

# A little cow vocabulary

1. Podaj nazwy zwierząt w poszczególnych etapach życia
2. Zrób krzyżówkę z tego tematu. Hasło pionowe to CATTLE. Legenda w języku angielskim.
3. Podobnie podaj nazwy kur i świń w poszczególnych etapach wzrostu.

Then I realized that we (farmers and veterinarians) use the word “cows” when we usually mean “cattle.” So what’s the difference? Well, cows are girls. Cattle are boys and/or girls. So let’s start there.

Bovine – a term for cattle, male or female, young or old. We use this more on the medical side than anywhere else.

Cattle – multiple bovines, males and/or females of any age. (These happen to be all girls, but they range from 3-10 years old.)



Cow – a female bovine who has given birth to at least one calf.



Heifer – a female bovine who has not had any babies.

Bull – an intact (not castrated) male bovine. As soon as a calf is born it can be called a bull.

Steer – a castrated male bovine. Most bulls are castrated in the first few weeks of life. Steers are in general easier to handle than bulls, and their meat tastes much better.



Calf –It is basically a “young” bovine, usually less than a year old. Calves are usually started on a solid diet around 2 months of age, but their primary diet is milk (either directly from mom or as milk replacer) until they are 4-6 months old.



Weanling – a calf that has been weaned from nursing, usually around 4-6 months old. Beef calves are kept with their moms, so at weaning the cow-calf pair are physically separated.



Dairy calves are not kept with their mothers but are fed milk replacer. At weaning time, dairy calves are switched from a primarily milk diet to a solid diet.

Yearling – A calf this is one year old.



We use the term “cows” all the time, to talk about more than one bovine (male or female), but technically a cow is a girl.