



The DCCT Newsletter

Bermuda is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

By Matthew Price

How does your pasture look? Are you prepared for HEAT and drought? What is your plan if we have another summer like 2016? Can you keep your cows grazing fresh forage in July and August? In 2016 I decided to work a field along our creek bottom. It was early May, I needed hay, so I plowed, disked, packed, and thought, "now what?" I was turned on to Laredo Bermuda for hay and pasture, so I applied seed at 12 lbs/acre, then ran a cultipacker over the field to firmly plant the seed at 1/4 inch deep. Then I watched the field of rich loamy soil turn to a thick green carpet in a matter of 3 weeks. I waited for two days of rain, and as the seed had already emerged, I spread 300 pounds of 19-19-19 fertilizer over the crop. Over the next month I watched a once grown-up field turn to a cash crop. The field grew so fast that the agronomist at CO-OP said I needed to mow it or graze it before cutting for hay. Doing this helps spread the stand, and create a deeper root structure. By late June I was making hay, and lots of it. From June till September the new stand produced more hay tonnage/acre than anything I had ever planted, even during drought conditions. Naturally, I couldn't wait to plant more this year!

Having Laredo Bermuda in your rotational grazing plan can be your ace in the hole. Cows pack on pounds due to its high nutritional value and they have a great pasture during the summer heat. It is a huge advantage to see your cattle in great body condition, even in a time of drought. As cooler weather arrives it's better to leave the forage at 6-8 inches tall to give roots protection and allow them to pull food from the plant during winter. After the first frost the Bermuda goes dormant. To prevent unwanted weeds, some may choose to spray glyphosate on dormant Bermuda. A more natural method is to mow off winter growth in mid-April to allow Bermuda to have a great start in May. Do your research and see if Laredo Bermuda is something right for your farm.

Your Club Representatives:

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dcct.mkchaney@gmail.com

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dcct.samdavis@gmail.com

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CLUB BANNER DESIGNED - VOTED ON - AND ORDERED!



Most of the discussion in the Board Room of the DCCT this month has been around the banner and other promotional products. The banner was approved by majority vote from the online FB group membership and two 3' x 7' banners have been ordered. Once the banners arrive and are inspected, it is likely we can offer banners of any size to interested members. The two ordered banners will be free for members to use on a first-come, first-served basis. A refundable deposit and shipping costs are required to borrow the banners to display at your Dexter functions. There will be information in next month's newsletter about ordering your own, if you prefer.

Dexter Cattle Club of Tennessee



CLUB APPAREL UPDATE

In an effort to find the best quality and most affordable option for our members, the Board of Directors is still negotiating with various companies to bring you Club caps, T-shirts, and other Club Apparel . . . stay tuned!

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

USDA 840 TAGS

USDA 840 Tags are becoming the only acceptable Official ID to cross into many states. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, RFD, visual tags, and different colors. If they fall or get ripped out, the solution (if animals are registered with a Dexter Registry and identified by their 840 tag), is to let the registrar know the new number and request an update of the registration records. 840 tags are easy to put in, do not fade, but most important is each animal has a different ID, unlike tattoos.



USDA 840 Tags Official ID



USDA 840 Tags can be ordered through many companies such as Valley Vet, PBS Animal Health, etc. You will need a Premise ID from your State Ag. Dept.

*** Check with YOUR State Ag. Dept and your State Veterinarian. You might be able to get some 840 tags for free! ***

TN Dept of AG - 615-837-5120

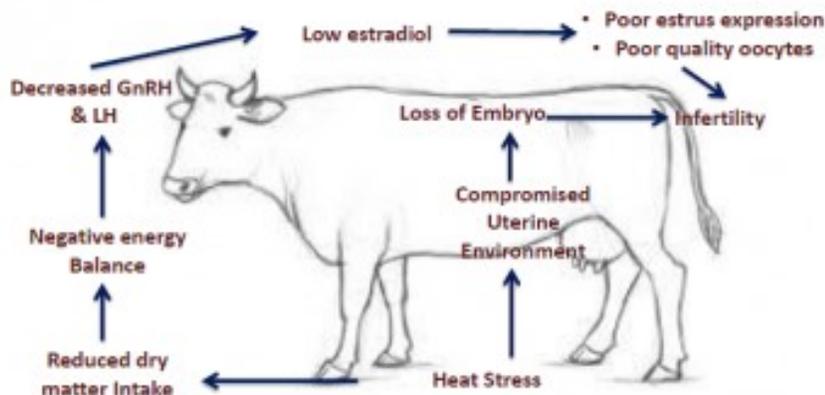
HERD HEALTH



HEAT STRESS

Heat can have an affect on us all, but do you know the seven main consequences of Heat Stress in our cattle?

