



WHITE DEXTER

CATTLE REGISTRY

News

JULY 2023 ISSUE 3

Announcements

The White Dexter Cattle Registry is now on Instagram! Tag @whitedextercattle for your photo to be featured

The annual WDCR Meeting will be held October 7th 2023 in Springfield MO

The White Dexter Cattle Registry Store is now OPEN

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-old-year 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.



Photo Credit: Tom and Leslie Ford at Shallow Creek Farm

Is a White Dexter REALLY a Dexter?

If you've been breeding White Dexter Cattle any length of time, it's very likely this is a question you have been asked. It's a question some breeders dread, because it can often be laced in judgement. However, it is a question some breeders get excited about, because they are confident in knowing the answer.

White Dexters originated from breeding a Traditional Irish Dexter to a registered White Park, and then continually breeding those offspring back to Dexters. This strategic breeding program by our founders is called Upgrading. Upgrading is crossing a purebred animal with another breed, and then continually breeding back to the original purebred breed until they are genetically matched. This process is widely recognized and very different than just

combining breeds, as the goal is to add something new to an original breed versus creating an entirely new one. The goal of creating White Dexters was always to maintain the characteristics Dexters are well-known and loved for: great temperament, easy keeping and calving, small size, and triple purpose, while adding a beautiful new color option.

So, when someone asks you, "Is a White Dexter REALLY a Dexter?", you can confidently say "YES!". With each generation the White Dexter is becoming genetically just as much Dexter as it's solidly colored counterparts. We are the same old breed... just a new color.

For more information on upgrading, click here to check out [EAN-002-1-Creating-Breeds.pdf \(tamu.edu\)](#)

It's Fair Season!

Congratulations to Kayla Turcsik as well as Blake and Sawyer on their Blue Ribbon at the Woodford County Fair!

The White Dexter heifer, Baby, is owned by Craig and Kim Todd at Todd Farms!



Finding Your Herd's Percentage

One of our founders, Dennis Salyers, came up with a formula so he could see the percentages of Dexter genetics of individual cattle in his herd.

If you would like to see the percentages of your White Dexters, here's how:

SIRE	DAME	% DEXTER (CROSS/FULLY UPGRADED)
White Park (100%)	Dexter Pure (100%)	50% Dexter Cross
Dexter Cross (50%)	Dexter Pure (100%)	75% Dexter Cross
Dexter Cross (75%)	Dexter Pure (100%)	87.5% Dexter Cross
Dexter Cross (87%)	Dexter Pure (100%)	93.75% Dexter Fully Upgraded

All of us started at this point, with all foundation sires being 93.75% Dexter (fully upgraded). Moving forward, you can determine the percentage of your animal by summing up the percentages of the sire and dam then dividing by two. For example, if the sire is 93.75% Dexter (fully upgraded) and the dam is an ADCA/PDCA 100% Dexter; sum the two (93.75+100.00=193.75) and divide by two to arrive at 96.875% (193.75/2=96.875).

The formula for calculating percentages is as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Percent of Sire} + \text{Percent of Dame})}{2} = \% \text{ of Offspring}$$

Introducing The White Dexter Cattle Registry

CLICK TO SHOP

Store!



Stay tuned as more WDCR Merch will be added regularly!

Growing and Marketing Beef in 2023

We have officially made it over halfway into 2023, and this year is proving to be an interesting one for cattle farms far and wide. Temperatures have soared to record highs in some parts of the country, and others experienced record lows earlier this year. Drought has held strong for many states, as fields struggle and hay becomes a hot commodity. Since 2020 expenses seem to be higher than ever - from feed to medicine and everything in between. Many cattle farmers have been culling or liquidating the past few years to stay afloat, with beef herds in the US falling to their lowest levels since 1962 (per USDA market reports / [click here](#)). These numbers have resulted in soaring prices for beef, and has many consumers looking outside of their grocery stores to fill that need.

White Dexter Breeder Wayne Taylor has been selling sides of beef in Southwest Missouri for years. He raises his steers on pasture until 2 years old and then adds a grain protocol before processing. He then offers sides of beef and takes the steers to the processor for his customers to pick up. When asked how he markets his beef, he said primarily word of mouth; however, he has had success on social media as well. Wayne uses current market price plus an additional upcharge to determine his cost per pound. His beef is so good he has customers come back year after year!



