



South Devons

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HE CAUSES THE GRASS TO GROW FOR THE CATTLE, AND VEGETATION FOR THE LABOR OF MAN, SO THAT HE MAY BRING FORTH FOOD FROM THE EARTH



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South Devon Society of South Africa

SOUTH DEVON
BEESTELERSGENOOTSAP VAN S.A. • CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY OF S.A.

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From the **PRESIDENT**

John Miller

I mentioned in our last newsletter that our country was experiencing drought conditions in regions like Natal and in the North and North West. Sadly nothing has changed and this has deteriorated into one of the worst droughts our country has experienced. In some places it is really critical; they have run out of both water and grass, which is frightening. The result of this is that the maize price is climbing and our weaner prices have dropped considerably. Our thoughts are with our fellow farmers who find themselves in these devastating conditions. We continue to hope and pray that the rain is not too far away.

Our 2017 World South Devon Congress and Tour is gathering momentum. We have a lovely tour itinerary planned, starting in Johannesburg and ending in Cape Town. More details will be available next year. This tour is going to be a wonderful opportunity for our International Breeders to visit South Africa and we look forward to being able to show case both our cattle and our country. The tour will take place at the end of April into May of 2017.

I would like to thank my council for their support throughout the year, and special mention needs to be made of our efficient secretary Anna-Marie Viljoen for all her hard work.

I hope that the rains come soon and that 2016 is going to be a good and prosperous year for us all. I would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.





ARRAS BOERDERY

50 JAAR SAAM MET DIE SOUTH DEVONS

Ons boer op die plaas Arras naby Petrus Steyn in die Noord-Oos Vrystaat in 'n gemengde boerdery. Die veld bestaan hoofsaaklik uit suurveld bulte, vleie en marginale lande wat gevestig is met Eragrostis tipe weidings. Gedurende die winter maande is oesreste slegs beskikbaar vir bemerkbare beeste. Bale hooi word gedurende die somer maande gemaak en slegs vir afronding van diere in 'n voerkraalstelsel gebruik.

Ons familie boerdery se betrokkenheid met die South Devon ras strek vanaf 1962, toe PR Wepener snr sy eerste stoetbul, Nagvalk, aangekoop het. Die bekende Das Meinigen Stoet is toe begin. Flip Wepener Snr. sou oor die volgende twee en 'n half dekades verskeie bulle en koeie vanuit Devon (Engeland) invoer. Die stoetery het na jare oorgegaan in 'n kommersiële kudde.

In ons beesboerdery is daar een ononderhandelbare uitgangspunt: South Devon bly ons moederlyn. Ons

produseer speenkalwers en het derhalwe met verskillende rasse kruisteling toegepas, ter wille van heterose. Deur die jare is daar ge-eksperimenteer met 'n paar hooflynrasse, met groot sukses, maar elke keer was die besluit vir die South Devon koei, veral om die volgende redes:

- Temperament
- Moedersinstink
- Melkproduksie
- Aanpasbaarheid

My vroegste herinnering aan South Devon beeste is van my pa en sy werkers wat bulle weeg om hulle skou- en veiling gereed te kry. Juis daar is een van die aanbevelings vir South Devon, nl. temperament. As 'n seuntjie van 10 jaar oud was ek hanteerder van 'n jong bul in die Pretoria skou se veilingsring - 'n bul wat ek self help halter-mak maak het.





Philip en Philru Wepener met hul South Devon koeie in die agtergrond. Die foto is ten tyde van die droogte gedurende laat November 2015 geneem – let op die goeie kondisie van die koeie

1. Temperament

Daar is ander rasse met dieselfde rustige temperament, maar op ons plaas is daar nie nog een wat die ander eienskappe so goed komplimenteer nie. Werk maar net met 'n trop South Devon beeste in 'n kraal en jy sal saamstem. Die trop is rustiger, jou werkers kalmer en die stresvlakke baie laer.

2. Moedersinstink en Melkproduksie

'n South Devon koei mag dalk nie altyd slag gereed wees nie, maar haar kalf sal rondvet wees en sy gaan baie waarskynlik weer dragtig wees. 'n South Devon sorg vir die een wat vir haar kos gee! In Europa is daar dan selfs melkerye wat South Devon koeie as melkbeeste inspan.

