



Elly May, a 7-year-old dairy cow, began sprouting her "uni-horn" three years ago.

## EXTRA HORN GREW RIGHT BETWEEN EYES

### "Uni-Horn" Holstein

"I've been dairying for 60 years and I've never seen anything like this. The vet says it's nothing to worry about but that it's very rare," says Maurice Hooverson about one of his Holstein cows that's growing a single horn right in the middle of her forehead.

There was nothing abnormal about the 7-year-old Holstein milker named Elly May until about three years ago, says Hooverson. That's when the "uni-horn" first started to sprout.

At last report, the horn was about 6 in. long and 3 or 4 in. in dia.

Hooverson disagrees with his vet that the horn is probably the result of a poor de-horning job. He agrees with him on another score, though. "It really looks peculiar," Hooverson says.

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Unnamed visiting goose has become inseparable from Elmer, a 26-year-old horse.

## THEY HANG OUT TOGETHER

### Goose Adopted Pony On Minnesota Farm

"People laugh when they see them together for the first time," says Joe Wenzel, Jackson, Minn., about a goose that became fast friends with Elmer, a 26-year-old pony.

It all started in the wet spring of 1991 when the goose landed on the farm from out of nowhere and spotted Elmer. It was love at first sight, and since that day the goose has never left the pony's side. The friends share a pen with 12 cattle. The goose occasionally waddles out to pasture with Elmer, wagging its tail feathers as it struggles to keep up. Some wing-flapping and short flights help the bird along.

"We don't know where the goose came from, and we've never given her a name. We just call it, 'that damn goose,' says Wenzel. "No one knows why he bonded with Elmer. A local veterinarian says the goose must have imprinted on a horse or bonded with it when it hatched about five or six years ago before coming to our farm.

"At first Elmer would try to get away from the goose, but eventually he gave in to the goose's devotion."

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Torringtonians plan to depict village history using stuffed gophers like these.

## PRESERVED RODENTS TO DEPICT HISTORY

### Stuffed Gophers Bring New Museum To Life

A small Canadian village recently announced plans to open a first-of-its-kind museum that makes use of one of the region's most abundant resources - pocket gophers.

The idea for a gopher museum was born a few years ago, when Torrington, Alberta, chose the gopher as its mascot. Townsfolk decided to open a museum and stock it with stuffed gophers depicting scenes from the village's past.

It seemed like a sure-fire tourist attraction and, in fact, has already received press coverage all over the world.

The museum, which is not open yet, has attracted no tourists but a lot of controversy. Here's what happened.

Last spring, the community got a \$9,000 government grant to go ahead with the stuffed gopher museum in an unoccupied 14 by 21-ft. building. It's scheduled to open next spring.

"We'll be using stuffed gophers dressed up as villagers to depict Torrington as it was when Main Street was flush with businesses and there were a lot more farmers than there are now. Most people think it's a cute and novel idea," explains Phyllis Wilson, who runs a local doll museum and is a member of the local tourism committee. "But we'll have the scientific end, too. We'll have informative displays explaining how gophers live in the ground, reproduce, damage the crops we grow around here, and also how cattle break legs stepping in gopher holes. So it's going to be educational as well as entertaining."

When the museum opens, visitors will be able to peer down into gopher holes to view the stuffed rodents posed in human activities, such as reading stories to the kids. There'll also be a replica of Torrington in earlier days with stuffed gophers dressed up as citizens.

After a Canadian TV network aired a report on the proposed museum, Torrington's mayor received a letter from People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which is an extremist animal rights group, in the U.S. It demanded that the project stop.

Then, after a recent article about the museum in the prestigious "London Times" newspaper, British animal rights extremists picketed the Canadian embassy in London in protest.

Wilson and others are flabbergasted. "All we wanted to do was start something that would bring people to our village," she says. "If this species was on the brink of extinction I could see where they'd have some problems with the museum. But that's hardly the case."

Despite the controversy, Wilson is determined the museum will open on schedule next spring. She's also confident that the museum will be a huge success. That's thanks to the "million dollars worth of free publicity" animal rights extremists have given it, she says.

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