

Beef Cattle Type.

Animals of correct beef type should have blocky, wide, deep, low set bodies with straight top and underline, bodies, in fact, as rectangular as possible from a side view. They should possess strong constitution as evinced by a short broad head, bright full eye, wide muzzle, and large nostrils, by well-sprung long ribs and deep wide chests. Long legged, shallow-bodied upstanding animals are known as "rangy" or "leggy," and make rough unprofitable steers. Common weaknesses in beef sires are lack of constitution and masculinity, lack of width behind the shoulders (narrow crops), lack of depth of heart (tucked-up fore flank), flat ribs, lowness of back, narrow, shallow loin, narrow peaked hind quarters, lack of width and depth of thighs and weak, crooked hind legs. These should be avoided or at least a combination of them.

Smoothness and uniformity are essential in an animal of true beef type. Uniform width and depth of body, evenness of fleshing (no blubbery patches here and bare spots there) and quality of bone, meat and hide are also sought after. Quality is gauged by the hair which should be soft and mossy, by the skin which should be mellow, elastic, thin and pliable and by the general appearance of the animal shown in the head, bone and joints. Animals with harsh, dry hair and tight, thick skin either show lack of breeding or lack of condition.

Calves.

Having obtained a good foundation in type, one of the most important matters in connection with successful beef raising is the rearing of the calves. Housing, bedding and feed must all be closely watched so that there will be nothing to retard growth. If a calf loses flesh it is most difficult to make this up again. They should receive no set-back. Under our climatic conditions the cows should be bred late enough to insure favourable weather for the new born calf. If calves are dropped about May they will do well with their dams on grass for the rest of the season, but on the open prairie they should be afforded shelter during the late fall, if only in an open shed, and should be comfortably housed at night or during bad weather through the winter.

The critical time for all domestic animals is the weaning time and the winter that follows. Once on good grass in their yearling form they are pretty well able to take care of themselves. In the rearing stage a bunch of eight or ten will do well together. Keep the calves growing. If they are running with the cows, see that the cows have ample pasturage and pure water. If the pasture is scanty supplement it with green bundles, green corn or a light grain ration. If the calves are not with the cows teach them to eat chop as soon as possible, three parts oat chop to one part barley chop with a little ground flax or oil meal added makes a valuable ration. Keep the chop box clean and sweet; feed both cows and calves regularly. Work quietly when among them. If pail feeding, never feed sour or cold milk. Scours in calves are easy to start and hard to stop. If your milk supply is limited supplement with a little flax porridge till the calf is a month old. For the first winter, feed well. A light grain ration twice or even once a day, clean wholesome roughage such as green oat sheaves, cut or whole; well-cured prairie hay and when you can, alfalfa. Don't expect the calf to winter well, to grow quickly, to keep in condition