3. Aanpasbaarheid

Soos genoem het ons al met verskeie rasse gekruisteel. Party gee effens meer gehardheid, party gee meer vleis, party teel poena kalwers. Die grootste waarde wat sekere rasse toevoeg is sekerlik kalfgemak.

Ons het egter gevind dat ons altyd, nadat 'n sekere eienskap in die kudde gevestig is, weer terugkeer na die suiwer South Devon. Wat op ander plekke werk, is

nie noodwendig by ons beter nie en omgekeerd sal dit verseker ook geld.

In Petrus Steyn, is koue verdraagsaamheid belangriker as hitte verdraagsaamheid. Die South Devon met sy lang hare en digte haarbedekking gedy hier as dit regtig koud word. Gedurende die somer verhaar hulle weer pragtig en hanteer hulle ons hitte puik.

In ons boerdery het die South Devon al sodanig aangepas dat hulle met 'n goeie winterlek op die veld deur die winter gaan. Slegs jong diere en eerste kalf verse loop op oesreste. Die volwasse koeie loop op spaarveld en net in krisistye sal hulle dalk bale kry. Na die winter kalf hierdie koeie gemaklik en maak 'n mooi speenkalf groot.

Ons is almal bewus van die probleme wat ons ras oor die jare ondervind het. Daarvoor alleen kan boekdele geskryf word. Vir ons staan dit egter soos 'n paal bo water. Die South Devon het 'n besliste plek in die Suid-Afrikaanse kudde. 'n Plek wat tans ongelukkig totaal onderbektoon word.

Groete

Philip Wepener
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DROOGTEBESTUUR OP DIE HOËVELD

- Izak Hofmeyer



Steeds word talle van ons voortdurend met die spreekwoordelike broek op die knieë gevang wanneer 'n droë jaar skielik opdaag, om nie eens te praat van die “sewe maer jare” nie. Vir die oorlewing van 'n veeprodusent is dit kardinaal om 'n droogte-oorbruggingstrategie te hê.

Wanneer begin 'n droogte?

'n Droogte, beklemtoon Du Plessis en Van Zyl, begin reeds met die eerste reën wat laat kom. Dan word dit uitgebrei deur die swak opvolgpatroon van die reënbuie en die min reën wat uiteindelik ontvang word. Met die korrekte bestuurs- en moniteringsprogram, is dit meestal reeds in Februarie moontlik om die eerste tekens van 'n naderende droogte te identifiseer. Hoe vroeër daar aanpassings vir 'n droogte gemaak word, hoe kleiner is die impak van die droogte op die veevertakking.

“Die grootste vyand van suksesvolle droogtebestuur,” beklemtoon hulle, “is die hoop dat dit wel volgende week sal reën. Hierdie hoop veroorsaak dat aksieplanne uitgestel word tot op 'n punt waar drastiese optrede nodig is om deur die droogte te kom.”

Nut van 'n voerbank

Volgens 'n bekende afgetrede weidingkundige, dr Neil Tainton, en Gavin Brockett van die konsultasiemaatskappy Intelact SA, is 'n wye verskeidenheid bronne van voer en weiding vir boere op die Hoëveld beskikbaar.

Dit sluit in gebaalde oulandsgras, mieliekuilvoer, mielie-oesreste, weimielies, kikoejoekuilvoer (gewoonlik in plastiek toegedraai), kikoejoestaandehooi of staandehooi van grasse soos langswenkgras en Smutsvinger, rape en Japannese radyse wat in die herfs geplant word vir wintergebruik, verskillende brassica's (nie algemeen nie), verskillende wintergrane soos hawer en rog as wintergroenvoer (veral vir skape) en tef wat gebaal, bewei of ingekuul kan word.

Bom Louw, produksie-adviseur van die Nasionale Wolkwekersvereniging (NWKV) in die Vrystaat en KwaZulu-Natal, sê 'n voordie-hand-liggende oplossing wat seker as 'n voerbank beskou kan word, is 'n ooreenkoms met 'n boer in 'n ander streek dat jou vee in moeilike tye daarheen sal gaan.

Wat nie te betwyfel is nie, beklemtoon Du Plessis en Van Zyl, is dat dit nie goedkoop is om 'n droogte die hoof te bied nie. Daarom is dit belangrik om so vroeg as moontlik die waarskynlikheid van 'n droogte te identifiseer en proaktief op te tree. Proaktiewe vermindering van vee lei daartoe dat diere voor die groot stormloop verkoop word en gevolglik kan hoër pryse gerealiseer word.

