

## Beef Production Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

### Dairy-bred beef calves

Calves sired by a beef or dairy bull born from a dairy cow i.e. Holstein. This category will include pure bred dairy males. The sire breed is always the first named breed i.e. Limousin cross Holstein. The calf will typically be taken from its mother 24 hours after being born and hand/artificially reared on milk and weaned at 6-9 weeks old.

### Suckler or Beef-bred calves

Calves sired by a beef bull born from a beef suckler cow. Many suckler cows are beef cross dairy-bred i.e. Limousin cross Holstein. A terminal sire breed will be commonly used on the herd i.e. Charolais, and the resultant calves are described in this example as Charolais cross Limousin/Holstein. The calf will be weaned at 6-10 months old. A maternal beef breed would be used by farms to produce home bred herd replacements.

### Pedigree beef herds

These are pure bred beef herds. The purpose of these herds is to produce breeding bulls to sell to suckler or dairy herds.

### Early maturing beef breeds

The majority of British breeds such as the Hereford are early maturing. Compared to late maturing breeds they record lower daily live weight gains and slaughter weights when reared on the same beef production system. Early maturing breed bulls are usually easier calving and the calves are more suited to extensive grass based production systems.

### Late maturing beef breeds

The majority of Continental breeds such as the Charolais and Limousin are late maturing. Compared to an early maturing breed they record higher daily live weight gains and slaughter weights when reared on the same beef production system. These breed types usually have more difficult calving's due to a slightly longer gestation length and heavier calf birth weights. These breeds are suited to intensive production systems.

N.B Within a breed; a bull will be late maturing, a steer will be medium maturing and a heifer will be early maturing.

<i>Ad libitum</i>	'Eat as much as one wishes, when one wishes to eat'
AI	Artificial Insemination
Artificial rearing	Rearing of calves on milk powder/whole milk away from its mother. Calf usually weaned at 6-9 weeks old
Beef Value or Terminal Index	They are calculated from the EBVs of a bull. It is an economic estimate of the value of the progeny from the bull in relation to the breed average
BCMS	British Cattle Movement Service
BLUP	Best Linear Unbiased Prediction
Bobby calf	Calf slaughtered @ a few days/weeks old. The meat is classified as veal
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (mad cow disease)

Bull	Adult male bovine
Bulling	Describes a heifer or cow on heat (oestrus)
Calving Interval	The time between one calving and the next
Clean (prime) beef	Non breeding cattle
Colostrum	The first milk of a cow
Condition Score	Assessment of fatness of a cow. Scale of 1 to 5 (1 = very lean, 5 = very fat)
Conformation	Assessment of carcass shape/profile. Scale of E, U+, -U, O+, -O, P+, -P (E = excellent, P = poor)
Cow	Adult female bovine
CP	Crude Protein
Cow cubicle	Individual stall for a cow to lay down
Diet (or ration)	Quantity of feed given to cattle to achieve a targeted DLWG. Unlike human nutrition when a diet relates to an attempt to lose weight, this is opposite to beef cattle nutrition.
DLWG	Daily live weight gain (g or kg). The amount an animal grows per day.
DMI	Dry Matter Intake
Dry period	The time between the end of one lactation and the start of the next (calving) i.e. the cow is not producing milk
Dystocia	Calving difficulty
AHDB Beef & Lamb (formerly EBLEX)	Organisation responsible for funding research, knowledge transfer and generic advertising of beef and lamb. Funded by a levy on the slaughter of each animal
EBV	Estimated Breeding Value (calculated from BLUP data from cattle)
Fat classification	Assessment of fatness of a slaughtered beef animal or cull cow. Scale of 1, 2, 3, 4L, 4H, 5L, 5H (1 = very lean, 5H = very fat)
FCE	Feed Conversion Efficiency = kg live weight gain divided by kg feed intake
FCR	Feed Conversion Ratio = kg feed intake divided by kg live weight gain
Gestation	Pregnancy
Heat (oestrus)	Period when the female will accept service by the bull or ready for AI
Hook bone	Hip bone
Heifer	A young female cow which has not yet calved. Can also be a first lactation cow
Kill out %	Killing out percentage = carcass weight divided by live weight x 100
ME	Metabolisable Energy (Megajoules per kg dry matter). A measure of the energy density of the feed
Poll or polled	Cattle that naturally do not have horns
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
Rose Beef	Beef animal slaughtered @ 8-12 months old
SDA	Severely Disadvantaged Area i.e. hill and upland area of the UK
Scour	Diarrhoea
Stocking rate	Number of cattle per hectare
Stores	Cattle fed during the winter to achieve moderate DLWGs (0.4-0.8kg) which when turned out to good quality pasture achieve compensatory growth
Suckler cow	Beef bred cow that rears its calf for 6-10 months
Steer/bullock	Castrated male
Sward height	Grass height
TMR	Total Mixed Ration
Veal	Calf typically slaughtered @ 16-24 weeks old (must be under 8 months old)

VIA	Video Image Analysis (carcase classification)
Weaning (suckled calves)	Separation of the calf from the cow so that the calf can no longer suckle
Weaning (dairy-bred calves)	Weaning off bucket/teat fed milk - usually at 6-9 weeks old

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Ref: Beef Prod Terminology