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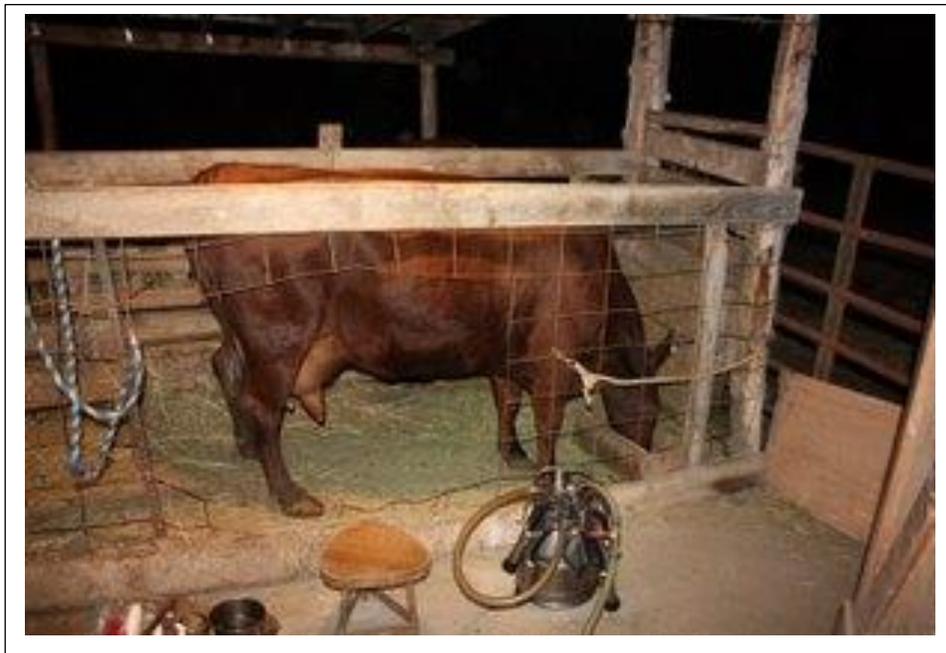
AMDCA Newsletter February 2022
Volume 9, Issue 1



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



Caroline Ready for Milking

“I WOULDN’T TRADE THE LIFESTYLE, THE MILK, OR THE COWS...I AM BLESSED.”—Patricia Howell

To stop receiving the newsletter or if you have suggestions, content or announcements to be included, please contact Tom Slater patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com Submissions should be in Microsoft Word Format and pictures in JPEG format.

FEATURE ARTICLE: AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ADVENTURE

*This article and photos are courtesy of **Patti Howell** with assistance from daughters Amy Mahoney and Anna Harper. Patti lives on Sun Moon Farm in Advance, North Carolina, with her husband Charles.*



Charles and Patti Howell

Thirty-one years ago we began thinking of different ways we could use our land. Organic is and always was our motto; from this we have never backed away. We tried growing and selling organic vegetables, then we found Joel Salatin of Polyface, Inc. and discovered chickens and cows and started to pursue that path. We put up fencing with the help of a cow man on our road. An Amish family, the Molners, we had been buying milk from, said they would help us put

the roof on the barn. They showed us about milking, caring for cows and training them. Then we found Gurney Davis who had American Milking Devon cows. Gurney told us all about the AMDC Association and he thought it important for us to be part of it so we sent in our money and became inspired. We bought our first cows having no idea where this would take us, nor did we know exactly what we were getting into.



Charles filling hay barrels

Gurney led us to Ray Clark. Ray became our mentor and advisor. He gave extensive advice on so many topics to two people who had no idea what we were doing. The good news was, we were willing to learn and put our effort into being the best cow people we could possibly be. To us the cows were on the same level as our dog, cats, and chickens; they are part of the family. So, our family expanded to the 4 c's – cows, chickens, cats and canine.



Patti watering the cows

To do the job of caring for our cows meant buying the proper equipment. Charles found lots of well-used equipment for hay making, and naturally it wouldn't always work so he would call Ray for help.



Milking Stall

After we bought our first cows, our daughters, Anna Harper and Amy Mahoney, and their sons Jacob, Ryan, Teigen and Connor, would fly in for visits. One summer our cow, Jean, was ready to calve so all four grand boys (the oldest was six at the time) would spend the days watching for the birth of the new calf. That was our first newborn, and all the grandkids were enthralled with the experience. As a family,

we had long chosen homeopathy as our health care of choice, and this spilled over into the care of our cows and we continue choosing homeopathy first even to this day. I always keep my barn well stocked with necessary remedies. Soon the milking got started.



Milking Setup



Milking Machine

I bought a milking pail and gave it a try. At first, we had trouble with milking because the cow was standing on a concrete floor in our barn where the electricity would run through her legs and shock her. Our cow Jean began kicking, dumping me and the milk. After much research and assistance from others, we learned about electricity and created a new set up right outside the barn for milking. Jean was much happier after that. Our good friend, Sara, from India, came to the house and gave us a class on hand milking techniques.

Boy did people want our milk! I began at 4 a.m. everyday milking two cows, twice a day, morning and evening, seven days a week, by hand, all while I continued to work, teaching the four kids of a homeschooling family. I had morning customers and afternoon customers every day of the week. Because of the demand, we decided we need more milk and thus more cows.