Ruvoerbesikbaarheid is die belangrikste faktor – selfs baie swak gehalte ruvoer is beter as geen ruvoer. Die voedingswaarde van swak ruvoer kan aangevul word, al is dit teen 'n prys.

Droogtestrategieë

Sover moontlik moet diere op die veld gehou word en die normale oorwinteringstrategie met lekke moet eers gevolg word, stel Du Plessis en Van Zyl voor. Wanneer die smaaklike grasse uitgewei is, moet oorgeslaan word na 'n 50% winterlek wat die benutting van die onsmaklike en minder verteerbare grasse sal bevorder.

Hou die diere se kondisie fyn dop en skakel oor na die oorlewingstrategieë sodra die diere se kondisie na 'n kondisiepunt van twee gedaal het.

Koeie en ooie met kalwers en lammers se kondisie moet veral fyn dopgehou word. Sodra hul kondisie begin afneem, moet die kalwers en lammers gespeen word, al is dit vroeg. Hierdeur word die reprodukerende dier gespaar vir wanneer die nuwe reënseisoen aanbreek.

Dragtige diere moet ook steeds goed versorg word. Die koeie en ooe gaan in elk geval kalf of lam, so voer hulle dus om hulle kondisie te behou. Hulle het reserwes nodig om hulle kalwers en lammers te kan grootmaak.

Ná 'n droogte is jong aanteeldiere baie gesog en skaars. Indien jong diere en speendiere se groei ernstig benadeel word, het dit tot gevolg dat hulle volwasse gewig en liggaamsgrootte nadelig beïnvloed word, en in die geval van skape word die wolproduksie ook benadeel. Dit is dus lonend om spesiale aandag aan hierdie groep diere te gee in 'n droogte.

Bom sê die voer van vee tydens 'n droogte is die doeltreffendste wanneer die vee in verskeie klasse afgesonder word, sodat hulle volgens hul voedingsbehoefes gevoer kan word.

Voorgestelde klasse, in die geval van beeste, is:

- Vroeg-gespeende kalwers (jonger as ses maande).
- Speenkalwers (ses tot 13 maande).
- Jaarlinge (12 tot 18 maande).
- Koeie met kalwers.
- Droë koeie.
- Bulle.

'n Voerbegroting

"Oor die algemeen is graan meer volop beskikbaar en beter waarde vir geld gedurende droogtes, in vergelyking met hooi wat geneig is om reeds vroeg skaars en te duur raak. Die vraag bly egter, hoeveel moet ek die diere voer? Die ontwikkeling van 'n voerbegroting voor en gedurende 'n droogte bly die sleutel tot die kleinste moontlike finansiële impak op die plaas.

"Toegang tot 'n waterbron gedurende 'n droogte is baie belangrik. Kennis van hoe waterbronne tydens droogtes vaar, is noodsaaklike inligting. Die berekening van die totale hoeveelheid beskikbare water en die totale hoeveelheid water wat gedurende 'n droogtetydperk deur die vee benodig word, sal aandui hoeveel vee en watter klas vee 'n mens deur die droogte kan dra," sê Bom.

Ander maatreëls tydens 'n droogte, wat Du Plessis en Van Zyl aanbeveel, sluit in:

- Beperk beweging en dus energieverkwisting deur die diere in klein kampies te hou.
 - Beperk voerverliese deur doeltreffende hooirakke en krippe te gebruik.
 - Gemaalde ruvoer word tot 30% beter benut as lang hooi.
 - Verskaf beskutting teen koue winde.
- Tot 'n derde van diere se wintergewigsverlies is as gevolg van koue winde.
- Bestry inwendige sowel as uitwendige parasiete.
 - Spuit vitamien A.
 - Beperk uitgawes.
 - Vaste koste maak ongeveer 45% van die uitgawes van 'n veevertakking uit.
 - Min kan aan die loonrekening gedoen word, maar beperk uitgawes aan bulle, ramme, heinings en voertuie.

En toe kom die reën ...