1. Lung & Blood: Breathing increases to reduce the body temperature, which decreases the concentration of sodium bicarbonate in the blood.
2. Skin & Sweat: High production of sweat to cool the body by evaporation, causes the loss of sodium, potassium, and bicarbonate.
3. Saliva & Ingestion: High loss of saliva, low rumen activity, and reduced ingestion causes acidosis in the rumen.
4. Feet: Increased risk of laminitis and lameness.
5. Milk: Milk production decreases, causing an increased risk of mastitis.
6. Liver & Urine: High loss of sodium and bicarbonate in urine affecting the pH of the blood, resulting in stressed kidney function.
7. Ovary and Uterus: Negative impact on reproduction/fertility. Possibility of embryonic death resulting in an aborted fetus.



Heat Stress Is a Veterinary Emergency!

- Call your Vet.
- Start gradual cool down ASAP: cold hose, shade, and fans. Cooling TOO fast can be disastrous (aka fatal).
- Banamine: It may be too late, but if you are dealing with a pregnant cow, a shot of Rx Banamine may help save the life of a fetus.
- Cool water with electrolytes: If she won't drink, you may have to tube her. Be prepared.
- Standing in water or mud also helps cool the animal.
- Fly Spray: an animal combating flies during early signs of heat stress will deteriorate rapidly.
- Prevention! Have shaded areas with air circulation available at all times!

SIGNS OF

HEAT STRESS

- ◆ Decreased activity
- ◆ Animals seeking shade
- ◆ Refusal to lie down
- ◆ Increased respiration
- ◆ Open mouth panting
- ◆ Sweating
- ◆ Excessive drooling
- ◆ Reduced Appetite
- ◆ Agitation
- ◆ Restlessness

The most severe heat stress occurs when both ambient temperatures and relative humidity are high and night temperatures do not decrease sufficiently to allow cows to dissipate their body heat.

EVENTS & SUCH

MAY

12-13 - Mansfield, Ohio

Ohio Valley Dexter Breeders Show & Sale
Ohiovalleydexters.weebly.com

12 - Mansfield, Ohio

At the OVDDBA event
PDCA Annual General Meeting

JUNE

10 - Tellico Plains, TN

At the Chaney Dexter Cattle Farm
Farm Tour, USDA Program Summary and
Informal Membership Gathering!
Email Kathy or Mark for info & RSVP.
Dcct.mkchaney@gmail.com

15-18 - Salina, Kansas

Salina County Fairgrounds
ADCA Annual General Meeting, Show & Sale

24 - Savannah, TN

At Stay N' Put Farm - Educational Farm Day!

- Poultry & Goats
- Chicken Tractors & Hoop Houses
- Multi Species Rotation on Pastures
- Family Garden/ Produce & Production
- And of course - Dexter Cattle!

Email Eliena for more info & RSVP
eliena@msn.com

JULY

1 - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

Please visit website to renew online using Pay-Pal, or mail your check payable to DCCT to Club Secretary, Cathy Aller at 5455 Palestine Rd, Henry, TN 38231. Questions: dcct.secretary@gmail.com

29- Cumberland Furnace, TN

At Red Hill Dexter Farm - Educational Farm Day. Speaker on Feed & Minerals, rotational grazing, and Dexter visiting! Email Dwight for info/RSVP: dwighthambley@yahoo.com

AUGUST

1- Entry Deadline for the Wilson City Fair Lebanon, TN. Classes are listed in this newsletter. Our Annual Membership Meeting will be AT this show on August 21, 2017.

Can I buy just any hay for my cattle?

By Matthew Price

- ◆ When purchasing hay, it's a good idea to see the field the hay is coming from. Ask when it was harvested.
- ◆ Always view the hay before you buy it. Ask if it has been tested for nutritional value of protein and fiber content. A knowledgeable seller knows what they are selling. Many hay companies that sell on a large regional scale can tell you the quality of their hay by having forage test done. For the buyer, this analysis could prevent the over-feeding of unneeded supplement feeding during the winter months. Many horse haymakers know high-end breeders will only buy tested hay. If I were selling to breeders, I know that I would want to provide a nutritional analysis to market my product.
- ◆ Grab the inner core and smell it. Is it sweet? Is there a shine to it when you see it in the sunlight?
- ◆ Check the color. Is it green and gold, or is it brown and tan? Older hay will be more brown, and have a flatter sun-bleached color to it. It doesn't necessarily mean the nutritional value is poor, but it is something to look for.
- ◆ How long has it been stored? Has it been in the rain? Is there any visible mold present? Be careful and watch for moldy hay, especially in hay that may include a sorghum variety grass. Mold on this type of hay can produce a prussic acid that can be toxic to your cattle.
- ◆ What type of wrap is used? Synthetic, sisal, or net? If you feed with strings you want natural twine. Synthetic Twine has been know to cause death in cattle. Their rumen can not digest the string.
- ◆ When in doubt, do without, and ask yourself . . . *If I were a cow would I eat this?*

DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 1: Deadline to have your sale animal or your activity listed in the June DCCT Newsletter!



