

# DEVON

FALL 2019

# USA

**NATIONAL SHOW &  
ANNUAL MEETING**

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**WHAT IS A  
DEVON?**

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**NEW REGISTRY  
SOFTWARE**

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Devon USA is published twice per year. Our next publication will be Spring 2020.

For more information contact Red Devon USA office at (229) 516-0394 or [reddevon.service@gmail.com](mailto:reddevon.service@gmail.com)

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# DEVON USA

Devon USA is the official publication of Red Devon USA. It exists to inform, educate, and unite Devon breeders across the United States and the world.

# RED DEVON USA

**Purpose:** To maintain an accurate pureblood Devon registry, to preserve the purity of the breed, to disseminate general information to the membership, and to recruit new members through general promotional activities.

## OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Bob VanKirk
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Bob Vankirk*

Devon Breeders and Enthusiasts:

It has been an honor to serve as your President over the past year.

The future is bright for Red Devon Cattle! The breed has long been noted for its fertility, calving ease, docility, hardiness and ability to adapt to temperature extremes. Demand for grass-fed beef continues to rise and Devon Cattle on forage only diets perform superbly to produce top gourmet quality beef.

The first Devon cattle reached what is now the United States in 1623. The ship Charity brought a consignment of red cattle (one bull and three heifers) from Devonshire to Edward Winslow, the agent for Plymouth Colony. These red cattle of Devonshire, brought in by the Pilgrims, were probably the first purebred cattle to reach North America. Soon Red Devons will reach the milestone of 400 years in America!!

We faced several challenges last year. Smoothly transitioning our registry was a priority. Strong support for a change from CLRC existed from the membership and Board of Directors. Although this change was required, it levied extra expense to complete the transition. In addition, the National meetings, with show and sale, have been costly to the organization. With the tremendous growth of the grass finished beef market, competition has also increased from other breeds of cattle including composite breeds. Maintaining financial viability while promoting Red Devon Cattle advantages has been vital.

Thanks to our Board of Directors, Committee Members, and volunteers for making the past year a successful year of accomplishments.



- NCBE Registry: The new online registrar, National Center for Beef Excellence, has been up and running with excellent service from our new secretary, Becky Miller. Reach out to her if you have any questions. Contact information is on RedDevonUSA.com
- The New and Improved RDUSA website has been getting a lot of attention; the advertising through Classified and Banner Ads has provided income to support the website.
- Support by members and the Board of Directors to try another venue for the National Meeting became evident through polling. The Keystone Livestock Expo, KILE, in Harrisburg PA, will provide the opportunity for 50,000 people to gain exposure to Red Devon Cattle. KILE is the largest livestock expo in the eastern USA! This will provide tremendous exposure to the breed as well as save the organization the many expenditures involved in having an event on our own.
- Financials year to date through June have yielded a positive net income for the organization; this accomplishment is impressive considering the transfer

of registry, upcoming national event, and advertising undertaken to market the advantages of Red Devons.

- Hybrid Registrations - We have had requests for a crossbred program such as many other breeds of cattle offer. Red Devon has lost membership in the past due to lack of availability of a crossbred registry. The Board is exploring this possibility. A Devon Hybrid Registry would be designed to record Red Devon influenced cattle with the goal of improving the value and demand for Red Devon crossbred breeding females and feeder cattle and increasing the demand for purebred registered Red Devon bulls in commercial herds or registered herds of a different breed. It would not be a pathway for entry into the existing Red Devon Herd book registry of purebred Devons which shall remain open only to animals with a proven pedigree and who meet the breed standard. We will reach out to members soon with more information.
- The Registry and DNA Committee has worked relentlessly to ensure the smooth transition to NCBE. In addition, the bylaws have been reviewed

to ensure clarity on registration. More information will be coming soon.

- A.J. O'Neil has been working with Jeremy Engh and Penn State on various methods of beef carcass analysis of Red Devon Cattle. They are meeting at the university later this month to complete the evaluation of grassfed beef carcasses with the staff there. Watch the website for updated information or better yet come to this year's annual conference where data as well as video of the process will be available.
- The next DEVON USA magazine will be available prior to the national event to highlight Red Devon advantages.

Feel free to reach out to myself or the Board of Directors with any questions or if we can be of assistance. Visit [RedDevonUSA.com](http://RedDevonUSA.com) for Board of Directors contact information or to learn more about Devon Cattle. 🐄

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*305 Pacanowski Lane*  
*Tyrone, PA*  
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*4SeasonsCattle.com*  
*grassfed@4seasonscattle.com*

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# WHAT IS A DEVON?

*by Jeremy Engh*

## Definition and history in US

What is a Devon? How about a North Devon, South Devon, Ruby Red Devon, Beef Devon, Dairy Devon, etc .. ?

Well as breeders and buyers you should know the differences and similarities. The pro's and con's of each, and how they fit into the market you are trying to capture.

A Dairy Devon is just as pure as a beef Devon because they come from the same genetic pool. In 1952, the ADCA, then known as the American Devon Cattle Club, decided that the breed had to move into a specialist beef market in order to survive. At that time, a small group of breeders decided to form a separate association for dairy cattle and maintain triple-purpose stock.

The AMDA represents a gene pool of Devon Cattle selected for purity and milking ability. The Devon has always excelled in the areas of; quality beef from

pasture, milking ability, and value as a draft animal, hence the term, triple purpose.

The 1868 American Devon Herd Book, Vol. 2, was published in Springfield, Massachusetts. This herd book contains a perfect description of Devon Cattle.

"The late experience of the breeders of Devons only confirms their former opinion of the excellent qualities of the breed, for the three grand objects for which neat stock are kept, namely, milk, work, or beef, and their adaptation to many sections of our country, in preference to any other breed; also that they will produce as much milk, work, or beef, from the food consumed, or on a given quantity of land, as any other breed .. .The only objection ever presented to the breed, is "they are small;" but we can keep more of them, and that on shorter pastures and coarser food."

This description is accurate and shows why these cattle do so well in grass based environments as well as dairy operations.

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## WHAT IS A **DEVON**?

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The South Devon brought to this country in 1969 originated from the counties of Devon and Cornwall in Southwest England where they have been a distinct and separate breed since the 16th Century. They are the largest of the British breeds and are more brown than red. They have quite a different look and different attributes.

All cattle were originally identified by Carolus Linnaeus as three separate species. These were *Bos taurus*, the European cattle, including similar types from Africa and Asia; *Bos indicus*, the zebu; and the extinct *Bos primigenius* containing the axtant species including *longifrons*. The axtant species or aurochs is ancestral to both zebu and European cattle. More recently these three have increasingly been grouped as one species, with *Bos primigenius taurus*, *Bos primigenius indicus* and *Bos primigenius primigenius* as the subspecies. *Bos* is the genus of both wild and domestic cattle.

Complicating the matter is the ability of cattle to interbreed with other closely related species. Hybrid individuals and even breeds exist, not only between European cattle and zebu but also with yaks, banteng, gaur, and bison, a cross-genera hybrid. Cattle cannot successfully be bred with water buffalo or African buffalo.

Devon cattle are one of the oldest beef breeds in existence today. In fact some authorities consider the Devon's origin to be prehistoric, the assumption being that the breed descended directly from *Bos longifrons*, the smaller type of aboriginal cattle in Britain. In fact, according to reference material compiled by the Devon Cattle Breeders Society, Somerset, England; *Devon Cattle - The Red Rubies*, it appears that the Red Cattle of North Devon may have contributed to the Hereford and other British breeds. So all this





being said, a Red Devon, North Devon, Beef Devon, or Ruby Red are all the same thing.

