certainly do that there in the peace and solitude of the bush. Desiree told us about her tourist venture with these lodges, using renewable energy generation and her other business of manufacturing and selling electronic dog collars. This was a very interesting stop.

Many thanks for the lovely lunch the local Dexter Group laid on for us at Desiree’s place. I enjoyed the vegetable soup very much. It was nice to wrap our hands around such a lovely warm cup on a chilly winter’s day!

The AGM itself went well on the Saturday although if we can get the spelling of names correct in the next lot of minutes, we could save a lot of time and get onto the current meeting a lot quicker. There was a lot of interesting discussion. Some decisions were made and others delayed until more thought could be put into them. The colour of a Showing Uniform could be an on-going discussion, as everyone has their own preference.

It was a shock to hear that the long service of our Herd Registrar has come to an end. I know we will all miss Peter’s dedication to keeping our Herd Book true and correct. They will be big shoes to fill for the next Herd Registrar that is chosen.

It is interesting to see how each AGM’s unfold and the gradual changes made within the Society. DNA testing has opened up a whole new area of possibilities for us as breeders and as a Society. It is reassuring to know that we can confidently mate two tested animals and know that the outcome should be a live healthy calf.

So for anyone wanting to get a more in-depth idea of how our Society is run, I recommend attending the next Annual General Meeting in Dunedin. The benefits of meeting other breeders there, is an added bonus.

-Inger Keymer



DCSNZ INC COUNCIL

Keith Wratt President, Dispatch, AGM	1000 No 2 Road, R.D.2 TE PUKE 3182	P : 07 573 8558 E: keith.wratt@paradise.net.nz
Robyn Snelgar Secretary	92A Takanini - Clevedon Rd Ardmore RD2, PAPAURA 2582	P: 09 298 1789 E: steveandrobyn@xtra.co.nz
Colin Read Herd Registrar	175 Ruahihi Road, R.D.1 TAURANGA	P: 07 543 4023 E: colmar@clear.net.nz
Maureen Pettersson Membership	"Stalybrook" Colletts Road, RD1 Mangaroa Valley, Upper Hutt	P: 04 526 3785 E: maureenandwaynep@xtra.co.nz F: 04 526 3784
Phil Becker Treasurer	176 Kumikumi Road, RD1 Tauranga 3171	P: 07 543 2947 E: phil.becker@farmside.co.nz
Marion Corbett Showing and Judging, AGM	2344 State Highway 1, Taumata RD, Clinton 9584	P: 03 415 7230 E: corbettscorner@scorch.co.nz F: 03 415 7230
Steve Ring Promotions and Research	245 Ormond Valley Road, RD1, Gisborne	P: 06 862 5853 E: stevering@hotmail.com
Kath Aker Area Groups	115 Main North Road, Geraldine 7930	P: 03 6939380 E: peelviewdexter@xtra.co.nz

OFFICES OUTSIDE COUNCIL

Complaints Officer (SI) Hamish Ensor	Glenaan Station PO Box 43016 DARFIELD 7541	P: 03 318 7425 E: hensor@xtra.co.nz
Complaints Officer (NI) Maggie Bentley	1849 Maniatutu Rd, R.D.6 TE PUKE 3186	P: 07 362 4998 F: 07 343 9980 E: bentford@farmside.co.nz

NEW closing dates for remits is 1 December in each and every year.

Minutes of council meetings are available to all members on request.



Deadline for November Dispatch is October 10, 2009



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AREA GROUP CONTACTS

AREA	CODE	CONTACT	
Northland North of Warkworth	NL	Deborah Woodd-Herlihy	P: 09 434 8089 E: deasundexters@xtra.co.nz
Bay of Plenty	BP	Mary Howard Marion Read	P: 07 312 5158 P: 07 543 4023 E: colmar@clear.net.nz
North Harbour/ Auckland Group	NH	Tony Cutten	P: 09 411 9956 E: tonycutten@gmail.com
Counties Franklin Bridge to Bombay	CF	Robyn & Steve Snelgar	P: 09 298 1789 E: steveandrobyn@xtra.co.nz
Waikato	WK	P Quilter	P: 07 859 2512 E: paul@pqimports.co.nz
Hawkes Bay	HB	Stuart Lowe	P: 06 856 6572 E: slowe@kol.co.nz
Taranaki	TK	Raewyn & Brian Rosser	P: 06 765 0968 E: briwyn@xtra.co.nz
Manawatu/Northern Wairarapa	MW	Liz Jones	P: 06 329 8887 E: boxpalm@clear.net.nz
Wellington/South Wairarapa	WW	Maureen Pettersson	P: 04 526 3785 E: maureenandwayne@xtra.co.nz
Nelson/ Marlborough West Coast/Canterbury	NS WC/CT	Marion Mangnall	P: 03 312 4782 E: jimari@xtra.co.nz
Otago/Southland	OT	Marion Corbett	P: 03 415 7230 E: corbettscorner@scorch.co.nz

