Cattle Breeds

Crystal Fincher
Putnam County 4-H Agent
British Breeds

Known for

- High Reproductive Rate
- High Marbling Score (amount of fat within the muscle tissue – associated with the meat’s taste)
- Average Mature Size
- Early Sexual Maturity
Shorthorn

- Brought to US from England – Oldest Breed of Beef cattle
- Can be Red, White or roan in color
- Good disposition, mothering and milking abilities
Hereford

- Developed in England

- Red bodies with white faces, underlines and switch

- Known for their foraging ability, vigor, hardiness and quiet dispositions

- Also has a polled variation of the breed
Angus

• Polled with black smooth coat

• Originated in Scotland

• Know for...
  • Desirable Carcass
  • Well-marbled, fine textured beef and minimum trim
  • Milking, mothering and reproductive abilities
Red Angus

- Same traits as Black Angus
- Just as purebred as black angus
Belted Galloway

- Known for obvious white belt, black body but may have brownish tinge in summer
- Are large, milk heavy and grow rapidly
- Known as “Oreo Cookie Cows”
Ayrshire

- Originated in Scotland
- Red, white and mottled in color
- Dairy Breed
  - Notice large udder and thin body
Continental Breeds

- Large Mature Size
- Rapid Growth Rate
- Heavy Muscling
- Low Reproductive Rate
- Low Marbling Ability
Simmental

• Imported from Switzerland, France and Germany
• Red to dark red, spotted bodies with white to light straw faces
• Noted for fast growth and milking abilities
• Originated in France

• Solid to golden red to tan or black in color with lighter circles around the eyes and muzzle

• When slaughtered at an early age, these animals yield a high percentage of lean meat with minimum amount of fat
Charolais

- Developed in France
- Large and light colored
- Noted for fast growth and lean meat
Chianina
(pronounced kee-a-nee-na)

• Developed in Italy

• White with black skin pigmentation

• Large: mature bull can weigh up to 4,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall

• Noted for working, mothering and beef producing abilities
Gelbvieh (Gelp-fee)

- Originated in Germany
- Solid cream to reddish yellow to brownish-black in color
- Heavy-Fronted Cattle
- General purpose breed
- Good milking abilities
Pinzgauer

- Come from Austria

- Known not only for good milk yield but also intensive fattening and good average daily gain

- Horned or polled, pigmented skin under chestnut red coat and white markings on the back, tail and barrel
Belgian Blue

- Originated from Belgium
- Large animal with rounded outline and prominent muscles
- Color can be white, blue roan or sometimes black
- High muscularity, milk yield and daily gain
- Low performance in calving ease and calving rate.
- Belgian Blue cows often deliver via caesarean
Holstein

- Dairy cattle

- Live considerably long and are productive for about 6 years

- Average production in 1987 was 17,408 pounds of milk, 632 pounds of Butterfat and 550 pounds of protein
Piedmontese

- Origins of Italy

- Born fawn or tan and change to the grey-white color with black skin pigmentation

- Unique double muscling traits
Maine-Anjou

- Developed in France
- Coloring is very dark red with white markings on the head, belly, rear legs and tail
- Dual purpose breed
Exotic

- Slow growing
- Heat Resistant
- Loose skin characteristics
Senepol

- Imported from West Africa
- Selected for early maturity and maternal efficiency, heat tolerance and gentle disposition
- Polled and solid red color
American Breeds

Known For

- Adapting well to Tropical Environments
- Resistance to parasite Populations
- Good Milk Production
- Poor Marbling Ability
- Nervous Temperament
- Often the Combination of Two Breeds
Brahman

- Developed in southwestern US
- Cross between Zube cattle from India and British Breeds
- Color varies from light gray or red to almost black
- Distinguished by their large hump and droopy ears
- Known for its ability to withstand heat and insects
Santa Gertrudis

- Developed on King Ranch in Texas
- 5/8 Shorthorn and 3/8 Brahman
- Usually deep red in color
- Known for their growth rate, long life and hardiness
Beefmaster

• Developed by Lasater Ranch in Texas

• Crosses of Brahman-Hereford and Brahman-Shorthorn (Exact foundation pedigree not known)

• Modern Beefmaster have estimated <1/2 Brahman and slightly more than ¼ Hereford and Shorthorn Breeding

• No distinction of hide or color but mostly red

• Breed is geared toward weight, conformation, hardiness and milk production
Braford

- Born out of necessity
- Base of Brahman cows and Hereford bulls
- Usually Brindle in Color
- Approximately 3/8 Brahman and 5/8 Hereford
- Main breeding started by Alto Adams Jr. from St. Lucie, Florida
Brangus

• 3/8 Brahman and 5/8 Angus

• Combine hardiness, disease resistance and maternal instincts from the Brahman and superior carcass qualities, fertility and milking ability of Angus

• Solid black in color and polled
Red Brangus

- Same traits as Black Brangus
Florida Cracker/Pineywoods

- Florida’s Equivalent to the Texas Longhorn
- Small in size with horns (horns are not as long as Texas Longhorn)
- Mature cows usually weigh under 900 pounds
Texas Longhorn

- Originated from Spanish Andalusian Cattle
- Have long horns and several color patterns
- Known for their longevity, hardiness, strong survival instincts, and resistance to disease and parasites
Beefalo

• Cross between Bison (buffalo) and domestic cattle

• Purpose was to blend top qualities of the Bison and bovine breeds of the world

• Generally 5/8 bovine
Simbrah

- Experiment combining Simmental with Brahman cattle
- Described as “The All Purpose American Breed”
- Developed to be as functional and trouble free as possible
- Emphasis on pigmented eyes, thick muscling and reasonable dispositions
Brahmousin

- 5/8 Limousin and 3/8 Brahman
- Most widely accepted and useful mix
Sources

http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle