

Dexter Promotion Group of Tasmania



Hi Everyone

Well I'm back, I was elected Promotions Officer at the recent AGM at Clarendon House. Who am I kidding I was the only person silly enough to sort of agree to taking on the position.

The AGM was a low key affair attended by 9 studs and all the key positions have been filled, it seems that your name mentioned, followed by clapping, resulted in you being duly elected.

We did enjoy a lovely lunch which was served in the Conservatory at Clarendon House and the chance to catch up was great. Peter even cracked a bottle of red wine, which resulted in me getting the gig to drive home. Thanks to all those who took the time to attend, we did have an enlightening meeting following the AGM which brought up numerous ideas to consider for the new committee.

It is pleasing that our hard work and fundraising have allowed us to purchase some vital equipment to facilitate better promotion of our Dexters at Field Days and Exhibitions. Items include new notice boards, an additional gazebo, and a trailer for storing all of the items in to make transporting easier for those who have to set up at events.

We are looking for ideas for Field Days over the coming six months, if you have any topic you would like covered please let one of the Committee know.

The group website has been upgraded to include a page where our members can list animals they have for sale, items which may be wanted or even items around the farm they wish to sell. There will be no cost to advertise, we do ask that you include an accurate description of your item,

your stud name, contact details including phone number and location. I hope this will be successful and further provide a service to our members. We do get between 30 – 100 page views on any given day so the promotion of Dexters in Tasmania is progressing extremely well. I have emailed all that I had email addresses for to let you know about accessing the website, if I have missed someone please let me know.

We look forward to a prosperous year of promotion within the Dexter Group in Tasmania and hope you will join us in bringing Dexters to the forefront.

Marg Rawlings
Promotions Officer

For Sale

There are bottles of "Dexter Red" available for purchase. We have been fortunate to obtain a limited amount of Fleming's Wines of South Australia's 2008 Shiraz. This is a quality red suitable for drinking now or for putting away for later. For orders please contact either Andrea O'Grady on 6496 1969 or Peter Fleming on 6396 1136. Prices are \$10 each or \$70 for a dozen. Be quick because they are selling fast!!!





Dexters in Tasmania mugs are available for sale again at the same low price of \$5 each. They proved very popular last time with some going overseas and interstate. Ring Andrea O'Grady to place your order 6496 1969.

From the Chair

Hello everyone, not a lot to report at the moment other than our previous Chairperson and committee have left the group in a very strong and viable position both financially and as an organisation and we thank them for that.

Your new committee is planning to have its first face to face meeting in the very near future and I look forward to working with them on behalf of all our members.

When Pauline, Liz and I moved to Tasmania from Far North Queensland in December 2011 I knew that we would be joining the most progressive group of Dexter breeders in Australia and I'm not disappointed.

Happy Dexters

Ian Clayton
Chairperson

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to our latest new members, Louella Bovell who is located in Cradoc and Dean Quinlivan and Milan Tumpach who hail from Acton Park.

Castration

I often get asked "My cow has had a bull calf and I am not sure if I should keep him a bull. I don't want to steer him if he is good but at the same time I don't want to keep a bull that is not up to standard. What do you think?" I will go through my thoughts and how I choose my bulls and also the options on how to castrate.

When I have a bull calf "hit the ground" the first thing I do is look at it. It sounds pretty obvious but let me explain in further detail. They must have the "wow factor" from day 1. My experience has shown me that a bull must look like a bull from the moment it is born (given a day or 2 to "unwrinkle"). If you have to wait for the "pee test" (Bulls pee from their pizzle underneath & heifers pee from their vulva!) to see if he is a bull then that is the first warning sign to steer.

The next step is to check for disqualifying "faults". Extra teats and excess white are the first to look for. Check the position of the teats. They should be high up at the neck of the scrotum and not down on the scrotum. What is the calf's mum's udder like? She will influence greatly what he will pass on.

Temperament is very important. It doesn't matter how good his conformation is if he does not have a good temperament. What is his attitude towards being handled? Does he kick first ask questions later? Steer him. It is OK for him to be a little worried when put in the crush or raceway initially but he should settle down with kind words and quiet working.

Have you got a use for him? Do you intend using him over your herd or have a potential sale for him?

