

# **Beef Handbook**

## **Market Steer Terms**

In judging market steers, there are six general things to look for. These are size, muscle, correctness of finish, balance, capacity, and expected carcass desirability. Following each character are appropriate phrases for describing the attribute.

### **SIZE**

#### **GENERAL**

larger framed  
growthier  
higher performing

#### **DESIRABLE**

more upstanding  
taller fronted  
more elevated  
longer bodied  
easy keeping

#### **CRITICISMS**

smaller framed  
shorter bodied  
harder keeping

He was a larger framed, longer sided steer that had a particular advantage in length from hooks to pins.

He was a taller fronted, later maturing steer that had a greater distance from eye to muzzle and hock to ground, .

He was a more elevated, longer bodied steer that displayed a more desirable length of cannon.

He was a larger outlined, cleaner featured steer that exhibited more skeletal extension when viewed from the side.

### **MUSCLE**

#### **GENERAL**

heavier muscled  
thicker  
wider

#### **DESIRABLE**

natural thickness  
thicker topped  
fuller rumped  
longer, deeper, more dimensional quarter  
wider through stifle  
meatier topped  
stronger topped  
wider tracking

#### **CRITICISMS**

lighter muscled  
narrower topped  
lighter quartered  
narrower at the stifle

He was a heavier muscled steer that had more natural thickness down his top, carrying to a deeper, thicker quarter.

He displayed more expression of muscle through the forearm with more depth and dimension of quarter.

He was a heavier muscled steer that displayed more expression of muscle through the stifle and forearm.

He was a thicker topped steer with more width at the stifle and more dimension of quarter.

He was a thicker steer that was wider down the top with a more dimensional quarter.

### **CORRECTNESS OF FINISH**

#### **GENERAL**

more desirably finished  
more ideally finished  
more optimally finished

#### **DESIRABLE**

trimmer, cleaner  
smoother, more uniformly finished  
trimmer in fore-rib  
cleaner brisket  
cleaner over loin edge  
firmer handling  
more advanced in finish or cover

#### **CRITICISMS**

over finished  
under finished  
wastier made  
softer handling  
bare handling  
patchy finished  
wasty over fore-rib and loin edge

A steer that best combined the economic variables of frame, muscle and finish to reach the most ideal end product.

A smoother, more evenly covered steer that was more optimum in his degree of finish.

He should be safer into the choice grade due to his greater evidence of fat deposition in the brisket, flank and fore-rib.

He was a nicer finished steer that was smoother down his top and more correctly finished over the last rib.

Because he was more advanced in his finish, he should hang a carcass more apt to grade choice.

## BALANCE

### GENERAL

nicer balanced  
flashier  
eye appealing  
better designed

### DESIRABLE

stronger topped  
straighter lined  
cleaner fronted  
leveler rumped  
smoother shouldered  
cleaner middled  
square set feet & legs

### CRITICISMS

poorest balanced  
steeper rumped  
wastier middled  
coarser shouldered  
weaker topped

He was a flashier, more eye appealing steer that was stronger down his top and straighter in his lines.

He was a cleaner fronted steer that carried his depth and thickness more uniformly from front to rear.

He was a cleaner fronted, smoother shouldered steer that was tighter and trimmer about his middle.

He was a nicer balanced steer he was more eye appealing since he was stronger over the top & more level through the rump.

## CAPACITY

### GENERAL

more capacious  
higher capacity  
higher volume  
broodier  
roomier middled  
stouter made

### DESIRABLE

larger heart girth  
wider chest floor  
deeper ribbed  
bolder sprung  
greater arch of rib  
more expansion of rib  
deeper bodied  
wider based

### CRITICISMS

shallower bodied  
lower capacity  
lower volume  
flatter ribbed  
narrower chested

He was a higher volume steer that was wider chested, deeper bodied and bolder sprung.

He was a more capacious steer as indicated by his arch and expansion of rib.

He had more internal dimension due to his length of body and spring and depth of rib.

He was more capacious with a larger heart girth and wider chest floor.

He was a stouter made steer who had a bolder rib cage and a thicker muscle pattern.

## EXPECTED CARCASS DESIRABILITY

### GENERAL

more desirably yielding  
higher yielding carcass  
more desirable yield grade  
higher quality carcass  
lower numerical yield grade

### DESIRABLE

less trimmable waste  
higher cutability carcass  
meatier carcass  
larger ribeye area  
uniformly finished  
heavier muscled carcass  
more pounds of red meat  
more pounds of edible product  
higher percentage of retail cuts or  
higher priced cuts

### CRITICISMS

over finished  
under finished  
lightest muscled  
smallest ribeye  
wastiest  
lowest yielding carcass  
lowest quality carcass  
lower cutability  
fatter

He should produce a carcass with more pounds of red meat and a higher volume of saleable retail product.

He should send to the rail a trimmer, heavier muscled carcass.

He was a trimmer made, tighter middled steer that should kill a more desirably yielding carcass.

When sent to the rail, he should yield a trimmer, cleaner made carcass requiring less fat trim.

He should kill a heavier muscled, heavier weight carcass with a larger ribeye area.