

# THE DEXTER CATTLE *journal*



*For Dexter enthusiasts everywhere*

Summer 2017

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**The Dexter Cattle Journal**

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On the cover - Anna Wight Photography  
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2017 Ohio Valley Dexter Breeders Association Sale & Show



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## Meet the new management team

### President

Laura Christofk, Grass Valley, CA

Although I grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, I have been a full time Farm-Her for 20+ years



on our 10 acres in the Sierra Foothills of northern California. I keep a deliberately small herd of only two breeding cows, which actually equals 4-6 head at any given point in time. For me, that is plenty. I am also part of a bull share with other small breeders like myself. I am a “recreational milker” mean-

ing: I milk when I want to, thus Dexters are a perfect fit. My husband helps with the rotational grazing, and we also raise registered American Guinea Hogs – the “Dexters” of the hog world.

### Vice President

Donna Semas, Elkton, OR

I have been a Dexter owner with my husband for 20+ years. We live in western Oregon about 30



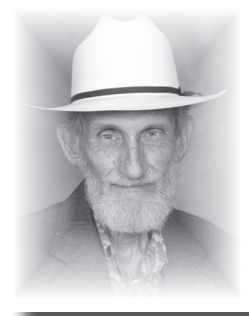
miles from the Pacific, on a farm with irrigated pasture, orchards, timber, gardens, and plenty of wild blackberries to share with the wildlife. We are both retired from our health care careers, enjoying the rewards of intensively managing our herd of around 50 mostly-polled Dexters (moving every couple of days

to fresh grass with temporary electric fencing). We direct market around 20 head each year, as breeders and as grass-fed beef. We bale enough hay to feed the herd in winter. Our border collie is the ranch manager (just ask her!), and the 2 cats are the barn police.

### Secretary

Larry Haggard, Edwards, MS

Hey, I’m Larry Haggard, PDCA’s new Secretary. I’m a retired Methodist Minister but still serve three rural churches in Mississippi as Pastor. My wife and I have three sons, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson. We live on a 10 acre farm inside the city limits of a very small town. We started with Dexters 6 years ago, got up to 20 head but are cutting back to 5 cows and a bull. We love ALL Dexters—Traditional,



Legacy, Modern Horned, and Polled. I hope to be a useful part of this PDCA team. So, if I can help you, please feel free to contact me.

### Treasurer

Jeff Reusser, Medina, OH

I am co-owner of Royal Fare Farm, a multi-generational farm in Medina, OH, dedicated to raising nutrient dense food for family and friends.



We have been raising Dexters for over five years for their ability to thrive and finish on only grass, and for their naturally low maintenance. We are hoping for fifty calves

this year.

I am a husband, father of four, and grandparent to eight. I am an accountant by profession and am also treasurer for the Ohio Valley Dexter Breeders Association.

I enjoy family get-togethers around great food cooked by my wife, Shari, and our daughters.

# PDCA

### Registrar

Edlyn Muir, Union City, PA

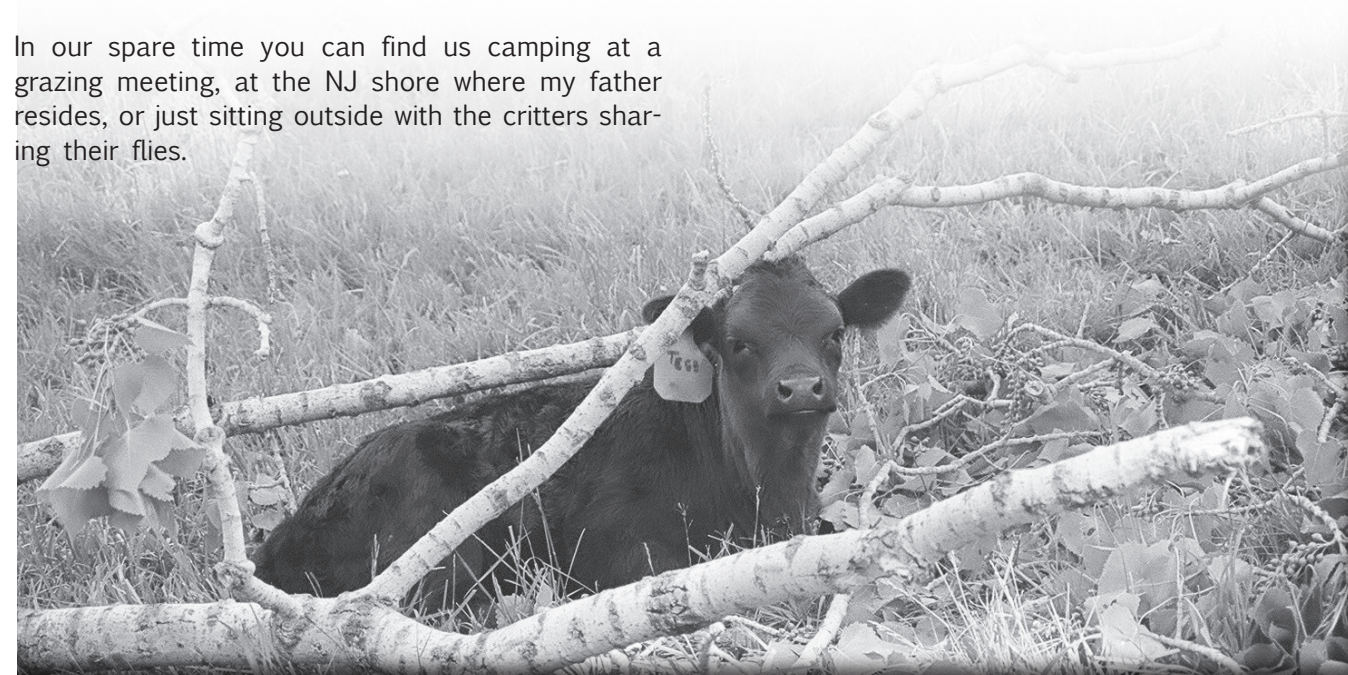
My name is Edlyn Muir, and my husband Mark and I have owned Dexter cattle since 1993. We have greatly enjoyed these cattle and the people that come with them. Our farm is in Northwest Pennsylvania about 25 miles from Lake Erie, with an average snowfall of better than 10 feet in a season. We got into Dexters when looking for a manageable sized animal that could put up with our winters. We were fortunate to



get our foundation stock from Ron Kerr and Jimmy Johnson so our genetics started out well.

Currently we farm about 150 acres raising Dexters, hair sheep, and a few commercial cows. We rotational graze as the weather permits, and put up baleage and hay for use the remainder of the year. While not organic, our animals are raised as naturally as circumstances permit. We strive to breed a family Dexter cow that can milk well, but has good meat qualities and a mild disposition.

In our spare time you can find us camping at a grazing meeting, at the NJ shore where my father resides, or just sitting outside with the critters sharing their flies.



### Area 1

Jennifer Wetzel, Snyder, OK

I live in southwestern Oklahoma. After graduating college I started work at a food manufacturing facility and have worked there in the Quality and Food Safety department for twenty-one years.

My parents bought their first Dexter cattle when I was about 3-4 years old, so I have been involved with the raising of Dexter cattle almost my entire life. My little herd is still the “traditional” dual purpose Dexter build and type consisting of both black and dun cattle with horns that my parents started out with. We rotate cattle on pastures, so that we don’t overgraze and ensure good pasture to graze during winter.

I believe Dexters should be hardy, pest resilient, and be able to thrive in many different conditions. Therefore we keep it simple: de-wormer for grubs once a year and supplement with hay, cattle cubes and protein tubs during the winter season to ensure their health.

