



**Dexters are a wonderful small-acreage breed.**

**Dexters can efficiently produce milk and beef for homesteading families.**

**A Dexter's small size and multi-species plant foraging is an environmental plus.**



**HERITAGE  
PRESERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP**

## **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!**

The ADCA website provides a single, easy-to-access source of information about our Dexters and our Dexter breeders.

[www.dextercattle.org](http://www.dextercattle.org)

Online, you will find pedigrees for every ADCA registered Dexter, contact information for breeders, membership and registration resources, as well as announcements for upcoming events.

On the **Education** tab you will also find resources for learning more about this special cattle breed.



[www.dextercattle.org](http://www.dextercattle.org)

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# AMERICAN DEXTER CATTLE ASSOCIATION

HERITAGE WITH A FUTURE.  
PRESERVATION WITH A PURPOSE.  
STEWARDSHIP WITH A COMMUNITY.



## **OUR MISSION:**

**TO PROTECT, IMPROVE AND PROMOTE  
THE  
INTERESTS, STANDING AND QUALITY  
OF THE DEXTER BREED;**

**TO ASSIST MEMBERS  
IN ADDING VALUE TO THEIR ANIMALS.**

## WHY DEXTERS?

### Heritage

Dexters are a heritage breed. Their native home is in the southwestern region of Ireland where they were bred by small land holders.

The first recorded knowledge of Dexters in the United States is when more than two hundred were imported to America between 1905 and 1915.

### Hardy & Docile

These remarkable cattle can thrive in hot as well as cold climates. They do well outdoors year round when provided with a shelter and fresh water. They are a docile breed, known for their mild, curious temperament. Fertility is high, and calves are usually born in the field without difficulty.

### Tri-Purpose

Dexters are a tri-purpose breed: milk, beef, and draft.

A Dexter milk cow can produce more milk for its weight, with proper nutrition, than any other breed. The daily yields average 1 to 3 gallons. Butterfat content is 4% to 5%. Yields of cream are generous.

Beef animals mature in 18 to 24 months, resulting in small cuts of high-quality, well marbled meat. The expected dress out is 50 to 60 percent. The beef is slightly darker red than that of other breeds, with a rich, complex flavor.

Draft animals are intelligent, long-lived, and very trainable.



## DEXTER FACTS

### Small

Dexters are a naturally small breed. Typical height ranges can vary, with chondrodysplasia carriers at the lower end and non-carriers at the higher end.

Cows: Typical hip height is 34-46 inches, with a majority in the range of 36-42 inches.

Bulls: Typical hip height is 36-50 inches, with a majority in the range of 38-44 inches.

The ADCA does not encourage breeding especially small or especially large Dexters. Programs that push animals to extremes in either direction are discouraged.



### 3 Colors

Dexters come in three solid colors: black, red, and dun.

### Polled & Horned

Dexters can be horned, dehorned, or naturally polled.



## WHY THE ADCA?

### Membership

By joining the ADCA, you'll take an important first step toward including your cattle in the world's largest registry of pedigreed Irish Dexter Cattle. The ADCA has been serving Dexter owners for over 60 years.

### Information

As an ADCA member, you will receive four issues of the information-packed *ADCA Dexter Bulletin* each year.

You will also gain access to our Regional Directors and other Dexter breeders who can answer questions, give suggestions, and help you with the care and management of these



### Community

The ADCA and affiliated Dexter groups offer meetings and social events to visit with other Dexter owners and learn from experienced breeders. There are also opportunities to exhibit and show these cattle at venues across the country. Some shows even include Dexter sales, which give the participants easy access to buying and selling Dexter stock.