

Texas Longhorn Breed Guidelines

Approved by the TLBAA Board
of Directors on April 15, 1978

Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Disqualification
Functional Efficiency 1. Fertility	Early maturity and longevity Cows - Feminine, regular and early calving Bulls - Masculine, virile, high libido	Abnormal reproductive organs	The individual shall be disqualified for any extreme manifestations or objectionable characteristics or for hereditary deformities that occur in bovine, such as; Hernia, Cryptorchid, Malformed Genitalia
2. Sheath	Retracted prepuce, small orifice, flat small-sized navel flap		Long pendulous sheath, nonretractable prepuce. Excessive navel flap both male and female.
3. Udder and teats	Well attached, balanced	Teats too large for calf to nurse at birth; meaty, broken, loosely attached.	Hard, firm, meaty udder, unable to produce enough milk for her calf
4. Disposition	Mild, tractable	Nervous	
5. Size	Adequate for age mature cows 850 - 1200 lbs. Mature bulls 1300 - 1900 lbs.	Small for age, extremely over-sized	
6. Hair (dependent on environment)	Short, straight, slick coat	Long, curly hair.	
7. Hide	Vascular, mellow and pliable	Tight, excessive skin fold, excessive sheath or navel flap	Extra large sheath or navel flap
8. Legs and feet	Squareley set, sound feet and joints	Very short legs, sickle hocks and "post" legs Mule-footed - extra close, weak hocks	
B. Conformation 1. General form or type	Good length with moderate depth and thickness. Top of hips higher than top of shoulders. Eliptical shaped body for heat adaptation. Sound dense bones. Strong legs with free movement; Bulls slightly thicker and heavier muscled than cows. Exhibiting crest development on neck.		Any evidence of hump directly over shoulder region
2. Head	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	
3. Ears	Medium to small, short round ears	Longer, droopy ears	Extremely large, droopy ears
4. Muzzle	Mealy mouthed, pigmented	Non-pigmented.	Wry nose, over shot or undershot jaw.

5. Horns	<p>Cows : Slender, wide twisted outward</p> <p>"Pole measurement" of 40" or more, tip to tip on mature cows.</p> <p>Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep "pole measurement" of 40" or more tip to tip on mature bulls.</p>	<p>Cows: Broad-based horns; horns that sharply curve upward</p> <p>"pole measurement" under 24 inches, tip to tip, at 4 years of age</p> <p>Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward</p> <p>"pole measurement" of under 24 inches tip to tip, at 3 years of age</p>	<p>Cow:</p> <p>"pole measurement" of under 24 inches tip to tip, at 5 years of age</p> <p>Bulls:</p> <p>"pole measurement" of under 24 inches tip to tip, at 4 years of age</p>
6. Neck	Trim in cow. Muscular in bull.	Ewe neck, very long or very short.	
7. Shoulders	Free moving, smooth and well-muscled	Open on top sharply dropping down behind shoulders	
8. Brisket	Trim and free from excessive fleshiness	Excessive fat, downward sloping and excessive dewlap	
9. Heart Girth	Elipitcal and Full	Pinched girth	
10. Back	Strong topline with slope upward from shoulders to hook bones	Extreme swayback	
11. Loin	Reasonably broad and full	Extremely narrow and low	
12. Ribs	Moderately well sprung, eliptical	Slab sided	
13. Hooks	Broad, reasonably prominent and sloping downward toward pin bones	Narrowness in hooks	
14. Rump	Long, moderately sloping from hooks to pins	Short, narrow and extremely drooping	
15. Tail	Long with full switch	Very short tail	Wry tail
16. Hindquarters	Reasonably broad and muscular, moderately wide at pins	Extremely narrow	Double muscling
C. Color 1. Coat	<p>"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, solid and splotted 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, 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 combination of colors were so various that no two were alike." J. Frank Dobie.</p>		