

## American Milking Devon Cattle Association

*Established in 1978 to promote the conservation of American Milking Devon cattle as a triple purpose breed by maintaining a breed registry, encouraging knowledgeable and responsible breeding, and educating the public about the historic role of American Milking Devon Cattle, as well as their place in a healthy sustainable agriculture.*

***Properly cared for Milking Devons will work for you, not you work for them.-- Diurna Kibbe***



**Classification Workshop at Colonial Williamsburg March 2019**

**See inside for more coverage**

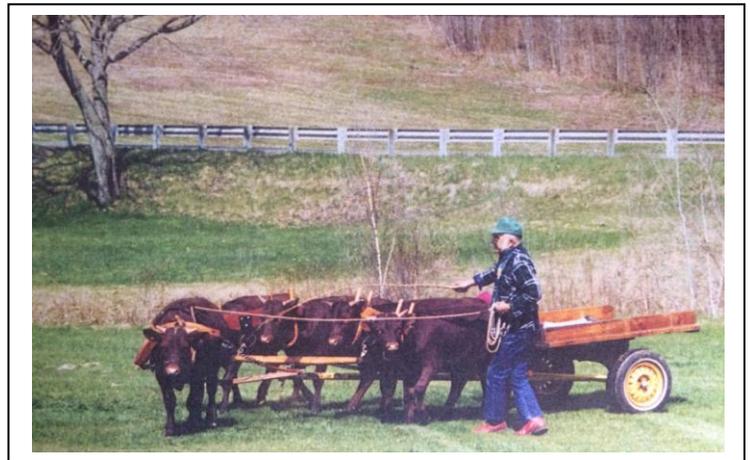
***Photo Courtesy of Deadre Keen***

## **FEATURE ARTICLE: IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE OX WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY Part 3 of 3 Parts**

Article prepared by Editor Thomas Slater from presentations made by Drew Conroy and Ray Ludwig at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association held on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Tunbridge, Vermont.

The American Milking Devon Cattle Association was very fortunate to have two of the world's most authoritative individuals on all things oxen present at the Association's Annual Meeting this year. Ray Ludwig, age 91, lives in Connecticut with his wife Jean and has been working with oxen for 61 years. For many of those years he worked as a 4-H leader training young teamsters and their oxen. Drew Conroy, Ph.D., is a professor of applied animal science at the University of New Hampshire and a consultant to teamsters around the world. He and his family also raise American Milking Devon cattle and train ox teams that have been featured in many magazines and films. Dr. Conroy has been working with oxen for 41 years. Ray and Drew have over 100 years of combined experience with oxen.

Dr. Drew Conroy and Ray Ludwig both made the case for the historical importance of oxen and in particular the Devon ox. They also made the case for their use today and provided some useful training tips. "Before oil they used oxen and after oil they will use oxen," said Dr. Conroy. Ray participated in a study by a forestry student, where the student was interested in the relative costs of cleaning up a woodlot with a skidder, with horses and with oxen. The student found that Ray was making more money because his overhead was less. Dr. Conroy has found that Africans too make more money utilizing oxen as compared to tractors. One of the members present at the meeting asked Ray, "When you were working in the woods did you cut the wood up ahead of time and then go get it with the oxen?" Ray responded, "Oh no, if you have them trained good they'll stand there. If I'm working on one area and move fifty feet away, I call them voice command and they'll come right over."



**Ray with—count'em—five on a cart hawing!**



**Drew with RC and Bubba**

Drew relates that horses are often trained to haul logs out of the woods to the landing and then return to the person working in the woods. He had a team of Brown Swiss that would take a log to the landing and stand there, they wouldn't return to the woods. He never had a team of Devons that would do that, they would just keep going right on home. Both Ray and Dr. Conroy praise Devons for their intelligence, but both also agree that that is what makes them more difficult to train—that and their energy level. Devons have so much energy, said Ray, that they have to work or they are not happy. In fact, he said, they can get nasty if not worked enough. They learn bad things as well as good things.

Dr. Conroy, who has trained just about every breed of oxen available, except Dexters, relates that, even though Devons are present on the grounds, Shorthorn oxen are often used in the museum villages because of their temperament. Standing still for hours is not a strong suit of Devons, they would rather be active, while Shorthorns are perfectly happy to just stand there. This makes them a safer option as often times these living museums have novice volunteer handlers, who may not be experienced with Devons.

Ray and Dr. Conroy both shared some practical advice on training oxen, most of which they agree on and which



**Dr. Drew Conroy with his slide that says : *IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE OX WE WOULDN'T BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY***

can also be found in their books. The earlier the calves are started the better, when practical. Start with voice commands and use a whip only lightly. Ray doesn't like using a stick as you cannot readily get the off ox's ear with the stick. A touch with the whip doesn't hurt them, it gets their attention. If you use a stick, sooner or later you are going to get frustrated and hit them with the stick...which is a no-no. They remember that and it gives them a bad attitude. In Dr. Conroy's experience, the Devon is less forgiving than the Brown Swiss.

Training Devons requires patience. Do not rush the training. They need to be trained in a manner that does not make them want to give up. That means training them to lead and teaching them the voice commands individually. Once they both have mastered that part they can be put together with a properly fitted yoke. Loads should be very light at first, that's why using a cart is recommended. A cart pulls easily and the pole in between

the steers requires them to learn to side step properly. The whip is used only lightly to touch ears when a turn is required. Yoking the steers together requires them to learn all over again. They lose a portion of their independence and they have to learn to execute the commands together. Turns are no longer simple. Someone has to learn to step forward while the other remains or steps back, all in a coordinated fashion.

