

Beef Production

Shorthorn

Long horn

Simmental



Shorthorn

- ▶ Origin-East of England, 18th Century. Have small, upswept horns. Red, white or roan in colour (mixture of white and pigmented hairs).
- ▶ The breed was used in the early part of the 20th Century, primarily as a dual purpose breed, but specialisation for beef and milk led to the beef breeders starting their own section of the herd book in 1958
- ▶ Shorthorn genetics have been used worldwide in the development of over 40 different breeds e.g the Murray Grey breed
- ▶ Shorthorn bulls are aggressive breeders, and are an ideal selection for use in rotational crossbreeding programs for high conception rates with minimal maintenance. Shorthorn heifers have proved to be among the earliest to reach puberty at 359 days.
- ▶ Shorthorn calves average 85 pounds at birth; therefore reasonable birth weights result in calves having a higher potential for growth
- ▶ Some found to have a genetic defect called *tibial hemimelia* (TH), a disease caused by an abnormal gene.
- ▶ Cows can give 3500-6000 litres per lactation on a forage based system with exceptional cows achieving over 7000 litres
- ▶ Steers/Bullock can be finished within 30 months on forage. The breed is fine-boned and can achieve high killing out percentages (>60%). Cows usually weigh around 550kg and bulls, 750kg.
- ▶ Have competitive weight gain figures in both pure and cross bred form. The ability of Beef Shorthorns to put on red meat even in tough seasons is rarely matched.



Longhorn

- ▶ Formerly known as Lancashire, are a long-horned brown and white breed of beef cattle originating from Craven, in the north of England
- ▶ The Longhorns are a native, slow maturing breed and therefore they are best fed on grass lays over a longer period of time. This allows them to mature slowly, giving the beef the most fantastic flavour.
- ▶ Renowned for their docile, care-free attitude, making them a pleasure to handle and look after
- ▶ Their hardiness is ideal for converting grass into meat. Longhorn cows live to an unusually old age - and keep on breeding. Their hardiness and thriftiness together with their level lactation and ease of calving ensure that they do not place themselves under undue stress
- ▶ Calving ease-the combination of prominent hook bones with wide deep pin bones, whilst still retaining a level top line, produces a roomy birth canal at the right angle to minimise calving problems
- ▶ Their lactation is long and level which helps to avoid a flush of milk at calving when the new born calf cannot cope



Simmental

- ▶ Is a Swiss breed named after the Simmental - the valley of the Simme river in Switzerland
- ▶ Traditional colouration can be described as "red and white spotted" or "gold and white", although there is no specific standard colouration. The face is normally white, and this characteristic is usually passed to crossbred calves
- ▶ Historically been used for dairy and beef, and as draught animals. Renowned for the rapid growth of their calf, if given sufficient feed. Simmentals provide more combined weaning gain (growth) and milk yield than most breeds.
- ▶ Possesses tremendous terminal genetics, with excellent growth rates and daily live weight gains of in excess of 2kg/day achievable in an intensive beef finishing system
- ▶ Have good mothering ability and a docile nature, making them the excellent choice for suckler replacements.