Area 2/ Pending

Area 3/ Pending

Area 4/ Pending

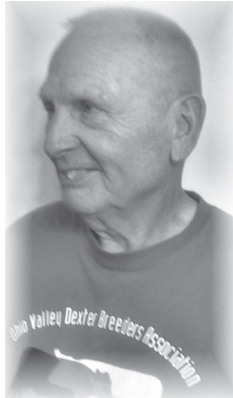
Meet the new management team

Area 5

Gloria Snyder, Fairlee, VT  
Greetings from New England! Gloria Snyder here. My husband and I have a 7 acre farm in Post Mills, VT - nestled between Lake Fairlee and the local hot air balloon field. I was the stereotypical horse crazy girl growing up and hated the black & white cows on my grandparents' farm. When we bought our farm, my husband announced we needed a dual-purpose cow to "help the place cover expenses." After some research he decided Dexters would be the best fit for us. I quickly fell in love with the personable little cows. We run a herd of 4-5 cows and a bull. We have a grass based dairy and sell raw milk. I've become quite an advocate for the "local food" movement in the process. We occasionally raise an animal for beef. An array of poultry and a grumpy old cat round out the roster of critters.

Area 6

Stan Cass Fredericktown, OH  
Dexters arrived in our life in 1980 and have followed us to three different farms, 140 acres, 50 acres, and now 22 acres. Dexters have provided fun, family, and friends, as well as milk and meat. We have experienced twin calves, a cesarean birth (on a 13 month old heifer), selling to actor Michael J. Fox, as well as selling and shipping cattle internationally. For the last twelve months our twenty-two acres in Fredericktown, Ohio have provided organic hay for our grass-fed Dexter herd. Here at Praise Him Farm Dexters we are blessed that God has provided "Cattle on a thousand hills" (Psalms 50:10) and they are all Dexters.



Area 7

Sharone Fischer, Colville, WA  
Looking back, it's only been five springs, but I really can't picture our pastures without Dexter cattle now. I began my search for a milk cow the winter of 2012 and ran into all the usual dairy suspects. My husband also hoped to have a few beef cattle one day, so that opened the field a bit. Then there was the ad for Basil. She was being sold as a family milk cow from a biodynamic farm, along with her half sister, their newborn calves and a bull. What on earth was a Dexter and why had we never heard of this promising sounding dual-purpose breed? After some research I told my husband, "I think this is what we've been looking for. I would like to bring them home." I did just that, linking our lives and then our livelihoods to this smallest of the standard cattle. They happened to carry PDCA registration papers. Since then, we have devoted ourselves to creating a small business, intensive grazing and holistic care of the land and animals on the 75 acres of Northeast Washington we get to call home.



PDCA is making some big changes, and we are EXCITED!

We are looking for three individuals to serve Dexter breeders regionally as Area Managers

Criteria:

- 1. Loves their Dexters
- 2. Has fresh ideas
- 3. Hates politics
- 4. Enjoys helping others
- 5. Lives in:
  - Region 2 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT)
  - Region 3 (IL, IO, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan)
  - Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Join us and be a part of the exciting improvements to come. Don't wait... do it now!

Contact: gopdca@gmail.com



July first was a big day for PDCA

Our membership voted to replace several longstanding Board members with two "unknowns" as President and Vice President: me and Donna Semas.

Voter response was more than expected with a return rate of about 30% of membership. 15% is statistically the average for our type of organization, so it seems many members had something to say. Since most do not know me personally, but for my personal comments as Area Manger in past Journals, I would have to label this election as not about me specific, but rather a landslide of votes for serious change.

I have been down-right critical of the past management team, so now it is time for me to "put up, or shut up." Although some disparage that I am inheriting a sinking ship, I see PDCA as a diamond in the rough, and we are already chipping away at it. We are about thru with the rough chipping that has been needed for a long time, and have begun grinding away at outdated and onerous policies and procedures, hoping to replace them with more member-friendly, growth conscience ones. After that, we will begin the buffing and polishing, adding excellent customer service and opportunities for all Dexter owners, in hopes to make the PDCA the unique and brilliant resource that we have all hoped it would become.

This will require a group effort, from the manage team and you - the membership, to be a part of the transformation. Your ideas, critiques and participation of talent are needed to identify sharp edges - then cut, sand and polish until our "fire" emerges. Like diamonds, which come in many different colors, carats and clarities, Dexters and Dexter breeders come with an assortment of attributes as well. Our association must appreciate the value of each and strive to be a setting that embraces them all.

I think of every Dexter breeder, regardless of registry, as diamonds in a channel setting. Each little gem on its own is not nearly as impressive as when it is combined with others, side by side, each adding to the overall brilliance and increasing the overall value with its presence. It's a beautiful thing!

In response to your vote of confidence by electing me to serve as president of PDCA, I am pledging two things:

1. Put Dexters first

2. Make owning Dexters easy.

PDCA is *your* association - we, the new Management Team and Area Managers work for *you*, and trust me... we are workin' hard already.

Let's do this!

Laura Christofk, President

PDCA CHECK LIST	✓Elect new management team	IN PROGRESS	Easy registration
	✓Appoint new Secretary		Easy membership renew
	✓Appoint new Treasurer		Easy pay online
	✓Appoint new Registrar		Amazing new website
	✓Quicker registrations		Revisit ByLaws
	10 days or less beginning Sept 15		Elections, job descriptions, etc.
	✓Involve members		Rethink fees
	✓Add transparency		Promote regional breeder clubs
	Invite members to attend monthly Board teleconference.		Promote all Dexters
	Contact PDCANOW@gmail.com for details		Regardless of registry

## Milk Sanity

By: Janet Davis

What images come to mind when you hear “fresh raw milk”?

I imagine fresh warm milk being poured from the milker to the milk bottles, and then full bottles set into the refrigerator. I see fresh cream rising to the top of each milk jar. I taste fresh butter, whipped cream, and ice-cream. And don't forget fresh mozzarella cheese for my pizza. The delights of milking.

When I first suggested we milk our Dexters I heard a negative earful from family and friends. They acted as though I was suggesting opening

a cesspool at the high school. And this is milking country in upstate New York.

We're an organic grass-based homestead. We let nature take care of itself. We feed our Dexters grass and hay without synthetic sprays or genetically altered seed. A treat for the herd means our sharing apples or carrots with them. Our calves stay on their moms until they are 6 to 9 months old. And everyone hangs out in the pasture or the barn at will.

According to those who gave us milk advice, it would be impossible for us to milk and run our homestead as we chose. I'd have to feed grain,



remove calves at birth, bottle feed, keep animals tied up, and never take time off from milking. I'd need to milk two times a day, give shots, have antibiotics on hand to prevent mastitis and for drying off. I received enough “you can't” information I should have been scared off, but I wasn't.

### Milk Sharing

In the spirit of the homestead I began our milk sharing philosophy. We share milk—humans get some, calf gets some. We keep the herd natural, and let the cows give us a break. It has been a win-win situation for everyone.

Milk sharing on our homestead is a partnership between us, our milk cow, and the calf. After the calf is born we let the mom and calf bond and feed at will. Sometimes it's in the field, barn, or a combination. Unless there is an issue, for several days we let the mom wander between the barn and pasture with the rest of the herd. Several times a day we handle the calf and mom together. Within the first few days we halter, tag, and castrate the calf as needed.

For the first week or two of the calf's life we let the calf nurse without us interrupting. Besides mom-calf bonding the calf gains all the benefits of the mother's first milk colostrum. Colostrum is present for up to 72 hours after delivery, then begins to turn into milk around the 4th day. The colostrum is essential for calf health throughout their entire life. By the second to third week we begin milk sharing in the morning.

### Our milk sharing process

When we think the time is right, around the second week, we separate the mom and calf for the night around 7 or 8 pm. The calf and mom can see each other and touch. Many times, we find mom and calf lying side by side with a cattle panel or gate between them. This separa-

tion allows us to gain milk in the morning, while keeping the calf safe.

Around 6 am we begin milking. The mom walks into the milking area for milking. The calf's halter is hooked to the front of the mom's stanchion while we milk two teats. Sometimes we let the calf eat at the same time as we milk; sometimes we don't. Once milking is done, the calf and mom go back to their pasture together for the day.

On days we don't milk we keep the calf and mom together. The calf takes care of the milking and we get a break. We don't worry about mastitis or other infections from milking. The calf naturally completes the milking process for us every day, lessening the chances of infection common with milking.

When the calf reaches 4 to 5 months old we keep all the morning milk and let the calf eat throughout the day at will. We wean ourselves and the calf between 6 and 9 months, depending on when the dam was bred back.

