

SLAUGHTER STEERS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Livestock and
Seed Program

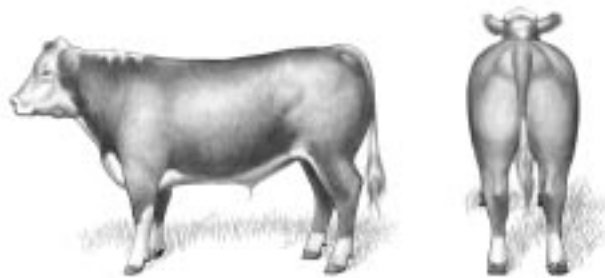
www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/
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Copies of the Official
U.S. Standards are available
upon request or at the
above web site.

U.S. QUALITY GRADES



PRIME



CHOICE



SELECT



STANDARD



UTILITY

Relationship Between Marbling, Maturity, and Carcass Quality Grade*

<i>DEGREES MARBLING</i>	<i>MATURITY**</i>					<i>DEGREES MARBLING</i>
	A***	B	C	D	E	
Slightly Abundant	Prime					Slightly Abundant
Moderate			Commercial			Moderate
Modest	Choice					Modest
Small						Small
Slight	Select			Utility		Slight
Traces					Cutter	Traces
Practically Devoid	Standard					Practically Devoid

* Assumes that firmness of lean is comparably developed with the degree of marbling and that the carcass is not a "dark cutter."

** Maturity increases from left to right (A through E).

*** The A maturity portion of the Figure is the only portion applicable to bullock carcasses.

Chart taken from: U.S. Standards of Grades for Carcass Beef, January 31, 1997

<i>Approximate Age Limitations</i>	<i>Maturity</i>
9 – 30 months	A
30 – 42 months	B
42 months – 6 years	C
6 – 8 years	D
Over 8 years	E

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