The native home of the Devon is in southwestern England, primarily in the counties of Devon, Somerset, Cornwall, and Dorset. For centuries, herds of red cattle grazed the grass covered hills of this cool, moist region. History records that the Romans took notice of the red cattle when they occupied this area in 55 B.C.

There is some evidence that the seagoing Phoenicians may have brought some ancestral red stock from northern Africa or the Middle East to Southwestern England during their visitations for tin. Some livestock breeders speculate that this might account for the Devon's remarkable adaptation to hot climates in spite of its centuries of exposure to the damp, chilly hills of England's Atlantic coast.

The early improvers of the Devon breed were Francis Quartly and his brothers William and Henry, and John Tanner Davy and his brother William. It is generally agreed that Francis Quartly accomplished for the Devon what the Collings did for the Shorthorn. Colonel John Tanner Davy founded the Devon herdbook in 1850. In 1884, the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society was organized and took over the herdbook maintained today by the American Devon Cattle Association.

Only 131 years after Columbus discovered North America, the first Devon cattle reached what is now the United States. The year was 1623. The ship *Charity* brought a consignment of red cattle (one bull and three heifers) from Devonshire to Edward Winslow, the agent for Plymouth Colony. These red cattle of Devonshire, brought in by the Pilgrims, were probably the first purebred cattle to reach North America. These Devons are the ancestors of the modern Devon housed primarily in the U.S., Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, and of course

England. All of these countries maintain their own herd book but all true Devon cattle can trace their lineage back to England and John Tanner Davy's Devon Herd Book.

An American Devon Herd Book was begun in 1855 by Horace M. Sessions of Massachusetts. His first volume included a reprint of Volumes 1 and 2 of the English herd book. Sessions published five volumes with the last appearing in 1879.

James Buckingham, a Devon breeder from Zanesville, Ohio, began publication of the American Devon Record in 1881. The first four volumes were published under his direction, bringing Devon registry records up to May 1st, 1887.

Mr. Buckingham, with the aid of several other prominent Devon breeders, was instrumental in organizing the American Devon Cattle Club on March 26th, 1884, at a meeting in Pittsburgh's East End Hotel.

The American Devon Record became the official herd book of the Club, which published six volumes under its watch. Like most other livestock registry associations in the United States, the American Devon Cattle Club found the cost prohibitive to produce a limited edition herd book. Volume 10, the final volume of the American Devon Record, was published in 1947. Duplicate registration certificates were maintained in the breed's registry office for verifying the ancestry of registered animals and the protection of the genetic integrity of the Devon breed in the United States.

After the death of L.P. Sissons, Secretary of the American Devon Cattle Club, in 1916, the Club was reorganized and incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the American Devon Cattle Club, Inc. The corporation operated under that name for 53 years until it was changed to the Devon Cattle Association, Inc., at an

annual meeting of the membership in Springfield, Massachusetts, on January 22nd, 1971.

On October 11th, 1978, a Devon Cattle Association, Inc. was formed as a Missouri nonprofit corporation. A merger of the old Massachusetts corporation into the new Missouri Corporation was approved by the respective members on November 19th, 1978. The merger became effective January, 1st, 1979. The DCA led the industry in protecting its genetic pool by being the only breed to require a Breed Standard including conformation attributes. Dr. Stewart Fowler would also introduce the 205 day weaning weight to the breed years before it would become the industry standard for weaning weight evaluation. The Devon Cattle Association, Inc. would change its name to

the American Devon Cattle Association on September 16th 2005 and do business as such until September 25th 2013. In 2006 a group of Breeders left the American Devon Cattle Association and started the North American Devon Association, they would do business as such and maintain a separate registry until September 25th 2013. On September 25th, 2013 Red Devon USA was formed at a meeting of Devon Breeders held at Lake Junaleska, NC. Today all registration, promotion, and improvement of Devon cattle is handled by Red Devon USA inc. Devon cattle pedigrees maintained in this herd book trace back over 400 years. Red Devon USA also stands alone as the only beef breed in America to have a DNA verification program in place for ensuring purity well into the future. 🐮



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# MAKING THE HARD DECISIONS!

by Dustin Heeter



Oh that beautiful bred heifer lost her calf. Oh I didn't get the bull pulled and I had three cows calved 40 days later than the rest. Oh she has been a good ole cow I will keep her for just one more calf. Oh the bull has always got them bred before there is no need to worry he can cover them another year! Oh that heifer will calm down in time. Oh I will treat her the next time I see her in the barn.... the limp is not that bad. Oh she has not been trying to calve for that long I can make a quick trip to the store. These may seem like hard decisions but they really are clearer cut than we think if we look at them TODAY as they really are and not how we want them to be.

We can all go back and think through decisions we have made and wonder about different outcomes. Hindsight would probably have us make some of these decisions differently. In livestock production we make countless choices each day that have long term effects on our operations. Some of these are hard choices, and sometimes we let our emotions or wishes get in the way of reality.

The livestock business is trading at new all-time highs in regard to price. Cow-calf, Sheep, and Goat producers seem to have finally found the land of milk and honey. So we should make our culling decision with the idea of making room for the good ones and not keeping slackers! We should just keep them all right?? A late calf is better than selling an open cow right?? A ewe that always has a foot problem is ok right, she had a set of triplets....once...I think? Well this is my wake up call to every producer to make those

hard decisions with the images that are right in front of us not what we hope the outcome maybe next time!

From my own operations experiences I can look back over the last year or so and see the error of some of my choices. I had that first calf heifer that calved near the creek and her calf was half in the water and did not make it. Oh it was a fluke and will not happen again.... don't bet on it! I could have sold her as a well fleshed young heiferette and probably paid for her development cost and went on. But I waited and bred her again and the next year she had a calf again in the wettest part of the field and it also died. Now she is just a cull cow with a lot of expenses tied to her. I should have followed my gut and made the hard decision at the first mistake! There were eight other heifers that choose better spots to calve!

Then there was the old cow that came up pregnant but seemed to be moving a little slower and maybe not acting quite herself..... oh she will make spring and we'll get another calf out of her. Well she had been eating well and seemed to hang in there right up till the morning I found her died!

I have always been a rip the bandage off quick guy and pushed those thoughts to others as the "Right Choice". However I have not made as many good "gut" choices lately and have come to regret many of them. In retrospect I can say that the "one more chance" has very rarely turned out to be the right choice. If there is a problem eliminate it or treat it right

now! Make the hard decision and pull the bandage off, it only hurts for a minute! 🐮

*Dustin Heeter, owner and operator of Heritage Hill Farms in Clarksburg PA. Dustin and his twin daughter's manage a cow calf operation that focuses on producing a high-quality*

*product while enhancing the environment and creating family enjoyment.the environment and creating family enjoyment.*

*As a Livestock Educator for the last 20 years Dustin has been dedicated to improving producer management tools and connecting consumers with these practices.*

# Rolling Meadow Devons

Rolling Meadows Dianthus B89



Rolling Meadows General



**We Believe in genetically dense, high meat volume bulls that will produce robust and consistent offspring!**

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# QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF FORAGES FOR GRASS-FINISHING

by David Hartman

During the past several years there has been a surge of interest in grass-finishing beef cattle for the growing grass-fed beef market. People interested in grass-finishing cattle love to discuss all the aspects of a successful program including genetics, forage species or mixtures, wintering, carcass aging, cooking, and marketing.

One of the things I have tried to emphasize to folks involved in grass-finishing cattle is the importance of forage quantity and quality. Both of these aspects have to be right to make a grass-finishing program successful. Let's start with quantity.

