

Unit E

Segments of the Animal Industry

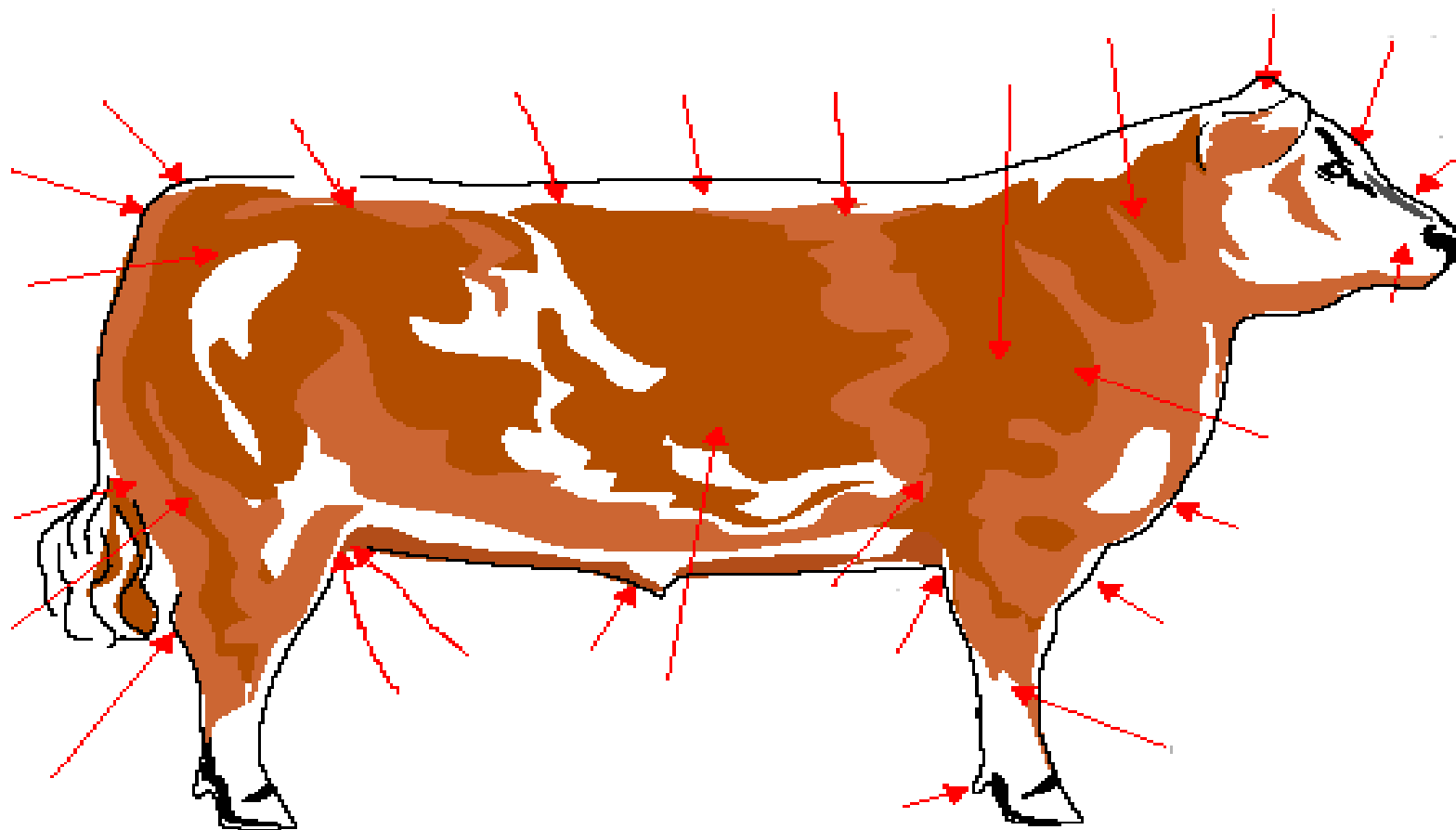
Lesson 1

Exploring the Cattle Industry

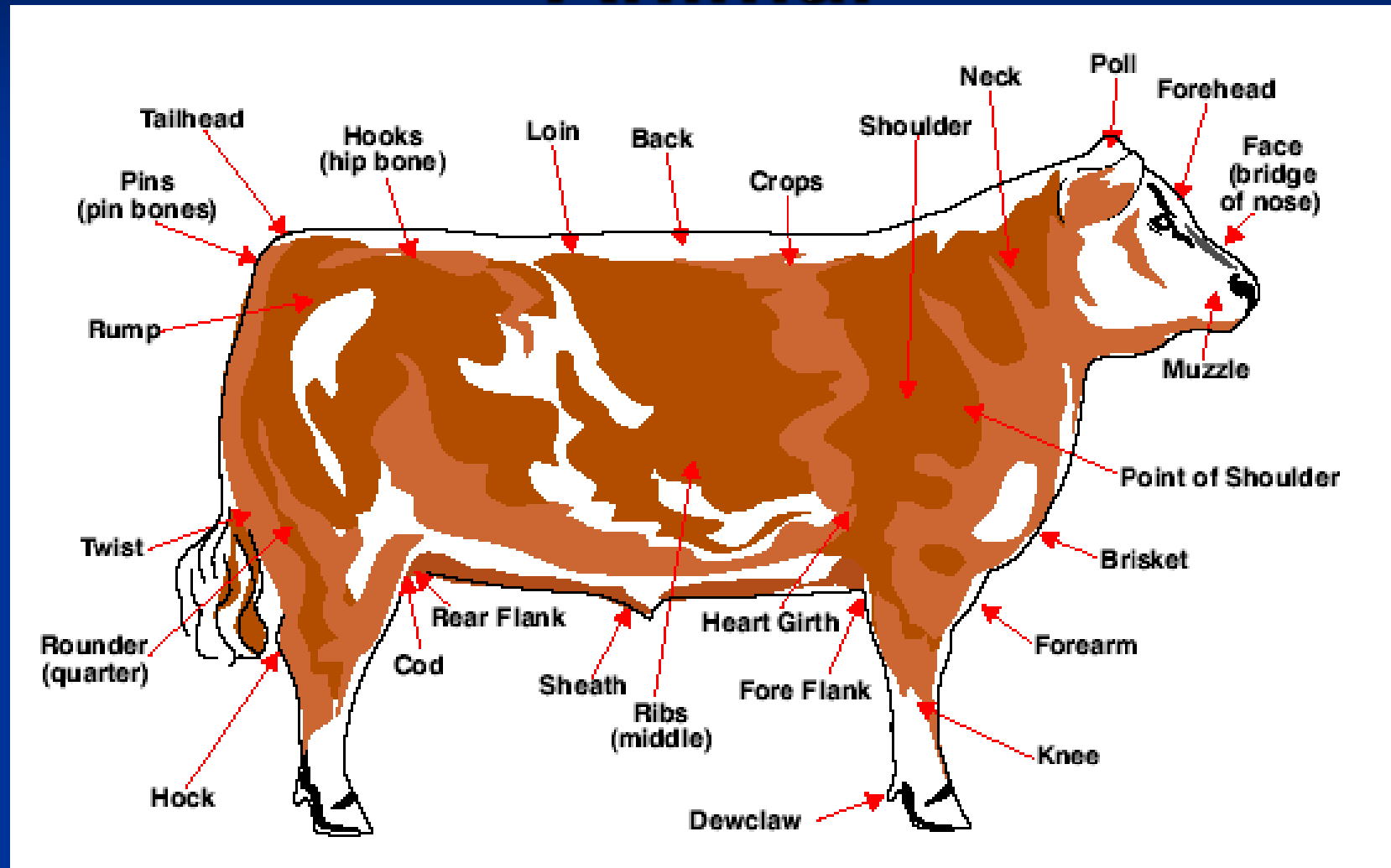
Terms

- Cattle feeders
- Conformation
- Cow-calf operation
- Cutability
- Demand
- Dual-purpose breed
- desirable traits
- Feeder calves
- Frame Score
- Marbling
- Performance
- Polled
- Purebred breeders
- Supply
- Yearling feeders

