

November 4, 2022

Devon Breeders and enthusiast, greetings from Red Devon USA. It is my privilege to write one last time as President of the association as my two-year term is finished. The Board of Directors of RD USA have elected Jeremy Engh to be President for the next year.

The unanimous selection of Jeremy, to serve in this role, coincides with the beginning of the celebration of 400 years of Devon Cattle in North America. We as a Board felt this was highly appropriate given his global relationships with many of you and his history, along with his dad, Jerry Engh, in the World Devon Congress. Next year, 2023 will begin the celebration and it will conclude with the World Devon Congress tour in April and May of 2024. We anticipate visits from many of you for this event and preparations have already begun.

Last weekend, October 20-22, we wrapped up a tremendous National Event and Show, which included our annual meeting. The Event was hosted by Mark Reed, Breeder and RD USA Board Member, of Thousand Hills Acres, LLC. Mark coordinated the event at his farm with a local chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) at the local high school. The FFA and River View High School facilities served as our cattle barn and classroom settings for the many workshops. It was a three-day event that concluded with a show and annual meeting.

Over 150 people were in attendance as we learned about Devon cattle, marketing direct to consumers, and the highlight was watching a meat cutting demonstration AJ and Gale O'Neil from O'Neil's Meats who cut a hind quarter of Devon Beef to showcase the quality and highlight the value of different ways to cut and market the quarter. AJ is an RD USA Board Member and Devon breeder in addition to being an award-winning butcher. Another highlight was the 75+ FFA high school students who provided breakfast, cooked lunch of Devon burgers and hot dogs, managed the pens in the show barn, provided hay for the cattle, and served in many ways throughout the weekend. As a result of their work, a donation of over \$1,500 will be made to the FFA Chapter for their programs.

For the first time, we included a silent auction to raise money for the RD USA Association. Items such as newly designed RDUSA merchandise celebrating 400 years, semen offerings from 4 Seasons Farm and Lakota Ranch, fence supplies provided by Kencove Fencing, one of our Event Sponsors, and much more, raised over \$3000 for the association. And, through the generosity of our four sponsors: Axiota Pharmaceuticals - Multimin, Kencove Fence Supplies, Agri-dynamics and Steve Rockcastle, and Farm Credit - Mid-America, we were able to add \$4000 to help cover the costs of the event.

We were able to host our first judged Show since 2019. Our judge was Vernon "Shorty" Hochstetler from LaGrange, Indiana. Shorty is a highly respected and well spoken cattleman in the Murray Gray breed and among the Amish communities of North America. It was stated many times that the Show barn was full of the best collection, as a whole, of Devon cattle in memory. Shorty said repeatedly that the quality of Devon cattle made his job very difficult and many of the cattle that did not place in the show could have been placed in any other show too. The high quality cattle that were brought to the show were from: Bob VanKirk at 4 Seasons Farm in Pennsylvania, Anne Derousie from

Adventureland Devons in New York, David Fell from Abiding Acres Farm in Wisconsin, Jamie Hostetler from Rolling Meadows Devons and Sheldon Headings from Eckstein Devons in Iowa, Jeremy Engh from Lakota Ranch in Virginia, and Steve Montgomery from Lamppost Farm in Ohio. Christian Ramsburg, RDUSA Board Member and Devon breeder from Ohio was the Show manager. Show results are listed in a separate report.

At our Annual Meeting, we covered highlights from this year's efforts in the Association. These included two webinar series for the purpose of education of our membership. You can contact Becky, our Association Administrative Secretary at reddevon.service@gmail.com to receive links to these webinars and support our association at the same time. It also included celebration of the quality of this year's Devon Magazine, the variety of regional Devon events taking place among the membership, and presentation of the Stewart Fowler Award given to Daniel and Linda Marquardt, formerly of Hillside Pastures Farm in Wisconsin for their efforts in promoting the Devon breed and service to the RD USA Association.

So much is happening in our Association as the popularity of Devon cattle and a growing market for feeders, bulls, cows, and heifers is increasing right now. And, the diversity of genetics from all around the world that have contributed to the North American herd is proving fruitful, as was seen in the Show barn at this year's event.

Last, it has been my privilege to serve as President for the last two years. During that time, we have made it our goal to grow the Association financially by limiting our spending to efforts that produce revenue. And, another big push for us has been to add value to our memberships in hope of growing the number of new members. We as an Association are in a healthy place both financially and with active membership. I look forward to transitioning to Jeremy Engh's leadership and celebrating a huge milestone of Devon cattle in North America.

Thank you for your support from around the country!

Sincerely,

Steve Montgomery
Executive Director, Lamppost Farm
2022-2023 Vice-President of RD USA