

BEEF CATTLE INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW???

- ◆ A 1,000-pound cow produces about 10 tons of manure a year!
- ◆ The hide from one **head** of cattle (one animal) can be made into 18 pairs of shoes!
- ◆ **Bulls**, or adult male cattle, are required to wear a **nose ring** when they show in the ring. The nose ring helps control the animal.

BEEF VOCABULARY

bovine -- cattle

bull – adult male cattle that may produce young

by-products – all products, except for beef, that come from beef cattle

calf – cattle less than one year old

chute – a stand to hold the animal while it is being groomed

cow – female cattle that has produced young

draft animals – animals that work for us, doing things such as pulling wagons or pulling plows through the fields. Some cattle (or “oxen”) are raised as draft animals, and some horses, especially draft horses, are raised as draft animals.

dual purpose – animals that are raised to be both beef *and* dairy cattle or beef *and* draft animals; *triple purpose* animals are able to serve us in all *three* ways, providing milk and meat, and pulling heavy loads

heifer – young female cattle that has not yet produced a calf

pasture – land where animals may graze and forage plants

rumen – the first of four compartments in the stomach of cattle

ruminates – to re-chew food that has been swallowed once before; it helps digest or process foods such as hay or corn stalks

steer – male cattle that has been neutered (like your cat or dog) so it cannot have young

veal - meat from a calf less than three months old that has been fed only milk

BY-PRODUCTS

Almost all of the beef cattle animal is used to make things we need. Meat is the most important product of beef cattle, but there are many by-products or secondary products from beef cattle, too. Here is a short list of some of the parts of cattle and how they are used:

fats/gelatin	made into soap, shampoo, make-up, film
pancreas/liver	made into medicines
hides	made into leather goods such as shoes, belts, coats, footballs
hair	made into paint brushes

Question: What do you call adult male cattle? (Hint: Michael Jordan was one!)

Answer: Adult male cattle are called *bulls*.

LIVESTOCK LAUGHS

How does a farmer keep track of all the cattle?

With a cow-culator!

What do you call a bull that's sleeping?

A bull-dozer!

What's the most important use of cowhide?

It holds the cow together!

Where do cows go to dance?

The meat ball!

NOW SHOWING!!!

The following are beef breeds that have shows during the NAILE!

ANGUS

Roll of Victory **Angus** Bull Show

Roll of Victory **Angus** Female Show

Females of the **Angus** breed show in the Coliseum on Tuesday. Some females will be in the show *with* their babies. This is called a **cow/calf class**. Monday is the male Angus or Angus **bull** show. You may have heard of "Certified Angus Beef" before. Sometimes you see the word "Angus" on restaurant menus or on meat packages at the grocery store. The breed is listed because it shows that the meat is very good quality. Angus is one of the most popular beef breeds in America. These cattle, originally from Scotland, are solid black in color and **polled**, which means that they are naturally hornless.

SHORTHORN

East Major PACE **Shorthorn** Show

Shorthorns are another Scottish breed. They are burgundy and/or white in color and may be solid, patterned or roan. **Roan** means that they have white hairs mixed throughout their main hair color. Shorthorns were the first improved breed (made to be the best it could be) brought to the United States in 1783. (They were called "Durham" then.) Although they are mostly beef cattle today, the early Shorthorns were **triple-purpose**, meaning they could produce milk *and* meat *and* serve as work animals.

Question: Knowing this, why do you think the pioneers liked this breed so much?

Answer: Early American pioneers loved the Shorthorn breed because it served three purposes. When they were moving their family and household goods across the land to a new place, they couldn't take very much with them. Having cattle that could provide both milk and meat, as well as pull wagons or plows was important to them. They would take a small number of male and female cattle (sometimes only one of each) with them to breed at their new homestead.

MAINE-ANJOU

Maine-Anjou Show

As you may be able to tell from its name, the breed originated in France, in the Maine and Anjou river valleys. It is a large breed that is black and white in color. Many Maine-Anjou have a triangular white patch on their foreheads.

HEREFORD

Hereford National Show

The Hereford is one of the most popular beef breeds in America and is raised all over the world. Herefords are an important part of Kentucky livestock history because the famous Kentucky statesman, Henry Clay, imported Herefords to Kentucky from England in 1817. Although the original breed has horns, some cattle *mutated* or changed to be hornless, and an Iowa farmer set out to establish a new Polled Hereford breed. “Polled” means that they were born without horns.

Herefords have blocky bodies with short, stumpy legs and broad heads. Their hair is thick and wavy. They are dark red with a white face, chest, and belly, and white **points**. This means that the “edges” of the cow are white—the ears, nose, hoofs and **switch**.

Question: Does anyone know what a switch is?

Answer: The **switch** is the tip of the tail, and it usually has a nice tuft of hair on it, for chasing away flies, and the like!

RED ANGUS

Red Angus Show

This breed is a variation of the Angus breed. It is red in color, rather than black, like most Angus.

Organizations that keep track of animal breeds are called **Breed Associations**. One important thing that a breed association does is keep a **herdbook**, or a book that records the characteristics of the breed and the individual animals registered in that breed. The first Angus herdbook in the 1860s listed both red *and* black cattle. Someone decided (for no important reason) that Angus should be black, and reds were banned from the U.S. herdbook in 1917. Later, in the 1950s, a group of cattlemen established a separate Red Angus breed.

