Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Breeds of Livestock

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Describe the classification system for cattle
- Describe the classification system for horses
- Describe the classification system for swine
- Describe the classification system for sheep
- Identify and describe the major breeds of livestock
Beef Cattle Breeds

Breeds in US – 70 (10 large registrations)

- *Bos taurus* – Europe origin
- Continental (Exotic) – Europe origin
- *Bos indicus* (Zebu-type) – India origin
- Composite breeds – two or more breeds
Bos taurus British Breeds

- Black and Red Angus
  - Origin: England, Scotland
  - Characteristics
    - Naturally polled
    - Excellent maternal breed
    - High abundance of marbling
  - Red color is from recessive gene
Hereford and Polled Hereford

- Origin: England, Scotland
- Characteristics
  - Hereford – horned
  - Poll Hereford – polled (mutation)
  - Red body, with white on face, underline, legs, switch
  - Very adaptive
  - Poorest marbling of British breeds
Shorthorn

- Origin: England, Scotland
- Characteristics
  - Three major colors- red, roan, white
  - Excellent milk production
  - Moderate size
  - Dual purpose
Exotic Breeds

- **Charolais**
  - Origin: France
  - Characteristics
    - White (cream to tan)
    - Horned
    - Extremely fast growing, muscular breed that is late maturing
    - Large framed with heavy birth weights and large mature size
    - Produce lean, muscular carcass
    - Low marbling
    - Below average maternally
Chianina

- Origin: Italy
- Characteristics
  - Grayish white; black skin, switch, feet, nose
  - Can be black
  - Horned
  - Largest breed
  - Late maturing, fast growing
  - Produce lean, muscular carcass
  - Not considered a maternal breed
**Simmental**

- **Origin:** Switzerland
- **Characteristics**
  - Red and white spotted
  - Can be black
  - Horned
  - Dual purpose
Gelbvieh
- Origin: Germany
- Characteristics
  - Reddish gold
  - Dual purpose
Limousin

- Origin: France
- Characteristics
  - Reddish gold and black
  - Horned
  - Produce extremely lean, muscular carcass
  - Below average maternally
  - Lacking in milk production
**Maine Anjou**

- **Origin:** France
- **Characteristics**
  - Deep red color with white underline and patches
  - Largest continental breed in terms of weight
  - Relatively high birth weights
  - Produce extremely lean, muscular carcass
Texas Longhorn

- Origin: Spanish Origin
- Characteristics
  - Vary in color and are speckled or spotted
  - Long distinctive horns
  - Low birth weights
  - Slow maturing
  - Excellent hardiness
  - Light muscled
Bos indicus

▪ Brahman
  ▪ Origin: India
  ▪ Characteristics
    ▪ American Brahman – cross of three Indian breeds
    ▪ Red and gray with black skin
    ▪ Horned
    ▪ Heat tolerant
    ▪ Poorest marbling ability
    ▪ Slow sexual maturity relatively slow growing
    ▪ Light birth weights, light muscled cattle
Composite Breeds

Brangus

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - 5/8 Angus and 3/8 Brahman
  - Black and naturally polled
  - Excellent mothering ability
  - Moderate size
  - Early sexual maturity
  - Most widely spread "composite" breed in the U.S.
Santa Gertrudis

Origin: United States (Kingsville, Texas)
- Developed on King Ranch by founder Robert J. Kleberg

Characteristics
- 5/8 Shorthorn and 3/8 Brahman
- Dark red
- Horned and polled
- Noted for maternal ability
- Productive under hot, adverse conditions
Beefmaster

Origin: United States (Falfurrias, Texas)
- Developed by Tom Lasater in the 1930's

Characteristics
- 1/2 Brahman, 1/4 Hereford and 1/4 Shorthorn
- No set color pattern
- Horned
- Developed based on weight, confirmation, fertility, hardiness, disposition, milking ability
- Noted for longevity, hardiness, rapid growth, maternal ability
Simbrah

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - 5/8 Simmental and 3/8 Brahman
  - No set color pattern
  - Horned
  - Noted for longevity, hardiness
  - Rapid growth
  - Maternal ability
Dairy Cattle Breeds

Ayrshire

- Origin: Scotland
- Characteristics
  - Medium sized breed
  - Cherry red and white
  - Excellent grazers, does well on pasture
Brown Swiss

- Origin: Switzerland
- Characteristics
  - Brown – vary from light to very dark
  - Black nose, white border
  - Dorsal stripe
Guernsey

- Origin: Isle of Guernsey, Great Britain
- Characteristics
  - Light brown, white markings, white switch
  - Light skin
Holstein-Friesian

- Origin: Netherlands
- Characteristics
  - 90% of commercial dairies)
  - Black or red and white color pattern
Jersey

- Origin: Isle of Jersey, England

- Characteristics
  - Very feminine (big brown eyes)
  - Light brown
  - Dark skin
Swine Breeds

Chester White

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - Excellent maternal breed
  - Large litters
  - White hair
  - Droopy ears
Landrace

- Origin: Denmark
- Characteristics
  - White hair
  - Huge droopy ears
  - Extra long (extra vertebrae)
Yorkshire