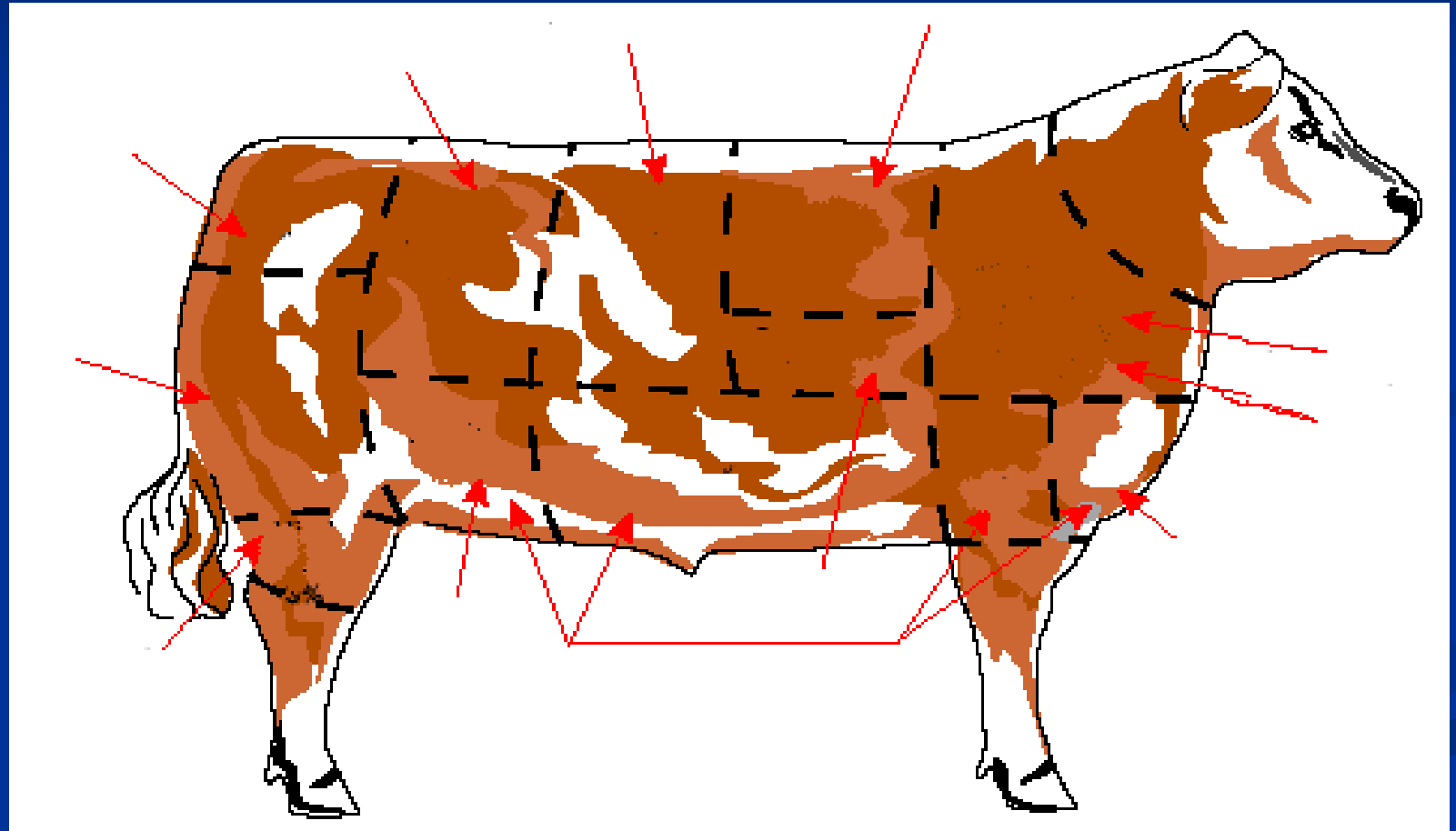
What are the external parts of a beef animal?



