

American Herbataurus Society Standards
For
Feeder Cattle
(Steers & Heifers)

AHS standards dictate that cattle must be evaluated for the following:

- a. The ability to produce fine textured, tender beef.
- b. The ability to efficiently utilize and convert grass into muscle (meat)
- c. The propensity for high volume carcass yield.
- d. Diet

Standards for fine textured, tender beef

Hide – is to be soft and supple. When pinched at the 12th/13th rib and pulled away from the body and moved vigorously up and down, the skin from the shoulders to the rump will move freely with the same motion.

Hair coat – is to be fine and silky and of uniform thickness and length. High glossy sheen or dark line down the spine is a plus while any dead hair is undesirable.

Bone – looking for small, fine, and short cannon bones. (The Jersey is a good representation of what is desired). Legs from the knees down should have an hourglass shape, starting with proportioned flat knees, tapering in to the cannon bones and gradually expanding to blend into the ankle joints. Large boned animals will not meet this standard.

The hock area just under the achelies tendon should basically be skin on bone. Hocks are to be clean with no underlying connective tissue or puffiness. (The jersey is a good representation of this standard).

Other indicators – small tailbone, round knob near the top, in front of the pole on the head, and yellow flakes in the ears and on the end of the tail bone under the switch.

Standards for the Ability to Utilize Grass – Linear Measurements

The animal's shoulder width must be the same measurement or larger then the length of the rump.

The heart girth measurement must be equal to or greater than the total body length (behind pins to tip of nose).

A frame score of 4.5 or smaller is the standard. (Need a rump height # here)

Standard for High Volume Carcass – Linear Measurements

The animal's rump width measurement must be at least 40% of the rump height measurement.

The animal's shoulder width measurement is to equal the rump length measurement.

The animal's flank measurement must be equal to or greater than the total length measurement.

References: Robert Bakewell, Francis Guenon. Dr. Burl Winchester, Dr. Jan Bonsma.

Standards for Diet

Animals are to be primarily raised on mother's milk, pasture, and stored forages.

Supplements such as alfalfa pellets, molasses, beet pulp or other non-starch energy sources are acceptable, but not encouraged.

Mineral supplements are acceptable and encouraged.

*No grain or grain by-products are permitted.

All animals must be evaluated by a designated AHS field representative and meet these standards to enter the "Genesis Sale Event". Safe and secure cattle handling facilities are required.