For year-round milking we recommend having two cows bred 6 months apart.

Remember, you raise Dexter Cattle for your sanity. Figure out what works for you and your animals, and then make it happen.

This is our milk sanity; what's yours?

## Question?

Dear PDCA registrar,  
My mother passed recently and I have inherited her herd of Dexters. I have registration papers for 8 animals but I count 27 head of various ages out in the pasture. Some have remnants of ear tags, but most do not. The registration papers indicate a tattoo in the ear. The entire herd is black, and I see no visible tattoo. Can you instruct on how to match each animal to its proper pedigree?

## Answer

This person will need to do a lot of genetic testing to sort this all out, if it can be sorted out at all. Permanent ID markings on this herd would have prevented this frustration and confusion.

Tattoos made in the ear have always been a standard in Dexter cattle, but they can be difficult to see and, depending on the animal, can require great effort to see them. Ear tattoos are fine, but similar to hot branding, freeze branding is an easily visible alternative. Use the same number and letters as you would in a tattoo, or even the animals actual registration number.

“For us, freeze branding is first and foremost a marketing tool we hope will aid us capturing more value — we want people to see our red or black-hided cattle and know

that because of that brand, there is value under that hide. Secondly, it’s a risk-reducer from a theft prevention standpoint. Plus, we really like the way it looks on the animal,” says John Kleiboeker, a southwest Missouri commercial cattleman who recently implemented a freeze-branding program in his herd.

## Freeze Branding Cattle

By: Jack C. Whittier and James E. Ross, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Missouri-Columbia

Freeze branding as a method of livestock identification has been received with enthusiasm. When super-cold or chilled branding irons are applied to the hide of the animal, the pigment-producing cells are destroyed or altered. When the hair grows back, it is white. The method is not foolproof, and those using it should be aware that the results may be variable. The major advantages claimed for freeze branding are 1) the brand is more legible throughout most of the year than a hot-iron brand; and 2) freeze branding causes less damage to the hide than a hot brand.

### Equipment needed

**Branding irons.** Branding irons should be heavy

copper or bronze with slightly rounded faces. They should be 3- to 4-inch irons, 3/8- to 1/2-inch thick and at least 1 inch deep.

**Refrigerant.** Dry ice is most commonly used as the refrigerant. If the branding does not take too long, 15 pounds of dry ice will be sufficient for a small herd of cattle. If the branding will not be done immediately or if the dry ice must be transported a distance, it is wise to buy more. Break part of the dry ice into very small pieces for rapid cooling; keep some larger pieces for sustained cooling. Don’t handle the dry ice with bare hands as freeze burn might result. The solution most commonly used with the refrigerant is 95 percent alcohol. A less

## Questions?

pure alcohol will not remain liquid when placed with dry ice. Either methyl, isopropyl or ethyl alcohol is satisfactory. Acetone and gasoline are good refrigerants, but they should not be used because of the danger of explosion if used around open flames. Enough solution should be available to cover the dry ice and the irons by at least 1 inch.

**Clippers.** Clip cattle hair closely before branding. The cutters and combs should be sharp, with extra blades available to replace dull or damaged ones.

**Container for coolant.** The container should be insulated to keep the solution as cold as possible. Use two metal containers, one set inside the other with an insulating compound between, or a bucket wrapped in insulation. Styrofoam coolers are excellent, but should be set inside another container because they are fragile and easily broken. Select a container large enough to accommodate all the irons needed.

**Brush and plastic squirt bottle.** A stiff bristle brush is handy for brushing away loose hair and removing skin scurf after the animal has been clipped. A plastic squirt bottle, such as a container for liquid soap,

works quite well for applying alcohol to the site of the brand just before applying the branding irons.

### Step-by-Step Branding

➤ When the animal is restrained, clip the area where you want the brand. After clipping, brush away loose hair and any scurf that is on the skin.

➤ Immediately before branding, apply alcohol that is at air temperature to the site of the brand. Some people feel that a solution made of 1/3 glycerine and 2/3 alcohol works better.

➤ Immediately after you have applied the alcohol solution, apply the branding iron to the hide. Firm pressure is required to make good contact with the skin. Hold the iron in place for approximately 40 seconds when branding mature animals.

More than one branding iron can be used at the same time. However, one person should handle each branding iron to be sure uniform pressure is applied. Branding in fall and winter usually requires a longer application than in the spring. Satisfactory brands have been noted on calves that were branded for 30 seconds. Overbranding will completely kill the hair follicles and will appear to be a hot-iron brand. Observations indicate that Herefords seem to need a longer application of the branding iron than Angus. An unclear brand when the hair grows back is an indication that the animal was underbranded. If there is prominent loss of hair, the animal was overbranded. If there is hair loss or no whiteness or hair at the top or bottom of the brand, there was not uniform pressure in the application of the iron.

**Restraining equipment.** The animal must be securely restrained in a squeeze chute or headgate. Calves may be thrown on the ground on their sides.

### Chilling the irons

When dry ice is added to the refrigerant solution, it will bubble profusely. As the solution is cooled, it will reach a steady rate of bubbling. The solution will be cooled to its minimum temperature in about five minutes. It will take about 10 minutes for the irons to reach minimum temperature when they are first immersed. After the irons have been used in branding, they should be put back in the solution immediately if they are to be used again. It will take ap-

proximately 4-5 minutes for them to reach minimum temperature again. When the used iron is put back into the solution, more bubbles will tend to appear. When the iron has reached the minimum temperature, the bubbling will slow to a constant rate.

## Grazing Herbs for Livestock

Grazing herbs are plant species that are often mistaken by many farmers as weeds in their pasture. An ideal pasture contains a large proportion of vigorous grasses and to a lesser extent companion species such as clover and herbs.

Grazing herbs include both Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) and Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). These are perennial plants that in some harsh environments behave as free seeding annuals, that is, they grow for one year or less, set seed and die.

### Chicory

Chicory is a native to Europe, Asia and North Africa, actively growing in spring, summer and autumn with winter dormancy. It has a taproot with an exposed crown and rosette of large upright leaves. Chicory prefers deep, fertile, and free draining soils (similar to lucerne), however, it does have tolerance to soil acidity. Minimum average annual rainfall for optimum growth and survival is 650-750mm. Sowing can occur in either autumn or spring with sowing rates varying in pastures mixes from 0.5-2.0kg/ha.

Chicory is known to contain both minerals (potassium, magnesium, calcium, sulphur) and trace elements (copper, zinc) that are beneficial to livestock health. It is also reported to have an anthelmintic effect (expels parasitic worms from the body) on sheep and deer, although this is untested in other livestock.

### Plantain

Plantain is a deep rooted perennial herb, native

to Europe, Asia and North Africa. Similar to chicory it grows from a rosette, however, its leaves are ribbed, with fine hairs and a sharp point. Developed from the well known flat weed, plantain grows all year round and in contrast to chicory has strong winter growth.

It is suited to a wide range of soil types, including low fertility and has good tolerance to soil acidity. Minimum average rainfall for optimum growth and survival is 600-700mm. Sowing can occur in autumn or spring where high rainfall or irrigation is available. Sowing rates vary in pasture mixes from 1-3kg/ha.

Plantain also contains high levels of minerals (calcium, magnesium, sodium, phosphorus, cobalt) and trace elements (zinc, copper, selenium). Sheep grazing trials have shown significant increases in both copper and selenium uptake. Again, this is untested in other livestock. Plantain has also shown some evidence of containing desirable levels of condensed tannins (plant protein protected from microbe breakdown), along with anti-microbial (substances that inhibit growth of microorganisms) and anthelmintic properties.

### Management

Both chicory and plantain can be difficult to manage and are best controlled by rotational grazing. Under close, hard grazing by sheep and horses they can be preferentially grazed and therefore grazed out. Under lax grazing chicory bolts quickly during the spring sending up tall stems which can become woody and unpalatable. Stem elongation can be controlled during the warm months of

the year, by short and sharp grazing events when stems have ten percent or fewer flowers. If few livestock are available, paddocks containing herbs should be grazed, topped with a slasher and then rested.