Cattle will consume a known quantity of forage dry matter that we can calculate easily based on the estimated bodyweight of the animals. Typically, the amount consumed will run around 2.5 - 3.0% of bodyweight. Yes, there can be some variability with consumption and guesswork with cattle weights, but the main point is that we should not try to cut it too close. We want to operate from the perspective that the cattle need to have enough forage to easily satisfy their demand, all day, every day. We want to avoid pastures

that look like a golf course. And during the wintering period, we need to assure that the cattle have access to ample forage all the time. We should avoid or fix anything that limits their consumption.



Nutritional quality of forages can make or break a grass-finishing program as well. Protein levels often get cattle owners excited, but in reality are usually not a limiting factor. Moderate protein levels in the range of 14-18% would be fine. One of our main concerns should be energy levels in the forage. One way that energy is determined in a forage, is by calculating the total digestible nutrients (TDN). Ideally we would like to see TDN at 65% or greater for grass-finishing. Another component to be aware of is the neutral detergent fiber (NDF) level. Forages with lower fiber levels work well for grass-finishing. NDF levels in the 40s and low 50s would be something to aim for. And in pastures, we would like to




see forages with dry matter levels and non-structural carbohydrate levels above 20%.

It isn't practical to test forage quality in all paddocks on every rotation. However, sending typical pasture herbage for analysis a few times each year might help you determine if you are meeting your goals for quality. From a management perspective we need to maintain pastures in a vegetative state as much as possible to keep energy levels high and fiber levels low. And for wintering, test nutritional quality for all forages that are being fed. Generally speaking, we need to avoid course, mature, late-made first cutting hay or baleage because it will probably be lower in energy content and higher in fiber content than we need to achieve grass-finishing.

The real-world reality of forage quality for grass-finishing is that it is seldom perfect. There will be times when it is difficult to keep the cattle on forages that meet our desired specs. Various things happen that can throw off our plan. But we have to keep aiming for quality.

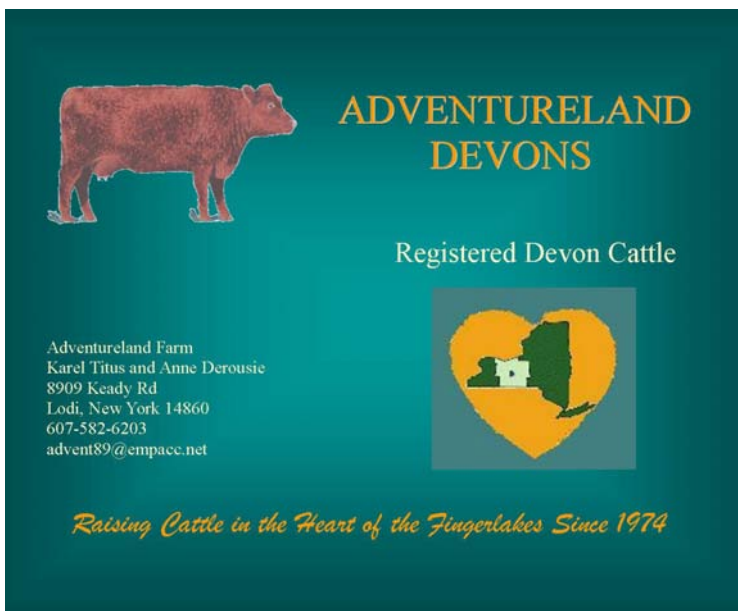
Successful grass-finishing is not as easy and simple as some might like to believe.

Efficiently producing a quality beef product takes sound management. Forage quantity and quality are two important aspects that we need to manage. 

*Dave Hartman is an extension educator based in the Lycoming County Office of Penn State Extension near Montoursville. He is a member of the Extension Livestock Team and has 34 years of experience in agricultural extension work. Mr. Hartman's main areas of interest include management of pasture and grazing systems, forage crops, grass-finishing cattle, and management of small ruminant livestock. He has bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn State in Animal Production and Forage Agronomy, respectively.*

*Mr. Hartman oversees extension program work in livestock production in the central and northern tier regions of Pennsylvania. Programs he has been involved with in recent years include beef cattle production, pasture and grazing management, sheep and goat production, small scale swine production, cover crops, and organic field crop production.*

*At home Mr. Hartman is owner/operator of two small farms in Montour County where he has a flock of Katahdin hair sheep and grass-finishes beef cattle.*



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# Check out the all NEW Red Devon USA Registry!

[www.reddevonusa.com/registry](http://www.reddevonusa.com/registry)

*Your online source for managing, registering and transferring your Red Devon Cattle*

In November 2018 Red Devon USA teamed up with the National Center for Beef Excellence (NCBE) for an all new registry software for members. The new system provides an online portal for members to manage their herd as well as submit registrations, transfers and data.



## Search Options

### Members

#### LOG IN

Please enter your username and password.

Account Information

Username (Member ID):

Password:

The member search page allows you to search the database for our current active members listed.

The animal search page enables you to search the whole herdbook. The results allow you to view extended pedigrees, ownership and EPD information.



## Contact Us Today!

For log in credentials and a tour contact  
the Red Devon USA Office

Red Devon USA  
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**Beef Center**  
National Center for Beef Excellence

For more information about the National  
Center for Beef Excellence please visit:

[www.beefcenter.org](http://www.beefcenter.org)

# National Show and Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 2ND - 6TH, 2019

Keystone International Livestock Expo

Annual Meeting  
**FRIDAY**  
OCTOBER 4th  
**7:00 PM**

Show Speakers:

- Dustin Heeter
- Jeremy Engh
- Dave Hartman

Planned Events: Tour the Capital Building and History Museum



## RED DEVON USA

*Gourmet Beef on Grass*

Abiding Acres Prince Rupert



A.J. O'neil getting ready for the show with Ezra Bush left and Noah Burke right.





ANNUAL

# RED DEVON USA/CANADA

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

# MEETING 2019

## Wednesday, October 2

Arrive, Cattle Check in and setup, Devon Display booth set up

## Thursday, October 3

(10:00 am - 5:00 pm) Sign up for promotional  
Devon USA / Canada booth

12:00 am Open A.O.B. show

6:00 pm Social / Dinner

## Friday, October 4

(11:00 am - 5:00 pm) Sign up for promotional  
Devon USA / Canada booth

9:00 - 10:30 am Dave Hartman  
"Forage Quality & Grass Finishing Beef"

10:30 - 12:00 pm Jeremy Engh  
"Selecting Genetics for Grass Fed  
Beef Production"

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Tour Capital Building & History Museum

7:00 pm Red Devon USA/ Canada  
Annual Meeting / Dinner

## Saturday, October 5

(12 am - 4:00 pm) Sign up for promotional  
Devon USA / Canada booth

8:00 am Junior & Collegiate Livestock  
Judging contest

10:00 am Panel - Jeremy Engh, Bob VanKirk, & A.J. O'Neil  
"Marketing Beef (Animals, Freezer Beef, Retail  
Cuts, & finer processed meats)"

11:00 am Round Table discussion with moderator  
"Lets Talk about anything & everything"

2:30 pm Youth Benefit Auction

4:00 pm Dustin Heeter "Creating the Ideal Cow"

7:30 pm Horse Pulling Heavy Weight

## Sunday, October 6

8:00 am Junior Show A.O.B.

# Red Devon USA/Canada Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration will include your meal & drink (dessert not included), tickets to tour Pennsylvania State Capitol Building and tickets for Pennsylvania State History Museum.

Please fill out how many registrations of each you will need and send this form to Red Devon mailing address, including a check for the correct amount. You will also be in charge of booking your own hotel room. The link is provided on the Red Devon Webpage. The Hilton Garden Inn has blocked out rooms for our group. Please return the registrations as soon as possible so Hilton can be notified if we need to book more rooms. We Look forward to seeing everyone at the show.

