

DEXTER



DISPATCH



No.126 SUMMER/NOVEMBER 2024

www.dextercattle.nz



Friendly wee red bull calf - Photo by Elizabeth-Anne Thompson



Black cow & her shy calf – Photo by Maureen Petterson



Dinner time – Photo by Robyn Snelgar



Black, Dun & Red Cows – Photo by Grant Keymer



Dun cow with her chunky black bull calf – Photo by Steve Wilson



Red cow and her red yearling heifer – Photo by Claire Marshall



**New Zealand
Dexter Dispatch
Number 126 Summer/November 2024**

*Marking the beginning of Modern Dexters in New Zealand –
Meadowpark Charles, bred by Alec and Anne Meades*

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COVER PHOTO

By James Regnerus-Kell #1289

**Stunning head photo of
PEARSON FITZPATRICK**

Bred and owned by M Goodwin & E Morton #1114

When Wayne was around I have got to admit he did most of the things around our 10 acre block of x dairy land. I tended to concentrate on the animals that we have had over the past 22 years.

But he was also one for doing things that didn't actually need doing:

Like turning over a lovely paddock because he decided he wanted to grow garlic. Unfortunately it was completely the wrong time of the year and getting hold of that quantity of garlic bulbs was completely impossible. And when he did the set up for a big fertilising system, that was overkill – I still need to get rid of some 1,000 litre containers. Wayne's last proposed project was obtaining some old power poles and he moved a massive amount of soil to the other side of the property because he wanted to build a bridge across our stream.



Wayne was such a hard worker and many of his projects are now all around me, like the actual house we live in. This is a 1906 villa from Eketahuna that we moved 105 km over the Remutakas onto our land in Mangaroa Valley. Once the fencing, driveway, garden and tree's etc. were all completed he started on the house itself – 5 years after moving it.

Accomplishing all this was Wayne's number one personal pride and joy and so it should be, he did such a wonderful job completely renovating it and keeping as much as he could original, even the extension. Then he started on the outside, building a beautiful wrap around veranda, with hand carved posts and he continued later with decks and an outside fireplace area. Nothing was going to be

anything but 1st grade and it wasn't. He loved it when visitors couldn't believe that it was a relocated house and not the original homestead because that's what we always aimed for.

He very rarely brought in anyone in to help him, apart from when he needed to do so, like a qualified builder to do the extension (but Wayne still did about 50% of this work) only electricians were called in.



Now I have to do everything around here and because I have no Wayne to help me, I do get help when I need it and can't do it myself. (I managed to change a ceiling fan/exhaust the other day – not easy drilling holes upside down 😊 but I got there).

Finding time to sit down for a few days and do the job as Editor, makes me realise just how much sitting around I did when Wayne was here.

I really miss my man but even though it's tough at times, thanks to Wayne's hard work and determination I now have a beautiful home that I, as a young girl in the UK always dreamed of having. And I plan to stay here as long as I possibly can.

Photos of our house as it was in Eketahuna prior to moving it and when Wayne had finished renovating it 8 years later.

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Recently, all of us on Council held our final meeting for the year. We've been thinking about new and better ways in which we could promote Dexters, both to members of our society, and to the general public. One suggestion was to look at producing a calendar, featuring Dexters owned by members.

Here is our plan as it stands at present, but this is subject to change as we work through the process. We will ask for photos to be submitted, which will then be narrowed down to the best 13 entries by a

suitable judging panel. The winning photos will be posted on our Facebook page, accompanied by a Poll, to determine which photo goes on the cover. If members can find photos relevant to the various seasons, featuring autumn leaves and snow if possible, that would be perfect.

We are thinking of a Wall Calendar, A4 sized when folded up, opening to A3 size when hung on the wall. Each member will receive a calendar, sent to their postal address, according to the membership file, so please let us know if your address changes. We will have further copies available for sale through our website and extra copies will be ordered for supply to new members who join throughout the year. Publication date will be dependent on us having a good selection of photos, so please get clicking and send your photos to: calendar@dextercattle.nz





With Labour Weekend upon us, it really does feel like the next two months will flash past us quickly and Christmas will be here once again. I take this opportunity to wish you all Christmas blessings and good family times.

I do trust that your calving season has been trouble free and all is well with your Dexter world.

