



YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM RULES & GUIDELINES

Introduction

The goal of the Rocky Mountain Dexter Breeders Organization (RMDBO) YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM is to aid youth in getting started in the Irish Dexter cattle business, while also spreading awareness and promoting the breed. It is also a way to recognize youth who have a true passion for livestock. A member-donated heifer calf will be awarded to applicants based upon merit, future goals, and the ability to care for the animal each year.

The awarded recipient(s) will receive a registered Dexter heifer. This program will require a lot of responsibility and we want each applicant to be fully aware of the commitment they are applying for.

While participating in the RMDBO Youth Heifer Program, participants will gain knowledge and experience in selection, feeding, breeding, exhibiting, and marketing Irish Dexters. It is the hope of the RMDBO that the participant will build his/her breeding herd to receive financial and educational benefits.

When a heifer is available for the program, RMDBO will announce availability. Applications received will remain active for one (1) year from the date the application is signed. All applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee.

Qualifications:

1. Applicants must be a resident of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, California, or New Mexico.
2. Applicants must be between the ages of nine (9) and sixteen (16) years of age as of January 1 of the current year.
3. Applications will remain active for one (1) year from the date application is signed.
4. At least 50% of the heifers in the program will be awarded to youth who are non-owners of Irish Dexter cattle.
5. Applicants are highly encouraged to be enrolled in either 4-H or FFA, be in good standing and stay enrolled until completion of the RMDBO Youth Heifer Program if awarded a heifer. This is not a strict requirement. If such programs are not available locally, youth may apply provided they have a RMDBO member who will serve as a mentor within a one hour drive of the recipient's home.

6. Previous recipients of the RMDBO Youth Heifer Program are ineligible, but unsuccessful applicants may apply as many times as they wish.

Selection Criteria:

1. Participants will be selected based on their commitment to agriculture, future goals, and ability to feed, raise and care for the animal in a proper setting.

Program Criteria:

1. The program term for each participant is two years.
2. Each program participant will be responsible for raising the calf and arranging for her to be bred (AI or naturally) with help from their 4-H Leader, FFA advisor and/or RMDBO mentor.
3. The participant will be required to document their progress via video and photos for their annual report. The annual report will be submitted in the form of a YouTube video within thirty (30) days of their one year and two year anniversaries in the program. A link to the YouTube video will be emailed to the RMDBO Chairperson and shared on the RMDBO social media pages.
4. If, for some reason, the participant is unable to meet the requirements outlined above in item 3, participant has the option of submitting a written annual report with supporting photos to the committee. However, participant must submit a written explanation and request with their application to waive this requirement and it must be pre-approved by the committee.
5. An additional mid-year report may be requested by the committee. This, too, must be in the form of a YouTube video unless the participant has an approved waiver from the committee waiving this requirement.
6. Participant will be required to conduct or participate in one (1) major event each year while in the program (showing, major promotion which promotes the Irish Dexter breed, etc.). Each phase of the major event must be documented and supported by video or photos. For example, if the major event is a show, the video/photos should include all steps performed in preparing for the show such as training the animal, grooming the animal and showing the animal. If the participant is awarded a heifer, the participant's project must focus on the many attributes which make the Irish Dexter unique. We encourage you to have FUN and be CREATIVE when promoting the breed! You should consider the following when planning and documenting each phase of your project. Participants are encouraged to explore and gain knowledge in as many of the areas outlined below as possible:
 - a. History and historical significance of the Irish Dexter;
 - b. Irish Dexter traits and characteristics (size, disposition, hardiness, trainability, calving ease, as a beef animal, as a dairy animal, as oxen, etc.)
 - c. Benefits of the Irish Dexter over larger breeds;
 - d. Recognizing ideal conformation for the Irish Dexter breed;
 - e. Genetics (color, polled vs. horned, Beta Casein, Chondrodysplasia, PHA, etc.);
 - f. Care, health and nutrition (including vaccinations, parasite control, considerations for beef animals, etc.);
 - g. Selecting a sire for desired traits (What traits are you selecting for and why?);
 - h. Breeding and/or Artificial Insemination (AI) (What breeding method do you plan to use and why?);

- i. Calving and care of the calf (What did you do to prepare for calving and what care did the calf receive when it was born and why?);
- j. Maintaining proper facilities (What do you consider to be proper facilities and why?);
- k. How to keep records (Provide details of your record keeping);
- l. Training (haltering, leading, training to milk, training to show, etc.)
- m. Showing/Exhibiting your Irish Dexter. Although not required, you are highly encouraged to show your Irish Dexter at local, county, and/or state fairs and document the show(s) via video/photos.
- n. Grooming for show (detail and document your process via video/photos and how you learned to groom your Irish Dexter for show);
- o. Marketing, promoting and raising awareness of the Irish Dexter breed via social media, YouTube, websites, printed promotional material, and/or planned events involving your Irish Dexter, etc. Use your IMAGINATION and be CREATIVE in promoting the Irish Dexter breed of cattle!

