

October 20th, 2015

Mr. James Johnson
President
Purebred Dexter Cattle Association
1395 W Market St
Akron, OH 44313

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Please accept this letter from a former PDCA member and 16-year breeder and owner of Dexter cattle as a sincere request and call for action to you and the PDCA membership.

As a fellow Dexter cattle breeder with an abiding interest in the continuing health and success of the Dexter cattle breed, I would respectfully request that all PDCA members examine their operation and the future of their Dexters in regard to the long-term viability of their stock as pedigreed, registered cattle. Specifically, I would ask you and your membership, if PDCA members' cattle are not currently registered in the American Dexter Cattle Association (ADCA), to strongly consider working towards having them registered, if eligible, in the ADCA registry now.

As you are aware, since the split of members from the ADCA into the PDCA in 2004, the two registering organizations have continued along divergent paths. In the eleven years since, the ADCA has continued to grow in membership and in cattle registrations. The PDCA has over the course of that same time declined in the number of members and in the number of registered Dexter cattle. The number of registrations in each association for 2014 is telling: there were 1,790 ADCA registrations compared to 154 PDCA registrations.¹

In addition, the ADCA has moved forward since 2009 with the adoption of bull genotyping and sire verification for all registered bull calves, thereby improving the validity and integrity of the ADCA registry. More recently at the 2015 ADCA Annual General Meeting, membership approved further requirements to ensure the integrity of the ADCA registry by requiring that: 1) all females born on or after January 1, 2016, must have a genotype on file at an approved lab prior to registration and 2) the offspring of all 2016 calves, and all offspring thereafter, must have a genotype with parentage verification on file at an approved lab.

The ADCA-membership approved requirements, when fully enacted with the offspring of 2016 calves, will be such that animals currently registered only in the PDCA will no longer be eligible for entry in the ADCA registry without extensive genotyping and parentage verification on multiple generations (if they are eligible for registration at all). As we have already seen with the bull genotyping requirements this is preventing PDCA animals in some cases from being able to be transferred into or eligible to be registered in the ADCA registry. In 2017, 2018 and forward when the full effects of these changes are in place; the number of PDCA registered Dexters no longer able to be registered without extensive multigenerational testing, (again, if eligible at all because of deceased and non-genotyped ancestors) will increase significantly.

Therefore I feel the obligation to make this request as a fellow Dexter breeder committed to the long-term interest of the breed, with an understanding of the tremendous genetic pool represented

¹ ADCA numbers provided to author through a formal request to the ADCA Registrar; PDCA numbers collected by author from the PDCA online database 10/19/2015.

in the PDCA Dexter herd, and the set-back to the breed if the PDCA genetics are lost to the national pedigree herd over time. I appeal to you and your membership to examine if now is not the last, best chance to get stock not currently registered in the ADCA, registered in the association that will continue on for the next century as it has the previous.

The facts are before us. In the next few years this opportunity will be for all practical purposes closed for a significant number of PDCA only registered Dexters. Registering and transferring registrations to the ADCA now will thereby ensure that PDCA Dexters and the genetics represented therein are not lost to the world of pedigree, registered Dexters over the long-term. In doing so, Purebred Dexter Cattle Association members' efforts as stewards and improvers of the breed will continue on as have those who preceded us in our wonderful breed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J M Chambers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeff M. Chambers
Silver Maple Dexters
772 South 4th Road
Adams, NE 68301