

World's First Dairy Breed Starting To Come Back

Kerry cattle are considered to have been the world's first dairy breed, a descendant of the ancient Celtic Black cattle that originated in central Asia and were predominant in Ireland through the end of the 17th Century. Kerry cows are beloved for their exceptional quality milk, butter, and cheese.

Today the breed is on the Livestock Conservancy's "critically endangered" list, and there are about 70 registered Kerry cattle in the United States. The American Kerry Cattle Society was incorporated in 2011, with a membership of nearly a dozen dedicated owners and breeders.

Relatively small in size at 900 to 1,000 lbs., Kerry cows produce milk efficiently with minimal feed cost.

"Kerry cattle are typically owned by artisan cheese makers and small family farms," says Patti Adams, who raises Kerry cattle with her husband, Clay, in Overbrook, Kan. "Kerry cows have a reputation for producing sweet milk, and butter made from the cream is considered to be particularly sweet and finely flavored. Artisan cheese makers value Kerry milk for these special qualities."

The all-black cattle have white horns with black tips. Most owners dehorn their cattle so they are easier to work with in close quarters. Cows have well-developed udders and good-sized teats for hand or machine milking. Butterfat is 4 to 5 percent, so with each gallon of Kerry milk Adams can make 8 oz. of butter, 1 lb. of mozzarella cheese, and

8 oz. of ricotta cheese.

Mature Kerry bulls typically weigh between 1,400 and 1,600 lbs., and steers that are properly grass-finished produce high quality, tender beef.

"The muscle fiber is finely grained, and the marbling is like grains of rice, very finely distributed in the meat for an exceptional eating experience," Adams says. She adds that the fat in grass-finished Kerry beef is creamy white, not yellow, which is noticed and appreciated by consumers.

Kerry cattle are efficient grazers, and they do very well on adequately growing pasture, good quality hay, and a well-balanced loose mineral/salt supplement, with only minimal need for supplementary feeds. They tolerate cold weather very well. In humid heat, cool water, deep shade, and adequate ventilation are necessary for their health and well being. Because of their special needs in humid heat, Adams generally does not recommend Kerry cattle for the deep South — or for hobby farmers.

"They aren't a 'learner' cow," she says. "They can be domineering because they have an intelligent nature and are very aware of their surroundings — and their people." Properly handled and raised they form a strong and affectionate bond with their owner.

She encourages cheese makers, experienced cattle owners, and people interested in preserving the breed to contact the American Kerry Cattle Society, (www.kerrycattlesociety.org) for information about available stock. Currently most of the owners live in the Northeastern states.



Kerry cattle are a descendant of the ancient Celtic Black cattle that originated in central Asia. Today the breed is on the Livestock Conservancy's "critically endangered" list.

Adams, Wakarusa Ridge Ranch, 7393 E. 109th St., Overbrook, Kan. 66524 (ph 785 836-3065; pwcadams@aol.com).

Contact: FARM SHOW Follow up, Patti

Horse Training Tools

Skiddish horses and bulky equipment that isn't always user friendly for horses or humans can make training challenging. With more than 30 years experience training horses, Trisha Davis has dealt with all types of horse behavior and ill-fitting equipment. To make her job easier she came up with a line of training tools, which she now makes available to other "do-it-yourself" horse trainers.

EZ Equine Training Tools are custom-made by Maine crafters using quality leather, fabrics and stainless steel, Davis says. Her website lists them in the order horse owners need them as they break horses to ride: biting halter, working cavesson, combo side reins, long line adaptor, sack system and neck reiner. She also offers packages and specialty items for driving horses, such as training shafts and wiffle trees.

Davis says all her products are designed to be simple to use and high quality to last. Some have taken years to develop.

"I'm a believer in my sack system because I believe it prepares a horse well," Davis says. Her harness design fits on a western saddle to support sacks that help desensitize a horse to movement and get it used to supporting weight. With six led with sawdust or sand and placed in different locations to apply pressure on various parts of the horse.

Her practical long line adaptor buckles on a saddle horn and replaces the bulky surcingle typically used for long lining and lunging training. It doesn't need to be removed between training and riding.

"The long line adaptor is my most popular tool," Davis says, noting that Schneider has asked to carry it in their catalog. "It's a piece professional trainers are going to want."

Besides being easy-to-use, EZ Equine equipment comes in many sizes to properly fit miniature horses up to draft horses — and all sizes in between.

"For example, I train a lot of Arabians and their heads are too small for standard equipment," Davis explains.

She has measurements for most breeds, but



EZ Equine Training Tools include combo side reins (above) and a harness that fits on a western saddle to support sacks that help get a horse used to carrying weight.



will also have equipment custom-made for people who provide measurements of their horses.

Whatever the question, Davis is open to challenges.

"I want people to call me with their problems, and I can offer them training tool ideas," she says. Others prefer to have Davis personally train their horses.

Videos on YouTube and Davis' website show how to use the training equipment.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Trisha Davis, 539 Townhouse Rd., Vienna, Maine 04360 (ph 207 491-0410; www.ezequinettraining.com; www.windswept-arabians.com).



To improve the flotation on his round baler, Arlo Greenberg bought another pair of 15-in. flotation tires, then fitted a 13-in. car wheel rim between each set of tires.

Low-Cost Way To Add Dual Wheels To Baler

"I had trouble with my round baler sinking into peat ground, so I came up with an inexpensive way to mount dual wheels on it. It greatly improved flotation," says Arlo Greenberg, Elk River, Minn.

He bought another pair of 15-in. flotation tires identical to the ones already on the baler, then fitted an old 13-in. car wheel rim between each set of tires. Then he ran 4 long threaded bolts through holes already in the car wheel rim to tie all 3 wheel rims together.

"It works great and is a quick way to make duals without spending any money," says Greenberg. "I sell hay to local horse owners and farm a lot of low ground where a baler

can easily get stuck. The car wheel rims are made from really tough metal so they stand up to hard use. The rims fit perfectly between the valve stems without interfering with them. I use neoprene nuts on the bolts and tighten them occasionally to keep the tires secure.

"I used the same idea on a small square baler, only I used narrow 15-in. implement wheel rims instead of car wheel rims. The narrow implement wheel rims fit perfectly."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arlo Greenberg, 21217 Nowthen Blvd. NW, Elk River, Minn. 55330 (ph 763 241-9953).



Four long threaded bolts run through holes in the car wheel rim to tie all 3 wheel rims together.