Once they have mastered the cart, then loads can be added incrementally. Loads should be introduced individually first and then in yoke. Start easy by dragging a chain, then a tire, then two tires, and then put cement blocks in the tires. Weight is introduced gradually as you do not want to discourage them and cause them to stop. Once they stop it's not easy to get them going again.

It is also good to train teamsters young. Ray's fourteen year old son and a couple of friends each wanted to try to raise and train a team of steers. In training them through their 4-H Program they found that there was really no serious competition out there for them to demonstrate their skills. There were some fitting shows and some simple exercises, but no real competition. On the opposite end of Connecticut there was another 4-H Program also



**Ray Ludwig speaking at the Annual Meeting (second from the right with hat)**

training young teamsters and oxen. The two programs decided to hold competitions on Mother's Day of each year and things changed dramatically. Knowing that there would be a competition provided incentive for the teamsters in both 4-H groups to take their training seriously and both groups improved to the point where they were almost perfect.

The Eastern States started holding a competition for all six New England States. Each state was allowed to send a certain number of youth teamsters, depending on how many 4-H teamsters there were in the state. Connecticut usually sent five or six teamsters, once in a while four and once in a while seven. The Connecticut teamsters competed at the Eastern States for 19 years and brought home the banner 12 times. They were the State to beat and Ray attributes that to having the two 4-H clubs in the state that were able to compete against each other and hone their skills. Ray was very pleased to say how well all the young teamsters got along. They never argued and outside the ring they were always helping one another, but once they got in the ring it was every person for him- or herself.

Ray choked up a little as he reminisced about his grandchildren. His granddaughter decided she wanted a team so she got Devons. She was the star of the Eastern States, winning best teamster every time she competed—she was the one to beat. His grandson also got a pair of Devons and he worked with them every night after school. When the team was about six months old they qualified to go to the Eastern States. Knowing there would be lots of competition, his grandson was very nervous. Ray encouraged him and he aced the course. He executed every obstacle and backed the team and cart into the barn perfectly, reflecting the many hours of patience and training he put into his working steers.

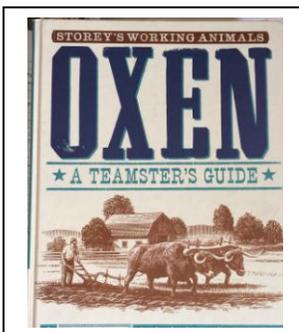
AMDCA President John L. Hall III, related a humorous story. On his farm, the Devon bull calves were leading at a week old and in less than a month they were hooked to a Radio Flyer wagon. His father used this as a marketing device. He would put the young calves and the Radio Flyer wagon in the ring with young John who was three or four years old. People would ask "*are these trained?*" to which John's father would reply "*why look...even a kid can drive them.*"

So what is the time investment required to successfully train a team of Devons? Dr. Conroy generally starts his teams around six months and is most able to work consistently with them during the summer months due to his academic schedule. He thinks it's best to work with them a little everyday and he is able to train six month to one year old teams in about 90 days. At that point they are still not 100 percent trustworthy and require additional tuning up for another year.

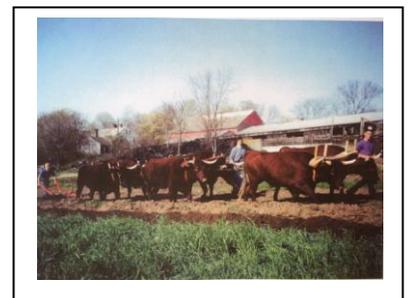
Ray reflects on the time investment in a different light. He says, "*The only difference between work and play is if you are enjoying it. If you enjoy your cattle, you'll put the time in. You'll use them every day. You'll do everything you can with them, if you're enjoying it.*" **(End of Part 3 of 3)**

Both Drew and Ray have publications. Drew has several books available through the major book sellers. Ray's

book, *The Pride and Joy of Working Cattle*, is available directly through him. If you are interested in Ray's book contact Ray at 860-875-5117 or by mail at: 552 Old Post Road, Tolland, CT, 06084