\_\_\_ \$0 Kids menu

\_\_\_ \$50 Choice of

1. Tenderloin Steak salad with a drink
2. Chicken Parmesan with house salad, vegetable, starch of the day, & drink

\_\_\_ \$60 Choice of

3. Scallops Alfredo with house salad & drink
4. 14oz Prime Rib with house salad, vegetable, starch of the day, & drink

Are you bringing animals to the show? How many? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contact the RDUSA office for hard copy rules and regulations

How many rooms will you be needing for your stay? \_\_\_\_\_



Make checks Payable to Red Devon USA and mail with form to:  
Red Devon USA • 11700 NW Plaza Circle • Kansas City, MO 64153

# DEVON CATTLE BREED STANDARDS



2 year old Devon Bull



5 year old Devon Bull



14 year old Devon Bull

## RDUSA Bull Standards

Any animal not meeting the Breed standards is ineligible for registration into the RDUSA herd book. If there is any question in your mind, please send photographs to the RDUSA registration and DNA committee.

1. **HEAD** masculine, forehead broad, wide from eye to nostril, strong at bridge of nose, nostrils high and open, muzzle broad and clean, fleshcolored, free from blue or black; eyes full and placid; ears medium size and thickness fringed with hair; if horned then matching, placed at right angles from the head and curving downward, waxy at the base, tipped with a darker shade, but not black; cheek full and broad at the root of the tongue.
2. **NECK** of a medium length and muscular, with a good crest, throat clean.
3. **SHOULDERS** broad and flat on top and well covered, not prominent at the points.
4. **BODY.** The **CHEST** should be broad and deep with well sprung ribs. When viewed from the side, the animal should have a forequarter free from heavy brisket, a smooth shoulder and a muscular hindquarter. When viewed from the front and behind, he should have a wide carcass, without roughness in the shoulder and show a strong back carrying through from a well developed crest to a lengthy and well finished tailhead. The **HINDQUARTER** should be muscular and wide, with the pin bones set wide apart, and carrying well down to the hock with a point through the stifle as the widest point.
5. **BACK** straight, long and level; loin broad and full, hips of medium width, not prominent and well-covered with flesh and on a level with the back.
6. **RUMP** long and full.
7. **TAIL** neatly set, thick at the root, reaching to the hocks, with a thick brush of hair, and hanging at right angles with the back. The tail must have a white switch at a year of age.
8. **ROUNDS** and **THIGHS** deep, broad and full, extending well down to the hocks.
9. **THE UNDER LINE** parallel with the top.
10. **FORE LEGS** straight and muscular, arms full, legs straight and set well apart, good bone. **FEET** not overgrown and meeting the ground squarely.
11. **HIND LEGS** and **HOCKS.** Legs straight and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking, good bone; hocks to be well let down. **FEET** not overgrown and meeting the ground squarely.
12. **SKIN** moderately thick and pliable, covered with an abundant coat of mossy hair of a rich red color; a little white in front of the purse is admissible, but not on any other part of the limbs or body and clearly behind the naval.
13. **TESTICLES** should be firm and even, with well defined epididymis and should hang freely from the body. A twisted or tied scrotum is unacceptable.
14. **GENERAL APPEARANCE.** Showing typical Devon character, good growth, deep, long and well balanced, even fleshed, masculine and smart on parade.



2 year old Devon Cow



6 year old Devon Cow



14 year old Devon Cow

### RDUSA Cow Standards

Any animal not meeting the Breed standards is ineligible for registration into the RDUSA herd book. If there is any question in your mind, please send photographs to the RDUSA registration and DNA committee.

1. **HEAD** feminine and moderately long, with broad indented forehead; the nose of flesh color, clean and free from blue or black, the nostrils high and open, the jaws clean, the eyes bright, lively and prominent; ears thin and fringed with hair, if horned then matching, spread and gracefully turned, of a waxy color, tipped with a slightly darker shade, but not black.
2. **NECK** of a medium length; throat clean.
3. **SHOULDERS** moderately broad and flat on top and well-covered, not prominent at the points.
4. **BODY.** The **CHEST** should be broad and deep with well sprung ribs. When viewed from the side, the animal should have a forequarter free from heavy brisket, a smooth shoulder and a muscular hindquarter. When viewed from the front, she should have a wide carcass, without roughness in the shoulder and show a strong back carrying through to a lengthy and well finished tailhead. The **HINDQUARTER** should be muscular and wide, carrying well down to the hock with a point through the stifle as the widest point. The pin bones should be set well apart and the pelvic inlet and outlet should be large.
5. **RIBS** well sprung, nicely arched and flesh firm to the touch.
6. **BACK** straight, long and level; loin broad and full, hips of medium width and on a level with the back.
7. **RUMP** long, moderately full and level.
8. **TAIL** neatly set, thick at the root, reaching to the hocks, with a thick brush of hair, and hanging at right angles with the back. The tail must have a white switch at a year of age.
9. **ROUNDS** and **THIGHS** deep, broad and full, extending well down to the hocks.
10. **THE UNDER LINE** parallel with the top.
11. **FORE LEGS** straight and muscular, arms full, legs straight and set well apart, medium bone. **FEET** not overgrown and meeting the ground squarely.
12. **HIND LEGS** and **HOCKS.** Legs straight and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking, medium bone; hocks to be well let down. **FEET** not overgrown and meeting the ground squarely.
13. **UDDER** fleshy, coming well forward in line with the belly, and well-up behind; teats not too large, and square placed.
14. **SKIN** moderately thick and pliable, covered with an abundant coat of mossy hair of a rich red color; white about the udder is admissible, but not on any other part of the limbs or body.
15. **GENERAL APPEARANCE.** Showing typical Devon character, good growth, deep, well balanced, even-fleshed, feminine, and smart on parade. 🐮

# A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

## Red Devon USA Spring 2016

*Devon cattle truly are a heritage breed" tracing their lineage back centuries. In the previous article we listed the current official breed standards, but we thought a historical perspective would be interesting for our readers. Below you'll find remarks on Devon attributes from prominent breeders stretching back into the 18th century.*

### HEAD

1796 Quartly "To be thin under the eyes, and tapering to the nose, which should be white, but the original breed was yellow. Between the eyes to be rather wide; eyes themselves to be very prominent, like those of a blood horse, and no change of colour around them. The horns to be with yellow points; thin at root and long spreading at the points."

1855 George Turner "They have long yellowish horns, beautifully and gracefully curved; noses or muzzles, white, with expanded nostrils; eyes full and prominent, but calm; ears of moderate size and yellowish inside"

1872 Col J Tanner Davy "The expression of the face is gentle and intelligent; the head small with a broad, indented forehead; tapering considerably towards the nostrils; the nose a creamy white; the eye bright and prominent, encircled by an orange ring; the jaws clean and free from flesh; the ears thin. The horns of the female are long and spreading, gracefully turned upwards and tapering off towards the ends. The general aspect of the head should in many points resemble that of a deer. The horns of the bull are thicker set and more highly

curved, in some instances standing out nearly square, with only a slight inclination upwards."

1880 Wm. Youatt "The horn of the bull ought to be neither too low nor too high, tapering at the points, not too thick at the root, and of a yellow or waxy colour. The eye should be clear, bright, and prominent, showing much of the white, and it ought to have around it a circle of a variable colour, but usually dark orange. The forehead should be flat, indented, and small for by the smallness of the forehead, the purity of the breed is very much estimated. The cheek should be small, and the muzzle fine: the nose should be of a clear yellow. A black muzzle is disliked, and even a mottled one is objected to .... The nostril should be high and open: the hair curled about the head, and giving, at first appearance, an idea of coarseness which soon wears off. The cow is particularly distinguished for her full, round, clear eye, the gold coloured circle round the eye and the same colour prevailing on the inside skin of the ear. The countenance cheerful, the muzzle orange or yellow, but the rest of the face having nothing of black, or even of white about it. The jaws free from thickness."

