

Holstein Cattle

Holsteins are a specific breed of dairy cattle raised to produce milk. Dairy cows live in close proximity to humans who feed them, milk them, and provide for their needs. Each year, dairy cows are bred to have calves. After calving, they are milked two or three times a day until they are a couple months away from calving again. At this point, the farmer will stop milking them until they've calved again.

Holsteins have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited for producing milk.

- **Behavior:** Holsteins are generally calm and easy to handle.
- **Milk Production:** Holsteins can produce more milk than most other breeds of cattle. The average Holstein can produce over eight gallons of milk a day.
- **Coat Color:** Holsteins are typically black and white. They can also be red and white, although it is less common.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Holsteins?

Angus Cattle

Angus are a specific breed of cattle raised to produce meat. Angus cows are often raised on pasture or rangeland and are bred with bulls to have calves each year. The calves grow until they reach the desired age and weight to be sold. Often, once the calves are old enough to be weaned off of their mother's milk, they are sold to another farm and fed on pasture. Finally, they are sold to a feedlot where they're fed a special diet to help them grow quickly and produce high quality beef.

Angus have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited for producing meat.

- **Polled or Horned:** Angus are polled, meaning they naturally do not have horns.
- **Rate of Growth:** Angus are muscular and typically grow quickly and efficiently.
- **Coat Color:** Angus cattle are either solid black or solid red in color.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Angus cattle?

Yorkshire Pigs

Yorkshire pigs are raised to produce meat. Along with other breeds, they provide us with bacon, sausage, pork chops, and ham. A sow is a mother pig that has had at least one litter of piglets. When a sow has a litter, it is called farrowing. Some farms raise pigs from farrow to finish, meaning they breed sows and have pigs of all ages. Other farms buy pigs and feed them until they are big enough to be sold for meat.

Yorkshires have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited for producing meat.

- **Color and Ears:** Yorkshires have white hair and erect ears.
- **Rate of Growth:** Yorkshire pigs tend to grow quickly.
- **Litter Size:** Yorkshire sows have large litters, often giving birth to 10 to 14 piglets.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Yorkshire pigs?

Suffolk Sheep

Suffolk sheep are raised primarily for meat and secondarily for the wool they produce. In the United States, most sheep are raised west of the Mississippi on large ranches. Sheep are often grazed in areas that are too rugged or remote for other forms of agriculture. Sheep breed in the fall and lamb in the spring. Mother sheep are called ewes and father sheep are called rams. Spring is also when sheep are sheared of their wool, which is used to make yarns and fabrics.

Suffolks have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited to producing meat and wool.

- **Wool and Hair Color:** Suffolk sheep have black hair on their faces and legs and white wool on their bodies. White wool is desirable because it can be dyed.
- **Number of Lambs:** Suffolk ewes typically give birth to one or two lambs at a time.
- **Wool Quality:** Quality of wool is determined by how long the fibers are as well as how coarse or fine the wool is. Suffolks produce medium quality wool.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Suffolk sheep?

Nubian Goats

Nubians are one of six breeds of goats commonly used to produce milk in the United States. Dairy goats live in close contact with people who feed them, milk them, and provide for their needs. Goat's milk is sold fresh for drinking and used to make cheese and yogurt. Does (female goats) are bred to have kids (baby goats) each year and milked twice a day for 9 - 10 months of each year.

Nubians have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited to produce milk.

- **Litter Size:** Nubian does typically give birth to one to three kids at a time.
- **Milk Production:** Nubians generally produce slightly less milk than other dairy goat breeds, but their milk tends to be higher in protein and fat.
- **Coat Color and Ears:** Nubians come in many solid colors as well as color patterns. They have very long, floppy ears.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Nubians?

Leghorn Chickens

Leghorn chickens are raised primarily to produce eggs. Hens begin laying eggs when they are about 20 weeks old. When hens reach approximately two years old, the number of eggs they lay in a year begins to decrease. Hens will lay eggs even if there is no rooster around, but the eggs are not fertilized and will not develop into chicks without a rooster.

Leghorns have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited to produce eggs.

- **Eggshell Color:** Leghorn hens lay eggs with white shells.
- **Egg Production:** Leghorn hens typically lay more than 260 eggs per year. Chickens can lay a maximum of one egg per day, but some breeds will only lay one egg every two or three days.
- **Feather Color:** Leghorns can be black, brown, white, silver, red, or golden, but the white leghorn is the most commonly used in commercial egg production.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Leghorns?

Cornish Chickens

Cornish chickens were developed in England in the 1800s as a breed for producing meat. Today, Cornish crosses (the offspring of a Cornish parent and a parent of another breed) are the most common breeds raised for meat on commercial chicken farms. Chickens raised for meat are commonly called broilers.

Cornish and Cornish crosses have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited to producing meat.

- **Feathers:** Cornish chickens can have feathers of many colors. The Cornish crosses commonly raised as broilers have white feathers. Cornish and Cornish crosses have thin feathers, meaning they need good shelter in the winter.
- **Rate of Growth:** Cornish and Cornish crosses tend to grow faster than other chicken breeds.
- **Size:** Cornish and Cornish crosses tend to grow larger than other breeds.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Cornish and Cornish crosses?

Percheron Horses

Percherons are a breed of draft horses, which are used for heavy work. Draft horses are tall, muscular, and capable of pulling heavy loads. They work closely with people. Before tractor technology was developed, these horses were the main source of power for plowing fields. Today they are still used to pull heavy carts and wagons.

Percherons have been selectively bred to express inherited traits that are desirable. Most, but not all, of their inherited traits make them well suited to working for people.

- **Coat Color:** Percherons are usually black or gray, but they can also be many shades of brown and often have white markings on their heads and feet.
- **Adult Size:** Percherons are typically very tall and muscular and often weigh over 2000 pounds.
- **Temperament:** In general, Percherons are willing workers, alert, and intelligent.
- Can you find more inherited traits of Percherons?