Now here are the 3 main options on how to castrate – ringing, "bloodless castrating" (Burdizzo), cutting.

Ringing is the most common form of castration. It is best done when the calf is quite young (ideally before 2 weeks but before 3 months is OK). Make sure both testicles are in the scrotum when the elastic ring is put on! Check that the skin is relatively smooth at the ring (no excessive folds of skin etc).





Bloodless castrating can be done almost at any age. It works by cutting the spermatic cord and blood vessels to the testes while leaving the skin undamaged. If not done correctly it will not work! This method is not recommended unless the proper training has been given.



Cutting is most commonly done by a veterinarian and can be done again at almost any age. The testicles are removed from the scrotum via an incision. The incision needs to be large enough to allow proper drainage afterwards. Sometimes the entire scrotum is removed but this is not necessary (mainly cosmetic).

I hope this has helped answer some common questions. Remember, this is only my thoughts and shouldn't be taken as gospel! I am still learning all the time!

Andrea O'Grady
Goldshaft Dexter Stud

Dexter Steers Wanted

Preston Gourmet Produce, which is a business venture being run by four of our members Mark & Margaret Rawlings along with Ron & Julie Hunt, is looking for Dexter and Dexter X steers to purchase. Since commencing selling Dexter beef at the Burnie Farmers markets we have a strong demand for our exquisite beef and will not have enough steers of our own to supply all of the new customers.

So we need you to help to convert your steers into beef for the market. We have done some sums and can offer producers a price per kilo on the carcass weight, which is the fairest way of getting paid. The animals will have to be dropped off to the abattoirs at Quoiba. If the steers are over 180 kg HCW (Hot Carcass Weight) we can pay \$3.50 per kg, if they are between 150 kg & 180 kg HCW we are able to pay \$3.25 per kg, steers under 150 kg HCW will pay \$2.80 per kg. The reason for the price to weight structures is a reflection of the hide values which are taken off the killing costs, a beast over 180 kg gets \$30 more for the hide than an animal below 180 kg.

This means that a carcass of 200 kg for example would return \$700 to the person supplying the steer, our first steer processed was 198 kg HCW. A steer at 175 kg would return \$568.75. We believe this gives a much better return to suppliers of steers than would be achieved at the saleyards and also promotes Dexter beef in the marketplace.

We can't supply the market without the help of our fellow Dexter breeders and by sharing the returns we get from marketing an affordable, quality product into the public arena, we hope that the benefits are mutual for everyone.

Preston Gourmet Produce would pay upon receipt of a Tax Invoice from suppliers and would be responsible for paying all associated costs for the killing, cutting and transporting.

You need to contact Mark Rawlings on 6429 1287 to program your steers into the calendar to coincide with the Farmers Markets. Or for any questions you may have.

Many thanks and we look forward to be able to work together to get Dexter beef the recognition it so deserves.

Mark & Margaret Rawlings, Ron & Julie Hunt
Preston Gourmet Produce

Dates for the Calendar

Launceston Royal Show 10 – 12 October
Hobart Royal Show 23 – 26 October
Ulverstone 2 November
Scottsdale 15 – 16 November
Huon 16 November
Deloraine 23 November
Devonport 29 – 30 November

Don't forget to visit our website

www.dextersintasmania.weebly.com

Committee Contacts

Please feel free to contact any one of us should you need some help, have any concerns or just ring for a chat.

Chairperson

Ian Clayton - Phone 6429 1121
prestonparkdexters@bigpond.com

Secretary

Derek Pennington - Phone 6266 4747
derek.pennington@inet.net.au

Treasurer

Peter Fleming - Phone 6396 1136
p-t-fleming@bigpond.com

Promotions Officer

Marg Rawlings - Phone 6429 1287
rawlingsdexter@westnet.com.au

Cattle For Sale

At Stud: available for paddock mating, we have two fantastic bulls:

Kywong Charlie: a beautiful black, well proportioned bull, great length of body and fantastic width across the back, with a very good temperament and excellent feet. Dehorned.

Kywong Harry: a small young red bull, excellent muscling, with great depth and width. Will be ready for work from December 2013. Dehorned.

KYWONG DEXTER STUD

DCAI Member 11741

Jim & Olga Stack - Scottsdale

Ph 0459 465 941

jolstack@bigpond.com