

Alumbaugh Farms

NASDA 2014 Seedstock Producer of the Year



The 35-year dedication to the South Devon breed began at Alumbaugh Farms with the purchase of two heifers purchased from Don Pettinger for Dr. Dale Alumbaugh's children to show. The wonderful gentle nature became evident immediately with the kids giving the heifers the run of the yard and allowing them to come on the back porch for grain and water, said Teresa Alumbaugh. Within the year, twenty $\frac{3}{4}$ percentage cows and the 1978 National Champion Bull, CS Baron Flash III was purchased and the whole family became engaged in the business of South Devon.

With the purchase of Teddy Bear, the 1984 Reserve Senior National Champion Bull and 1984 Canadian Senior Grand Champion Bull, all four of the Alumbaugh children began actively participating in breed shows in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado and the Canadian Expo. In addition, Dana and Joellen both reigned as South Devon Queen.

Dale & Teresa Alumbaugh

The cattle were SAE projects for FFA, earning high awards through the years and instilling a dedication to responsibility, integrity and agriculture in the Alumbaugh children. Along, with appreciation of the wonderful traits and characteristics of the South Devon breed and the many people and families met along the way.

The commercial cattle side of the Alumbaugh operation grew steadily, evolving into bull sales and leases. Approximately 40 bulls are sold and leased yearly. From the 400 head cow herd cattle are also provided for local FFA chapters for students involved in beef for the SAE project. Bred heifers and cow/calf pairs are also sold yearly. "Each customer marvels at Dr.'s Devons, as they are called here," said Teresa.

In 2009, a full blood Lowline bull was purchased to use on heifers for calving ease, hybrid vigor and high yield for the growth of the Alumbaugh Farms-based meat business started in 2008. The Alumbaugh farm-based meat business focuses on quality, price and old fashioned service including home delivery, she said.

2010 saw a return to the show ring with step-daughter Jessica showing cattle at local junior livestock shows in northern Missouri, winning four championships with a home raised South Devon heifer. In the fall of 2010 Dr. Alumbaugh went north and purchased registered heifers from DLCC Ranch and JVM Cattle Company at the Minnesota Beef Expo and a full blood bull in the spring from DLCC. "The registered herd has grown quickly and we have been fortunate to attend numerous fairs, shows and expos, meeting many friends, old and new," said Teresa. "Missouri was honored to be chosen to host the 2012 Junior National Show and Leadership Conference."

"Dale feels fortunate to have been introduced to this amazing and versatile breed and has steadily worked to introduce them to as many people as possible," she said.



Alumbaugh Farms, Trenton, Missouri hosted the 2012 North American South Devon Junior Association National Show and Leadership Conference. Pictured in the center from left to right, Dr. Dale Alumbaugh, Jessica and Teresa.

Mar Bet Farms

Inducted into NASDA Hall of Fame



Marty and Betty Vander Molen inductees into the North American South Devon Association Hall of Fame are pictured with their extended family.

The North American South Devon Association (NASDA) inducted Marty Vander Molen and family known as Mar Bet Farms, into the Hall of Fame during the National South Devon events held at the National Western Stock Show, Denver, CO in mid-January.

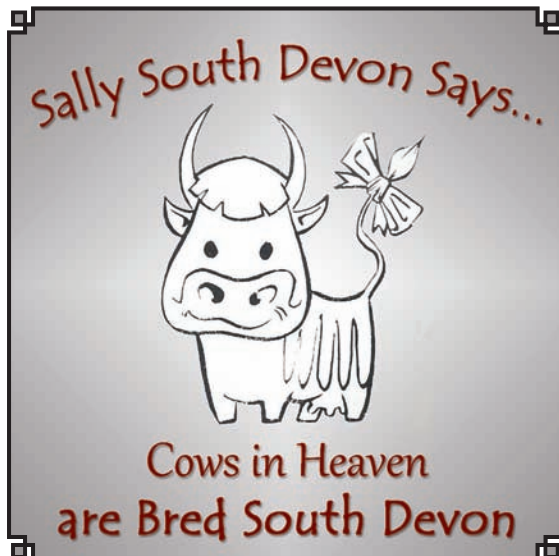
Marty Vander Molen graduated from high school in 1960 and started hauling livestock immediately. Up to this day they are still in the trucking business, said Vander Molen, having never hauled anything but livestock.