DCSNZ CHARGES

Membership - due 1 July

Full	\$40	Joint	\$55
Junior	\$20	Or without magazine -	\$10

A \$10 late fee is charged on all membership renewals after 1 October each year.

Registration - ALL Grades

Under 12 months	\$10	12 to 24 months	\$20
Over 24 months	\$20	Require Council approval	

The Application Form must be fully completed (Leg length and your Yellow Tag numbers are not compulsory, but the data is highly desirable for Herd Book research, and dual identification)

Transfers

Within 30 days of sale	\$15	Over 30 days after sale	\$30
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All Transfers, whether to members or non-members, are to be paid for, and submitted by, the Seller who must be a financial member at the time of sale. The Transfer must also be signed by the Buyer.

Replacement Brass Tags \$1 each

Herd Books Electronic -\$10; Printed Edition -Annual Full Issue \$15

DEXTER CATTLE RESEARCH - PROJECT UPDATE

As many of you are aware, a research trial into the feasibility of Dexter Cattle as an economical and sustainable alternative to the more traditional cattle breeds for small holdings, is currently underway. The research is being carried out by Sue Barclay and Marion Read in association with the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic.

The aims of this research are to clearly identify the current status of Dexter Cattle in New Zealand, to identify potential outputs for the breed and their economic potential compared to the more traditional breeds for beef and milk. The results should provide a well rounded basis for lifestyle / small block holders to look at Dexter Cattle as a viable alternative for their farm production.

A literature search revealed very little scientific study of this breed as a viable farm animal either within New Zealand or internationally, however there is a plethora of personal experience stories written in a variety of journal literature. These stories support the anecdotal evidence that Dexter cattle are hardy, easy to manage, suitable for both milk and beef consumption, easy on the land and economical alternatives to the larger cattle breeds, especially for small holdings and lifestyle blocks. There are also several instances of statements claiming that the beef is low cholesterol and that the milk produced is A2, although neither of these claims have any scientific grounding.

These unsubstantiated claims need further investigation because if indeed they are true in regards to the A2 milk and low cholesterol beef, then the implications are far reaching.

Marion and Sue have designed a survey which you have been sent with this August Dexter Dispatch. If for some reason you did not receive the green survey form then please contact Keith Wratt, his details are on page 16 of this Dispatch. In order to gather valid and accurate information, we ask that you please complete the survey and return as indicated by 11th September.

When completed surveys are received the results will be collated statistically and analysed. After the survey results are collated and analysed, the researchers will compare these with Dexter Society documents and records to establish population and purity of breed.

“Best farming practices” from survey results will be identified and followed up with individual interviews to confirm identified potential benefits. Follow up interviews will be based on “unusual” findings / management practices or anything specific that the researchers feel would be of value to their project. Respondents may indicate that they do not wish to be contacted for follow up discussions, and if you do not wish to be contacted further, please indicate that.

The researchers will then gather information from non Dexter breeders to compare animal and land management practices and gain a measure of environmental sustainability against standard breeds.



A report will then be written and presented to you to complete stage 1 of this research project. It is envisaged that the information gathered would then lead into stage 2 whereby tissue testing for the A1 and A2 gene, and other verification processes will be done.

The researchers are both very enthusiastic about this project and are looking forward to collating and analysing the current situation from information provided by you via the survey forms. They welcome any feedback or suggestions that you may have.

The Survey forms were printed with a return date of 30th August which for many of you may not be possible. The new 'return by' date is 11th September and it would be appreciated if you could return completed survey forms by then.

