

CONTINENTAL DORSET CLUB
2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2024
DARKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GREENVILLE, OH

The meeting was called to order by President Rachael Gately at 3:35 PM. Thank you to the Ohio Dorset Association for hosting the 2024 Annual CDC Membership Meeting. Rachael introduced Eastern Director Ben Wilfong, North Central Director Jeremy Crouch, Western Director Linda Mastin, Great Lakes Director Bob Schembs, New England Director-Elect Matt Syme and Executive Secretary/Treasurer Michelle Torrance. Rachael also introduced past CDC Presidents Mike Galleher and Dick Reece who were in attendance.

Rachael then stated that the minutes from the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting that was held March 17, 2023 at the Ohio Dorset Sale in Greenville, OH had been published in the Dorset Connection and asked if anyone present would like the minutes to be read aloud. With no one requesting this, Cruz Nichols moved to accept the minutes as written, Tracy Dendinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Michelle Torrance then presented the financial report for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to date as of March 12, 2024. Total income to date is \$26,117.46; total expenses are \$49,144.34 for a current deficit of \$23,026.88. Account balances to date – Checking \$41,086.71, Money Market \$56,547.85, CD \$26,564.36, Savings \$25.00 and NJDA \$39,113.79 for total cash assets of \$163,337.71. Cassie Crouch moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Mike Gallaher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Michelle presented the 2023-2024 statistics to date. As of February 29, 2024: 1090 Polled & Horned registrations have been completed – up 1 from the same time period last year. 153 Dorset Advantage registrations have been completed – up 26 from the same time period last year. Polled & Horned transfers processed to date are 462; down 175 from the same time period last year and Dorset Advantage transfers processed to date are 112; down 46 from the same time period last year.

Michelle also reported the Final Statistics for the 2022-2023 year. Polled/Horned registrations ended at 4026, down 1199 from the previous year, while DA registrations were up 69 from the previous year to 976. Year end transfers for Polled/Horned were 2873, up 129 from the previous year and DA transfers were 835 which was up 224 from the previous year. Michelle also reported that the Top 5 Individuals in registrations for 2022-2023 were: Wilfong Dorsets, Virginia – 117, (tie) Fisher Club Lambs, Idaho & Jeffrey A Hunter, Indiana – 64, Nichols Sheep Farm, Illinois – 58, (tie) Kelli & Brett Slack, Indiana & Virginia Polytechnic Inst & State University, Virginia – 57 and Paul R Cassel, Virginia – 56. The Top 5 States in Registrations for the 2022-2023 year were: Indiana – 830, Iowa – 752, Ohio – 572, Oklahoma – 517 and Illinois – 480.

Committee Reports:

* **Dorset Ewe Futurity:** Bob Schembs reported to the members there are 140 ewe lambs currently nominated for the Futurity program. 128 Polled Ewe Lambs and 12 Dorset Advantage Ewe Lambs. This number did not include the lambs nominated at the National Sale. He also announced that nomination forms are available at the booth for anyone who has an upcoming sale. The Bred & Owned division will again pay out a Fitted and Slick division as long as there are at least 5 ewes of each division nominated. There will also be a Horned Bred & Owned division again this year.

* **Breed Standard Education/Certified Judges List:** Jeremy Crouch reported that no new names had been presented for the certified judges list and encouraged breeders to submit names of judges in their areas that would do a good job evaluating Dorset sheep.

* **Production Dorset Committee:** Ben Wilfong announced that he is rejuvenating the Production committee and encouraged any breeders who would want to participate to contact him.

* **Dorset Youth Ewe Grant Program:** Linda Mastin reported that only 22 applications had been received, down from 98 last year. Due to the lower number, only 3 grant winners were selected: Junior – Jordan Hartschuh, Sycamore, OH; Intermediate – Aiden Jordan, Marion, OH; and Senior – Sydney Messick, Harrington, DE. Linda reminded members that the applications are due December 1st and encouraged sending in applications since 2 grants will be left unpaid.

* **National Junior Dorset Association:** Michelle reported on the NJDA online swag store, announced plans are in the works for All American festivities, reminded everyone about the Scholarship application deadline. She also asked members to encourage participation in the Futurity program for all divisions and mentioned that some new ideas are being discussed for the NJDA Annual Meeting in Louisville.

* **Newsletter & Webpage:** Michelle announced that the 2024 Winter issue had unexpectedly been delayed but had been printed and would be mailed out that week. Financially, this issue ended up in the red and the only way to generate more revenue is through ad sales. She will be working with Katherine Kuykendall to promote ad sales as well as getting the Winter issue out in a timelier manner in the future. Michelle reminded members of the April 15th deadline for the Spring/Summer issue and to contact Katherine or the CDC office to place an ad. Michelle also reported that she had been slow on getting the website updated, but all forms should be current as of the meeting. She will be working on updated other information such as

Board members for CDC and NJDA, working on an online pedigree search, an online Christened name search and other information.

