

Suggested Texas Longhorn Breed Guidelines

Approved by the TLBAA Board of Directors on April 20, 1982
Revised by the TLBAA Board of Directors on August 26, 2005

Characteristics of Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Undesirable
A. Functional Efficiency	Early maturity and longevity	Abnormal reproductive organs	
1. Fertility	Cows - Feminine, regular and early calving Bulls - Masculine, virile, high libido		Long pendulous sheath, nonretractable prepuce. Excessive navel flap both male & female
2. Sheath	Retracted prepuce, small orifice, flat small-sized navel flap		
3. Udder and teats	Well attached, balanced	Teats too large for a calf to nurse at birth; meaty, broken, loosely attached	Hard, firm, meaty udder, unable to produce enough milk for calf
4. Disposition	Mild, tractable	Nervous	
5. Size	Adequate for age	Small for age, extremely over-sized	
6. Hair (dependent on environment)	Short, straight, slick coat	Long, curly hair	
7. Hide	Vascular, mellow and pliable navel flap	Tight, excessive skin fold, excessive sheath or navel flap	Extra large sheath or navel flap

8. Legs and feet	Squarely set, sound feet and joints	Very short legs, sickle hocks and "post" legs. Mule-footed - extra close, weak hocks	Any evidence of hump directly over shoulder region
B. Conformation	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.		
1. General type or form			
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. Neck	Trim in cow. Muscular in bull.	Ewe neck, very long or very short	
6. Shoulders	Free moving, smooth and well-muscled	Open to top, sharply dropping down behind shoulders	

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7. Brisket	Trim and free from excessive fleshiness	Excessive fat, downward sloping and excessive dewlap	
8. Heart Girth	Elliptical and full	Pinched girth	
9. Back	Strong topline with slope upward from shoulders to hook bones	Extreme swayback	
10. Loin	Reasonably broad and full	Extremely narrow and low	
11. Ribs	Moderately well sprung, elliptical	Slab sided	
12. Hooks	Broad, reasonable prominent and sloping downward toward pin bones	Narrowness in hooks	
13. Rump	Long, moderately sloping from hooks to pins	Short, narrow and extremley droopy	
14. Tail	Long with full switch	Very short tail	Wry tail
15. 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 spotted 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 shading and combinations of colors were so various that no two were alike." J. Frank Dobie.</p>		

D. Horns	Superior	Desirable	Acceptable	Undesirable
1. Tip-to-Tip Measurement	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 60" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 60" at maturity.	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 50" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 50" at maturity.	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 40" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 40" at maturity.	Cows: Broad-based horns; horns that sharply curve upward. Less than 40" at maturity. Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 40" at maturity.
1. Total Horn Measurement	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 70" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 70" at maturity.	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 60" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 60" at maturity.	Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; more than 50" on mature cows. Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep. More than 50" at maturity.	Cows: Broad-based horns; horns that sharply curve upward. Less than 50" at maturity. Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 50" at maturity.