

"Satan is well-balanced and strong, which is why he's still in good health," says Mericle.

## World's Largest Living Steer

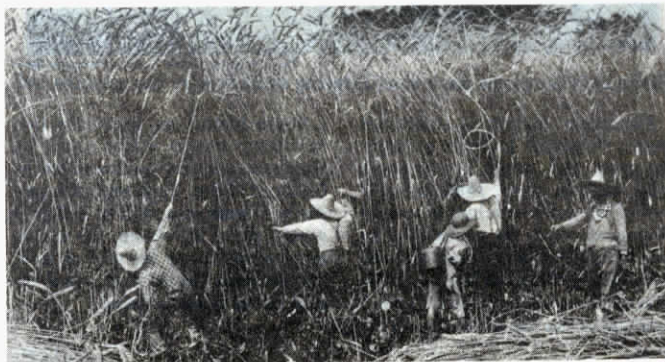
"So far as we know he's the biggest living steer and the second largest ever," says Jack Mericle, Kuna, Idaho, about Satan, a huge 4,600 lb., 16-year old steer that's still going strong on its Kuna, Idaho ranch after retiring from "show business".

Satan, a cross between a Brahman and a shorthorn, stands 10 ft. tall at the horns and is 13 ft., 8 in. long. Perfectly proportioned, Satan was never fed an all-grain diet to put on fat as has been done with other record-size animals in the past.

Satan's parents were nothing out of the ordinary and went to slaughter at a normal age. But Satan became a pet around the ranch and as he grew

larger, Mericle knew he had something special. When he became full-grown at about 5 years of age, Mericle decided to take him on the road. Over the next 5 years, Satan covered 147,000 miles, traveling to shows, rodeos, and parades. For the past 6 years he's simply relaxed and greeted the occasional visitor to the ranch.

Mericle searches continually for a larger steer but he's never found one. "Old Ben, an animal that lived around the turn of the century, weighed more at 4,720 lbs. but he wasn't proportioned as well as Satan. I believe this is the most magnificent steer ever born," says Mericle.



According to this 1909 postcard, virgin soils produced unexpectedly large yields.

## Would You Believe 10,000 Bu./Acre Wheat?

Plant breeders have made tremendous strides in past years boosting yields and increasing hardiness but they've got a long way to go to match the crop in this photo from the collection of C.F. Burd, Edon, Ohio. Taken "somewhere on the Western plain states" in 1909, the photo is a testament to the toughness and durability of the men and women who settled the Western frontiers.

"Planting into fertile virgin soils produced results no one expected and few believe today," says Burd, who has a collection of other such amazing agricultural crops and happenings. He notes that you can't always believe everything you see. "Even in 1909, they could do amazing things with trick photography," he told FARM SHOW.

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# Ag World

**Editor's Note:** Most of what goes into Ag World stems from story ideas sent to us by readers. This special section of FARM SHOW touches on the lighter side of farming and ranching — everything from human interest stories, to unusual hobbies, to unique things farm families are doing for fun or profit.

If you've read or heard a good Ag World type story you'd like to share with others, send it to: FARM SHOW, Box 704, Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



Dave Pringle with his "4-F" pickup.

Jan Sprawls photo.

### BEAT-UP '61 FORD WINS FIRST PRIZE

## "Ugliest Pickup" Contest

Beat-up and ugly, belching smoke and clattering all the way, 18 of the ugliest pickups in Denton County, Texas made their way to what may be the world's first "ugliest pickup" contest held in Denton.

Grand prize went to David Pringle, proud owner of a 1961 Ford that at one time had been declared "4-F" by the Army, Air Force, Department of the Interior, and the Denton school system, before it ended up in Pringle's hands. The little bit of paint that still clings to the old Ford is a dark shade of green.

Ted Meador's second place winner came out of his grandfather's backyard. The "off-white" '63 Chevy doesn't look good but he says he still uses it every day in his summer lawn care business.

Third place belonged to Kieth Pierce of Denton with a '57 Dodge.

Rusted almost completely red with remnants of yellow paint still visible, observers tried to find out how the rusted truck bed and hook were connected to the rest of the truck. One fellow contestant who didn't win a prize muttered "it's easy to win with a Dodge".

The losers in the first annual "ugliest pickup" contest had plenty of excuses. Rich Pentecost who's '59 Ford didn't even place, said he ruined his chances when he was forced to replace the truck's windshield for safety reasons.

JoAnne Ferris, who didn't win, nevertheless made a colorful contestant. She entered a 1966 Ford without a front bumper. The truck is red and white with large areas of rust. The front grill is turquoise. The truck's named "Betsy" and only needs a quart of oil "every five minutes".