

**VALUABLE RARE BREED ALL HAVE NORWEGIAN NAMES**

## Horse Breeder Ranks Norwegian "Fjords" Best

"They're friendly enough to keep as pets but so versatile you can use them for almost any chore," says Bev Tarmina, Newport, Wash., one of only a few U.S. breeders of Norwegian Fjord horses, a thick-necked Scandinavian breed with a long history that can be traced back more than 4,000 years in Norway.

The dun-colored, powerful horse attracts lots of attention at shows because judges often don't know what they're looking at. Tarmina bought her first Fjords in 1981 and now runs 14 of them on her, and her husband David's, "Circle T Fjord" ranch.

Fjords stand an average of 14 to 15

hands tall. Their powerful build and gentle disposition make them good workhorses. "They're used as draft and pack horses but they also make a good riding horse. Because of their build they're extremely comfortable riding," says Tarmina.

Only 300 to 400 Fjords exist in the U.S., many of them owned by a couple of big breeders located in Illinois and Colorado. Tarmina says Fjords are hardy, fertile, nearly disease-free, easy to train, people-oriented, versatile and easy to keep. They also don't eat much — 2 bales of hay per day for her 11 adult animals — and they relish the cold weather,



Photo courtesy Capitol Press

**Fewer than 400 Norwegian Fjord horses, which date back over 4,000 years, exist in the U.S.**

developing thick shaggy coats. Coloring on the horses is distinctive but their enormously thick neck attracts the most attention.

Tarmina says all her Fjords are for sale ranging from \$2,500 for a young

animal to \$8,000 for a brood mare. Stallions sell for \$10,000 to \$15,000.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bev Tarmina, P.O. Box 1140, Newport, Wash. 99156 (ph 509 447-5327).

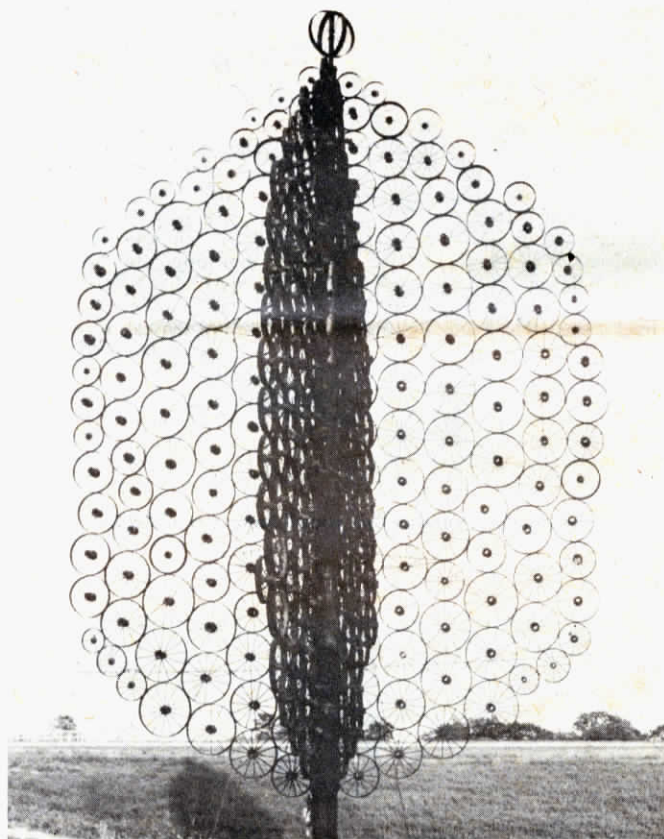


Photo by Alice & Robert Tupper

**Wisconsin landmark was built with 400 steel wagon wheels.**

## Wheel Tree Resembles Giant Peacock's Tail

It's estimated that the famous Wheel Tree has been photographed "at least 60,000 times" in the nearly 14 years it has served as a landmark for the Don Q Inn, Dodgeville, Wis.

The Wheel Tree, made of 400 steel wagon wheels, stands 67 ft. tall. The wheels are welded together, and to a heavy pipe which serves as the tree's main trunk.

The popular landmark, completed in 1971, has been featured in many U.S. and foreign travel magazines. Up close, it's a giant piece of metal work. But, from a distance — as seen by passersby — the delicate lace-like quality of the 20-ton masterpiece resembles the spread tail of a giant peacock.



**Mini-donkeys are born friendly and respond "like a baby" to frequent petting.**

**EASY-TO-RAISE ANIMALS SELL FOR UP TO \$1,500 APIECE**

## "Mini Donkey" Farm

Tiny 36-in. high miniature Sicilian donkeys made their debut at a recent farm show in Washington state. They were exhibited by Toby and Becky Pierce, Junction City, Ore., who own the largest herd of the tiny donkeys in North America.

According to legend, Jesus rode one of the mini donkeys in Biblical times and thus the donkey sports a dark brown narrow cross that runs down the middle of his back and crosses at the shoulders.

The Pierce farm has a herd of 60 jennies and 3 jacks. Jacks sell for \$1,000 and jennies for \$1,500. They must be under 36 in. in height at maturity to be registered. They live 30 to 40 years. The animal was originally developed, legend says, to work

underground in mines.

"They're naturally domesticated and will crawl right up into your lap. Some hikers like them because they can pack 100 lbs. or more on the trail," says Jack Stutz a Pierce farm employee. Donkeys are weaned at 2 to 4 months and shipped two weeks later so buyers can enjoy them while they're young. They live easily on small amounts of hay or grain. They can no longer be imported from the Mediterranean and there are less than 1,000 in the U.S., according to Stutz.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Pierce Miniature Donkey Farm, 26250 High Pass Rd., Junction City, Ore. 97448 (ph 503 998-3521).