

Texas Longhorn Breed Guidelines

Characteristics of Longhorns

- A. Functional Efficiency
- 1. Fertility



Example of good Brood cow



Example of good Brood cow

Desirable

Early Maturity and Longevity
Cows – Feminine, regular and early



Example of good brood cow

Bull – Masculine, virile, high libido.
Example below



Objectionable

Abnormal reproductive organs

Undesirable

- 2. Sheath



Retractable prepuce, small orifice,
flat small-sized navel flap



Long pendulous sheath, non-retractable
prepuce. Excessive navel flap both
female & male.

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Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
<p>3. Udder and teats</p>  <p><i>Example of well attached & balanced udder, good teat pigmentation</i></p>	<p>Well attached, balance</p>  <p><i>Example of good attachment</i></p>	<p>Teats too large for a calf to nurse at birth; meaty, broken, loosely attached. <i>Example of three udder defects below, large quarters, blind quarter and meaty.</i></p>   <p><i>Example of two blind quarters</i></p>	<p>Hard, firm, meaty udder, unable to produce enough milk for calf.</p>  <p><i>Example of two blind quarters</i></p> <p>Udder defects are very inheritable traits.</p>
<p>4. Disposition</p>	<p>Mild, tractable</p>	<p>Nervous</p>	
<p>5. Size</p>	<p>Adequate for age</p>	<p>Small for age, extremely oversized</p>	
<p>6. Hair (depending on environment)</p>	<p>Short, straight, slick coat</p>	<p>Long, curly hair</p>	
<p>7. Hide</p>	<p>Vascular, mellow and pliable navel flap</p>	<p>Tight, excessive skin fold, excessive sheath or navel flap</p>	<p>Extra large sheath or navel flap</p>
<p>8. Legs and feet</p>	<p>Squarely set, sound feet and joints</p> 	<p>Very short legs, sickle hocks and "post" legs. Mule-footed, extra close, weak hocks.</p>	<p><i>Below example of weak hocks & poor leg set.</i></p> 

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Characteristics of Longhorns

B. Conformation

1. General type or Form



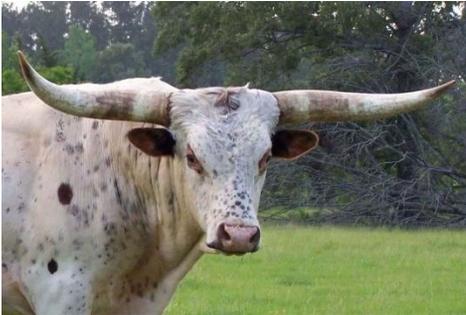
Good length with moderate depth and thickness. Top of hips higher than top of shoulders. Elliptical shaped body for heat adaption. Sound dense bones. Strong legs with free movement; Bulls slightly thicker and heavier muscled than cows. Exhibiting crest development on neck.

Example of poor conformation. High shoulders, weak back and legs.



Undesirable

2. Head



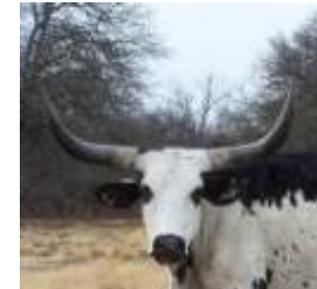
Example of Flat poll, small ears with masculine face. Not blocky.

Showing masculinity and femininity according to sex; moderate width with pronounced length from poll to muzzle. Straight profile. Some evidence of throat flap.

Nose extremely "pinched-in" above nostrils. Short, blocky head. Convex forehead. "Roman Nose". Pendulous dewlap.



Example of Flat poll, small ears with long feminine face.



Example of a animal showing non- longhorn traits. Mainly in the ear size, head shape and color pattern.



Watusi cattle have a very distinct looking head shape as well as ear, eye and horn set. These features should be avoided. Notice the poll set below.



Example of Flat poll, small ears with long feminine face.

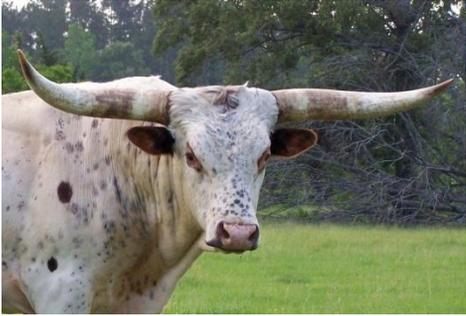
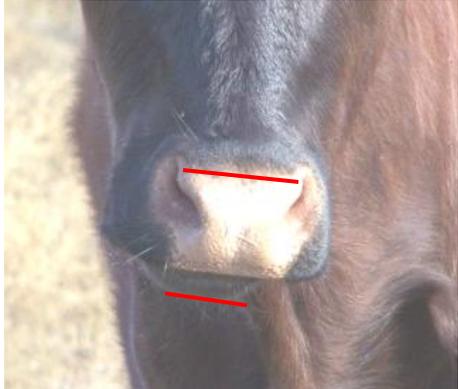


Example of Flat poll, small ears with masculine face. Not blocky.

