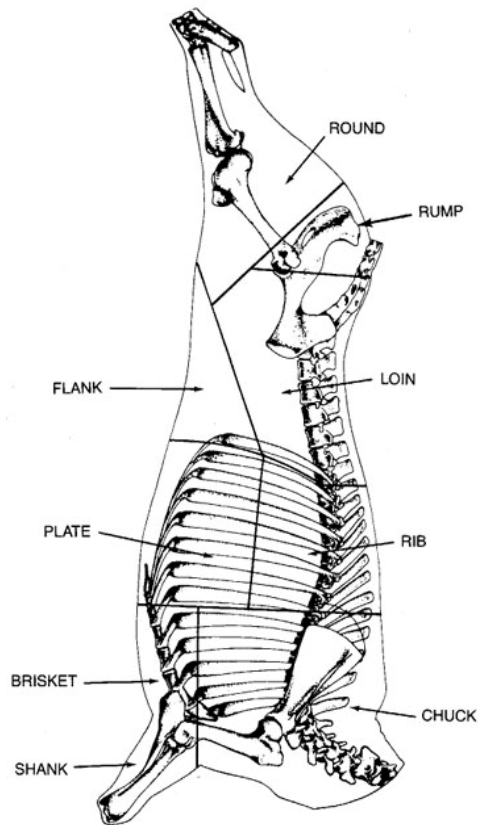
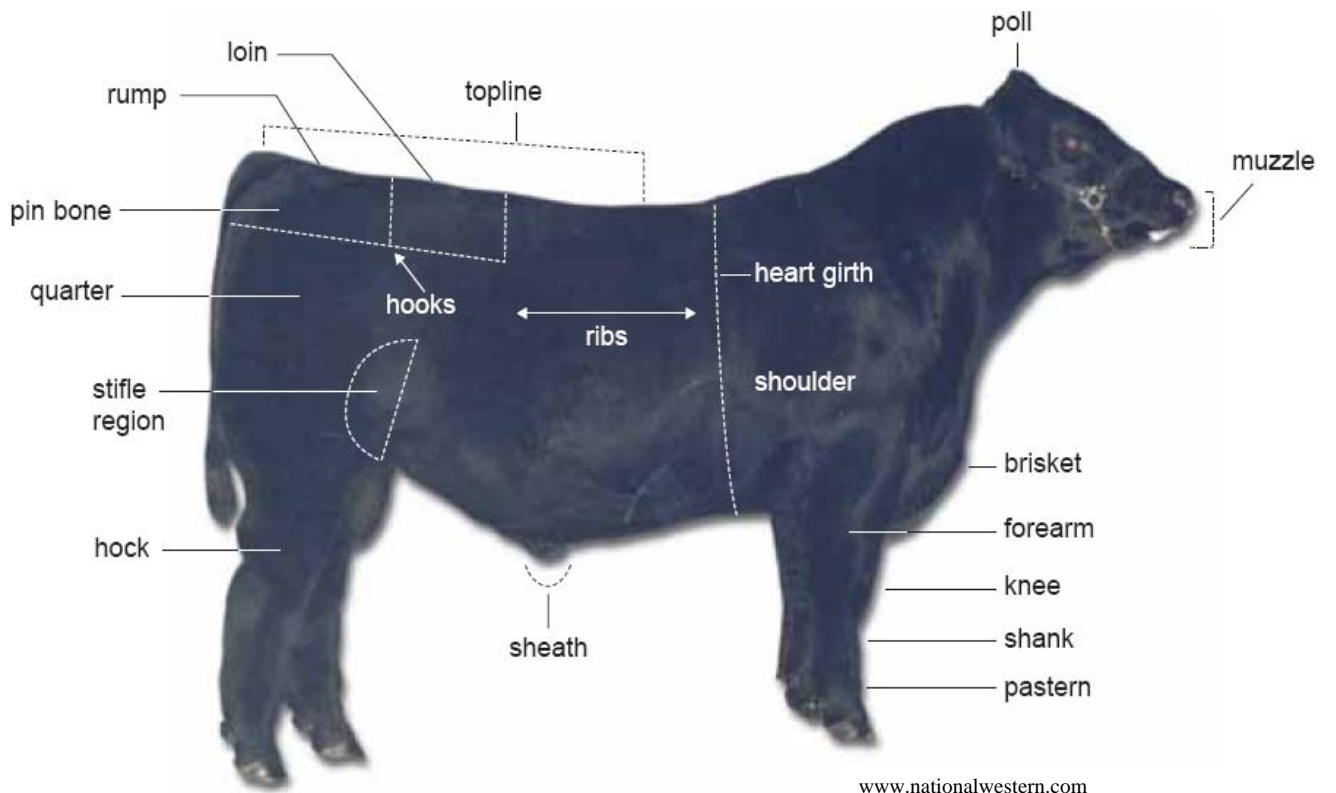


