



The DCCT Newsletter

This month *The DCCT Newsletter* was written by your Club representatives. A good and helpful practice for all Dexter breeders, raisers, sellers, and buyers is to use various types of record keeping. As we explore this subject through the end of the year, we hope you gain ideas that will benefit your Dexter business.

Genetic Testing Results Benefit You!

By Melissa Templeton Sterling, Mid-Tennessee Regional Representative and Co-Owner of Hidden Hollow Farm, and Cathy Aller, Secretary, and Co-Owner of Hidden Springs Farm.

Accurate data collection is the key to having good information for decisions you make about future breeding and selling. Below are some of the most common genetic tests chosen by Dexter breeders. Learn more about genetic testing by visiting UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/> or Texas A & M University Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/vibs/service-labs>. UC Davis offers testing discounts for ADCA, Legacy, and PDCA memberships. See the website of the registries you use for their requirements for registration as some genetic tests may be prerequisites for registering.

Parentage Testing

Parentage testing identifies a calf's parents through its DNA, and it allows for dam and sire to be correctly linked to the calf. If using

multiple herd sires, or for those using AI, knowing who the sire is can be uncertain. Confirming the sire assists in determining future breeding decisions, and the results can be used to accurately register and advertise your animals. By mailing some tail hairs to a testing agency such as UC Davis or Texas A & M University, the hairs can be used to accurately identify both parents. Both sire and dam must be genotyped and on file at the lab you choose to send calf hairs in order to parentage verify.

A2 Milk Protein Testing

The solids that are found in cow's milk are composed of fat, protein, lactose, and minerals. Casein is the largest group of proteins in milk. Most milk contains both A1 and A2 beta-casein, but A2/A2 milk contains only A2 beta-casein. A2/A2 is the term used to indicate both the dam and the sire contributed an A2 gene to the calf.

A2/A2 milk is currently being marketed as a healthier choice with claims of several health benefits including easier digestion for people who are lactose intolerant. Not all scientists agree with these claims and research is still being conducted. The A1 vs. A2 debate is still up in the air but knowing the result of this test allows you to determine how to move forward with your calf when it comes to breeding, advertising, and selling. Continued on page 2.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Record Keeping:

Genetic Testing
The Bill of Sale

Herd Health-Fall Calving and Weaning

DCCT Members Helped Hurricane Harvey Victims!

Events and Membership

Club Apparel

Fair News
Hawkins County Fair-What Are We Doing to Promote the Dexter Breed?
TN Valley Fair Show Results for DCCT Members



UC Davis VGL offers genetic tests specific to Dexter Cattle

Color: Dun coat color is a dilution of black pigment caused by a recessive mutation in a gene. The hair color is diluted from black to shades of dark brown and golden. Results from UC Davis are reported as:

- * B/B: Animal does not have the Dun mutation
- * B/b: Animal carries one copy of the Dun mutation. Color is not diluted.
- * b/b: Animal is homozygous for the Dun mutation.

Reference: Berryere TG, SM Schmutz, RJ Schimpf et al. TYRP1 is associated with dun coat colour in Dexter cattle or how now brown cow? Animal Genetics 34: 169-175, 2003..

Extension: One gene contributing to black and red coat color is referred to as Extension at UC Davis. The three alleles (forms) of this gene are dominant black (ED—animals are jet black), Wild type (E+—produces reddish brown to brownish black with a tan ring around the muzzle), and recessive red (e—2 copies result in a red coat). Results are reported as:

- * ED/ED: Dominant black, animal cannot produce red offspring
- * ED/E+: Dominant black, carrier of red
- * ED/e: Dominant black, carrier of red
- * E+/E+: red
- * E+/e: red
- * e/e: red

Chondrodysplasia, also known as bulldog dwarfism, is a mutation that can cause defective bone growth resulting in short legged, heavy bodied animals. It is important to test for this because if two carrier animals mate, the statistics indicate that one in four calves would be a “Bulldog” calf— non-viable, deformed and typically born dead or aborted early on in pregnancy. It is recommended that Dexters be tested, but if both parents were tested and found to be Chondro-free, there is no need for testing as long as the calf is parentage verified and it will be classified as a non-carrier by obligate. Your calf’s Chondro status is something prospective buyers may want to know. Some Dexter breeders exclude Chondro carriers from their herd, and others intentionally breed for “shorties” (Chondro carriers). Raising short-legged Dexters (Chondro carriers) can be very rewarding, but requires paying strict attention to Chondrodysplasia test results in order to completely avoid the chances of having a “Bulldog” Calf. Chondrodysplasia has been in the Dexter breed since the very start.