*****Remember to sign up for June Activities*****

JULY 1: Make sure you renew your membership in the DCCT! Don't miss a thing!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Kevin Wiles, Marie Hamerstone,
the Brian Manley Family, and Joe McCall!**

As of 05/09/17 the Dexter Cattle Club of Tennessee has:
35 Founding Family Memberships - 70 Voting Members
18 Founding Individual Memberships - 18 Voting Members
4 Family Memberships - 8 Voting Members
15 Individual Memberships - 15 Voting Members
111 Voting Members Strong in our Second Month!

DCCT Members Sale Page



Mike Mendenhall - Legacy Bull
mendenhallfarm@gmail.com



Cathy Aller - Homoz Polled Bull
cathyaller@peoplestel.net



Cathy Aller - Homoz Polled Bull
cathyaller@peoplestel.net



Cindy Fox - Polled Bull
kfox400121@aol.com



Cindy Fox - Polled Bull
kfox400121@aol.com



Kathy Chaney - Bred Dun Cow
chaneysdexters@gmail.com



Ruth Campagna - Red A2 polled Bull
racamp@tampabay.rr.com



Kevin Wiles - ENTIRE HERD
SALE - Make offer!
kwiles@sitedevservices.com

Melissa Sterling - A2 Polled Bull
hiddenhollowtn@gmail.com



Kevin Wiles - Dun Bull
kwiles@sitedevservices.com



Sally Coad - A2 Polled Cow
freedomfarmdexters@gmail.com



Sally Coad - A2 Polled Cow
freedomfarmdexters@gmail.com



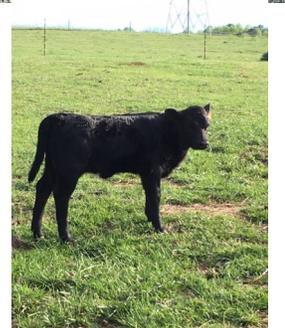
Kevin Wiles - A2 Polled Bull
kwiles@sitedevservices.com



Maria Legler - Black Polled Heifer
cleglermaria@gmail.com



Fran Ashbrook - Black Polled A2 Heifer
sfrollingacresfarm@gmail.com
3 polled heifers available !



Wilson County, TN - Lebanon, TN

2017 Dexter Cattle Show

Monday, August 21, 2017 - 5:00 p.m. Large Animal Livestock Barn (Bldg. W)

ENTRY FEE \$5 per class. ENTRY DEADLINE August 1, 2017

Livestock Exhibitors transporting livestock enter at the TN Blvd. Entrance & follow the signs to the Large Animal Barn (Bldg. W). No straw bedding allowed.

Information & Entries: Sally Coad: 865-399-8664 or 865-213-0590; dcct.president@gmail.com

DEXTER SHOW CLASSES

1. Jr. Weanling Heifer - born Feb. 1, 2017 or after
2. Sr. Weanling Heifer - born Nov. 1, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017
3. Young Heifer - born Aug. 1 – Oct. 31, 2016
4. Late Yearling Heifer - born May 1 – July 31, 2016
5. Early Yearling Heifer - born Feb. 1 - Apr. 30, 2016
6. Senior Heifer - born Aug. 1, 2015 – Jan. 30, 2016
7. Young Cow – born Aug. 1, 2014 – July 31, 2015
8. Cow/Calf Class - Any cow with her natural unweaned calf at side (Calf born no earlier than Feb. 1, 2017)
 - ***Champion Female (Rosette, Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy)**
 - ***Reserve Champion Female (Rosette, Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy)**
9. Bull Calf under 6 Months - born Feb. 1, 2017 or after
10. Bull Calf 6 – 12 Months - born Aug. 1, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017
 - ***Champion Bull (Rosette, Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy)**
 - ***Reserve Champion Male (Rosette, Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy)**
11. Young Prospect Steer - born Aug. 1, 2016 or After
12. Market Steer - born Aug. 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016
 - ***Champion Steer (Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy plus Premium Sponsored Payout)**
 - ***Reserve Champion Steer (Sponsored Banner and Sponsored Trophy, plus Premium Sponsored Payout)**

RULES

- ◆ Dexter Cattle may arrive as early as Sunday Evening the 20th and may stay overnight the 21st.
 - ◆ All Dexter Cattle **MUST** be in place and checked in by 3pm, Monday the 21st
 - ◆ All Dexter Cattle **MUST** be removed by Tuesday the 22nd EARLY AM.
 - ◆ **Tennessee Health Requirements apply to all cattle.**
 - ◆ Unruly animals may be excused from the show ring by the Judge or Show Chairman.
 - ◆ Show cattle should be on grounds two hours before show time.
 - ◆ Trucks and trailers shall park in designated areas after unloading.
 - ◆ All cattle must be registered with their respective breed association or registry.
 - ◆ Livestock trailers should enter through the Tennessee Blvd. entrance.
 - ◆ All Livestock Exhibitors* and Drivers of vehicles transporting livestock will be admitted **FREE**.
- *An Exhibitor is defined as the person who attends the animal in the show ring. All others **must** pay regular Fair Admission.

Announcements made the night of the event supersede all previous announcements.