Patti with Caroline in Milking Stall

Ray sent us to Bruce Balch and we were able to expand our herd. The larger herd meant more cows to milk and therefore we progressed into machine milking. Now I generally milk once a day and milk-share with the calf. The calf gets the milk for the first few days because of the colostrum. After that the calf gets a quarter and shares three quarters of the milk with us, gradually transitioning to the time when we get four quarters of milk in the morning and the calf gets all the milk the rest of the day.



Charles Watching

When the calf is about six weeks old, I start putting her up in the barn for the night, and milk mom the next morning, then the calf is with the mom again until evening. We love to drink the milk and I have made yogurt, butter, ice cream and many other delicious products with it as well. I make clabbered milk and feed it to my chickens and use the whey to make tasty, fermented fruits and vegetables. We began selling cows too. Mostly women bought my cows, and we became close friends. We support each other by sharing our experiences, Devon “how-to’s,” and encourage each other by phone or with personal visits.



Attaching the Milk Machine

One year the Association held a meeting in Sanford, North Carolina and we attended, meeting Ray in person as well as John and Bonnie Hall. We found every one of the “ole timers”

and new folks alike very friendly and willing to be helpful. One of the aspects of this organization I love is how everyone comes together when someone is in need. Allow me to give you an example of compassion among American Milking Devon owners. Seven years ago, I came down with pneumonia. Since I did the milking and Charles did the feeding, the question arose, “What are we going to do?”



Pump

At this pivotal point, I was too sick to care about anything, but fortunately other AMD people, namely Ray Clark, responded and sent help. Bruce Balch and his partner Janet were on their way to Florida for the winter when Ray called them and asked them to stop by our house. Ray asked them to divert their trip and try to help us. For a number of days, they hooked up their camper to our well pump and became our caretakers. Bruce took care of the cows with Charles and Janet took care of the house (God bless her). They both fixed food which was amazing. I could never repay them for all they



Charles Washing the Machine



Sun Moon Farm Cow

did for us at that time. As another example, Charles had surgery in 2017 so I called some AMD owners, Kyle and Sesalie, good friends of ours in the Asheville area and they picked up some of our cows and later brought them back to us. It is the spirit of AMD folks to help someone in need. So if you are an American Milking Devon cow owner and something happens, call another AMD family and they will figure out a way to help.

This cow life has been a learning curve. In the beginning we knew nothing; I knew nothing. There is an old saying that we aren't born knowing, we learn by doing and making mistakes. Some mistakes are inevitable, but I felt great pain after the death of a calf or cow that happened because of a lack of my own knowledge. I consider myself a seeker so I will go to great links to

solve problems and to make up for my mistakes. The truth is, if you did not grow up with large animals, then the learning curve begins with your first cow and never ends. After years of consulting with other AMD owners and experts Ray Clark, Bruce Balch, or any person on the Board, we began to trust ourselves and our decision making. I am thankful for all the folks who helped us along the learning curve and for all the friends we have made through owning American Milking Devons. Many of the people who bought our cows became good friends and I love receiving the Christmas cards and updates from around the country. I have found that most American Milking Devon owners are the nicest and most caring people ever.



Cows and Calves



Tools of the Trade

At this moment in time, we have sold the majority of our herd. Yet in my old age I do not want to give up milking or the Devon milk. Out of all the cows out there I cherish my Devon milk. Why? The research on milk from the University of Utah points to the strength and integrity of the American Milking Devon milk, plus it tastes good! Yes, I have two other cows of odd descent and they have nice milk, but it is not the same as the Devon milk. I know that Charles would like to give it up as he is feeling the pangs of older age. My dream is to continue to milk and to take care of my Milking Devon cows as long as I can. My heart is in my cows.

Everyone cares for their cows in different ways, but all feel strongly about their Devon cows. Devon owners are passionate about their cows. Over the years, one learns many things, experience is a great teacher, but being able to help someone else by sharing that experience helps all.

2021 Mid-Atlantic Regional Show & Card-Grading

This article is courtesy of Richard Larson, Old Gjerpen Farm, Culpepper, Virginia. The American Milking Devon Cattle Association Board of Directors would like to thank Richard for another successful show and for all the hard work he has put into the development of this show over the last several years.

In spite of COVID 19, we had another great gathering of AMD cattle and breeders for the third annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Show and Card-Grading hosted by the Virginia State Fair. Forty-five head were entered by breeders as far away as Maine and Vermont. The events were judged by Jason Devino, a renowned dairy judge, from Vermont.

Following are the highlights of the 2021 competitive show held on Friday, September 24th.

Spring Heifer

	<u>Placing</u>	<u>Exhibiter</u>	<u>Breeder</u>
OGF Virginia Georgia	1 st	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
MH Gwen	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
Devons Gate Gold	3 rd	Michaud	Kingdom Creamery

Winter Heifer

OGF Virginia Kadi	1 st	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
OGF Virginia Gail	2 nd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
OGF Virginia Grace	3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

OGF Virginia Georgia
MH Gwen

Champion
Reserve Champion

Larson
Winslow

Old Gjerpen Farm
Marston Homestead

Spring Yearling Heifer

Devons Gate Rascal Pearl	1 st	Michaud	Kingdom Creamery
Devons Gate Gemini Gem	2 nd	Michaud	Kingdom Creamery
OGF Virginia Felica	3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Winter Yearling Heifer

MH Simone	1 st	Winslow	Marston Homestead
MH GiGi	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
OGF Virginia Fredora	3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Devons Gate Pearl
Devons Gate Gem