Ongelukkig reën dit nie gras nie. Diere kan dus nie onmiddellik ná die eerste bui reën weer op die weiding losgelaat word nie, veral nie skape nie, waarsku Du Plessis en Van Zyl. Skape moet vroegtydig teen bloednier ingeënt word om vrektes as gevolg van die skielike verandering in hul dieet te voorkom.

Onthou ook dat die weiding waarskynlik beskadig is in jou pogings om die diere aan die lewe te hou. Die weiding het nou ook rus nodig om te herstel. Hoe langer diere van die weiding af gehou kan word, hoe beter sal dit herstel. 'n Praktyk wat gevolg kan word, is om die kampe wat die druk kan hanteer, soos vleie, te benut en te sorg dat die ander kampe dan ten volle rus voordat hulle benut word.

Met vergunning van Veeplaas





CROSSBREEDING

WITH SOUTH DEVONS - AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE

As new breeds of cattle have been introduced to Australia, Devons have been successfully tried in crossbreeding with the majority of them. They have also played a major role in the development of several composite breeds such as the Afrikaner, Droughtmaster and Shaver Beefblend. Devons also had a major influence in the Japanese Wagyu cattle, with several shipments having been imported into Japan in the early 1900's.

Devons possess many attributes which complement weaknesses in other breeds and, with the added benefit of hybrid vigour, make excellent cattle for crossbreeding.

The fertile and efficient Devon has high weaning percentages, excellent feed conversion, early puberty and conception, high milk production, renowned foraging ability, a docile temperament, a high resistance to bloat, no eye problems and will adapt and survive in all Australian environments. This combination of breed advantages ensures that Devons have the versatility to enhance any crossbreeding program. Devons have proven to be excellent crossbreeders overseas as well as in Australia.

Over the last thirty years a great deal of research has been carried out around the world on different crosses and their relative performance under varying agricultural systems. As the amount of research increases, Devon cattle are measuring up as one of the best all round breeds.

As the result of extensive research into the Devon's most suitable role in crossbreeding, the breed was found to be outstanding in three particular applications.

As the sire or dam of FI females joined with other British breeds (The British FI Connection).

As a sire over highly infused Bos indicus herds to produce valuable first cross females and steers.

Over Bos indicus and European Bos taurus influenced cows, where early maturing progeny is required.

THE BRITISH FI CONNECTION

The 'British FI Connection' highlights the use of Devons in the production of FI's when joined to Angus, Herefords or Shorthorns. It has been demonstrated in many parts of the world, over a number of years that crossing any combination of Angus, Devon, Hereford or Shorthorn has resulted in an FI with an outstanding performance as a beef producer. The FI progeny of the Devon, crossed with any of these three British breeds will embrace the established advantages of hybrid vigour and breed effects, as outlined below.

BENEFITS OF BRITISH FI CROSS

The British FI Connection results in a smaller breeding female which is more feed efficient than other crosses. There is mounting concern about the optimum sized cow and related maintenance costs, as she will eat 2-21/2% of her live weight daily. If 10 cows averaging 550 kgs can be sustained on a given amount of forage, perhaps 12 or 13 cows in the 450 kgs range can be run with the same amount of forage. The large cows must wean considerably heavier calves to offset their higher maintenance costs. This indicates that a good mix would be to breed small to medium size cows which should then be joined to bulls with the genetic potential for fast, extended growth. The Devon-Hereford Crossbreeding Trial at Gunnedah in N.S.W. Australia, proved that hybrid vigour in this cross produces 32% more milk than in

the straightbred. This converted to a 7% weight gain at weaning using a Red Angus terminal sire for the first calves.

The F1 heifers will grow faster, cycle earlier and have a higher conception rate than both parent breeds.

The F1 heifer will be larger than the straightbred at calving and this will assist calving ease.

The Devon sire will contribute a stronger constitution and better foraging ability which will greatly benefit the F1 at calving and in times of climatic extremes. The steer portion of the progeny will weigh about 7% more than straightbred steers.

BENEFITS SPECIFIC TO THE DEVON-ANGUS CROSS

Improved foraging ability and feed conversion.
Efficient cow size is retained and with it the low maintenance benefit.
Improved temperament
Increased bloat resistance.
All progeny will be polled.
Reduced bull replacement cost.

