

SHOW AND JUDGING TERMINOLOGY

Listed are some of the common terms that may be used in the description of beef cattle confirmation.

A

ANGULATION: This term refers to the angle of the shoulder or rear leg placement.

B

BALANCE OR SYMMETRY: is evaluated from a side view of the animal looking for the proportioned blending of parts of the animal.

BONE: the amount of bone the animal has and is described as “flat” bone or “round” bone (according to its shape). The “flatter” the bone the more muscle there is in the animal.

BOW-LEGGED: An animal that has its legs bowed out at the hocks or knees.

BREED CHARACTER: The distinguishing features that differentiate one breed from another (i.e. colour, height, polled, etc).

BREAKS IN THE CHINE: Breaks in the back (curve in the back).

BROODINESS: A term to describe good maternal attributes of a female.

C

CARCASE MERIT: Refers to the percentage of saleable meat that would yield from the animal.

CONFORMATION: A description of the shape of body parts of an animal.

CONDITION (COVERING & FINISH): These terms are all used to describe fat cover, with condition a term used more when describing breeding stock.

COW-HOCKED: An animal with this condition has their rear legs bowed in at the hocks and in turn the toes will be turned out.

CAPACITY: Refer to the term Volume.

CAPACIOUS: A term used to describe lots of space; room to grow (could be used to describe many aspects of an animal).

D

DEPTH OF BODY: Means an animal with great depth of rib and capacity.

DISPOSITION (TEMPERAMENT): A measure of an animal's docility (ease of handling and quietness in unfamiliar situations).

DOUBLE MUSCLING: An inherited trait which is evident by excess muscling of the hind legs and particularly over the top of the hindquarter.

E

FEMININITY: Used to describe females characteristics (refinement to the head and shoulders) as compared to a male animal.

FLAT RIBBED (SLAB SIDED): The animal typically is lighter muscled, narrow based and lacks the desired shape to the rib for volume and capacity.

FINISH: Refers to the amount of fat cover an animal possesses.

FRAME SIZE: Is the skeletal size of an animal and correlates to maturity patterns.

G

GREEN: usually means “not ready”, it often refers to the lack of body condition of an animal or the early stage of the animals halter and show training.

GROWTHINESS: A term used to describe an animal's ability for good weight and size gains at a certain age.



H

HIGH PINNED: Pin bones are set higher than the hook bones, this gives the hip an upward appearance as opposed to being level from hooks to pins (desirable).

HOOKS to PIN: This is a term used to describe either the distance or angle from the Hooks (Hip bone) to Pin Bones.

L

LENGTH: This term is used in relation to the length of the animals' body.

M

MASCULINITY: Describes the male characteristics of an animal (i.e. crest and thickness to neck, heavier muscled).

MEATINESS/MUSCLING: A term used to describe a good amount of muscling to the areas from which the high priced cuts of beef are sourced such as the hind quarters and through the rib area.

P

PIGEON-TOED: An animal with this defect has their front legs bowed out at the knees and in turn the toes will be turned in.

POST-LEGGED: Where the hock has too little angle and is too straight through the joint and is one of the main causes of bulls breaking down whilst serving cows.

R

RUGGEDNESS/STOUTNESS: Refers to the animal being large boned and is generally determined by the size of the cannon bone (knee to the angle).

S

SCALE: Refers to the size of the animal determined by the skeletal structure (height, length and width).

SPLAYED-FOOTED: An animal with this defect has their front legs bowed in at the knees and in turn the toes will be turned out.

SPRING OF RIB: The more "spring of rib" the more muscling there is in the animal.

STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS: Refers to the overall "correctness" of an animal i.e. how it is physically put together.

STYLE: Encompasses the quality of the animal, structural correctness, balance and most importantly the animal's visual attractiveness and appeal.

T

TIGHT FRAMED: This term means the ability of an animal to collectively hold itself together from correctness of feet and leg placement to tightness of shoulder and a strong top line.

TOPLINE (Backline): This is in reference to the top of the animal running from the top of the shoulders extending all the way through to the rump.

TRIMNESS: The amount of fat an animal is carrying.

TYPE: Refers to a grouping of characteristics that determines the general appearance of an animal.

U

UNDERLINE: The underside of the animal (under the belly).

V

VOLUME: Can be defined as the three dimensional shape which includes the length, depth and width of the rib cage of an animal.

W

WASTY: This refers to an animal that is carrying excess fat and is lacking in muscularity.

WEDGED SHAPED TOPLINE: Desirable shape of an animal when viewing it from the front, rear and over the top from the rear.