Our 12 calves are growing well, paddocks are shut up for hay, the vegie garden in the house paddock is well underway with potato, kumara, sweetcorn and tomatoes and we are starting to think about putting the bull out

again.... And so the cycle continues ☺

If you are reading this, you will have renewed your membership for the coming year – thank you for almost all of the deposits showing membership names or numbers and what it was for, which has made my life easier (and the Treasurers also!) As usual, we have had some choosing not to renew memberships and some simply not responding to the email/text/phone reminders, even after 4 months.

It leaves us with 147 members to date. But new folk continue to join the DCSNZ, which is great to see.

It is my pleasure to welcome the following new members to the Dexter Society!!

NEW MEMBERS:	AREA	STUD
#1331 Ed Morgan	Palmerston North	
#1332 Courtenay Chenery & Daniel Pengelly	Christchurch	Nga Kau Poto
#1333 Craig Taylor	Rangiora	Grandstone
#1334 Cameron Surrey		Replenish

DID YOU KNOW?

Rules & Regulations 7:10



Deaths or Culls – *it is mandatory that members notify the Herd Registrar of all deaths or culls of registered animals in their ownership.*

So if you have any animals that have died, been home-killed or gone to the works, please let the Herd Registrar know by sending in the appropriate green registration papers, so that the Herd Book can be kept up to date.



In the January of 2016 we purchased four steers Dexter calves from member Lorna Cooper in Teapot Valley, Nelson. Together with a black calf to our matriarch Dexter cow Cutgrove Saffron, we carried these steers through to maturity purely on pasture with a little hay in winter. Our trimmed down Red Dexter herd of four heifers and a calf was transported down from Auckland to Nelson and spent most of 2015 at Teapot Valley until we purchased our farm of 8.4 ha at Appleby in

November. The sire to all these calves (born Sept 2015) was Casanova, a Dun bull carrying red.

As 4-year olds, by 2019 their time as pasture controllers was up and they were finally away to the ANZCO Kokiri works at Dobson, near Greymouth in October. Isn't 4 years a bit long to grow out a Dexter I hear you ask. Certainly this is so with an age of 30-36 nearer prime. Discussions about horn removal and communication problems with our stock agent lead to delays, so 4 winters passed instead of 3.

I have never seen metrics as hard NZ data on Dexters as beef animals. It is more likely they go as single animals to home kill. It would be great if some other member has figures on their herd meat production they are able to share. The purpose of this article is to provide hard data on live weights and meat weights of 5 Dexter steers by the same Dexter bull. Unfortunately I don't have data on the grade of the other steers. A literature search on the net to find such data was also made.

Individual	Carcase	Analysis		29 Oct 2019		
				Muscle score	pH	Fat score
Dexter steers	Live wt.	Hook wt.	%	Muscle score	pH	Fat score
Black H	603	322.5	53.5	2	5.58	3
Dun	546	296.5	54.3	2	5.57	3
Black P G4	544	295	54.2	2	5.54	8
Dun	470	254	54.0	2	5.51	3
Dun	460	239	52.0	2	5.55	3

Mean live weight = 524.6 kg ± 53.2 kg. Range = 460 – 603 Kg
 Mean hook weight = 281.4 kg ± 30.5 kg. Range = 239 – 322.5Kg

Mean % paid weight = 53.64 %. \$/kg = \$5.80 Gross pay-out = \$8442.00.

Total levies & fees = \$150.00. Mean net pay-out per steer = \$1653.90

In this tiny study, the controlled factors are: same sire, same pasture regime (run together in same herd), same climate – Nelson, same age, same slaughter date.

The uncontrolled variable is different dams. I conclude this last variable is the principal determinant explaining the different weight gains.

Online searching located general information on expected cattle target weights in the Te Ara Encyclopaedia of NZ, title - Beef finishing and dairy beef, date of access 26 Jan 2020. Steers at 20 months (rising 2-year olds) 300kg for slaughter. Steers at 30 months (rising 3) 400kg. Since dairy/beef, with a common cross of Friesian/Hereford, are a significant contributor to the NZ beef kill, I consider this Cutgrove result of 525kg for Dexter steers compares favourably with the bigger dairy/beef breed crosses expectation. I won't go into quality of cuts and marbling of course.

The Dexter Cattle Society of UK website has some information on its Discussion board. A 2008 contributor reports two steers, live weights of 168kg and 178kg at 30 months. Two yearlings 195.5kg and 199kg with % carcass weight (meat yield) of 53.73%. (I believe the first two weights to be anomalous and more likely to be double at 336 and 356kg at 30 months). This is still light compared with the NZ Te Ara data of 400kg, though this might be accounted for by the breed difference and winter feed regimes in UK versus NZ. The 53.73% UK yearling meat yield is almost identical to my 53.64% NZ 4 year old meat yield. By the way who kills yearlings anyway.

Another UK member (Martin Feb 2007) reported a 4 year bull had a dead weight of 263.6kg. Again I query this and suspect this is carcass weight, implying a live weight of around 526kg, absolutely consistent with my NZ mean live weight of 524.6 kg for 4 year old steers. One might expect a bull to be a bit heavier than a same age steer.

Have other members kept their carcass data and would they like to share it in a letter to the editor for comparison.

Addendum: I subsequently found I could have got an extra 20 cents per kilo, sending the stock to Preston & Taylor in Lower Hutt, freight covered by them.

Next time.

Because Tony was overseas on the closing date for this issue, I have repeated a very interesting article he did back in November 2020. Apart from the prices everything else still applies.

MOVING CATTLE IN THE PADDOCK By Clive Dalton



This is usually very easy as you use their “mobbing” instinct where they move together for security. All you need to do is to walk quietly around a group or mob while talking or calling them. Dairy cows respond to this best and will generally come to meet you at the gate.

If you have a dog that barks on command, then that’s usually all that’s needed.



Animals that are slow or reluctant to move will do so if you walk up to them. You may have to do this with a firm determined action to let them know that YOU are the dominant animal inside their flight or fight zone.

Most stockpersons today are on a bike or ATV (quad) and

often approach stock at far too great a speed. Care is needed as you don’t want to bump and injure animals and remember the bike is not a safe place if a bull attacks you. It has the strength to upend the machine on top of you.

But remember the single animal differs greatly from the mob and will need much more skill to drive it where you want it to go. It may also not respect your

intrusion and attack, especially if it sees you on its territory. At the first sign of the animal showing signs of stress or threat – back away and seek help.

Groups of bulls are prone to “mob action” and anything strange in their environment can start a threatening, riding, fighting session in which you may be caught up.



In a mob of bull's individuals will vary greatly in personality and there will be one or two individuals that are potentially more dangerous having fought their way up the social order to be very dominant. They'll be easy to identify as they'll come out of the mob

towards you roaring and threatening first. Keep an eye on these at all times.

Mobs of beef cows with young calves can be dangerous too, as they see your presence as a threat. They are very wary of dogs so keep dogs well out of the way and in full control. They will regularly attack the dog and you may be part of the action if the dog moves to you for security and they are not used to seeing humans on foot. The blaring of a young calf can trigger off an attack.



When tagging beef calves in the paddock, always let the cow see its calf, and if possible, keep one

hand around the calf's jaw to stop it blaring. It's likely that it will roar with the pain of the tag going through its ear- so be prepared for that moment.

Never turn your back on the cow and keep any dogs well away from the scene until finished. You are better in an open area that backed into a corner or against a fence. Sometimes a well-trained dog can be a very useful diversion to take the cow's attention until you get the calf tagged. The cow may chase the dog for some distance before she comes back to find her calf that you have just released.



Farmers can suffer serious injuries while attending cows at calving time. Cows can become agitated if they feel their calves are threatened, putting handlers at risk.

Any cow, although beef cows especially, can be aggressive at this time. A heifer that has just calved may be more threatening.

The younger the calf, the more dangerous the mother. Taking a newborn calf from a cow, hand milking a cow and navel dipping a calf are hazardous jobs.

The following increase your risk of injury:

- Getting between the calf and the mother without a barrier or other protection, especially when weighing or ear-tagging a newborn calf.
- Dogs irritating cows with calves, making the cows aggressive.
- A bellowing calf agitating the mother.
- Long hours and regular night work making you tired, leaving you less aware of an aggressive cow and how to respond to it.

MANAGING THE HAZARD:

If you have to catch a calf, keep it between you and the mother. Try to keep a fence or vehicle between you and the cow.

- Keep the calf quiet by holding its mouth shut.
- Don't work cows and calves with dogs unless the dogs are well trained. Restrain untrained dogs until cattle stop moving.

When moving cows with calves:

- Give the cows time to mother-up with their calves before moving.
- Use trained or experienced staff. Work in pairs and communicate regularly.
- Move cows and calves slowly.

