

Livestock Breed Identification: Cattle

Bos Indicus

scientific name for Zebus cattle which consist of many breeds who originate from India; characterized by a hump, drooping ears and a large dewlap; are highly adapted to high temperatures

Bull

uncastrated male bovine

Calving Ease

EPD (expected progeny difference) which estimates the ease of a heifer having a calve

Conformation

physical formation especially pertaining to the shape and structure of an animal

Cow-calf Operation

popular method of raising cattle in which the cow herd is kept to produce calves for later sale

Cross-breeding Programs

program which breeds two animals of different breeds, varieties or populations in an effort to increase hybrid vigor

Cutability

percentage of boneless, trimmed and saleable meat (muscle) versus the percentage of waste fat

Dam

female parent of a domestic animal

Docile

livestock which are calm, not aggressive and are easily trained and handled

Doing ability

measure of how the animal will perform and hold up in production

Dual-purpose breed

animal which provides at least two kinds of resources

Dystocia

refers to an abnormal or difficult birth

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Full Bloods

refers to cattle which are one hundred percent purebred

Hardiness

capability for livestock to stay strong and healthy especially during unfavorable conditions

Heifer

young female cow who has not had young

Heterosis/Hybrid Vigor

result of a mating where the offspring shows qualities superior to those of both parents

Homozygous

when two copies of the same gene are passed through mating and can either be two dominant traits or two recessive traits

Maternal

anything related to the mother or the mother's side of the mating

Pendulous

refers to something which hangs down loosely and mostly commonly used to describe sheath's in American influenced cattle

Performance

animals ability to efficiently preform the sustainable basic function and most commonly related to growth

Polled

absence of horns in livestock

Prolific

ability to produce offspring in abundance

Purebred

animal who has a pure and proven lineage and is most often registered

Sire

male parent of a domestic animal

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Switch

another name for a bovine's tail

Terminal

refers to an animal or operation which is being used or produced solely for the production of a resource, most often meat (muscle)