The
Cattle of Choice
for
Lifestyle
and
Performance

Dexter Cattle Australia Inc.
DCAI

Contact
The DCAI Registrar
Phone: (02) 4232 3333
Email: info@lbcentre.com.au
Visit our website
www.dextercattle.org.au

Contact your Local Breeder

OUTER COVER

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- Originated in Ireland
- Smallest British Breed
- Ideal for Small Farms
- Dual Purpose Meat & Milk
- Horned & Polled
- Black, Red & Dun

When considering Dexter Cattle contact
a Registered Dexter Cattle Stud

Find Registered Dexter Cattle Breeders
on the DCAI Website
dextercattle.org.au

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Dexter Cattle Australia Inc. (DCAI)

Commonly referred to as "Beefy Little Milkers" Dexter cattle originated in Ireland but have adapted well to most Australian conditions. This adaptability has established the Dexter breed as a practical contributor to land productivity and lifestyles in Australia, particularly for small boutique farming businesses.

Dexters are well known as hardy and productive small cattle with an established past and strong future. Their continuous history has been well documented over two centuries. These days they continue to prove that the design is right and are an entrenched component of the modern Australian farming landscape as a performance breed.

DCAI members are Registered Stud Breeders who are dedicated to the preservation, integrity and prosperity of the Dexter breed. These breeders have chosen the Dexter for meat and/or milk production, breed conservation or as lifestyle addition.

DCAI is a not-for-profit breed society that facilitates herdbook recording and management services on behalf of its members. Our Association offers membership in three categories to anyone with an interest in Dexter Cattle. Full Membership is available to persons over the age of 18 years wishing to breed, register and show Dexter Cattle. DCAI encourages young people to be involved and offers discounted annual subscriptions for Junior Membership. Not all interested people want to register stud cattle but many do want to be involved. Associate Membership provides an opportunity for individuals to be involved, stay informed and participate in Promotion Group activities.

Becoming a Member of DCAI can be so much more than just having registered Dexter Cattle. Membership can lead you on a whole new adventure of learning, socializing and perhaps even some competition in the show ring. These unique cattle offer rewards and challenges for people of all walks of life from the very young to those on the more mature side of life.

Dexter Cattle Promotion Groups operate in most areas and provide a network of contacts and social activities enabling members to meet, share information and promote Dexter Cattle. So why not join us and take advantage of the opportunities that being a Member of the Dexter cattle community can offer?

A comprehensive index of information about Dexter Cattle, being a member, owning and managing Dexter Cattle, Dexter Cattle Promotion Groups and much more is available on the Dexter Cattle Australia website. Visit us at dextercattle.org.au

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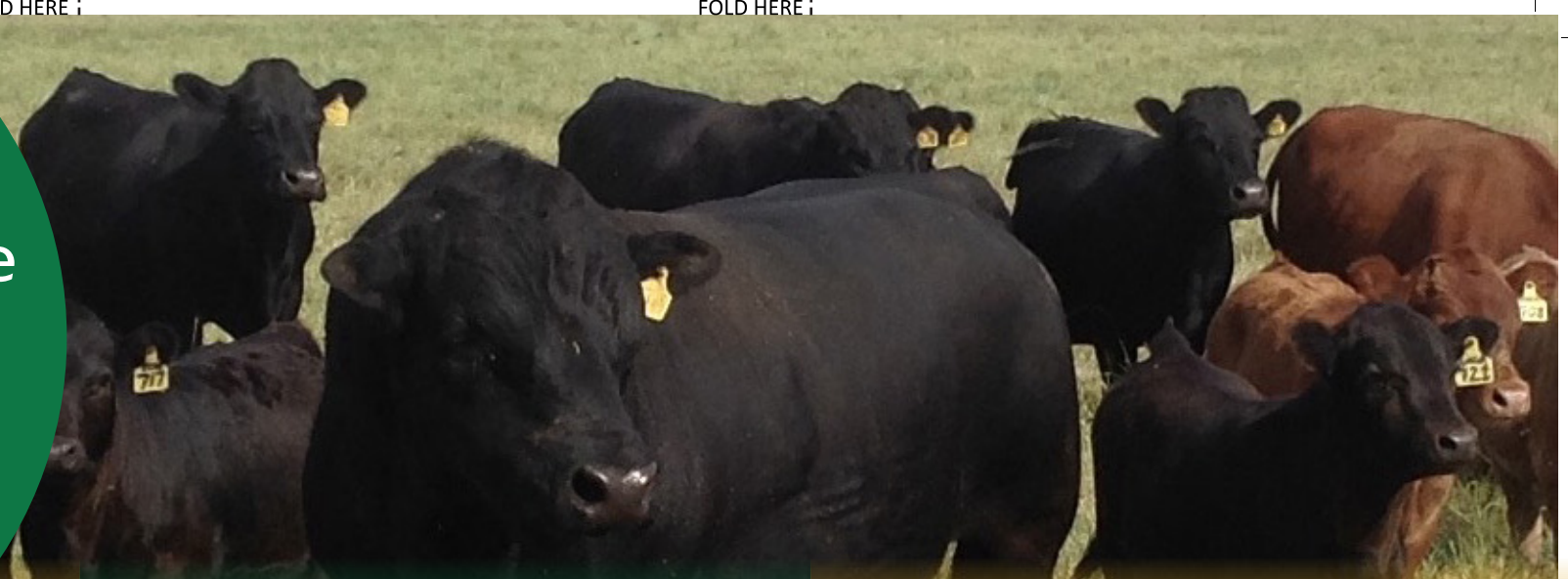
Dexter Cattle