← One of Drew's books   Ray's Book →

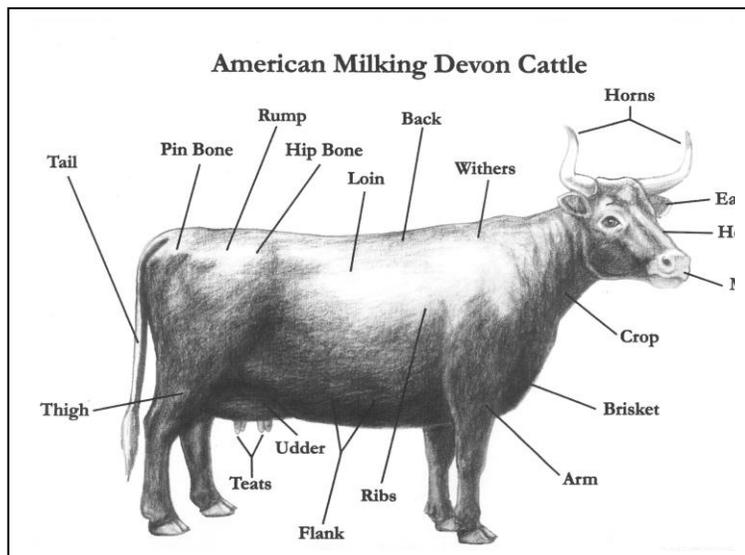


## AMDCA DIRECTORS CONSULT WITH COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG ON CLASSIFICATION

AMDCA Director Ray Clark, assisted by AMDCA Director Dexter Randall, led a course at Colonial Williamsburg on American Milking Devon Classification. Directors Clark and Randall were invited to conduct the workshop by the Colonial Williamsburg Bill and Jean Long Director of Coach and Livestock, Paul Bennett. Mr. Bennett told *The Caledonian-Record* that *“We breed Milking Devon and we wanted him [Ray Clark] to help teach the finer points of cattle breeding to make sure that what we are breeding is the center of excellence, it’s our dream to be the renowned breeder for American Milking Devon Cattle.”*<sup>1</sup> The American Milking Devon is one of nine breeds of cattle to be categorized as “critical” by The Livestock Conservancy. The “critical” category is the rarest category and the criteria for placement in that category is *“Fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 2,000.”*<sup>2</sup> The Milking Devon is extinct in its native England.

Directors Clark and Randall taught the participants “Classification” scoring protocol and then spent three days together with the participants scoring Colonial Williamsburg cattle. On the fourth day Director Clark spent time demonstrating how a heritage breed should be handled in a show ring. There is a difference between “classifying” animals and “showing” them. When “classifying” an animal, the animal is compared only to the breed standard. Each part of the cow is measured against the

standard and points are assessed for that part. When the entire animal has been examined, the points are totaled, giving the animal an overall score on a scale from zero to 100. A score of 90 and above is considered excellent, a score of 80-89 is considered very good and a score of 70-79 is considered acceptable. Every breed has a different standard. The weightings given to the individual characteristics of the Breed Standard indicate their relative importance in that breed.



resulting in a numerical score like “Classification,” “Card Grading” results in one of four colors: Blue-excellent breeding animal conforming to breed standard and free from any genetically based unsoundness;



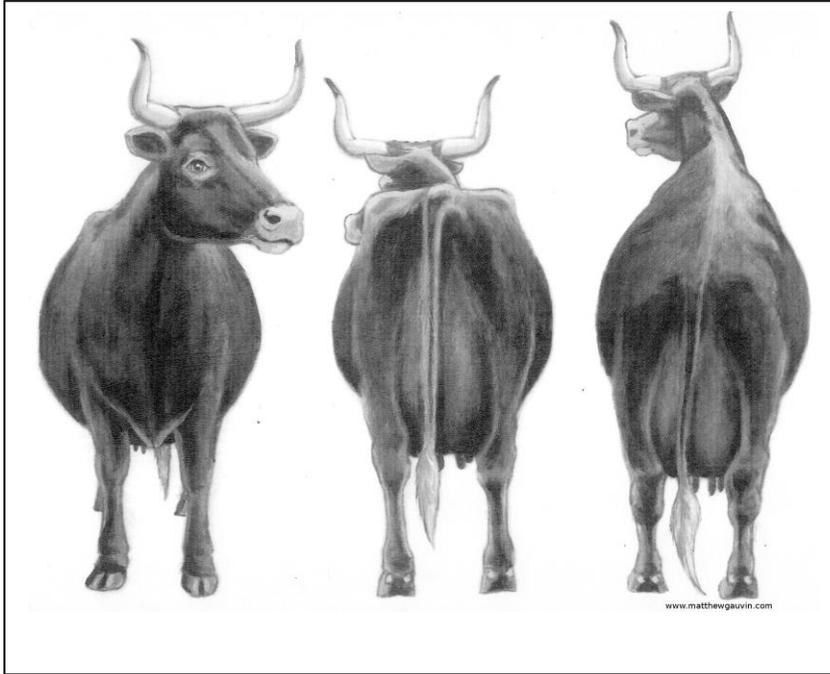
**Standard of Excellence  
and  
Scale of Points of Devon Cow**  
From the American Devon Record Book, 1926

HEAD moderately long, with a broad indented Forehead, tapering considerably towards the Nostrils; the Nose of creamy-white, the Nostrils high and open, the Jaws clean, the Eye bright, lively and prominent; Throat clean, Ears thin, the Expression being gentle and intelligent; Horns matching, long, spreading, and gradually turned up, of waxy color, tipped with a darker shade.	10
NECK of medium length, growing from the Head to the shoulders, and spreading out to meet them.	4
WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping and well covered.	6
RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep and fully developed.	8
BACK straight and level from the Withers, to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, Hips of medium width and on a level with the Back.	12
RUMPS moderately long and level.	8
HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick and square.	10
UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed.	20
TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with a brush of strong hair, reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the back.	5
THE UNDER LINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top.	6
LEGS straightly and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking.	5
SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; white about the Udder is admissible, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks or any other part of the Limbs or Body.	6
Perfection	100

standard and points are assessed for that part. When the entire animal has been examined, the points are totaled, giving the animal an overall score on a scale from zero to 100. A score of 90 and above is considered excellent, a score of 80-89 is considered very good and a score of 70-79 is considered acceptable. Every breed has a different standard. The weightings given to the individual characteristics of the Breed Standard indicate their relative importance in that breed.