Pulmonary Hypoplasia with Anasarca (PHA) is a genetic defect that leads to a dangerous accumulation of fluids within the cow and fetal sac and results in the birth of a dead calf with incomplete lung development—sometimes needing a C-Section to remove. Testing gives the breeder the knowledge of his animals’ genetic status so that he/she can make appropriate decisions on breeding and even culling an animal to eliminate the future possibility of having PHA in the herd. As with Chondro, if both parents were tested and found to be PHA-free, there is no need for testing if the calf is parentage verified. The calf is said to be a non-carrier by obligate. Being a PHA carrier does not affect the quality of the Dexter beef and is safe to consume and currently that seems to be the only market for those testing as a PHA carrier. PHA was introduced into the Dexter Breed by the European upgrading program many years ago and was not a part of the original Dexter.

Polled vs Horned

The trait of a calf being polled (born without the genetics to ever grow horns) or the trait of having horns is determined by one pair of genes—one gene from the dam and the other from the sire. The polled gene is dominant to the horned gene. If an animal has two polled genes, it is homozygous polled. One polled and one horned gene makes the calf heterozygous polled, and the calf will have no horns. If the calf is heterozygous polled it may pass either the polled or horned gene on to its offspring. The only time an animal will be horned is when it receives two horned genes. Some Dexter buyers prefer to have no horns, so offering a polled—especially a homozygous polled—animal for sale may be very attractive to them. Other breeders admire the look of horns. It’s a personal preference, but an important trait to know.

Your genetic testing records may be kept on a spreadsheet, index card, poster board, sticky notes stuck to registration papers, etc. Having all genetic data for your herd in one document enables you to see test information without going through a file folder for each cow, and it will simplify your records in order to make a proper bill of sale, or simply to make proper and informed breeding or culling decisions.

Livestock Bill of Sale

By Melissa Templeton Sterling, Mid-Tennessee Regional Representative and Co-Owner of Hidden Hollow Farm.

When you have negotiated your best price and your buyer's truck and livestock trailer pull in the driveway of your farm, will you be ready with a professional looking bill of sale?

Having a bill of sale contract helps to define your rights and responsibilities and those of the buyer. It helps protect you and the buyer by defining the agreement along with what options might be included. It's essential for tax purposes, and it is more than just a courtesy. It's an important record for you and the buyer.

You can easily write or type a form that you could copy and use for every sale. Printing your name and address, the name of your farm, and the logo of the registry of which you are a member adds a nice touch. Make it your own design. You could include the logo of the Dexter Cattle Club of Tennessee, since you are a member!

It's up to you, but all bills of sale usually include:

- ◇ Date of transaction
- ◇ Buyer and seller names with addresses
- ◇ Buyer and seller signatures and date
- ◇ Dollar value of transaction – payment terms—less any down payment already made
- ◇ Animal identification – as much detailed information as possible should be noted (date of birth, gender, breed, color, tag number/tattoo)
- ◇ Registry papers
- ◇ Health certificate from your veterinarian if the animal is traveling out-of-state
- ◇ A copy for the buyer
- ◇ A copy for the seller

Other options to consider:

- ◇ Details of delivery or pickup of animal, although this would also be covered in advance
- ◇ Vaccination and breeding records
- ◇ Proof of pregnancy and expected due date, if applicable. BioTracking, one of our sponsors, can help you with that. Get details here: <http://www.biotracking.com/beef>
- ◇ Transfer of animal's registration to the buyer
- ◇ Genetic testing results
- ◇ Additional items such as what the animal has been eating, etc.
- ◇ Consider paying your buyers membership into the DCCT!
- ◇ Special terms or guarantees, such as:
 - ◆ The purchase price is due and payable in full prior to the release of the animal.
 - ◆ All livestock sold "as is."
 - ◆ All sales are final.

A model bill of sale form is provided for you on the next page. Add your own personal touches to it, and best wishes for selling your Dexters!



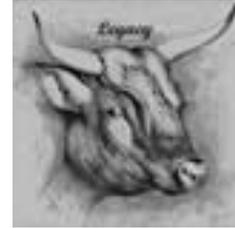


Bill of Sale

Brown Dexter Farm

John Brown
1234 Brown Farm Road
Dexterville, TN zip
Dexter Cattle Club

of Tennessee



I, John Brown (Owner/Manager), of Brown Dexter Farm,
On October 11, 2017, have sold the following animal:

Brown Dexter Farm Buster

ADCA #: 12345—a purebred Dexter Bull—for \$3000,
Dun, homozygous polled, A2/A2, born 6/23/16 -- RFID # 840 123 123 01234

To: Joe Black
1234 Black Farm Road
Irishville, TN zip

Livestock sold as is. All sales are final.