Champion
Reserve Champion

Michaud
Michaud

Devons Gate Farm
Devons Gate Farm

Spring Senior Heifer

OGF Virginia Elaine	1 st	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
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Fall Senior Heifer

MH Clair	1 st	Winslow	Marston Homestead
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MH Clair	Champion	Winslow	Marston Homestead
OGF Virginia Elaine	Reserve Champion	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Young Cow

Devons Gate Prince Gemini	1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
Marston Homestead Jane	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
OGF Virginia Dianna	3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Senior Cow

Devon's Gate Georgia Pine	1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
Marston Homestead Kaya	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
OGF Lucy	3 rd	Hart	Old Gjerpen Farm

Devons Gate Prince Pine	Champion Cow	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
Devons Gate Prince Gemini	Reserve Champion	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm

Devon's Gate Georgia Pine	Champion Female	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
Marston Homestead Clair	Reserve Champion	Winslow	Marston Homestead

Spring Bull Calf

MH Joe	1 st	Winslow	Marston Homestead
MH Kip	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead

MH Joe	Champion Bull	Winslow	Marston Homestead
MH Kip	Reserve Champion	Winslow	Marston Homestead

Devon's Gate Georgia Pine	Grand Champion AMD	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
MH Joe	Reserve Champion AMD	Winslow	Marston Homestead

Bred & Owned 3 Heifers

	1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
	2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
	3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Bred & Owned Produce of Dam

	1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
	2 nd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
	3 rd	Winslow	Marston Homestead

Bred & Owned Dam & Daughter

1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
2 nd	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Get-of-Sire

1 st	Winslow	Marston Homestead
2 nd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm
3 rd	Winslow	Marston Homestead

Breeders Herd

1 st	Michaud	Devons Gate Farm
2 nd	Winslow	Marston Homestead
3 rd	Larson	Old Gjerpen Farm

Premier Junior Exhibitor

Gabriel Michaud Devons Gate Farm, VT

Premier Breeder

Mark Winslow Marston Homestead, ME

Sunday was dedicated to evaluation of individual animals using the card-grading system. Card-grading is the evaluation of each animal against the breed standards. With card-grading animals are scored as:

- Blue Card – **Excellent**: Conforming to the breed standard & free from genetic-based unsoundness.
- Red Card – **Good**: Conforming to most of the breed standard & free from genetic-based unsoundness.
- Yellow Card – **Fair**: An acceptable, average breeding animal with no disqualifying deviations from the breed standard and no genetic-based unsoundness.
- White Card – **Unacceptable**: An unacceptable breeding animal which either does not conform to the breed standard and/or is genetically unsound.

Card-grading is significantly different from a competitive show where animals of similar age and sex are evaluated against each other. Thus, it is possible that an individual animal that placed at the top of her/his class in a competitive show could receive a red or yellow card when card-graded. Similarly, an animal that placed down the line in a competitive show could well receive a blue card when evaluated against the standards. For example, two animals that placed 4th and 5th in their competitive classes were “blue-carded” on Sunday. That simply means that, while not best in a group class, they conformed to all of the breed standards. Simply put, this is why we do both a competitive show and card-grading at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show. Breeders have the advantage of receiving feedback on both how well their animal conforms to the standards and how well they perform in contrast to other AMD at that time. Card-grading is usually done with three judges reaching consensus. However, with the objective of evaluating as many cattle as possible in the available time, we rely on a single judge to do the evaluates.

Eudora Franks, Flynn, Texas, “attended the AMD show in Virginia to gain more exposure to this amazing breed and to meet other folks that raise them. I was very excited to meet and visit with people that use the cattle for the three traits they are known for, beef, dairy, and as oxen. Certain information that I learned will help move my own breeding program forward. I was disappointed that the oxen competition part of the show was cancelled but understand that it isn’t a “competition” if only one team is entered. I was thrilled to see Mr. Winslow demonstrate some training techniques with a couple of his youngsters. If my breeding program produces the quality of individuals I hope it will, someday in the near future, I may be able to bring a trailer load of American Milking Devons from Texas to compete. I thoroughly enjoyed the AMD show and the other events at the fair.”

Of the twenty-one AMD evaluated, 17 received blue cards (Excellent) and four received red cards (Good).

Comparative Analysis

One of the interesting things about participating in an established event is the ability to compare outcomes over multiple years. For example:

- ✓ Card-Grading: 67% received blue cards in 2019 compared to 81% in 2021. In 2019 11% received yellow cards (Fair) and 3% received white cards (Unacceptable). In contrast, no yellow and white cards were awarded in 2021.
- ✓ Competitive Show: The average total number of animals exhibited by breeders increased from seven in 2019 to eight in 2021. Of the total AMD exhibited, the percentage of yearlings exhibited increased from 16% in 2019 to 28% in 2021 and the percentage of young cows also increased from 20% in 2019 to 28% in 2021. In contrast, the percentage of senior cows decreased from 24% to 9%, bull calves from 16% to 6% and heifer calves from 39% to 31%.
- ✓ Competitive Show Group Classes: Even though the number of breeders participating and the number of AMD exhibited was down from 2019 to 2021, due to COVID 19, the number of entries in group classes increased by 114%. A group class is a class consisting of more than a single animal – example: 3 Heifers is a class of three females all under two years old. By far the most impressive increase was having six “Breeders Herd” entries. The WOW of seeing **30 AMD** (that’s six herds) **in the ring at the same time** cannot be overstated!!