-Sue Barclay, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic

PROMOTIONS



Just a quickie on the promotions front, as some of you maybe be aware we can obtain some core flute signs for members, which will have the Dexter society logo printed on them along with the members stud name, see below for photo (the actual sign size is 900mm x 600mm). I have had a small amount of interest, but to enable us

to get the signs at a reasonable price we have to order at least 25. (Price \$25.00 + aproximately \$10.00 packaging and postage.) Therefore if anyone is interested please contact me, with the stud name required. To help further in reducing costs, we can dispatch the signs to the various area contacts for them to pass on.

Regarding the ongoing saga of the showing uniform. The Council has decided that a choice of colours should be available to members. These will have the Dexter society emblem on the chest and on the left hand sleeve.

I was hoping to have some information on the type of shirts, colour and costs available to be printed in this Dispatch, but alas this has not arrived. Therefore if members contact me I will forward a list of what is available, sizes and prices etc, they can then order through me. The intention is to put an order in on the 20th of each month with a seven day turn round.

-Steve Ring



AS STEEP AS K2?

It has been a very steep learning curve for the Beckers of Mykai Dexter Stud. My is My and Kai is food so, when you have land, it needs to feed you, hence our stud name – Mykai!!

It was an education that started on 29th August 2005 at Heathrow Airport London when the five of us left home with two 20 kg suitcases each and not much else to call our own. A month later our two dogs joined us and gradually, over the coming four years the Becker menagerie grew!

Our youngest daughter Megan (with perhaps a little encouragement from Margaret Perry!) is largely responsible for our involvement with the Dexter Society.

We were living in a rented townhouse in Te Puke at the time – the only place we could find at short notice, that was large enough to house five Becker humans and two large dogs. It was our first Summer in New Zealand and the children had arranged to meet school friends at Te Puke's 100th A&P Show.

It wasn't long after we arrived at the Showground that a nine year old Megan dragged Kate to meet Erroll, the new love of her life. A handsome Dexter Steer, Erroll posed whilst Megan took endless photographs and introduced herself to Margaret Perry and Heather Wratt. She wanted to know everything they could tell her about Dexters and both ladies were so kind, answering all Meg's questions and furnishing her with endless past issues of the Dexter Dispatch. Our fate was sealed!

Our initial plan had been to find a home with a couple of acres; somewhere in the Western Bay of Plenty. As time progressed we became more and more ambitious. Just over a year later we finally had permission to put some animals on a sub-sectioned piece of an ex-dairy farm in the Lower Kaimai, just outside Tauranga. It took us a wee while longer to get Title to the land and build our house but, in June 2007, our first three Dexter Cattle and two Pongakawa School Calf-Club Saanen Goats were installed on the largely unfenced, untroughed, 18 acres which we were later to call home.

Now, two years later, we have a herd of seven Dexter 'girls' and a pocket-sized and slightly inappropriately named bull calf – Hematite Happiness.

Nothing if not colour-coordinated, we augmented our Dexter herd with Angus/Friesian cross cattle. Kate quickly taught herself to hand-rear five 4 day old calves and subsequently ten weaners were bought in from Rotorua. The latter had been poorly ringed and without timely 5 in 1 injections, almost immediately showed symptoms of Tetanus. We unfortunately lost two to the infection but thanks to the skill of Tony the Vet and Kate's pure bloody-mindedness, we managed to save the other 8 weaners and became quite a bit more knowledgeable into the bargain.

Kate learned from a 'Self-Help' book where she should puncture a sick calf's abdomen to relieve the chronic bloat that the Tetanus' paralysis had caused. She did this daily with one particularly ill calf nicknamed Eddie the Eagle, until the vet felt it necessary to fit a stainless steel cannula into his side. It was like watching a mini



bovine Vesuvius waddling around the field occasionally spouting green bubbly gunk from his personal metal chimney! He was hand fed with calf feed and silage forced between his paralyzed jaws and within two months was healed, minus cannula, and very much part of the herd (albeit rather too tame and fond of cuddles).

Margaret Perry in particular has encouraged us with a supply of wonderful Dexter Mums and, with guidance from Betsy and Stan Johnstone, Meg has especially enjoyed showing her cattle at Tauranga and Rotorua A&P Shows with lots of beginners luck!