Application Requirements:

1. **Application:** The applicant must submit a **complete** application signed by all parties listed;
2. **Essay:** The applicant must submit an essay (minimum of one page, maximum of three pages) and must include the following:
 - a. Briefly describe you, your hobbies, family, 4-H/FFA membership and activities, personal goals.
 - b. Why are you applying for a RMDBO heifer?
 - c. Why do you want to own an Irish Dexter heifer?
 - d. What have you done that would demonstrate to the committee that you have an active interest in Irish Dexter cattle?
 - e. How are you learning about this breed?
 - f. Have you ever attended a cattle show? Please list as much as possible to demonstrate your abilities and interest.
 - g. What care do you plan to provide to the heifer if you are selected to receive a heifer (facilities, feed, etc.)?
 - h. What do you hope to learn from this project?
 - i. How do you plan to use the heifer after the end of the program?
 - j. How would receiving a RMDBO heifer fit into your future plans?
 - k. Tell us why you feel you deserve a heifer and what would make you a good recipient.
3. **Letters of Recommendation:** The applicant must provide two (2) letters of recommendation. One letter must be from your 4-H Leader, FFA Advisor or RMDBO Mentor and the other from an adult, not related to you, but knows you well enough to comment on your character, abilities and commitment.
4. **YouTube Video:** Please submit a 3-5 minute YouTube video which includes, but is not limited to the following. For the safety of the applicant, we ask that you omit any video which may include such things as an address, physical location, or other identifying information that would reveal

the participant's physical location. The YouTube video link must be emailed to Weston Berry at bwdexters@gmail.com.

- a. Introduction of the applicant;
 - b. Tour of facilities where heifer would be kept;
 - c. Current 4-H/FFA projects, if applicable;
 - d. Goals and objectives for the RMDBO heifer if selected;
 - e. MUST be voiced by the applicant;
 - f. The remaining time is for the applicant to be CREATIVE and show the committee they are worthy of receiving a heifer.
5. A **signed** Photo, Video, & Social Media Release form.

General Requirements:

1. Heifers are owned by the RMDBO until successful completion of the program, at which time the participant will receive full ownership of the heifer and her future offspring.
2. All expenses for nutrition and health of the heifer will be paid for by the participant during and after program completion.
3. Participant should follow all vaccination and deworming guidelines recommended by their local veterinarian. All heifers should receive the BANGS (brucellosis) vaccination prior to twelve (12) months of age.
4. Participant and participant's family assume all liability for the heifer.

Breeding of Heifer:

1. All heifers in the program must be bred to a registered, genotyped, TRICH (Trichomoniasis) tested Irish 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 calve no sooner than two years of age (i.e., they should not be bred before fifteen (15) months of age).
4. After two artificial insemination (AI) attempts and two natural service attempts, or four natural service attempts, if the heifer is still not bred, the heifer will be considered a non-breeder. The participant's offspring obligation will be waived, but all other obligations will continue to complete the project. If the heifer cannot be bred, she shall be returned to the RMDBO/donor and a replacement will be found for the participant to complete the program as planned.

Offspring:

1. The first offspring from the heifer will be given back to the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM when weaned at approximately 5-7 months of age.
 - a. If this offspring is a heifer, it will be passed on to another participant. If there is no participant available, then the heifer will be sold or auctioned according to the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedures in effect at the time.

- b. If this offspring is a bull, it will be sold or auctioned according to the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedures in effect at the time, with the proceeds going to the RMDBO to be used for the purchase of another project heifer.
2. Offspring feed and vet care will be paid by participant until time of transfer to the RMDBO.
3. Offspring will, at the least, be halter broken before it is given to the RMDBO.
4. Offspring may be shown (encouraged) by participant up until time of transfer to the RMDBO. Entry fees will be paid by participant, but participant may keep any prize monies they receive from showing.

Completion of Program:

1. Project will be completed when the participant has had the heifer for a period of two years, transferred an offspring to the RMDBO, and successfully completed the program requirements.
2. After successful completion of the program, the project heifer and any subsequent offspring become the property of the participating youth.

Termination of Program:

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 \$1,000.
2. The RMDBO guarantees the heifer through twelve (12) months after delivery. If a heifer dies of natural causes and not due to negligence of the participant in the first twelve (12) months of ownership, the committee will replace the heifer as soon as another animal becomes available.
3. If the committee reclaims a heifer because a participant does not fulfill the requirements of the program, or if the participant is no longer able to care for, keep, or 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.

Program Exit Requirements:

1. Participants will be required to supply an exit video via YouTube as a requirement for successful completion of the program. A link to the YouTube video will be emailed to the RMDBO committee and shared on the RMDBO social media pages. The exit video should answer the following questions and MUST be voiced by the applicant:
 - a. What did you learn while participating in the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM?
 - b. How has the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM benefited you?
 - c. Would you encourage other youth interested in the Irish Dexter cattle business to apply for the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM?
 - d. What are your goals for the future in the Irish Dexter cattle business?
 - e. Include any other information you feel would be valuable to those considering applying for the RMDBO YOUTH HEIFER PROGRAM.

RMDBO members are encouraged to download the program rules and application forms for distribution to their local 4-H and FFA programs.

Please contact Weston Berry at (801) 885-0190 or at bwdexters@gmail.com for questions.

Mail completed applications to:

Weston Berry, Chairman
RMDBO Youth Heifer Program
3832 Adams Street
Cedar Valley, UT 84013

Email completed applications and YouTube video links to:

bwdexters@gmail.com