In November of 2017, The AMDCA, in cooperation with Colonial Williamsburg and the Livestock Conservancy, held a “Card Grading” Event at Colonial Williamsburg. “Card Grading” is different from “Classification” in that instead of

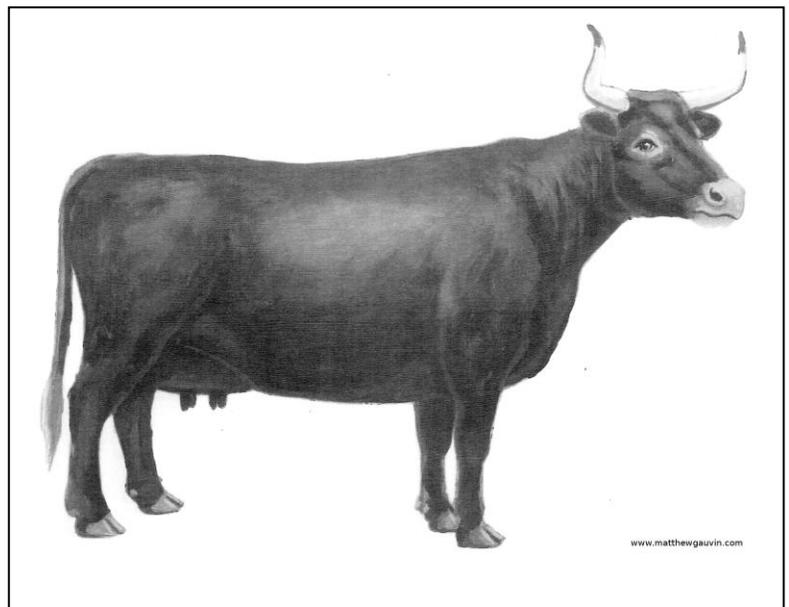
Red—a good breeding animal which shows most of the breed characteristics and is free from genetically based unsoundness; Yellow—an acceptable, average breeding animal with no disqualifying deviations from breed standard or genetically based unsoundness; and White—an unacceptable breeding animal which does not conform to breed standard, is of another breed, or is genetically unsound—these animals should not be used for pure breeding. “Card Grading,” while helpful in breeding decisions such as in preliminary culls, is not as informative as “Classification” as it does not give the breeder specific scores on specific traits that a breeder might be interested in.



Director Clark informs that historically the major registered dairy breeds have used “Classification” as the means to herd improvement. A registered animal is “classified” by a paid specialist when young and then again at a production age, and the scores are recorded and stay with the animal for life. These scores help a breeder determine the nature of their breeding program. Director Clark warns that breeding two top notch animals to each other does not necessarily result in a top notch offspring due to the way genetics works. It is important to see the results of a specific breeding to determine the desirability of continuing that type of breeding.

“Showing” cattle at a fair or other event is different than “Classifying.” In “Showing,” animals are compared against each other. The animal closest to the “Breed Standard” wins, but that actually does not inform anyone about the quality of the animal, since there is no ultimate judgment on how close the winning animal comes to the “Breed Standard.” Director Clark, who has shown and judged shows his entire life, feels that showing cattle is a great way to help advertise the breed and sell animals, while “Classification” should be relied on to develop a breeding program. One of the main purposes of Mr. Bennett’s invitation to Directors Clark and Randall was for them to help guide the reengineering of Colonial Williamsburg’s American Milking Devon breeding program to develop a premier herd.

To conduct the workshop Director Clark prepared a packet for each participant of important information including the Devon pictures the Association had artistically drawn as close examples of the Breed Standard, as well as the Breed Standard Point System. Over the course of the three days each animal, about 12 in all, was evaluated on every written standard. First, Director Clark demonstrated the process explaining each decision and then everyone participated. Remarkably, the scores came out close as they should have said Director Clark. Director Randall’s assistance in all aspects of the workshop



was indispensable said Director Clark. This event was the first “Classification” of American Milking Devons on a farm in Director Clark’s memory. Dr. Drew Conroy did “classify” Devons at the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Cattle Show held at the Virginia State Fair.

<sup>1</sup>*Caledonian Record*, Northeastern Vermont and Northern New Hampshire. Weekend Edition, April 13-14, 2019. Pages A-1 & A-9.

<sup>2</sup>*Breeders and Products Directory*. The Livestock Conservancy. Pittsboro, NC. Page 6.

**Colonial Williamsburg Classification Workshop**  
*Photos Courtesy of Deadre Keen*



Experiencing the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Regional Show--In Their Own Words

Article and pictures submitted by Richard Larson

As our perspective is generally unique to our personal experience, I asked a cross section of exhibitors who participated in the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Regional Show to describe their personal experience in their own words.

