

Cattle ‘cow’acteristics – solutions

Brahman

- Originated in America from breeds brought in from India. They are now farmed in the tropical humid and subtropical dry areas within northern Australia.
- Has a very efficient digestive system that works well with the low-quality feed that is found in the area it is farmed.
- Characterised by a hump above the shoulders and a pronounced dewlap (the bit of skin hanging from the neck). Their skin is loose to keep them cool and has a dark pigment so they don't get burnt in the hot sun.
- Their coat is short and sleek which makes it hard for ticks to attach, and their sweat contains a natural tick repellent (tick fever is common in northern Australia).
- They have long legs to help them walk greater distances to find food and water.

Angus

- Originated in the northern regions of Britain, and now farmed in the cooler, higher rainfall areas within southern Australia.
- They are moderate in size, have muscular bodies and no horns (known as polled cattle).
- Usually solid black in colour, however occasionally have a small amount of white on their stomach.
- They calve easily and raise fast growing calves.

Hereford

- Originated in England, they thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions, but are usually found in southern Australia.
- This breed is often docile (obedient) and easy to manage.
- Known for their breeding longevity, many females live and produce calves beyond the age of 15 years.
- Are often recognised by their dark red colour with white markings and distinctive white face.

Droughtmaster

- Evolved in north Queensland originally by crossing Brahman and Shorthorn cattle in an attempt to combine the desirable qualities of the two breeds to produce a breed suitable for the tropics.
- Usually found in northern Australia, but it is a resilient breed that can be found in other areas.
- They have lower nutritional needs which means they can survive longer (and keep breeding) in difficult conditions.
- They are parasite resistant and they have good heat tolerance.
- They are red in colour, have medium to large ears, an extended dewlap (the bit of skin hanging from the neck) and a moderate hump.