Iowa State University Cattle Judging Handout

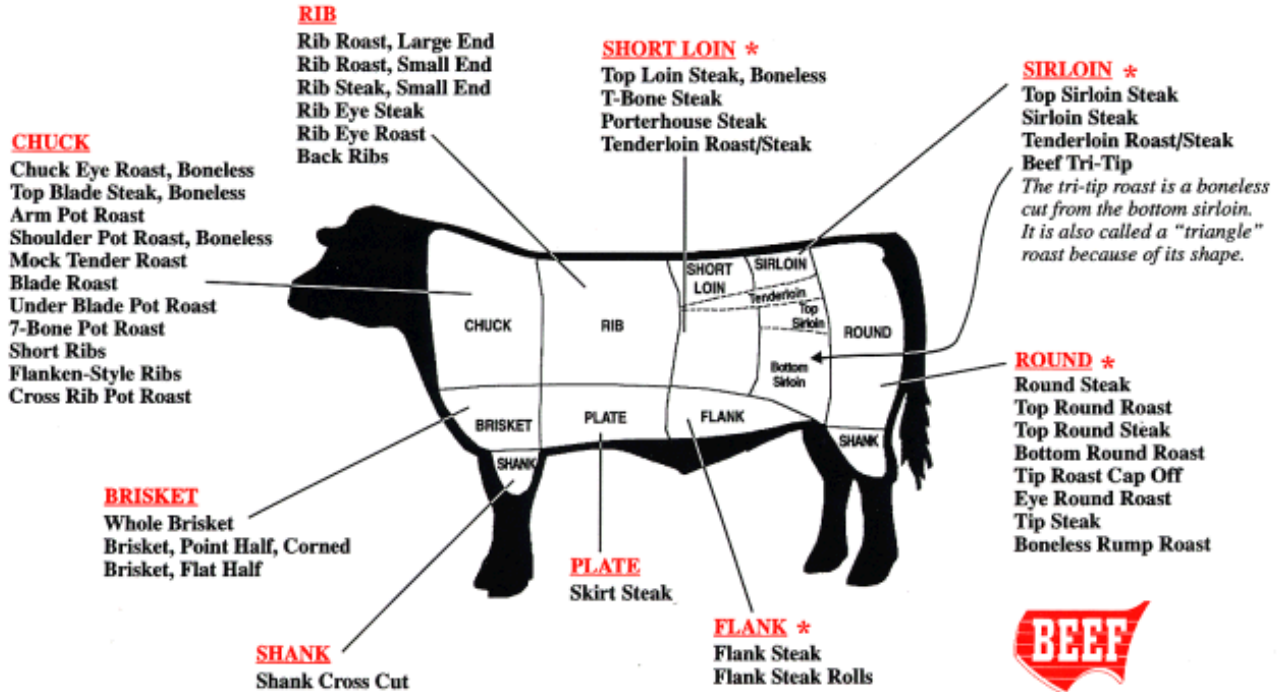


Jeff Thayne
ISU Livestock Judging Program



— BEEF CUTS —

Where They Come From



National Cattlemen's Beef Association
 444 North Michigan Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60611
 (312) 467-5520

* Beef primals that feature cuts lowest in fat.