Dexter beef is known by chefs and consumers world-wide for its marbling, tenderness, and depth of flavor. As the White Dexter market becomes oversaturated with bulls, it will become more essential to find a way to bring in income without selling for breeding purposes. Colored bulls or conformationally-lacking white bull calves can be steered and have the potential to bring in even more income than if they were kept bulls. If you have the space to grow them out and sell them as beef, you will find it is an investment worth making! For example, if a Dexter steer is processed at 650-700 lbs, and its hanging weight is around 350 lbs, if you sell individual cuts at \$6 per pound you are getting an excess of \$2,100 per steer. You can also do what Wayne does and sell sides of beef. To be compliant with USDA guidelines, these are two ways to sell beef directly from your farm to the consumer. ([Click here to be directed to the USDA pamphlet on Food Inspection Requirements.](#))



There is a growing population of people wanting to keep their dollars local and reconnect with farmers. This opens doors for marketing that previously weren't there. Dexter beef is already a niche market, but advertising strategies will help to make sure you have a strong customer base. You could cater to food enthusiasts who love the experience of purchasing high end cuts from exclusive breeds, or those who are value minded and want to fill their freezer, or even environmentally conscious individuals who want to keep their food as local, grass fed and humanely raised as possible. The grass fed grass finished market is more popular than it's ever been, and the right customers will pay a premium for it.

Beef is and will continue to be an important staple in the diets of many in our community. Offering Dexter beef is a wonderful way to help meet those needs, and today's market makes it a great time to start! It makes sense not only as a responsible breeder or business person, but also as a farmer carrying the torch of animal husbandry that has been passed down for hundreds of generations.

For the monthly grass-fed beef report [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW...

3.5OZ OF BEEF
CONTAINS OVER HALF
THE RECOMMENDED
DAILY AMOUNT OF B3,
B6, B12, ZINC, AND
SELENIUM

IN THIS U.S., THE
MOST POPULAR CUT
OF BEEF IS GROUND
BEEF

CATTLE BY-PRODUCTS
ARE USED FOR LIFE
SAVING MEDICATIONS,
DYES, HYGEINE
PRODUCTS,
INSULATION,
TEXTILES, CERAMICS,
BIODIESEL, AND MORE

THE FIRST
HAMBURGER IN THE
U.S. WAS SERVED IN
1895

"Animal husbandry is the branch of agriculture concerned with animals that are raised for meat, fiber, milk, or other products. It includes day-to-day care, selective breeding, and the raising of livestock."

Breeder Spotlight

Located in Rutledge, Georgia is My Favorite Genes (MFG) Farm, home to Jillian and Mack Bohlen, and daughters Ella and Vivian. Jillian is the Associate Professor and State Dairy Extension Specialist at the University of Georgia, and has been breeding White Dexter cattle for 3 years. She currently has a herd of 12 White Dexters, as well as Jerseys and commercial beef cattle.



How long have you been farming/homesteading? I grew up with animals and was heavily involved in 4-H projects. When I finally got a place of my own, I started with goats and chickens and branched to cattle about 10 years ago. In my professional life, I am working with cattle daily and it was nice to finally have some of my own at home.

What made you decide to add White Dexters to your farm/homestead? When my mom, Gina Thomas of Granite City Ranch introduced me to the White Dexters, my mind just said well "it's a horse of a different color"(hopefully, you get the Wizard of Oz reference)! Dexters, or small-framed cattle were of interest because my initial focus was land efficiency. I wanted to maximize animals/acre and Dexters were a perfect option. Even more important than that was I wanted a breed that I trusted my children with. At that time, they were just barely 2 and 4 years old but had a passion for animals. I knew if cattle were on the place, they needed to be something I knew my girls would be safe around. That's what drew me to Dexters. The coloration of the White Dexter in those first pictures my mom sent me is what naturally then had me saying "that's the one". I knew I wanted to do something different in my beef enterprise and that marketing standard, black hided cattle was just not for me. I wanted to focus on quality animals, with a unique touch – what better than a White Dexter!