Included: registry papers and ADCA transfer of animal; health certificate (for out-of-state buyers);
UC Davis genetic test results; vaccination, and other health records; halter.

The purchase price is due and payable in full prior to release of the animal
from Brown Dexter Farm custody.

Amount due: \$3,000.00 for purchase of one ADCA registered Dexter Bull.
Less Down Payment: \$750.00
Total Amount Due: \$2,250.00

Buyer	Date	Seller	Date

Dexter Cattle for Sale!

Visit the DCCT website to see photos and information about Dexters for sale:

<http://www.dextercattleclub.com/sale-page>

HERD HEALTH

Health Care advice given here or anywhere in this publication is not to replace care by a licensed veterinarian. Always call your vet if your animals show signs of illness!

Is It Calving Season on Your Farm, or Is It Weaning Season?

By Sam Davis, Middle Tennessee Regional Representative and co-owner of The Refuge Farm

Whether you prefer a particular season for calving, with weaning perhaps six months later, or if you simply choose year around calving, it's a personal choice for you. I prefer the fall season for calving simply from my personal experiences and observations, including our weather in Middle Tennessee. I find it less stressful to finish calving in only 30-60 days, if possible. No matter what you choose, there can always be an unknown factor that arises that makes calving and weaning difficult to control.

For those who choose spring calving, its time to consider weaning. In my opinion, fenceline weaning is as stress-free as it gets. It helps to do advanced planning regarding the location of calving so the dam can be easily moved to an adjacent pasture when its time to wean. Consider fencing modifications that will make this easy. At weaning, the mother and calf are separated by a fence, yet she can see the calf, hear it, and smell it, and she knows it is okay. It is important to have a strong fence between them, and to have other cows in both pastures to help ease the separation.

Weaning is more stressful for the calf than it is for the dam, and it can lead to the following conditions, especially when cow and calf are separated out of sight of one another:

- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Poor intake of food and water can lead to weight loss and weakened immunity
- ◆ A weakened immune system can cause disease

This is not a good way for the calf to transition into life away from the dam and on to adulthood. In Tennessee we are beginning to experience a greater variance in day and night temperatures which can cause stress within itself, but when added to a compromised immune system it can quickly lead to serious illness and even death. Stress is the leading cause of pneumonia and any method of reducing stress during and after weaning is desirable as it promotes good health and performance of the calf.

A study of the fenceline method of weaning shows calves spent less time vocalizing, ate

more, and had a greater weight gain than those separated completely all through the ten-week period of the study.

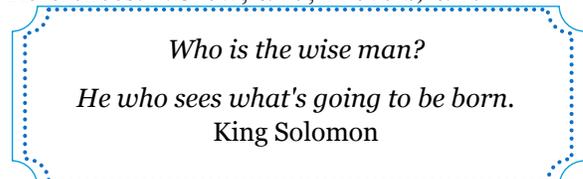
Haptoglobin, an indicator of stress, is often found in the blood of cows following stressful situations. Research in Michigan showed haptoglobin was found to be much lower in calves weaned by the fenceline method compared to abrupt complete separation, thus it is a less stressful time for both cattle and their owners during weaning.

I prefer calving in pastures, and now that my fall calves are about due, my primary focus includes:

- ◆ Securing a smaller pasture for calving where cows and their calves can be close to my barn, and where I can watch them closely.
- ◆ Ensuring fencing and pasture are in good shape.
- ◆ Checking early for adequate, but not excessive, Body Condition Scoring of pregnant cows. Good body conditioning for the cow promotes easier delivery.
- ◆ Ensuring calves are nursing and progressing properly within their first hours on the ground.

Whatever your preferred calving season and weaning method, I want to wish you the very best of luck with your breeding, calving, and weaning program!

References: *iGrow*, 8/17; *Drovers*, 8/17



Who is the wise man?

*He who sees what's going to be born.
King Solomon*

DCCT Members Helped Hurricane Harvey Victims!

By Cathy Aller, DCCT Secretary, as told to her by Dwight and Shannon Hambley, owners of Red Hill Dexter Farm. Dwight is our DCCT Western TN regional representative.

