



"SPRING" INTO ALL THE LATEST CHB NEWS & UPDATES!

Canadian Heritage Breeds

Spring 2017

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Canadian Heritage Breeds Welcomes you to Spring!

We hope that you are having a fantastic spring so far, and that all of your calving, hatching, farrowing, kindling, and lambing has been successful!

This issue features some fantastic informative pieces, as always, and in addition we have emphasized our outstanding upcoming events. These include shows, educational sessions, and social activities for members that you won't want to miss!

Also highlighted in this issue is an update on the CHB Youth Mentorship Program, and you'll get the chance to "meet" our knowledgeable volunteer Youth Mentors. CHB is dedicated to ensuring the future of our beloved Heritage Breeds, and a key strategy to achieve this mission is through investing in our youth.

This month we feature some great information about two heritage chicken breeds, the Cochin and the Russian Orloff. Also in this issue is a special feature from our very own Crystal McKinnon written on the topic "My Poultry Journey." We just know you'll enjoy this issue as there is something for everyone!

2017 is shaping up to be a very busy year in the CHB world with many special events and shows coming up. Thank you to our members for your continued active involvement with our association. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at this year's exciting event lineup.

Happy Reading! We hope you'll find this issue informative and useful.

Partridge Cochins | Cover page photo credit: Kathy Stevenson



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What is CHB?

We are about the preservation of genetic diversity, heritage breeds, networking, social gatherings, education, breed conservation, and fun. CHB offers a number of events and resources including poultry shows, seminars, breed displays, social gatherings & smaller events throughout the year.

Our membership includes every level of enthusiast from the first time urban coop owner to farmers with decades of experience raising heritage breed animals. CHB also encourages youth involvement with a developing Juniors program. Although CHB is based in Central Alberta we aim to create a resource for not just Alberta, but



for all of Western Canada and beyond!

CHB publishes an online quarterly newsletter announcing upcoming events, articles by and about our members, breed introductions and information, and more.

MOVING? WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH!

If you have moved or changed your address, please let us know!

Email:
canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com

Become Involved

CHB is always looking for members who want to become more involved! As we continue to grow, there are always opportunities open for YOU to become more involved with seminars, breed displays, sales, shows, get-togethers, newsletters, etc. If you are interested in volunteering for a specific event, are available for general assistance, have ideas for



advertising, or interesting things we should have at the show, we would love to hear from you! We always need volunteers to help at upcoming shows and events. Help with the fall show set up and tear down are the two biggest areas where we can use even just a couple of hours of help.

Become a Member

For only \$10.00 per year, you will receive or have access to:

- In-club Awards
- Discounts on CHB Club Events
- Early Registration for Seminars
- Advertising Opportunities
- Quarterly Newsletter

[Register online today!](#) Canadian Heritage Breeds is a Registered Non-Profit Society.

Upcoming Events

2017 Important Dates

CHB 2017 Events:

- **June 4th** Poultry Educational day (Sunnybrook Farm – Red Deer)
- **July 23rd** CHB Westerner Days Poultry Show (Westerner Park, Red Deer)
- **July 29th** CHB Vermilion Fair Poultry Show (Vermilion Agricultural Society)
- **September 9th** CHB Members' BBQ and Picnic (tentative – location and details TBA)
- **November 4 - 5th 2017** CHB Fall Poultry and Pigeon Show (Lacombe Agricultural Society)

Other Upcoming 2017 Events:

- **June 9 - 10th** Homestead Show & Market, Midnight Stadium, Fort MacLeod
- **June 29th – July 1st** All Canada Sheep Classic (Westerner Grounds - Red Deer)
<https://www.albertasheepbreeders.ca/2017-all-canada-classic.html>
- **August 19 – 20th** 110th Priddis & Millarville Fair - includes sheep, goat and poultry shows (Millarville Race Track & Fair Grounds) <http://www.millarvilleracetrack.com/millarville-events/fair/>

If you have an upcoming event which might be of interest CHB members, email us the details and we'll add it to the Events Listing to be published in the next newsletter! canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com



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*Thank you to Peavey Mart for your ongoing support of
Canadian Heritage Breeds!*

June Poultry Assessment Day

Please note: CHB June poultry workshop has been rescheduled

The June poultry event had previously been announced for June 10th, but we've unfortunately run into some scheduling conflicts and have had to change the date and location.