One of the really nice things about the 2021 gathering was the number of breeders who, while not exhibiting, joined us for the weekend, one coming from as far as Texas. Not only was it nice meeting and talking with them, they also jumped in and helped with the exhibiting. (It takes a lot of hands to have a “herd” in the ring!)

While it’s called a regional show the weekend is so much more. There’s the ringside ice cream social on Thursday – an opportunity to enjoy both the creamy fruit of a cow as well as catch up with your “annual” friends; the AMD breeders’ gathering with members of the AMDCA Board on Saturday; and the “**Pretty Cow**” contest Sunday noon – when both youth and adults dress up both their cow and themselves to compete for the audience’s favor. This year **Felicity Hart** won the Pretty Cow contest with her **AMD Windstorm** and her **handmade milk-maid dress**. Congratulations Felicity!!

“An extremely rewarding and humbling experience was had by the Michaud Family at the regional show in Virginia. It was a time for Devon breeders to come together to share the genetics they have been striving for in their herds with breeders and the public from across the region. We were proud to have the opportunity to be part of this great show and gathering where the American Milking Devon breed was appreciated and celebrated.” **Leslie Michaud, Vermont**

So you missed 2021? Well now is the time to mark your calendar for the fourth annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Show – September 23 – 25, 2022. You think you have some nice Devons – well bring them with you!!

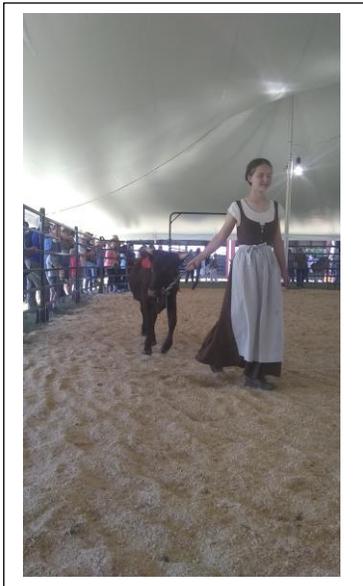


Felicity Hart won the Pretty Cow contest with her AMD Windstorm and her handmade milk-maid dress.

I want to thank **John & Bonnie Hall** for their unwavering support for the show and their willingness to make the annual trip from Connecticut to attend each year. This year they were more than just present – John emceed both the competitive show and the card-grading. A special thanks to Bonnie, who performed the critical task of “ring master” for both the competitive show and card-grading. Under her direction the events ran smoothly, on schedule and without incident.

Finally, I want to thank the breeders who, with their support, hard work, preparation, and commitment to the breed’s excellence, simply make the show possible by exhibiting their beautiful AMD!

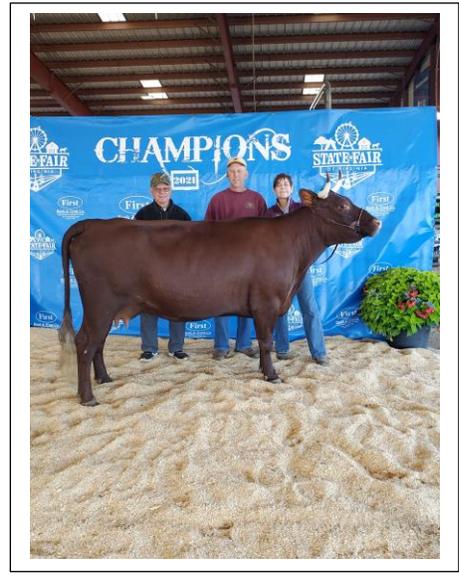
MORE PICTURES FROM THE 2021 MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL SHOW



Felicity Hart in the Show Ring for Pretty Cow



Felicity Hart Showing her cows and Showing off the Farm



Abe Allenback, Mark and Kim Winslow with MH Jane, 2020 Supreme Champion in VA



Lincoln Michaud with Devon's Gate Prince Gemini (Reserve Grand Champion Cow)



OGF Virginia Elaine, Reserve Champion Senior Heifer with Rachel Cooper



Gabriel Michaud with Devon's Gate Georgia Pine (Grand and Supreme Champion Cow)



Devon's Gate Farm Breeder's Herd-First Place. Michaud Family, East Hardwick, Vermont

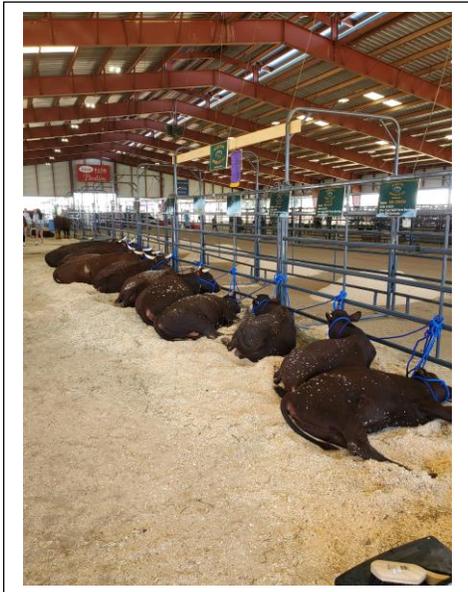
MORE PICTURES FROM THE 2021 MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL SHOW



**OGF Virginia Georgia
Champion Heifer with Sarah
Russell**



**OGF Virginia Kadi with Rachael Cooper
OGF Virginia Gail with Sarah Russell
Winter Heifer Class Placed 1st and 2nd**



**“It’s warm down here”
Picture courtesy of Mark
Winslow, Marston Homestead
Falmouth, Maine**



**Leslie Michaud with Devon’s Gate Rascal Pear (Junior
Champion)
Lincoln Michaud with Devon’s Gate Prince Gemini (Reserve
Grand Champion)
Gabriel Michaud with Devon’s Gate Georgia Pine (Grand
and Supreme Champion Cow)**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
2022 Northeast American Milking Devon Regional Cattle Show
At the Seneca County Fair, Waterloo, New York
July 20-23, 2022

This article is courtesy of Dale Freier, Every Season Farm, Seneca Falls, New York. Photos courtesy of the Seneca County Fair.



