

REASONS TERMINOLOGY FOR BREEDING CATTLE

By **Chris Skaggs**, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University
and **Chris T. Boleman**, Texas A&M University

Breeding animals are generally placed on a combination of:

- ✓ Frame-Growth potential
- ✓ Body capacity or body volume
- ✓ Structural Correctness
- ✓ Muscle
- ✓ Balance
- ✓ Feminine/masculine characteristics
- ✓ Correctness of condition

FRAME TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

Larger framed
Larger, growthier
Showed greater length and extension
through his front end
More future growth and outcome
Appeared to be faster growing
Appears to have a higher W.D.A. in
class

Criticisms

Smaller framed
Less future and outcome
Quicker patterned
Lower W.D.A. in class

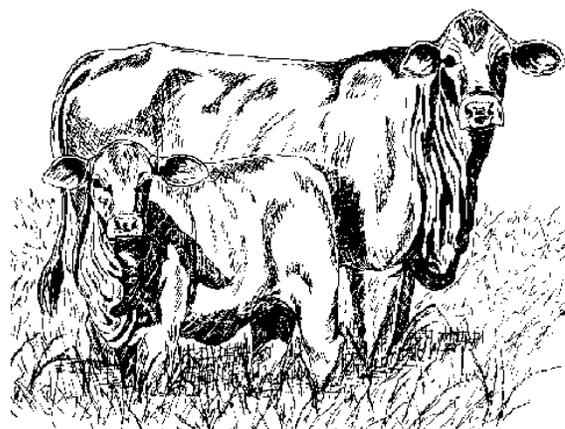
BODY CAPACITY OR BODY VOLUME TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

Broodier (females only)
More capacious
Higher volume
More overall dimension and capacity
Wider chested
Opens up more correctly behind his
shoulders
Bolder sprung
More spring of forerib
Deeper and more expandable in his
rib
More circumference of heart
Deeper ribbed
Substance of bone

Criticisms

Tight ribbed
Narrow gauged
Narrow chested
Constricted in his fore rib
Shallow bodied



STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

Longer, freer striding
Freer, more fluid stride
Easier moving
Traveled with a longer, more confident stride
Traveled truer off his (front, rear) legs
Moved with more flex to his hock
More (correct, desirable) set to his hock
Due to advantage in slope of shoulder takes a longer stride in front
More desirable slope of shoulder
More angle to shoulder
Truer tracking
Squarer on feet and legs

Criticisms

Short, tight stride off both ends
Restricted in movement
Sickle hocked
Cow hocked
Buckled over in front
Toed out up front
Straight shouldered
Post legged
Straight in the hock
Tight in the hip

MUSCLE TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

Heavier muscled
More expressively muscled
More volume of muscle
More natural thickness
Thicker topped
More muscular expression (loin, rump, stifle, quarter)
Thickness (top, stifle, lower quarter)
Meatier topped
Wider from stifle to stifle
Thicker, squarer rump
Greater center thickness of quarter
Deeper quartered
More bulge (top, stifle, and lower quarter)
Wider tracking

Criticisms

Light muscled
Flat quartered
Flat loin
Narrow topped
Tapered into his lower quarter
Flatter stifled
Shallow quartered
Narrow tracking

BALANCE TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

More stylish
Cleaner patterned
Nicer balanced
Eye appealing
Nicer profiling
Smoother
Leveler (topped, hipped, rump)
Squarer (hip, rump)

Criticisms

Coarse
Weak topped
Ill made
Poorly balanced
Droops at his/her hip

FEMININE AND MASCULINE CHARACTERISTICS

FEMININE

Advantages

More femininity through her head,
neck and shoulder
More angular fronted
Longer necked
Cleaner necked
Smoother blending through her
front end
Blends smoother through neck-
shoulder junction
Blends smoother from shoulder to
fore rib
More advanced in udder
development

Criticisms

Coarse fronted
Short necked
Round shouldered
Coarser made
Wasty fronted
Leathery female

MASCULINE

Advantages

More rugged
More masculine
More testicular development
More desirable scrotal shape
Tighter sheath

Criticisms

Refined
Less testicular development
Loose sheath
Twisted testicle

CONDITION TERMINOLOGY

Advantages

Easier fleshing
Lighter conditioned
More desirable degree of condition
Freer of fat through through the
lower 1/3
Trimmer through (Brisket, flank,
and udder)

Criticisms

Harder fleshing
Harder doing
Less condition
Wastier
Excessive degree of condition
Wasty through (brisket, flank, and
udder)
Fatter

