

# Miniature Zebu Cattle's Beginning in the U.S.A

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When you are walking around your pasture enjoying your little cattle, have you ever wondered who and what made it possible for you to own Miniature Zebu! In the book, "Texas Importation," it states "Zebu cattle were introduced into the Gulf Coast in 1849, coped well with the heat." So how did we get from there till today?

When you start researching Miniature Zebu cattle in the United States, the same names and places keep showing up. In an article by Bill Buchanan in the Summer 1988 issue of the Zooculturist magazine, he wrote "To my knowledge, there are several private breeders of 'dwarf zebu' and perhaps a dozen zoos in the country that keep this interesting animal, primarily in children's zoos."

In the IMZA news letter "Nadudana Notes" dated April, 1991, it stated that "On 10 April, 1991, in the Lolli Brothers conference room in Macon, Missouri 29 owners and persons interested in Miniature Zebu met and agreed to form the International Miniature Zebu Association (IMZA)."

This sale is the "Place" in the country where several animal breed associations have been formed. Lolli Brothers of Macon, Missouri, is centrally located in the country and is the place where IMZA members find a common ground to get together. They can plan for the trip, bring livestock of any and all species and breeds to the sale and have their annual IMZA meeting all at one time and place. Because this is the most logical spot for their meeting, it is also the most efficient in terms of cost. The sale itself is an independently operated venture of Lolli Brothers; and, even though there are numbers of Miniature Zebu consigned, the sale is not sanctioned by the IMZA. Lolli Brothers are appreciated for their efforts to serve the entire exotic animal industry.

In the summer 1991 issue of Exotic Livestock & Wildlife, James Morgan (past president of IMZA) stated "Very few Zebu were imported into the United States. Records indicate that none were imported for at least 30 years, until last year (1990). Robert Purtscher of Edelstein, Illinois, imported one bull, which is red and white pied, and two cows and two heifers. These animals were imported from Sweden."

I found in my research; along with the five zebu that Robert Purtscher imported on August 7, 1990, from a zoo in Sweden, records indicate that Joel Bridges imported seven zebu from the Dominican Republic, some as early as October 22, 1991, and Bill Georges imported a bull from Brazil on January 1, 1977. So where did your Zebu ancestors come from? Who imported them? Most of the bloodlines found in the United States today were imported by zoos. In 1991, James Morgan stated he had conducted a survey and had come up with about 50 private zebu owners which accounted for 118 bulls and 289 cows. "I have also received information that 23 zoos in the United States have zebu. They account for 25 bulls and 42 cows." That accounted for 143 bulls, 331 cows, for a total of 474 known zebu in the United States.

"Most zebu owners only own a few head, with the exception of Bob Baker (past IMZA president) in Spokane, Washington. He has been raising zebu cattle for 30 years (1978).

So who were these pioneers that started the growth of zebu in the United States? The list below shows the way they signed the attendance list at the April 10, 1991, Zebu meeting in Macon, Missouri:

The following article is a compilation of data of the International Miniature Zebu Association. This article is a work in progress and will be brought to our readers in a more complete version as the data research is complete.

There are a number of Zoos and breeders who contributed greatly to the growth of the breed as we know it today. They will be recognized as we continue to gather the information on their breeding programs.

Miniature Zebu Cattle's Beginning in the U.S.A.

Name	Place	Ranch	
Charles Wilson	Herndon, MS	CGW's	2 Male 4 Female
Robert Harbaugh	Muscatine, IA		3 Male 5 Female
Kendall Sandell	Polk, NE		2 Male 7 Female
Paul Seabold	Keokuk, IA		4 Male 11 Female
Wayne Carlisle	Memphis, TN		2 Male 2 Female
Robert Purtscher	Edelstein, IL	RCP	2 Male 11 Female
Dick Yager	Dallas City, IA		1 Male 3 Female
Francis Wright	Peru, IN		1 Male 3 Female
James A Morgan	Kent City, MI		1 Male 7 Female
Jack L Pursley	Sandyville, WV	JP	1 Male 3 Female
Dan Hermann	Woodland, WA	HH	2 Male 12 Female

Arnold Sorensen	Fredericksburg, TX	Someday's	3 Male	8 Female
Neil McWhirter	Dighton, KS	MCW's	1 Male	4 Female
Dale Pursley	Navarre, OH		1 Male	10 Female
Robert Wagner	Shade, OH		5 Male	15 Female
Texas Safari	Clifton, TX		3 Male	10 Female
Larry & Judy Rohner	Centralia, IL		3 Male	4 Female
Bob Baker	Spokane, WA	RVB	13 Male	37 Female
Dick Heiken	Des Moines, IA	Heikens Ark	1 Male	1 Female
Eric Meyer	Alberta, CN		3 Male	15 Female
Donald Bodkins	Edmond, OK		1 Male	4 Female
Brent Semingson	Glooster, OH		2 Male	2 Female
Dean Schocker	New Liberty, IA		1 Male	2 Female
Roy Krafjak	Red Key, IN			1Female
David Broomfield	Normagee, TX		1 Male	3 Female
Dahlas Rhone	Cozad, NE		1 Male	5 Female
Joel Bridges	Newberry, FL	Komoko	2 Male	9 Female

These were the breeders that started the popularity of MALEiniature Zebu cattle. Without the Male, our pastures would be e Malepty. Pull out your Registration Certificates and look back and see how Maleany of the breeders listed are represented. Where would we be today with out Charles Wilson, Robert Purtscher, Ja Malees MALEorgan, Bob Baker or Joel Bridges?

In 1992, just one year after the I MALEZA was for Maleed, prices at Lolli Brothers were high--a cow and her two- Maleonth-old bull calf sold for \$6,500.00. A seven-year-old cow fetched \$5,100.00. Sixteen head of zebu were sold that year.

The MALEiniature Zebu Malearket has evolved since its inception in the early 1990's. Because of the efforts of these early pioneers, Maleany of us don't have to rely on exotic auctions to obtain our MALEiniature Zebus, nor do we have to pay the sa Malee prices.

By starting your herd in today's Malearket, you will see that the MALEiniature Zebu has Maleaintained a very respectable value and the quality and availability of the ani Maleals is great. I Maleproved breed quality is based on the selective eye of the breeders and on the fact that the founders of I MALEZA knew that by keeping the pedigree records, the selections for Maleating are accurate. This has allowed breeders to do co Maleeparative breedings and see which bloodlines are truly co Maleepatible as they strive to breed for the finest MALEiniature Zebu possible. This is the legacy of the ongoing workings of the I MALEZA and its Malee Malebership, the original and oldest MALEiniature Zebu Registry in the country, which reaches back to those eventful beginnings of April 1991