



# American Dexter Cattle Association

**The ADCA Annual Show and Sale** provides a good chance to see Dexters and talk to breeders from all over the country. Dexters come in three solid colors, red, dun and black with black being the most common.

Dexters cost less to get to the table, turning forage into rich milk and quality lean meat.

Dexters are registered and shown with horned, dehorned or polled (born without horns)

## Why Dexters

- Dexters are raised successfully from Alaska to Florida
- Dexter Cows produce about 1 to 2 gallons of 4% butterfat milk daily when fed for production
- Dexters are known for their ease of calving, and good temperament
- Dexters are the fastest growing small breed



**The American Dexter Cattle Association describes the ideal size at three years of age as:**

### Bulls

- Between 38-44 inches at the shoulder, and not more than 1000 pounds.

### Cows

- Between 36-42 inches at the shoulder, and not more than 750 pounds.
- Dexters were originally horned cattle, however breeders dehorn without show penalty.
- Polled Dexters (genetically hornless) are also available but most Dexters are horned.

4150 Merino Ave Watertown, Mn 55388  
Phone: 952-215-2206  
Email: [adca@dextercattle.org](mailto:adca@dextercattle.org)  
Visit our Online Pedigree  
& Breeder Listings at  
[www.dextercattle.org](http://www.dextercattle.org)

# Early History

The Dexter Breed dates back nearly 200 years. They originated in southwest Ireland in the early 1800s. Early Dexters were selected from the stock of indigenous cattle found in the Kerry area of Ireland.

An Irish registry was created in 1879 and the breed's popularity soon spread to England. An English society was founded in 1892, and by 1898, Dexters were exported and Dexter Cattle Associations can be found in Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Germany, Holland, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, as well as in the United States.

Dexters are efficient on forage, while producing high-percentage dressed carcasses of lean, tender, flavorful, fine-grained beef with an oversized rib eye. Quiet temperament is very important to Dexter breeders. Dexters come in two body types, defined as long and short leg. Both types produce similar amounts of meat and milk.



## Small Business Owners

- Excellent income from home.

## 4-H Steer For Smaller Children

- Bucket calf the first year
- Finished steer the second year
- Oxen for hobbies and exhibition

## Small Acreage Farmsteads

- Beef for the table or resale
- Milk for the table
- Weed control on unused acreage
- Small and easy to handle
- Low maintenance
- Ideal for homestead families