

ZOOL 10 - KEY TO CATTLE BREEDS

Calvin Hom 11/98

CLASSIFICATION		PURPOSES & POPULATION*	
Class	Mammalia	b = beef	A = abundant (> 50,000)
Order	Artiodactyla	d = dairy	C = common (> 2500)
Family	Bovidae	f = feral	L = limited but common elsewhere
Genus & species	Bos primagenius (extinct auroch & uru)	h = horns	S = sparse (1000-2500)
	Bos taurus (non-humped cattle)	r = rodeo	R = rare (200-1000)
	Bos indicus (Brahman & Zebu)	w = work (draught)	E = endangered (< 200)
	Bison bison ("buffalo")		* US-Canada registrations in 1994



COLOR	HORNS	BREED	DESCRIPTION	OTHER
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◆ breeds seen last fall at Cow Palace in bold type

codes listed above

		Bos taurus	no hump at shoulders	
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BLACK	Long horns	Highland	long dark shaggy hair	b-w	S
	Medium horns	Canadienne	wedge-shaped body with black hooves	d	E
		Dexter	smallest breed (to 3 ft high), solid black	d-b-w	R
		Welsh Black	long body, short legs, black-tipped horns	b-d	L
Polled (no horns)	◆ Polled Angus	Galloway	sleek solid black body	b	A
			shaggy black-brown hair	b-d	R
BLACK & WHITE	Short horns	Black Baldy	black body, white face (Angus x Hereford)	b	A
		Dutch Belted	black body encircled by white belt	d	E
	Polled (no horns)	Holstein or Friesian	white body, large black spots, milk !	d	A
RED & WHITE	Long horns	Ankole or Watusi	largest horns (span to 8 ft), hump in males	h	E
		Corriente	small (to 3-1/2 ft), curved horns, fastest	r	L
		Texas Longhorn	long slender lyre-shaped horns	b	C
	Short horns with beef conformation (rectangular body)	◆ Hereford	brick-red body with wide white face	b	A
		◆ Beef Shorthorn	roan (mixed red-white), beefy body	b	C
		◆ Maine-Anjou	white triangular patch on forehead	b-d	C
		◆ Pinzgauer	chestnut-brown sides with white rump	b-d	L
		◆ Simmental	spotty red body, white face, dewlap	b-d	A
		Meuse Rhine Yssel	white body with large red spots	b-d	L
	Short horns with dairy conformation (wedge-shaped body)	Normande	brown & red spots, spotted face mask	b-d	L
		Ayrshire	scattered red spots, lyre-shaped horns	d	C
		Guernsey	fawn & white spots, golden-yellow tears	d	C
		Milking Shorthorn	milky roan (mixed red-white)	d	C
	Polled (no horns)	◆ Polled Hereford	Norwegian Red	mostly deep red body with white spots	b-d
			brick-red body with wide white face	b	-

COLOR	HORNS	BREED	DESCRIPTION	OTHER	
BROWN	Short horns	◆ Gelbvieh	muscular yellowish body, hairy foretop	b-d C	
		Brown Swiss	large body with large fuzzy ears	d C	
		Jersey	fawn-color, white muzzle band, ice cream !	d A	
	Polled (no horns)	◆ Limousin	long sleek body, high & broad forehead	b A	
		Blonde d'Aquitaine	large blondish body	b S	
RED	Medium horns	Devon	slick red body with orange-tinted skin	b-d-w E	
		Salers	cherry-red body with lyre-shaped horns	b-d C	
		South Devon	sandy-red body with loose skin	b-d L	
		Sussex	red-black body with strong shoulders	b-w L	
	Short horns	Danish Red	solid red with dark muzzle & hooves	d-b L	
		Lincoln Red	solid red body with long legs	b-d L	
	Polled (no horns)	Red Poll	buff-colored skin	b-d S	
		Tarentaise	light ridge along back, dark nose	b-d L	
	WHITE	Long horns	White Park	small body (to 4 ft high), black features	b-f E
		Medium-short horns	◆ Romagnola	whitish body with small hump & dewlap	b L
Marchigiana			cylindrical body with straight topline	b L	
Piedmont			pale grey body with massive rump	b L	
Polled (no horns)		◆ Charolais	cream-white body with pink nose	b C	
		British White	small body (to 4-1/2 ft), black features	b-d S	
		Chianina	largest breed (to 6 ft high), white body	b C	
		Murray-Grey	grey body with black features	b L	
		Bos indicus	large hump, droopy ears, dewlap		
HUMPED	Medium horns	◆ Brahman	upright hump, hanging dewlap	b-r C	
x B.taurus	Black - polled	◆ Brangus	saggy black skin (x Angus)	b C	
	Red - medium horns	Barzona	oval down-curved horns (x Africander+)	b S	
	Red - short horns	Santa Gertrudis	solid red body (x Shorthorn)	b C	
	Red & white - short horn:	◆ Beefmaster	sloping rump (x Hereford x Shorthorn)	b C	
	Red & white - short horns	Braford	white face with red mask (x Hereford)	b S	
		Bison bison	large shaggy hump		
HUMPED	Brown - short horns	American Bison	narrow waist, long goatee	b 80k in park	
x B.taurus	Variable color	Beefalo or Cattalo	dense shaggy hair, variable hump	b S	

SOURCES:

Pukite, John. 1996. A field guide to cows. Falcon Press.

Porter, V. 1991. Cattle: A handbook to the breeds of the world. Facts on File.