The Perfect Choice for Lifestyle and Performance



History

One of the most unique facts about Dexter cattle is their extensive history. Of Irish origin, the Dexter was highly valued by peasant farmers of the 1800's, whose small land holdings provided marginal grazing in a tough climate. They found the naturally hardy Dexter to be the perfect provider of meat and milk.

Fig. 5.2. Dexter cow "Compton Dob". Source – J. Wilson, Standard Cyclopedia of Modern Agriculture, *7, 1910.*

Dexters for Milk & Meat

Dexter Cattle are quite renowned for their suitability as house cows and are particularly well suited to small acre farms. Equally as remarkable, Dexter cattle continue to build a reputation for outstanding meat quality and carcass yield. Many judges have been quite surprised by the Dexter scores when judging carcass competitions as have the beef producers entering larger breeds.

Size & Temperament

Unlike many small breeds, Dexter Cattle are naturally small. They are not a miniaturized version of a larger breed. The manageable size of Dexter cattle make them an ideal choice for small farms. The intelligent nature of Dexters makes them easy to train and personable which adds to their appeal for many hobby and small enterprise farmers.

Dexter

Characteristics

Dexter cattle have their own unique and specific characteristics. The Dexter Breed Standard developed by DCAI is an excellent tool to help you assess Dexter cattle you may be considering for purchase. The traits the Dexter breed is known for are described in brief below.

- The coat colour: wholly black, red or dun
- The head should be relatively short and broad, tapering toward a broad muzzle with relatively large, open nostrils.
- Horns, if present, are white with a black tip, should be moderately thick with an inward and upward curve.

Though Dexters are naturally small, there is considerable variation in the height of Dexter cattle and this is allowed for in the Breed Standard.

- Cows: 91cm and 112cm
- Bulls: 97cm and 117cm
- Long-leg and short-leg are of equal merit

All Australian registered Dexter Cattle have been DNA tested for parent verification. Temperament should be considered when purchasing your cattle. It is always wise to view animals in person before committing to buying.

If you are inexperienced in selecting cattle take time to look at a number of studs and ask the advice of another breeder or experienced cattle person. The Dexter Breed standard is published in full on the DCAI website: dextercattle.org.au

Get Involved

Dexter Cattle Promotion Groups operate under the auspices of Dexter Cattle Australia Inc. (DCAI) forming an extensive network of Dexter Cattle breeders from right across Australia. Promotion Groups facilitate promotional, educational and social activities in their respective regions. All Promotion Groups welcome new members and visitors to participate in their activities.

Cattle

Choice

Dexter cattle come in three solid coat colours, black, red and dun. Being a predominantly black breed, animals with red or dun coats were once particularly hard to get. These days purebred animals in colours other than black are more readily available.

Enhance your own experience on the land with **Dexter Cattle**

Horned & Polled

Dexters are a naturally horned breed of cattle. If present the horns are white with black tips, quite wide, sweeping forward and upwards, giving them a dramatic appearance. Many breeders choose to disbud their calves to prevent horns form developing. At some point in recent history a poll gene appeared in the genetic mix. Selective breeding has resulted in naturally polled Dexter cattle being relatively common in Australian Herds offering greater choice for Dexter Breeders.

Long & Short

The terms "Long-Leg' and "Short-Leg" when applied to Dexter cattle are not a reference to the height of the animal. They are colloquial terms adopted for describing animals carrying the chondrodysplasia dwarfing gene (short-leg) and those animals that do not (long-leg). It is not always easy to tell which is which just by looking at them with a passing glance.

For More information about Dexter Cattle go to:

dextercattle.org.au

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