Market Steers

- **Selection Emphasis**
 - **Muscle- Expression, shape, dimension**
 - Forearm
 - Rib (REA is estimated at 1.1 sq. in. per 100 pounds live wt.)
 - Loin
 - Hip
 - Round
 - Quarter
 - **Correctness of Finish**
 - Acceptable= Range of .30” to .55”
 - Too lean= Less than .25”
 - Too fat= More than .65”
 - **Structure and Movement**
 - Relatively level in its view from profile
 - Stands squarely and correctly on its feet and legs
 - Proper angles to shoulder, hock, and pastern
 - **Rib and Feeding Ability**
 - Internal volume= depth of rib, outward shape to rib
 - Animal should convert feed to gain in an efficient manner
 - **Balance and Eye Appeal**
 - Overall attractiveness and symmetry the animal displays from profile
 - The proportionalism of the animal

Breeding Cattle

- **Selection Emphasis**
 - **Functionality**
 - Structure and Movement- similar to market cattle
 - Volume/Fleshing Ability
 - Depth of rib, shape to ribcage, ability to maintain condition
 - **Growth and Performance**
 - **Balance and Eye Appeal**
 - **Muscle**
 - **Femininity/Masculinity**

Market Steer Terminology

Muscle

- More Product/Carcass Oriented/Driven
- Heavier Muscled
- Advantage in carcass/terminal merit
- More Expressively Muscled
- More Powerfully Constructed
- Stouter Made/Featured
- More powerful in his rib and muscle
- Squares up with more shape behind his shoulder and continues this advantage out of his hip and thru his lower quarter
- Offers more dimension and shape down his top and out of his hip
- Comes stouter out of his hip
- Stouter pinned steer who has more shape to his rump, round, and stifle
- Spreads more dimension over his rib and loin
- Wider topped, thicker ended
- He handles with a bolder and squarer turn down his top, is set wider at his pins with more depth to his twist and shape to his lower quarter while standing down on a wider foundation.
- Offers more muscle shape over his top side
- More expression and shape of muscle on his topside
- Lays more natural dimension down his top
- Has more shape and turn to his loin

Correctness of Finish

- Market Ready
- More correct in his composition
- His expected cutability/yield grade
- More optimal in his degree of finish
- Smoother handling steer who is more advanced in his cover over his final ribs
- More uniform over his forerib and 12th and 13th
- His external indicators of cover suggest he appears to be closer to is ideal endpoint
- More advanced in his degree of cover
- Leaner in his handle
- More appropriately finished steer that is more uniform in his handle over his rib
- Handles more uniformly fro his last rib forward

Balance and Eye Appeal

- Nicer Balanced
- More proportional in his view from the side
- More attractive profile
- Offers more natural strength to his topline

- More attractive thru his front third
- More extended from his shoulder forward

Rib/Feeding Ability

- More practical
- More useful in his look
- More productive look
- Bigger Bodied
- Bigger Ribbed
- Apparently easier feeding
- Softer look of a more practical fat steer
- More productive in the width of his chest and depth and spring of his rib
- Offers more power thru his chest and rib
- Wider chested, bolder ribbed steer
- Appears to have been an easier feeding more efficient calf
- Presents more depth to his rear rib and flank
- More uniform in his depth from fore and rear rib
- Has more center body dimension
- The more useful appearing steer is more moderate in his kind while being more expanded in his forerib and deeper flanked

Structure/Movement

- Takes the lead...
- Most flex and give to his hock and pastern
- More functional in his structure as he travels the ring
- Remains more natural in his topline on the move

Carcass Projections

- Rail a more ideal tandem of grade and yield
- Higher cutability
- Stamp a lower numerical yield grade
- Rib a larger eye
- If genetically capable should roll safer into the choice grade

Breeding Heifer Terminology

Rib/Volume

- Possesses the softer look of a more maternal brood cow
- Broodier appearing
- Look of a brood cow prospect
- Easier keeping
- Offers more depth, rib, and flesh
- More moderate framed
- More sensibly sized
- Offers more fleshing ease
- More depth and shape to her rib
- Set wider at her pins
- More advanced in her body depth
- More expansive in her forerib
- Deeper in her heart and flank
- More productive in her chest and rib
- Apparent weight per day of age advantage
- Higher performing
- Deeper in her flank and forerib
- More productive appearing

