



# Cattle Breed - Identification Sheet

**There are over 800 breeds of cattle worldwide**

Some breeds are known as 'dual purpose' because they can be dairy or beef. However, most herds tend to be one or the other. British beef breeds have evolved from different parts of the country e.g. Aberdeen Angus, Hereford, Galloway and South Devon. During the 1960s larger breeds, such as Charolais, Limousin and Simmentel were introduced from Europe

**There are three main types of beef breed:**

- British-type (originating from the UK)
- Continentals (originating from European countries)
- Composite (developed through cross-breeding)



**Angus cattle**

Angus cattle (Aberdeen Angus) are a breed of cattle commonly used in beef production. They were developed from cattle native to the counties of Aberdeenshire and Angus in Scotland. They are naturally polled (do not have horns) and are solid black or red in colour, although the udder may be white.



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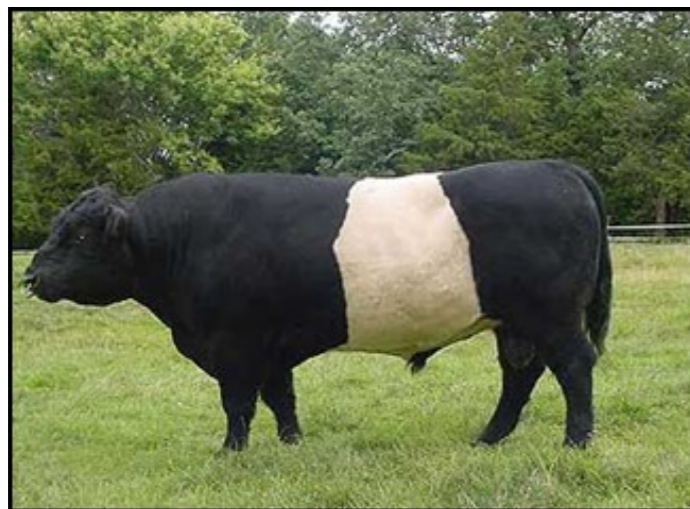
## **Ayrshire**

Ayrshires are medium-sized cattle weighing over 1,200 pounds (550 kg) at maturity. They are strong, rugged cattle that adapt to all management systems including group handling on dairy farms with free stalls and milking parlours.



## **Beef Shorthorn**

The Beef Shorthorn is the oldest recorded breed of cattle in the UK (1822 it was registered). It is mainly used for commercial purposes (food).



## **Belted Galloway**

Galloway cattle are naturally polled. The most visible characteristics of the Belted Galloway are its long hair coat and the broad white belt that completely encircles the body. Its coarse outer coat helps shed the rain, and its soft undercoat provides insulation and water-proofing, enabling the breed to happily overwinter outside.



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**Blonde d'Aquitaine**

Blonde d'Aquitaine is a breed of beef cattle originating from the Aquitaine district in south west of France. They are hardy, lean animals with light but strong bone structure. Blondes show some variation of colour ranging from almost white to tan. Blondes are the third most popular beef breed in France behind Charolais and Limousin.



**British Blonde**

The Blonde d'Aquitaine breed has been established in the UK for over 40 years. The breed's principal attributes are ease of calving and excellent growth rates, giving lean meat. These cattle have short light hair and are well muscled.



**British Blue**

The story of the 'British Blue' is one of evolution and improvement. During the second half of the 19th century Shorthorn bulls were exported from the UK to Belgium, As a result of skilful selection the 'Blue' as we know it today was born and imported back into the UK in the early 1980s. The meat is very lean and has a much lower fat content than other breeds



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**British White** The British White has shortish white hair, and has dark points – usually black, but sometimes red. The coloured points include the ears, feet, eyelids, nose and often even teats. It is naturally polled (hornless), medium-sized and compactly built.



**Charolais** These cattle are a beef breed of cattle. They are raised for their meat. The breed tends to be large muscled, with bulls weighing up to 1,100 kilograms (2,400 lb) and cows up to 900 kilograms (2,000 lb). Their coat is almost pure white.



**Devon** The Devon is one of several modern breeds derived from the traditional red cattle of southern England, together with the Hereford, Sussex, Lincoln Red and Red Poll. The functional characteristics of the Devon make them a valuable genetic tool for the commercial beef industry. The breed has long been noted for its fertility, ease of calving, docility, hardiness and ability to adapt to temperature extremes



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**Dexter**

The smallest of British breeds, they originated in the south western region of Ireland. They are bred for both milk and beef. Most are black in colour although some are red or dun.



**Galloway**

The Galloway is one of the world's longest established breeds of beef cattle, named after the Galloway region of Scotland, where it originated. It is now found in many parts of the world. The breed is naturally hornless, and instead of horns has a bone knob at the top of its skull called the poll. This breed's shaggy coat has both a thick, woolly undercoat for warmth and stiffer guard hairs that help shed water, making them well adapted to harsher climates.



**Guernsey**

The breed is used in dairy farming. It is fawn in colour with white markings, and is particularly renowned for the rich flavour of its milk, as well as its toughness and gentleness.