

Cattle Breeds

Following is a list of Bos Taurus cattle breeds that we believe have a lot to offer beef producers in the Rangelands of the World.

Angus

The cornerstone of our program - meat quality, marbling, marketability, consistency. Unfortunately some genetics must be avoided like the plague! The Angus gene pool seems to be shrinking, mutant genes and faults are appearing and many breeders are breeding out of a tin, with little knowledge of mothering ability, survival on rangelands etc. To receive an Angus Sale Catalogue in the mail is like ground hog day - More of the same genetics.

Fleckvieh

South Africa and Namibia have the oldest Fleckvieh genetics outside of Germany and Austria. Their climates are very similar to the climates in Australia, Texas etc. These cattle are climatically adapted, they have short hair, are moderate in size with great teats and udders, fantastic carcass, great length and a very docile temperament. A bull whose influence has had tremendous impact on our herd is BHR three sixes SA L666e.

Tarentaise

In France no other cattle graze where the Tarentaise can graze. Compared to most European cattle they excel in calving ease and fertility. Taken by the French to the colonies of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia they improved carcass and milk production when crossed with native cattle in arid environments.

**Tuli

An improved Sanga breed of cattle from Botswana. Short haired, extremely fertile, environmentally adapted, great mothers, disease resistant.

**Drakensberger

Black Sanga breed of cattle. Slick coat, extremely long and deep bodied, medium to large frame, longevity, disease resistant (we have never had pink eye in these cattle), meat quality, marbling.

[On 2nd December 1497 Vasco De Gama wrote in his diary, that he had traded three bracelets for a shiny black ox in the Cape region of Africa and it was exceptional in eating quality.]

Texas Longhorn

Longhorns originated in Africa before being taken north by the Spanish who then shipped them to Santa Dominica during the Spanish Inquisition, spread through the Americas; very adapted to tough rangeland conditions, live to an old age, cows have been known to be productive at 24 years of age. Disease resistant, calving ease at its best, as good a mother as any breed in the world. Unfortunately, hobby farmers put their efforts into breeding for super horns and spectacular colours. We have cattle black and polled containing 25% longhorn blood. They are long bodied and very well-muscled.

**Sanga

Sanga cattle are indigenous cattle to Africa. Sanga have a sub-metacentric Y-Chromosome (as in Bos Taurus) compared to an acrocentric Y-Chromosome (as in Bos Indicus or Zebu). Cattle with higher levels of blood urea are more capable of maintaining body condition in dry winter periods. Research in South Africa analysed blood and rumen samples in Hereford and Sanga cattle for urea and ammonia concentrations, differences between these breeds was highly significant. The Sanga cattle had double the blood urea content and three times as much rumen ammonia. The reasons for these differences are possibly due to grazing habits and/or differences in the rate of urea excretion by the kidneys.

At the Omatjaenne Research Station the ease of calving of Sanga heifers was also noted, with zero incidence of dystocia in the Sanga herd compared to a dystocia incidence of 35.5% and 6.2% in simmental heifers mated at 14 and 26 months of age respectively.