HOW TO LIFT A CALF

Lifting calves results in many back injuries to farmers.



Managing the hazard:

Avoid lifting calves if possible. If you have to lift a calf, use your legs and keep your back as straight as possible.

As calves grow, they quickly become very heavy. Only physically fit and strong people should lift calves. No one should lift a calf if it is too heavy for them.

To lift, squat beside the calf, pull it in close with one arm around the front and the other around the hind legs. Straighten your knees to lift it. Hold it firmly – don't let it struggle loose.

**REMITTS FOR THE 2025 AGM
MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BY
31ST JANUARY 2024
THESE MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH THE
SUBMITTER & SECONDER & SENT TO
secretary@dextercattle.nz**

Mycoplasma bovis Statistics

As at 31 October 2024

National Surveillance		Confirmed Properties		Containing and controlling disease		
Surveillance results for September 2024				Active Surveillance	Notice of Direction	Cattle culled - total to date
Bulk Tank Milk	Samples	Confirmed infection	Active Confirmed Properties	33 ↑ 4*	2 ↓ 16*	189,666 No change*
	21,252	0	0			
Beef	Samples	Confirmed infection	Confirmed Properties identified since 2017	Compensation		
	20,656	0	282	Claims in progress	Claims processed - total to date	Payments - total to date
				13 ↓ 3*	2,996 ↑ 5*	\$289m ↑ \$0.3m*

DCSNZ INC. COUNCIL

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Promotions Officer		

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Deb Goodwin	354 Hughes Line, RD 2 Carterton, Wairarapa	P: 021 938594 E: hughes354@outlook.com

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE
ON THE DCSNZ WEBSITE OR ON REQUEST**

AREA	CODE	CONTACT	CONTACT
Northland North of Warkworth	NL	Rosalie Baker	P: 021 761957 E: showing@dextercattle..nz
North Harbour/ Auckland Group	NH	Dayle Flanagan	P: 09 4275262 E: dartfarm24@gmail.com
Counties Franklin Bridge to Bombay	CF	Robyn Snelgar (Point of Contact)	P: 09 2981789 E: secretary@dextercattle.nz
Bay of Plenty	BP	Elizabeth Thompson	P: 027 2080631 E: bluemistlizzi@gmail.com
Waikato	WK	Patsy Leek	P: 07 8299746 E: charming.stud@slingshot.co.nz
Hawkes Bay	HB	Vacant	Would you like to be an Area Rep?
Taranaki	TK	Vacant	Would you like to be an Area Rep?
Manawatu/Northern Wairarapa	MW	Michelle Goodwin & Adrian Light	P: 022 3156554 (Michelle) P. 022 4661089 (Adrian) E: manawatudexters@gmail.com
Wellington/Southern Wairarapa	WW	Maureen Pettersson	P: 04 5263785 E: stalybrook@xtra.co.nz
Nelson/Marlborough	NS	Vacant	
West Coast / Canterbury	WC/CT	Marion Mangnall	P: 03 3187237 E: jimari@xtra.co.nz
Otago/Southland	OT	Vacant	

DCSNZ CHARGES

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWAL DUE 1ST JULY

Full (if paid before 30 Sept) **\$40** **Associate** (if paid before 30 Sept) **\$30**

Junior (if paid before 30 Sept) **\$20**

Please note, there will be an administration fee of \$10 on all fees paid after the 30th Sept.

Herd registration (stud name) One off fee: **\$25**

Registrations – ALL grades

Bulls under 24 months: **\$30** Bulls after 24 months **\$60**

Heifers/Cows under 24 months **\$5 Visual Tag, \$12 Brass Tag**

Heifers/Cows after 24 months **\$10 Visual Tag, \$24 Brass Tag**

Transfers – Seller to pay this.

Within 30 days of sale: **\$15** Over 30 days after sale: **\$30**

Replacement Brass Tags: \$5 each

DCSNZ BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS WESTPAC 030498-0252802-00

DEADLINE – AUTUMN/FEBRUARY DISPATCH
25th January 2025

PREPARE YOUR LIFESTYLE OR SMALL BLOCK

FOR A HOT, DRY SUMMER

El Niño weather patterns this year may cause unusually low rainfall for a long time, and the prolonged dry spells may cause a drought, heat stress in animals and an increased risk of wildfires.