Grazing herbs are not legumes; therefore they do not fix their own nitrogen. Pastures with these species require clovers (subterranean, white clover) for their nitrogen fixing capabilities or alternatively require applications of nitrogen fertiliser to maximise growth. "Grazing herbs can be added to the pasture at a later point, broadcast with fertiliser and trampled in."

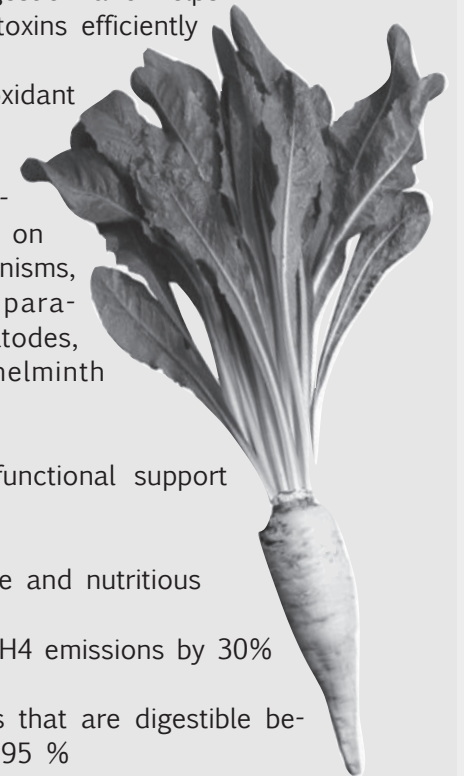
Chicory and plantain are suitable for hay, however the leaves of these species are slow to dry which can delay the haymaking process. Be aware that grazing herbs are particularly susceptible to phenoxy-based herbicides (e.g. MCPA and 2,4-D). Therefore, paddocks where herbs are to be sown should be free of broadleaf weeds. If broadleaf weeds are anticipated to be a problem, herbs can be added to the pasture at a later point, broadcast with fertiliser and trampled in.

In summary, grazing herbs are fascinating plants and although often only used as companion species in pasture mixes, their growth habit, benefits, pitfalls and management are still worthwhile understanding. Farmers who can recognise grazing herbs in their pastures will quickly realize that these plants are in-fact not weeds but useful pasture species.

## Benefits of Chicory for Livestock

By: Dr. Robert G. Wilson, Univ. of Nebraska

1. Increases the flow of bile which supports digestion
2. Contains high inulin concentration which nourishes the healthy flora in the intestines so enhances digestion and helps to eliminate toxins efficiently
3. Has antioxidant activity
4. Has a potential effect on harmful organisms, it reduces parasitism (nematodes, lungworm, helminth parasites)
5. Provides functional support to the liver
6. Is palatable and nutritious
7. Reduces CH4 emissions by 30%
8. Has leaves that are digestible between 90 to 95 %
9. Contains high levels of minerals (essential for proper animal nutrition)
10. Contains from 10 to 32 % protein
11. Contains sesquiterpene lactones which are anti-inflammatory, and sensitize tumor cells to conventional drug treatments



## Super Natural Milk

By: Jo Robinson

Most cartons of milk in the supermarket show a picture of cows contentedly grazing on grass. In reality, 85 to 95 percent of the cows in the United States are now being raised in confinement, not on pasture. The grass they eat comes in the form of hay, and the ground that they stand on is a blend of dirt and manure.

The reason for confining cows in feedlots and feeding them grain rather than grass is that they produce far more milk under these unnatural conditions. If you also inject them with bi-weekly hormones, standard practice in the dairy industry, they produce even more. Milk them three times a day instead of two and you have the tried and true formula for today's Super Producers. On average, cows raised in confinement produce more than three times as much milk as the family cow of days gone by and 15 times the amount required to raise a healthy calf.

But with so much emphasis on quantity, the nutritional content of our milk has suffered. One of the biggest losses has been in its CLA content. CLA, or "conjugated linoleic acid," is a type of fat that may prove to be one of our most potent cancer fighters. Milk from a pastured cow has up to five times more CLA than milk from a grain-fed cow. To date, most of the proof of the health benefits of CLA has come from test tube or animal studies. But a few human studies have produced encouraging results. For example, French researchers compared CLA levels in the breast tissues of 360 women. The women with the most CLA in their tissue (and thus the most CLA in their diets) had a 74 percent lower risk of breast cancer than the women with the least CLA [1]. If an American woman were to switch from

grain-fed to grass-fed dairy products, she would have CLA levels similar to the women in the study who had the lowest rate of cancer.

Milk from pastured cows also contains an ideal ratio of essential fatty acids or EFAs. There are two families of EFAs—omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. Studies suggest that if your diet contains roughly

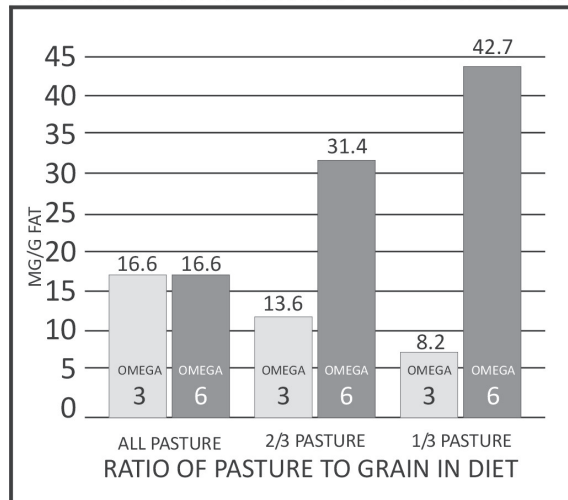
equal amounts of these two fats, you will have a lower risk of cancer, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disorders, allergies, obesity, diabetes, dementia, and various other mental disorders.[2]

Take a few moments to study the chart below showing EFA levels in milk from cows fed varying amounts of grass and grain.[3] The green bars represent omega-3 fatty acids, and the yellow bars represent omega-6 fatty acids. As you can see, when a cow is raised on pasture (represented by the two bars on the far left), her milk has an ideal, one-to-one ratio of EFAs.

Take away one-third of the grass and replace it with grain or other supplements (represented by the two bars in the middle) and the omega-3 content of the milk goes down while the omega-6 content goes up, upsetting an essential balance.

Replace two-thirds of the pasture with a grain-based diet (illustrated by the two bars on the far right) and the milk has a very top-heavy ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids. This ratio has been linked with an increased risk of a wide variety of conditions, including obesity, diabetes, depression, and cancer. Much of the milk you buy in the supermarket has an even more lopsided ratio than this because the cows never graze on pasture.

100% PASTURE DIET CREATES IDEAL EFA BALANCE



Milk from pastured cows offers additional health benefits. (I'm beginning to sound like a TV infomercial: "But wait! There's more!") Besides giving you five times more CLA and an ideal balance of EFAs, grass-fed milk is higher in beta-carotene, vitamin A, and vitamin E. This vitamin bonus comes, in part, from the fact that fresh pasture has more of these nutrients than grain or hay. (When grass is dried and turned into hay, it loses a significant amount of its vitamin content.) These extra helpings of vitamins are then transferred to the cow's milk.

There's another factor as well. As I mentioned, a cow raised on pasture produces far less milk than a cow raised in a confinement dairy on a grain-based diet. This is a bane for the farmer but a blessing for the consumer. The less milk a cow produces, the more vitamins in her milk.[4] This is because a cow has a set amount of vitamins to transfer to her milk, and if she's bred, fed, and injected to be a Super Producer, her milk has fewer vitamins per glass. It's a watered down version of the real thing.

Oh, I almost forgot the best part of all. Dairy products from grass-fed cows taste delicious, and they have a rich yellow color that is visible proof of their bonus supply of carotenes. Serve cheese or butter from a grass-based dairy, and everyone will notice the difference. Also, your cookies and cakes will have that rich buttery color that hasn't been seen since Great-Grandma's day. (You do bake, don't you?)

