

CATTLE: DEFINITIONS OF USE CLASSES¹

BEEF CATTLE

Cattle that are intended for meat production or to produce offspring intended for meat production. Excludes veal calves.

Beef Bulls	Intact male beef cattle intended for breeding (beef breeds) or slaughter (either beef or dairy breeds).	
Steers	Castrated male cattle (including dairy breeds) intended for slaughter.	
Beef Heifers	Female beef cattle intended for breeding (beef breeds) or slaughter (either beef or dairy breeds) that have not yet calved.	
Replacement Beef Heifers	Female cattle that have not yet calved and are intended solely for breeding to produce calves intended for meat production.	
Replacement Beef Heifers on Pasture	Replacement beef heifers maintained on pasture and receiving the majority of their diet from grazing.	
Beef Cows	Beef breed female cattle that have calved.	
Suckling Beef Calves	Beef breed cattle from birth until weaning. Veal calves are NOT considered suckling calves.	
Growing Cattle on Pasture (stocker, feeder, and slaughter)	<i>Weaned Cattle</i>	Beef or dairy breeds maintained on pasture and receiving the majority of their diet from grazing. The term <i>pasture cattle</i> is intended to refer to cattle considered to be stockers, feeders and/or slaughter cattle. Parenthetical reference to <i>stocker, feeder, or slaughter cattle</i> is typically included in drug labeling.
	<i>Stockers</i>	Refers to weaned calves grazing pasture to enhance growth prior to finishing and slaughter; they are usually younger, weigh less, and are of lower condition (finish) than “feeders.”
	<i>Feeders</i>	Refers to weaned calves grazing pasture and of sufficient weight and maturity to be placed on high-energy rations for finishing; they are generally older, weigh more, and carry more condition (finish) than stockers.
	<i>Slaughter Cattle</i>	Refers to cattle grazing on pasture and suitable for slaughter. Sex differentiation (e.g., heifers, steers and/or bulls) should be indicated on product labeling.
Beef Cattle Fed in Confinement for Slaughter (Steers and/or Heifers)	Weaned growing (incl. dairy breeds) confined in group pens and fed a high-energy diet <i>ad libitum</i> until slaughter. Sex differentiation (heifers, steers, and/or bulls intended for slaughter) should be indicated on product labeling. Also known as feedlot cattle.	
Growing beef Cattle in Dry Lots (Steers and/or Heifers)	Weaned growing beef cattle (incl. dairy breeds), that are maintained in a dry lot, receiving the majority of their diet from harvested forage.	

VEAL CALVES

Immature cattle, including beef and dairy breeds, that lack a functional rumen and are intended for meat production. Veal calves are recognized as a distinct regulatory class from suckling calves because of their handling, housing, and proximity to slaughter.

DAIRY CATTLE

Cattle that are intended for or related to the production of milk for human consumption and/or offspring that will produce milk or meat for human food (including veal calves).

Lactating Dairy Cows	Female dairy breed cattle that are producing milk for human food.
Dry Dairy Cows	Female dairy breed cattle that lactated previously, but are not currently producing milk for human food (i.e. dairy cows between lactations).
Replacement Dairy Heifers	Female dairy cattle that have not yet calved and intended solely for breeding and future milk production.
Replacement Dairy Heifers on Pasture	Replacement dairy heifers maintained on pasture and receiving the majority of their diet from grazing.
Dairy Bulls	Intact male dairy breed cattle intended for reproductive purposes.
Dairy Calves	Female or male dairy cattle fed a ration that includes milk or liquid milk replacer and NOT intended for veal production.

¹All definitions and descriptions of animal use classes are based on information in [Guidance for Industry #191](#) published by the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine in May 2015.