BENEFITS SPECIFIC TO THE DEVON-HEREFORD CROSS

Greatly reduced eye cancer problems.
Improved ease of calving.
Better milking and mothering qualities.
Increased bloat resistance.
Improved foraging ability and feed conversion.
Reduced bull replacement cost.

BENEFITS SPECIFIC TO THE DEVON-SHORTHORN CROSS

Improved carcase acceptance.
Improved foraging ability and feed conversion.
Combination of desirable maternal traits in these two breeds is highlighted in the first cross cow.

BENEFITS SPECIFIC TO BOS INDICUS BREEDS

In northern Australia, many herds are now experiencing excessive Bos indicus infusion which has led to a decline in fertility and prolonged maturity patterns. The Devon has a major role as a sire in restoring the balance. Valuable fertile F1's and faster finishing steers are the resulting progeny.

In particular the Devon injects the following improvements:

- Reintroduction of hybrid vigour to high percentage Bos indicus herds.
- Maintenance of the Bos indicus' good foraging, survival and feed efficiency traits.
- Increased fertility.



- Greater flexibility with the desired finishing time for steers, which will open more markets.
- More docile temperament.
- Maintenance of highly acceptable colour in the F1 progeny.

In the composite breed, Belmont Reds, developed by the CSIRO to produce premium beef in the tropical areas of Australia's north, Devons were a major influence. To the surprise of many, Belmonts have had many successes in carcase and taste test competitions. Could it be the Devon influence? Other composites using other base breeds have not had the same success.

BENEFITS FOR THE DEVON-EUROPEAN CROSS

The Devon cow has been used with great success in crossbreeding situations where a European breed is used as a terminal sire, the Devon cow contributing earlier maturity and improved feed conversion. As the European content rises in a commercial herd the Devon bull is an ideal choice to cross back to to breed softer and easier doing cattle.

Courtesy of The Devon Cattle Breeders' Society of Australia





South Devon MATERNAL *traits*

South Devons have earned themselves the reputation of “The Maternal Beef Breed.” They possess the fertility, ease of calving and milking ability that make “maternal magic.”

South Devon cows and South Devon Pound Maker cows are extremely fertile and quickly breed back. They range out in big country and adapt in a smaller operation while delivering a high fat index milk that deepens calves growing into the weaning period.

The proof of superiority of F-1 South Devon females is documented by one of the most comprehensive studies of

South Devon in the U.S. at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC), Clay Center, Nebraska. Economically important traits from conception to consumption were studied. Both Hereford and Angus dams were bred artificially to several sires of each of the breeds used in the study. (Cycle 1, Phase 2). The evidence was conclusive when comparing the beef breeds of South Devon, Limousin, Simmental and Charolais, only South Devons weaned a calf crop over 90 percent, actually 92 percent.

Historically, South Devons have been categorized as a dual

purpose breed. They have very high milk solids for a beef breed with an average butterfat content of 4.2 percent. The MARC data ranks South Devon as one of the highest English breeds for milk production.

Breeding programs worldwide use a South Devon bull to produce a crossbred female that will generate higher milk yields that increase the growth potential of the calf and ultimately increase weaning weights.

The mothering ability and longevity of the South Devon cow is excellent. Lon Larson, manager of Circle 5 Ranches, Brewster, Nebraska stated "I needed to sell 200 cows out of 1200 because of the long drought in our area. We started to sort the old cows first. I discovered they were all South Devon and South Devon cross cows at 14-15 years of age." He added: "They were the highest indexing cows in the herd the same year."

A testament to the longevity of the South Devon cow comes from Lee Englehart, X-E Stock Ranch, Moses Lake, Washington, "Many of our South Devon cows are staying in production until they are 14-15 years of age and that alone adds significant profitability to an operation. When calving a large herd of cows with little help, good maternal traits are necessary. With South Devon you get exceptional maternal traits and the carcass traits come as an added bonus."

Years of selective breeding have shown South Devon to be in line with other major beef breeds for birth and weaning weights.

Courtesy of North American South Devon Association

Maternal Magic





Sale report **WINSTON**

Winston South Devon held their annual production sale on the 13th August 2015, where 30 bulls were offered. Buyers came from as far away as Harrismith and Tweeling, while the majority of the buyers were local farmers, 22 of the 30 bulls were sold with 4 bulls being sold after the sale.

