

WHITE DEXTER

CATTLE REGISTRY

News

APRIL 2023 ISSUE 2

Announcements

The WDCR is considering nominations for established members to join our Ethics Committee or White Dexter Color Committee. Please click [here](#) for more information and to submit your nomination.

Keep an eye on the White Dexter Cattle official Facebook group for a sneak peek at our new White Dexter merch!

MISSION STATEMENT:

The White Dexter Cattle Registry exists to provide simplistic and accurate registration, educate owners to breed with integrity, and advocate animal husbandry practices while showcasing new attributes of the 200-year-old Dexter breed.

As a registry, we vow to highlight the versatility and enjoyment, White Dexter cattle can bring to new and existing herds while continuing to develop tools to increase their profitability by advancing their overall quality of the breed.



A calf of Spartacus, a White Dexter Foundation Bull

Laying the Foundation for Our Future

In 2014, the White Dexter breed was introduced to the public. Since then, the breed has grown to over 400 breeders with over 1300 registered animals. Although this breed is rapidly becoming more recognized, it is still very young. We are in the early chapters of the story of White Dexter Cattle. Our herds are the future grandsires and granddams of the not-so-distant coming generations, so setting a solid foundation is essential to the strength of the breed. The key to our growth has been the effectiveness of our current breeder's efforts to educate future buyers and continued registration of our White Dexter herds.

While this breed is new, it is built upon a 200 year old breed with traits that have kept it flourishing and the preeminent breed choice of small acreage farms and those that love cattle that are docile and easy to handle. It is our duty to ensure our breed can be utilized as a true tri-purpose animal (meat, milk and oxen) with great conformation, temperament, and the hardiness that these cattle are known for. Our breeders know that White Dexters are all that in a beautiful package that make them even more appealing. Our breeders seek out future buyers that want to grow and expand the White Dexter breed even further!

So what can we do to set a strong foundation as a community, and still maintain the identity of our personal herds? Firstly, understanding that when an animal is sold as a White Dexter, the reputation of both the farm and the breed follows it. Conformation, color and temperament are KEY to a bright future for the breed. Ideally,

only bull calves who can pass on all three of these traits to offspring will remain a bull. Oversaturating the White Dexter market with white bulls with poor conformation or who have mothers with subpar udders will cause issues for the future of White Dexters. Steering for meat or pets is still a profitable option to consider. The color makes us special, but staying true to what makes a good Dexter is much more valuable.

Adding new genetics is another great way to set a strong baseline. The White Dexter Cattle Registry recognizes animals from ADCA, PDCA, and Legacy registries to further grow the breed. Bringing in these colored animals with great pedigrees and conformations to breed to our white animals will not only benefit our personal herds, but the herds of future generations. With the new white genetics testing now available, we can utilize our homozygous white animals in a strategic way to improve our own herds but also the breed as a whole.

Good stewardship and advocacy for these beautiful cattle we love is crucial as we continue to expand and gain popularity. Educating new breeders, seeking buyers that want to be a part of growing the breed, being consistent with the quality of animals that leave our farms, and continually growing our knowledge and implementing what we learn is what will make our farm names stand out on the pedigrees of the future.

As this breed continues to grow at a rapid pace, it is our responsibility to build the foundation of what it will become. The future is looking bright and full of White Dexters, and we cannot wait to see where it takes us all.

C&B



BUFFY STRANGE

C&B WHITE DEXTER CATTLE

In the little community of Poolville, Texas resides C&B White Dexter Cattle, home to Buffy and Casey Strange and their herd of twelve White Dexters and seven miniature horses. Buffy has been a valuable member of the White Dexter Community for years, and her passion and love for her animals radiates with every photo she shares or word she speaks about the breed.

"I started looking for a breed of cattle that was gentle, on the smaller side, and most importantly beautiful. I like the British Whites, but after research decided they were bigger than I wanted. Then, I started looking at smaller breeds that might cross well with a British White to get the white color. That's when I came across information on White Dexters. I contacted Joanie Storck, and we must have talked for hours about her White Dexter Cattle. Joanie described her White Dexters and I knew that was the breed for me. My only apprehension was there were no breeders in my area at the time, and I had never seen one in person. Joanie helped me find breeders in other states. After long conversations with them and the fact that transport to our place was offered in the deal, I took a leap of faith and never looked back. We bought our first White Dexters six years ago - five yearling heifers and one yearling bull. Had it not been for Tim and Nicole Guenther and Dennis Salyers, I may have never jumped in with both feet to White Dexters."