Balance/Eye Appeal

- Highest quality
- Blends smoother from her shoulder into her forerib
- Eye appealing
- More extended thru her front third
- Cleaner patterned
- Attractive profiling
- More correctly balanced
- Nicer Balanced
- Smoother patterned
- Straighter lined
- Stronger topped
- More refined thru her head and neck
- More uniform in her body depth from fore rib to flank
- More correct in her topline and leveler out her hip
- More feminine thru her front end
- More desirable udder that is more correct in its teat size

Structure/Movement

- Bigger footed and heavier boned
- Stoutier at her foundation

- Travels with more flex and reach out of her hip and hock
- Sets down more accurate from hock down
- Tracks out on the wider base
- Toes ahead straighter up front
- More correct in base width up front
- Laid back further in her shoulder
- Offers more flex to her hock and cushion to her pastern
- Presents a more collected look when viewed on the move

Thickness

- Powerfully made
- Stouter featured
- Offers more natural thickness
- Stouter hipped

Bull Terminology

Masculinity

- More rugged in his appearance
- Stouter featured and more masculine in his appearance
- More correct in his testicular carriage
- Cleaner sheathed
- More advanced in his testicular development
- More massive
- Massively constructed
- Greater longevity on the plains of Kansas and be a more functional terminal sire

Performance Cattle Terminology

Genetic Profile

- Impressive genetic script
- It is her kind as well as her genetic evaluation which suggests...
- If she breeds true to her genetic expectations...
- She reads more progressive on paper
- Should prove more scenario adaptable
- Most genetic promise
- Most complete performance information
- I'd expect his daughters to be the most likely retained

Growth

- Most conservative birthweight
- Genetic growth
- A more confident choice on virgin heifers
- Return more dollars to the retained owner

- Growth genetics
- Superior in his growth EPDs
- Performance oriented sons to be in greater demand by the commercial clientele
- Most extreme in his frame size

Carcass/Terminal

- Terminal aspects of this operation
- Offspring should be more efficient thru feedlot phase
- His cull progeny should excel on a grid rewarding grade and yield
- Feedlot cattle which excel for their gradeability

Transitions

- Within the given scenario
- Greater impact on future generations

Maternal

- More maternal strength on paper
- More maternal oriented
- Higher proportion of his daughters should be retained in the herd

Angus Bull Reasons

I placed the Angus bulls 3124. I logically started 3 since he is the most powerfully made and soundest structured bull of the class. He is built with the most dimension from the ground up and is the biggest bodied and the boldest ribbed. From behind he offers most shape through his lower quarter and tracks away on the widest base. Additionally 3 is laid back further in the angle to his shoulder and with most flex and cushion to his hock and pastern. Yes, 1 is cleaner and more extended through his front one third plus he is stouter hipped. However he is tight flanked, weak topped and flattens through his lower quarter so I placed him second.

Nonetheless in my intermediated comparison I opted for the added width and performance of 1 and placed him over 2. The large testicled bull offers a clear advantage in weight per day of age plus he has the more dimension down his top and is thicker ended. Also he is a sounder structured since he offers more cushion to his pasterns when at the lead. I realize that 2 is deeper bodied. Despite this the heavy sheathed bull is narrower based, flatter ribbed, and tight in his pasterns.

Even so in my bottom pair I opted for the stouter featured 2 and placed him over 4. 2 is a heavy structured, wider chested bull that has a more practical look in his center body. I appreciated that the tight sheathed bull is more expressively muscled, but he is the frailest structured and narrowest based. Plus he is the poorest structure bull that is the most upright in the angle to his shoulder and the tightest in his hock, so I placed him fourth.

Logan Wallace

2007 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Red Angus Heifer Reasons

I placed the Red Angus heifers 3421. I logically started 3. She is the highest performing, most complete female that also excels in brood cow potential. More specifically she is the longest patterned and appears to hold a weight per day of age advantage. Past this she offers the most width specifically being the most productive in her rib, plus the light red heifer exhibits a higher quality more feminine look from the side. I realize 4 is functionall in her look, but she is narrower based and simply out powered so I left her second.

Despite this in my middle comparison 4's added structural correctness aligned her over 2. The dark red heifer not only takes a longer freer stride out of a more sloping shoulder and has more flex to her hock and pastern, but she also is more productive through her rib. Certainly 2 is feminine featured and has more dimension to her center body however it is not quality but structural correctness that beats her in that she is straighter in shoulder and tight in her pastern.