So where can you find milk from pastured cows? All of the dairies listed on [www.eatwild.com](http://www.eatwild.com) keep their cows outdoors on grass whenever possible. Some farmers supplement their cows with small amounts of grain; if so, their listing will detail the type and amount. To find your local producer, go to our list of grass-fed suppliers and click on your state. We also have a special section devoted to farmers who feed their cows 100 percent forage-based diets.

Expect to pay more for this high-quality milk from humanely treated cows. The main reason is the low

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volume of milk per cow. In order to make a living, pasture-based dairy farmers must get a premium price for their premium milk.

Got grass-fed milk?

Jo Robinson is a New York Times bestselling writer. She is the author or coauthor of 11 nationally published books including *Pasture Perfect*, a comprehensive overview of the benefits of choosing products from pasture-raised animals., To order Jo's books or learn more about grass-fed products, visit [www.eatwild.com](http://www.eatwild.com).

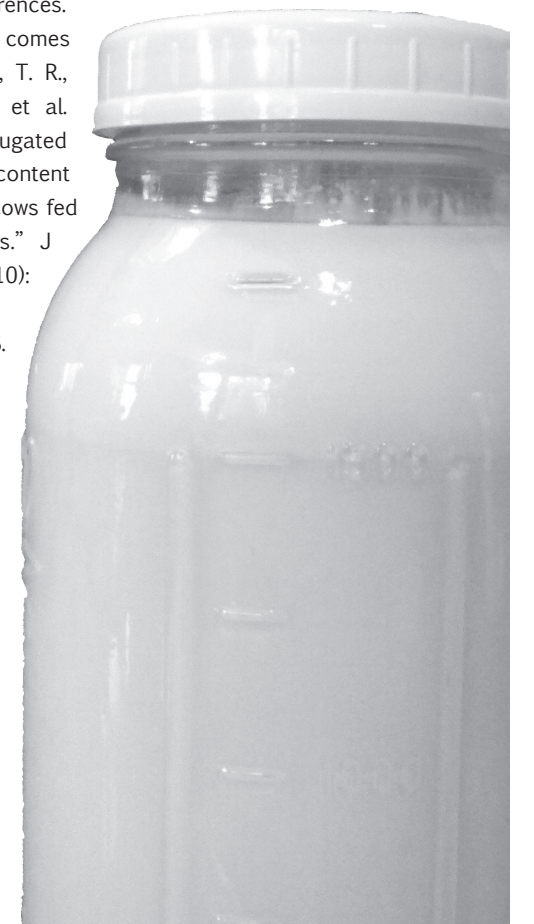
#### Sources:

[1]Bougnoux ,et al.,Inform, 10:S43, 1999.

[2] For more information about essential fatty acid balance, read *The Omega Diet*. The book provides 24 pages of pertinent scientific references.

[3] The data comes from: Dhiman, T. R., G. R. Anand, et al. (1999). "Conjugated linoleic acid content of milk from cows fed different diets." *J Dairy Sci* 82(10): 2146-56.

[4] Jensen, S. K., A. K. Johannsen, et al. (1999). "Quantitative secretion and maximal secretion capacity of retinol, beta-carotene and alpha-tocopherol into cows' milk." *J Dairy Res* 66(4): 511-22.



## Identify and Avoid Dangers to Cattle

By: Jane Parish, Mississippi State University

Most cattle operators work hard to care for their livestock. They provide cattle with proper nutrients, vaccinations, assistance at difficult calvings, and the list goes on and on. Keeping cattle in good condition, healthy, and productive also means protecting cattle from dangers in pastures, pens, handling facilities, trailers, and other places cattle encounter.

There are many potential dangers to cattle that should not be overlooked. Obvious culprits are fuel storage tanks, batteries, and other items that, if accessible to cattle, could allow them to consume harmful chemicals. Lead poisoning from old batteries is one example of this. Chemical containers can become corroded, rusted, cracked, weakened by sunlight exposure, weathered, physically damaged, or otherwise compromised. Cattle may then contact chemical contents directly from these containers or from leakage into the environment. Some chemicals can poison cattle with only small quantities consumed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin or mucous membranes.

Metal fragments and other sharp objects present another danger to cattle. Not only can these items injure cattle by cutting or puncturing them, but they can also cause hardware disease if swallowed. Inspect cattle handling areas, barns, and fences closely for protruding nails. Loose barbed wire can ensnare an animal's legs causing injury. Cattle can even create their own hazards by tearing up otherwise intact items such as metal hay feeding rings.

When removing old fencing or other farm structures, be sure to properly dispose of the materials. This includes even the small items like nails and fencing staples that could become lodged in an animal's foot. Buried materials may become exposed over time with soil erosion or dirt work. The locations of these materials are sometimes unknown to the cattle producer, especially on rented property or owned land without extensive landowner knowledge of previous land use.

Flooding and strong winds during severe weather can create new risks to cattle. Flooding can erode soils and carry debris. Strong winds can bring in hazards from surrounding areas. They can also create hazards by damaging structures or equipment on the property. Be especially observant of areas accessible to cattle after severe weather.

In addition to chemical and metal hazards, some plastic items can pose a health risk to cattle. Plastic hay twine or wrap can entangle the legs of cattle. It may also be eaten by them. Plastic items damaged by sunlight or force can crack and break into pieces with sharp edges that may pierce cattle that contact them.

Equipment and trailers in poor repair can be hazardous to both the operators and cattle. Slick trailer, ramp, or alley flooring can lead to cattle slipping and falling. Leg and other injuries can also result if flooring that is not sturdy enough to support cattle weight. Unsecured gates or panels can fall when bumped can land on top of or trip an animal.

Poorly designed cattle handling facilities are particularly dangerous to both cattle and handlers. For instance, places where cattle may get their legs or heads caught and stuck can lead to broken bones or suffocation. Protrusions into areas of cattle flow can bruise or cut cattle. Investment in efficient and effective cattle handling facilities with safety as a top design feature is vital.

Some dangers are obvious, whereas others require close inspection to identify them. These dangers are "invisible" upon casual observation. Mycotoxins, poisonous plants, and pathogens (bacteria, viruses, protozoa, etc.) are examples of such health risks. This is the case with mycotoxins produced on moldy feed. The mold is not always visible upon inspection. Poisonous plants may be present in isolated areas of pastures and not easily seen. Poisonous plant seed can be brought in by animals, with hay, and by other means. It is a good idea to inspect graz-

## *Management*

ing and holding areas on a regular basis. Bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are too small to be viewed with the naked eye, but they are the major causes of many diseases of economic importance in cattle production. Blackleg, bovine respiratory disease, and trichomoniasis are just some of the diseases to which cattle are susceptible.

Muddy areas are common throughout the Southeast. These areas are prime hosts to disease pathogens. They can even trap animals, especially young calves. In addition, mud can camouflage some of the hazards described previously, such as metal fragments and wires.

While it may not be possible to totally eliminate all dangers to cattle on the farm, injury and disease risks can be reduced. Start with close inspection of all areas accessible to cattle. Remove metal debris and other items that could cause cattle injuries. Keep handling facilities, fences, machinery, and trailers in good repair. Develop appropriate herd health and biosecurity programs for each cattle operation in consultation with a veterinarian. Then implement these programs with proper timing.

Always be observant of cattle behavior, performance, and condition to determine when there might be a problem that needs addressing. Be on constant lookout for injured or ill cattle, and be prepared to provide immediate care for these animals. This is important from animal welfare, productivity, and economic standpoints and is applicable to all cattle operations.