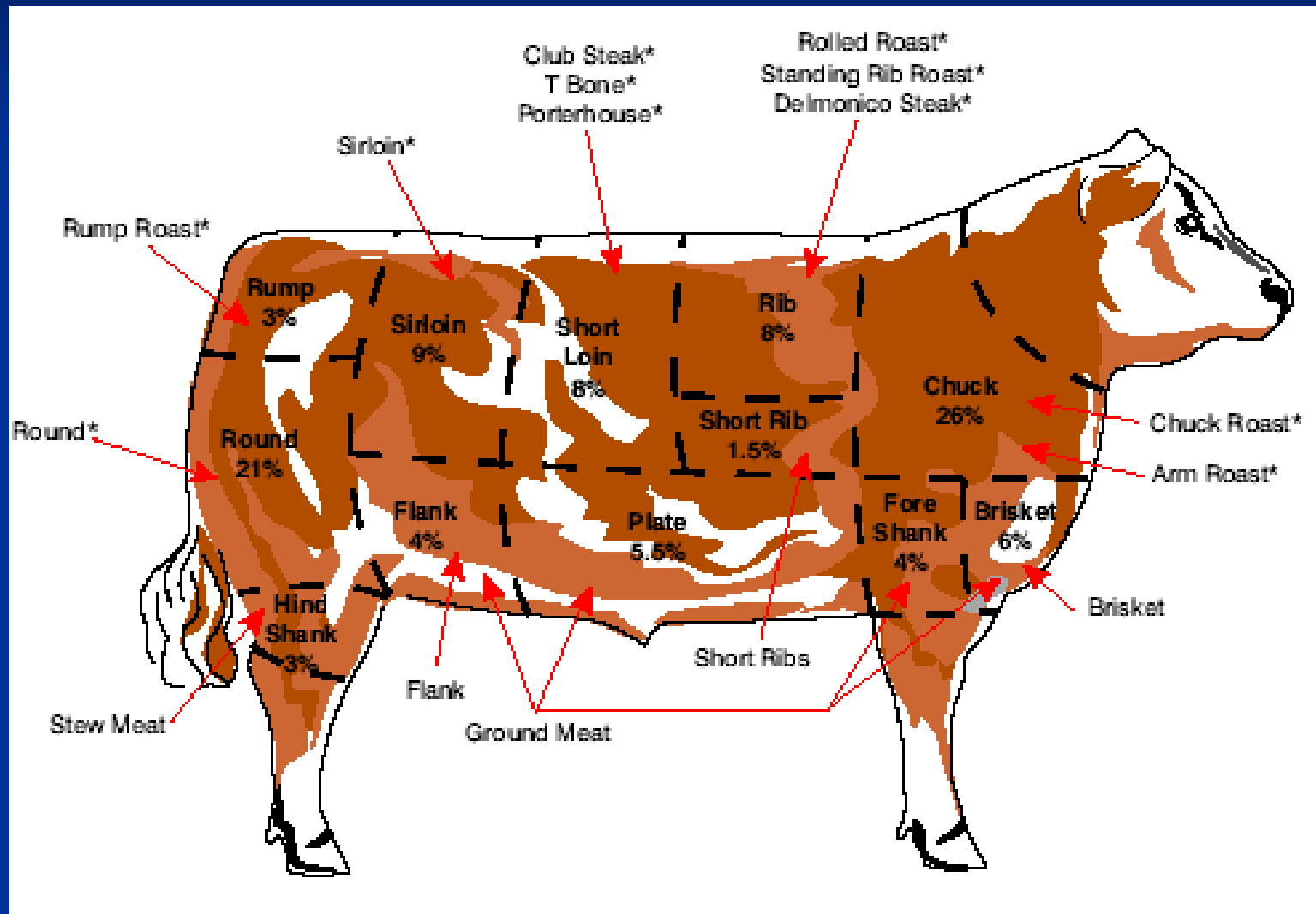
External Parts of a Beef Animal



What are the Beef Animal Meat Cuts?



Beef Animal Meat Cuts



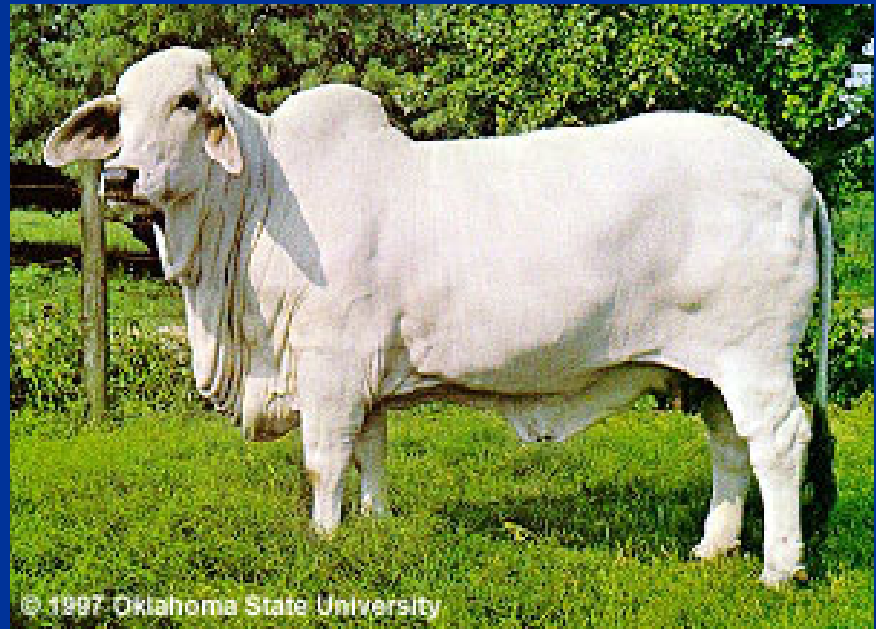
What are the common breeds of beef animals?