You can prepare by making a dry-weather plan for your animals. Remember you are responsible for their welfare under the Animal Welfare Act

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Pre-summer checklist ...

- * Check water supply and quality
- * Provide shade for animals
- * Shear animals
- * Make a feed plan
- * Buy extra feed if needed
- * Consider animal numbers
- * Create a fire evacuation plan
- * Normal water consumption
- * Class of Stock Water (litres)

Water



Animals must have access to enough clean water daily. In hot and dry conditions your animals might drink three times more water than usual, especially if they are eating dry feed like hay or pellets. They also need more water if they are working, pregnant or lactating. Having a

reticulated water supply offers the most control over providing water to your animals. Plan for an alternative water supply if you start to run low, or if the water for your animals becomes contaminated. Low dams or ponds may become surrounded by mud or sludge. Fence off the muddy areas to prevent animals from getting into waterways.

Monitor water supply

During extreme dry conditions the ground can harden and damage water systems, leading to leaks and water wastage. Watch for signs of problems with the stock water set up, such as animals congregating around a trough, or wet spots on dry ground. Green patches of grass growing in a brown paddock could be a sign of a leaking water pipe.

Normal water consumption

<i>Class of Stock</i>	<i>Water (litres/ head/day)</i>
Cattle	45
Sheep and goats	4
Deer (Red)	5
Horses	30
Alpacas	7
Pigs	20
Poultry	0.2

Check water quality

Dry and drought conditions can affect water quality. When water levels are low, water temperatures rise, and flow reduces, creating an ideal environment for bacteria and algae to grow. Coastal areas have the added risk of saltwater contaminating groundwater. Animals don't like the taste of contaminated water, so it increases the risk of dehydration, toxicity, and illness. Test water quality through your local council.

Keeping animals cool

Ensure animals have access to shade. If your property does not have natural shade (like trees), create shade using buildings or shade sails. In addition, for animals with light or bare skin, consider using summer covers or animal-specific sunblock. Ask your veterinarian for recommendations. Shearing Plan to shear your animals before the summer heat to keep them naturally cooler

Feed



Reduced rainfall can cause issues with pasture cover, feed supply and the body condition of your animals. The amount of feed your animals require depends on factors like growth, pregnancy, lactation and weather conditions. During dry

times and drought, pasture quality is often poor and limited. You may need to bring in supplementary feed or relocate your animals. Always prioritise animal welfare when making these decisions.

Make a feed plan

Ensure your animals have enough feed in the coming months by creating a feed plan early to avoid potential shortages.

You can find feed budget templates and resources online:

- Beef + Lamb New Zealand: beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/feed-budgeting
- Dairy NZ: dairynz.co.nz/feed

Consult your local veterinarian

Your local veterinarian can provide essential information for planning – especially pregnancy scanning and body condition scoring. They can offer nutritional advice, guidance on animal health and welfare, and assistance with humane culling if necessary.

Buy extra feed



Order supplementary feed like hay or grain as soon as your feed plan indicates the need. Introduce supplementary feeds gradually to prevent digestive issues. Seek advice from your veterinarian or feed supplier for the best options. Consider sourcing feed through online communities for farmers/lifestyle block owners e.g. web forums or social media.

Consider animal numbers

The number of animals you have on your property needs to be low enough that there is enough pasture to feed them (i.e. appropriate stocking rate). Overstocking (having too many animals) means animals might not get enough food which can lead to welfare problems. Consult a rural professional or your veterinarian to calculate your stocking rate. Selling excess stock is often more economical than buying feed. During periods of drought, processing plant wait times may be longer, so early bookings are crucial.

Regular monitoring and pasture management

Monitor your animals' condition through body condition scoring and assess pasture levels and quality. Act promptly to secure more feed or reduce animal numbers if weight loss occurs. If sharing water sources or grazing areas, use biosecurity measures and separate stock where possible.

Minimise stress

Dry conditions put animals under stress, which makes them more likely to get sick and lose body condition. Effective parasite management is vital during dry periods as animals have reduced natural resilience. Avoid adding extra stress by minimising mustering, yarding and transport, especially during the hottest parts of the day.