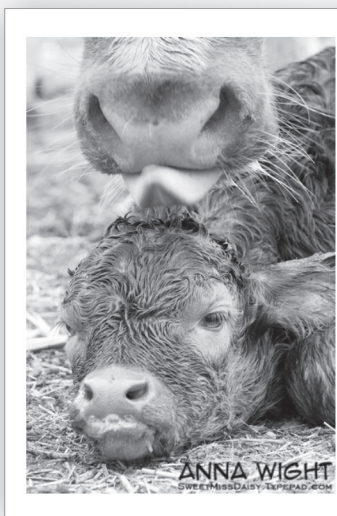


About Anna Wright -  
She born in northeastern Washington and as a child she  
had a love of art, horses and nature..She is a photographer,  
illustration, and designer.  
Her website is [sweetmissdaisy.typepad.com](http://sweetmissdaisy.typepad.com)



# BETTER Photos

- 1** Golden Hours: Most photos of cattle are taken in natural light. Use morning and evening light to your advantage, when light is beautiful, more dramatic, and "golden." Cloudy days are also a favorite of mine, as they allow for a longer window of perfectly filtered photographic light. Try to avoid the hot light of a mid-day sun.
- 2** The Eyes: If you include the eye as a focal image of your photo, ensure the focus of the eye is sharp. I typically set my focus point on the eyes, so that I can quickly change other camera settings, yet the eyes remain my focus point. While we're talking about eyes, try taking photos at the cow's eye level for a change of perspective.
- 3** Get Creative with Framing: Using zoom lenses allow you to photograph cattle from a safe distance, and allow you to change the framing of an image quickly. Also, play with a variety of lenses. Wide angle lenses allow for dramatic landscaping, if you have a bigger scene to capture. Unless you're taking a traditional conformation photo, the entire cow doesn't have to be in the photo. Don't limit yourself to horizontal framing. Vertical photos allow for familiar portrait-style images.
- 4** Know your Surroundings: I prefer photos that don't have fences obscuring the cow, but that's not always possible. When you must have a fence in frame, make it part of the scene purposefully. Always be aware of fences, uneven ground, or other hazards, and be sure you are keeping yourself in a safe place.
- 5** Pique Curiosity: I enjoy photographing cattle doing what they normally do. But not every photo needs to be of a sleepy-eyed cow! Arm yourself (or an assistant) with the squeaker from a dog toy. Understand the scene and prepare for your photo. When ready, grab the animal's attention with a few rapid squeaks. It's not a noise they're familiar with, and you will be able to easily capture an alert, bright-eyed subject.
- 6** Know your Gear: Great images can be taken with any camera, and knowing how to use your camera is important. Familiarize yourself with your camera and its settings, so that you are able to quickly react and capture a great photo.
- 7** Know Your Subject: Spending time with the animals will get you familiar with their routines, and will make them comfortable with you. Comfort and familiarity is what has provided me with most opportunities to photograph more personal moments, like calving and nursing, without causing distress.



## Ox Power

By: Janelle Skrinjar

A pair of oxen trudge through the woods, pulling a sled of logs over rough ground. A drover walks beside the animals, guiding them through the thick foliage.

It's a scene that takes most people back to the 19th century, but for Mark and Vicki Solomon of Chardon, it takes them only as far as their backyard.

The Solomons' farm, Evergreen Farm, is home to several teams, or yokes, of oxen: Milking Short-horns, Kerrys and of course Dexters.

**Earning their keep.** At Evergreen Farm, oxen are part of the daily routine. Their chores include clearing a nearby woods, plowing potatoes and leveling fields. They also haul maple syrup, pumpkins, logs, manure, hay and straw.

"You can get an awful lot of work out of oxen without any fuel except hay and water," Vicki said.

The Solomons also do educational demonstrations, such as re-enacting century-old sugaring techniques, with their oxen.

Oxen are any breed of cattle trained to work in a yoke. Typically, only cattle older than 4 years are called oxen. Younger animals are known as working steers or working cattle.

**Training.** For cattle destined to become oxen, training begins within a few days of birth. In colonial times, children often raised and trained the calves.

Oxen are led or driven by a person called a drover, who normally walks alongside the left of the team. To tell the oxen what to do, the drover uses a small, slender stick called a goad to tap the animals, plus body language and verbal commands like "gee" (right turn) and "haw" (left turn).



Photo courtesy of Mike Morbeck

Vicki said the relationship between drover and oxen is one of mutual respect. The drover is not connected to the oxen with any ropes, bits or bridles, so control is accomplished solely through training and trust.

Oxen are docile and less likely to spook than horses, she added. If they do get spooked, oxen will run, but they generally don't run very far. Also, if an ox gets stuck or trapped, it will wait for help instead of thrashing about and potentially injuring rescuers.

The weight of a full-grown ox steer depends on its breed. Dexters, usually weigh about 1,000 pounds.

The ox nearest the driver is called the nigh ox and the ox on the opposite side is called the off ox. The oxen rarely switch sides because they become accustomed to the movements necessary to make right and left turns.

Oxen are also trained to back up, a motion that is completely unnatural for cattle. Again, it becomes important to have a relationship of trust and respect. "You're asking them to do things that are contrary to their instincts," said Vicki.

According to the Solomons, oxen are a good investment for anyone with small acreage because

they make working simple chores enjoyable.

"I don't think most people understand how practical and useful a good team of oxen can be," Vicki said.

Regular routine. When it's time for the oxen to do their job, Vicki starts by grooming the animals. The Solomons' oxen enjoy being brushed, so even when the animals would rather lay in the pasture than work, the grooming nudges their motivation. "That way, getting put in the yoke is a pleasant thing," Mark said.

Yokes are carefully designed and fitted so the oxen don't get hurt while working. To pull a load, the ox pushes up and forward against the yoke with its neck, while the bow sits on its shoulders between the neck and shoulder points.

Just like children need larger clothes as they grow, young working cattle must also be fitted with larger yokes as they get bigger.

Oxen have long horns that are necessary in order for them to do their work. Without horns, the yoke would slip over the oxen's head.

Paul and Silas sport brass knobs -which are traditional decorations - on the tips of their horns.

According to the Solomons, pioneers took great pride in the appearance of their team and placed a great value on the animals, the same way modern Americans value their vehicles.

"Oxen were the pickup truck of the day," Vicki said.

**Weight watching.** And just like a vehicle, oxen must be kept in good working condition.

"The important thing is you shouldn't let oxen get too fat," Vicki said.

Overweight oxen tend to stress their feet, which leaves them unable to walk or pull heavy loads.

Historically, oxen were chosen for farm work because even after they were no longer useful in the fields, they could be slaughtered for food.

Even when they couldn't work anymore, they still contributed to the farm," Vicki said.

Although Vicki never saw a cow until after she

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# FARM Share

graduated from college, it was love at first sight when she came face to face with a bovine.

"Since 1978 all I ever wanted to do was get out somewhere and raise cattle," she said.

In 1998, Vicki took the oxen basics class at Tillers International, an institute in Michigan that teaches early draft animal practices, and she was hooked.

"I loved the whole historical aspect of it," she said.

Before long, Vicki was ready for her own oxen, but she wasn't sure how to find suitable bull calves.

**Team No. 1.** In 2000, an ad in Farm and Dairy led her to two Dexter calves in Windsor, eight miles east of Chardon, OH. She named the calves Paul and Silas and raised them as bottle babies.

Unfortunately, training the calves didn't come easily.

"At first, it was like a foreign language. They didn't understand what we wanted them to do," Mark said.

But as time progressed, so did Paul and Silas. Vicki took advice and cues from more experienced drovers and now the team makes regular appearances in demonstrations, reenactments and competitions.

But for Vicki, there's more to it than giving performances and winning ribbons.

"When I work with oxen," Vicki said, "I definitely feel like I'm connecting to the heart and soul of our nation, which was built by ox power."



*Vicki Solomon, a longtime member of The Midwest Ox Drovers Association, will be contributing regularly in upcoming issues of The Dexter Cattle Journal. She will share her vast knowledge as an experience Drover and her amazing experiences that her Dexters, Driving and Oxen have brought into her life.*

## Deciding When and How to Sell Your Dexters

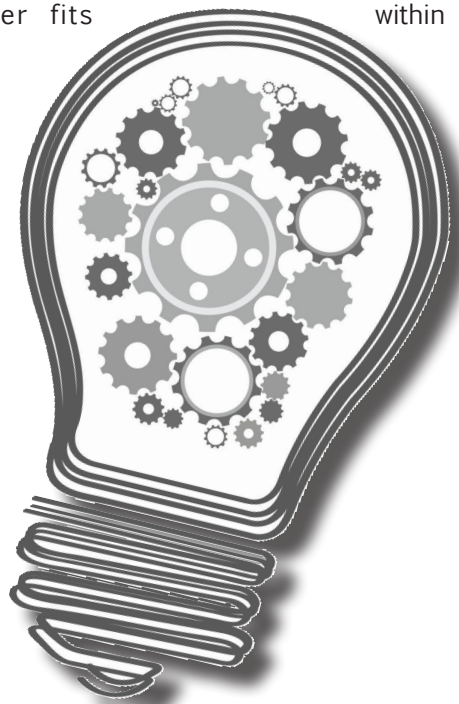
By: Janet Davis

Do you have Dexter cows? Do you have a bull or artificially breed your Dexters? If yes, eventually you'll need to sell meat and livestock or buy more land and hay. We discovered early on we can't keep every Dexter born on the homestead. Deciding what animal to sell and when isn't always an easy decision.

