



JUDGE ALONG

Beef Cattle

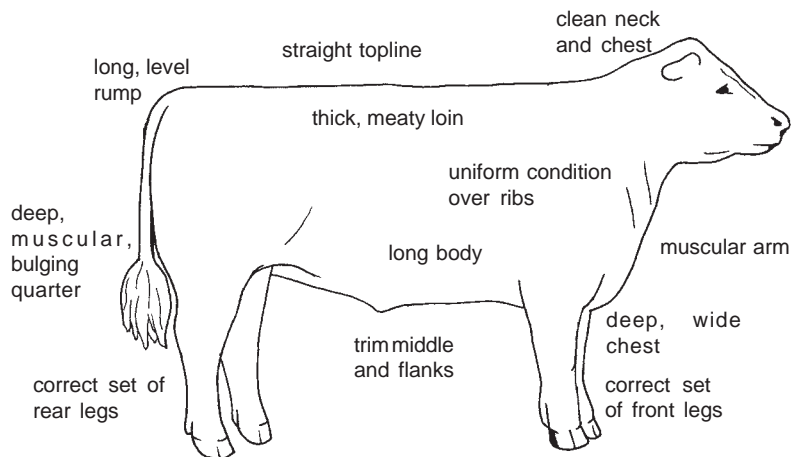
at the Missouri State Fair

What a judge might look for in the beef animal:

- ◆ Muscling, which is one of the major factors influencing the retail value of a market steer. The highest priced cuts of meat come from the thickest muscled areas (shoulder, loin, rump and round).
- ◆ Adequate finish (fat covering under the skin) and no signs of excess fat.
- ◆ Structural correctness, which includes balance from front to rear, smooth shoulders, levelness of topline and square feet and leg placement and movement.
- ◆ Good capacity in the rib area and depth in the chest floor for feed intake.
- ◆ For breeding animals, special attention is given to the best combination of size, conformation, structural correctness, volume, breed and sex character (example: females must exhibit correct udder development and attachment for their age).

What a judge might look for in the show ring:

- ◆ Showmanship includes general appearance, especially cleanliness of the animal and the exhibitor's ability to lead and pose the animal in the ring.
 - ◆ Show sticks do not hurt the animals, but are used to direct the placement of the animal's feet. Desired placement of the legs is square under the animal on all four sides. This stick is also used to stroke the animal and keep it content.
 - ◆ The tails are teased into balls and tied up to create an illusion of height and balance.
 - ◆ The top knots are made at the point of the head to create an illusion of height and to add symmetry, or balance.
- A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and to the judge at all times.



You give it a try and see how your placings compare to the judge's (fill in the exhibitor's number):

Your Choice:

Judge's Decision:

1st Place _____

1st Place _____

2nd Place _____

2nd Place _____

3rd Place _____

3rd Place _____

4th Place _____

4th Place _____

5th Place _____

5th Place _____

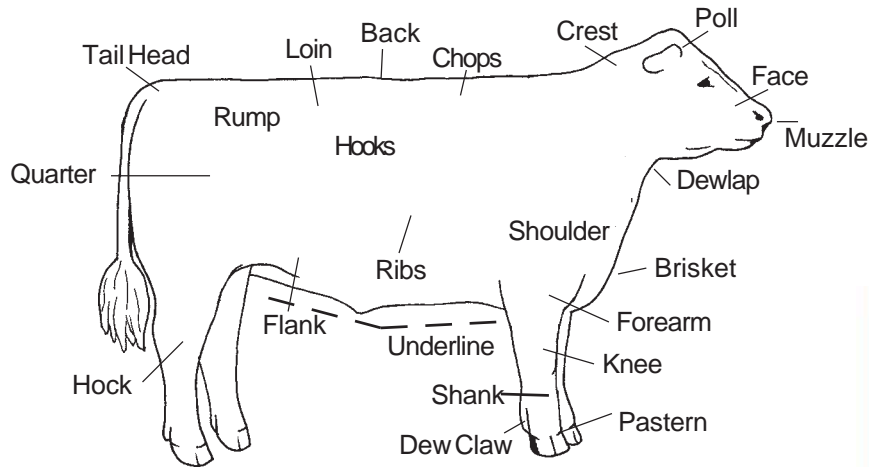
Look for similar "Judge Along" sheets near the other livestock show rings, or at www.mostatefair.com

Did you know. . .

Beef cattle provide meat for consumers and many products: some necessary for human life support (example: adrenal glands provide epinephrine to arrest hemorrhage and stimulate heart action), glue, gelatin, hair brushes, buttons, oils, fats, waxes, soaps, margarine, shoes, garments and many other products.

Beef cattle play an important role in our environment by utilizing grass and forage crops and converting them into a more suitable and concentrated food for humans, as well as materials for pharmaceuticals, clothing and many other valuable by-products.

Parts of a Beef Animal



TERMS:

- Cow:** a female that has had a calf
- Calf:** male or female, less than six months old
- Heifer:** a female that has not yet had a calf (4 months - 2 years in the show ring)
- Bull:** a male, any age
- Steer:** a castrated bull

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Match the facts about beef cattle from the column on the right with the correct terms on the left.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| _____ 1. polled | a. grazing area for cattle |
| _____ 2. heifers | b. to mark or identify with a symbol |
| _____ 3. ruminant | c. a castrated bull |
| _____ 4. computer | d. animal with more than one compartment in its stomach |
| _____ 5. pasture | e. a group of cattle |
| _____ 6. USDA | f. absence of horns due to genetics |
| _____ 7. herd | g. bovine under 1 yr of age |
| _____ 8. steer | h. used to keep cattle records |
| _____ 9. calf | i. federal agency handling inspection program for meat quality and safety |
| _____ 10. brand | j. female cattle that have not mothered calves |

HOW TO IDENTIFY BREEDS THAT MAY SHOW AT THE MISSOURI STATE FAIR:

- Angus: solid black
- Beefalo: dark brown
- Brahman: large hump, light grey, large ears
- Brangus: solid black with large ears
- Charolais: solid white
- Chianina: large white
- Gelbvieh: fawn to medium red
- Limousin: red or black
- Piedmontese: light tan
- Pinzgauer: red with white topline, tail & underline
- Polled Hereford: . red body, white face
- Santa Gertrudis: . large, solid red, large ears
- Shorthorn: roan, red, with white spotting
- Simmental: fawn bodies
..... with or without white face

(1) f, (2) j, (3) d, (4) h, (5) a, (6) i, (7) e, (8) c, (9) g, (10) b