Pohutukawa Daisy Bell



Porgy and Bess



For us, as for many small block holders, life has had its ups and downs over the past four years: the tetanus issue, drought, lack of supplementary feed, empty heifers, slipped calves and unemployment have all taken their toll. Worst of all for Meg I think came last November during one of her daily visits for a cuddle with her girls when she found that her special yearling heifer, Grace, been killed by a falling eucalyptus tree in a storm. She was heartbroken and sat next to Grace's prone body completely lost. We promised that one of the December-born calves could be hers to train. Hence our bull calf earned his name 'Happiness' and we believe that he has gone some way to filling the hole left by Grace's death. He is a good natured, tolerant little thing who puts up with all Meg's chatter and seems to quite enjoy the occasional

'drag' around the make shift show rings that she constructs to prepare him for the forthcoming season of A&P Shows.

All in all, we bless the day that Megan stopped at the Dexter Society Stand at Te Puke A&P Show. Our lives have certainly been enriched by the experience of rearing our 'Dexter Moos' and by the friendships we have made through the Society.

-The Becker Family

Editor's Note:

Phil was elected onto the Dexter Council at the 2009 AGM and has taken over being treasurer from Colin Read.



ORGANIC OFFERINGS

Organic Offerings is now a regular page in the Dispatch and it is an opportunity for you to share with others your Organic Advice and Stories or ask questions that Steve, Carol and others who farm this way can answer. Please contact Steve or the editor if you have something to contribute here.

I thought as we are in the midst of winter when cattle seem to pick up various problems, I would write about animal health and some of options available to the Dexter owner.

Many organic farmers use cider vinegar a tonic as it contains potassium as well as other trace minerals and helps maintain the correct PH in the body. When mixed with garlic and wormwood it makes a good preventative against internal parasites especially if administered around the full moon. A homeopathic remedy for parasites is Vermis; this again is effective if administered around the time of the full moon. For external parasites I have found flowers of sulphur, rubbed along the back bone of the animal removes lice. Another method I saw recently was to spray vegetable oil down the animals back.

Pat Coleby in her book, *Healthy Cattle Naturally*, states that a basic lick of the following contains all the minerals cattle require:

25 kg Dolomite

4kg Copper sulphate

4kg Flowers of sulphur

4kg urea free seaweed meal. This can be mixed together and kept dry allowing the cattle to feed on it like any normal mineral lick.

Often the reason that animals pick up parasites is that they are lacking in a copper, so by ensuring their reserve levels are correct, worm levels should be reduced to a level the animal can manage.

On a different note, for those that like reading about farming, there is a wonderful website (http://journeytoforever.org/farm_library.html#classic), that allows you to download books at no cost. These books cover subjects such as soil and health, ley farming, earthworms, tree cropping etc. A favourite of mine is Fertility Farming by Newman Turner.

-Steve Ring

MAINLAND NEWS

All fairly quiet during the winter.

Our last field day was in April which was calf dehorning and our next day will be on October 10th.

This will be at the home of Suzanne Pickford - Adams Road (off the Old West Coast Road) and we will meet at 10am - early start in order to watch



Suzanne milk her cows. We will taste dexter milk and cheese . Suzanne will pasteurise some milk and let us taste the difference from the “untouched” and we can watch and discuss the settling of the cream as the milk cools.

Sometime we will have a short meeting and discussion time and arrange the next field day. I already have an offer of a place for December.

Then we will have a hands workshop on making a quick and easy halter. Please bring nine strands of baling twine with you (cut at the knots so as to have the whole length clear of knots). You will take home a handy little halter.

Sounds like a very interesting day. Further details as to how to get to the location and also lunch arrangements will be sent out to all Mainland members in a few weeks time.

If you are within the Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast or Canterbury areas and you are not on my email list and you do indeed have email - please send me a message and rectify the situation. I should have you all, but sometimes a name just may slip off the list for some obscure reason and I do like to keep in touch with you all.

-Marion Mangnall: Jimari@xtra.co.nz

MANAWATU / NORTHERN WAIRARAPA

A pleasant day was enjoyed by members at the home of Clare and Brian Oliver on Sunday, June 21. A brief update on the AGM which had been held earlier in the month in New Plymouth was given and survey forms given to those present for the research project. These forms will be available to all members with the August Dispatch.

Clare, together with Bruce Jones brought out their collection of show equipment for our inspection, which was most interesting. Clare had some cute wee halters, very light and just right for newborn calves. Bruce had some alpaca halters, which were very light and adjustable and were suitable from birth up to about three months old. A variety of other halters and their uses were shown. Bruce pointed out that each bull needs its own halter or it will get upset from the smell of another animal on its gear. He found colt halters to often be the best fit for a bull.

