



This pair of water buffalo are valued at \$20,000 apiece.

TASTY MEAT PRODUCERS ALSO YIELD HIGH QUALITY MILK

Water Buffalo May Be Next U.S. Cattle Breed

"The meat is leaner than beef and some people think it's tastier than steak," says Dr. Stewart Fowler, professor at Berry College, Mt. Berry, Georgia, about water buffalo, the newest breed of "cattle" to invade the U.S.

Fowler obtained two head of water buffalo — valued at \$20,000 apiece — from A.P. Leonards, Lake Charles, La., the only water buffalo breeder in the U.S. who has a herd of about 100 animals and wants to promote the breed.

Water buffalo are native to China, Southeast Asia, and India but can be found across the world. In many countries, they're the main source of meat, dairy products, and power, as they're used to pull field equipment and carts.

"Water buffalo milk has a butterfat content of 8.5 to 8.9% compared to 3.9 to 4.9% for most dairy cattle. The milk is also higher in protein. We want to evaluate feed efficiency,

slaughter ratios, and other attributes of the animal to see if it is suitable for mass production in this country," says Fowler, noting that the animals cannot crossbreed with cattle since the two animals have differing numbers of chromosomes.

Fowler says water buffalo will eat almost anything, even the bark off trees. "We think they'll do well on crop residues like corn stalks and cobs, peanut shells and other waste materials."

Water buffalo are good swimmers and have been known to dive five feet or more to feed on the bottom of a river or lake. The animals are gentle but have the habit of lifting fences with their horns so they must be dehorned. Water buffalo like to wallow in water and have fewer sweat glands than cattle.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dr. Stewart Fowler, Berry College, Mt. Berry, Georgia, 30149 (ph 404 232-5374).

Surprise Visitor Stays For "24 Happy Years"

Twenty-four years ago a Canada goose, badly wounded by hunters, landed on the Gallagher farm near Maitland, Mo. He was nearly dead when found by Mrs. Gallagher, who nursed him back to health.

As soon as he was well, the family let him go on his own. But he apparently forgot that he was wild and refused to leave.

He loved the good food he was getting from the farm and had unlimited privileges to come and go as he pleased. Every evening, he would go to roost with the chickens.

During the years the Gallagher sons were growing up, the goose joined in all the fun and games. No one could believe he could stay alive and so active for so many years.



Friendly goose was part of the family.

One morning last summer, after 24 happy years, the goose failed to make his usual early-morning appearance at the doorstep. He had died peacefully in the night of natural causes.

His actual age is unknown since he was full grown when he "moved in" with the Gallaghers. "Our surprise visitor gave us 24 happy years. We miss him," says Mrs. Gallagher.

"IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT MANY," HE SAYS

Illinois Farmer Grows Six Ears On A Stalk

Otto Kerker found a stalk of corn with six ears on it in his fields this summer and ever since people from around the country have been stopping in and calling.

"It's the most exciting thing that's happened here since my great grandfather Kerker bought the farm in 1839," Kerker, a 78-year-old retired farmer told FARM SHOW.

Kerker rents out his land near Germantown Hills, Ill. to a neighbor who planted it with PAG seed from Pfister. The prolific stalk was found on an outside row in an 80 acre field.

"It's the first time I've ever seen that many ears on a single cornstalk," says Kerker, noting that there were many other stalks in this particular field with two, three and four ears. After Kerker found the 6-eared stalk, he began daily waterings so that the stalk grew to 7 ft. tall. The top three ears fully matured while the bottom four were progressively smaller. All had developed kernels.

An agronomist at the University of Illinois said that nearly all corn plants have the potential to grow 6 ears but that it usually doesn't happen because there aren't enough nutrients in the soil to support that



Kerker watered his 6-eared stalk daily.

many ears. The scientist says the plant is probably not a genetic mutant but simply the result of "freak" circumstances.

Despite the plant's unusual yield, Kerker harvested it "just like any other".



"Buffy" has dark eyes and dark skin so he isn't an albino.

Ever Seen A White Buffalo?

"The chances of a white buffalo being born are one in a few million. As far as I know, there isn't another one in the world," says Iona Pigg, Weatherford, Okl., about "Buffy", the white buffalo that she and her husband own.

"Buffy isn't an albino," says Iona. "Like a normal buffalo, he has dark eyes and dark skin. The only difference is that his hair is white. He's now three years old, weighs 1,500 lbs. and stands 5 ft. tall at the hump. He'll be full grown when he's six years old, and will weigh about 2,000 lbs. and be 6 ft. tall at the hump.

"Indians worship the white buffalo and believe it to be a sacred animal. When we show Buffy at fairs, they will come in and pray by him or try to touch him, as they believe the animal

brings good luck," explains Iona.

Born on a Kansas ranch to full-blooded dark buffalo parents, Buffy was traded to a restaurant owner by the rancher for a camel. After seeing Buffy at the Oklahoma State Fair, the Piggs bought him from the restaurant owner for \$10,000.

They plan on keeping Buffy and trying some breeding experiments in the future. But for now, they'll continue to travel throughout the country, showing spectators at fairs and farm shows the "world's only white buffalo".

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