

WHY DEVONS????????????? Let me give you 10 reasons

ONE, Carcass value.

Of evaluated Devon Carcasses in this country 96% have met the demands of the most stringent beef retailers.(CDB animals) Meaning that Scores for Tenderness of 1.5 or better have been achieved. Quality grades of choice or better and back fat measurements 3.5 or thicker have also been achieved. In Devon crossed cattle containing 50% Devon or greater 89% of the cattle achieved this same number. In the rest of the cattle evaluated for slaughter in these same facilities a mere 62% of cattle reached these levels. When you factor in feed conversion rates and realize that Devon's achieve a pound of gain on 30% less feed than other cattle in feed lot tests, and that Devon's finish 60 – 80 days quicker than the other breeds this equates to better beef in a shorter amount of time for less money.

TWO, Prepotency of Genetics.

Devon cattle were left out of the feedlot fad that has had a strangle hold on the beef industry since World War II. When the industry went to a corn based diet and cattle were valued on carcass yield and not carcass value Devon's were left out. Why? Because Devon's put fat on to quickly in this system and carcass weights are lower than desired by this yield driven system. Meaning that Devon's were maintained by only the Devon lover and the producer with the rare vision to recognize the value the incredible creatures contained. In a country whose cattle herds are predominantly made up of mongrelized commercial cattle no breed has a purer genetic base than the Devon cattle of this country. The DCA diligently has and will continue to insure the genetic integrity and stability of this breed.

THREE, Disposition.

In 1623 the ship CHARITY brought the first consignment of Devon cattle to this country from Devonshire. These Devon cattle and the many that followed were instrumental in the settling of this country. You are probably thinking this should fall under the heading HISTORY and it should and will. The significance of putting it here is to realize that Devon's were selected and used as triple purpose cattle. Devon's were used as Oxen, for Beef, and for Dairy. For over 600 years Devon's have been selected for docility and easy handling.

Four, Historical Value.

Read the above and the link off the home page labeled history for a more detailed story of Devon's in this country and you will see that the Devon Heritage is both rich and distinguished and that history has been recorded so that both the genetic line and the line of ownership can be traced all the way back to Devonshire.

Five, Hide value.

Devon's have the thickest hides of any cattle in the world. What does this mean to the producer? It means Devon cattle have better resistance to external parasites. It means that Devon cattle will tolerate weather changes better. It means that the value of the leather produced by the Devon will be greater for the producer. And all this put together means tougher, more manageable, more profitable cattle.

Six, Fertility.

Everything about Devons strongly speaks to the breed's fertility. In 2002, 15% of Devon females in production in this country were 15 years old or older. The top selling Devon bull in terms of semen sales in this country has a live rate of over 90%! Compare that to the national average of 58%. Mature Devon bulls grown and maintained properly can routinely cover 65 cows in a breeding season. In a Virginia herd in 2003 a top Devon heifer was bred at 10 months of age, she calved before she was two and rebred within 45 Days. Devon Heifers in this country routinely show estrus by 300 days of age. Devon Bull calves have been known to breed open cows by 7 months of age. Devon cattle are highly fertile and aggressive breeders. Whether in a purebred or commercial operation, Devon genetics save you money by not wasting your precious time.

Seven, Maternal Abilities.

Maternal abilities go hand in hand with the fertility I wrote of earlier. Devon females make great mother cows plain and simple. Devon mothers are highly fertile and as heifers they routinely cycle by a year of age. A combination of foraging ability and efficient conversion of grass energy keeps Devons in condition to recycle soon after calving. The rich milk production and high butterfat (4.5%) from a breed strong enough to develop with both beef and dairy societies enables Devon owners to wean calves that routinely exceed half their mother's body weight.

Eight, Ability to flesh on grass.

Supreme Beef On Grass... this is our motto! Devons have long been bred to produce succulent flavorful beef from a grass diet. Since their origin in England to their popularity today in countries like Brazil and Australia which have not been overrun with the Feedlot disaster the Devon has excelled. The future of Devon cattle is intricately linked with their built in grass-conversion. As food supplies decrease and grain, fuel, and labor prices increase it will be economically unsound to grain fatten cattle with an equation of six to seven pounds of grain to one pound of beef. In summary, Devon's rightful role is a highly fertile maternal factory capable of producing higher quality beef from grass. Beef production for tomorrow will turn to our type of cattle, cattle that can forage and rebreed no matter what the environment.

Nine, longevity.

The average age of a dairy cow in this country is two and one half years of age. The average age of Dairy Devons is five. The average age of beef cattle in this country is 5 while the average age of Beef Devons is seven. One farm in Virginia currently has cattle in production at age eighteen and a herd bull which is fourteen years of age.. Devons are free from such diseases as Eye cancer, are structurally sound, have extremely correct udders, and have robust constitutions, which means they can remain productive in your herd much longer than other breeds. This is commonplace for all Devon herds and means more years of quality production which equates to more earning potential for breeders.

Ten, adaptability.

The Devons robust constitution has enabled them to flourish in the diverse environments of Brazil, Australia, Canada, England, Africa, the Middle East, New Zealand, and every corner of the USA. In Trials held in Australia it was proven that Devons not only excel on low nutrition but grow as fast as other purebreds receiving high nutrition diets.

Well, there are your ten reasons, but I have really just touched on the tremendous attributes attained by these wonderful cattle. I hope you will contact Lakota Ranch and come visit and see some for yourself.