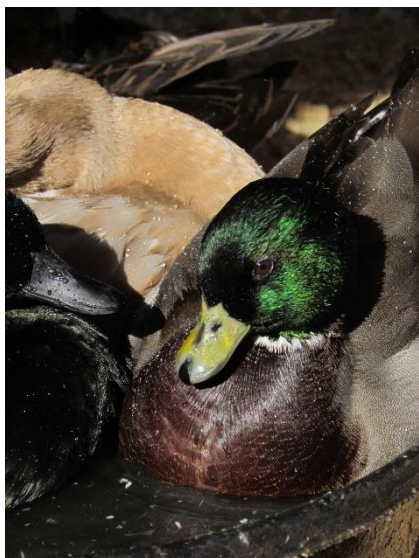
The workshop will now be held at **Sunny Brook Farm in Red Deer on Sunday, June 4th from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm**. All CHB members are welcome! Please gather at the log cabin at 11:00. The address is:
4701 - 30 Street, Red Deer, AB, T4N 5H7



The morning portion will be a meet & greet. This gathering is also an opportunity for the CHB Youth Mentorship participants to meet the mentors and the other families taking part in the program!

The afternoon will feature hands-on chicken assessment techniques. Flock-owners of all ages can gain skills and knowledge in evaluating chickens and find out what to look for when selecting for breeding purposes. A demonstration of Junior Showmanship will also be included.

A pizza lunch will be provided for CHB members, but you must pre-register to let us know how many in your family will attend. To register, please send a note stating the names of adults and children in your family who will be attending. Email: canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com



Did you know . . .

You can advertise in the CHB Newsletters!

Ad pricing:

Full Page \$40.00 (8.5 x 11)

1/4 page or business card \$20.00

Contact us to submit your ad, or for more info:

canadianheritagebreeds@gmail.com

"Bath Time" Call Ducks | Photo Credit: Tyler Kanten

2017 Summer Shows



CHB is excited to be hosting two summer shows in Alberta this year. The first is taking place in Red Deer, as part of Westerner Days, on **July 23rd**. Alberta's own Rico Sebastianelli will be judging this event. This show is a great opportunity for new exhibitors to try their hand at showing poultry. It is a very casual environment with plenty of time to chat with the Judge and fellow exhibitors. For more information watch the CHB website, or contact Callum McLeod at callum.kaarsoo.mcleod@gmail.com

The second summer show is taking place in Vermilion, in partnership with the Vermilion Agricultural Society, on **July 29th**. This year the founder of the Sustainable Poultry Network, Jim Adkins from North Carolina, will be judging. Jim will also be offering an educational workshop in conjunction with the show. This show is always lots of fun, and with the addition of a workshop promises to be a great educational experience for everyone! For more information contact Jenifer Jacula at jjacula@mcsnet.ca

2017 Fall Show Update

The planning of the 2017 Fall show is well underway. The date of the show has been moved one week forward to **November 4-5th** at the Lacombe Agricultural Society.

Erik Nelsen of Tenants Harbour, Maine is confirmed as our poultry judge, and he is very excited as this will be his first time judging in Alberta.

So far, our show has been designated as a specialty meet for Chanteclers, Cochins, Sussex, Booted/D'Uccle Bantams, and Marans. We welcome all members to organize specialty meets for any breed clubs that they may be a part of.

If you are interested in being part of the planning committee it is not too late! If you would like to join the committee, or have any questions in general, contact Callum McLeod at callum.kaarsoo.mcleod@gmail.com.



St. Paul Critter Market

Lunch on-site
from
Haute Cuisine!

May 20, 2017

11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

St. Paul Ag Corral

5322-48 Ave, St Paul, Alberta

(turn south at the RCMP building)

Free Admission
Door prizes &
draws!

Market-style sale with vendors selling a wide variety of chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, guineas, quail, doves, pheasants, hatching eggs, poultry & farm supplies, rabbits, pigs, goats, miniature horses, pheasants, lily bulbs, handmade items, garden & bedding plants, wood crafts, unique furniture, rustic home & garden decor, facepainting, glitter tattoos, unique toys, games & more!

