

# QUESTIONS ABOUT DEXTER CATTLE ANSWERED

Dexters are fascinating little cattle and people always have lots of questions about them. Listed below are some of the most asked questions which we have attempted to answer.

## Q. How big do they grow?

Not very big at all. Adult cows range between 90cm and 110cm, bulls are usually 5 to 10 cm taller than the cows. The calves are very tiny when they are born; about 46cm high at the shoulder and weight about 18 to 20 kg.

## Q. What colours do they come in?

Most of them are black but some are red, while others are dun (a brownish colour).



## Q. Are they popular farm animals?

Yes, they are. Particularly with people living on small farms. They have a good nature and provide plenty of fresh meat and milk for the household.

## Q. Are they the same as normal cattle?

A. Apart from their small size they are similar to bigger cattle in almost every way.

## Q. How much room do they need?

Generally you can run three to four Dexters on the same area as two Jerseys. We have a member who has nine Dexters on 3 hectares. If it gets dry they get some additional hay.

## Q. Do they have horns?

Some of them do, others do not have horns and others have had their horns removed. Their horns are white with black tips.

## Q. Are they gentle?

A. Yes, very gentle if they are handled kindly. It is a good idea to remember they are not toys but real cattle and can be very heavy if they stand on your toe.

## Q. Where do they come from?

They originated in Ireland from an ancient breed of small mountain cattle.

## Q. How long do they live?

A. Much longer than other cattle. They are noted for their longevity and should breed regularly until around 15 yrs of age or more.



## Q. What do they eat?

A. They are not too fussy about what they eat. Unlike other cattle they will browse and forage on shrubs and weeds if grass is scarce.