1886 DCBS "Head of the bull masculine, forehead broad, tapering to the nose, which should be flesh coloured; nostrils high and open; muzzle broad; eyes full and placid; ears medium size and thickness, fringed with hair; horns growing at right angles from the head or slightly elevated, stout and waxy at the base, tipped with a darker shade; cheek full and broad at the root of the tongue" "Head of the cow moderately long, with a broad indented forehead, tapering considerably towards the nostrils; the nose of a creamy

white; the nostrils high and open, the jaws clean; the eye bright, lively and prominent."

## **NECK**

1796 Quartly "To have them sharp and thin from the throat to the nose; in the throat the cleanest have small variations from the perfect snake; though fat there, it should not bag. To have the line of the neck from the horns to the withers straight with that of the backbone."

1855 George Turner "Neck rather long, with but little dewlap, and the head well set on."

1872 Col J Tanner Davy "The neck is long and thin, increasingly towards the shoulder, which is tapered to meet it." 1880 Wm. Youatt "The neck should be thick, and that sometimes almost to a fault. The throat free from dewlap."

1886 DCBS "Throat clean; neck of medium length and muscular, growing from the head to the shoulders, and spreading out to meet them."

"Throat of the cow clean; ears thin, the expression being gentle and intelligent; horns matching, long, spreading and gracefully turned up, of a waxy colour, tipped with

a darker shade. Neck of medium length, growing from the head to the shoulders and spreading out to meet them."

## **SHOULDERS**

1796 Quartly "The throat free from dewlap. The shoulder point be not seen - no projection of bone, but to bevel to the neck, all elbowing out being very bad."

1855 George Turner "Shoulders oblique, with small points or narrow bones"

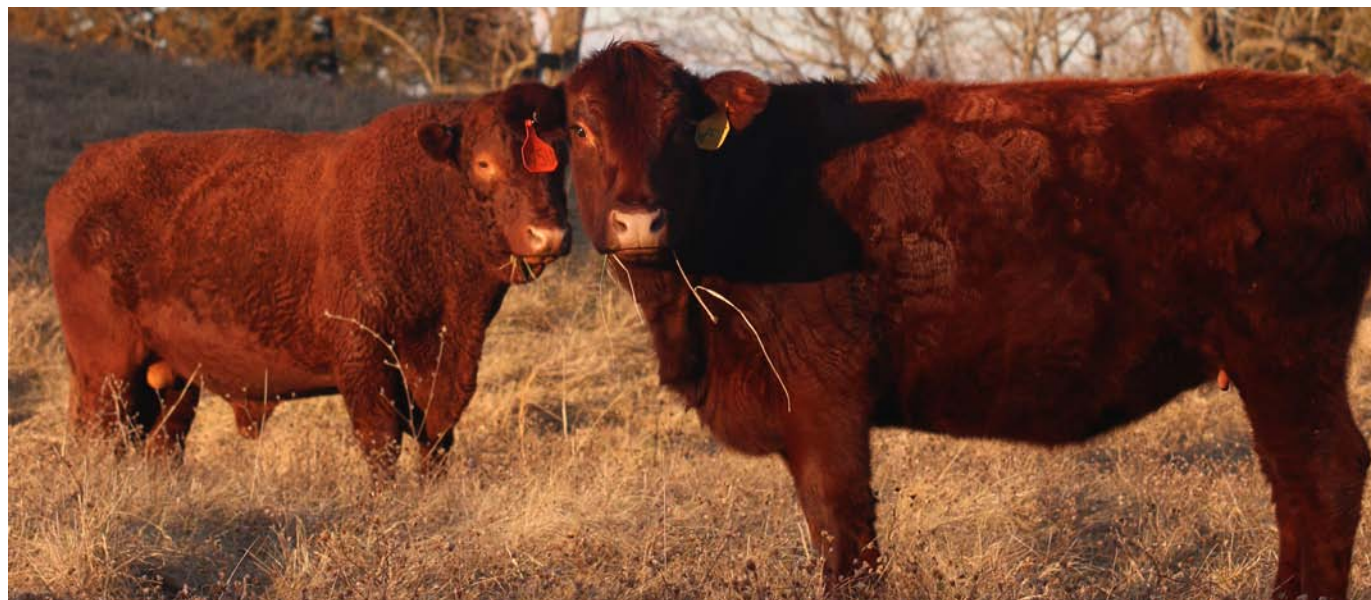
1886 DCBS "Withers fine; shoulders flat, sloping and well covered"

## **CHEST**

1796 Quartly "To be thick through the heart under the chine. The breast or bosom should project as much as possible before the shoulder and legs; and the wider between the fore legs the better."

1855 George Turner "The chest is of moderate width "

1872 Col J Tanner Davy "The breast is wide, coming out prominently between the fore



legs and extending downwards almost to the knee joint." 1886 DCBS "Chest deep, broad and somewhat circular in character."

**RIBS**

1796 Quartly "All the bones to be as small as possible; the rib bones round; not flat; ... not one atom of the side to have any flatness."

1855 George Turner "The ribs are round and well expanded, except in some instances where too much attention has been paid to the hind quarters at the expense of the fore, and which caused a falling off, or flatness, behind the shoulders." 1872 Col J Tanner Davy "The ribs project at right angles to the back, with wide flat loins" 1886 DCBS

"Ribs well sprung from the back-bone, nicely arched, deep and fully developed"

**BACK**

1796 Mr. Quartly-"To gain as great a width as possible between the hips; to have the hip bones round, and not pointed."

1855 George Turner "The loins are first-rate, long and full of flesh; hips round and of moderate width"

1880 Wm. Youatt "The points of the back and the hindquarters different from those of other breeds, having more roundness and beauty, and free from most of those angles by which good milkers are sometimes distinguished."

1886 DCBS "Back straight and level from the withers to the setting on the



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## A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

tail; loins broad and full; hips of medium width and on a level with the back”

### RUMP

1796 Quartly “That the space from the catch to the hips should be as long as possible; the catch full, but not square; ... there should be no pillow just below the cross-line from pin to pin;”

1855 George Turner “Rump level and well-filled at the bed”

1872 Col J Tanner Davy “Long rump well filled out, thus enabling them to be loaded with more beef in the most valuable parts than almost any other breed.”

1886 DCBS “Rump moderately long, full and level. Hind-quarters deep, thick and square”

### TAIL

1796 Quartly “The tail should fall plumb, without a projection of catch and rump; to have the tail not set on high - not to rise -but to be snug and the line to be straight with the backbone”

1855 George Turner “Tail full near the rump and tapering much at the top.”

1886 DCBS “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”

### ROUND & THIGHS

1855 George Turner “The thighs of the cows are occasionally light, but the bull and ox are full of muscle”

1886 DCBS “Arms and thighs muscular.” 



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# FATTY ACID COMPOSITION TEST UPDATE

by Jeremy Engh

In 2010 a Fatty acid composition study of milk from pasture-fed and grain-fed American Milking Devon Cattle was done.