Alberta Regional Lily Society	Go 4 It Enterprises	Paint by Number Ranch
Almostaranch Creations	Gooseberry Hills Farm	Patti G Enterprises
Ashdown Acres/ Rocky Ridge Dexters	HerStory	Potvin Farm Miniature Horses
Beyond Dreams Homestead	Home Grown Hydroseeding/ Sacred Grove	Pure Essentials
BX Farms	House of Chewlz	Range Road Rustic
Cards by Yurko & Ziggys Piggys	Joleen Hein & Shelly Strelezki	Recycled Karma
Cheeky Mare	Kelsey Trach	River Run Farm
Clare Lawrence	Ken's WoodenWorks	Sentimental Salvage
Connie's Custom Creations	Krystle Denning	Shelley Lupaschuk
Critters and Moore	Landry Lake Ranch	Sparkle Tattoo Inc
Cutco Cutlery	Lee Wruth Woodworking	TerrBear Creations
Dack Farm	Linda Huard	The Quintessential Quail
Dale Huber	Little Bit of Everything Rabbitry	Three Mile Ventures
Duckopolis	Misty Zijlstre	TLC Farms
Ewesask Farm & Heritage Poultry	My Cluckin Hen House	Walkn On Water
Gala Partridge Chanteclers	Myrnam 4-H Club	Wild Rose Rabbitry
		Yellow Barn Poultry

*For a complete list of what our vendors
have to offer, please visit us online at*

www.lakelandchickengroup.com

Hosted by

lakeland
CHICKEN GROUP



Facebook event page:
St. Paul Critter Market

CHB Youth Mentorship Program

We are proud of this brand-new youth focused CHB initiative, and are pleased to introduce you to 2017's four outstanding Youth Mentors!

Meet the Mentors!



Callum McLeod (top-left) I have been actively raising and showing poultry for 6 years, but have been interested in poultry for my whole life. I am a member of both the APA and ABA, and am working towards my judging licenses for both organizations, hopefully within the next three years. While not from a farming family, I attended university in the UK and achieved a degree in agriculture. While at university I got to experience poultry shows in Europe, which was hugely educational and exciting. I am excited to share what I have learned with others, and to continue learning alongside them.

Crystal McKinnon (top-right) I have been working with children forever and love it! I've worked in the school system from preschool - high school, and in a special needs program. Presently I am a director at a daycare. Working with children and poultry breeding are both passions of mine. I love to share everything I know and am looking forward to this program.

Kyle Lawrence (bottom-left) I am pleased to be one of the youth mentors. Raising poultry has been an interest of mine since I was a youth. Starting in 2010, I began participating in poultry clinics and shows where I learned from the knowledgeable judges and successful poultry breeders. In 2015 I completed the Sustainable Poultry Networks week long Sustainable Poultry School in North Carolina. Looking forward to sharing my knowledge with others!

Kathy Stevenson (bottom-right) I've enjoyed raising chickens since childhood, but found my true passion is selective breeding for improvement. I am an active member of several poultry and breed clubs, and am happy to see CHB launch the new Mentorship Program. I was so fortunate to have a poultry mentor help me get started in the hobby and hope I can pay it forward a bit by helping someone else.

The Sensational Story of the Cochin

By: Kathy Stevenson

The Cochin is an ancient breed originating in the far east, but further details about the early development of the breed have been lost in time. Although their distant past remains a mystery, their introduction to Europe and North America was perhaps the most significant and influential event in the history of poultry keeping.

Events surrounding the arrival of Cochins in England became rather muddled at the time, partly because people like to embellish stories about things that are exciting and new. But what's more surprising was the confusion that resulted from people applying the name "Cochin" to the wrong birds!

It all began in 1843 when the first Asian fowl to be branded as Cochins were brought to England by British naval officer, Edward Belcher. After Great Britain had acquired Hong Kong, Belcher reportedly returned to England bearing five hens and two roosters as a gift for the newly married Queen Victoria. Captain Belcher had obtained the chickens somewhere along his voyage that included stops in China, Sumatra, and Vietnam.



