

A photograph of a herd of cattle in a lush green field. In the foreground, a light-colored cow stands on the left, and a brown cow with a white face patch is on the right. In the background, several other cows of various colors (brown, white, black) are scattered across the field. The background is filled with tall grass and a line of trees.

# Cattle Breeds

by staff of ACS Distance Education



# CONTENTS

---

Credits.....	5
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Domesticated cattle in human history.....	6
Why do we need different breeds of cattle?.....	8
Classification.....	10
The breeds.....	15
Breeds that tend to be used for beef production.....	15
Breeds commonly used for dairy production.....	16
Tropical breeds.....	16
<b>CHAPTER 2 BEEF CATTLE BREEDS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Afrikander.....	18
American Brahman.....	18
Amerifax.....	19
Angus.....	19
Beefalo.....	21
Beefmaster.....	21
Braford.....	22
Brahman.....	22
Charolais.....	24
Chianina.....	26
Droughtmaster.....	26
Galloway.....	28
Greyman.....	29
Hereford.....	30
Limousin.....	31
Lowline.....	32
Murray Grey.....	34
Piedmontese.....	37
Poll Hereford.....	37
Red Angus.....	40

Salorn.....	41
Santa Gertrudis.....	41
Sussex.....	42
Tuli.....	42
Wagyu.....	43
<b>CHAPTER 3 DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS.....</b>	<b>44</b>
Angeln Cattle.....	44
Ayrshire.....	44
Blaarkop.....	45
Brown Swiss.....	46
Dutch Belted.....	47
Friesian.....	48
Guernsey.....	49
Holstein.....	50
Illawarra.....	51
Jersey.....	52
Kostroma.....	53
Milking Shorthorn.....	53
Murnau-Werdenfels.....	54
Norwegian Red.....	54
Pie Rouge des Plaines.....	55
Swedish Red.....	55
<b>CHAPTER 4 DUAL PURPOSE AND OTHER CATTLE BREEDS.....</b>	<b>56</b>
Abondance.....	56
Ankole Watusi.....	56
Dexter.....	58
Finncattle.....	60
Gelbvieh.....	60
Pinzgauer.....	61
Red Poll.....	61
Salers.....	62
Simmental.....	62
South Devon.....	66

Tswana.....	66
Welsh Black.....	67
<b>APPENDIX.....</b>	<b>68</b>
Distance learning and online courses.....	68
E-books by John Mason and ACS Staff.....	69
Printed books by John Mason.....	70
Useful contacts.....	71
ACS global partners.....	71
Social media.....	71

# CREDITS

---

© **Copyright:** John Mason

**Written by**

Written by John Mason *Dip.Hort.Sc.*  
*FIOH, FAIH, FPLA*  
& Staff of ACS Distance Education

**Photos:**

John Mason  
Leonie Mason

**Layout**

Stephen Mason

**Editorial Assistants/Contributors:**

Gabriella Vogt

**Published by**

ACS Distance Education

P.O. Box 2092, Nerang MDC,  
Queensland, Australia, 4211  
[admin@acs.edu.au](mailto:admin@acs.edu.au)  
[www.acsbookshop.com](http://www.acsbookshop.com)

P O Box 4171, Stourbridge, DY8 2WZ,  
United Kingdom  
[admin@acsedu.co.uk](mailto:admin@acsedu.co.uk)  
[www.acsebooks.com](http://www.acsebooks.com)

**ISBN: 978-0-9925878-7-1**

The information in this book is derived from a broad cross section of resources (research, reference materials and personal experience) from the authors and editorial assistants in the academic department of ACS Distance Education. It is, to the best of our knowledge, composed as an accurate representation of what is accepted and appropriate information about the subject, at the time of publication.

The authors fully recognise that knowledge is continually changing, and awareness in all areas of study is constantly evolving. As such, we encourage the reader to recognise that nothing they read should ever be considered to be set in stone. They should always strive to broaden their perspective and deepen their understanding of a subject, and before acting upon any information or advice, should always seek to confirm the currency of that information, and the appropriateness to the situation in which they find themselves.

As such, the publisher and author do not accept any liability for actions taken by the reader based upon their reading of this book.

# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION



Cattle - Wallingford, UK

## DOMESTICATED CATTLE IN HUMAN HISTORY

Domesticated cattle have long played a vital role in human society. Historically they have provided humans with a source of meat, milk, leather, transport, entertainment, have been used as currency and trade, and served a role in the religions of some cultures.

Researchers have established that all domesticated cows we have today can be traced back to a single herd of just 80 head -from this small herd have come

over 800 recognised cattle breeds, ranging in characteristics and purpose. Over thousands of years humans have selected and specifically bred cattle for different traits in order to have them perform a variety of roles. There are well over 1 billion domestic cattle in the world today.

It's likely that livestock played an important role in the development of human civilisation in many areas around the world. The domestication of livestock such as cattle meant humans could set up more stable settlements instead of having to move around for hunting and gathering purposes. The domestication