

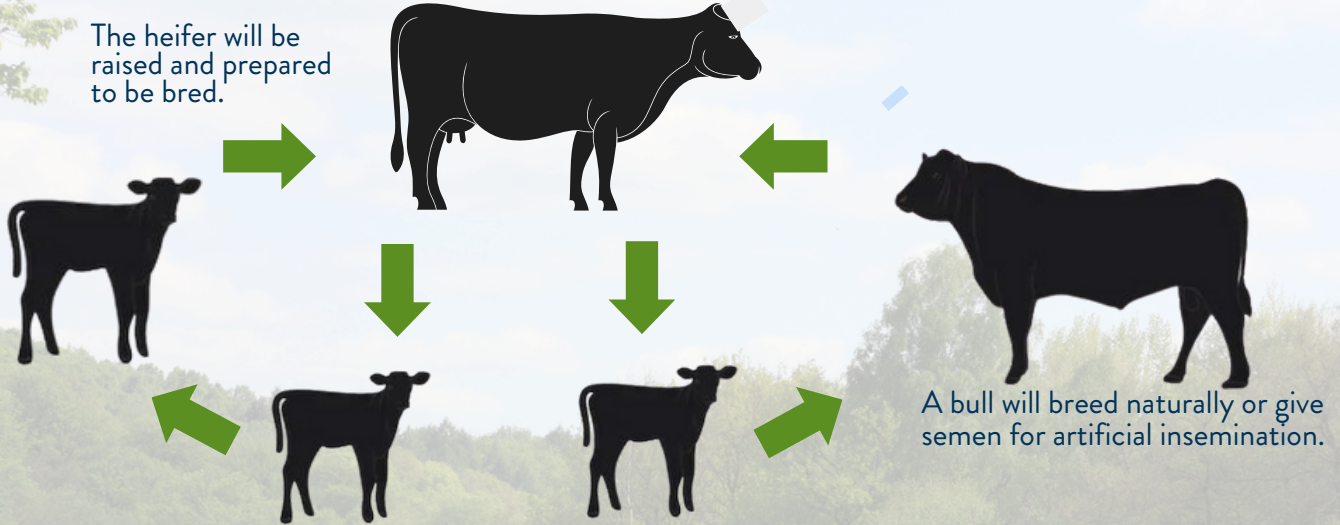
Life Cycle

BEEF CATTLE

Beef cattle are bred and raised to withhold different roles within the system to help maintain the industry.

A cow will calve either a female (heifer) or male calf (bull calf). Gestation time is 285 days.

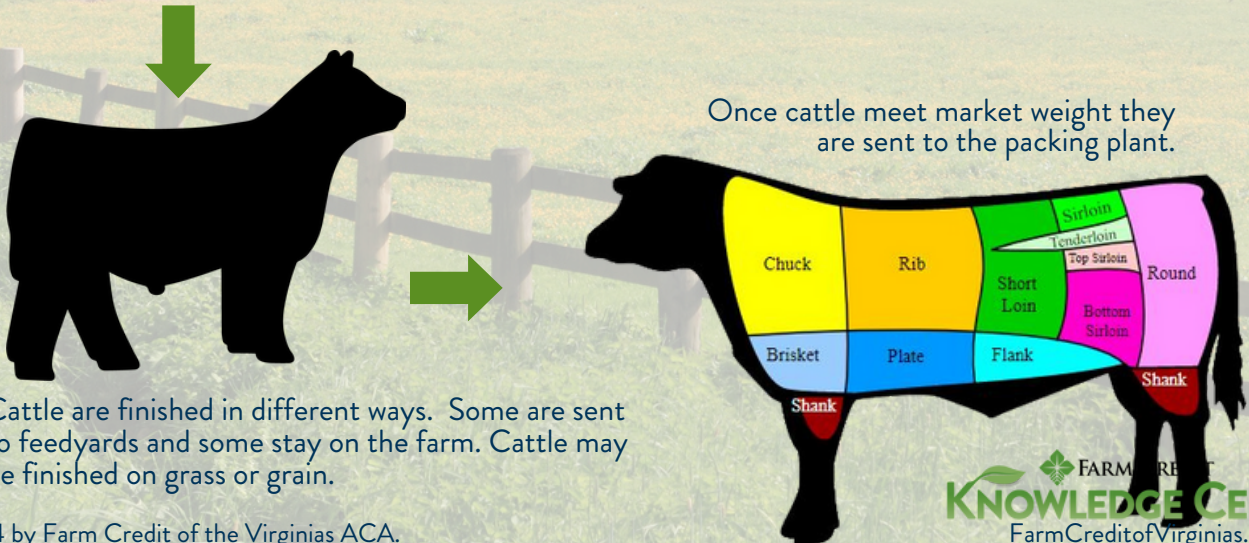
COW/CALF



BACKGROUNDING OR STOCKER



FINISHING



Cattle are finished in different ways. Some are sent to feedyards and some stay on the farm. Cattle may be finished on grass or grain.

TERMINOLOGY:

Bovine- The species to which cattle belong.

Breed- A group of cattle with similar external characteristics that are passed on from generation to generation.

Bull- A male bovine with testicles intact.

Calves- Young cattle of either sex, less than one year of age.

Castrate- The surgical removal of the testicles of a young male calf.

Cattle- Animal belonging to the bovine species.

Cow- Female cattle that have produced one or more calves.

Dam- The mother of a calf.

Heat- Also called estrus. The period of time when female cattle are receptive to breeding.

Heifers- Female cattle under 2 years of age, that have not calved.

Sire- The father of a calf.

Steers- Male cattle that are castrated before reaching sexual maturity.

Wean- To take a calf from its mother so it can no longer nurse. Calves are usually weaned at seven to nine months of age.

Yearling- Heifer steer or bull between one and two years old.

Source: <https://cals.cornell.edu/nys-4-h-animal-science-programs/livestock/beef/beef-cattle-terms>

