

Many different breeds

Grades: 4-6

Subjects: Communication Arts

Approximate Time:

Montana Standards: Library Media 1, 3, & 4;

Communication Art Writing 1 & 2

Objectives: Students will be able to identify different breeds of beef cattle and their daily needs.

Materials Needed:

- www.beef.org
- www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com
- www.beefnutrition.org
- Poster of the breeds of cattle

Keywords: commodity, product, by product,

Brief Description: A cattle ranch is a large area of land where the cattle roam around to eat (graze) in the pasture. Calves are usually born in the state of Montana from January to April. Throughout the winter and spring, the cows are fed good quality hay and need protection from the weather during this time of giving birth (calving). Births are usually single, but sometimes a cow can give birth to twins. In late spring cattle are turned out to summer range, sometimes in the mountains and occasionally on the plains or valley pastures, to graze. Before they are turned out for the summer the calves are branded. This is a permanent mark that shows who owns the calf. It is very important to check these cows frequently throughout the summer. You must check for availability of water and salt as well as for any illnesses the cattle may acquire. Just before winter, there is a fall roundup. Cowboys (ranch workers) gather the cattle. There are different genders of cattle. A cow is a female who has baby (calf). The bull is a male who is the father of the calf. A heifer is a female who has not had a calf. A steer is a male who cannot father babies. In the fall the calves are separated from the cows and bulls. The calves are shipped to market where they are fed large amounts of hay and grain so that they will grow before they are butchered and processed into different cuts of meat and sent to the market for sale to the public. The cows are then separated from the bulls for the winter and each fed hay for the winter. Beef cattle produce many different cuts of meat. Not only does it taste good, but also it provides energy. Beef is full of vitamins and minerals that your body needs every day. Montana raises about 2,750,000 head of cattle each year. There are many different breeds of beef cattle (Angus, Charlois, Limousine, Long Horn, Herford,

Almost the entire beef animal can be used to benefit man in some way. From a typical 1,000 pound steer, 400 pounds is used for beef that we eat and the remaining 600 pounds are used as by-products.

Lesson:

1. The teacher will display a poster with pictures of the different breeds of beef cattle and a short background for each of the breeds that are displayed. The teacher will lead a discussion to fill out a K-W-L chart on beef cattle. Questions the teacher could ask to lead the discussion are: What type of food does this animal need? Does your region produce this type of feed? What type of temperature or climate does this animal need? Does this cause limitations for your region? How much water does this animal need? Is water

available yearlong? Is there an animal that is similar, but has lower water requirements? Can this animal withstand temperature extremes? If you raise this animal, can it be produced throughout the region?

2. Allow students to choose a breed of cattle or the teacher can assign the breed to each student. Make sure you have a wide variety of breeds to choose from. Students will need access to reference materials and websites that are student friendly from which to find information.

Assessment:

1. To assess the teacher would check for the above questions to be thoroughly answered in the student report.