LIMOUSIN

Medal of Excellence National **Limousin Show**

Although their name sounds like a long, fancy car, they are named after a region in France. They are a strong and beefy breed, well-suited to the harsh climate and rocky soil of the Limousin mountains. It is one of the oldest cattle breeds on earth. In fact, the Limousin may be the breed drawn on the famous walls in Lascaux Cave near Montignac, France, over 20,000 years ago! It wasn't introduced into the U.S. however, until 1971. This breed is solid red-gold in color, and its

meat is one of the best. It has become popular in America, since it produces so much meat of the more expensive cuts.

PIEDMONTESE

National **Piedmontese** Show

From the Piedmonte region of Italy, this breed is white or pale gray in color with black points (ears, nose, hoofs, and tip of tail). It is a very old breed that originated 25,000 years ago when two different breeds in the Asian country of Pakistan migrated or moved to Italy. Together, these two breeds produced the Piedmontese. It is most famous for a trait called **double-muscling** or extra long muscles that mean it produces more beef. It has a particularly big and beefy rump!

CHIANINA

National **Chianina & Chiangus** Show

Chianina (key-a-nēna) are the largest beef cattle in the world. Their average weight is 2,500 to 3,000 pounds, and they can stand more than 6-feet tall at the shoulders! The Chianina can gain as much as 4-5 pounds each day! I mean they are *huge*! Their hair is off-white to steel gray, but they have a black nose, hoofs and **switch**. The switch is the tip of the tail, and it usually has a nice tuft of hair on it, for chasing away flies, and the like! The tongue of the Chianina is black, too!

The Chianina is one of the oldest breeds, and they are from the Chiana Valley in central Italy. (A popular type of wine, Chianti, is also named after this part of Italy.) Because they are so large and strong, they were originally draft animals, or work animals that pulled things like wagons and plows. They came to the United States during the time of World War II, when American soldiers in Italy saw the breed for the first time.

Chiangus is a strange name for a breed, but it combines two breeds into one. Chiangus were a result of crossbreeding the Chianina and Angus breeds.

All of these animals must have an **ultrasound** before the show. This is a test that uses sound waves to “see” inside the body (x-rays are another way we can take a picture of the insides of a body). You may have seen an ultrasound picture of a baby before it was born. The judges are looking for fat in the animal when they look at the ultrasound. Fat can give meat flavor and make it tender, but too much is not good. **Marbling** is what they call the fat in the muscle or meat. Next time you go to the grocery, look at a package of meat to see the marbling. It will look like white streaks going through the red meat.

SALERS

Eastern National **Salers** Show

Salers are named for a town in central France, so their name is pronounced with a French accent: *say-lair*. They are large and usually dark red with good-sized horns, but some Salers are black and **polled** (hornless). Ancient cave paintings in France depict the breed, so we know it is thousands of years old. Today, Salers are one of the fast-growing breeds in popularity in the U.S.

BELTED GALLOWAY

National **Belted Galloway** Show

The Galloway is a shaggy, black animal with thick, curly hair. Its hair keeps the cattle warm and protected from wind and rain, but it sheds its coat in the summer. The Belted Galloway is a cross between the Galloway, a Scottish breed, and the Dutch Belted.

Question: Why do you think the breed is called “Belted”?

Answer: If you guessed that this breed looks like it is wearing a belt, you’re right! The unique wide white belt that encircles its midsection comes from the Dutch Belted breed.

SIMMENTAL

North American National **Simmental** Show

This old Swiss breed has a white face and belly, but its color and patterning can vary. They are usually a light yellow-red, but may also be solid white, black, or several other colors. One distinctive feature is their **dewlap**, loose skin that hangs under their neck. Their name comes from the Simme Valley in Switzerland (“thal” or “tal” means “valley” in German).

GELBVIEH

North American National **Gelbvieh** Show

Native to Bavaria, in southern Germany, the **Gelbvieh** breed originated over 200 years ago. Gelbvieh (say “glep-fee”) are red and horned, although a polled or hornless variety was established in the United States.

BRAUNVIEH

Classic **Braunvieh** Show

Although the Braunvieh at the North American are in the Beef Show, the breed originated in Europe as a milk breed, mainly. Braunviehs are still raised primarily for milk in Europe. The name comes from the German words for “brown cattle,” and many shades of brown are found in the breed. The first breeders’ association was established in Switzerland in 1897. In the United States, the breed led to the founding of the American Brown Swiss dairy breed.

CHAROLAIS

Fall National ROE **Charolais** Show

Charolais are considered of Jurassic origin and are one of the oldest breeds of French cattle, they were developed in the region of Charolles in Central France. Charolais came to the United States in June of 1936, when the King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas bought two bulls from Mexico. Charolais are the all white cattle and are naturally horned, but most that you see in the United States have been bred to be polled.

RED POLL

National Red Poll Show

Red Poll cattle served as dual-purpose animals in England, where they originated, they were not only used for their beef, but also for their milk. Red Poll cattle were imported to the United States in 1873, the first ones were brought to New York State. The breed was established with only about 300 head that were brought over from Britain. The Red Poll cattle are naturally hornless and are usually a deep red in color.

SANTA GERTRUDIS

Santa Gertrudis Show

Santa Gertrudis cattle were developed at the King Ranch in Kingsville, Texas, they are a cross of Brahman and Shorthorn cattle. Most of the cattle are approximately five-eighths Shorthorn and three-eighths Brahman. Their name comes from the original land grant, *Rincon de Santa Gertrudis*, purchased by Captain Richard King, who founded King Ranch. The foundation sire, the bull that all present day Santa Gertrudis descend from, was called "Monkey." Santa Gertrudis are a deep cherry-red.