*“Attending the Regional AMD Show this past September was a great experience for our family. We have shown our cows for the last several years in our local fairs and enjoy the opportunity that the fairs provide us to introduce the public to the history and uniqueness of AMDs. Fairs have also been a fun family activity that we look forward to each year. At our local shows, however, we are always the only family showing AMD’s. When we first heard of the Regional AMD show in Virginia we were very excited about the opportunity to be at a show with other Devon breeders. We felt like the show would be a great opportunity for us to interact with and get to know other AMD families and how they manage their cattle. We live around 400 miles from the VA State fairgrounds, but we did not want to miss out on participating in such an exciting event and so began to prepare for the show early on in the spring. Our kids chose which animals they wanted to show and we bought a used livestock trailer. We came up with a plan for how we wanted our animals to be displayed together in the show barn and worked together on finishing it just in time for the show. The whole experience was very valuable to us as breeders and caretakers of a very worthy heritage cattle breed and a lot of fun too!*”

*“If you are considering attending the 2019 show, I encourage you to come. You will be glad you did! The more breeders and cattle that participate will mean a richer experience for everyone. We are planning on returning and we will see you there!”*

**Dale Freier Jr, Every Season Farm, Seneca Falls, NY**



*“The best part of the show was meeting Drew Conroy in person and seeing so many Devons in one place.”* **Josiah Freier (age 9)**

*“I enjoyed being at a big fair, going on rides and meeting and playing with my new friend Lily from Pennsylvania.”* **Abigail Freier (age 6)**

*“The best part was seeing so many Devons all in one spot.”* **Mark Freier (age 14)**

*“I liked getting to know and share experiences with other Devon breeders.”* **Dale Freier III (age 15)**

*“When Richard Larson proposed an AMD Regional Show during a meeting in November of 2017, my first thought was, ‘Oh no. We don’t have the skills or the time to do this.’ As he enumerated the benefits of participation, I could only think about how ill-equipped we were. Of course it was a great networking opportunity for breeders and the educational value of the grading was undeniable. But our cows are managed as a beef herd and we had never even halter broken a calf, let alone shown one. It was clearly, flat out impossible for us to participate. Naturally, when Richard asked who might be willing to commit to coming to the fair, my partner Jeff spoke up to my left. ‘We’ll bring three animals,’ he said.*”

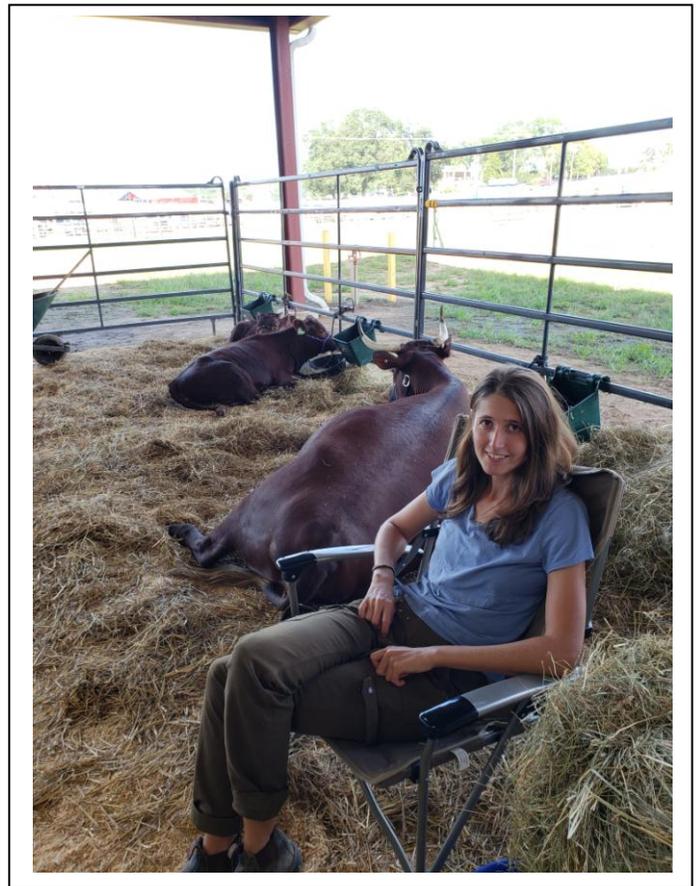
*“The plan was simple. We would halter break two spring heifers after weaning and retrain the one tame cow we have who was a bottle baby and probably saw a halter once before she came to us. Months after the*

*commitment was made, due to time constraints, anxiety, poor planning and a litany of good and bad excuses, we found ourselves facing the prospect of halter breaking heifer calves mere days before the show. Yes, I do mean days, not weeks. We started on Monday and the animals were due to be dropped off at the fair that Thursday. But somehow, those miraculous heifer calves learned in the space of a few days to walk with us on a lead. Again, we had never halter broken any animals up to this point in our lives. Safely leading and stopping were our only goals and we were able to achieve them in two half hour sessions a day for four days. I want to emphatically clarify that this is not a beginner's guide on the correct way to prepare for a show. If anything, it is the opposite.*

*"When we arrived at the fair to drop the animals off Thursday night, I was surprised to see that they were not going into pens but were actually going to be spending the weekend tied to panels in an open barn. I shouldn't have been surprised as I am now fairly certain that this was explained by Richard on an early email chain. But I had overlooked it. We had never tied our heifers for longer than 30 minutes and here they were going to spend three days tied with the only break being our walks on the lead. Lucky for us, our heifers were very well behaved and did not engineer any escape attempts.*

*"Once we settled the animals in, we relaxed enough to take a look around and meet some of the other breeders and their Devons. It became apparent quite quickly that the camaraderie in the barn was going to be one of the best parts of the experience. It is not often that you get to spend so much uninterrupted time with folks raising the same breed of cattle as you. That evening, I was definitely still worried about the show ring but we were surrounded by our kind of people and our kind of cows. We found reassurance, friendship and guidance in the barn.*

