



Photo courtesy Dewey Meadow Farms, Rome, N.Y.

Pygmy goats come in a variety of colors with the most common being agouti, a salt and pepper color.

## LESS THAN 2 FT. TALL

# Pygmy Goats Make Profitable Pets

Looking for a loveable pet, an animal 4-H project, or a new sideline farm enterprise? You wouldn't go wrong choosing a Pygmy goat for any of these.

As the name implies, these animals are the miniatures of the goat breeds. Now registered as a true breed, the tiny animals are believed to have evolved in a part of Africa where a shortage of feed favored small animals. They stand less than two feet in height at the withers.

Pygmy goats have been popular in California for some time, but they have only recently been introduced to the Midwest and East. One of their strong promoters is Bob Trusner, who lives near Harristown, Ill. He's raised them for four years and now has a herd of about 20 on his small acreage. He's a board member of the National Pygmy Goat Association, president of the Midwest Pygmy Goat Club, and chairman of the Pygmy goat division of the Illinois State Fair.

Says Trusner, "They're in great demand for pets and 4-H projects. They're great little animals for someone with a small acreage who wants to have some domestic animals

around. Some people say they make good meat (it tastes something like veal), and some are good milk producers."

Pygmies are a separate breed and do not resemble dairy goats in coloration and markings. To be registered with the Pygmy breed association, which has more than 5,000 registered Pygmies on file, they must have four feet darker in color than the rest of the body, a dorsal stripe from head to tail that is darker than the body, and ears, eyes, and nose lighter than the body color. Mature bucks must not exceed 23.6 in. in height, and mature does must not exceed 22 in.

Pygmy goats come in a variety of colors — black, white, caramel, and agouti. Trusner explains that agouti, the most common and popular color, is a mixture of black and white hairs that produces a salt-and-pepper color.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, National Pygmy Goat Association, Lucy Hulse, Executive Secretary, Fern Ave., Rt. 1, Amesbury, Mass. 01913 (ph 617 388-5633).

## MADE OF BARN CLEANER CHAIN

# Sculpted Cow Rides Herd On Family Tree

"When our barn cleaner chain wore out about 5 years ago, our dealer said he'd give us \$65 for it if we cleaned it up. We decided that, at that price, we could find a better use for it," says LeRoy Bauer, Shakopee, Minn., who used the chain to "sculpt" a flat-sided Holstein cow at the end of his driveway.

Bauer explains that he first carefully measured the dimensions of an average size cow in his dairy herd, then transferred those dimensions to a drawing on the floor of his machine

shed. He then cut the barn chain up into pieces and fitted them inside the cow silhouette. Once he had the shape right, he welded the links together and painted them up like a prized Holstein.

The chain-link cow now sits on two metal pipes sunk into a concrete base in the ground at the end of the driveway. It's complete down to the rubber teats. The Bauer mailbox dangles from the cow's tail and below the mailbox is a series of nameplates giving the names of the Bauers' 11 chil-



Photo by Shirley Spencer

Howard Dill's son Andrew with world record pumpkin that weighed 493½ lbs.

## CURRENT WORLD RECORD IS 493 LBS.

# Growers Aiming For First 500 lb. Pumpkin

As you tend your garden this summer, pay special attention to any unusually large squash and pumpkins. With some extra TLC (tender loving care), they may grow to win the World Pumpkin Confederation's (WPC) weigh-off held each October.

The current world record pumpkin, grown by Howard Dill, Windsor, Nova Scotia, was featured in FARM SHOW two years ago in Vol. 6, No. 3. It weighed 493½ lbs., was 30 in. high, 44 in. wide, and 43 in. long, and 10 ft. in circumference. Last year's winning pumpkin, grown by Owen Woodman, Falmouth, Nova Scotia, weighed 481 lbs. The world record squash weighed 513 lbs. and was grown by Harold Fulp, Jr., Ninevah, Ind.

Pumpkin growers are avidly trying to grow the first pumpkin to weigh more than 500 lbs. — which would net that lucky person a world record and \$1,500.

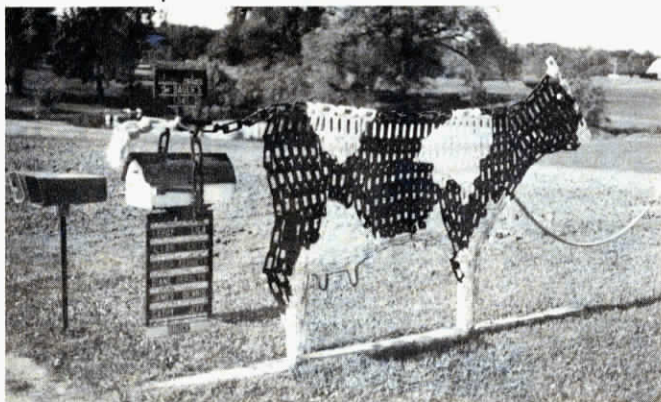
Growing a prize winner takes luck and a lot of care. According to Ray

Waterman, of the WPC, it is imperative that, for a large pumpkin, you select a seed from "giant producing" stock. Eleven of the 12 heaviest pumpkins in last year's contest, for example, were of the Atlantic Giant Variety. Seeds from pumpkins weighing more than 350 lbs. are \$5 for a package of 6.

Waterman also points out that it helps to nurture the seed with special soil and growing conditions until it's a seedling at the 3 leaf stage and ready to transplant. Plenty of water and fertilizer are also recommended.

This year's contest will conclude with the weigh-in on Oct. 8th at sites throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. To enter you simply have to have the pumpkin at one of the weigh-in sites 2 hours before the weighing.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, World Pumpkin Confederation, 14050 Gowanda State Road, Collins, N.Y. 14034 (ph 716 532-5995).



Bauer's "mail" cow is complete with an udder and rubber teats.

dren. The names in white are the ones still at home. The names in yellow

have "flown the coop".