This is a report of the level of fatty acids in Milking Devon milk samples from several herds in 2011. Fairy Devon breeders submitted two groups of samples, the first from cows fed hay and corn silage, the second grass. The results of these tests are available at [milkingdevon.org](http://milkingdevon.org), one thing they show is that the meat quality characteristics in Devon cattle are exceptional. To be more specific, TVA (C18:1n7), the precursor for CLA, was about 2X as high as normal. This fatty acid has similar health properties to CLA. The CLA content (CLA 9-11) was about 3X as high. All of these things are great news for Devon breeders. Taking this info, and all the other historical accounts of the high quality of Devon beef means more testing should be done. I brought this information to the Red Devon USA board of directors in 2016 and with their support began to search for breeders to assist me. Although several breeders expressed interest

and support, one took the lead and has taken over the lead role in this project.

The breeder I am referring to is from Pennsylvania and his name is AJ Oneil. AJ is a fourth-generation meat cutter/butcher who became interested in Devon cattle because he noticed carcass qualities in the grass fed Devon that he did not see in the grass finished animals from other breeds that came through his families meat shop. The story is somewhat reminiscent of how Dr. Stewart Fowler became associated with the breed. For those of you who don't know, Dr. Fowler was a protégé of Dr. Jan Bonsma, the creator of the 205 day adjusted weaning weight which became standard in all breeds, the head of the ag department at several major universities, and full time breed consultant here at Lakota Ranch after his retirement. I think that AJ, just like Dr. Fowler, brings a unique perspective that the majority of breeders do not have. Simply put, he handles beef and breaks down carcasses for a living, and in my experience, you cannot beat a man at what he does for a living. I have enjoyed getting to know AJ the last few years and working with him on this project and helping him to convert his commercial herd over to a herd of purebred seed stock Devon cattle. In working with AJ one realizes quickly that he pays close attention, asks a lot of questions, and is eager to learn, grow, and expand his knowledge. Me and AJ share a passion for this project after discussing the clear void that exists within our breed relating to beef promotion. We are not doing a good



job in telling the world how incredible our beef is, especially when produced on grass.

So, we contacted Dr. Ward about what came next. After several attempts to put a project together we could not come to an agreement on the details of the test and its process. So we broadened our search. We talked with Dr. Susan Duckett, dept. animal and veterinary sciences at Clemson University, who has worked with Devon beef previously. We also talked to Dr. Fred Provenza, professor emeritus of Behavioral Ecology in the Department of Wildland Resources at Utah State University. Again, we had great discussions and ideas but were unable to find a project in our budget

that would work for us. Discouraged but not giving up, me and AJ are working with, Dr. Johnathan Campbell and Dr. Kevin Harvatin at Penn State university on a small trial involving three grass finished Devon steers, one typical commercial grass finished beef animal, and one USDA choice graded, grain finished animal. We hope to present some results, promotional information, samples, and plans for the future at this years National Conference. The conference will be held as part of the Keystone International Livestock Expo in Harrisburg PA, October 2nd-5th. More info is available at [reddevonusa.com](http://reddevonusa.com)

We hope to see you there. 🐮





**Contact** Brad Gibson (613) 827-4602  
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Pictured: Lakota King Henry A176

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Brad Gibson and family of Opoma Farms

# RED DEVON'S IN CANADA??

*by Brad Gibson*

You bet!

Hi, I'm Brad Gibson, Devon Breeder and RDUSA Board Member, from Opoma Farms in Ontario Canada.

There are a growing number of Grass based farmers seeing the value Devon Genetics give to their existing herds here in Canada. Their easy fleshing, docility and maternal instincts are giving Canadian breeders the best opportunity to be profitable without sacrificing their product quality. From Dr Dianne Stackhouse at Angus Arabian Devon East in New Brunswick to Brian Harper at Circle H Farms in Manitoba, to Delton Jubinville at Farmer Del Organics in Alberta, and right here in Central Ontario at Opoma Farms, Red Devon's have proved to be a versatile breed, that can withstand the rugged and volatile climate differences from the east to west coasts. As Canadians farmers continue to progress with regenerative agriculture and also the consumers demand for the healthiest and most naturally raised products available, the Devon's popularity will only continue to flourish. There are now over 300 pure bred Red Devon's in Canada, and although this may seem small, compare this to the 6 total that existed in 2014

when we started our own journey into the breed. Diversity of the breed in Canada has been key as well. Brian Harper at Circle H Farms runs some of the few original genetics that were available in Canada when we first started looking. Delton has Imported from Jenny Kahrl at Montana Red Devon's, Followed by a truck load from the Robertson's at Ozark Red Devon's. Dr Stackhouse and her farm Manager Jocelyn Wilson successfully calved out 20-year-old embryos, imported from the original Rotokawa Herd in New Zealand. Jon and Val Curran at Fieldstone Farms have been great advocates for the breed as well, bringing in semen from several different bulls out of New Zealand and Australia and here at Opoma we have imported from several different American breeders most recently bringing in a dozen females, two bulls, 10 embryos and 400 straws of semen from two different National Champion bulls all imported from Lakota Ranch. The future of Devon's in Canada looks bright.

Good Luck to all those showing at this year's National Show in PA.

We look forward to attending and watching the breed get put in the spotlight. 🐮

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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

NATURAL AND COMMON OBJECTS

## Devon Cattle Association, Inc. 1982 YEARBOOK



Some reprints in "From the Archives" are mostly for fun and entertainment. But this one is as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. Dr. Stewart H. Fowler held a doctoral degree in reproductive physiology from Texas A & M and worked with Devon cattle for many decades. His thoughts on crossbreeding are well worth another look by a new generation of Devon breeders.

tion of the Plates

a pity that a parallel series more frequently carried on Senior departments. It is a reliable sequence. Two other lines on white paper; may be put together.

## CROSSBREEDING WITH EMPHASIS ON DEVONS

Dr. Stewart H. Fowler  
Breed Consultant  
Devon Cattle Association, Inc.

A purebred breed's ultimate success depends upon how well the breed performs in commercial beef production. In turn, commercial beef production succeeds more fully when it utilizes a sound crossbreeding plan. Why? Actually, there are two major reasons. Crossbreeding can combine the desirable complementary traits of two or more breeds. Of equal or greater importance, crossbreeding utilizes the advantage of hybrid vigor, or heterosis, to maximize performance in some traits, especially those related to physical fitness. If our assumptions about a breed's final success and about crossbreeding's influence on commercial beef production are true (and research and cattlemen's experience indicate their validity), the Devon breed has "potential unlimited" for an exciting, successful, and profitable future in America's beef industry.

Personal experience, dating from 1958, with beef cattle crossbreeding tells me that this Devon prediction is correct. Yes, as long as beef production remains a viable enterprise in world food production, the Devon's future is limited only by the ingenuity and aggressiveness of Devon breeders. The "Ruby Red" Devons have the economic traits, genetic purity, and broad environmental adaptation necessary for world-wide success in well-planned, carefully executed crossbreeding programs.

Before considering the specific use of the Devon in crossbreeding, let's review a few basic facts about beef production and crossbreeding that may be helpful to our discussion. First, consider that the productivity of a beef herd is determined by the pounds of calf weaned per cow in the herd. This, of course, depends upon a combination of the maternal ability of the cows and the bred-in "grow power" of the calves.

Here's where crossbreeding enters the picture. It provides two opportunities for improving maternal ability of the cow and "grow power" of the calf. Crossbreeding can combine the desirable traits of two or more breeds to secure a stronger combination of desirable characteristics that can be found in a single breed. This accelerates progress in developing a superior cow herd over what can be attained through selecting cattle within a straightbred herd. In addition, crossbreeding provides the extra benefits of hybrid vigor, which is found in crosses between genetically-unlike strains. Hybrid vigor is the improved performance of crossbred animals over and above the average of their parents' performance. In other words, the performance of a crossbred is equal to the average performance of its parents, plus an added boost from hybrid vigor.