*"The show on Saturday was nerve wracking for obvious reasons. Our calves were well behaved enough that we could safely take them in the ring. However, beyond starting and stopping, we had no show foundation laid down. And that was okay. In the show we took 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> place. Whether or not we could have placed higher with better training, I won't know. I was simply elated to have successfully walked the calves in the ring. The bottle baby cow on the other hand proved to need more work and we made the call to not show her for our safety and sanity. She wasn't mean, just spoiled, which would surprise no one.*



*"Our final day at the fair was Sunday and, ultimately, it was the most valuable one. Our judge, Drew Conroy, who had been a veritable encyclopedia of Devon wisdom all weekend, graded each animal individually. Luckily, we were able to bring the bottle baby cow into the ring as an individual and we got excellent feedback. Evidently, I had been allowing her sass to cloud my judgment of her overall conformation. Listening to Drew's appraisal, I was able to step back and assess her with a little more objectivity.*

*"All in all, I would absolutely recommend that anyone plan to attend the fair this year. By all means, bring a cow with you when you come. While I don't think anyone should model our approach, I do think Jeff and I make a good example of 'if I can do it, so can you.' We put the bare minimum amount of time and research into this*

*experience and we walked away with trained, graded animals, friends and colleagues, and an unforgettable memory.”* **Dea Keen, Mount Pleasant Planation, Spring Grove, VA**

Ten breeders, from three states, exhibited 31 AMD at the 2018 Show. Nine of these breeders have indicated their intent to return for the 2019 Show. Already, five breeders, from four additional states, have communicated their strong interest / intent to bring their Devons to the show this year. The Show is a four-day event: Arrive on Thursday, 9/26; Fair starts & Exhibitors lunch Friday, 9/27; Competitive show Saturday, 9/28; and, Individual Evaluations on Sunday, 9/29. Release is Sunday at 3:00 pm. Understanding that expenses, work schedules, vacation schedules, harvest season and school all may play a part in your decision, begin planning now for **your personal experience** as part of the **2019 Gathering** of between 40 to 50 AMD. Email me to be added to the Info List to receive updates as they occur. Richard Larson, [OldGjerpenFarm@yahoo.com](mailto:OldGjerpenFarm@yahoo.com)

### **Ray's Corner- On New Calves and Moving Cows**

Quotes and Wisdom from Director Ray Clark

It's calving time again. Recently a question came up about newborn calves shaking. Generally this is a normal reaction to the birthing process and the exposure to cooler air temperatures after birth. Most of the time, the calves will be alright if you leave them alone. The mother will naturally lick the calf all over, stimulating both blood flow, warming the calf, and the desire to nurse. It's vital that they nurse early to get that colostrum which contains antibodies. Interrupting that natural process is often not beneficial to the calf. If you absolutely feel the need you can cover the calf with a blanket or a calf jacket, but it could interfere with the natural process. Calf jackets are available at your local agricultural supply stores. If you feel the need to change the environment of a newborn calf, such as bringing a calf indoors, recognize that it is a long term commitment. Bringing a calf indoors for a few hours or even a couple of days and then placing it back outside can induce sickness in the calf. You should also always beware of the mother of a new born calf. A new mother becomes protective of her calf, and even a formerly friendly cow may become an adversary when you mess with her calf. Do not assume anything. Always plan ahead and leave yourself a way out when dealing with new mothers and their calves.

Unless you have well-broke your cattle to the halter, moving them can be a trying experience. Even well-trained cows can be resistant to new experiences. Do not twist the tail as you can break it and damage the spinal cord. Use a halter to control the head. If you need to push, push from up close. Devons are experts at targeting their kicks and it is more difficult for them to land a damaging kick when you are closer. When moving cattle don't be complacent, always be alert for changes in their behavior and be ready to respond.



**Brochures Available-** The Association has recently had a new batch of American Milking Devon Cattle brochures produced and is offering them free of charge to AMDCA members. If you would like some, please contact Association Secretary Andrew Van Ord. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

## ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

**New Registration Form**- Due to the changes in Registration Policy, a new Registration Form has been created and approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the new form is attached for your convenience. **Old forms will not be accepted and registrations on old forms will be returned. Forms are also available in regular and fillable format on the AMDCA Website: <http://www.milkingdevons.org/forms.html>**

**A reminder from the Registrar:** When paying your Membership Dues, please use the Membership Form, found on the AMDCA website, and fill it in completely. The Form lets me know if you want to be included on the website and how much information you want released. Going forward, if no Form is submitted with your payment, you will not be included on the website. Thanks for your attention to the details.

**Membership Form- 2019 Membership Dues Overdue-** For your convenience a membership form is attached to this newsletter.

**Membership Policy** - Membership is open to any individual or organization interested in furthering the purposes of the Association. An organization shall designate an individual to represent it at business meetings of the Association.

There shall be three categories of membership;

1. Voting Members, consisting of all members owning registered Milking Devon cattle.
2. Associate Members, who wish to further the purposes of the Association.

**The annual dues for these two categories as established by the Board (currently \$20) shall be due and payable on or before December 31 of each calendar year. Lapsed members shall be reinstated on payment of current year dues.**

3. Junior Members, (one time dues payment, non-voting, under 18 years old, currently \$20), can access all membership services at the established fees.