Clare also showed us one of her calf covers and Liz and Bruce pointed out that they have learned that lining a cover with a petticoat or old blanket, and putting it onto an animal a couple of months before a show would assist in getting the loose hair out. They also showed us a scraper and demonstrated how they used it to pull out loose hair.

Clare had a beautiful wooden sign to show us, along with pictures of several others. They are available online from a manufacturer in Hamilton, “Creative Fx Ltd.”, www.creativefx.co.nz. Well worth a look. After a sumptuous lunch, we visited the Oliver’s Dexter herd, which were especially tame and friendly.

For anyone interested in learning about showing and ring craft, there will be a day later in the year for all breed groups at the Levin A & P Show grounds. Liz will have more information on this day nearer the time, but it is envisaged it will be at the beginning of October prior to the onset of the show season.



Our meeting in September has been cancelled but put in your diaries now, that our next meeting will be on Sunday 6th December 2009 at Kathy and Ivan Allanson's, in Carterton. This will be our Christmas Meeting and you are all welcome. More details later.

-Brenda Batchelar

WINNERS OF THE AGM PHOTO COMPETITION

Class1. Best Head Shot

1st H & A Burdon 2nd S & C Ring 3rd M & W Pettersson

Class 2. Best Group of Dexters

1st S & C Ring 2nd C Oliver 3rd C Oliver

Class 3. Best Single Dexter

1st H & A Burdon 2nd S & B Smith 3rd H & A Burdon

Class 4. Best Cow and Calf

1st S & B Smith 2nd C Oliver 3rd S & B Smith

Class 5. Best Caption

1st C Oliver 2nd S & B Smith 3rd S & B Smith

Class 6. Series of 4 photos Judged as if at an A & P Show.

1st D Millar

Peoples Choice – Judged during the AGM. The Winner was H & A Burdon with the photo that is on the front of this Dispatch.

***Thank you to these people who sponsored the 2009 AGM.
Your support is appreciated.***

Magnum Sports	Super Charge Batteries
Eve's Garden Gallery	BNZ Stratford
The \$2 Shop	BLM Feeds
Bees-R-Us Honey	Tranzit Coachlines, Taranaki
Venture Taranaki Trust	Dudfield Bryce Printers, Rotorua
New Plymouth Vet Group	National Bank Rural,
Vitapet Pet Food	TaurangaBelview Dexter Stud
Cottage Wines	Coroglen Dexter Stud
Mackays Unichem Pharmacy	Turoa Dexter Stud
Mountain Motors	Pouakai Dexter Stud
E. G. Corlett 2006 Ltd RD1 Ltd Stratford	Lakevue Dexter Stud

BAY OF PLENTY REGION SPRING MEETING

The next Bay of Plenty Region Meeting will be held at Dawn Millar's property, 1722 River Road, Reporoa Saturday 3rd October. Bring a shared lunch and enjoy a general discussion session from 12.30pm. Sue Barclay and Marion Read will be talking about their research project followed by an opportunity to share ideas. After lunch there will be a walk around Dawn's property and a chance to see her animals.

-Marion Read



A STEP BACK IN TIME

NEW ZEALAND DEXTER BREEDERS ASSN.

Provisional Committee.

June 1994.

NEWSLETTER NO. 5.

<u>President:</u> Paul Bon, Going Road, R.D. 1, Kamo, WHANGAREI. Ph. 9-433 5705	<u>Secretary:</u> Nancy Edge, Takahiwai Road, R.D. 1, RUAKAKA. Ph. 9-432 7079	<u>Treasurer:</u> Ann Bon, Going Road, R.D. 1, Kamo, WHANGAREI. Ph. 9-433 5705
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Greetings to all fellow breeders from your Secretary.

My apologies for the delay in getting this Newsletter away to you all. My business commitments in my Tax Practice at this time of year are horrendous - everyone wants everything done at once!

CONSTITUTION:

Many thanks to all those who contributed their opinions on the parts which they felt were areas of concern. On the whole, the Committee felt very relieved that there were only two or three areas which need further consideration, and because they are reasonably contentious, we have decided to hand it over to the incoming Council to work through over the next few months.

