



What you should know about Dexters



Naturally small but not miniaturized by human selection. They respond well to regular calm handling as they are intelligent and personable.

Fertile, have a low calving problem rate and excellent mothering ability.

Longevity, many cows can be still productive at 20 years. Produce exceptional high-quality, tender, tasty and lightly marbled beef.

Dexter meat quantity is deceptive to the eye as they have a huge amount of meat stacked on a small frame.

Arguably some of the best milk for a home dairy and a good production cow should have a decent amount of fine butterfat.

Hardy, light grazers on a wide range of grasses and efficient feed conversion. Ideal for pasture improvement through grazing and biodiversity, and sure-footed on ground that is unsuitable for larger breeds.

Every Dexters birth can be an exciting lottery. Dexter's come in black, red and dun, long and short leg as well as polled, scurred and horned (they can be dehorned). With any combination possible in any one birth depending on the parent's genetics, they can surprise you.

Great for self-sufficiency and fire hazard reduction.

The perfect choice for Education and exhibition.

Dexter bulls are ideal for solving calving problems in large breeds.

Registered breeders breeding registered animals can prove the ancestry and purity, and many are small farm specialists after many years of experience.



A Guide to Buying a Dexter

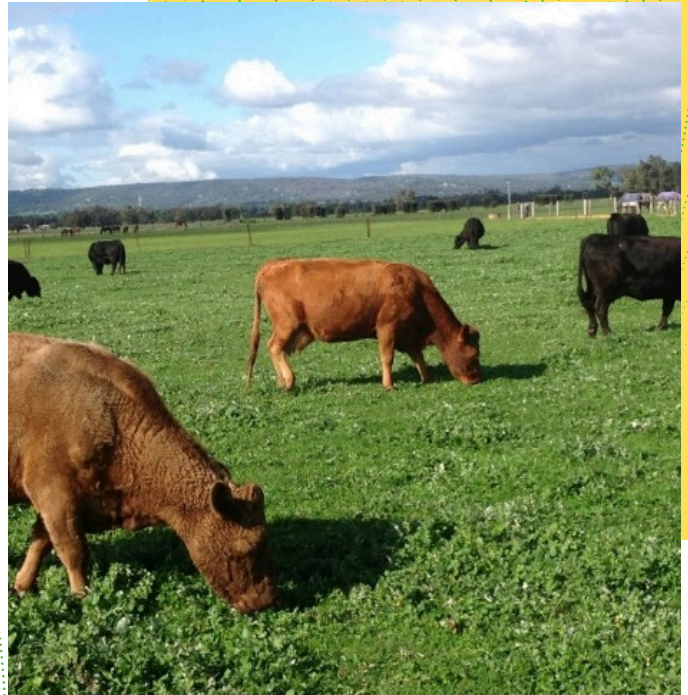
Before buying a Dexter

- Have sufficient land to feed and support more than one Dexter (Cattle are a herd animal they are not happy alone).
- Are there any local by-laws about keeping animals on your property? e.g.: zoning restrictions.
- Check if you have, or apply for, a Property Identification Code PIC with your local and state authority. Contact your local Department of Agriculture or equivalent, to find out any other requirements for owning cattle in your area.
- If you will be breeding all animals born on your property must be tagged with lifetime tracing tags, e.g. NLIS tags.
- You will need suitable cattle handling facilities for any veterinary treatment.
- You will need secure fencing.
- Suitable water.
- Visit Dexter breeders and inspect their animals and ask questions.
- Consider what you want your animals for? E.g. beef, milk, breeding, showing, grass management etc, you choose animals that support your needs.
- If you want to breed, you will need to consider if you want to keep a bull or use Artificial Insemination.
- Apply to become a registered stud with Dexter Cattle Australia Inc if you want to be a breeder of stud animals.



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More information can be found on www.dextercattle.org.au



What to look for in the animal?

The animal should be structurally sound, in a healthy condition and of good temperament.

Does the animal fit Dexter Cattle Australia breed standards?

When you buy a Registered animal from a Registered Dexter breeder, they should be able to supply:

- ✓ A veterinary history and medication/drench history
- ✓ A certificate of Registration for any registered animal (will be sent by vendor to DCAI to be transferred to your stud and they pay the transfer fee).
- ✓ Identification details, e.g. NLIS or tattoo



Coat Colour

The coat colour of a Dexter should be wholly black, red or dun and each are of equal merit.



Head

The head should be relatively short and broad, tapering toward a broad muzzle with relatively large, open nostrils.



Horns

Horns, if present, (black animals have white with a black tip, red animals have white with a reddish tip, and duns have white with brownish tip) should be moderately thick with an inward and upward curve. Horned, dehorned and polled animals are equally acceptable within the breed standard.



Size

Though Dexters are naturally small, there is considerable variation in the height of Dexter cattle, and this is allowed for in the Breed Standard. The preferred height range for cows is between 91cm (36 inches) and 112cm (44 inches). The preferred height range for bulls is between 97cm (38 inches) and 117cm (46 inches). Heights should be taken at the age of three years or more when an animal is assumed to have reached its mature height. Measurements are taken at the rump.



Leg Length

Long-leg and short-leg are of equal merit for registration and showing.

Please be aware that if the animal is needing to be registered, the process can be slow with DNA testing, registration and printing of the certificate, then the transfer of the registration.

Expect to pay more for top quality animals with training or show experience.