Only Voting Members are entitled to vote at membership meetings. Except for voting rights, no distinction shall be made between the three membership categories as to the availability or cost of services provided. At the Annual Meeting of 2016, the membership passed a MOTION that members not in good standing by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year will not receive an election ballot.

**IMPORTANT!! THESE TWO FORMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ALSO AVAILABLE IN FILLABLE FORMAT ON THE AMDCA WEBSITE**

**ANNUAL MEETING** – The Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association will be held on **Saturday May 11, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.** at the Tunbridge Town Hall, in Tunbridge, Vermont. Important decisions affecting the AMD breed will be discussed and your attendance and vote on the issues is encouraged. The Directors implement the policies and procedures voted on by the Membership at the Annual meeting.

**DIRECTOR ELECTIONS** – This year there are two Director positions up for election. The terms of President/Treasurer John L. Hall III and Thomas H. Slater are expiring. Both incumbents have expressed a desire to serve again. Brief biographies of the candidates are presented below in alphabetical order. Prior to the Annual Meeting, those members who have their membership dues current and are otherwise eligible to vote, will receive a ballot in the mail. The ballot must be returned as directed sufficiently prior to the Annual Meeting or it may be brought to the Annual Meeting and turned in at the beginning of the meeting. The Association Membership/Dues Policy is provided above.

**John L. Hall III** – (Incumbent) I am a 10<sup>th</sup> generation farmer in Westbrook, Connecticut, where my wife Bonnie and I maintain a herd of American Milking Devon Cattle. I am a lifelong Devon cattle owner. Devons have been on our farm in Westbrook since 1635! I learned at an early age to appreciate the Devon breed for their unique capabilities, learning from my father and grandfather how to train oxen and milk cows. Currently, we still raise and sell several teams of steers each year; milk several of our cows every day and sell Devon beef at our farm store and local farmers markets. As President of the AMDCA, I attend all of the Board of Director meetings; attend and speak at the Association's Regional Gatherings; and have hosted a Fall Devon Field Day at our farm. I look forward to working with the Association and its members to continue to promote the Devon breed.

**Thomas H. Slater**- (Incumbent) I recently retired from a career in criminal justice to what used to be my grandfather's 130 acre farm in Central Bridge, New York. The farm is named Patriot's Retreat Heritage Farm to reflect my interest in all things related to American history. My farm goal is to open the Heritage Farm to the public, with American Milking Devons as the centerpiece with various other heritage breeds of animals. I come from a lineage of farming on both sides of my family. After years of raising unregistered cattle, I purchased my first three Devons in 2007 and have grown the herd to over 30 animals as of this spring. Maintaining genetic diversity in the domesticated animal population is a key interest of mine and American Milking Devon's have been on the Livestock Conservancy's Critical list for many years. These two factors, in addition to the major role American Milking Devon cattle played in early American history, made them a logical choice for my farm. In addition to an already established maple business, my wife Gina and I are also considering the establishment of a micro-dairy to produce and promote various Devon dairy products. Given my recent retirement, I have time to devote to the Board of Directors, have served as an elected Director for three years, and currently serve as the Newsletter Editor for the Association. I have been active on the Board and attended the Regional Gathering in Virginia in 2017. I am interested in promoting genetic diversity within the breed and maintaining the historical triple purpose. I have a Bachelors degree with double majors in biology and history, including some education in genetics, as well as a Masters and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. I am enthusiastic about educating the public about the historic role of these beautiful animals and the value they still hold for families and farms today. Visitors to the farm are always regaled with stories of the historical significance of the American Milking Devon and the precarious position in which their survival still remains. As a long term goal I am working on a history of American Milking Devon cattle. It would be a pleasure to continue serving the members of the Association.

**AMDCA Website**- AMDCA hosts a website under the direction of Webmaster Lawrence Gilley. The website contains Breeder Information, Breed History, a Calendar of Events, a For Sale Section, Association Information, Member Services, Semen Sales, Frequently Asked Questions and Relevant Links. The statistics indicate that the For Sale page(s) are among the most frequently viewed. We encourage you to use our website as it is kept current with Association-related business. Lawrence's contact information and the web address can be found on the contact page of this newsletter. The following is a summary of 2018 web traffic.