Terms

- Polled
 - born naturally without horns
- marbling
 - desirable presence of fat in the muscle
- cutability
 - amount of available retail cuts from the carcass
- dual-purpose breed
 - traditionally used for both milk and beef production

Brahman Cattle

- Used in crossbreeding programs
- Light gray or red & sometimes black
- loose skin, large hump over shoulder & large drooping ears
- Resistance to disease, insects
- Tolerant to heat, rapid weight gain, quality carcasses
- unpredictable temperament
- Excellent ability to forage on poor range



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Brahman Cattle



Oxen



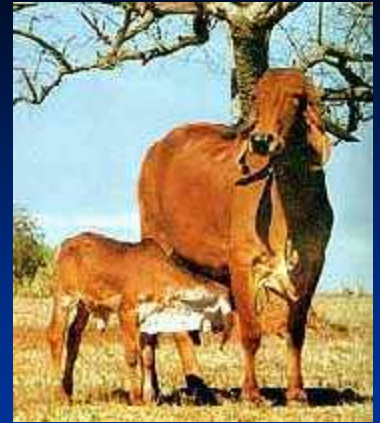
- **Oxen** (singular **ox**) are cattle trained as draft animals.
- They are adult, castrated males.
- Oxen are used for plowing, transport, hauling cargo, threshing grain by trampling, powering machines for grinding grain, irrigation or other purposes, and drawing carts and wagons.
- Oxen are most often used in teams of two, paired, for light work such as carting.

Oxen Cattle



Zebu Cattle

- Zebu is a term which is synonymous with "Bos Indicus," the scientific name for the humped cattle of the world.
- The major Zebu cattle breeds of the world include Gyr, Guzerat, Indu-Brazilian, Nelore, and Brahman. They originated in India, and are thought to be the world's oldest domesticated cattle.
- The first importations of Zebu were bullocks for draft purposes, but they later interbred with other cattle breeds and produced hybrids which were bigger, faster growing, and more thrifty.



Zebu Cattle



Gyr Cattle



Nelore Cattle



Indu-Brazilian

How do I know what beef animals are better than others?

Terms

- Desirable traits
 - traits that are in demand at the market place
- Conformation
 - the shape, form, and type of an animal
- Performance
 - the ability of an animals to reproduce, wean, gain weight and stay strong
- Frame score
 - measurement based on animals being observed and evaluated at 205 days

How do I know what beef animals are better than others?

- Select based on the frame score
 - 1 through 7 scale is used for frame score
- Select based on conformation score
 - 1 through 17 is used for performance score
 - 9 – 11 below average
 - 12-14 average
 - 15-17 above average

How do I know what beef animals are better than others?

- No one breed is superior in all traits
- Decide on individual priorities & select breed based on them
- Commit to good management practices
 - diets nutritious
 - comfortable living conditions
 - monitor health concerns
 - assess breeding stock

How do I know what beef animals are better than others?

- Choose a reputable breeder & producer
- insure animals are free of diseases and genetic problems
- look at records of the animals
- determine if animal will profit your herd

What type of production best suits my needs?

- Cow-calf operation
 - keeping mature cattle to produce calves
 - cows bred every year
 - calves sold 2 ways
- Feeder calves
 - weaned animals under a year old until sold to feedlot and raised to slaughter weight
- Yearling feeders
 - calves between 1 and 2 years of age sold to another producer to feed out to slaughter weight

Cow-Calf Operations

Advantages

- utilizes pastures
- less labor intense
- low investment costs
- require little equipment & facilities
- easy to increase herd size

Disadvantages

- Large initial land investment
- Price may be low when time to sell calves

What type of production best suits my needs?

- Cattle feeders
 - producers that feed beef animals to slaughter weight
 - buy yearling or calves and finish them quickly

Cattle Feeders

Advantages

- production lag is only 4 – 6 months
- Quick turn-over time for money

Disadvantages

- initial investment is high
 - higher feed
 - housing & equipment
- more labor

What type of production best suits my needs?

- Purebred breeders
 - producers that keep herds for breeding stock and replacement bulls or semen for cow-calf operations

Purebred Breeders

Advantages

- provides genetic improvements to herds
- Receive higher values for animals sold

Disadvantages

- initial start-up cost higher for genetically superior animals
- time consuming
- record-keeping