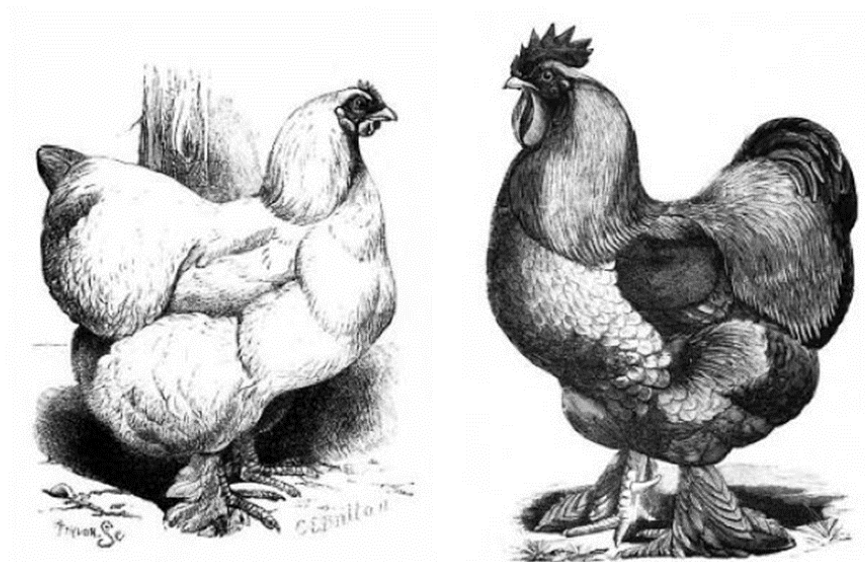
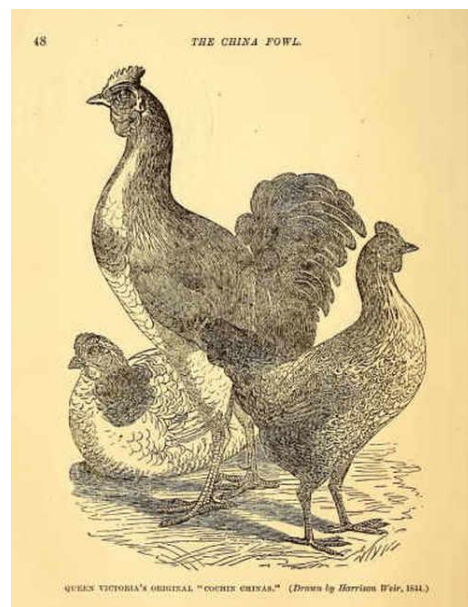
Figure 1 Royal Aviary

These elegantly tall, striking birds were curiosities, unlike anything that had been seen before. The royal couple were enthralled! They built an extravagant aviary at Windsor Castle where they could spend their time having tea while taking delight in their flock.

They began breeding their "Cochin Chinas" and sending hatching eggs around to other European Royalty who quickly became enthusiastic chicken breeders as well.

But other than their great size, these first arrivals had very little in common with the fowl that later came to be known as Cochins. These birds were orange/red with black tails, and had hard, close plumage. Their extreme height, featherless shanks and lengthy, sloping back suggests strong Malay influence, a breed which was already widely distributed throughout the Orient by that time.

Just a few years after Queen Victoria received her Cochin Chinas, a new breed of imported fowl arrived from Shanghai – progenitors of our modern-day Large Fowl Cochins. Mr. Moody, in Hampshire, and Mr. Alfred Sturgeon, of Gray's, Essex, both acquired large, fluffy chickens with feathered shanks and began breeding their Shanghai Fowl. The name didn't stick though. The public had formed an attachment to the Cochin name, and insisted on calling these new imports Cochins as well. Despite the efforts of breeders and poultry writers who continued to classify them as Shanghai's, the Cochin name eventually took over and has endured to this day.



White Cochin hen and Buff Cochin cock in 1873. Note less foot-feathering then. Artists: unknown (cock) and C.E. Brittan (hen)

Offspring of these early imports hatched in a number of colour variations; so began the long process of selectively breeding for uniformity. Mr. Sturgeon and his friend Charles Punchard became leaders in Cochin breeding, developing the Buff and Partridge varieties.