Hurricane Harvey—called “the fiercest hurricane to hit the US in more than a decade,” by Time.com made landfall in Texas on August 25. Two weeks later, with a truck and trailer full of animal and human supplies, Dwight, and his friend Mike, drove straight through to the Galveston, TX fair grounds where they off-loaded donated supplies, met veterinarian Kris Anderson, and many others who were helping her match people in need with the supplies they brought. Dwight and Mike stopped by the ocean, ate, rested a bit, then headed back to TN, arriving on Saturday afternoon. It was a very quick trip!

Some people gave money to church organizations or the Red Cross to help Harvey victims, but what happened be-



Dwight packs for trip to Galveston..

fore Dwight’s overnight mission that enabled him to deliver over 4000 pounds of animal feed, plus clothing, animal medical supplies, wound cleaner, buckets, thrush meds, halters, diapers, food for people, and cleaning supplies? In Shannon’s words, “I simply asked Dwight why we couldn’t take a load of items to Texas. He said fill the trailer, find a spot, and I’ll take it.”

Shannon called Red Cross and other organizations trying to see who needed help. After being on the phone for an entire day and asking on the DCCT Facebook page if anyone had contacts in the Houston area, Lisa Sabo (our out-of-state regional representative) put Shannon in contact with Kris Anderson, a mobile vet who had sent her animals out of harm’s way, but stayed behind to help others. She was working with a knee issue, and insisted on helping. As a result of Shannon’s phone conversations with Dr. Kris and her assistants, they wrote a needs list, hay and thrush meds being a huge need.

Shannon reports they loaded a trailer and her truck to the maximum the truck could pull. Contributors included DCCT members Randy Thompson, Kathy and Mark Chaney, Kay and Sam Davis, Lisa Sabo, and Melissa Templeton Sterling, along with friends from the hospital where Shannon is an ICU nurse, and other friends and family members. Orders to the feed shop, Diamond H Farm and Feed Supply, and Tractor Supply, received 10% discounts when it was known the supplies were going to Harvey victims

The mission to Texas helped someone else . . . A few years ago, Mike, the young man who went with Dwight, was hit by some teen party goers and left in a ditch to die. A police officer found him, and Mike was Life-Flighted to Vanderbilt Hospital where his life was saved but a leg was taken. Mike had no insurance, but it was Shannon to the rescue! Fund raising and yard sales, and Shannon’s connections helped. She even persuaded an organization to donate a prosthetic leg! The trip to Texas was a good experience for Mike. It gave him a chance to see others in need, and it provided a way for him to help other people.

Shannon also put an ad in a Dexter Facebook page asking for hay to be delivered for animals whose grass was under water. David and Devin Jones from Bar None Dexters stepped up and delivered one-hundred bales of hay to the Galveston fair grounds.

Recipients of the supplies were undoubtedly appreciative. Shannon concludes by sharing, “We were going to go to FL to help those hurt by Hurricane Irma, but Dwight’s credit card info was stolen in Texas.” With over \$2000 in dispute, they were unable to make a trip to Florida, but I have a feeling Shannon is in the market for a bigger truck so she’ll be ready to meet needs when the next disaster strikes! The Hambleys are quick to say it took many others to make this happen. All deserve appreciation!



Dwight (second from left), Mike in Alabama shirt, and Dr. Kris with leg brace.

EVENTS & SUCH

OCTOBER

13-14 - MDBA Dexter Show & Sale, Marshfield, MO (ADCA members and ADCA registered animals only)

16 - Deadline for applying for TAEP cost share. <http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/topic/ag-farms-enhancement>

TAEP is a cost share program for Tennessee's Agricultural community. Participation allows producers to maximize farm profits, adapt to changing market situations, improve operation safety, increase farm efficiency and make a positive economic impact in their communities.

Programs include: [Genetics](#), [Livestock Equipment](#), [Livestock Working Facility Cover](#), [Hay Storage](#), [Livestock Feed Storage](#), [Grain Storage](#), [Producer Diversification](#), and [Poultry Grower](#).



OPEN ENROLLMENT IN A.I. CLINIC

The DCCT A.I. Clinic held on July 22 at Freedom Farms was such a big success we will be scheduling a second one this fall. There is a maximum of 20 participants, and all participants must be DCCT members.

This is not just a lecture, but a hands-on opportunity to learn the art and science of A.I. on cattle. A maximum of twenty participants will give everyone the chance for one-on-one attention and experience.

Pricing is \$115 per person, and includes a catered lunch! Instruction begins at 9 a.m.

