



Photo courtesy Minot Daily News

These full-grown mini sheep, which belong to John and Stephanie Stober, Goodrich, N. Dak., are 16 to 21 in. tall and weigh 30 to 40 lbs. (The Stobers keep them penned with a llama).

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They're so small you can hold one on your lap, and a dozen head can be kept on just one acre. White is the most common color but some are black or apricot. Miniature sheep are extremely rare. Earliest records of them come from the Middle East. There are only about 130 registered miniature sheep in the U.S. and Canada and only a handful of breeders.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John and Stephanie Stober, Prairie Gold Enterprises, Rt. 1, Box 5, Goodrich, N. Dak. 58444 (ph 701 884-2609).

**Goats** - Pygmy goats stand less than 2 ft. tall at the withers. They're a separate breed and don't resemble dairy goats in coloration or markings. They come in a variety of colors - black, white, caramel, and "agouti". Agouti, the most popular color, is a mixture of black and white hairs that produces a salt-and-pepper color. Pygmy goats are believed to have evolved in a part of Africa where a shortage of feed favored small animals.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, National Pygmy Goat Association, Lucy Hulse, Executive Secretary, Fern Ave., Rt. 1, Amesbury, Mass. 01913 (ph 617 388-5633).

**Rabbits**: There are four miniature rabbit breeds weighing under 4 lbs.: the Jersey Woolly (which grows wool), the Holland Lop, the American Fuzzy Lop, and the pocket-size Netherlands dwarf, which weighs only 2 1/2 lbs. fully grown and can be held in the palm of the hand. This Netherlands breed has more breeders than any

other rabbit breed. It's available in 32 different colors. The popularity of miniature rabbits is due to their size, easy health care, and variety of colors. Like normal sized rabbits, miniature rabbits require no rabies, distemper shots, or wormers and their small size makes them good house pets.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The American Rabbit Breeders Association, 1925 S. Main St., P.O. Box 426, Bloomington, Ill. 61702 (ph 309 827-6623).



Here's another exotic animal available in miniature form. Australian wallabies, a cousin to kangaroos, stand about 2 ft. tall and weigh 15 lbs. "Bottle-raised wallabies make great housepets because they're easy to train and adapt easily to a leash," says Lavonne Heath, a Wisconsin woman who sells the "miniature kangaroos". Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lavonne Heath, 1538 Robert Road, Janesville, Wis. 53545 (ph 608 876-6784). A bimonthly newsletter for kangaroo and wallaby enthusiasts is available. "Jumping Pouch Newsletter" sells for \$12 a year. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jumping Pouch Newsletter, RR 9, Box 47, Bloomfield, Iowa 52537 (ph 515 722-3374).



Penfield built his garden tractor "puller" using a 1928 Chevy car frame, a 1961 Ford rear end, a Chevy engine and transmission, and the hood, engine compartment, and rear wheels from a Massey 36 swather.

**"I FOUND NEARLY EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO COMPETE ON THE JUNKPILE"**

## "Pulling" Contests For Garden Tractors, ATV's

"We have lots of fun without spending a lot of money," says Bill Penfield, Lemmon, S. Dak., one of the pioneers of the latest new farm "sport" - garden tractor and ATV pulls.

Penfield says garden tractor pulling got its start in his area about 5 years ago. "Several of my neighbors got together and built a weight transfer sled to accommodate the lighter weight tractors. They established weight classes and included 3 and 4-wheel ATV's in the first pulls. They also established guidelines on length, width, and where to locate the hitch," he explains.

From the beginning, Penfield says participants started to "soup up" their mini tractors. "The modified garden tractors soon became the main attraction. One fellow, for example, put a 4-cyl. air-cooled Wisconsin swather engine on a hydrostatic-driven Ford garden tractor. Another guy put a Ford V-8 with a 4-speed transmission on a home-built chassis weighing less than 1,500 lbs. We've seen almost every combination imaginable of car engines, swather engines, etc., on every type of home-built chassis."

Penfield built his own garden tractor racer using a 1928 Chevy car frame, a 1961 Ford rear end, a 1965 Chevy 4-speed transmis-

sion, a 1969 Chevy built 4-cyl. engine taken from a Massey Ferguson 36 swather. "The hood, engine compartment and rear wheels were also part of the Massey 36 swather. The front wheels were salvaged from a Sund combine pickup."

In 1988 there were several mini tractor pulls in the Lemmon and Mobridge, S. Dak. area. Participants have formed an organization with a set of rules and guidelines. There are 3 or 4 weight classes. Any tractor weighing 1,500 lbs. or less can pull in any of the higher weight classes by adding weight. Most stock garden tractors have now been replaced by home-built tractors built from the ground up, according to Penfield.

"The largest expense on our own tractor was the battery. Everything else we needed we found in our own junkpile. One thing we've learned is that the tractor with the biggest engine doesn't always win. The winner is the tractor with the best balance of power, weight and tires," says Penfield, who says he often beats tractors powered by V-8 engines with the 4-cyl. engine in his home-built garden tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, William Penfield, HCR 63, Box 7, Lemmon, S. Dak. 57638 (ph 605 374-5273).

**"IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT WITHOUT PAYMENTS YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF FARMING"**

## Farmer Turns Down Government Support

Even if you drive by at 65 mph, you can't miss the message painted on a big silage bag on Bill Bergfeld's farm in eastern Iowa. It reads: "THIS FARM DOES NOT GET GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS".

The Peosta, Iowa farmer is an outspoken critic of government programs and one of only 5% of the farmers in his county (Dubuque) who receive nothing from the government. Nationwide about 25% of farmers don't participate in government programs.

Bergfeld painted the sign this spring because he got accused by some of his neighbors and friends of participating in the drought-relief program last year when 4 rows of corn were left standing on a neighboring farm's drought test plot. People

thought the standing corn was actually on Bergfeld's farm.

The only money Bergfeld says he ever received from the government was 5 years ago when he got \$2,500 from the Soil Conservation Service for a tiling project. He had never accepted money before that and he hasn't since.

"I think that if you can't make it without government payments you should get out of farming. Other businesses don't get subsidized," Bergfeld told FARM SHOW, adding that he blames government programs for low commodity prices. "They want to control farmers to keep food cheap. If they subsidize us, they can tell us what to do."

Bergfeld raises hogs, beef, and dairy cows on about 600 acres.



A fully-grown Dexter heifer is about as big as a 3-month Holstein calf.