- Origin: England
- Characteristics
  - Called the “Mother Breed”
  - White hair
  - Erect ears
  - Lean carcass
Duroc

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - Reddish brown (vary light to very dark)
  - Droopy ears
  - Sire breed
Hampshire

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics:
  - Black and white belt
  - Erect ears
  - Lean, muscular carcass
  - Sire breed

provided by National Swine Registry
Poland China and Spotted Poland China (Spots)

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - Black with 6 white points (feet, face, tail tip)
  - Spotted black and white
  - Droopy ears
Pietrain

- Origin: Belgium
- Characteristics
  - White with black-grey spots
  - Erect ears
  - Terminal sire breed
  - Extreme musculature and leanness
Berkshire

- **Origin**: England
- **Characteristics**
  - Black with 6 white points (feet, face, tail tip)
  - Erect ears
Sheep Breeds

- Fine wools
- Medium wools
- Long wools
- Cross bred wools
Fine Wools

Merino

- Origin: Spain
- Characteristics
  - White face
Rambouillet

- Origin: France
- Characteristics
  - Descended from Spanish Merino
  - White face
Medium Wools

Dorset

- Origin: England
- Characteristics
  - White face
**Hampshire**

- **Origin:** England
- **Characteristics**
  - Black-brown face, ears and legs
  - Sire breed
Southdown

- **Origin:** England
- **Characteristics**
  - Light brown face and legs

[Images of Southdown sheep]
Suffolk

- Origin: England
- Characteristics:
  - Black face and feet
  - No wool on head or feet
Long Wools

Lincoln

- Origin: England
- Characteristics
  - White face
  - Face, ears and legs covered with wool
  - Heavy fleeced

provided by Sally Anne Thompson
Cross Bred Wools

Columbia

- Lincoln-Rambouillet cross
Corriedale

- Merino-Lincoln cross
Fiber Goats

Angora

- Origin: Turkey
- Characteristics
  - Produces mohair, high price fiber
  - 90% of Angoras in nation are in Texas
  - Kids have the finest hair; gets coarser with age
Meat Goats

Boar Goat

- Origin: South Africa
- Characteristics
  - Brown head and neck
  - White body
  - Droopy ears
  - Superior body length and muscling
Spanish or Brush Goat

- Origin: Spain
- Characteristics
  - Mix breed
  - Meat goat
  - Color variations and spotting
Dairy Goats

Nubian

- Origin: Africa
- Characteristics
  - Popular breed of dairy breed
  - High butterfat
  - “Roman Nose”
  - Large droopy ears
  - Any color - black, tan, red with white
  - “Jersey” of goat breeds
Saanen

- Origin: Switzerland
- Characteristics:
  - White to light cream
  - Small erect ears
Light Horse Breeds

Appaloosa

- **Origin:** Descendents of Spanish horses
- **Characteristics:**
  - Hair mottled irregularly with black and white or have “blanket” on rump
Arabian

- Origin: Arabia
- Characteristics
  - Small, dished, triangular head
  - High arched neck set
  - Endurance horse
Standardbred

- Fastest harness horse in the world
- Varying colors
- Similar to the Thoroughbred, slightly shorter
Tennessee Walking Horse

- Swift and smooth “running walk”
- Morgan and Standardbred cross, mostly
- Variety of colors

provided by Stuart Vesty Photography
Palomino

- Many breeds
- Golden color with light colored mail, tail
American Paint Horse

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics
  - White with red or black color

Tobiano: White over Back

Overo: Color over Back
American Quarter Horse

- Origin: United States
- Characteristics:
  - Named for ¼ mile race, short distances
  - Very versatile
  - Stocky work horse
Thoroughbred

- **Origin**: England
- **Characteristics**:
  - Very athletic looking
  - Run long distances
Draft Horse Breeds

Belgian

- Origin: Belgium
- Characteristics
  - Light sorrel with flaxen mane and tail
  - Easy to handle
Clydesdale

- **Origin**: Scotland
- **Characteristics**
  - “Budwiser Hitch”
  - Extensive white face and leg markings
  - Light to dark sorrel
  - Feathering
  - Very nervous breed
Percheron

- Origin: France
- Characteristics
  - Blacks and grays
  - No feathering
Shire

- Origin: England
- Characteristics
  - Light weight but tall
  - Black with white markings on face and legs
  - Feathering

provided by Alan Cheese
Pony Breeds

Shetland

- **Origin**: Scotland
- **Characteristics**
  - Draft or light horse type
  - Max 11.2 hands
Welsh Pony

- Origin: Wales
- Characteristics
  - Good riding pony
  - Max 13.2 hands
Hackney

- Developed by farmers in Britain
- Elegant carriage and riding horse
Pony of the Americas (POA)

- Founded in 1954 in Iowa
- Breeds contributing are Appaloosa, Shetland, Arabian, Thoroughbred and Welsh Ponies
- Coat patterns vary, but most have distinctive spots
- Height up to 14 hands
Miniature Horse

- Origin: Europe
- Characteristics
  - Pets
  - Maximum height – 34 inches
  - Any color
  - Characteristics of horse but smaller