



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

AMERICAN RED BRANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Standards of Excellence for Red Brangus Cattle

Characteristic

Desirable, Objectionable and Disqualifications

I. **Productivity, Adaptability and Functional Efficient:**

Bulls should show masculinity and look like a bull at first glance. They should be alert, bold, strong and more rugged than cows. Cows should show femininity throughout, being more refined than bulls. Cows with “bull or steer” characteristics tend to be of low fertility.

a. **Desirable Sexual Characteristics:**

1. Bulls should have two well-developed testes. Testicular size is positively correlated to quantity of sperm produced.
2. The sheath in bulls should be of moderate size, with a small orifice, with penis at a 45-degree angle and the prepuce retracted.
3. Cows should have well-developed, well-attached udder with teats the right size for the calf to nurse at birth.
4. The vulva of cows should be well developed.

Objectionable:

- a. 2: Slightly extended prepuce from a moderate sheath.

Disqualification:

- a. 1: Hernia, one testicle or malformed genitalia.
- a. 2: Large, pendulous sheath extending close to the ground. Extremely long, non-retractable prepuce. Total lack of sheath.
- a. 3: Underdeveloped teats and/or udder. Very large teats. Meaty, loosely attached udder.
- a. 4: Small, infantile vulva.

b. **Desirable Temperament:**

Both bulls and cows should be mild, tractable and easily managed.

Objectionable: A tendency to nervousness.

Disqualification: Extremely wild or nervous (a highly heritable trait).

c. Desirable Size:

Bulls and cows should be large for their age and fast gaining with size being the result of skeletal development and muscle not excessive fat. The size of any breeding animal must fit the environment in which it is to function. Extremely small (pony) cattle will not produce enough pounds of beef. Extremely large (horse) cattle will not generally reproduce efficiently under the frequently adverse conditions which the Red Brangus breed has been developed to handle.

Disqualification: Extremely small cattle for their age. (Extremely large cattle will eliminate themselves through calving difficulties and low reproduction.)

d. Desirable Structural Soundness:

Structural soundness is the key to the development of useful cattle. Ample ruggedness and sound design will enable an animal to travel, convert roughage and live a long productive life. In the description of individual quality and desirable beef conformation which follows, most of the common attributes of good beef cattle are listed along with many of the undesirable characteristics which should be discriminated against.

II. Individual Quality And Beef Conformation

a. Desirable General form:

The general form should be symmetrical and balanced and strong boned throughout with correct, free moving legs. The flesh covering should be smooth, mellow and evenly distributed.

Objectionable: Light bone structure.

Disqualification: Extremely compact or extremely rangy or extremely light bone structure.

b. Desirable Neck:

Should be clean throated with a smooth attachment to the shoulder and with loose skin folds underneath.

Objectionable: The absence of skin folds.

c. Desirable Shoulder:

Should be smooth and well covered on the blades and broad at the top.

Objectionable: Extremely heavy shoulders or open shoulders.

d. Desirable Heart Girth:

Should be deep and broad.

Objectionable: A pinched girth.

e. Desirable Back:

Should be broad, level and smoothly covered.

f. Desirable Loin:

Should be broad, full, smoothly covered and blend smoothly with the back and rump.

Objectionable: Narrow, uneven or rough, weak topline.

g. Desirable Ribs:

Should be well sprung, deep, arched, smoothly covered and joined smoothly to the loin and a full crop.

Objectionable: A shortness of rib and/or pinched heartgirth can interfere with unhampered heart and lung action.

h. Desirable Hooks

Should be broad, level and smoothly covered.

Objectionable: Narrow hooks.

i. Desirable Rump:

Should be long, level, broad and smoothly covered with a moderate slope.

Objectionable: A short, pointed or excessively drooping rump.

j. Desirable Tail:

Should have a smooth insertion and be medium to long in length.

Objectionable: A high insertion or an extremely short tail.

k. Desirable Thighs

Should be broad, thick, full, deep and smoothly fleshed.

Objectionable: Narrow or shallow thighs.

l. Desirable Twist:

Should be broad, deep, full, smoothly fleshed and extend well down to the hock.

Objectionable: A high, narrow twist.

m. Desirable Legs:

Should be straight, of medium length and squarely set.

Objectionable: Extremely long or short legs, crooked or diagonally set legs, sickle hocks, post legs, weak pasterns.

n. Heritable deformities:

Red Brangus cattle are notably free of inherited deformities.

Disqualification: Wry nose, wry tail, double muscling, malformed genitalia, undershot jaw, overshot jaw, dwarfism of any type, mulefoot, marble bone disease.

III. Red Brangus Breed Characteristics

a. General:

The American Red Brangus breed was developed as a 50/50 cross between Brahman and Angus. Because of the world's varying environmental conditions and the varying goals and needs of cattlemen, the organizers chose not to set blood percentages for registration. American Red Brangus cattle should exhibit a modified phenotype and genetic breed characteristics of each parent breed.

b. Desirable Head:

Should show masculinity or femininity according to sex. Broad with a slightly convex forehead and a straight profile. Full muzzle with wide nostrils. Eyes mild and full with plenty of space between them. Ears medium in size, moderately drooping and a fine texture. Polled.

Objectionable: Long narrow head, dishfaced. Short and/or horizontal ears. Scurs (a scur is defined as any growth on the head where horns might grow that is not attached to the skull).

Disqualification: Hard Horns (¾ blood animals only)

c. Desirable Crest:

Evidence of a typical Red Brangus crest immediately forward of the shoulder in mature males, more pronounced than a British breed crest and farther forward and less pronounced than a Brahman hump. Females should have no crest.

Objectionable: A large hump in males or females, complete absence of a crest in mature males.

d. Desirable Hair:

Short and straight forming a slick coat, the desirable length dependent to some degree on the environment.

Objectionable: Long and/or curly hair.

e. Desirable Hide:

Soft, loose, pliable and of medium thickness with a large surface area, moderate neck folds and dewlap.

Objectionable: Tight hidcd.

f. Desirable Size at birth:

Small enough at birth to be easily delivered without assistance.

Objectionable: Calves so large at birth as to cause calving difficulties.

g. Desirable Color

Solid red coat, pink nose.

Objectionable: Very small amount of white spotting anywhere, birthmarks, frosting on ears, some roan hairs, slight dilution of red, gray or mottled nose.

Disqualification: Excessive amount of white on underline, significant white spotting elsewhere, black nose, brindle and other than red.