

LONGHORN



Cattle Society

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LONGHORN CATTLE - SHOW COMMENTARY 2016

The Longhorn is a strikingly attractive large, lean, beef breed. The cows are good milky mothers and their wide pelvis ensures ease of calving. The body may be any one of a wide range of brindle colours but they all have the characteristic white line along the back and down the tail, which is also passed onto their cross bred progeny. The impressive horns are obligatory for show cattle but commercial cows and steers may be easily disbudded when young.

The Longhorn Cattle Society was founded in 1878 and has reflected the mixed fortunes of the breed. During the 1950's and 60's when beef was increasingly produced from cereal fed, housed cattle, the breed became very rare. However with the more recent interest in extensively produced lean meat from grass the Longhorn has staged a dramatic comeback. In the 1980's a pair of Longhorns won the much coveted 'Burke Trophy' Interbreed Cattle Championship at the Royal Show. More recently the breed consistently wins Interbreed Championships at County Shows around the country.

Longhorn beef is increasingly in demand from independent butchers, retailers and restaurants whose customers value its velvety texture and superior taste. It was voted Britain's Best Steak in a competition organised by Country Life magazine and regularly wins awards and accolades.

In addition the Longhorn is much valued for the contribution it can make to environmentally sensitive sites. Longhorns have been extensively used by organisations such as Natural England and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other important environmental sites.

The Society has over 11,000 females registered to nearly 500 members, and there are herds of Longhorns in Europe, the US and Australia.

Over...

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LONGHORN BREED STANDARD

HORNS	Fine in texture, with traces of pink towards base and free from black: Shape to be either straight from head with a forward sweep or turned with an incurve towards the mouth, horns growing back and thick, coarse horns undesirable.
EYE	To be prominent and with docile expression
BODY	To be level in back with well sprung ribs, neat in shoulder, full at back of shoulder, wide over sirloin, level over pins and neat set on tail, with level underline, not coarse in brisket, full in thighs, lengthy and level in steak piece, and not split up between hind legs. The Cow to have a level, silky bag, well up under tail, with teats well placed, of good size but not coarse.
LEGS	To be straight.
HAIR	To be well grown and silky to the touch.
HIDE	To be thick but soft in touch and pliable.
COLOUR	Optional, all to have white line down centre of back and slight preference to be given to red brindles and rich reds and to a white patch on each thigh.
UNDESIRABLE	Cattle with black on the horns, black hooves or with no red hair in the coat are considered to be undesirable and are not encouraged by the Society.