



Reviving the Rural Economy

Owners Gearld Fry and Ridge Shinn have a passion to revive the rural economy. Their expertise is grass-fed cattle that produce superior quality beef, and they strive to restore family farms one cow herd at a time.

Started in 2002 and headquartered in Hardwick, Massachusetts, Bakewell Reproductive Center offers comprehensive services including consulting, seminars, on-farm visits, livestock evaluation, and prescribed breeding programs. Many livestock producers have made great strides towards creating the right kind of cattle that will grow and finish on grass by incorporating the semen, embryos and/or live bulls from the Rotokawa® Devon bloodlines, that only Bakewell offers, into their breeding programs.

When the McCormicks in Portage, PA decided to transition their commercial/Angus based herd to Devons, they purchased several Rotokawa® embryos from Bakewell and used their best cows as surrogate mothers. “Starting this way has put us years ahead than if we chose an alternative approach,” says Darla. “The resulting calves get no grain, are gaining and looking great on grass, and are wonderful to work with.”

For a total grass-based operation to be profitable the producer needs animals that are moderate in size yet possess tremendous body width and depth. Most cattle today are the result of pressure from the feedlot industry for tall, big framed, late maturing cattle that can stay on grain for 120 days and produce large, lean carcasses.

Many other British breeds (Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn) have a subset of cattle that still have the correct attributes to get the job done on a total grass diet. Of them all, Bakewell has found the Devon to be the best. These early maturing, good-natured cattle have historically been known as the butcher’s

Ridge Shinn and Gearld Fry of Bakewell Reproduction Center LLC, frequently attend and sponsor the annual PASA conference. Their business has been asset to several grass-fed producers.

breed. Butchers verify that they produce marbled carcasses with an excellent ratio of meat to bone — two pluses for the direct marketer.

The Rotokawa® Devon herd has been closely bred for years. This paired with ruthless culling has led to extremely prepotent bulls that have the ability to transfer quality consistently to their progeny. Ask Brian Futhey and he will tell you.

Brian is a dairy farmer/cheese maker who started a small beef herd with two purebred Devon heifers. He has been using the Rotokawa® semen for three years now, not just on his heifers but also on some of his Milking Shorthorns. “I can’t always tell the purebreds from the crossbreds,” claims Brian. “It’s incredible the influence the Rotokawa® genetics has on whatever it’s paired with. The great temperament of these animals was an unexpected benefit. And these cattle are great grazers, they seem to find grass even when I think there’s none there.”

Visit www.bakewellrepro.com for carcass evaluation test results on Rotokawa® Devon cross-bred cattle. Eighty-seven percent graded choice and tenderness values are better than restaurant quality. For financial success, consider these cattle that will fatten on grass in 18 months and then cut out at 65–75% of Hot Carcass Weight.

Bakewell’s mission is to equip producers with knowledge and skills so they themselves can create great herds. They want to teach people how to fish, not just give them a fish. ■

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Genetics for Grass Finishing!

Bakewell Reproductive Center



Rotokawa® 982
Semen * Embryos * Devon Bulls

www.bakewellrepro.com
Contact: Gearld Fry or Ridge Shinn

ridge@bakewellrepro.com
To order semen call: 501-454-9949

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