The AMDCA Board of Directors has chosen the Seneca County Fair in Waterloo, New York to be the host of the 2022 Northeast American Milking Devon Regional Cattle Show. The success of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Show in Virginia over the last several years and the number of breeders in the Northeast region has encouraged

the expansion of our Association Regional Shows. This provides a great opportunity to educate the public about our cattle and meet with and learn from our fellow breeders in a fun environment.

The Northeast Regional Show will be held in conjunction with the 178th Seneca County Fair in Waterloo, New York. The Fair runs from the afternoon of Wednesday July 20th through the evening of Saturday July 23rd, 2022. There are multiple opportunities during the Fair to show AMDs as they may be shown in either the Dairy Show, Beef Show or Working Steer/Oxen Show. The Dairy Show will have separate show classes for AMDs. The Working Steer/Oxen Show and Beef Show will be mixed with other breeds. The Shows are open to both youth show participants (under 19) and open show participants with premiums and ribbons awarded in each. The Fair website can be accessed by going to senecacountyfairny.com to look through previous fair entry books, health requirements, animal classes and pictures of past fairs. When looking for the Seneca County Fair online, please note that there is a Seneca County Fair in Ohio! Be sure you are looking at the New York Fair!



The Freier Family from Every Season Farm in Seneca Falls, NY will be coordinating the AMD show with the Seneca County Fair Board and the AMDCA Board of Directors. Please feel free to reach out to us by email at everyseasonfarm@gmail.com or by phone to Dale Freier at 240-593-1298 with any questions or thoughts about the Fair. If you would like to be put on an email list for Fair

Northeast Regional Show (Continued)

updates and further information please let us know as more details and opportunities will follow as we get closer to the Show date.

The fairgrounds are very easy to reach off of Interstate 90 which runs East and West across the state and hotels and restaurants are within a 5-minute drive from the barns. RVs can be accommodated on the fairgrounds as well. The atmosphere of the Seneca County Fair is one of a small rural agricultural fair and the Fair Board is flexible and very supportive of the event. For those who have shown cattle before in similar settings, you will feel right at home. For those who are interested in participating for the first time, our family will be happy to help you in every way we can. Come out and join us in July 2022!

A MOST EXCELLENT PLAN B: AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE AT THE CHESHIRE FAIR

This article and photos are courtesy of Victoria Reck Ames, Honey Hill Heritage Devons, Swanzey, New Hampshire.

As owners and breeders of American Milking Devon cattle, many of us hope to increase public awareness of the breed. Might the Cheshire Fair—located in my hometown of Swanzey, New Hampshire—be a venue for a regional Devon show? Could Devon owners bring sufficient cattle to fill show classes? Here is what happened when I explored the idea, and the promising alternative that evolved.

Members of the Cheshire Fair Association nod their greeting as I slip into a seat at the rear of the Association's meeting room. I see familiar faces in the group of twenty or so: Gary, the chairman, operates a busy landscaping business and is married to Deb, a long-serving selectman who consistently supported my public service projects. Elaine, active in Farm Bureau, is married to Bob, who I got to know while on the board of our regional land trust during the conservation of Bob's farm. Linda, of the "OX LADY" vanity license plates, has been superintendent of the Fair's steer and oxen show for decades. I relax. These are my neighbors.

The secretary finally arrives; the meeting begins. Gary invites me to make my pitch.

I stand, and begin with what's in my heart. "I have a glimmer of how much work it takes," I say, "to bring us a fair every year. And I'm grateful for this chance with you all together in one place so that I can say thank you to every one of you. I really, really appreciate what you do, year after year after year." I pull out a sack of cookies, baked that afternoon. "Here is a tiny token of my gratitude," I say. "Zero calories, highly nutritious." Laughter; hands reach for the bag.

I talk about the distinctions of American Milking Devon breed, describe the success of the AMD show at the Virginia State Fair, and ask whether the Cheshire Fair would entertain the idea of hosting a regional show. I put my naiveté on the table: I've never shown beef or dairy cattle. I

don't know all that this proposal will entail. Yet I feel sure our collaboration could benefit both the Fair and the Breed.

We discuss, raise questions, consider details like classes, judges, prize money, event sponsorship, promotion. The fairgrounds has the capacity to house extra cattle. The Association wants to enhance the agricultural component of the fair. Members predict that a handsome and unusual heritage breed would be a crowd-pleaser. They like the connection to Swanzey playwright Denman Thompson's 19th-century classic, *The Old Homestead*, which featured a sharp team of AMDs in the first act. I hand out copies of the American Milking Devon brochure and my farm's business card, and thank the Association for their time.

