

= Galloway cattle =

The Galloway is one of the world 's longest established breeds of beef cattle , named after the Galloway region of Scotland , where it originated , during the 17th century . It is now found in many parts of the world , such as Canada , the USA and Australia .

It is now found in many parts of the world , being exported to Canada in 1853 , the US in 1882 and Australia in 1951 . The breed enjoyed success during the 1950s but this subsided during the foot and mouth crisis . Today , the breed is enjoying a revival , due to the demands of the beef market . The breed is considered average size and they have a thick coat , due to the climate of their native Scotland .

= = Etymology = =

Galloway was an ancient region located in the south @-@ west of Scotland . The word ' Galloway ' is derived from the words Gallovid , or Gaul . The Gauls were the south of Scotland .

= = History = =

The Galloway breed comes from the cattle native to the south @-@ west region of Scotland , first fully developed in the 17th century . Originally there was much variation within this breed , including many different colours and patterns . The original Galloway herd book only registered black cattle , but the recessive gene for red colour persisted in the population , and eventually dun Galloways were also allowed into the herd book . As a result , although black is still the most common colour for Galloways , they can also be red and several shades of dun . In 1877 the Galloway Cattle Society was formed .

The Galloway was introduced in Canada in 1853 , first registered in 1872 , and the first Galloway registry was introduced in the USA in 1882 . In 1911 , 35 @,@ 000 cattle were registered in the American Galloway Herd Book which was first created in 1882 . The British Galloway Society formed in 1908 . They did not recognise dun coloured Galloway cattle , which was met with outrage and this ban was later lifted . In 1951 , Galloway cattle were introduced to Australia .

In the 1950s the breed enjoyed much success because the beef market demanded low input (feed) cattle with high quality meat . However , the BSE crisis (commonly referred to as mad cow disease) caused an export ban in 1990 , although there were no cases of BSE found in Galloway cattle . This created a fear associated with cattle , so breed numbers declined .

Recent years have seen changes as bigger leaner carcasses were demanded . This issue of size featured in Galloway circles causes great debate . Some of the adjustments made was the adoption of AI and Embryo Transfer . Today the breed 's original characteristics are now back in demand . This is due to the demand of high quality meat that requires economical production .

= = Characteristics = =

The average Galloway cow will weigh 1000 to 1500 pounds and the average bull weighing 1700 to 2300 pounds . The healthy birth weight for a calf is 75 pounds .

Galloways have a thick double @-@ layered coat that is wavy or curly . This thick coat of hair insulates their bodies so well that they have a minimal outer layer of fat on their bodies , which would otherwise create waste at slaughter . This coat sheds out in the summer months and in warmer climates . Despite the animal 's usual use in beef production , there is evidence of Galloway herds being milked in Cumberland for cheese production .

The Galloway is naturally hornless , and instead of horns has a bone knob at the top of its skull called the poll . This breed 's shaggy coat has both a thick , woolly undercoat for warmth and stiffer guard hairs that help shed water , making them well adapted to harsher climates .

= = = Population = = =

It is thought that the breed number fewer than 10 @, @ 000 cattle in the world , most located in Northern Europe , specifically Scotland . The breed is ' rare ' in the United States and the Livestock Conservancy class it as a breed to ' watch ' .

= = Societies = =

Galloway Cattle Society of New Zealand
American Galloway Breeders Association
The Galloway Cattle Society of Great Britain and Ireland
Australian Galloway Association