

## = Belted Galloway =

The Belted Galloway is a heritage beef breed of cattle originating from Galloway in the west side of southern Scotland , adapted to living on the poor upland pastures and windswept moorlands of the region . The exact origin of the breed is unclear although it is often surmised that the white belt that distinguishes these cattle from the native black Galloway cattle may be as a result of cross breeding with Dutch Lakenvelder belted cattle . It is the belt that gives them their name .

Belted Galloways are primarily raised for their quality marbled beef , although they are sometimes milked and purchased to adorn pastures due to their striking appearance .

In the United States , Belted Galloways are often nicknamed Oreo cows because their color pattern is reminiscent of an Oreo cookie , the sandwich cookie consisting of two chocolate disks with a cream filling in between . The black and red coat colors are caused by the same alleles of the MC1R gene , ED for black and e / e for red , as in most other breeds of cattle .

## = = Breed history = =

The origin of the white belt is unknown , but generally presumed to come from cross breeding with Dutch Belted cattle , also known as Lakenvelder . A Polled Herd Book was started in 1852 which registered both Aberdeen @-@ Angus and Galloways . Galloway breeders acquired their own herd book in 1878 . The Dun and Belted Galloway Association was formed in Scotland in 1921 , and in 1951 the name of the organization was changed to the Belted Galloway Society and dun cattle were no longer registered . It also keeps and records pedigrees for Belted Galloways and oversees the registration of White and Red Galloways .

Currently in the UK there is a thriving breeding programme overseen and guided by the Belted Galloway Cattle Society . Belted Galloways were first imported to the United States by a Mrs. McLean of East Kortright , New York . The formerly known American Belted Galloway Breeders Society was formed in the United States on July 1 , 1951 by Harry A. Prock of Whitemarsh , Pennsylvania , Gordon Green of Quebec , Canada and Charles C. Wells of East Lansing , Michigan . It is now known as The U.S. Belted Galloway Society Inc .

## = = Population = =

Belted Galloways , also informally known as Belties , are currently listed with the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy as a " recovering " breed , which means there are more than 2 @,@ 500 annual registrations in the United States and a global population of exceeding than 10 @,@ 000 . However , this status still means that they were once on the watch list . In 2007 they were formally removed from the UK Rare Breeds Survival Trust 's watch list , having recovered sufficiently from the devastation of the foot and mouth crisis of the early 2000s , to have reached in excess of 1500 registered breeding females . 18 @,@ 390 cattle were registered in the US in 2015 .

## = = Characteristics = =

Galloway cattle are naturally polled . The most visible characteristics of the Belted Galloway are its long hair coat and the broad white belt that completely encircles the body . Its coarse outer coat helps shed the rain , and its soft undercoat provides insulation and waterproofing , enabling the breed to spend winter outside . Black Belteds are most prominent , but Dun and Red Belteds are also recognized by breed societies , the latter being comparatively rare and sought after . A female Belted Galloway cannot be registered in the Herd Book if it has white above the dewclaw other than the belt , but can be registered in the Appendix . A bull can only be registered in the Herd book if it has no other white than the belt .

The dun color is caused by a mutation in the PMEL gene , the same mutation that causes dun and silver dun in Highland cattle .

Bulls weigh from 1 @,@ 700 pounds ( 770 kg ) to 2 @,@ 300 pounds ( 850 kg ) with the usual

being around 1 @, @ 800 pounds ( 820 kg ) . Cows weigh from 1 @, @ 000 pounds ( 450 kg ) to 1 @, @ 500 pounds ( 675 kg ) with the usual being around 1 @, @ 250 pounds ( 565 kg ) . Calves generally weigh around 70 pounds . Belted Galloways are generally of a quiet temperament , but still maintain a maternal instinct and will protect a calf against perceived threats .

They are well @-@ suited for rough grazing land and will utilize coarse grasses other breeds would shun . They are able to maintain good condition on less than ideal pasture , and produce a high quality beef product on grass alone .