



Guinness World Books recently recognized Archie, a Dexter bull from Ireland, as the shortest bull in the world. He's just 30 in. tall.

World's Shortest Bull Is Big On Attitude

Thanks to his tiny size, Archie, a Dexter bull from County Antrim in Northern Ireland, will enjoy a long life, with no trip to the slaughterhouse. At just 30 in. tall at the withers, Guinness World Books recently recognized him as the shortest bull in the world.

"He's shiny, dark black with lots of attitude," explains Tom Lavery. "Even though he's small, he thinks he's the boss and stomps around as though he's 10 ft. tall. He has never seen himself in a mirror to know any better."

Lavery's son, Ryan, was exhibiting his own Dexter cattle at a rare breeds show in 2010 when he saw 3-month-old Archie with another family's cattle. At 13, Ryan was already a committed farmer, and he decided to purchase the calf to raise for beef.

"But because of his friendliness and cute looks, he became more of a family pet from the start," Lavery says. Then, when he didn't grow, the Laverys knew there was something special about Archie.

Dexters are a smaller breed to begin with – bulls average 45 in. at the withers. Originating from southwest Ireland, they are hardy enough to survive outside year round and thrive on poor pasture. They provide good milk and have exceptionally good-tasting, rich, marbled meat. Ryan started his herd when he was 7. He and his father, a building engineer, converted part of his grandfather Eddie's farm that once had larger stock to adapt to Ryan's smaller breed. He

currently owns six pedigree Dexter cattle.

"We had to replace the round cattle feeders with sheep feeders, and the barbed wire fencing was replaced with sheep wire," Lavery says. He adds that the family enjoys the Dexter breed's zest for life and the "antics and cunning" they add to the farm.

With Archie's new fame, the farm added a bit more security and rubber matting to make Archie and his fellow cattle more comfortable.

Archie has also done charity work – three weeks of appearances around Christmas to raise money for various charities, for example.

He's a patron of Henny Penny Libraries, a charity that provides education to children in India's slums. Guinness World Records sponsored the opening of another library in Archie's honor.

His status as farm pet has its bonuses, as well as its consequences. Archie hasn't grown up, but he has grown out since being measured for the world record.

"Archie's favorite treat is bread, but he has become extremely fussy and will only eat fresh Nutty Crust bread from a local bakery known as Irwin's," Lavery explains. "For Nutty Crust bread, Archie will do pretty much whatever he's asked."

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Where To Buy An Old-Time Gas Pump

Ben Staub, a retired tool and dieman, came up with the design for his cast aluminum gas pumps in 1985, after looking for a pump to place next to the 1929 Woody Wagon in his antique car collection. He had purchased an original pump, but it began to rust. Since original pumps were expensive, he decided other collectors might also be interested in reproductions. He based his design on a gas pump made by the American Pump Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Staub machined the parts to make the first pumps, but currently the business contracts out the work. Over the years, more than 3,500 pumps have been sold, and they can be found in places such as Hard Rock Cafe restaurants and Universal Studios. Harrods of London sold them for a short time.

"Most customers are people who like old cars," Staub says. "People use them to make

a garage look like an old-time filling station."

Pump kits come in two sizes – the original 9-ft. 10-in. or a shorter 7-ft. 8-in. model – that sell for \$950 each. Add the globe and decal for an additional \$95.

Kits take two to three hours to assemble, plus painting time. There are 75 different globe reproductions to go with them. Benkin carries the most popular ones including Texaco, Gulf and Mobilgas.

The company also sells other automobile memorabilia reproductions such as oil racks, map racks and license plate toppers.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Benkin & Co., 14 E. Main St., Tipp City, Ohio 45371 (ph store: 937 667-5526; Benkin Pumps: 937 890-4486; www.benkinpump.com).

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Mini Mules Great For Work And Play

Dave McMahan enjoys his mini mules both on pasture and in harness. Though less than 36 in. high, a team has no problem pulling the scaled down wagon holding McMahan and his wife. He even competes with them against full-size mules.

"I took them to a speed competition for mules, and people laughed when they saw them," recalls McMahan. "I entered them in a timed race where they have to weave in and out around posts, and they won the event."

The McMahan's have been breeding their miniature donkey jack to purebred miniature mares for more than 10 years. The key, as in any breeding operation, he says, is to start with high quality animals.

"We use true miniature horses with good dispositions, not Shetlands," says McMahan. "They're all different colors. We sell them as foals, green-broke or fully trained, however people want them."

The miniature mules range in price from \$400 to \$1,200, depending on age, looks and how well the animal is broke. With customers from one coast to the other, he notes that transport can cost more than the animal.

"It's fun just watching them romp and play in the pasture," he says. "They take a minimum of care, just pasture and hay as needed. They do need to be wormed and have their hooves trimmed like any equine."

McMahan raises and sells a unique full-size mule. His Fjord mules are produced by crossing his prize jack with a purebred, show quality Fjord mare. The Norwegian horse breed is noted for its golden coloring and dorsal stripe.

"The mules from this cross turn out fantastic," says McMahan. "I believe the breed has the best disposition in the world, and the colors breed true. I have three now



Though less than 36 in. high, a team of mini mules has no problem pulling the scaled-down wagon holding Dave McMahan and his wife.

and have raised and sold 6 in the past. A round or two in my training wagon, and they are fully trained."

McMahan also makes and sells mule corral panels. The lightweight, 7-ft. long aluminum panels are 6 ft. high for full-size mules and sell for \$59.99 each. Mini mule panels are 4 ft. high, 6 ft. long and sell for \$49.99.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, McMahan Mini Mules Farm, 6295 Old Highway 7, Dover, Ark. 72837 (ph 479 264-7247; info@minimulesfarm.com; www.minimulesfarm.com).



Ben Staub came up with the design for his reproduction cast aluminum gas pumps. "Most customers are people who like old cars," he says.