



Mini Longhorns weigh less than 500 lbs. at full maturity. Breeders are trying to increase the size of horns on the minis.

Mini Longhorns Ideal For Small-Acreage Producers

There are only two breeders so far of miniature Texas Longhorns but they've been swamped with interest.

"We've only had a few head for sale," says Bill Buck, Indian Mountain Ranch, Ponder, Texas. Buck and his wife, Sandy, have been selecting and breeding miniature cattle from their Texas Longhorn herd for 14 years. "I would guess there are fewer than thirty head all together in the world."

John and Susan Fore, Foresite Ranch, Denham Springs, Louisiana, have also developed mini Longhorns from their herd of normal-sized cattle.

With just a couple breeders, there is as yet no separate Miniature Longhorn breed organization. The Bucks are currently registering all their miniature cattle with both the Texas Longhorn Association and a new, not-for-profit miniature cattle organization called International Miniature Cattle Breeders Society. Both ranches have Websites where you can see their cattle.

Buck says Miniature Longhorns are genetically small animals, but he doesn't consider them dwarfs.

"By definition, cattle that are less than 48 in. tall at the hock bone (rump) are considered miniature cattle and those under 42 in. are considered full miniature," he says.

Calves normally weigh under 25 lbs. and mature bulls less than 500 lbs. At three to four months of age, calves average around 25 to 26 in. in height and weigh between 45 and 55 lbs.

"We breed them so people with smaller

ranches - 10 to 30 acres - can still experience the beauty of a herd of Longhorns," Buck says.

At their Website, the Fores describe their Miniature Longhorns as "backyard cattle", adding that typical calves can walk between the bottom and second wires on a 5-wire barbed wire fence.

Buck says they have sold a few Miniature Longhorn cattle in recent years, but currently they have none for sale. Prices begin at \$1,000 per head and go up from there. Mature bulls and cows, if you can find them for sale, will be pricey.

To date, nearly all the sales from both ranches were to people who wanted pets or to start their own small herd. The Bucks hand raise all their Miniature Longhorns. "All are cattle are our babies and we have never had a mean Miniature Longhorn," he says.

Buck says the horns on miniature cattle tend to be shorter by proportion, than those on a full-sized Longhorn. "We hope our bull, Charlie, will put a bit more horn back on them," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill and Sandy Buck, Indian Mountain Ranch, 7093 H. Lively Road, Ponder, Texas 76259 (ph 940 479-0177; E-mail: imranch@flash.net; Website: www.imranch.com); or John and Susan Fore, Foresite Ranch, 33203 Hwy. 1019, Denham Springs, La. 70706 (ph toll-free 800 284-9005 or 225 665-9248; fax 225 665-0405; E-mail: info@MiniatureLonghorns.com; Website: www.miniaturelonghorns.com).

Other Miniature Breeds

The International Miniature Cattle Breeders Society and Registry, Inc. has information on 24 different miniature cattle breed categories.

Contact: International Miniature Cattle Breeders Society and Registry, Inc. 25204 156th Avenue SE, Covington, Wash. 98042-4107 (ph 253 631-1911; fax 253 631-5774; E-mail: info@minicattle.com; Website: www.mini.cattle.com).



Fan Cools Cattle

Looking for a way to cool off cattle on a hot day, Doug Phillips of Zearing, Iowa, hit on the idea of simply mounting a large shop fan on the fence in his feedlot. He sets it in a shaded area so it blows the cooler air out over the cattle. He says the fan moves a surprising amount of air, cooling a large area.



Photo shows first prototype of Silver Stream's new "hooped dome" building.

First-Of-Its-Kind "Domed" Building

The first-ever hoop-type "dome" building went up recently at the headquarters of Silver Stream Shelters, Altona, Manitoba.

Silver Stream is well-known to FARM SHOW readers for its innovative wood-hoop structures and metal truss designs (see Vol. 25, No. 2). Company owners Darryl Enns and Dave Arnold say their latest new creation will be totally unique to the industry.

"We invented a new hub which mounts at the peak of the building, joining conventional trusses to create a circular structure that's unlike anything on the market," says Enns. The building comes in 30, 38, 42, and 50-ft. dia. sizes. A 30-ft. building sells for \$2,850 (U.S.).

"We feel this building design will be ideal for cattle handling, grain storage, salt and sand storage, and even machinery storage. It might also work great as an indoor trailing facility for horses, as well as for many other uses that we haven't even thought of yet,"

says Enns. "It's a relatively inexpensive way to add extra storage to your farm and it also makes a great conversation piece."

The new domed building can be covered with different colored tarps, or even multi-colored tarps. It has a 10-ft. wide door between one set of arches. Silver Stream also plans to offer an "igloo"-type entry that juts out from one side of the building.

Enns notes that in addition to the new domes, the company currently has a limited supply of wood frame and metal truss hoop buildings at a price that's \$500 less than normal. For \$2,700 you get a 30 by 72-ft. building, including a 12.5 oz. tarp with a 15-year warranty.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Silver Stream Shelters, Box 1448, Altona, Manitoba R0B 0B0 Canada (ph toll-free 877 547-4738 or 204 324-4592; Website: www.silverstreamshelters.com).



Steel trusses meet at a central hub. Buildings are available in diameters ranging from 30 to 50 ft.

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