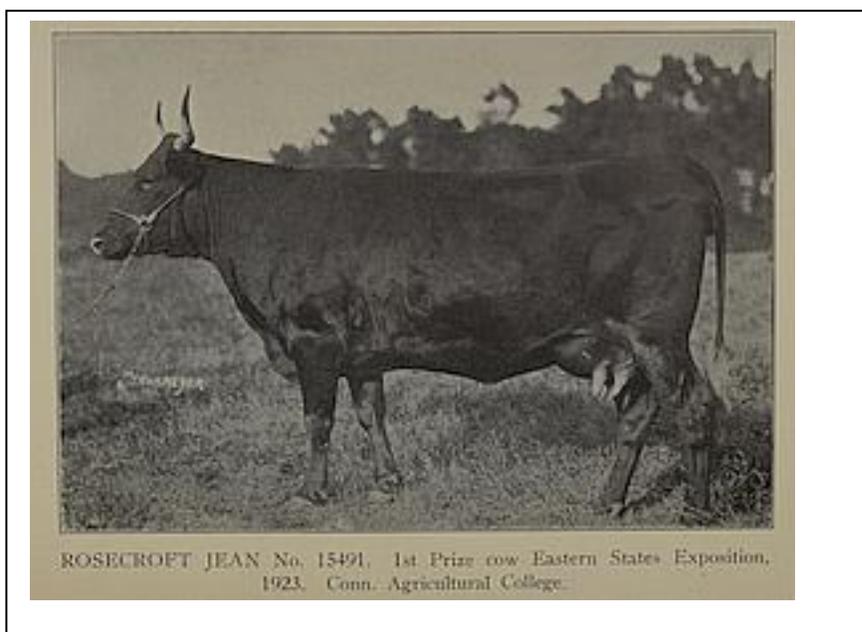
AMDCA website – Annual Summary 2018					
Month	visitors	visits	new visitors	page views	unique page views
January	682	899	80	2574	1668
February	637	910	81	2547	1711
March	592	914	78	2528	1719
April	584	825	80	2384	1595
May	538	748	81	2227	1422
June	624	813	83	1973	1373
July	592	856	80	2282	1500
August	587	781	82	2029	1328
September	582	750	81	2133	1435
October	688	927	82	2455	1642
November	619	832	81	2082	1472
December	83	87	94	1478	1079
AVERAGES	567	779	82	2224	1495
TOTALS	6808	9342		26692	17944

### **DEVONS IN THE NEWS**

- The weekend edition, April 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>, of the Caledonian Record had an article entitled *RARE BREED: Ray Clark Among World's Foremost Experts on Rare Milking Devon Cattle*. The article was written by Amy Ash Nixon and included a history of the American Milking Devon, a history of Ray Clark and his association with AMDs, and information on the workshop recently conducted by Ray and Dexter Randall for Paul Bennett and Colonial Williamsburg. Check it out at [Caledonian Record.com](http://CaledonianRecord.com)

### **THINGS YOU JUST SHOULD NOT MISS**

- AMDCA ANNUAL MEETING- May 11<sup>th</sup>, Tunbridge, VT at 10AM
- Fundamentals of Preparing for & Showing your AMD Workshop, June 15, 2019
  - Old Gjerpen Farm, Culpeper, VA 22701. 11:00am to 3:00pm
  - Contact Richard Larson, [OldGjerpenFarm@yahoo.com](mailto:OldGjerpenFarm@yahoo.com)
- 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Milking Devon Show – September 27-29, 2019
  - Virginia State Fairgrounds



**Photo Courtesy of Lawrence Gilley  
American Devon Record Volume 8**

Page 14 **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR JULY NEWSLETTER IS  
JUNE 15, 2019.**

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*\*\*This newsletter is provided to AMDCA members in the  
United States and Canada for information and  
educational purposes. The views, opinions and  
recommendations expressed herein are those of  
individual contributors and are not endorsed by, or  
represent the policy of AMDCA or its Directors, Officers  
and volunteer staff. Members must use their own  
judgment in deciding whether farming management  
practices described herein are safe and appropriate for  
their particular circumstances.*

FEEDBACK- Your comments, ideas and "constructive" criticism are always  
welcome. I would like to know what topics interest you that could become  
feature articles. The best way to reach me is through e-mail  
[patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com) . If you don't have e-mail call me at (518)  
868-9328 or mail me at Thomas H. Slater, 303 Cripplebush Rd., Central  
Bridge, NY 12035. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this  
newsletter.

**AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION**

The Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

**REGISTRY APPLICATION**

**Registration Fees:**

< 1 yr. \$5.00; 1 yr. but < 2 yrs. \$10.00; 2 yrs. but <3 yrs. \$25.00; 3 yrs. but <5 yrs. \$50.00

**Transfer: \$5.00** Name of New Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **TATTOO** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEX** \_\_\_\_\_ **TWIN** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX OF OTHER TWIN** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE OF BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIRE** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDSIRE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDDAM \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**DAM** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

MATERNAL GRANDSIRE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

MATERNAL GRANDDAM \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ARTIFICIAL SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ NATURAL SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

IF Artificial Service, attach breeding receipt

IF Natural Service, give dates between which bull had access to dam: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER OF SIRE:** \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER OF DAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

(At time of breeding) ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

In making this application, I hereby subject myself to all the provisions of the Constitution, bylaws, and rules of registry of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association as they now exist or may from time to time be amended, knowledge of which I now have or will immediately acquire. **I GUARANTEE THAT ALL MATTERS STATED HEREIN ARE TRUE.**

**OWNER** \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

# American Milking Devon Cattle Association

610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

2019

Please check one.

- \$20 - Voting Member – individuals who own registered Milking Devon cattle
- \$20 - Associate Member – individuals interested in furthering the purposes of the Association
- \$20 – Junior Member (one time dues payment, non-voting, under 18 years old)

Make checks payable to the American Milking Devon Cattle Association.

Send completed form and check to:

Bonnie Hall, Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498

Voting members: Please circle if you **do not** wish to be listed in the on-line breeder's list

[NO] Do not include me in the on-line breeder's list.

Please circle "no" below to indicate information you wish **to omit** from the on-line breeder's list.

[No] NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

[No] FARM/ORG: \_\_\_\_\_

[No] ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
[No] PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

[No] E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

[No] WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: A current membership is required for inclusion in the breeder's list, for voting at the annual meeting and for registering cattle and for transferring the registration of cattle. Please ensure that your membership is up to date.*