For more info on animal transport go to [mpi.govt.nz/ dmsdocument/31749-Transport-for-farmers-animal-welfare-leaflet](https://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31749-Transport-for-farmers-animal-welfare-leaflet)

Wildfire risk



Dry and windy conditions can contribute to increased wildfire risk. Create an evacuation plan in case of a wildfire impacting your property. Use low flammability plants near buildings and for shade, clear

flammable plants (particularly grass fuels) away from buildings and other infrastructure and maintain fire breaks. If you keep water reserves for firefighting, ensure these are topped-up. On high-risk fire days, remove any flammable gear from animals, such as rugs, harnesses, halters and fly veils, and anything that contains metal (in the case of horses). Most rugs are a polyester/cotton blend, if they catch fire they'll melt onto the animal's skin.

Support and assistance

If you encounter problems with your animals during a drought, you can:

- Contact your veterinarian or a rural professional for advice.
- Seek advice or collaborate with neighbours, or join the lifestyle block community through community groups or online forums on lifestyleblock.co.nz
- Contact the Ministry for Primary Industries for animal welfare support or assistance on **0800 00 83 33**

Many thanks to the Ministry of Primary Industries for allowing this article to be published in the Dexter Dispatch

IS SHE ON HEAT ?

By Hamish Pike

A good mating management plan focuses on the key fertility management areas,

one of these areas being heat detection. In-calf research has found that on about 25% of farms, heat detection errors are likely to be limiting the reproductive performance.

Heat detection errors occur when either heats are missed, or heats are invented through mis-identification (such as the

wrong ear tag number being recorded) or mis-diagnosis. Heat detection accuracy is dependent on the heat detection skills of the farmer or staff member, and which heat detection aids (tail paint or heat mount detectors) he/she uses.

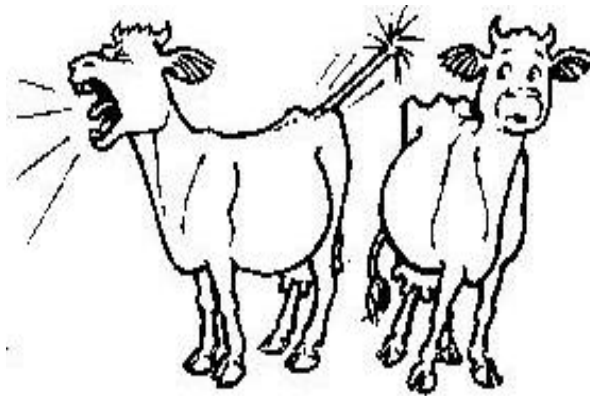
Everyone working with the cows on the farm should know the signs of a cow on heat (even without the use of heat detection aids):

Is she standing to be mounted? Is the tail paint removed or heat mount detector triggered? She is most likely to be on heat in these instances.

Does she attempt to mount other cows? Is she restless or bellowing? Does she have poor milk let-down? Does she have mucus around the vulva or mud marks on the flanks? Is the tail paint rubbed but not removed? Is the heat mount detector

lost? She may be on heat in these instances.

Cows with at least two of these “may be” signs are possibly on heat showing only weak signs. Some of these will not be on heat. If these cows are mated, they should be recorded with a question mark



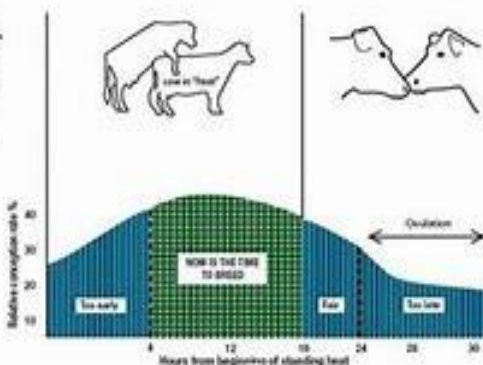
Coming to heat - 8 hours



Standing heat - 4-18 hours



Going out heat





a: Lips of the vulva of the cow are red and swollen.



b: Clear, thin mucus hanging from the vulva.

(?) for future reference.

Interpreting heat detection aids like tail painting and heat mount detectors, i.e. pressure or rub-activated patches, can lead to heat detection errors also. Poor application of heat detection aids can also lead to detection errors. If using tail paint, remember to touch up at least weekly. Interestingly, in-calf research has shown that heat detection rates are higher in herds using heat mount detectors than tail paint.

Best results are achieved when heat mount detectors are combined with twice a day paddock checks for heat. Paddock checks are best conducted two hours after the morning milking and again in the early afternoon. For those of you who are really keen, consider evening checks two hours after the night milking (during daylight savings!). The reason twice a day paddock checks achieve better results than heat detection aids alone is because the average duration of a cow on heat is about 14 hours, as long as the weather conditions are normal.

Heats can however be as short as two hours in inclement weather.

Another tool for heat detection is the P4 Rapid test distributed by 'Farmtest' Limited (can be purchased through Totally Vets Ltd). This five minute dipstick test measures the presence or absence of progesterone in the milk of an individual cow. The absence of progesterone in the milk indicates that the cow is on heat and can be mated. It should be used in conjunction with other heat detection aids and is best used with a planned approach to mating. The test is also useful because it gives staff quick feedback which will aid judgement in being able to reliably detect when cows are bulling.

Hamish Pike is a senior production-animal Vet at Totally Vets Feilding Branch



Dexters may be worth more if they carry the A2/A2 gene and overseas (especially the US) there is a large call for A2 milk and it is has become common especially in the dairy industry to obtain in New Zealand, there are a number of tests available in New Zealand by Massey NZ.

(Thanks to Legacy Dexter Cattle USA for the informative description's below.)

A2 Beta Casein Milk - Beta Casein (A2) is an important gene for

milk production traits. The VGL test identifies the 2 most common variants: A1 and A2. The A2 variant has been shown to have a positive association with milk yield and protein content. The A2/A2 genotype is also considered to have positive effects on human health.

A2 milk is natural milk. It is the milk that all humans and animals produced in nature. At some point in time a mutation occurred in cattle now identified as A1 beta casein. Research on A1 milk has determined it may be responsible in part for coronary heart disease (more so in men than women), diabetes, autism, and mental disorders. An excellent book on the A2 research and debate is: Devil in the Milk by Professor Keith Woodford from New Zealand, available at most book retailers.

Kappa Casein Milk - is an important gene for protein yield and percentage in milk. The VGL test identifies the 2 most common variants A and B. The A variant and AA genotype are associated with higher milk production. The B variant and BB genotype are associated with increased milk protein and casein content, and better cheese yield. Relative to protein content and cheese production, BB is the most favourable genotype, AB is intermediate and AA is the least favourable.

Beta Lacto globulin Milk - is the major whey protein gene. The VGL test identifies the 2 most common variants A and B. The A variant is associated with increased milk yield and whey protein content. The B variant is associated with increased casein and fat content and is favourable for cheese production

(It has also been noted that feeding the cattle CAFO Grain Feeding and the actual processing of the milk also contributes to the 'Devil in the Milk'.)

WILSON'S QUOTE FOR THE SEASON ☺



I found the key to happiness.
Surround yourself with animals and stay away from idiots.

STEAK & MUSHROOM PIE



Recipe courtesy of Greenlea Butcher Shop

Recipe by Roz McIntosh
Styling & Photography by Roz McIntosh

INGREDIENTS

FILLING:

- 1 kg Greenlea Butcher Casserole Steak (diced into 2cm cubes)
- 2 tbs olive oil
- 2 tbs plain flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 2 onions (finely chopped)
- 10 button mushrooms (sliced)
- 4 cloves garlic (crushed)
- 500 ml Restore Beef Bone Broth
- 1/4 cup red wine
- 1 bay leaf

- 1 tbs thyme leaves (chopped)
- 2 tbs cornflour

PASTRY:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 150 g cold butter (cubed)
- Pinch salt
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup ice water
- 1 egg lightly beaten

RECIPE

Preheat the oven to 160°C.

Place a large cast iron casserole dish on a medium/high heat. Add the olive oil to the casserole dish. Toss the beef in the flour and seasoning. Cook the beef in batches until browned and set aside.

Add the onion and garlic, cooking until softened. Then add the mushrooms and sauté for another couple of minutes.

Return the beef to the dish, along with the Restore Beef Bone Broth, red wine, bay leaf and thyme leaves. Bring up to a simmer, then cover and place into the preheated oven and cook for 2 hours until the beef is meltingly tender. Combine the cornflour with 1/4 cup of water in a small bowl.

Remove the beef from the oven and add the cornflour mixture, string on a low heat until the mixture has thickened. Place the pie filling in the fridge to cool completely.

TO MAKE THE PASTRY AND ASSEMBLE THE PIE:

Heat the oven to 200°C.

Place the flour into a food processor along with the butter and salt. Pulse until the butter is incorporated. Add the water, little by little, until the pastry begins to clump together.