“HEN FEVER” BECOMES AN EPIDEMIC

It was at the Birmingham Exhibition of 1850 that Cochins rocketed to fame. Exhibits of these wondrous, exotic new chickens had the place abuzz with rumours. Spectators went home with wild tales of Cochins that could grow to an immense size; hens that could lay several eggs a day; cocks with a crow similar to the roar of a lion yet would make a gentle, loving house pet. This, plus the idea that breeding them could be very profitable, drove the price of breeding stock sky high. 'Cochin Craze' swept the country.



BUFF COCHINS TO DATE.

Copyright, January 1st, 1898, by the Reliable Poultry Journal Publishing Co., Quincy, Ill.

WETA, JOHN & WHELAN CO., BUREAU, ILL.

Above: Reliable Poultry Journal, 1891

Ornamental chicken breeding had also taken a firm hold in the United States. America's first poultry show was held in Boston public gardens 1849 with over 1400 entries, followed by 12,000 birds being entered the next year! Chickens had previously been deemed quite insignificant, but suddenly wealthy fanciers were driving prices of select breeds to the modern equivalent of \$30 an egg and \$3,600 for a pair.

The fascination with unusual and fancy chickens continued to expand, which fueled the development of highly focused breeding programs. The result was a number of new chicken breeds that could pack on more muscle mass with a lower investment in feed. As the price of chicken dropped, it became a much more affordable food item. Eventually, chicken replaced other poultry breeds such as ducks, turkeys, and geese as the meat of choice.

Today, North Americans consume more chicken than any other meat. The US poultry industry is now valued at around \$48 billion. It's quite remarkable to realize that it all began with a few beautiful, exotic chickens that delighted and captivated people from all levels of society.

Kathy Stevenson, April 2017

Sources:

Wrights book of Poultry, by S H Lewer

The Forgotten History of 'Hen Fever' by Emelyn Rude

Popular Poultry Breeds, David Scrivener

My Poultry Journey

By: Crystal McKinnon

I live east of Caroline on a small acreage, although I grew up as a city girl and never had a pet. My attraction to poultry started at my Great Aunt's Farm. I was fascinated watching the chickens in the pen at a young age. And to this day I still see them in my memory.

2006 was my first order from a hatchery. I was thrilled with my first adventure into poultry and adored my Cornish Cross Meat birds. But, as they grew and ate and grew and ate, I realized these were not correct. They didn't move, they were sad creatures and not the birds I remembered. I began my research into 'real' chickens.

In 2008 my first 'heritage' breed chicken was SC Rhode Island Reds. BUT they were sourced from a hatchery. They were excellent layers and I loved their red feathers. Then, I really started looking at different breeds....and I started my collecting faze. Oh, pretty feathers! Big bodies, and oh, look a cheap bird! I became breed-blind wondering, "Where is the next sale and forum?"

During 2011 breeds came and went. I discovered my own sustainable thoughts on raising poultry. I wanted a bird that I could eat and lay a nice amount of eggs. So, my focus narrowed and I began to focus on what was correct and bought my first *APA Standard of Perfection*. I went to my first poultry show to see what it was all about. Wow! I watched, listened and learned a ton. CHB offered a show washing and selection workshop. I bought my membership and went.

That November I entered my first poultry show in Red Deer. I was familiar with showing llamas but chickens and turkeys? Not a clue! Well, I thought, I will enter what I have. I did the show prep as I learned, and was looking forward to the experience. And what an experience! Rewarding at every level. I even entered

my Christmas Dinner Turkey (who had a butcher date in 10 days). My Christmas Dinner won and won big. He was Best Turkey and Reserve Land Fowl. I had no idea as to what this meant, I had only entered to learn. Of course, I started to cry - so many emotions and so unexpected! BUT a memory forever.

From this point on I was committed to learn all what I could about poultry... this was my breed focus and reading faze. Workshops, mentors, shows, and of course, joining clubs and associations.

Buckeyes: my focus was so intense that I just got down to a single breed. I bought ALL the Buckeye genetics that I could across Canada, from one ocean to the other. I built up an excellent Mentorship relationship with the big guns in Ohio. Ya! Got my Red Bird back! I started my serious breeding program and had a very narrow focus to develop and improve the Buckeye to the "Vision", as Nettie Metcalf (creator of the Buckeye chicken) had envisioned in 1904. I know I have a long path but the learning has been priceless.