*** All American Junior Show:** Michelle let the members know that the 2024 AAJS will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI over the July 4th weekend. Dan Spilde has been announced as the Horned Dorset and DA judge and those will be judged on Friday and Saturday, respectively. Mona Lisa Estes will judge the Polled Dorsets on Sunday. The CDC is looking for semen donations of 2-5 straws for the upcoming AAJS Benefit Online Semen Auction on Integrity Online Sales May 20th. Please contact Mike Crowder directly or the CDC office if you are willing to donate.

Old Business:

By-Law Committee Report: Bob Schembs reported that a copy of the By-Law Change had been submitted to all Active Members in February. Bob outlined the proposed changes and opened the floor for any questions or discussions. Seeing no discussion or questions, Rachael entertained a motion to accept the proposed changes. Paul Cassell moved to approve the By-Law changes as written. Dan Spilde seconded, and the motion passed.

Survey Committee Report: Jeremy Crouch then reported on the Survey that had been sent out to Active members. Over 200 members responded to the survey, which was more than the committee had hoped. Based on the results, the committee pinpointed 4 key issues that the Board needed to look at going forward.

* In regard to the Polled/Horned Dorset questions regarding crossing type/breeding up – 41% of the entire replies said YES; however, in looking only at the Horned breeders the response was 75% NO. It was the opinion of the Board that due to the overwhelming NO from Horned breeders, we should take their lead and not proceed with this item at this time. In looking at the Polled breeders the responses varied by Region, so it was decided by the Board to also not take any further action on this item at this time.

* In regard to the DA/DA breeding questions, it was decided by the board that the topic needed to be looked into further. The Board agreed to form a committee to further discuss the options and topics. This committee will be headed by Ben Wilfong who encouraged any members who wanted to be part of the committee and opened it up to contact him with any questions.

* In regard to adding a Piebald registry: it was decided to add this item to the committee formed in the DA issue for further discussion as well.

* In regard to Genetic testing/Dwarfism: In an effort to continue being inclusive to all types of the Dorset sheep, the Board as a whole did not want to add additional expenses of testing to the breeders, so at this time no testing will be required for registrations or shows. The Board agreed instead to focus on educating Dorset breeders and buyers on Dwarfism going forward.

New Business:

2024 Regional Junior Show Sites & Dates: Each director in attendance announced the location and dates of their Junior Shows:

North Central – Freedom Fest Junior Sheep Show, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL May 24-26

New England – Northeast Youth Sheep Show, BIG E Fairgrounds, W Springfield, MA July 19-21

Great Lakes – Youth Sheep Expo, Hancock County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, IN July 25-28

Great Plains – Pistol Pete Classic, Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, OK Late July (TBD)

Western – Oregon State Fair, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR August 24

Eastern – Carolina Classic Fair, Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC October 4-13

2024 NAILE National Dorset Shows: Ben Wilfong announced the judge nomination results for the 2024 NAILE Open Shows:

Fitted Polled & Horned Dorsets – 1) Brad Schrock, 2) Aaron Crome and Slick Shorn 1) Kyle Fleener, 2) Kalen Poe. The NAILE Sheep Committee meeting was held March 6th. Showmanship judges were voted on and results were as follows: 1) Sara & Katherine Kuykendall, 2) Heidi Barkley, 3) Mark & Aimee Johnson and 4) Emma Peters. The Board is looking at changes to the schedule to eliminate the late night showing and also arrival procedures and dock time for unloading. North Country Cheviots were approved as a new breed. The committee also voted to approach the NAILE board to ban ‘camp’ or ‘kitchen’ areas in the barn. Premium checks were mailed out in February and all awards and banners were presented in the show ring last year.

Announcements from Board Meeting: Rachael reported any announcements from the Board meeting

-**2024-2025 Officers:** President Jeremy Crouch & Vice President Ben Wilfong

-**Breeder’s Guide:** Rachael announced that the Board discussed no longer printing a Breeder’s Directory and only have it online but continue to update it every other year. She opened the floor for any opinions and seeing none, announced it would no longer be printed.

Award Presentations: Jeremy Crouch presented Rachael Gately with a plaque in recognition of her retirement after serving for two terms on the Board. She also received a memento for her time serving the CDC as President of the Board. Rachael presented the 2024 National Polled and Horned Dorset Sale Champion and Reserve Champion crystal awards to the consignors.

The 2023 Downsborough Sire of the Year keeper award was presented to Harper Nichols of Nichols Sheep Farm for “Albino Giraffe” McDaniel 21-3.

Hall of Fame Award Presentation: Rachael Gately announced Debra Hopkins as the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductee in recognition of her 25 years of service as the CDC Secretary. Debra was in attendance to accept the award in person. and thanked the membership for the honor.

Bill Keough moved to adjourn the meeting. Cody Crouch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM.

***Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Torrance, CDC Executive Secretary/Treasurer***