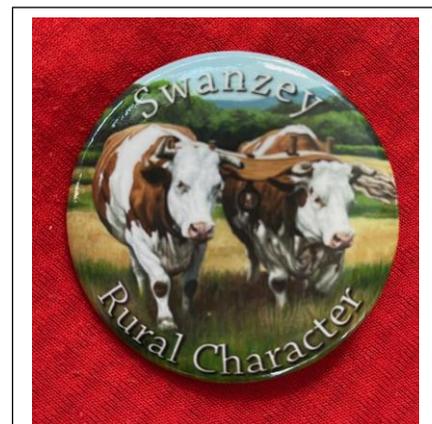
The next step is to gauge interest of AMD owners, and return these results to the Fair Association by their fast-approaching planning deadline. Out to the AMDCA mailing list (used with AMDCA Board permission) goes the emailed invitation to an AMD Show at the Cheshire County Fair. Many AMDCA members respond to the concept with enthusiasm, but too few can commit to bringing cattle.

My Fair contact considers the outcome of the invitation. "Well, that's too bad," Tammy Jo says. "We'd really like to have the Devons ..." Then, "How about you simply put some cattle on display?"

Tammy Jo is brilliant. The objective, after all, is to showcase a fantastic breed of cattle in a way that maximizes their exposure to fairgoers. A display could be an effective, simple way to accomplish this objective.

Effective, because most fairgoers walk the alleys between livestock barns, while only a few watch all the show ring competition. Simple, because little would be required of Devon owners. Tammy Jo and I brainstorm further. Could we relax the conventional requirement that cattle from any given farm be present for the entire fair—which, during haying season, is a potential deal-breaker for many of us? So long as at least one farm displays Devons on each of the Fair's four days, we reason, fairgoers would always be able to see the breed. We're tickled. We've come up with a plan that's effective, simple and, best of all, promises to be fun.

My first team of oxen taught me that displaying cattle is a lot of fun, and also that cattle displays can take many forms. Buck and Ike were a 6,000-pound team of Fleckvieh Simmental celebrities who served their town as ambassadors of open space protection. Over the years, these largest of Swanzey's rural characters marched in parades, visited schools and businesses, hosted an annual birthday party and starred in an annual play. They gave young children plush toy versions of themselves, were featured in over fifty



Buck and Ike handed out this button at all their public events.

YouTube “Adventures of Buck and Ike,” inspired curricula and artists and yes, held court at the Cheshire Fair. There they greeted their many friends and fans, received pats and admiration, and dozed while their personal assistants shared information about them to curious fairgoers.

People—especially children—loved to visit with these charismatic cattle. They were thrilled to stand close to such large animals, to touch fur and feel the warmth of horns. For Buck and Ike,



AMDs think five-year-old visitors are delicious.

the sustained attention was heavenly. Now it’s time to start planning. Which members of the Honey Hill Devon herd would enjoy an adventure, and making new friends? By August, the spring calves will be confident and curious...one-year-old Skylark is as personable a heifer as I’ve ever known, and her plump sidekick Kestrel illustrates the beef qualities of the breed. Teddy and Quentin have been toying with the idea of competing as working steers; a day at a fair would help them get used to the hubbub. It looks like we’ll occupy at least two stalls.

We’ll design our set-up to maintain a safe

separation between cattle and fairgoers, with the cattle able to face out. What information will we post, and what information will we hand out? What kind of decorations will we devise? In a subsequent newsletter, I’ll share what we cook up.

I hope my experience—rooted in inexperience!—inspires you to consider displaying your AMDs at your local fair. You surely know some of the people who put on the fair. They’ll very likely want the public to see your beautiful animals. You’ll need no special skills with fitting and showmanship to host a simple display—just a friendly attitude, enthusiasm, and a creative touch or two, if you’re so inspired. Perhaps your display will ultimately evolve into a formal regional show. Perhaps not. I’m going to take it a year at a time, and measure our success in fun.



Pregnant Rose welcomes the attentions of a guest groomer.

Victoria Reck Ames raises AMDs in southwestern New Hampshire, home of the Cheshire Fair. The 2022 Fair runs from Thursday, August 4th through Sunday, August 7th. The invitation stands: Which day would you like to display some members of your herd? Please let her know. HoneyHillDevons.com HoneyHillDevons@gmail.com EDITORS NOTE: THE AMDCA Board of Directors is supportive of the idea of having the Cheshire Fair as a future location for a Northeast Regional Fair. So, please check it out.

**NEED A NICE GIFT?
AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION T-SHIRTS AND
SWEATSHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE***



PRICES (Plus Shipping and Handling)

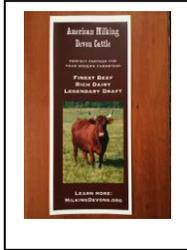
	<u>T-Shirts</u>	<u>Sweatshirts</u>
Youth Sizes S-L**	\$8	\$18
Adult Sizes S-XL	\$11	\$20
Adult Size 2XL	\$14	\$23
Adult Size 3XL	\$15	\$24
Adult Size 4XL	\$16	NA**

All shirts and sweatshirts are gray with maroon lettering and logo

Shipping and Handling Charges: Shipping and handling will be at actual cost. To order, call or email Thomas Slater (518-868-9328 or patriotsretreatfarm@yahoo.com) to determine the shipping and handling charge for your location. You will be asked to make out a check to Thomas Slater for the total amount and send to 303 Cripplebush Road, Central Bridge, NY 12035. Once the check is received your order will be shipped.