Because, I have such a large passion for the Buckeye I asked approval from the American Buckeye Club to start up a Canadian Buckeye Club via Facebook. This is intended to be a learning site; I want to pass the passion onto anyone who wants to learn.



Crystal with her Champion Turkey, Chris

The Russian Orloff

By Yvette Franklin

Not many poultry breeds can boast such a long (and confusing!) history and still not be a recognized breed by the American Poultry Association. The breed is said to have been created in the late 18th century by Count Alexei Orlov-Chemenski. By crossing Gilan chickens from Persia and Iran with local cold-hardy breeds in Russia, Count Orlov made a breed that he named after himself, the Russian Orloff. With such a long history and diligent work of breeders across the globe to preserve these birds, the Russian Orloff has not faded away to be a breed only for the history books. This regal breed is on the cusp of something wonderful, the return of the Russian Orloff. (Source: <http://orloffsociety.wixsite.com/russianorloffsociety>)



Photos Courtesy of Yvette Franklin

Join Us

If you are interested in joining the Society or supporting the Russian Orloff breed join us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uscaorloffs/>
Interactive Orloff Tracker map



can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1j242mE>

Use the key GUEST.



Photo courtesy of Larissa Wiles Gorizo



Photo courtesy of Jenny Webb

Russian Orloff Society of USA and Canada

<http://orloffsociety.wix.com/russianorloffsociety>



<http://orloffsociety.wix.com/russianorloffsociety>

The membership form for the Society is easily submitted online after all applicable information is filled out. Payments will be made by paypal to the Society Treasurer Larissa Wiles rorloffsusaca@gmail.com

<http://form.iotform.us/form/51708521428151>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/uscaorloffs/>

Mission Statement

Our goals, as a collaborative group are as follows:

1. To adopt a standard of perfection for the large fowl Russian Orloff
2. Petition for and gain APA recognition of that standard
3. Breed to that adopted standard
4. Promote the breed (large fowl and Bantam)
5. Increase the numbers of Orloff kept in the United States and Canada, so that they are removed from the endangered list by way of a. showing b. peer education and support—access to files, discussions including constructive criticism c. continued efforts in perfecting the breed d. tracking the Russian Orloff population through Orloff tracker program

Russian Orloff History

The Russian Orloff derives from a Persian bird and a Russian bird. The first Orloff was crossed by Alexey Grigoryevich Orlov, a Russian count, in Russia. It was heavily developed in the 19th century to withstand cold climates and by the 1920s it had made its way to Britain. Contrary to popular belief the Russian Orloff was never recognized into the APA. As of now, it's considered critically endangered.

The Russian Orloff are found in a few color/ varieties ranging from Spangled, Mahogany, Cuckoo, White, Black, and Mottled. The most common variety found here in the USA and Canada are Spangled. There are a few breeders with Mahogany, and one or two with some of the other varieties/color.



Russian Orloff Society USA and Canada

Regional Map with Region Directors and e-mail



Russian Orloff Photos



A Bit of Ancient Wisdom...



Here is a bit of ancient advice on chicken keeping from Columella. Columella lived from 4 – 70 AD, and was considered the most important writer of agriculture of the Roman empire.

“The ideal flock consists of 200 birds, which can be supervised by one person if someone is watching for stray animals. White chickens should be avoided as they are not very fertile and are easily caught by eagles or goshawks. One cock should be kept for five hens. In the case of Rhodian and Median cocks that are very heavy and therefore not much inclined to sex, only three hens are kept per cock. The hens of heavy fowls are not much inclined to brood; therefore their eggs are best hatched by normal hens. A hen can hatch no more than 15-23 eggs, depending on the time of year, and supervise no more than 30 hatchlings. Eggs that are long and pointed give more male, rounded eggs mainly female hatchlings.”

“Chicken coops should face southeast and lie adjacent to the kitchen, as smoke is beneficial for the animals and poultry never thrive so well as in warmth and smoke. Coops should consist of three rooms and possess a hearth. Dry dust or ash should be provided for dust-baths.” -- From Wikipedia



Applejack Ranch Dexters