This will therefore mean that at the A.G.M. we will recommend that the Constitution be adopted "in principle" pending finalisation by Council. This will set the guidelines in place for management, etc.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

I have to advise that the following nominations were received :-

President	Alec Meades (Whangarei).
Secretary	Nancy Edge (Ruakaka).
Council Members	Jeff Stephenson (Dannevirke). Doreen Goodall (Lumsden). Brian Vidler (Te Anau). Mike Willis (Christchurch).

As these nominations do not exceed the number of positions to be filled, there will be no need for a postal ballot, and those nominees will be declared elected at the A.G.M.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

As previously advised, this will be held on SATURDAY 25 JUNE 1994 at the home of Alec and Ann Meades, Apotu Road, Kamo, Whangarei, commencing at 2 p.m.

Agenda: Open Meeting.
Apologies.
Statement of Accounts.
Election of Officers.
Appoint Trustees for Cheque Account.
Subscriptions.
General Business.

All financial and intending members welcome.

SNIPPET FROM ENGLAND:

We have learned recently that Jane Paynter will be holding a dispersal sale later this year. She is not selling all cattle - she will keep a few of the best to carry on with.



MISS MOLLY - BY CAMERON ELLIS

The agricultural project is an annual requirement at Wakanui School for all children from year 4 onwards. This was Cameron's first effort and he was 8 years old when he completed it.

Miss Molly

By
Cameron Ellis



Abbey Road Miss Molly aged 1 week, July 2007

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Diary

Date	Event
17/03/07	Mandy was brought to our place
26/06/07	Molly was born
approx. 2/09/07	A wart appeared
5/02/08	DNA tested
March 08	Weaned
June 08	Wart fell off
July 08	Wart grew back
September 08	Started handling
October 08	Maybe pregnant

About the breed

In history long, long ago a genetic mutation occurred in the Kerry population (an old Irish cattle). Some bright Englishman decided that the stumpy Kerry was kind of cute and further decided to make a new breed called "Dexters".

Dexters are one of the oldest British cattle. Dexters were first imported into New Zealand in 1904.

Dexters are red, black and dun. It is a fault to have more than a little white.

Dexters are good for milk and beef.

Molly facts



On the 17/3/07 Ellen Park Mandy and her sister Rachel arrived with Frank who was one of Marion Mangnall's Porta-bull, Renta-bulls. They joined our two Dexters Ebony, and her calf Emily.

Frank came so that we would supposedly have three Christmas calves. Frank left six weeks later, at the same time people said that Mandy was fat. On the 27/6/07 Molly was born. It was a cold frost that morning and we didn't expect her but she was fine. We couldn't register her because we didn't have proof of her father. But we could DNA test her. So we sent off some tail hair from Molly and Mandy to Genemark and it said her dad was Charming Shawnee. That was good because it

meant that she was a purebred. We called her Molly so that we had Millie, Molly, and Mandy. The other reason we did it was that we liked the song "Good Golly Miss Molly".



Care

Food

For the first nine months Molly drank milk from her mother. Most Dexters stay with their mother for five months at least.

We weaned her then because we had a bull coming for her mother.

She had grass until it turned cold and then we gave her meadow hay to fill her up and keep her warm.

She sometimes has a saltlick to give her vitamins and minerals which help keep her healthy.

Water

Cows need a lot of clean water to keep them healthy. We use troughs with ballcocks to do that. Mum goes and checks the water every day to make sure that there is a constant clean flow. Every now and again we scrub the troughs clean.

Shelter

They need shelter for two reasons one to protect them in the cold and the other to keep them shaded in the sun. They also like playing in the trees. As well as that if they can they sleep under the trees!

Other

Cows sometimes get worms so we worm them but we don't have to do it very often because we don't have any new cows coming in. To worm cows you use a container filled with wormer and pour it on their back. We also use rotational grazing. To do this every so often we change paddocks for more grass.

Handling

Molly had not been touched by humans for the first 11 months of her life because she was cared for by her mother, Mandy.

We decided to handle her for this project. To do this we put her in our small yard and used natural horsemanship techniques. We slowly approached her shoulder and gently touched her. When she ran away we gave her space and tried again. We did it for several days until she was relaxed about us touching her. Now we can walk up to her in an open paddock and rub her all over.



Habits

Molly likes to run and eat. She is a small Dexter and is fat. Her mother is the same. You can cuddle and take photos of her. She sniffs at unusual things.



