

MIDLAND DEXTER GROUP

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NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year and belated Christmas greetings to everyone!

Group Presentation Evening

First of all thank you to all the members and friends who supported the social evening and presentation at the March Hare on the 25 October and to those whose efforts made the evening possible. We enjoyed a tasty and very good value carvery and later worked off a few mental calories with the team general knowledge quiz organised by Gordon, which sparked off some lively discussion and memory searching. The winning team by a short head was made up of Paul and Yvonne Froehlich and Mark and Darryl Bowles.

The main part of the evening was, of course, the Herd Presentation. For full details of the results see Gordon's attached report.

The trophies and rosettes were presented to the winners by Alison Kirk, our Chairman. Steven Adcock who had judged the competition was unable to be with us as he had a previous engagement, but a letter from him was read out in which he thanked members for making him so welcome on his visits.

A bouquet was presented to Alison for her services and thanks given to Pete Lancaster for organising the evening.

On behalf of the record number of members who took part in the Herd Competition I would like to thank Gordon for all the time and effort he put into organising the event and accompanying the judge on his visits. I know it was a very tight schedule with so many herds to visit over such a wide area.

Next Group Meeting will take place on 1 February 2009 : 10.30 for 11.00

We will have a short group meeting followed by lunch after which we will have the talk by a nutritional expert.

Ann Lea has arranged the guest speaker David Hendy. He's been advising Roger and Ann Lea on feeding their continental x bulls for the last 5 years and advises a large number of suckler producers around the country and will give us an insight into the nutrition needs of the Dexter cow and answer any questions we might have. David is aware that the management of Dexters varies from herd to herd and will base his talk on this fact and questions asked by members.

David has been working in the beef industry for over 35 years and has a wide experience of all sectors, including, production, nutrition, marketing and processing.

He ran his own farm livestock partnership for over 20 years and has subsequently been involved in marketing and beef production systems throughout the country and advising on developing specific production systems in the UK and Ireland and has several articles published in the Farming press. He now runs his own Beef and Sheep Nutrition and Production Consultancy, 'Rumen Development : Rumen Management', and over the years has readily embraced new technologies, concepts and advancements that bring added value and competitive advantage along with positive profit margins to beef and sheep producers, and linked these with practical and technical advice.' His talk will be, 'Rumen Development : Rumen Management, making the most of farm produced feeds'. He'll be focusing on an understanding of rumen stability, nutrition requirements and ration structure for beef and sheep production, and simple and practical solutions to maximising production from the farm and bought in feeds.

Rob and Alison Kirk have been weighing a group of steers/heifers on a monthly basis since housing this autumn and will briefly explain how they aim to achieve at least a 5% increase in actual beef to sell per carcass in 2009.

Venue:
buffet.

Hatton Village Hall
Birmingham Road
Hatton
Warwickshire CV35 7LR

Lunch arrangements: Please bring a contribution for the

Directions : Hatton Village Hall is on the A4177 north of Warwick. If you are approaching on the M40 leave at Junction 15 & take the A46 towards Coventry, take your first exit off the A46 & take a left onto the A4177(signposted Solihull).Go straight over the traffic lights, when you come to an island go straight on up the hill. At the top is the Waterman pub on your left. A little further on you will see a church on your left. Approx. 300 yards past the church you will need to turn right at the cross roads into Hatton village hall. From Coventry follow A46 to Warwick, come off at junction with A425 & A4177 & follow directions above.

If you have any difficulties on the day contact Robert on 07767 625014.

Group AGM

The meeting will take place on Sunday 5 April and will be hosted by Rob and Alison Kirk at Barton on the Heath, Warwickshire, followed by a visit to the Boram Dexter Herd, consisting of 150/160 home-bred short and non-short black and red Dexters.

“The cattle will be housed and spring calving should be well under way. Boram Dexters receive no concentrates and graze Cotswold grassland during the summer and fed home produced haylage during the winter months. This year we are feeding haylage to our store cattle from a first year cut of a four year ley red clover / rye grass / vetch mixture, hence the reason we are weighing on a monthly basis, aiming to increase our margins by at least 5% beef sold per carcass. Beef from steers and heifers is sold to four high-class establishments and private customers in the North Cotswolds. Further updates regarding weights will be available at the AGM”.

Further details and agenda to follow at a later date.

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

In order for the Midland Dexter to group to continue in the future we need a pro-active committee to administer membership and group finances and to bring about the events which add to the support knowledge and enjoyment of Dexter breeding.

The more people we have on the committee the more ideas and experience we have to draw on. The commitment is not too demanding, just a few very sociable meetings a year, at times to suit the majority of the members. It doesn't matter if you are not able to attend every single meeting, few of us can.

From the newest member with the smallest herds to long established commercial breeders, everyone has a valuable contribution to make to our group. So why not give it a go !

If you want to know more, or would definitely like to put your name forward to serve on the committee, let me or any of the other committee members know before the Group AGM in April.

Best Wishes

Ann Williams