Nevertheless in my final decision I opted for the easier keeping 2. She plants with more natural base width and offers more depth of body and spring of rib. Therefore she should develop into a lower maintenance mature cow. I grant 1 is more extended through her front, still she is the lowest quality heifer that is also the narrowest based and shallowest bodied so she is fourth.

Aaron Gallagher

2007 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Breeding Heifer Reasons

I placed the breeding heifers 4-2-1-3. I easily started with 4 as she best combines broodiness and functionality. She's wider chested, bigger and deeper bodied while being stouter hiped and stands on more substance of bone. Furthermore, she offers more flex to her hock and cushion to her pastern, and consequently travels with a more coordinated stride on the move. I realize that the brown tinged heifer is more feminine through her front end and is laid in neater about her shoulder. However, compared to my class winner, she is high flanked, narrow made, and flat ribbed, so I like her second.

Nevertheless it is her added balance that compels me to place 2 over 1 in my intermediate decision. The longer patterned heifer is cleaner and more extended through her front end, laid smoother into her shoulder, while being stronger topped and leveler hiped. I appreciate that 1 is more powerfully constructed as she is stouter hiped and offers more spring to her rib; but of the initial three, she is steepest hiped, highest topped, and as a result travels underneath herself when set in motion.

Even so, in regard to my final comparison, it is power that places 1 over 2. The heavy naveled heifer is wider chested and boulder sprung while being more uniform in depth from forerib to flank. She also maintains her width to a more powerful, hip leaving me with a more impressive view from behind. I admit that the Hereford appearing heifer is more feminine fronted and flatter shouldered, but I left her to close as she is the poorest performing, narrowest made, shallowest bodied, and frailest boned of any in the class.

Sam Ruble

2004 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Performance Bull Reasons

I placed the Performance Limousin bulls 3-1-4-2 . I sorted to a top pair of more powerfully made, scenario adaptable bulls. Personally, I preferred 3. For me, he should prove to be the soundest breeding bull as the largest testicled bull appears to be the easiest fleshing. He's the biggest bodied and dropped the deepest in his flank. Uniquely, the red bull combines this with being sounder structured. He travels the surface out of a leveler hip, thus enabling him to present a more collected look when viewed on the move. Certainly the tradeoff lies in the fact that 1 is the most expressively muscled. The tightest sheathed bull comes the squarest and fullest to his pins. However, in relation to my class winner, he's flatter ribbed, shallower bodied, and drops his pins on the move, so I left him second.

Still, in a more logical intermediate decision where I find my largest gap in quality, I preferred 1, as he's just more useful within the given scenario. He's more impressive from the ground up. He's heavier boned and wider chested, while being more expanded from forerib to flank. To no surprise, he lays more natural dimension down his top. His kind coupled with his more impressive genetic script, leads me to believe that his stouter made progeny should inject more profit potential into the terminal aspects of this operation. Now, I do appreciate that 4 is marginally longer patterned and covers the surface with a longer and more athletic stride. Yet he falls out of contention in terms of power. Of the initial three, he's the flattest ribbed and narrowest to his pins. Not to mention he begins a bottom pair of slower growing bulls, so I marked him third.

Nevertheless, it's still his advantage in muscularity that aligns him over 2 in the bottom comparison. Simply put, he's marginally stouter featured as he's wider in his general makeup from chest floor to pins. He further excels 2 in terms of genetic growth. Now, there's no question that the youngest bull does offer the most conservative birthweight. But in all actuality, this does not compensate for the fact that he is by some margin the flattest ribbed, shallowest bodied, and narrowest made of any in the class.

Lindsey Core

2006 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Market Steer Reasons

I placed the market steers 2431. In a top pair of more carcass oriented higher cutability silver steers that differ in their advantages, I opted for the added look and structural correctness of 2. He not only takes a longer stride out of a more sloping shoulder and has more natural base width, but he also exhibits a more look from the side, in that he is more extended through his front, smoother at the point of his shoulder and deeper in his flank. I realize 4 is a powerfully constructed, wide topped and thick ended steer but he is coarse and straight in his shoulder.

