

Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeders Association Youth Heifer Program

The purpose of this program is to aid youth in getting started in the Dexter Cattle business, by awarding heifer calves to program participants on the basis of merit, future goals and the ability to care for the animal. Any youth, ages 8 – 16 as of January 1st, 2019 is eligible to apply for the Heifer Program. Membership in either 4-H or FFA is highly encouraged. If such programs are not available locally, then a youth may apply provided they have a RMDBA member who will serve as a mentor within an hour drive from Recipient's home. Previous winners of the RMDBA youth heifer chain are ineligible. When a heifer is available for the program, RMDBA will announce availability and applications will be taken for 30 days. All applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee.

Each program participant will own their heifer jointly with the RMDBA until completion of the program, at which time the participant will receive full ownership of the heifer and her offspring.

Each program participant will be responsible for raising the calf, arranging for her to be bred (AI or naturally) with help from their RMDBA mentor, and provide an annual report about their heifer at the fall RMDBA meeting in September for two years.

Please contact Warren Moore at 208-201-4674 or at warren@northforkdexters.com if you have any questions.

Return completed form to:

Warren Moore

RMDBA Youth Heifer Program

3560 North 3000 West

Rexburg, ID 83440

Criteria:

1. Open to any youth, ages 8 – 16 as of January 1st, 2019.
2. At least 50% of the heifers in the program will be awarded to youth who are non-owners of Dexter cattle.
3. Youth are strongly encouraged to be enrolled in 4-H or FFA and stay enrolled in 4-H/FFA while participating in the project. It is not a firm requirement, but without an FFA or 4-H advisor involvement, the youth must live within an hour drive of their Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeder mentor.

General Requirements:

1. All expenses for nutrition and health of the heifer will be paid for by the participant during and after program completion.
2. Participant should follow all vaccination/de-worming guidelines provided by their local veterinarian.
3. Participant and participant's family assume all liability for the heifer.

Showing of Animal:

1. Participants in the program are *required* to show their heifer and (if applicable) her first calf at the next RMDBA show held at the Utah State Fair in Salt Lake City, UT
2. Participants are encouraged to show heifer at additional shows.
3. RMDBA will pay the entry fee for the Utah State Fair for the first two years of the project and for both the program heifer and her first offspring. Transportation and any other expenses associated with these shows will be at the participant's expense. Participants may keep any prize monies that they receive from showing. Any donated equipment to the participant shall be returned to the RMDBA if for any reason the participant does not complete the program.

Breeding of Heifer:

1. All heifers in the program must be bred to a registered, genotyped Dexter bull.
2. All efforts will be made to secure donated bull services, but if none are available, participants will pay all breeding expenses.
3. All heifers should calf no sooner than two years of age.
4. After two artificial insemination attempts and two natural service attempts, or four natural service attempts, if the heifer is still unbred, the heifer will be considered a non-breeder. The participant's offspring obligation will be waved, but all other obligations will continue to complete the project. If the heifer cannot be bred she shall be returned to the RMDBA / donor and a replacement will be found for the participant to complete the program as planned.

Heifer Offspring:

- 1) The first offspring from the heifer will be given back to the RMDBA when weaned at approximately 5-7 months of age.
 - a) If this offspring is a heifer, it will be passed on to another participant.
 - b) If this offspring is a bull, it will be sold, with the proceeds going to the RMDBA to be used for the purchase of another project heifer.
- 2) Offspring feed and vet care will be paid by participant until the time of the transfer to the RMDBA.
- 3) Offspring will, at the least, be halter broken before it is given to the RMDBA.
- 4) Offspring may be shown (encouraged) by participant up until time of transfer to RMDBA. Entry fees will be paid by participant, but participant may keep any prize monies they receive from showing.

Completion of Project:

- 1) Project will be completed when the participant has owned the heifer for a period of two years and transferred an offspring to the RMDBA.
- 2) After completion of the project, the project heifer and any subsequent offspring become the property of the participating youth.

Termination of Project:

- 1) Participants will be responsible for the cost of replacing the animal if death is caused by neglect or if animal is not properly confined, at a cost of no less than \$1000.
- 2) The RMDBA guarantees the heifer through 12 months after delivery. If a heifer dies of natural causes and not due to any negligence of the participant in the first 12 months of ownership, the committee will replace with a heifer as soon as another animal becomes available.
- 3) If the committee reclaims a heifer because a participant does not fulfill the guidelines of the program, or if the participant is no longer able to care for, keep, or wants to continue participation in the program, the heifer/cow will be returned to the project along with all equipment and bull/AI services awarded to the participant.
- 4) Participants will not be reimbursed for any incurred expenses.

RMDBA Youth Heifer Chain Application

1. Only complete and signed applications will be accepted for review.
2. Youth, parent and 4-H/FFA leader or RMDBA mentor must sign applications.
3. The independent evaluation committee will review all completed applications.
4. Applications will not be held. Each offering of a heifer will require a separate application.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Phone: _____ Birth date: _____

Age: _____

Membership in: 4-H FFA Club name or chapter: _____

Where do you plan to keep this heifer? _____

Acres of Pasture: _____

Do you or your family have other livestock? Yes No

If yes, what kind? _____

What vet do you plan to use or do you already have a vet? Name _____

Phone _____

Do you have a water source? (circle all the apply) Creek Pond Tanks Other: _____

Type of fencing used: Barbed wire Woven Wire Electric Fence Wooden Fence

Do you have transportation for heifer when needed? Yes No

List any other information that you think the committee should know.

Write an essay that includes the following (minimum 1 page, maximum 3 pages)

- 1) Briefly describe yourself, hobbies, family, 4-H/FFA membership and activities, personal goals.
- 2) Why do you want to own an Irish Dexter heifer?
- 3) What have you done that would demonstrate to the committee that you have an active interest in Dexters? How are you learning about this breed? Have you ever attended a cattle show? Please list as much as possible to demonstrate your abilities and interest.
- 4) What care do you plan to provide to heifer (facilities, feed, etc.)?
- 5) What do you hope to learn from this project?
- 6) How do you plan to use this animal after the end of the program?

Please attach two letters of recommendation, one from your 4-H leader, FFA advisor or RMDBA member, and the other from an adult, who is not related to you, but knows you well enough to comment on your abilities and commitment.

Applicant: I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. I am between the ages of 8-16, and I understand that I am responsible for the feed and care of this heifer, if awarded.

Applicant's Signature

Contact phone number

As a parent or guardian, I give my permission for my child to participate in this program and have read and understand the rules and requirements of the RMDBA Heifer Chain program and agree to assist my child in any way necessary for the completion of the project. I acknowledge that there are inherent risks in working with cattle and that neither the Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeders Association, its officers or members will be held liable for any injury or death from participating in this program. In the event my son/daughter does not fulfill his/her obligations and responsibilities under this agreement, I will certify that I will take no legal action nor make any claim against the Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeders Association.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Contact phone number

Mentor's testimony: The facilities for raising a calf and the abilities of the applicant are adequate to successfully complete this project. The applicant meets the age and membership requirements as set forth in the rules and regulations.

RMDBA member/4-H leader/FFA advisor signature

Contact phone number