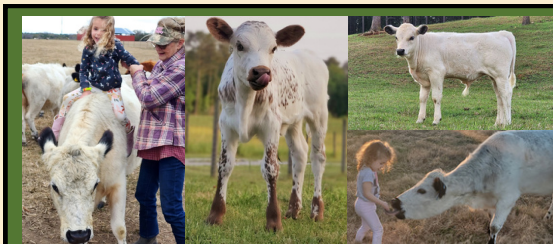
What do you love most about White Dexter Cattle? Impractical me says that I love their coloration and the unexpected when a calf hits the ground. Will it be all white, a splash of black, all over speckled red? The practical side says I love how efficiently they use the land, how easy they are to handle, and the low intensity breeding/calving program I have with them.

What goals do you have for your breeding program? Though I LOVE the white, my current program has two focus areas – polled and increasing thickness of bone and body. I think there's a lot of breed variation with regards to body conformation and robustness. I want to tweak out some of the fine bones, build density, while maintaining feed efficiency. The decision to go no horns, though a unique characteristic for the breed that I hate to deviate from, is made from a practical standpoint to increase feed bunk utilization and equalization amongst animals and ages. Although I can say I never have to worry about a calf and coyotes, dogs, or buzzards when I have a horned cow in the pasture so I'm not actively culling them out.



What part of farming/homesteading are you most passionate about? I just love the peace that animals bring to the chaos of life. I love to work the land and watching my girls do the same. While teaching us to work hard and deal with adversities in life, it more importantly teaches us to respect the animals that provide food. Lastly, I would say that farming is just fun – it's never predictable, it's thought provoking, and it's incredibly rewarding.

What advice would you offer someone who is interested in adding White Dexters to their farm/homestead? Take advice from those that have been breeding them for some time. Read pedigrees and look at pictures on marketed animals. You'll see trends and features that you perhaps like and don't like within genetic lines. Don't be afraid to tweak things as you go to see what works best for you and to integrate color to build the cow that best suits your needs.



"I couldn't be happier with my choice to farm with a foundation of White Dexter cattle. My girls are in love with them all and are now helping (ages 4 and 6) with decisions, activities, and ownership in the process. Our herd is continuing to evolve and we genuinely look forward to our future with this breed!"
- Jillian Bohlen, White Dexter Breeder

facebook Photos



Mike Reinard



David Krill



Dana Nolan Flaherty



Stacey Coltrain



Wendi Clauch



Kyle White

Conformation Corner

Legs - Good width between both front and back legs. Legs should be square. A solid foundation of good feet and legs can help ensure longevity and soundness of every animal. [Click here to be directed to the White Dexter Cattle Breed Standards page for more information!](#)



Correct



Too straight



Sickle-hocked



Correct



Bow-legged



Cow-hocked



Join the White Dexter Cattle team at the 44th Annual Ozark Fall Farmfest **October 6, 7, and 8** in Springfield Missouri!

We will be sharing our love for this breed with over 50,000 attendees and we would love to see you there too!

Our Annual Registry meeting will be held Saturday night, October 7th. Dinner will be provided. More details coming soon!

If you cannot attend in person, you will be able to join us remotely. [Click here for more information on the 2023 Ozark Fall Farmfest!](#)

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.](#)

Color Committee

The White Dexter Cattle Registry wants to stay ahead of growing concerns and questions about the color variations seen in the breed. Some variations are slight; some are more extreme. The Breed Standards, voted on and documented in October, 2022, state that the optimal color for a White Dexter is "Color pointed: ears, muzzle, eyes, and feet with predominantly white body." We wish to establish a Color Committee to address the variations in color pattern and their significance. We value the input and decision making ability of our breeders; we know you are the ones raising and selling these terrific animals and are setting the stage for many future generations. We foresee the Committee having meetings at least once a month via video chat.

Ethics Committee

The White Dexter Registry is led by its three founding members: Joanie Storck, Phillip Dill, and Dennis Salyers. Rarely do problems arise that cannot be settled in a manner that is best for the breed by its three Founders. When those occasions do arise, the WDCR would like to establish an Ethics Committee made up of White Dexter breeders to recommend the best way to solve the issue. These questions are typically centered around registrations but could involve other disputes or practices. Note that the decisions in the Committee will be forwarded to the Founders for final approval. We foresee the time commitment on this committee to be less than 10 hours per year. We will be accepting nominations of breeders that you know and respect, and believe would have the best interest of the breed at the forefront when making decisions. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, we will accept those submissions as well.

Find Your White Dexter

Find a Local Breeder

