



Bruce Sykes decorated his 1989 Mazda longbed pickup to look like a Holstein cow.

IT REALLY "MOOVES"

Eye-Catching "Cow Pickup"

"Everyplace I go people stop to look. Some even take photos of it with their family," says Bruce Sykes of Brookville, Penn., who decorated his white 1989 Mazda longbed pickup to look like a Holstein cow.

He painted the pickup white, then covered it with contact paper and used a special tool to cut out openings. He then spray painted the pickup black and peeled off the rest of the contact paper, leaving the distinctive black and white pattern. The final step was to apply a clear gloss coat over the entire pickup for protection. A pair of steer horns bolts to the roof, pink mudflaps on back are cut into the shape of udders, and a

black yarn tail hangs down from the tailgate. Sykes also suspended a cowbell from the front grille, covered the interior with black-and-white fabric, and installed a cow horn. He even obtained vanity license plates that say "MOOART".

"I'm an artist and my white pickup was just like a big empty canvas," says Sykes, an art teacher at a local high school. "I tell my kids to be creative, to be different. Every couple of years I use that philosophy by painting my pickup something different."

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Joel's 1/2-scale 1937 Deere D. The plow depth adjustment levers are made out of bicycle sprockets.

Half-Scale Tractor Runs Like A Deere

Glenn Joel built a 1/2-scale model 1937 Deere D from the ground up during the winter of 1991-'92. He paid painstaking attention to detail so it would run like the real thing.

The 5-ft. long tractor weighs 1,000 lbs. It's powered by an LUC engine out of a Deere 12A combine. The engine has a 3 1/4-in. dia. bore, which is exactly half that of an authentic D, notes Joel.

Joel modified the engine's oiling, cooling and carburetion systems so he could mount it on its side in the tractor frame instead of upright as it was in the combine. "It took quite a while to get that organized," he says.

He cut the bell housing off the engine block, leaving its flywheel exposed so it can be started manually, just like the real thing.

He completed the drivetrain by bolting a 3-speed manual transmission out of a Case 700 combine to the engine. He reversed rotation of the input shaft with

a chain and sprocket to convert it to rear drive. The clutch is a belt tightener and belt pulley off a 1 1/2 hp Deere E stationary engine mounted to simulate the belt pulley on a D.

Joel equipped the tractor with a home-built rack and pinion steering system made from ring gear and starter pinion. He equipped the rear axle with new 7.60 by 15-in. tires and the front with new 400 by 8-in. implement tires. Rear tires mount on original spoked rims off an old Deere rodweeder. Joel made front spoked rims out of rims he had on hand and used sprayer wheel bearings in the spindles.

Also, Joel made a 1/2-scale 2-bottom plow out of parts off a potato hiller for his tractor. It's 32 in. long by 16 in. wide. Shovels are 6 in. wide and are off the hiller. Front tires are 400 by 8-in., rear is 5 in..

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ONLY 70 IN U.S. SO FAR

Rare Phalangers Make Friendly Farm Pets

Here's the latest rare pet breed. The Phalanger is a tiny member of the kangaroo family and is also known as a Brushtail.

The breed originates in New Zealand. There are only about 70 of the animals in the U.S. They range in weight from 5 to 9 lbs.

"Their personality is much like a cross between a cat and a raccoon - curious, interactive and intelligent," says Ralph Lermayer, a New Mexico breeder. "A hand-raised baby bonds completely with humans. They like to ride around on your shoulder."

Despite all their "cuteness", however, Brushtails are known for severe fighting among themselves during the mating period, Lermayer adds. A new breeder would be wise to purchase already-bonded pairs of very young animals to avoid the problem, he says.

"Care and feeding of Phalangers is not difficult. They eat just about anything with no exotic dietary requirements," he says.



Brushtail's personality is a cross between a cat and raccoon.

"Housing them is about like keeping a monkey or raccoon."

They sell for approximately \$2,000.

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"Black Head" Sheep Never Need Shearing

"They're an easy-care sheep that divert most of their energy into growing meat instead of wool. In fact, you don't have to shear them at all," says Stephanie Mitcham, Tripoli, Iowa, who, along with her husband Patrick Sexton, raises purebred Dorper sheep, a breed that originated in South Africa and is rapidly becoming popular in the U.S. and Canada.

Dorpers were developed 60 years ago in South Africa as a meat breed by crossing the Dorset Horn and Persian Blackhead (a fat-tailed South African sheep). They're now the second most popular breed in that country. They normally have a black head and upper neck with a white body, but approximately 30 percent are all white.

Dorpers were introduced to the U.S. 1 1/2 years ago when they were exported as frozen embryos to Alberta, Canada, where they were implanted in recipient ewes. After a 90-day quarantine period, the pregnant Canadian ewes were shipped to the U.S. where they gave birth to 140 Dorper lambs. The seven pregnant ewes that Mitcham and Sexton purchased gave birth to three sets of twins and four single lambs. Of the 10, seven are females and three are males. This winter they collected embryos from the ewes and implanted them in ewes of other breeds. They plan to sell some of the resulting lambs and to cross their Dorper rams with some of their own Romanov and Polypay ewes and compare weight gains on pasture. They also make Dorper semen available.

"Dorpers have a high lambing rate, the ability to breed all year, outstanding mothering ability, hardiness and many other qualities that make them easy to raise," says



Dorpers were developed 60 years ago in South Africa as a meat breed.

Mitcham. "The ewes can produce offspring three times in two years. We expect that they do well on pasture and should fit well into an intensive grazing system with our other sheep breeds. Under range conditions, South African Dorper lambs average 80 to 100 lbs. at 100 days of age. If conditions are good, they may weigh over 100 lbs. at 100 days. Our male Dorpers weighed 100 lbs. at 90 days of age and the females weighed from 80 to 90 lbs."

According to Mitcham, Dorpers have well-developed hind quarters and their meat is lean and tastes delicious. "However, the wool isn't of good quality," says Mitcham.

Mitcham and Sexton own the only Dorpers in Iowa. Others are in Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, and a few other states. They have formed the American Dorper Sheep Breeder's Society as a nonprofit corporation to promote and improve the Dorper breed.

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