The Future for my cow

Unless Molly does something stupid she will continue to be a well loved, well fed, family cow, because my mum is a vegetarian. We plan for her to have a calf next year to the next Porta-bull, Renta-bull from Marion. Right now she is fat like her mother when she came... we hope she's not pregnant because she's a little too young.



Know

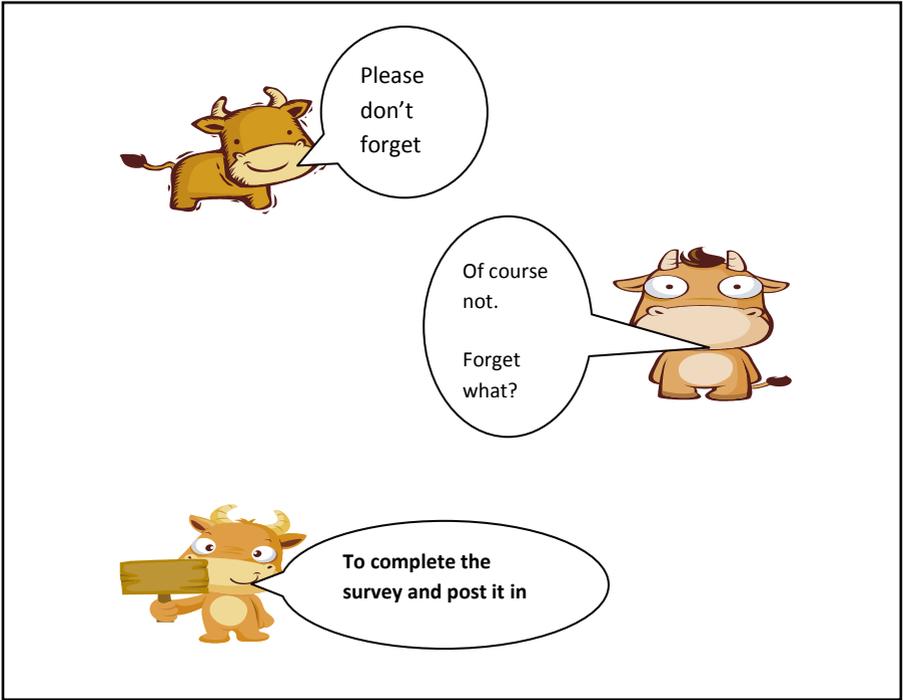
The Dexter In History
Beverley McCulloch and Michael Trotter
When is a Dexter not a Dexter? Beverley McCulloch
<http://www.dexter-cattle.co.nz/>

The Dexter Cattle Society New Zealand's quarterly magazine, *Dexter Dispatch*
<http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz>
<http://www.nadis.org.uk/DiseasesCattle/Warts/Warts%20in%20Cattle.htm>

Foot note from Cameron's Mum. November 2008, Molly had separated herself from the group and was down and bleeding from her rear end. The family's trip to the Christchurch A & P show was delayed while we waited for the vet (at public holiday call-out rates) to come and tell us that Molly was a fat, empty cow, who had sat on a stick.....

Thank you, Mum for helping me with my research





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Hmm. That's along way to go

I see the 2010 Dexter Conference is being held in Dunedin

Im sure those nice people in Southland will organise lots for us to do and if we book the flights now, they will be so much cheaper

That's true, we could visit the Brewery, Cadburys Factory, the Brewery.....

We could spend some time touring, you might even be able to get in a spot of hunting.

Your right I'll book the tickets now !!

**The 2010 Dexter Conference in Dunedin
12th-13th June. *Not just an AGM***

**A REMINDER that the
2009 NORTH ISLAND DEXTER BREED SHOW**
will be held in conjunction with
the 100th Stratford A & P Show at Stratford on
SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 9.00 am
ENTRIES CLOSE 2 NOVEMBER 2009

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email stratfordshow@xtra.co.nz
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KRIS NEWCOMBE, 25 Youngson Road, RD6, Tauranga
Phone 07 548 1703 or email tauranga_aandp@xtra.co.nz

FOR SALE, WANTED, TO LEASE

FOR SALE

Kinrara Stud near Pukekohe have to sell their herd of Dexters due to a change in circumstances. They have a number of grade and purebred, mixed aged females for sale. Contact Rhett and Marie Ph 09 236 3475. E mail milneandsons@slingshot.co.nz

Haremount Dexters near Leeston have for sale beautiful organic PB cows have been running with the bull Kenilworth McGinty. Delivery at cost countrywide. \$700+GST each or \$600+GST for 5 or more. Ph (03)329-1049 mob0274 361 463 or email jtswissfamily@xtra.co.nz.