Crossbreeding to combine the desirable traits of two or more breeds is used often with breeds which fit well with each other to meet environmental and/or economic demands of an area. Examples of this are crossing Devons and Brahmans in the Gulf Coast Area and crossbreeding Galloways and Angus in the Pacific Northwest. Crossing for this purpose has resulted in the





These Devon-sired calves with their Hereford-Brahman dams perform more productively than straightbred calves in the harsh environment of the Texas Gulf Coast.

formation of several new breeds, including the American Breed, Barzona, Beefmaster, Brangus, and Santa Gertrudis. Many years ago the Everglades Experiment Station in South Florida worked toward the development of the Bravon, which was to be  $\frac{3}{8}$ th Brahman and  $\frac{5}{8}$ th Devon. The desirable complementary traits of these two breeds indicate that this venture is worthy of re-establishment, especially in view of the superior genetics now available in modern Devons and Brahmans. In fact, private breeders in several states, including Virginia, Louisiana, and Oregon, are now planning or have actually initiated such a breeding program.

Most cattlemen who crossbreed do so to gain the dividends of hybrid vigor. Hybrid vigor expresses itself in such economic traits as higher fertility and milking ability in the dam and greater livability and faster gains in the calf. Cow-calf operators have found that they consistently wean 5% to 10% more calves from crossbreeding and that the calves are 10% to 15% heavier at weaning. This added dividend will often spell the difference between profit and loss!

Hybrid vigor is more important for traits of low heritability, because highly-heritable traits exhibit less hybrid vigor response. Thus, highly-heritable traits, which respond well to selection, are not materially improved by crossbreeding. This means that it is essential for the cattleman to select for a high level of performance in the highly-heritable traits of each parental strain to be used in his crossbreeding program. It also means that purebred breeders are charged with the genetic improvement of cattle for those traits responding to selection so as to fortify their breed with "power-packed genetics" to make it of greatest value for use in crossbreeding and other commercial beef production breeding programs. Purebred Devon breeders take note! These traits include growth rate, feed efficiency, milk production, and body shape and composition.

Important to the success of crossbreeding is the fact that increased hybrid vigor response is not obtained by selection. As already discussed, hybrid

Genetically superior sires, like this progeny-tested Devon, are essential to the full success of crossbreeding. Such sires bring a high level of performance into the crossbreeding program which is then supplemented by the extra boost obtained from hybrid vigor.



vigor is that extra boost over and above what is accomplished through selection within each strain or breed that is crossed. This explains why it is absolutely essential to cross genetically superior animals. Crossing with average cattle accomplishes little. Crossbreeding is not a magic wand that can create superior-performing cattle from genetic trash! This is why I caution Devon breeders—as well as breeders of other purebred breeds—to strive to produce superior lines of cattle with bred-in top performance for highly-heritable economic traits which will make them “genetic dynamite” for use in crossbreeding programs. Purebred cattle should be “genetically engineered” (through sound selection and the use of mild inbreeding and judicious linebreeding) to be homozygous, or “pure,” in as many superior gene pairs as possible for highly-heritable, economically-important traits, such as growth rate, feed efficiency, and carcass merit.

The exact and full explanation for the cause of hybrid vigor is not known. There are many theories. However, the level of the hybrid vigor boost obtained through crossbreeding is dependent upon the relationship that exists between the animals crossed. Generally, the wider the cross, the greater will be the resulting hybrid vigor. Breeds that are farther apart in relationship are more likely to differ genetically. In other words, unrelated breeds (no common ancestors) like the Devon and the Brahman are more likely to be homozygous in opposite ways for more pairs of genes than are closely related breeds like the Angus and the Hereford. When a crossbred calf’s sire and dam have more genes homozygous in opposite ways, the calf will have more pairs of heterozygous (or unlike) genes, which results in a greater boost in those traits responding to hybrid vigor.

What does this have to do with the Devon and specifically with its use in crossbreeding? Actually, a great deal; so read the next few sentences with special care! The Devon is considered to be the first real purebred cattle to come to America, arriving with the Pilgrims in 1623. The breed’s origin in southwestern England is considered to be prehistoric, and the Devon is one of the oldest beef breeds in existence today. The early ancestors of the Devon were likely quite different genetically than those of the later-developed English breeds. Furthermore, Devon breeders established and stayed with certain sound selection goals which combined mothering-ability, hardiness, growth impulse, gainability on grass, and carcass merit. Thus, down through the centuries, the Devon drifted genetically away from other breeds. Consequently, among the English breeds, the Devon is unique in its genetic composition. Because of its long and pure inheritance, the desirable bred-in traits of the Devon are strongly transmitted; and the Devon crosses well with most all breeds, contributing an extra measure of hybrid vigor from its purified, unique genes.



These Hereford-sired calves with a Devon dam will exhibit a larger measure of hybrid vigor than would be expected when two English breeds are crossed. The extra “kick” comes from the Devon’s purified, unique genes which originated in the breed’s ancient origin and were fixed under sound selection and pure descent.

This last statement has added importance when we consider that cattlemen today are seeking the right breed combinations to cope more effectively with the inflation pressures of the decade ahead. Of course, no one breed nor cross will best "fit" all geographical areas nor all levels of herd management. The best combination of breeds will depend on your climate, range or farm conditions, management level, market, and the foundation brood cow stock with which you are starting. However, if your goal is to produce beef calves for a profit, you will work out a combination that helps you wean more calves and heavier calves. The Devon possesses the fertility, calving ease, mothering-ability, and growth impulse to attain that goal. Most cattlemen will be looking for bulls of breeds that will complement cow herds that are predominately Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, and/or Brahman since these breeds compose the prevailing base of the majority of our commercial herds. Again, as already mentioned, the Devon's purified, unique genes equip it genetically to complement strongly these breeds while imparting "genetic dynamite" in hybrid vigor.

Certain cattle breeds have become classified as "maternal trait" breeds. Such breeds are superior in fertility, calving ease, milk production, udder quality, and disposition. (This inventory reads like a checkoff list for traits of the Devon cow, which is noted for Mother Cow Merit!) Maternal-trait breeds are selected to develop high-producing cow herds. Other breeds are classified as "terminal cross" breeds. They have been selected mainly on the basis of growth rate and carcass merit to produce animals for slaughter. Valued for carcass production, the stress is on retail cuts per day of age, which combines rate of gain, carcass weight, and carcass composition in terms of lean meat and trimmable fat. Of significance, the Devon is noted also for "grow power," red meat, and marbling ability. Thus, although the Devon is classified primarily as a maternal-trait breed, the Devon comes about as close as possible to "putting it all together." Depending upon the traits needed to complement or strengthen those of your existing cow herd and considering the traits required to tailor-make your production program to your existing market, you can select maternal-trait or terminal-cross bulls from within the Devon breed.



When Devon cows, noted for Mother Cow Merit, are mated to a bull of a terminal-cross breed, such as a Chianina in this example, the calves grow off fast and combine growth rate and carcass merit.

Remember, however, to get maximum hybrid vigor and to utilize the desired traits of the breeds selected for crossbreeding to best advantage, the bulls used and the breeding systems followed must be planned with care. Successful, profitable crossbreeding depends upon a sequence of well planned systematic matings using genetically superior purebred bulls. Obviously, using just any bull of a different breed that is available at the start of the breeding season is not crossbreeding. This hit-or-miss procedure is merely "mixing" breeds and results in multi-colored, genetically-confused, unpredictable mongrels! Select genetically superior bulls for use in cross-

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RAY & KATHARINE SIMMS, OWNERS — PHONE: 813/689-3990

Located 18 Miles Southwest of Plant City on Boyette Road

breeding with as much care as you would in selecting bulls for use in straightbreeding programs; then cross with them following a definite, systematic scheme.



