

# South Devon Steers Top Oklahoma Feedout

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Still riding the wave of enthusiasm created by the South Devon 1996 Carcass Project, the breed is back in the spotlight - this time posting some powerful numbers in the 1996-97 Oklahoma Steer Feedout.

A pen of South Devon steers posted an average daily gain of 4.09 pounds/day, which was good enough to top the 65 pens of steers representing all major beef breeds. This pen of steers qualified their owner, Bollenbach Cattle Company of Kingfisher, Okla. as a Gold Award Winner. To achieve this status, each steer in the pen

must have an average daily gain of more than 3 pounds/day, have a carcass weight between 650-850 pounds, and produce a carcass with a 3.25 or better yield grade.

When the steer feedout's focus turned to finished product, South Devon again found its way to the winner's circle. One of Bollenbach's South Devons produced a carcass index of 114.92 which was worthy of the title "most valuable carcass."

The latest news follows the success of the North American South Devon Association's 1996 Carcass Project, which documented the breed's combination

of superior carcass yield with very consistent carcass quality. Dr. Michael Dikeman, professor of animal science at Kansas State University, addressed a group of seedstock producers during the 1997 National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. He commented on this phenomena, saying, "South Devon cattle tend to defy the general antagonism that exists between percent meat yield and marbling." Dikeman said, "In other words, they (South Devon) have a higher percent meat yield than other British cattle at the same marbling and at a common slaughter weight."

Much of the data Dikeman referenced came from the North American South Devon Association's 1996 Carcass Project. Some 501 steers from both purebred South Devon breeders and commercial cow/calf operators who used South Devon bulls were fed at Schroeder Cattle Company's Feedlots in Palisade, Neb. These steers were killed at Excel's Fort Morgan plant. Cattlemen's Carcass Collection Service of West Texas State University took carcass measurements. The average carcass from the full-blood South Devon steers had the following characteristics:

- 763.9 pound Carcass Weight
- 13.3 in<sup>2</sup> REA
- 2.37 Average Yield Grade
- 72.7 percent choice and Prime

- 0.37 inches fat thickness
- 1.9 percent KPH fat
- 84 percent YG 1's & 2's.

These results may be especially meaningful to American Beef Producers when compared to the 1995 National Beef Quality Audit (NBQA), which involved 36 on-site inspections of 27 large packing plants which comprise at least 75 percent of the nation's fed cattle slaughter. The NBQA has helped to focus the Beef industry's attention on the shortcomings of U.S. fed & killed beef, especially in the factors, which influence product palatability and consumer acceptance. Dr. Dikeman praised South Devon's potential to improve carcass quality, saying, "South Devon cattle rank among the top three beef breeds for marbling."

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## South Devon Sire Summary On Way

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The North American South Devon Association has announced that its 1998 Sire Summary will be released in January at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo.

This sire summary features EPD's and accuracies for more than 200 South Devon sires, as well as listing the number of herds, and progeny these records are based on. Additional information provided by the 1998 South Devon Sire Summary includes:

- Phenotypic trends of the

South Devon breed in the past 21 years.

- Genetic trends of the South Devon breed in the last 27 years.
- Percentile breakdown tables for active sires, dams, and 1996 born calves.
- Possible change table for EPD's (+/-) at various accuracies

To receive a complementary copy of the 1998 South Devon Sire Summary, contact North American South Devon Association, P.O. Box 014010, Kansas City, MO 64101-0010, (816) 842-5263

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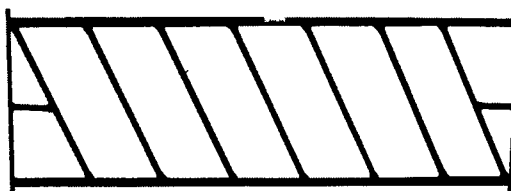
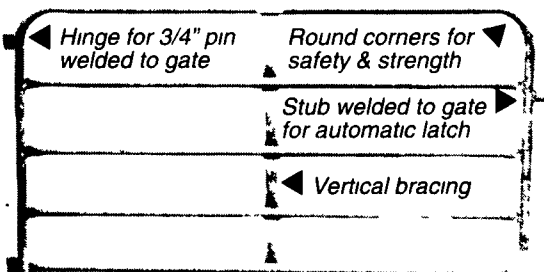
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