



RED DEVON USA

Gourmet Beef on Grass

11/3/20

Hello Friends, Members of Red Devon USA,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Montgomery. I am the husband of a woman of wisdom, power, and grace. And, I am Dad to four imaginative and independent young adults. I have been farming at Lamppost Farm in Columbiana, Ohio since 2007. Prior to moving to Ohio, I taught Adventure Education to graduate students, ran a wilderness education program for undergraduates, and led a team in the great task of campus ministry at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA for fourteen years. My passion is to see people explore, discover, and understand the world around them and the God who created it. We have chosen to farm because agriculture creates the space where real knowing happens.

At our last meeting, I was asked by the Board of Directors to be President for the next year. It is a privilege that I do not take lightly. Like our fine Devon cattle have pedigrees that reach for generations in the past, I am humbled to know that I am sitting in a seat that has been occupied by people with gifts, talents, knowledge, and experience greater than mine. I hope my leadership and place in that genealogy "improves upon" what previous generations have built.

The purpose of Red Devon USA, as stated in our Bylaws, is "to maintain an accurate pureblood Devon registry, to preserve the purity of the breed, to disseminate general information to the membership, and to recruit new members through general promotional activities." Previous RD USA Boards have been working diligently to accomplish this.

Recently, much work has been done to switch the registry over to NCBE (National Center for Beef Excellence), which provides a simple mechanism (and staff to assist us in Becky Miller, our organizational secretary) for keeping up to date and accurate on our registration process. In addition, a DNA committee has made many hard decisions so that we as breeders can know the history of our animals is clean. And this year, with COVID changing the ways we relate to one another, the Board Promotional Committee has designed educational experiences via online platforms to add value to our membership. Our commitment is that these things will continue as we press forward as an organization.

Now is where you, as members and ambassadors of the Devon breed, help us to build a stronger organization and continue its thriving and growth for future generations of Devon cattle and Devon Breeders. We need you to continue supporting RD USA by renewing your membership and registering your best cattle so that our collective registered herd continues to be diversified and strong. And, think about which neighbor, friend, or nearby beef producer is poised to join all of us in these efforts. Invite

them to a webinar or educational event. Encourage them to become a member of RD USA with you in order to facilitate Devon availability for customers as beef consumers as well as producers.

Today is election day in our country where, it seems, the greatest hurdle we face as a nation is how to know what is true, accurate, and pure. This dynamic is not new and can be traced to the earliest of humanity. In shining light on this fact, God in the ninth commandment (Deuteronomy 5:20) to Moses cautions, "do not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Our collective mission as stewards of RD USA and Devon cattle is to allow them to tell the truth of what they really are: efficient producers, cows that are motherly, calves that are growthy, bulls that work, docile animals, fine-boned in stature, and long-lived. I believe we, as RD USA members, know that Devon cattle are true, accurate, and pure. We see it in the field, in the chute, in the sorting pen, on the trailer, and on the plate. Our job is not only to enjoy them but also share them with our world for generations to come.

Keep your eyes open to the RD USA website (www.reddevonusa.com), on Facebook (there is a new Red Devon USA forum), and in the mail for more ways to support the organization, promote the breed, and grow as a facilitator of amazing cattle.

Thank you for your support.

Thankful to be part of a big story,

Steve Montgomery,
President, Red Devon USA for 2020-2021