Despite this in my middle comparison I preferred the heavier muscled 4. He handles with more width and dimension down his top and proceeds with this same power to his rump, round, and stifle. Past this he stouter boned with more flex to his hock. I would expect him to rail the carcass with the larger eye. Certainly the black steer is laid in neater at his shoulder however he narrower based, lighter muscled and tighter in his hock and pastern so I left him third.

Nevertheless it is his cutability advantage aligns him over 1. 3 handles with more natural expression over his top, comes stouter out of his hip and offers more shape to his quarter. Plus he is more appropriate in his finish and should go to the rail with the lower numerical yield grade. I grant the Herford appearing steer is deeper bodied and sounder structured still he is the lightest muscled and heaviest finished and therefore he concerns me from a cutability standpoint so he is fourth.

Aaron Gallagher

2007 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Market Steer Reasons

I placed the market steers 3241. I easily started the blaze faced steer as he is simply the most product driven. He stands down with the widest base on the biggest foot and most substance of bone and maintains these advantages through the upper portions of his skeleton as he spreads the most dimension of muscle down his top and through his hip, quarter, and stifle. He further compliments this, he handles the most ideal in his degree of kill and I would project him to go to the rail with the most desirable correlation between quality and yield grades. Now, I will be the first to admit that 2 is a longer bodied, larger patterned steer who handles trimmer from his last rib forward and consequently I would expect him to go to the rail with the lowest numerical yield grade, however, he simply can't match the muscle and productive appearance found in my class winner, so I marked him second.

Despite these criticisms, I still found him to have an advantage in carcass merit over 4 in my intermediate decision. Furthermore, he handles with a bolder and squarer turn down his top, is set wider at his pins with more depth to his twist and shape to his lower quarter while standing down on a wider foundation. This combined with his trimmer handle, I would expect the smoke steer to rail a more packer preferred carcass. Yes, the Hereford appearing steer is more moderate in his kind while being more expanded in his forerib, deeper flanked, and having more shape to his rib. Nevertheless, the heaviest conditioned steer is the lightest muscled, narrowest based and poorest structured of my initial three.

Still, it is his productive look that I prefer over 1 in my concluding pair. He is a deeper bodied, softer appearing steer that is more practical in his kind while being more impressive as I view him from behind as he is wider topped and thicker ended. Now, I realize that 1 is cleaner in his composition and more correct in the angles to his skeleton, but that does not compensate for the fact that he is the lightest muscled, narrowest based, and poorest balanced, and consequently should offer the least packer appeal of any in the class.

Justin Lain

2006 ISU Livestock Judging Team

Market Steer Reasons

I placed the market steers 2143. In my initial comparison of similar finished steers, I preferred the extra muscle shape and balance found in 2. From the side he's more extended from his shoulder forward, while being leveler down his top and out his hip. He further separates himself as he offers more expression and shape of muscle on his topside, while maintaining this distinct advantage when viewed from behind. I appreciate the red steer's muscle dimension and extension; however, he's comparably less desirable from a muscle mass and balance standpoint, so I left him second.

Nevertheless in my intermediate comparison, I logically opted for the stouter and more powerfully made 1 over 4. Here's the other correctly finished steer, that is not only stouter featured and wider chested, but along with this, he has a squarer shape down his top, is more powerful from hooks to pins, while displaying more outward turn to the base of his quarter. Thus, if genetically able, I would expect him to rail a more desirable combination of quality and yield grades. I'll be the first to admit that 4, the pounds heavier steer, is more growth oriented; however, he's the narrowest made and lightest muscled, so I marked him third.

Despite these criticisms, I still preferred his additional performance and aligned him over 3. There's no question that the baldy has a weight advantage, and this coupled with his added extension from the side, leads me to believe that he offers more total dimension of muscle throughout. Consequently, his higher performing look should prove more profitable to the feedlot operation. Sure, 3 is more powerfully made with a squarer shape out of his shoulder, more muscle expression down his top, and through his lower quarter. Even so, I left him to close, as he is the coarsest shouldered and shortest bodied.

Pete Burmeister

2004 ISU Livestock Judging Team