***This is not a money-making endeavor for the Association, rather it is a service for members. The items and shipping and handling are being provided as close to actual cost as possible.**

****Due to supply chain issues Adult Size 4XL Sweatshirts are unavailable. We hope to order this size when it becomes available.**



.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 Bruce Farr. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Devon Videos Available

Backyard Green Films worked with the American Milking Devon Cattle Association on documentaries about Milking Devon Cattle. In Parts I and II of the first documentary you can sit down with two old time Yankee farmers from New England who tell us stories as well as the history of the American Milking Devon from Roman Empire times to the present day. The second documentary is about one of the uses of this triple-purpose breed of cattle. The first documentary was partially funded by The Livestock Conservancy. All three videos, along with others, can be viewed from the videos section of the Breeders page of the Association website www.milkingdevons.org/videos.html

Videos Available

- Part I: The American Milking Devon: Past and Present (56 minutes)
- Part II: The American Milking Devon: Past and Present (12 minutes)
- The American Milking Devon Oxen (20 minutes)

**THE AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY MAY 14th, 2022 AT
TUNBRIDGE TOWN HALL IN TUNBRIDGE,
VERMONT. THE MEETING WILL START AT
10:00 AM**

**STAY TUNED- THE ASSOCIATION IS WORKING
ON AN OX TEAM DEMONSTRATION ALONG
WITH FILMING BY BACKYARD GREEN FILMS
FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING**

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



RAY LUDWIG PLOWING – May 2004

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND A. “BUD” LUDWIG

On December 4th, 2021, the American Milking Devon Community lost another stalwart member when Ray Ludwig passed away at the age of 94. Ray lived in Tolland, Connecticut with his wife of 70 years, Jean (Abrahamson) Ludwig. The youngest of 11 children born to Alfred and Bertha Ludwig, Ray grew up on the family farm. He served in the U.S. Navy, and after his discharge, took up the floor-covering trade. In his spare time, he became a true organic farmer, growing produce, raising livestock, and, most importantly to him, raising and training oxen for use on his farm.

At an Annual Meeting of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association Ray shared that as a teenager he wasn't interested in oxen at all. His family operated an ice business with three teams of horses, and they delivered ice all around the area where they lived. Horses were his thing just like a sports car or truck would interest a teenager today. His dream was to own a pair of light draft horses that he could use at home and that looked pretty sharp. That dream was never fulfilled but something did happen that changed the course of Ray's life forever. He was able to buy a Devon cow and he had her bred at the University of Connecticut. She had a bull calf, and with some help, Ray trained him. That was his first experience training animals.

Ray shared his love of training oxen with many young people by leading a 4-H ox teamsters club for 25 years. Additionally, Ray wrote a working steer training manual that has been distributed as far away as Africa. Ray was philosophical about the amount of time required to train oxen. He said, *“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.”*

RAY'S CORNER ON THINKING ABOUT SPRING

Quotes and advice from Director Ray Clark

As soon as you can get on your pasture, a good spring practice is to drag the pasture to break up the manure clumps. Those clumps will prevent the grass from growing in those specific spots. Breaking up the manure clumps will allow the nutrients in the manure to enter the ground quicker and produce a better pasture. This practice also helps in preventing adverse manure runoff into local water sources. Cows shouldn't eat close to pasture manure clumps as that could contribute to digestive illness in the cows. A set of drags can be used to perform this maintenance activity, but if you don't have drags you can use an old plank or something like that to accomplish the job.



Set of Harrows

It's always good to keep track of the minerals your cows are getting, especially during calving season. Minerals in the soil vary throughout the country, so it is good practice to check with your veterinarian to determine the types of minerals lacking in your local soil. Along with regular nutritional requirements, it's important that Devons have sufficient selenium, vitamin E, and Copper.

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

IMPORTANT!! CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION FORMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN FILLABLE FORMAT ON THE AMDCA WEBSITE: <http://www.milkingdevons.org/forms.html>

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE-

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 American Milking Devon cattle.
2. Non-Voting 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. Non-Voting Junior Members, a category open to those under 18 years of age for a single dues payment (currently \$20), can access all membership services as 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 1st of each year will not receive an election ballot and will be removed from the Breeder's Listing. **If you wish to be listed on the Breeder's List a completed Membership Form is required to be submitted annually with your dues.**

Call For Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for two Director positions (member of the Board of Directors) for the term May 2022 through May 2025, and one Director position for the slot vacated by the loss of Dexter Randall (term May 2022 through May 2024). Voting will be by mail, and ballots will be counted and results announced at the Annual Meeting in May.

As an all-volunteer organization, AMDCA depends on its Directors to both manage the organization and do much of the actual work. The Board meets monthly by telephone. In addition, the Association hosts one or more Regional Gatherings each year, which the Directors are urged to attend. Directors must be voting members, i.e., must own registered American Milking Devon Cattle and have paid their dues for the current year.

The terms of two Incumbent Directors expire this year. Both incumbents, John L. Hall, III and Thomas Slater are seeking re-election. In addition, there will be an election to fill the remainder of the term vacated by the loss of Dexter Randall. Mark Winslow of Maine has been appointed by the Board to fill that position until the vacancy is filled by election.

If you wish to put a name in nomination, please submit the following information not later than **Friday, March 18th, 2022**, to Bruce Farr, AMDCA Secretary, 51 Catamount Road, Northwood, New Hampshire, 03261; or e-mail farrviewsouthfarm@yahoo.com

1. The nominee's full name and contact information,
2. A statement of the nominee's background, qualifications and his/her philosophy and goals for AMDCA. Please limit this information to ½ page.
3. A statement *signed by the nominee* that he/she is a voting member and agrees to serve if elected.
4. The nominee's record of attendance at Annual Meetings and regional meetings over the past three years.