When asked to describe her breeding program, Buffy states, "Our goal is to strive for our ideal conformation. The recent Homozygous White test has been a game changer for us! We can now incorporate the genetics that best represent our ideal traits without losing the white color. Whether that be adding some solid colored heifers for our homozygous white bull, or to keep some homozygous white heifers and find a solid colored bull, this will add to the gene pool and offer more choices than we had before to improve our herd. I am most passionate about

trying to raise cattle that will bring joy to others and finding that perfect home. If I don't think I can provide what a buyer is looking for, I will offer to help them find it from another breeder. I love this breed and want to promote them no matter if someone buys from us or not. People see a pretty photo and want that individual, but it is important for people to research and know what they really want. Sometimes I talk them out of buying one of ours and encourage them to wait and find exactly what they are looking for."

Buffy shares her success in the breed with her husband Casey, who she says has supported her White Dexter journey emotionally, physically, and financially. "I am forever grateful for him." she says.



"There is so much I love about these cattle! They are a small framed beef breed, they have fantastic dispositions, they calve with ease, and of course they are so beautiful... but it's the people that are involved - the long time breeders that have been so gracious to answer all my questions and offer education and support, and the customers that add one of ours to their farms then are so excited when they raise their first babies - that I enjoy most. My advice to anyone interested in adding White Dexters to their farm is to talk to some breeders, ask lots of questions, and visit several farms if possible. If there is not a local breeder then look into shipping. We did this and have shipped to five different states. It is possible, even if you start small."

For more information on C&B White Dexter Cattle or to talk to Buffy Strange, you can find her on Facebook frequently posting photos of her sweet herd in the White Dexter Cattle official Facebook group!



A MORNING WITH PROFESSOR GRANDIN

BY DEANA JOHNSON, WDCA REGISTRAR

On November 8, 2022, breeder Lily Sholes and I attended a cattle forum in Missouri featuring Dr. Temple Grandin. Dr. Grandin is a prominent speaker and expert on autism, livestock behaviors, and working facilities and is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Diagnosed with autism at an early age, she has harnessed the ability to see the world through the eyes of animals, and help shape entire livestock industries world-wide for the betterment of animal welfare. Today, half of the cattle in the United States are handled in processing facilities she has designed.

Lily and I were lucky enough to have her join us for lunch and we shared with her our White Dexter breed. Her first question to us: "Are they still sustainable on grass and forage?" We happily said yes but I thought it was a revealing first question about a developing breed and the importance of continuing the natural hardiness of our Dexter cattle.

Dr. Grandin also spoke extensively about quality feet and legs in regard to the longevity, and therefore profitability, of livestock in general.

Lily is 16 years old, a leader in her FFA with a growing White Dexter herd of her own, and was not only able to meet one of the greats but to share the White Dexter breed she loves and raises.



"Animals make us Human"- Dr. Temple Grandin

Maximizing the Value of Your Cattle with Photos

Use Lighting as a Spotlight

The best lighting for livestock is indirect sunlight to ensure there are no shadows on the animal. If the sun is shining, try to take the photo in the morning or late afternoon to avoid the harsh shadows that can be caused by having the sun overhead. Put the sun behind your back to avoid glares on the camera or the animal.

Look Around

The background of the photo is just as important as the subject. A clean environment that isn't distracting from the animal you are trying to showcase is preferred. You only have one chance for your photo to make a good first impression. Avoid taking photos in muddy areas, with clutter, or with other animals in the background if possible.

The Angle makes a Difference

Getting down to your animal's level and taking your photo straight on makes a huge difference in how the photo looks to a potential buyer. If the photo is taken on a downward angle, it doesn't do your animal justice. Side profiles with the animal looking away and at the camera are optimal to show conformation, color, and stance. Making sure the feet and legs are positioned properly to show udder and testicle placement is also ideal.

Showcase Health and Cleanliness

A photo that shows a clean and healthy animal is more likely to get top dollar. If your animal will allow you to brush them and wipe off caked mud and manure, your potential buyers will notice and be more likely to pursue purchasing that animal. Showing your animal at its best appearance will not go unnoticed.

Photos can tell a Story

Including photos of your animal's dam and sire, past or current calves, or udder and testicles can help buyers make an informed decision and have less questions for you when inquiring about purchase. By being fully transparent and showcasing the value in your animal, you will save your time and the buyer's time by addressing questions before they arise.



Same bull - totally different stance, lighting and background.

For more examples, click [HERE](#) to go to the Picture Taking Tips page of the WDCR Website.



STARKEY FAMILY FARM



VICKI LYNN



JEANENE JENSEN



EDEN COLLINS



WAYNE & SHERRY TAYLOR



JILLIAN FAIN BOHLEN

Conformation Corner

Udder- Well-attached, high and wide rear attachment; teats should be well spaced and hang equal and plumb. The functionality of the udder is imperative to the health of the cow and calf's livelihood.

