

CATTLEMEN'S LINGO

Balance Animal with equal distribution of length in front, middle and rear, and equal in width from point of shoulders back to tailhead. A lack of faults.

Bang's Disease Brucellosis, also known as contagious abortion.

Barren Sterile female.

Breed Group of animals similar in colour, type and characteristics of group. When mated, members of same breed produce offspring of same colour, type, and other breed characteristics. They are said to "breed true".

Britches Rear quarters of beef bull.

Bottom Side Maternal or dam's parentage of pedigree.

Broody Motherliness in beef cows.

Buller Cow which is continuously in heat due to cystic ovaries.

Bully Possessing masculine characteristics, heavy crest, aggressive, alert.

Bulling When a cow tries to ride other cows, or when she stands if other try to ride her. A "bulling" cow is in heat.

Burnt Bulls, especially, with usefulness hindered by overfeeding and lack of exercise.

By Designate sire: A calf is by a certain bull.

Cancer Eye Tumour of the eye region, which causes severe losses in herds of light, skinned breeds.

Clean Free of disease, especially Brucellosis.

Closebreeding Mating of related animals. Term includes inbreeding and line-breeding.

Condition Degree of fatness.

Constitution Aggregate of physical power and vigor.

Crossbred Animal from parents of two different breeds.

Crossbreeding System of breeding where bull of one breed is mated to cows of another.

Cull Animal of low quality.

Cull (verb) To remove from herd.

Dam Maternal parent.

Dirty Animal believed to carry gene for snorter dwarfism.

Dropped Born, a calf was dropped on May 1.

Estrus Period of time when cow will accept bull; heat period.

Everyday clothes Animal in breeding condition, not fat or fitted.

Feed Conversion Rate Measure of the number of pounds of feed necessary to produce 100 pounds of live beef or carcass.

Family or Family Name Determined by tracing ancestry from dam to granddam, etc, to a particular cow called the "foundation" cow.

Fed Cattle Steers or heifers fed grain for slaughter.

Fertility Test Test of semen for sperm count and measure of motility.

Finish Degree or amount of fatness.

Fitted Animal fattened, groomed, and trained for show or sale.

Founder Nutritional ailment caused by over-eating or inflammation of uterus following parturition. Affected animals become lame with sore front feet & excessive hoof growth.

Freemartin Female born as a twin with a bull; usually sterile.

Gene Entity concerned with transmission of hereditary characteristics.

Get Calves sired by same bull; hence, "get of sire".

Heat Period of time when females will accept bull.

Heavy-in-calf Late stage of pregnancy.

Heritability Percentage Ratio of inheritance of various traits, often an estimate based on experimental results.

Heifer Female bovine that has not dropped a calf, although females usually are called heifers until they reach maturity.

Herd sire Principal bull said to "head" a herd.

Hindquarter or Hind Rear portion of carcass from which most of the highest priced beef cuts come from eg loin and round.

Hooks Hip bones.

Hooky Cow with prominent hooks.

Hybrid vigor Increased growth rate often noted in cattle resulting from first-cross matings. It is believed desirable traits in parents are dominant over undesirable traits. Thus the amount of hybrid vigor is probably based on the closeness of breeding in the parents.

Inbreeding Method of mating close relatives.

Linebreeding Method of selective mating, usually to obtain predominance of a particularly outstanding bull into the ancestry of a calf or crop or cow herd. An attempt to genetically "fix" the characteristics of a bull in a herd.

Line of breeding Determined by tracing ancestry from sire to grandsire, etc, on top of parental side of pedigree.

Loin-Eye Main muscle of beef carcass in evaluation test. Area of loin-eye (sometimes called rib-eye) at 12th rib is used as indication of meatiness of carcass.

Long Rump Animal with desirable length from hooks to pin bones.

Mellow High quality finish, or fat covering; fat not too hard or too soft or mushy.

Mossy Soft, smooth hair coat, pleasant to the touch.

Motility Activeness of bull's semen as seen through microscope.

Nick If calves by a bull out of half-sisters or out of females of a certain line of breeding are especially outstanding, he is said to "nick" well with them.

Out of Designates dam. A calf is out of a certain cow or heifer.

Overdone Overfat show animal.

Pedigree Written record of animal's ancestry.

Performance Test Measure of an animal's performance, usually for a single trait, i.e., weight gains.

Plain-headed Head like a Longhorn, no breed character.

Pin Bones Anterior portion of pelvis; protrude on each side of rectum.

Pinkeye Any of various inflammatory conditions of the eyes; attacks all ages.

Post-legged Hind legs too straight.

Prepotent Above average ability of breeding stock, especially bulls, to transmit their individual excellence to their offspring.

Produce Offspring of a particular cow, as opposed to a bulls "get".

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Production Test Measure of several factors, which determine an animal's productiveness. Full production test includes records of animals weaning weight and grade, yearling weight and score, and classification score when mature.

Progeny Test Measure of offspring of animals, usually bulls. Test may measure inheritance of weight gains, conformation grades or scores, carcass meatiness, dwarfism.

Purebred All lines of ancestry tracing to registered stock of one breed. All purebreds are not registered, but all registered stock is purebred.

Quality State of desirable bone, natural smoothness, fine hair, refined features; excellence of breed character.

Quitters Corns between toes of cattle, especially bulls, which must be removed.

Rangy Long-legged, long-bodied, long-necked.

Reactor Animal which shows reaction to a test for disease.

Registered Recorded in Herd Book of a recognised breed association which issues certificate that animal is offspring of registered parents and meets registration requirements.

Safe-in-calf Pregnant beyond doubt: usually examined as such by vet.

Scrub Plain animal, cull.

Seedstock Registered animals worthy of use as foundation for herd.

Served Female bred, but not necessarily safe in calf.

Service Act of breeding.

Sickle-hocked Crooked hind legs as viewed from the side.

Signs Female showing symptoms of pregnancy or heat.

Soggy Beefy, deep muscled, thickly made beef animal.

Spray Surgical removal of ovaries.

Springer Female showing definite signs of pregnancy.

Stag Male bovine castrated after sex characteristics are apparent.

Steer Male bovine castrated before characteristics of bull are developed.

Steer (verb) To castrate.

Substance Solidity, the unchanging natural qualities of an animal.

Tail end Lowest quality portion of a group.

Thoroughbred Breed of horses. Other registered animals are purebred.

Twist Region between hind legs where thighs come together.

Type All those characteristics, which contribute to an animal's purpose. There are three types of cattle – beef, dairy, dual-purpose.

Well-bred Animal with widely known ancestry.