These first-cross Devon-Hereford steers in the Pacific Northwest illustrate the excellent results to be obtained when using genetically superior bulls for crossbreeding.

In planning a crossbreeding program, don't overlook the importance of utilizing hybrid vigor in the dam. The most important benefits gained from crossbreeding result from using crossbred cows, especially first-cross females sired by a bull of a "maternal-trait" breed. Since calves are dependent upon their dams for about 433 days (283 days before and 150 days after birth), anything that improves a cow's fitness and vigor should benefit her calf. That is exactly what happens. Crossbred cows have a higher conception rate, a lower mortality in their calves, and wean a heavier calf than do corresponding straightbred cows. As an added dividend, crossbred cows live longer. This requires fewer replacement heifers so a larger percentage of the calf crops may be marketed.



To maximize hybrid vigor, crossbred cows like this Hereford-Brahman are mated to a bull of a third breed, producing calves like these Devon-sired calves.

A crossbred calf on a crossbred cow is usually the most profitable combination. Why? Because extra hybrid vigor results from the use of superior bulls of a third breed on crossbred cows. Illustrative examples of this kind of mating are a Devon-Brahman cow mated to a Charolais bull or a Brown Swiss-Angus cow mated to a Devon bull. Consider then that a good start in crossbreeding is first-cross cows mated to a top bull of a third breed. From that point forward, there are several alternatives for following through with a long-term crossbreeding program. Among these alternatives are such mating schemes as backcrossing, two-breed and three-breed rotational crossing, and terminal crossing.

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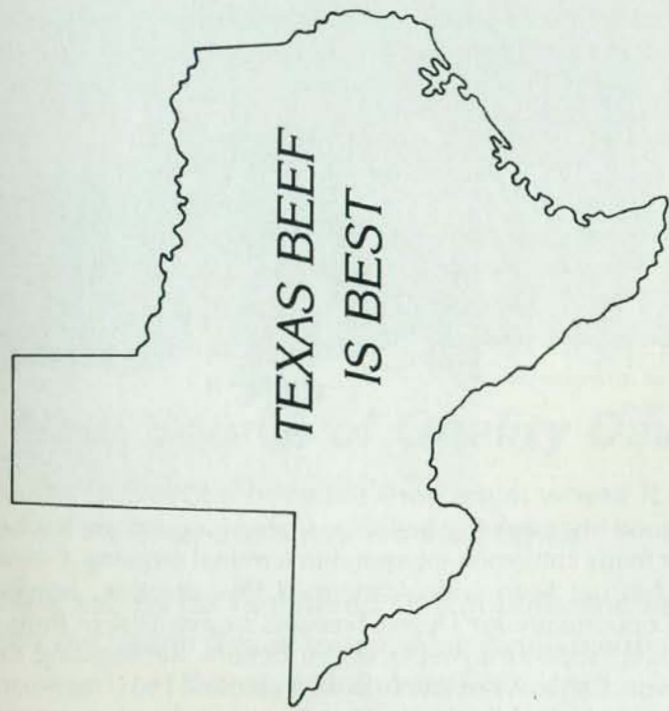
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TEXAS DEVON ASSOCIATION

pend upon such factors as your climate, ranch or farm conditions, management level, market, and breed composition and merit of your current brood cow stock. With such information available, I can recommend specific breed crosses based on knowledge of breed history and characteristics and fortified by personal experience with many breeds in several major geographical areas of the United States. Let me know if I may be of help.

Rather than a rotational cross, smaller producers may find their best crossbreeding method is to buy good first-cross females out of breeds with strong maternal traits (such as Devon-Holstein; Devon-Brahman; Devon-Beefmaster; Devon-Angus) and mate them to bulls of a terminal-cross breed (for example, Blonde d' Aquitaine; Charolais; Gelbvieh; Limousin; Maine-Anjou) noted for extra strong growth impulse and a maximum of red lean meat. Under this system, hybrid vigor is at the maximum possible level. The terminal-cross system has the advantage that it provides for the specialized use of maternal and growth traits to maximize calf weights. However, with a terminal cross, no female offspring would be kept for breeding replacements. So, this system has the drawback that replacement heifers must be produced by retaining sufficient straightbred cows on the farm or ranch to produce first-cross and straightbred female replacements, or replacements must be purchased from another source.

A popular mating scheme in many areas has been to secure Black Baldie (Hereford-Angus) females to mate to a bull of a third breed. In this example, a Devon bull was used and stamped remarkable uniformity on the calves.



Locating good first-cross ( $F_1$ ) heifers available for purchase has been a real handicap for many cattlemen interested in terminal crossing. Consequently, this system has not been widely accepted. This situation, however, does open up an opportunity for Devon breeders to aim part of their efforts at "tailor-breeding" superior  $F_1$  replacement heifers. Recognizing this potential, the Devon Cattle Association at its February 1981 membership and Board meeting approved the implementation of an  $F_1$  registry program that requires the  $F_1$  to have 50 percent full-blood Devon parentage and 50 percent full-blood parentage of another breed. Qualification for the  $F_1$  registry may be satisfied by either documentation by registration certificates for both sides of the pedigree or by visual inspection and approval by a director or designated representative of the Association. Such inspection must be documented in writing and is made at the expense of the participant.

Crossbreeding will not fit every ranch or cattle farm. However, with advanced planning, many cattlemen will find that carefully planned culling, selection, and management will put a sound, profitable crossbreeding program to work for them with little more time and trouble than any other sound, progressive cattle breeding program. And, Devon breeders should continue to aim at the production of superior purebreds for the commercial cattlemen to use in maximizing hybrid vigor with the breed's unique genetic composition.

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**If you would like to be listed on the Red Devon USA Breeder's List, contact the Red Devon USA office at (229) 516-0394 or visit [www.reddevonusa.com](http://www.reddevonusa.com) for an application.**

# Feeling trapped???



Churchill

Even with the great Devon genetics available in the U.S., many of us have found ourselves boxed in at breeding time. If you're one of those, maybe this is the time to look outside the box.



Highwayman



TDA7

Look at Thistle Hill...the home of pure traditional English Devon genetics in the America! We've spent the last 10 years in England...selecting the finest pure traditional Devon available from the pastures of Cornwall, Somerset and Devon.



TDA21

Scores of mating there; the embryos implanted here. The results have been dramatic and we invite you to come and see for yourselves!



TDA23

Thistle Hill is a fourth generation farm that has placed Devon in leading herds from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico...in every state east of the Mississippi!



TDA20

The results when you add English genetics to your herd are immediate and dramatic. The results can be seen on our Virginia pastures.



D168

So if you're ready to climb out of the box visit Thistle Hill. The English are here!



X2a

# Thistle Hill Farm

*...doing what comes naturally*

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# The Legendary Sires from Lakota Ranch



## LAKOTA'S KING HENRY A176

Reg# USDM44104 DNA# DCA 1191

bwt +1 wwt +25 ywt +45

Avg days to finish 680

\$35 / Straw for purebred use



## LAKOTA'S RED DUDE A113

Reg# USA203 DNA# NC 43898

bwt -4 wwt +20 ywt +40

Avg days to finish 714

\$35 / Straw for purebred use



## LAKOTA'S BUCKEYE P60

Reg# USDM22126 DNA# DCA 18

bwt -6 wwt +22 ywt +36

Avg days to finish 695

\$35 a straw



## LAKOTA'S H48

Reg# USDM21991 DNA# DCA 272

Homozygous polled A2 / A2

bwt -6 wwt +14 ywt +20

Avg days to finish 724

\$50 a straw

# www.Lakotareddevons.com