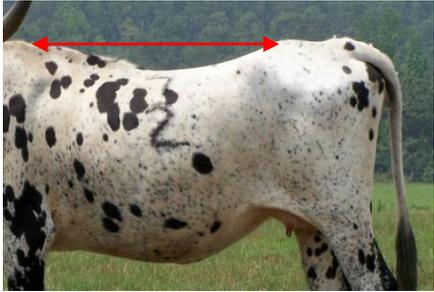
Below is Example of a Watusi Longhorn cross animal.



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Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
<p>3. Ears</p> 	<p>Medium to small, short round ears. Set close to the horns.</p> 	<p>Longer, droopy ears. <i>Example shows ears that should be closer to the horns.</i></p> 	<p>Extremely large, droopy ears.</p>
<p>4. Muzzle</p>  <p><i>Example of Mealy mouthed</i></p>	<p>Mealy mouthed, pigmented</p> 	<p>Non-pigmented <i>Example of lesser pigmentation around eyes and on nose.</i></p> 	<p>Wry nose, over shot or undershot jaw <i>Example crocked nose and jaw</i></p> 
<p>5. Neck <i>Example of average dewlap.</i></p> 	<p>Trim in cows. Muscular in bulls. <i>Example of masculinity and of crest on the neck.</i></p> 	<p>Ewe neck, very long or very short</p>	

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Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
<p>6. Shoulders</p>	 <p>Free moving, smooth and well-muscled. The shoulders and legs should form a V shape. Not a rectangle or square, this is a genetic trait that is passed to offspring and effects calving ease.</p>	<p>Open on top, sharply dropping down behind shoulders.</p> 	<p>Examples to the left and below are of high, open shoulders dropping down behind the shoulders.</p> 
<p>7. Brisket</p> 	<p>Trim and free from excessive fleshiness</p> 	<p>Excessive fat, downward sloping and excessive dewlap</p>	
<p>8. Heart Girth</p>	<p>Elliptical and full</p>	<p>Pinched girth</p>	
<p>9. Back</p>	<p>Strong top-line with slope upward from shoulders to hook bones. Top-line should not be flap or humped-up when the animal is walking but should dip down slightly as the animal moves.</p> 	<p>Extreme swayback <i>Example of a moderate swayback, which will probably increase with time.</i></p> 	

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Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
10. Loin	Reasonably broad and full	Extremely narrow and low	
11. Ribs	Moderately well sprung, elliptical	Slab sided	
12. Hooks	<p>Broad, reasonably prominent and sloping downward toward pin bones</p> 	<p>Narrowness in hooks Example of extremely level hooks to pins and fat on tail head and pin bones.</p> 	<p>Example of extremely level hooks to pins.</p> 
13. Rump	Long, moderately sloping from hooks to pins	Short, narrow and extremely droopy	 <p><i>Round/sloping rump showing the possibility Brahman influence.</i></p>
14. Tail and Tail heads	<p>Long full switch <i>Example of fishhook tail head. This is linked to the pelvic area which effects calving ease</i></p>  <p><i>Example of a flat tail head</i></p> 	<p>Very short tail <i>Example of extremely high tail head</i></p> 	<p>Wry tail</p>  <p><i>Example of a flap/broken tail head, possible indication of poor breeding performance.</i></p>

Texas Longhorn Breed Guidelines

Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
15. Hindquarters	Reasonably broad and muscular, Moderately wide at pins	Extremely narrow	Double muscling

C. Color

1. Coat



Roan-she was born white w/red ears, mouth and feet. More color came with age.



Slate gray, tan roan

“Their colors were more varied than those of the rainbow. There were brindles; blues-mulberry blue, ringstreaked blue, speckled blue; grullas – so named because they had the hue of the sandhill crane, also called mouse-colored, or slate duns, washed-out and Jersey creams – all hues of “yellow”, browns with bay points; blacks, solids and splotched with white, brown and red; whites both clearly bright and dirty speckled; many sabinas, red-and-white peppered; reds of all shades except the dark richness characteristic of Hereford (and Watusi), pale reds being very common; paints of many combinations. The line along the back was common, as in the mustang breed. Coarse brown hairs around the ears were characteristic. The shadings and combinations of colors were so various that no two were alike.” J. Frank Dobie



Red roan



Red w/ white topline & Underline



Parker Brown



Blue roan



Slight brindle



Red & white splotched



Light red w/ white patches



Examples to the left are of an undesirable color pattern. This is a common pattern found on Watusi and Watusi Longhorn cross cattle

Texas Longhorn Breed Guidelines

D. Horns

Superior

Desirable

Acceptable

Undesirable

1. Tip-to-Tip Measurement

Examples of good Horn Shapes



Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 60" on mature cows.

Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and forward and upward sweep. More than 60" at maturity

Examples of good Horn Shapes



Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 50" on mature cows.

Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and forward and upward sweep. More than 50" at maturity

Examples of good Horn Shapes



Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 40" on mature cows.

Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and forward and upward sweep. More than 40" at maturity

Examples of good Horn Shapes



Example of good Horn Shape but with questionable poll with knot in the center of poll.



Cows: Broad-based horns or extremely large based horns that attach to the poll in a v or upward position. Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 40" at maturity.

Bulls: Broad-based horns or extremely large based horns that attach to the poll in a v or upward position. Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 40" at maturity



Example of a Watusi Poll, large base, thick horn and v shaped attachment.



Example of large base and thick horn out pasted the base, which is a Watusi trait.