

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Agriculture Vocabulary & Terms

A

Avian: pertaining to poultry and/or fowl

B

Barrow: a neutered male pig

Beef Cattle: breeds of cattle selected for their meat production

Boar: a male pig of any age

Bovine: pertaining to cattle

Breed: a group of animals with common ancestry, possessing certain inherited characteristics distinguishing them from other groups of animals

Breeding: the pairing of a male and a female of the same species to produce offspring

Broiler: a chicken of either sex about seven weeks of age

Buck: a male goat

Bull: a male cattle or bison of any age

C

Calf: the offspring of a cow

Calving: to give birth to a calf

Caprine: pertaining to goats

Cow: a female cattle or bison of any age

Crossbreed: an animal which is the combination of the best traits of two or more animal breeds

Cud: food that is brought up from the first compartment of the stomach to the mouth of a ruminant to be re-chewed (ruminants include cattle, goats, sheep, llamas, giraffes, bison, buffalo, deer, wildebeest and antelope)

D

Dairy Cattle: breeds of cattle suitable for milk production

Dam: the female parent of an animal

Doe: a female goat

Domesticated: animals tamed and tended by humans

Down: very fine, soft feathers

E

Ewe: a female sheep of any age

F

Farrowing: to give birth to piglets

Felting: the process of making a type of cloth from wool using agitation (matting and pressing the fibers) in combination with moisture

Fleece: the outer covering of wool on a sheep

Flock: a group of animals that live, travel or feed together

Forages: plants used for feeding by animals (alfalfa, hay, corn silage or hay crops)

G

Gilt: a female hog that has not borne a litter of piglets

H

Heifer: a young female of the cattle species that has not borne a calf

Hen: a mature female chicken or turkey

Homogenize: the process during which the particles of fat in milk are broken up, so cream (fat) does not separate and rise to the top

I

Incubation: the process of keeping eggs under controlled conditions of heat and moisture to permit fertile eggs to hatch

L

Lambing: to give birth to a lamb or lambs

Lanolin: a wax secreted by sheep to protect wool fiber; used extensively in cosmetics and lubricants

Layer: a female chicken producing eggs regularly

Litter: a number of offspring born at the same time from one sow

Livestock: domestic farm animals raised for production; examples include beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine and poultry

M

Molting: the shedding of feathers by poultry, accompanied by a reduction or ceasing of egg production for a short period of time

Monogastric: having only one stomach or stomach compartment (like humans)

O

Ovine: pertaining to sheep

P

Parturition: the act or process of giving birth

Pasteurization: the process of heating milk to kill disease-producing bacteria; this helps to prevent spoiling without destroying vitamins or changing taste

Piglet: a young pig

Poult: a young turkey

Porcine: pertaining to a pig or hog

Poultry: chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys
and other domesticated birds raised for eggs
and meat

Pullet: a female chicken up to six months of age

R

Ram: a male sheep of any age

Roaster: a young meat bird, ten to 12 weeks old
weighing eight to nine pounds

Rooster: a male chicken of any age

Roughage: feeds high in fiber and low in total
digestible nutrients such as hay and silage

Ruminant: an animal having a stomach with
four compartments; its digestive process is more
complex than that of animals having a true (or
monogastric) stomach

S

Shearing: removal of wool from a sheep

Sheep: a grass-eating animal that produces
meat and wool

Silage: an entire plant (stalk, leaves and grain),
coarsely chopped, stored green, fermented and
used for livestock feed

Sire: the male parent of an animal

Sow: a mature female hog

Steer: a neutered male of the cattle species

Swine: another name for hogs

T

Tom: a male turkey

W

Wether: a neutered male sheep

Wool grading: separating fleece into categories
that reflect differences in fiber diameter, length
and condition