### Deciding what animals to sell and why

Yes, sometimes it's hard to send an animal to market you didn't expect to butcher. Or sell an animal you thought you'd keep forever. I think it comes down to expectation. I never have an issue butchering an animal we've deemed meat at birth. We expect it to grow for about 28 months on grass, be butchered, then be sold or put into our freezer.

Selling or butchering an animal you've become attached to is more difficult. You don't expect them to go, but sometimes they need to. Personally, if there's an animal we won't butcher for an attachment reason, we sell it. Usually the animal no longer fits within our herd's



goals, which have changed over the years.

The following is how we decide each year which Dexters stay or go.

Each year we decide what traits we're adding or eliminating in our herd, and how many animals our land can sustain. We consider new calves, livestock requests, and our meat customers.

*Male calves:* We determine how many steer calves are needed for meat in 2 years. Any extra male calves are sold as live steers for others to raise, or as bull calves.

*Female calves:* We use female calves to add and eliminate traits into the herd. If we don't have enough steer calves born we'll raise a female for meat. We sell off extra heifer calves at 6 months old.

*Adult cows:* We usually know a year in advance if an adult cow needs to be sold or butchered. Yes, you can butcher an older animal. And yes, their meat tastes great. According to the USDA there are certain cuts you cannot get because of age laws and butchering. Check with your butcher regarding this rule.

*Bull:* We keep one bull for several years to gain and eliminate traits. We either sell the bull or butcher him when we get a new bull.

### Preparing to sell your animals.

Before we advertise an animal we know how much we want for him/her.

### Selling Livestock or steers

Compare your animals to similar animals being sold in your area. We look at different genes such as horned and A2, as well as conformation and registration etc. to decide on price. Since we live in a rural area we compare our animals regionally and nationally for pricing and genetics. We've

sold animals as far as 5 hours away, and we know other Dexter owners who have sold their animals into Canada.

### Selling Meat

Before you sell your meat find out your local and state regulations as well as the USDA regulations. Check with butchers and custom slaughterhouses in your area. For more information contact your local cooperative extension, USDA, and state agriculture division. If you can't find answers check with other small livestock owners who can point you in the right direction.

USDA rules are Federal, but each state and locality can add more regulations to USDA regulations.

Compare prices for comparable meat such as grass fed, antibiotic free etc. Do not compete with grocery store prices.

### Deciding on how to sell your meat.

You can sell your beef live on hoof, by hanging weight, by the pound, half, or quarter.

On hoof is the weight of the live animal standing. Hanging weight is how much the animal weighs after butchering and before cutting. By the pound, half, or quarter refers to how much of the animal someone is buying at one time.

Talk with your butcher; some only have scales for hanging weight. In many cases, you will need to transport the live animal to the butcher. If you don't have a trailer, hire someone who will pick up the animal from your place then deliver it to the butcher the same day of your butchering appointment.

We sell our meat by the half and whole to our customers. We deliver the beef to a USDA custom butcher who butchers, cuts, wraps, and freezes the meat until our customer picks it up from the butcher shop. The butcher takes care of all packaging and stamping of the meat. Our customers pay us for the hanging weight meat, then pay the butcher for

his processing when they pick up.

### Marketing and Advertising

Once you know what animals you're selling and at what price, it's time to let the world know you have Dexter livestock and beef for sale.

Regardless if you're selling meat or livestock you're selling yourself and trust too. People buy from people they trust.

You are the expert on your meat and animals. Be honest with people about your animals and meat. If you're asked a question you don't know, find out and get back to them quickly.

Word of mouth is one of the easiest ways to sell meat and livestock. Ask your family, co-workers, friends, etc. if they want to buy meat. Talk to people who already have livestock.

For more exposure try some of the following: Put a sign outside your farm or homestead, hand out business cards, make flyers, and advertise online. Contact anyone you've sold to in the past. Let other Dexter owners in your area know you have meat or livestock available, in case they run out.

Advertise what makes your meat and livestock better. For instance, is your beef considered grass fed (no grain), raised in an organic manner, etc.? Is your livestock halter broken, milk trained, registered, etc.? Tell people the benefits of your meat and livestock.

Eventually you will have people coming to you for beef and livestock, instead of you going to them.

### Highlights Ohio Valley Dexter Breeders Association Annual Show & Sale

By: Laura Christofk

What a privilege it was to meet the OVDBA group. This is a very family oriented group, with a serious emphasis on promoting their youth. Jim Praissler, president of OVDBA (now outgoing president) was adamant about my understanding this important aspect of this club. The evidence of the group's commitment to the youth was a free showmanship clinic on Friday afternoon, taught by champion showman Sally Coad of Freedom Farms, TN. The arena was packed with close to 20 cows and people of various ages! Seriously noisy, but lots of fun!

Throughout the year, the kids have opportunities to participate in various group activities relating to the club. The more they participate the more tickets with their name on it go into the raffle. After the big day of showing was over, the winning ticket was then drawn from the hat. The prize? Drum roll please... the most adorable little heifer you have ever seen! Generously donated by Paul Whittington. Her name is "All Mine." And I must point out that this is not a cull quality animal; in fact, I would rate this little heifer as top notch, with a temperament to match – seriously nice!! Now that is how you promote the youth: set an example of giving your best.

The only thing more cute than this little heifer were the pee-wees and juniors showing their animals. Oh, to see a little Dexter calf being paraded around by a little person about the same size... Just adorable.

But besides the little cuties in the show ring, there were some top notch showman of all ages from teens to adults. There were novice and masters, very well trained animals and some not so trained. Some sporting an impressive show clip job, as well as some that – show or no show- needed to keep their coats on a bit longer until warmer weather was not in question. May weather in Ohio offers no guarantees.

The "finale" of this annual event was an oxen demonstration given by Vicki Solomon of the Midwest Ox Drivers Association. She uses Dexters and

Kerrys as oxen, and it was wonderful to see, not just how beautiful, but how necessary horns are to oxen driving. Our Dexters are not dual purpose, they are tri-purpose.

The diversity of the Dexter breed could not have been showcased better. Polled, horned, dehorned, red, black, dun, carriers, non-carriers, milky, beefy, bulls, cows, heifers, steers... it was all there. Even the breeders themselves were diversified. Some were focused on breeding for grass-fed beef, some on family milk cows, some on breeding show/4H stock,



some had herds of 100+, some had just purchased their first Dexter. But what stood out was the multi-generational factor in all of them. Whether a big operation or the family's first cow – parents and children were equally involved in one way or another, and all shared in the joy and hard work that goes along with participating in a big event like this.

The OVDBA Show and Sale can certainly boast, not

only for the number of animals attended, but also for the quality of breeders participating, but I would have to say that it felt more like a family reunion than a show. The camaraderie and helpfulness shown to one another completely overshadowed any competitive behaviors that one might expect to see at a traditional cattle show.

*Thank you everyone at OVDBA for warmly welcoming me to your event and for your generous hospitality. The show, the sale, the raffle, the potluck... great job everyone!*

*Love, Laura from California*

Check out the OVDBA website <http://ohiovalley-dexters.weebly.com> for show results and how you can become a part their "Dexter family."



Isaiah Lizarraga in the showing with Whittington Tip

Regional Clubs



Ohio Valley Dexter Breeders Association

Promoting the breed along with our youth is a major focus of OVDBA, as well as educating, re-searching and teaching each other how to identify, select and breed for well conformed, solid animals that are within the standards of the Dexter breed. Anyone from any state is welcome.

