



Cattle

Cattle (***Bos taurus***) are large, domesticated, bovid ungulates widely kept as livestock. They are prominent modern members of the subfamily Bovinae and the most widespread species of the genus *Bos*. Mature female cattle are called **cows** and mature male cattle are bulls. Young female cattle are called **heifers**, young male cattle are oxen or **bullocks**, and castrated male cattle are known as **steers**.

Cattle are commonly raised for meat, for dairy products, and for leather. As draft animals, they pull carts and farm implements. Cattle are considered sacred animals within Hinduism, and it is illegal to kill them in some Indian states. Small breeds such as the miniature Zebu are kept as pets.

Taurine cattle are widely distributed across Europe and temperate areas of Asia, the Americas, and Australia. Zebus are found mainly in India and tropical areas of Asia, America, and Australia. Sanga cattle are found primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. These types, sometimes classified as separate species or subspecies, are further divided into over 1,000 recognized breeds.

Around 10,500 years ago, taurine cattle were domesticated from wild aurochs progenitors in central Anatolia, the Levant and Western Iran. A separate domestication event occurred in the Indian subcontinent, which gave rise to zebu. There were over 940 million cattle in the world by 2022. Cattle are responsible for around 7% of global greenhouse gas emissions. They were one of the first domesticated animals to have a fully-mapped genome.

Etymology

The term *cattle* was borrowed from Anglo-Norman *catel* (replacing native Old English terms like *kine*, now considered archaic, poetic, or dialectal),^[1] itself from

Cattle



A brown Swiss Fleckvieh cow wearing a cowbell

Conservation status

Domesticated

Scientific classification



Domain:	<u>Eukaryota</u>
Kingdom:	<u>Animalia</u>
Phylum:	<u>Chordata</u>
Class:	<u>Mammalia</u>
Order:	<u>Artiodactyla</u>
Family:	<u>Bovidae</u>
Subfamily:	<u>Bovinae</u>
Genus:	<u><i>Bos</i></u>
Species:	<u><i>B. taurus</i></u>

Binomial name

Bos taurus

Linnaeus, 1758