All nominations will be acknowledged, and the Nominating Committee will ensure that all complete nominations received by the above deadline are placed on the ballot.

Current Registration Form- Due to the changes in Registration Policy, a Registration Form has been created and approved by the Board of Directors. A copy of the form is attached for your convenience. **Please fill out in pen, not pencil.** Failure to use the form will result in the return of your application unprocessed.

Buying Registered Cattle- It has come to the attention of the Association that some AMD buyers are not receiving their transfer registration papers in a timely fashion as the result of sellers not submitting the appropriate paperwork to the Registrar. Some of these buyers reach out to the Association to seek assistance in rectifying the situation. The Association, however, has no authority to intervene in this type of situation. The buyer and seller should discuss the transfer paperwork **prior to the sale being completed**, and if at all possible, the buyer should receive a copy of the paperwork the seller is forwarding to the Registrar at the time the cattle are physically transferred. A potential buyer could contact the Registrar prior to a purchase to ascertain whether a seller actively registers cattle. No personal information beyond “YES THEY ACTIVELY REGISTER CATTLE” or “NO THEY HAVEN’T ACTIVELY REGISTERED CATTLE” regarding a seller will be given out by the Registrar. To maintain the integrity of our breed registry, the Registrar cannot register animals without the proper paperwork.

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. For the latest month available, November 2021, there were 608 visits to the website. For the same month there were 480 visitors. Eighty-two (82) percent of the visitors in November had not viewed the website prior. The statistics indicate that the For Sale page(s) continue to be 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.



Every Season Farm at the Seneca County Fair

MILKING DEVON HERD BOOKS

The latest AMD Herd Book, Volume 6, is now available!

Herd books are available as PDFs at <http://www.milkingdevons.org/amdca-herd-books.html>

Paperback printed copies are available for purchase from Lulu.com

Vol 6 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook6>

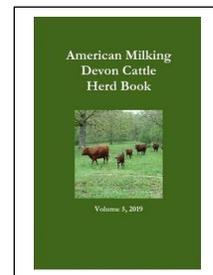
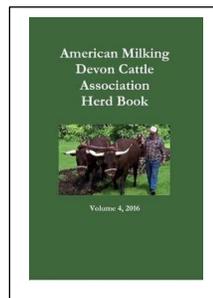
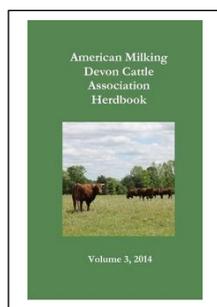
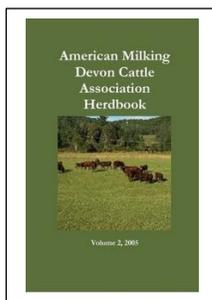
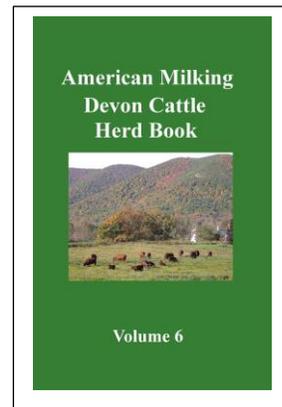
Vol 5 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook5>

Vol 4 <http://tinyurl.com/herdbook4>

Vol 3 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook03>

Vol 2 <http://tinyurl.com/amdca-herdbook02>

....or go to Lulu.com and search for “herd book” and “herdbook”



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS May 15th, 2022. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word format and pictures in JPEG format

AMDCA Officers

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610 East Pond Meadow Road
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(860) 399-4611 (home)
(860) 391-4044 (cell)
americanmilkingdevons@gmail.com

Director/Vice-President

Jeremy Michaud
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East Hardwick, VT 05836
(802) 472-6261
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Lyndonville, VT 05851
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MWinslow@maine.rr.com

Registrar

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Westbrook, CT 06498
(860) 399-4611
americanmilkingdevons@gmail.com

Association Contact: Please direct questions to Ray Clark @ (802) 626-8306

Website: www.milkingdevons.org

AMDCA VOLUNTEER

Webmaster

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This newsletter is provided to AMDCA members in the United States and Canada for information and education 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.

AMERICAN MILKING DEVON CATTLE ASSOCIATION
The Registrar, 610 East Pond Meadow Road, Westbrook, CT 06498
REGISTRY APPLICATION (Fill Out in Pen)

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 _____ Zip Code _____ 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

2022

Please check one.

- \$20 - Voting Member – individuals who own registered Milking Devon cattle
- \$20 – Non-Voting Associate Member – individuals interested in furthering the purposes of the Association
- \$20 – Non-Voting 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, for registering cattle and for transferring the registration of cattle. Please ensure that your membership is up to date.

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 of Excellence and Scale of Points of Devon Cow

From the American Devon Record, 1926

CLASSIFICATION FORM

<u>Body Part</u>	<u>Points</u>	Animal Number				
HEAD	10	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NECK	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
WITHERS	6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
RIBS	8	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
BACK	12	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
RUMPS	8	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HIND-QUART.	10	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
UDDER	20	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TAIL	5	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
UNDER LINE	6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
LEGS	5	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SKIN	6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
.....						
PERFECTION	100	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

American Milking Devon Cattle

