

LIVESTOCK LINGO

Here are a list of words typically used by livestock breeders in all industries Miniature and Traditional.

Bovine

From the latin word “cow”, but includes any of a subfamily (Bovinae) of bovids including oxen, bison, buffalo, and their close relatives.

Cow

A female bovine that has had a baby(calf).

Heifer

A female bovine that has not had a baby(calf).

Bull

A male bovine that has testicles. Any age, but can be referred to as a bull calf or yearling bull when younger.

Steer

Male bovine that no longer has his testicles. Make great pets or bull buddies.

Calf

A baby bovine, under one year of age. Can be either sex.

Head

The unit/number of animals. An example, you have 7 head. Meaning you have 7 bovine in total. Typically do not include calves until weaned.

Yearling

A bovine that is a year old. Can be either sex and referred to as yearling heifer, bull, or steer.

Cattle

A group of mixed bovine, they can be mixed sexes and types.

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Livestock

A group of mixed bovine, they can be mixed sexes and types. This term is also used for Horses, goats, sheep, etc.

Herd

A group of cattle that are kept or live together. Except for Highlands, they are called a Fold.

Dam

Mother of offspring.

Sire

Father of offspring.

Calving

Term used for a cow getting ready to have a calf, or in the process of having a calf. Also, can be used for future as in will calve on a certain date.

Bred

Cow/Heifer is pregnant.

Exposed

When you assume that the cow/heifer is pregnant, but has not been confirmed.

Preg Check

When you check your cows/heifers to confirm they are pregnant.

Highland

Proper name, not called Highlanders.

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Halter

The tool used to lead your bovine around. Not called a harness or leash.

Halter Breaking

When you start, typically a calf, halter training. Teaching it for lead with the halter.

Halter Broke

An animal that is already been trained to lead with a halter.

Hook

Where to measure for the miniature cattle industry. It is the spot across the top of the back just above the hip bones.

Scours

Universal term for diarrhea in calves.

Tubing

A product used to get milk into a calfs belly when you can not get them to nurse or take a bottle.

Bag

A cows udder.

Micro Mini

A misleading term that an animal will be very tiny.

Bulling

Where another bovine mounts a cow that is in heat. That cow being mounted is considered bulling.

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Here are a list of words typically used by livestock breeders in all industries Miniature and Traditional.

Polled

When an animal is naturally born without horns.

Dehorned

You remove the horns from an animal born with horns. Their offspring can still have horns.

Weaning

When you separate the calves from their mommas so that they can no longer nurse.

Doctoring

When you have to treat a sick or injured animal.

AI

Artificial Insemination. Where you put semen into a cow through a straw rather than directly from the bull.

Embryo Transfer

When you use a fertilized egg and semen already put together into a cow. The cow is only the carrier, with no genetics involved.

Recip Cow

A cow that carries an embryo from another cow and bull. That cow is a recipient of the embryo.

Clean up bull

A bull put out in pasture with cows that have been Artificially Inseminated. His goal is to breed anything that did not take during AI.

RIP

This is our own term we use for a cow that is not very nice. haha