



Lecture title: Cattle husbandry

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Summary: This lecture highlights the most important terminology commonly used in cattle, Classification and the classification of cattle according to their geographical origin

Terminology common used in cattle:

Bovine: cattle family.

Bull: an uncastrated adult male of bovine family, more than one year, reared for breeding in the farm.

Bull calf: male calf until one-year-old.

Bullock: a young calf male, usually male or young castrated bull or (steer).

Calf: newly __born suckling young male or female from delivery until weaning. Or the offspring of a cow from birth until one-year-old.

Cow: a female of bovine family, specially the common dairy animal that furnishes milk or, one that has had more than one calf.

Heifer: a young cow more than one year that has not had calf. Or up to its first calf.

Heifer calf: a female calf until one-year-old.

Ox: full __grown male of cattle that has been castrated, and is used as draft animal (beast of burden) or for beef.

Stag: a bull castrated later in life that is usually (having more masculine conformation than bullock).

Steer: an adult castrated bull during the first three months of the life (6_12 weeks old) usually 2__4 years old, or young ox, usually castrated for beef.

Mammalian: class of animals that give birth to live babies and feed their young's on milk from mammary glands (*i.e.* udder) or an animal that has a back bone, hair it female, suckles its young or any class of animal of which the females have milk __giving glands to feed their young's.

Ungulate: belonging to the group of animals having hoofs, nails, claws e.g. horse, sheep, cow, deer.

Chordate: of the large group of animals whose members have an internal skeleton and dorsally placed nervous system. The group includes man and all other vertebrate.

Vertebrate: having back bone: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals.



Invertebrate: having no back bone e.g. Insects.

Class: mammalian.

Order: ungulata.

Family: bovidae.

Bos taurus (European breeds), Bos indicus (Asian and Indian breeds), Bos afrikans (African breeds).

Cattle are herbivores, ruminant, having fixed unbranched hollow horns. Socially, they live naturally in group "herds": females have udder containing four quarters, each has a teat. In males there is four rudimentary nonfunctional teats around the scrotum.

Cows are usually monospermous but occasionally is multifarious (twins). Fetus links with their dam uterus via cotyledonary placenta. Cattle are reared either for animal production, milk, beef, hide or both, or beast of burden (draft).

Classification of cattle according to their geographical origin

1. European or cool temperature region cattle:

Cattle of this type were originated in northwest region of Europe with temperature range by less than 7 °C at winter and more than 20 °C at summer. These temperatures are much less than normal cattle temperature which is 38-39 °C.

2. Indian and African cattle:

The cattle were originated in regions characterized by high temperature specially summer. Climate of such regions is characterized by humid, dry or semi__ dry.

There are other classification of cattle, e.g. shape of body, skull, and the purpose of rearing.