

November 24, 2021

Greetings Friends.

We are finishing another year of flourishing as an Association and for that I am very thankful. This has been a year of purpose, growth, and future planning even during turbulent times as a country and world. We are weathering storms together and see hope in our midst.

I am in the process of building a house. I have been pounding nail after nail. My skill in using a carpenter's square to drive nails has increased dramatically. I just wish there was something more suited to driving nails than an aluminum square. Maybe someone should invent a tool with a heavier head, made of steel, and an impact surface bigger than the nail head. Its main purpose would be to drive nails. Then, I could use my square to do what it is designed for: to make sure everything is straight and true.

Isn't this the way most cattle are used in today's world? Aren't most cattle treated as if their only purpose is to be beef, however we can get them to finish? Being stewards of Devon cattle, we experience God's purpose and design for these animals so much more fully. As you know, Devons are abundantly efficient at converting grass into energy and soil fertility, more docile, approachable, and handleable than other breeds, able to raise calves and rebreed year after year, and lighter on the land yet without wasted mass.

It seems to me that Devon cattle are the hammer that drives nails. Their purpose is to be the most efficient restorers of Creation while keeping themselves healthy and producing offspring to flourish for generations. And in addition, at the end of their lives, we get to sell and eat them as the finest beef produced around the world. Many days I have a hard time understanding why all farmers wouldn't want to raise Devon Cattle. We are so blessed to be called stewards of this amazing breed!

As many of you know, life in Red Devon USA has been thriving. Our 2021 Annual Meeting was held in Wisconsin at Abiding Acres Farm, operated by RDUSA Vice President David Fell and his family. We coupled the event with the Upper Midwest Devon Exchange, an event a few local Devon breeder had begun years ago. At the event, we were able to meet in person, sit in on educational seminars about cattle registration, herd evaluation, the History of Devon Cattle around the world and particularly in North America, and more. We even shared a meal together for our meeting and banquet.

This year we began the efforts of evaluating the Devon herd in North America through a Herd Census. Our purpose will be to accurately know the status of the Devon herd and start to collect data on our herd through birth weights, weaning weights, calving intervals, and more. Membership participation in these tasks will help to grow and further the Devon herd in North America.

I am also pleased to report that in 2021 we added 25 new members to the Red Devon USA organization and nearly one-third of the membership participated in at least one of the six online educational webinars that we offered. Topics covered were financial health of our businesses, cover crops for grazing, registering calves, marketing and sales of grass-fed beef, evaluating bull calves at weaning, and a history of prominent imported herd sires in our North American Devon herd. Some of these webinars are now on YouTube if you would like to watch them.

Memberships and Cattle Registrations are the fuel that drive the Association and our abilities to move forward in these projects. Please consider renewal and spread the word to fellow farmers. Investment in membership is an investment in the future of Devon cattle in North America.

Blessings to you as you prepare to celebrate the coming Holiday season. We look forward to hosting the 2022 Annual Meeting and Show near Mt Vernon, Ohio in October of next year. And excitement is building as we prepare for the World Devon Congress tour in 2023. I hope to see many of you on the trip as we celebrate 400 years of Devons in North America. Many of our Board members are working diligently to build an itinerary that does justice to the impact of Devon Cattle on the beef industry in North America.

Thankful to be a Devon Breeder with many of you,

Steve Montgomery
President of Red Devon USA