

MODULE 1A PART D: STUDENT FACTSHEET - THE MAIN BEEF BREEDS

Breed	Characteristics	Dam Mature Weight	Sire Mature Weight	Origin	Purpose
Aberdeen Angus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour black or red • Developed in Scotland from cattle native to Aberdeenshire and Angus • Naturally polled • Popular beef breed in the United States 	600-900kg	900-1100kg	Scotland	Terminal sire
Beefalo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fertile cross between domesticated cattle (<i>Bos Taurus</i>) and American Bison (<i>Bison bison</i>). The intention of the cross is to combine the lower fat and cholesterol, cold resistance and easy calving qualities of the Bison with the docility and higher growth rates of domestic cattle. It is only a Beefalo if the cross is 5/8ths (37.5%) Bison, if the proportion is higher then its called a Hybrid Bison. 	variable	variable	UDA	Cig Eidion
British Belgian Blues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour varies from white to black. • Large long body with double muscle in hind quarter. • High saleable meat yield • Increased dystocia an issue with the breed 	800kg	1300kg	Belgium	Terminal sire

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British Blonde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-Tan colour • Ease of calving • High growth rates • Unbroken wheat coloured • Extended gestation period 	600 kg	700-1100kg	France	Terminal sire
Charolais	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour creamy white through to wheat • First continental breed of cattle to be introduced to Great Britain • Initial importation of bulls by dairy producers seeking a sire to improve their calves' conformation. • High daily liveweight gain and improved conformation. 	600-900kg	900-1100kg	France	Terminal sire and sire for ¾ continental suckler cows.
Galloway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardy suckler cow breed • Suitable for low input systems • Long lived cows 	400 – 600kg	800 - 950 kg	Scotland	Native suckler cow breed
Hereford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White face and red coat • Easy temperament • Main terminal sire breed prior to importation of continental breeds. 	700 – 800kg	1200 – 1500kg	Hereford	Terminal sire

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Limousin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour golden-red • Produce lean beef in the medium weight range • Lighter birthweight than many continental breeds but higher weaning weights and muscularity. • Extended gestation period 	650 kg	1000 kg	France	Terminal sire and sire for ¾ continental suckler cows.
Lincoln Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polled with a red coat • Originally a dual purpose breed. 	500 – 700kg	900-1000 kg	Lincolnshire	Suckler cow breed
Saler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horned and dark red • Thick winter coat provides for breed hardiness 	650-850kg	1000-1200kg	Auvergne, France	Suckler cow
Simmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold-Red/White colour • Mothering Ability • Early Maturity • Longevity • High Growth Rates 	600 to 900 kg	1100 to 1400 kg	Switzerland	Terminal sire and suckler cow sire
South Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Docile temperament • Mothering qualities • Colour light medium red 	600 – 800kg	1,200 to 1,500 kgs	Devon	Terminal Sire and suckler cow sire

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Stabiliser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown – red colour Hybrid that retains high levels of hybrid vigour to increase fertility and calf vigour Reproduces as a pure breed Docile temperament 	650kg	1200kg	USA/Canada	Suckler cow breed
Wagyu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breed of cattle used to produce Kobe beef known for flavour, tenderness and marbled fatty texture. 	560 kg	940 kg	Japan	Meat production
Welsh Black	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional cattle breed of Wales that are black in colour. A hardy suckler cow found predominately in the Less Favoured Areas and originates from hardy and dual purpose stock. Strong maternal instincts and an ability to rear a calf on poor forage diets. 	650-850kg	1000-1200kg	Wales	Native suckler cow
Zebu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humped cattle adapted to high temperatures in tropical countries African and Asian breeds <i>Bos primigenius</i> species 	variable	variable	Asia	Meat production

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- The heavier breeds have a higher liveweight gain but also have more instances of dystocia (calving difficulty) and higher calf mortality when compared to the smaller breeds

- Continental breeds have slightly longer gestation periods than native British breeds
- Continental calves have higher birthweights
- Faster growing breeds have higher 200 and 400 day calf liveweight.
- Traditional British breeds tend to be early maturing and finish and lower liveweight.

Breed Societies

Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society Tel: 01738 622 477

www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk e-mail: info@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

British Blonde Society Tel: 024 76419058

www.britishblondesociety.co e-mail: secretary@britishblondesociety.co.uk

British Belgian Blue Cattle Society Tel: 01768 88775

www.belgianblue.co.uk e-mail: info@belgianblue.co.uk

British Charolais Cattle Society Tel: 02476 697222

www.charolais.co.uk e-mail: charolais@charolais.co.uk

Hereford Cattle Society Tel: 01432 272057

www.herefordcattle.org e-mail: postroom@herefordcattle.org

British Limousin Cattle Society Tel: 02476 696500

www.limousin.co.uk e-mail: info@limousin.co.uk

British Simmental Cattle Society Tel: 02476 696513

www.britishsimmental.co.uk e-mail: information@britishsimmental.co.uk

South Devon Herd Book Society Tel: 01392 447 494

www.sdhbs.org.uk e-mail: info@sdhbs.org.uk

Welsh Black Cattle Society Tel: 01286 672391

www.welshblackcattlesociety.org e-mail: welshblack@btclick.com

Devon Cattle Breeders Society Tel: 01837 810845

<http://www.redrubydevon.co.uk/>

Galloway Cattle Society Tel: 01556 502753

<http://www.gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk/>

Lincoln Red Cattle Society Tel: 01522 511395

<http://www.lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk/>

Red Poll Cattle Society Tel: 01728 747230

<http://www.redpoll.org/>

Salers Cattle Society Tel: 01948 667223

<http://www.salers-cattle-society.co.uk/>

Beef Improvement Group – Stabiliser Tel: 01759 368213

<http://www.bigbeef.co.uk/>

Sussex Cattle Society Tel: 01580 880105

<http://www.sussexcattlesociety.org.uk/>

References

Oklahoma State University Breeds of Livestock <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/cattle/>

The Dairy Site <http://www.thedairysite.com/breeds/>

Beef in Japan by Prof. John W. Longworth, University of Queensland Press, 1983