Turn the pastry out onto a floured surface and bring together, kneading with your hands. Form a ball and place into the fridge to rest for at least 15 minutes.

Grease a 22cm pie dish with butter. Cut the pastry in half and roll out one half to line the bottom of the pie dish. Spoon in the beef mixture. Roll out the other half of the pastry

Brush the edge with egg and place the second round of pastry on the top of the pie, sealing around the edges by pinching the pastry together. Brush the top of the pie with the egg wash and prick with a knife to enable the steam to escape.

Place the pie into the oven and bake for 30 - 45 minutes until the pastry is golden and the pie is heated through.

Do you have a favourite Beef recipe that you would like to share send full details and a photo to dispatch@dextercattle.nz

BULLS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

Please note ALL BULLS & cows must be registered to enable you to register their offspring - If in doubt, ask the bull owner or Herd Registrar.

AUCKLAND

Derek and Heather Free (Wellsford) - **Happy Heritage Stud** - Membership # 1094. Available in the Upper North Island. Email heathergracefree@gmail.com
Mob 02102066800, Bull available **Cherry Oak Quincy** - On your farm or cows on bull owners farm may be an option?

Susie Garlick (Helensville) - **Kowhai Glen stud** - Membership #1214. Available Auckland-Rodney area. Email sgarlick@kaipara.school.nz Ph. 094115284 - Bull available - **Afton Hills Roman Talos #7755**, available on your farm.

BAY OF PLENTY

Melissa Hartley (Katikati) – **Riverside Farm Stud** – Membership #1211, Available in Bay of Plenty, - Mob.0210563881 Email.info@riversidefarm.nz - Bull available - **Lindisfarne Red Chilli** – On your farm or Cow's on bull owners farm may be an option?

MANAWATU / WHANGANUI / NORTH WAIRARAPA

Michelle Goodwin (Whanganui) – **Pearson Stud** – Membership #1114, Available Whanganui/Taranaki/Manawatu - Email. pearsondexters@gmail.com – Ph. 027 446 4670 - Bull available **Pearson Hanley** – Black – Chondro Negative – Homozygous Polled.- Bull owner delivers and collects from your property.

Kim and Sam Wheelhouse (Palmerton North) - **Inverham Stud** - Membership #1126, Available anywhere in the lower north island /Hawkes Bay if required. Email kmwheelhouse@gmail.com Ph 063580305 - Mob 02102680624. Bull available - **Cherry Oak Nial** – Bull owner pickup to/from your farm.

Bruce Jones (Palmerston North) – **Box Palm Stud** _ Membership # 101. Available anywhere Mid and Lower North Island. Ph: 027 2324575. Bulls Available **Lexith Matipou, Pearson Eoin, Whakapapa Dream Hermes.** – Bull owner delivers to/from your farm.

WELLINGTON / SOUTH WAIRARAPA/KAPITI COAST

David & Kathleen Stevens (Judgeford - Porirua) - Membership #1279 - Available in Wellington/South Wairarapa/Kapiti Coast (ask for other areas). Ph 027 3797939
Email: ngakereru1119@outlook.com. Bull available - **Whakaahuru Vero** – Polled, Tested PHA, BD1 & BD2 clear - – Bull owner delivers to/from your farm.

FOR SALE or WANTED

STOCK FOR SALE

DARGAVILLE AREA - 2 PB red weaner steers \$500 each, 1 PB weaner heifer (black) \$600 YTR. 2, 20 month PB steer, 2 Dexter X, 20 month heifers - sell separately or together.

Contact Rosalie Ph 021761957 Email rosalie.bakker@icloud.com

SOUTHLAND AREA - Castlepoint Arthur #7103 – Black Bull, De-Horned - POA. Contact: Tania Ph: 021 207 0965

Email: taniaandjacob@yahoo.co.nz

WANTED TO BUY

CANTERBURY AREA - Young, Friendly in calf heifer for a house cow.

Thank you so much, Contact Paschal Suggate Ph: 02102540108 Email: p.suggate@hotmail.com

SEMEN FOR SALE

DEXTER STRAWS - ROMARC GERONIMO - Australian import \$40 per straw + transfer fee. MOLLENS JULIUS - Denmark \$85 per straw + transfer fee. Contact Patsy Ph 078299746 Email: charming.stud@slingshot.co.nz

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