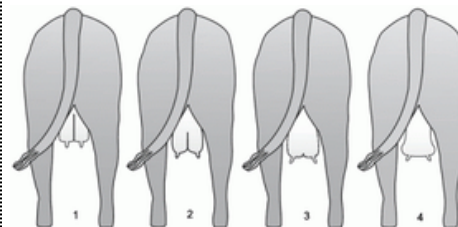
From UNL, "A Guide to Udder and Teat Scoring Beef Cows"

"The conformation of a beef cow's teats and udder are important in a profitable cow/calf enterprise. Females with poor udder and teat conformation are a management challenge for commercial cow/calf producers.

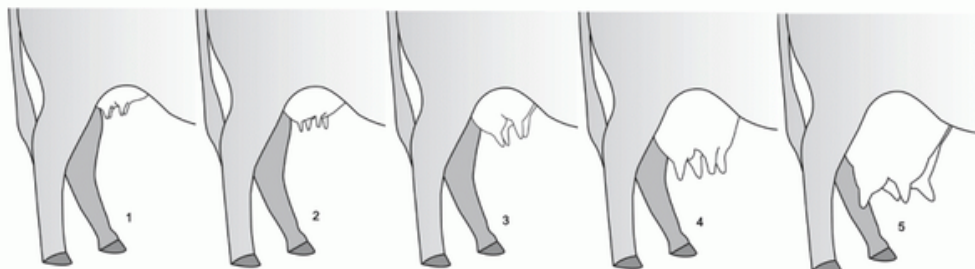
Cattle producers do not have the time or labor to manage around cows that need intervention at calving to physically 'milk-out' a quarter(s) so that the calf can suckle or to save the quarter from infection.

Research findings in two experiments indicates that the occurrence of clinical mastitis in beef cow herds was 17.5% and 11.9% resulting in a reduction in weaning weights of 12.5% and 7.3%, respectively.

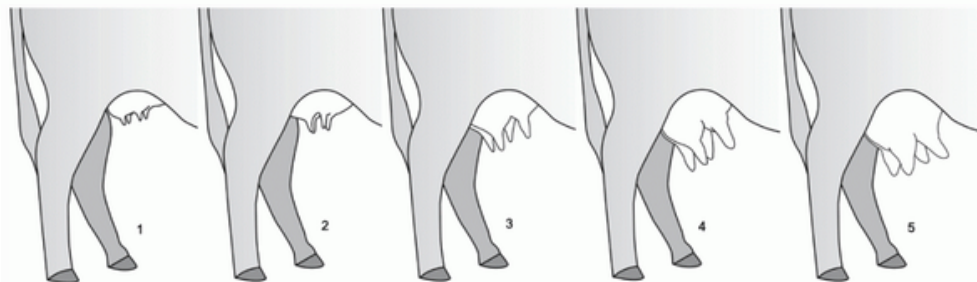
Poor udder and teat conformation can potentially lead to increased calf sickness as teats may be contaminated with mud and debris from a dirt pen or calving area before the calf suckles."



Drawing 1: Prominent median suspensory ligament which holds the udder light to the body cavity. Teats suspend perpendicular to the ground.
 Drawing 2: Intermediate prominent suspensory ligament. Udder suspended further from body cavity. Udders suspended about level with the hock and almost perpendicular to the ground.
 Drawing 3: Very weak median suspensory ligament. Udder and teats suspended below the hock. When the udder and teats are engorged with milk, teats splay outward.
 Drawing 4: Median suspensory ligament absent, udder and teats suspended below hocks. Udder balloons and teats splay outward.



Drawing 1: Udder suspension - Very Tight, very pronounced median suspensory ligament. Udder suspension score = 9.
 Drawing 2: Udder suspension - Tight attachment, pronounced median suspensory ligament. Udder suspension score = 7.
 Drawing 3: Udder suspension - Intermediate attachment, Udder suspension score = 5.
 Drawing 4: Udder suspension - Loose attachment, weak median suspensory ligament. Udder suspension score = 3.
 Drawing 5: Udder suspension - Very loose and pendulous attachment, very weak median suspensory ligament. Udder suspension score = 1.



Drawing 1: Teat size - very small and symmetrical. Teat size score = 9.
 Drawing 2: Teat size - small and symmetrical. Teat size score = 7.
 Drawing 3: Teat size - Intermediate in length; still have symmetry. Teat size score = 5.
 Drawing 4: Teat size - Large, variable in length and symmetry. Teat size score = 3.
 Drawing 5: Teat size - Very large, variable length and symmetry. Teats appear to be thick. Teat size score = 1.

[Click here to read more at A Guide to Udder and Teat Scoring Beef Cows | UNL Beef](#)

Find Your White Dexter
Find a Local Breeder