Location: Freedom Farms
320 Buckner Rd.
Philadelphia, TN 37846

Contact Sally at dcct.president@gmail.com

The date will be scheduled after
15 participants sign up.



March 24, 27, 29, 31: Advanced Master Beef Producer class, University of TN. Go to <https://ag.tennessee.edu/AnimalScience/Lists/Calendar/DispForm.aspx?ID=462>
Also consult your local TN Extension office for details in your area of TN. Information, price, and a registration form are also at <http://www.dextercattleclub.com/events-happenings>. Registration is due by February 28, 2018.



New Styles of Club Apparel Available!

By Kathy Chaney, Eastern Tennessee Regional Representative and co-owner of the Chaney Dexter Cattle Farm.

Lynchburg T-Shirt Co. will print shirts monthly or when 20 orders are received. Go to the Club website and order today! <http://www.dextercattleclub.com/club-apparel>

All T-Shirts come in solid colors of red, white, or grey. Price ranges are given below. Prices depend on sizes ordered.

Current styles available:

- * **Short Sleeve T-Shirt** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest and the full size logo on the back. Cost is \$15 - \$19, and comes in sizes Youth through 4x.
- * **Hooded Sweat Shirt** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest and the full size logo on the back. Cost is \$21 - \$24, and comes in sizes Small through 3x.
- * **Hooded Full-Zip Sweat Shirt** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest and the full size logo on the back. Cost is \$24-\$32, and comes in sizes Small through 3x.
- * **Polo Shirt** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest. Cost is \$21 - \$24, and comes in sizes Small through 3x.
- * **Tank Top** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest and the full size DCCT logo on the back. Cost is \$17 - \$20, and comes in sizes Small through 3x.
- * **Women's Short-Sleeve V-Neck** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest. Cost is \$17 - \$20, and comes in sizes Small through 3x.
- * **Sweatshirt** comes with small DCCT logo on the front left chest. Cost is \$18- \$24, and comes in sizes Small through 4x.
- * **Shipping Charge:** All T-Shirts have a standard \$3 flat rate charge each, with the exception of the hooded sweat shirts that require an additional \$2 in shipping.

We are still in need of an embroiderer for caps. If any Club members know of someone, please contact Mark Chaney at dcct.mkchaney@gmail.com



What Are We Doing to Promote the Dexter Breed?

By Matthew Price, Club Vice-President and Owner of Square P Farm.

In early September we set up a DCCT booth at the inaugural Hawkins County Fair in Tennessee. Hawkins County had *never* had a county fair until this September!

We knew there was no cost for anyone to set up a booth at the fair, but beyond that, we didn't really know what to expect from the fair, the booth, or even the show. What we found was a great partnership opportunity with the people of Hope Community Church of East TN who have developed a camp for summer programs for children and others. The camp is named Camp Hope, and each summer it serves about 1000 children from ages 7-18 years of age—not all there at the same time! Children can sign up for a week-long camp experience on the beautiful 150 acre camp in the hills of Eastern TN for the cost of . . . NOTHING! It's free!

Land for Camp Hope was donated to Hope Church, and the church developed the land to serve the people of the area in a variety of ways. Hope Church decided to use the campgrounds for the location of the Hawkins County Fair. For an admission price to the two-day fair, they charged NOTHING!

The church worked with area businesses, clubs, and organizations to sponsor the fair that was attended by about 4000 people. The event featured everything either agricultural or related to agri-business. Gardening exhibitions and live music made the fair even more inviting. Shows included a tractor show, and shows for chickens, horses, goats, and Dexter Cattle!

We were able to speak to many people with small farms who were looking for a cattle breed that suited their operation. Many people we talked with had never heard of Dexters. We were able to educate the community and show how we as a club are able to



Dexters in the corral at the DCCT booth with Camp Hope children and families visiting.

help those who are searching for the right start. Most of all, we were able to share our love of Dexters with children and families who wanted to learn and be around cattle. This fair was one of the greatest things to happen in our county in a long time.

Camp Hope is in the early growth stage. While the first fair was a success, I can see even greater potential in future fairs. The construction of a 200 foot show barn with arena is underway, and should be ready for next year's fair. Any DCCT member could benefit from this fair. Many members, who sell homemade soaps, honey, candles, milk products, and crafts would be able to sell at this fair. Next fall I would love to see a barn full of Dexters and a booth of all our members who can show the value of our breed in more ways than just beef.

The possibilities are endless for the potential we have as a club with the Hawkins County Fair. Mark your calendars next year, and let's get together and show off!

*Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.*

Henry Ford