The highest price on the day, was R48 000.00 which was paid by Mr. Dan Kriek of Bellary Stud, for Lot No. 4 which is a polled bull JM 13 1648. The second highest price of R45 000.00 was paid for JM 13 1566 who was bought by Barend van Heerden of Queenstown.

The average for the sale was R27 477.00

There was a definite demand for the polled bulls and the exciting part is that The Winston Stud is going to be using new imported Semen from Australia and America in the Stud this Year. The bulls that have been imported are, Gumhill Red from Australia and ELKER 642A from America. The progeny from these bulls will be on sale in August 2018.

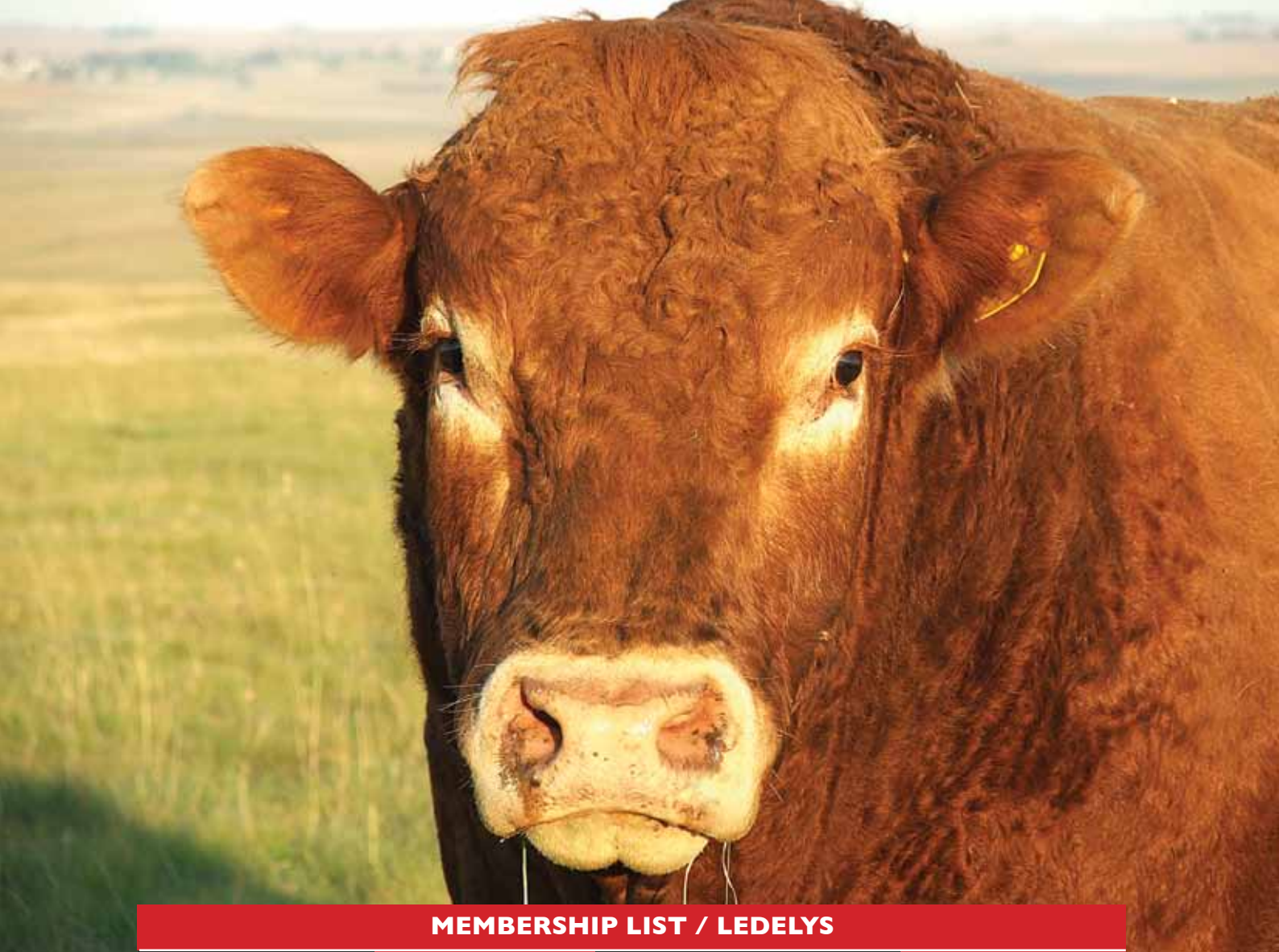
Visitors are always welcome!



