

Answer Key

Cow Mature female bovine that has produced at least one calf.

Heifer Mature female bovine that has produced at least one calf.

Steer A castrated male bovine.

Bull An uncastrated male bovine.

Dam The female parent.

Sire The male parent.

Marbling Is the desired distribution of fat in the tissue of the meat.

Bloat Term used to describe a secure distention of the abdomen by gas.

Femininity Those characteristics that distinguish the female from the male

Masculinity Those characteristics that distinguish the male from the female.

Growthiness Term that refers to an animal that has appropriate size and weight for their age.

Finish Used to describe the degree of fat cover an animal is carrying.

Sound Animal that is correct on feet and leg structure.

Cud Small wad of regurgitated feed or roughage in a ruminant's mouth.

Ruminant Term referring to an animal with multiple stomachs.

Calving The birthing process in cattle.

Yearling A bovine animal approximately one year of age.

Freemartin When a cow gives birth to twins and they are the opposite sex, the heifer will be sterile 9 out of 10 times and will not reproduce.

Bos Indicus Domesticated cattle that have a distinctive hump on their back, such as the Brahman breed.

Bos Taurus Domesticated cattle such as the Angus breed.

Culling The process of removing unwanted or nonproductive animals from a herd.

Half-sibs Animals that share one common parent, either the same dam or sire.

Open Term used to describe a female animal that is not pregnant.

Polled Animals that are naturally hornless and do not develop horns.

Purebred An animal that meets a breed's standards and is registered in that breed's herd books.

Sibs Animals that share the same dam and sire.

USDA Yield Grade A numerical score given to beef carcasses based on the amount of fat present in the meat.