Marty and Betty were married in 1964 and bought the first 80 acres in 1968 and have owned cattle since then. "In the early 70's we heard about South Devon," said Vander Molen. "Having no money to buy very many for ourselves, in 1973 we took a load of South Devon bred 1/2 bloods on shares from Bob O Day from Little Falls, Minnesota. A few people had gotten cattle from Big Beef Hybrids headquartered in Minnesota."

Some of the individuals who were originally involved with South Devons were Bob O Day, Lowell Christensen of Ideal, South Dakota and Scott Bollenbach from Kingfisher, Oklahoma. "I feel fortunate to have known these men," said Vander Molen. He went on to say that "in 1973-74 a number of us met in Lynnvile, Iowa and formed what was known as the International South Devon Association. My membership # was 32. I was but a young fellow compared to the others. That was on July 16, 1974. The membership certificate was signed by Bert Combs as President and Charles Moore as Executive Secretary. Dr. Combs passed away not long after that."

Moore resigned and was replaced by Dr. Fitzpatrick of Lynnvile. Over the years Vander Molen was voted onto the board and served a total of 27 years on the board. He served as treasurer and also three terms as president.

He attended the National Western Stock Show in Denver 32 years straight. During this period as President of the Iowa Beef Breeds Council as well as a NASDA board member and a member of the Iowa Cattlemen's Board. In 1995 he cut back on his service and started farming more land.



Marty and Betty have three sons, Mike, Jeff and Brent who operate the trucking business and our commercial truck wash. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild and one on the way. "Our grandson Jordan has taken over the cow herd and I just do the grain farming," he said.

"As I think back on these years, there were many disagreements, hard times and good times. I met many very good people from all over the country and a lot of them are gone. But, I will always remember the good times."

Dahlgren Ranch

NASDA 2014 Commercial Producer of the Year



The Dahlgren Ranch was honored by Farm Bureau as a Century Farm in August of 2012 at the South Dakota State Fair. Pictured from left to right: Esther Dahlgren Goldade, Vince and Mavis Dahlgren and Keith Dahlgren.

The Dahlgren Ranch owned by Keith and Linda Dahlgren and family received the 2014 South Devon Commercial Producer of the Year award. This is a yearly award that is presented to a cattle operation that utilizes South Devon in their commercial cattle operation.

Keith Dahlgren first started using South Devon bulls in 1997. Unfortunately, the first South Devon bull he selected and purchased to use on his herd drowned. The bull was replaced by the breeder and he went on to use South Devon throughout the years, purchasing bulls from Wyoming South Devon, DLCC and Elk Creek. Recently, most of the bulls purchased by the Dahlgren Ranch are through the Big Country Sale in Columbus, Montana. The first South Devon calves were born on the ranch in 1998.

The Dahlgren herd is made up of Red Angus, South Devon and Gelbvieh, and most recently, they have added Simmental into the breed rotation. The crossbred calves are marketed annually at Ft. Pierre Livestock in Ft. Pierre,

South Dakota. "Buyers have benefitted from the heterosis and performance bred into these calves and the Dahlgren cattle are always at the top of the market in Ft. Pierre," said Dar Giess, president of the North American South Devon Association.

The top half of the replacement heifers are held back for breeding. Keith stated that the South Devon cross cows make excellent mothers and really work out all year long and range really well. They begin calving after March 20 and are completed before May 1, a 55-day calving season.

The Dahlgren family was honored in August 2012 at the South Dakota State Fair as a South Dakota Century Farm. Jonas and Helena Dahlgren purchased land in 1912 and moved from Iowa to make their home in Dewey County. Their son Herbert and his wife Esther; grandson Vincent and his wife Mavis and presently great-grandson Keith and his wife Linda have lived and raised their families on the home farm southwest of Timber Lake, South Dakota. Keith and Linda's son Blaine has now joined the ranching operation, making him the fifth generation on the Dahlgren homestead.



The Dahlgren Family homestead in Timber Lake, South Dakota, purchased in 1912.