Dan Kriek, John Miller and Ian Sheard with JM 13 1648



Barend van Heerden, John Miller and Ian Sheard with JM 13 1566



MEMBERSHIP LIST / LEDELYS

NAME	HERD NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
DU PLESSIS, ACO	ADUVON	PO BOX 313 COLIGNY 2725	018 673 2180 082 891 0202
KRIEK, DJ	BELLARY	PO BOX 86 TWEELING 9820	087 944 0836 082 944 0566
MILLER, JF	WINSTON	PO BOX 88 CATHCART 5310	045 843 1736 083 659 8269
NIEUWOUDT, T	NIEUBADEN	PO BOX 641 SCHWEIZER-RENEKE 2780	082 524 8544
VAN NIEKERK, M	MAGPELA	PRIVAATSAK 830 HARRISMITH 9880	058 625 0063 082 829 2687
VAN ZYL, G & B	JOHSTEP	PO BOX 880 KIMBERLEY 8300	053 833 2322 082 441 1297 083 459 7616



ADVANTAGES OF THE SOUTH DEVON F-1 CROSS & HYBRID VIGOR

The most obvious benefit of any F-1 cross of beef cattle is the roughly 12-14% increase in rate of gain available through hybrid vigor, with the second cross offering additional hybrid growth benefits. However, the South Devon F-1 cross offers even more.

The commercial beef cow of the future will be a combination of two or more breeds strong in maternal traits, early sexual maturity, high fertility, calving ease, mothering and milking ability and an easy keeper with longevity and environmental adaptability. She must calve at two years of age, not be abnormally large and will probably be bred to a bull of a third compatible breed.

The South Devon is the “maternal breed” needed by the American beef industry for the superior F-1 beef cow. She will provide all of the above qualities with the increased frame to carry more pounds of beef, yet will not bring with her the calving or feed efficiency problems of some continental European breeds.

Lee Leachman, Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Wellington, Colorado noted that on the ranch, hybrid vigor is a key driver of profitability. Hybrid vigor increases fertility, cow longevity, calf survival and calf weight. When summed, these factors increase the pounds weaned per cow exposed by up to twenty three percent. On a ranch weaning an 85% calf crop with a 550 pound average weaning weight, this 23% advantage adds up to an extra 93.5 pounds of calves to sell per cow. Ranchers should crossbreed, but they need to crossbreed with a breed that works on the ranch and does not sacrifice the value of the calves produced. He went on to note that the challenge to crossbreeding is finding the right breed to cross on Angus. Most ranchers fondly recall the black baldy cows that they had in the 70's. This leads them to first consider Hereford. While Hereford x Angus females are great, the resulting F1 feeder calves leave much to be desired. The Hereford x Angus steer lacks Angus levels of marbling, has insufficient muscularity and does not reach adequate carcass weights.

before getting too fat. The South Devon breed keeps Angus marbling, adds to muscularity and increases carcass weight. For these reasons, South Devon is the best British breed crossbreeding option.

Jack Cowley, Cowley Ranch, Montague, California wanted to improve the efficiency of his Angus based cowherd. “I wanted to improve my consistency and keep the marbling we had in our cow herd. It was important to increase conception rates, which I knew we could do through crossbreeding. I wanted more docility in my herd as well. I also believe we need to enhance tenderness, which is a tough trait to measure commercially. I studied the US Meat Animal Research Center data and it showed South Devon to be the most tender beef breed.”

The Cowleys are just getting data that show the cattle are really working. “We just closed out another set of cattle through the Harris Ranch program. We had a 61 pound increase in weaning weight on the herd with the added South Devon influence – that is an age-adjusted figure, so it’s for real,” Jack points out. “We wanted to improve yield on the cattle and we saw an average Yield Grade of 3.08 on the Angus calves while the South Devon saw an improved average of 2.83, so we are definitely headed in the right direction.” “We needed a consistent sized rib eye and the South Devon crosses added right at ½” in rib eye size, boosting that to an average 12.3” compared to the Angus with an 11.8” average rib eye.”

Courtesy of North American South Devon Association





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