The Shire's Stud at Kaiapoi have for sale 2 second calvers(1 black, 1 red), A red yearling heifer and a 6 month old black weaner steer. Contact Jeanette Ph 03 313 6000 or email The_Shire@xtra.co.nz

Greenbanks Stud near Christchurch have for sale A grade 3 cow #2911, an 18 month heifer # 4255 and a 7month old heifer calf. \$1500 +gst for all 3 and a bull is available for service free of charge if they are sold in the Canterbury area.. Contact Michael Ph 03 347 2383 email michael.till@ravesdown.co.nz

Ngawari Stud at Kawerau have for sale a number of grade3, 4 and purebred heifers, also a couple of steers. Contact Scott or Renee Ph 07 322 9282 or email scottholmes@xtra.co.nz

WANTED

Wendy from the Waikato is looking to buy an in calf dexter cow or heifer that is not too old but must be quiet. Ph 07 887 6660

Corglen Stud, near Stratford want to buy 2 purebred red heifer calves/yearlings of show quality, preferably polled. Can be either long or short legged. Am willing to wait if calf needs to be weaned. Prefer North Is but will look at South Is for right animal. Contact Jo Ph: 06 762 8785 Email: corglen.ftp@xtra.co.nz

TO LEASE

Dundee Stud near Te Awamutu have Summer Wine Thady # 3940 available for lease for the current mating season. Fees are \$80 +gst per mating for 6 weeks at leasee's property. Return cartage at their cost or \$80+gst per mating for 6 weeks at our property plus \$50 for 6 weeks grazing. Return cartage at owners cost. Contact Dean Ph 07 871 1746 Email ann.bull@xtra.co.nz

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Hi there – we are just after a bit of advice about bloat.

We have a couple of dexter cows, are dexter society members and quite new to owning cattle. Yesterday afternoon when I was moving them I noticed that one looked a lot fatter than the other one – decided I had been over feeding the pair of them and thought about a diet program!! Anyway tonight when I was down checking on them I took a bit more interest in their size and noted that one of them was definitely fatter than the other especially on the left side, looking at the animal from behind. The cow itself didn't seem distressed and was still pooing and eating – should I be concerned about this???

Any advice would be gratefully received.

Dr Dexter replies...

Bloat tends to occur in the Spring and Autumn when cattle eat lots of rapidly grown pasture that has a high legume content (Clover or Lucerne)...so with Spring just around the corner this may be something to think about.

When cows eat, the food sits in the rumen or the first stomach waiting to be regurgitated and chewed properly while the cow is at rest...this is called 'chewing the cud'. While the food waits in the rumen it starts fermenting and produces gas. This gas is normally belched out (and some people think is doing damage to the biosphere!!) In situations where the pasture has grown very quickly and there is a high legume content to the pasture, extra gas is produced and the cow can't burp up the gas quick enough. It rapidly builds up in the rumen causing the left side of the cow to become enlarged and the situation can quickly become fatal but is relatively preventable.

Most cows can cope with some bloat. It is quite normal for a cow to look more rounded on the left side (looking from the back) when she is fully fed but in extreme cases they become irritable, start to gasp for air, kick at their stomach, stand up and sit down, become very uncomfortable, often bellow and are in distress. At this point you need to worry!! Calling a vet is a good option but inserting a cannula in the soft tissue area behind the ribs and down from the hip bone will relieve the pressure and hopefully save the cow. In very extreme situations and as a last resort, plunging a knife into the same area allows rapid release of the gas and can save the cow. In this case the vet still needs to come to sew up the wound.

It is unlikely that small block holders would see much of this extreme bloat because if cows are kept fully fed and set stocked the chances of bloat are reduced. You should talk to your vet about preventative measures if you are worried – you can drench for bloat, add product to the water trough or manage your way out of the danger by feeding a bit of hay and set stocking your cows.

If the animal is happy, eating and pooing I would not usually worry.

You may like to look here for more detail:

<http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/dairy/7808.html>