<http://ohiovalleydexters.weebly.com>



Dexter Cattle Club of Tennessee

We are based in Tennessee, but open to all. Dexters are the stars of our organization – no politics – just simply for the good of the Dexter breed. We organize clinics, seminars and other marketing opportunities for our members, and support youth participants.

*Upcoming Events*  
August 21 - Wilson County Fair Dexter Show & DCCOT AGM, Lebanon, TN

For more info go to [www.dextercattleclub.com](http://www.dextercattleclub.com)



Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeders

We are not a registry, and you do not need to be a member of a breed association to be a part of RMDB – all breeders are welcome! Our purpose is to educate breeders on best practices for herd management, educate the public about the benefits of Dexter cattle, and provide dexter breeders with resources to market their cattle.

*Upcoming Events*  
September 8 - Dexter Show @ Utah State Fair  
Salt Lake City, UT

For more info go to [www.rockymountaindexter.com](http://www.rockymountaindexter.com)



Legacy Breeders

Our goal - To bring breeders together to preserve the unique qualities and traits found in the rare, original Dexter bloodlines. Membership is open to all breeders interested in preservation. Help us save these wonderful and unique heritage bloodlines from disappearing forever.

For more info go to [legacybreeders.org](http://legacybreeders.org)

Purebred Dexter Cattle Association

P.O. Box 135 Edwards MS 39066 (844) PDCA-NOW

I am Submitting and including payment for:  
☐ Registration \$20    ☐ Transfer Only \$20  
☐ Register + Transfer (same animal) \$40  
☐ Registry to Registry Transfer \$ 5 per animal  
☐ New Membership \$20    ☐ Renew Membership \$20

My name is \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I am a current member (Renewed since July 1, 2017)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of animal to be Registered (max 23)

Herd prefix

Date of birth    ☐ Male    ☐ Female    ☐ Steer

Tattoo #    ☐ Left ear    ☐ Right ear

☐ Horned    ☐ Polled    ☐ Black    ☐ Red    ☐ Dun

Name of Dam of animal being Registered  
PDCA # \_\_\_\_\_  
ADCA# \_\_\_\_\_  
Legacy# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I was the breeder of the animal being registered  
and in possession of dam at time of breeding  
☐ I owned the dam at the time of birth  
☐ I bought the cow already bred on

(Date of possession): \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION & TRANSFER FORM

☐ Register + Transfer this animal to:  
Buyer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Transfer Only    PDCA# \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of animal to transfer

☐ Transfer ADCA or Legacy Animal to PDCA  
Submit copy of Registration Certificate(s)

☐ Certified Registration  
I am submitting a copy of genetic test results indicating:  
☐ PHA Negative  
☐ Chondrodysplasia Negative  
☐ Genotype (+Parent Verification if parents are genotyped)  
Other optional genetic test results submitted for this animal  
☐ A/2 A/2    Non-black animals will be  
☐ Coat Color - Dun    registered as "Dun/Red" unless  
☐ Coat Color - Red    genetically tested for Coat Color

Name of Sire of animal being registered  
PDCA # \_\_\_\_\_  
ADCA# \_\_\_\_\_  
Legacy# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I owned sire at the time of breeding  
☐ I did not own sire at the time of breeding  
☐ Dam was bred using AI on (date): \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt/invoice from AI service company/technician included (required)

Sire owner at the time of live breeding if not applicant

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### What about testing?

As an organization that wants to focus on the good of Dexters AND Dexter breeders/owners, PDCA has accepted test results from any reputable lab. What things might you want to test and why?

Let's say two cows give birth one night near the same time and you suspect next morning they may have switched calves. Or your bull calf has grown up while you have been doing other things and has been in the pasture with the cows and your herd bull. You wonder if he has mated with some of the cows. Or a neighbor's bull got into your pasture while you were on vacation. It is breeding season and you wonder if HE will turn out to be sire of some of your calves.

With a few tail hairs of calf and suspected parents that you send in, a lab can get a genetic "fingerprint" of these animals. If you do not want to beef or sell unregistered a calf that has unknown parents, or if you want to get a Certified Registration even if you know the parents, or you want to sell your calf to an ADCA member, this parentage DNA test is of use. An analyst at the lab will compare the "markers" obtained from the test and give you a probable answer to your parentage questions.

Let's say you bought some Dexters from someone who has inherited a Dexter herd but knows nothing about the records of the previous owner. You may want to know if an animal carries PHA or chondrodysplasia so that you can breed appropriately and avoid an aborted fetus. If records of the ancestors are unavailable or inconclusive, you need these test results for the Certified Registration, too.

Possibly you want to know if a color that looks "different" is red or dun, or possibly if the animal is one but carries the other. So you would be interested in testing for color. Maybe you have mated a polled cow with the polled bull but you know that both are heterozygous polled and can have a horned calf. Your resulting polled bull calf is one that you think is the best bull prospect you've seen for years—could he be homozygous polled so you will never get a horned calf if you use him?

Obviously there are tests which can be useful to some Dexter breeders. Here are some of the labs that have been used to test Dexter traits. Some of the labs have special pricing for Dexter customers who affiliate with an organization for a discount.

**For more in depth information about registering, transferring, testing, pricing and contact info go to [www.purebreddextercattle.com/registration](http://www.purebreddextercattle.com/registration)**

#### Labs

**University of California-Davis**  
[www.vgl.ucdavis.edu](http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu)

**Texas A&M University**  
[vetmed.tamu.edu/animalgenetics](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/animalgenetics)

#### GeneSeek/Igenity

[http://genomics.neogen.com/pdf/igenity/ag088\\_igenityorderformbeef.pdf](http://genomics.neogen.com/pdf/igenity/ag088_igenityorderformbeef.pdf),  
[http://genomics.neogen.com/pdf/igenity/ag159\\_igenityorderformdairy.pdf](http://genomics.neogen.com/pdf/igenity/ag159_igenityorderformdairy.pdf)

#### Tattoo letters

2015 – C

2016 – D


2017 – E

#### ACCEPTABLE WHITE MARKINGS

BULL – Small amount of white on organs of reproduction is permissible


COW - Small amount of white on udder and udder line, but behind umbilical cord. A few white hairs in tail tassel is permissible

**EXCESSIVE WHITE MARKING:** For animals with white markings, please go to [www.purebreddextercattle.com/registration](http://www.purebreddextercattle.com/registration) for instructions




### POLLED RED DEXTER CATTLE

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2016 RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION TULSA STATE FAIR  
ADCA # 39018




Bob & Louise Reasoner  
9573 Hwy 65 Chillicothe, MO (660)646-8905  
[harley802003@yahoo.com](mailto:harley802003@yahoo.com)




### Singing Springs Farm

POLLED DEXTER CATTLE



CURRENT HERD SIRE  
GLENN LAND MR BRUNO  
HOMOZYGOUS POLLED  
ADCA #035753  
PDCA # 207932

Andy Smith & Donna Semas  
Elkton, OR (541)584-2550  
[singingsprings@rconnects.com](mailto:singingsprings@rconnects.com)



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☐ RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP - \$20

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**PDCA** P.O. Box 135 Edwards, MS 39066

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My farm name is \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ph (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email or text # (best) \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PDCA?

- ☐ INTERNET SEARCH  
☐ MAGAZINE ARTICLE  
☐ THE JOURNAL  
☐ FLYER HANDOUT  
☐ WORD OF MOUTH  
☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ I WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE MY TIME, TALENTS OR SERVICES WITH OTHER DEXTER BREEDERS HOW?

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 To Your Herd!*



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 A2/A2, Homoz. Polled, Red carries Dun  
 Non Chondro, Non PHA \$100 per Straw



**FF Freedom's Valor #026101, PDCA #Pndg**  
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 Non Chondro, Non PHA \$25 per Straw



**FF Freedom's How's That! #208762**  
 A2/A2, Homoz. Polled, Red Homoz Dun,  
 Non Chondro, Non PHA \$25 per Straw



**Aislinn's Red Dandy #031407, PDCA #Pndg**  
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