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 as identified by a breed registry
Broiler: a chicken of either sex about seven weeks of age
Buck: a male goat or rabbit
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
Colt: a male horse under the age of four years
Cow: a female cattle or bison of any age
Cria: a young camelid (llama or alpaca)
Crossbreed: an animal which is the combination 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 or rabbit
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
Filly: a female horse under the age of four years
Fleece: the outer covering of wool on a sheep
Flock: a group of animals that live, travel or feed together
Foal: a horse of either sex under the age of one year
Forages: plants used for feeding by animals (alfalfa, hay, corn, silage or hay crops)

G
Gelding: a neutered male horse or llama
Gilt: a female hog that has not borne a litter of piglets
Gosling: a young goose

H
Hay: grass, legumes, alfalfa or other herbaceous plants that have been cut and dried for livestock feed
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

K
Kid: the offspring of a goat
Kidding: to give birth to a kid or kids
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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
Mare: a female horse four years and older
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
Pedigree: the “family tree” of animals
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
Stallion: an intact male horse four years and older
Steer: a neutered male of the cattle species
Straw: the dry stalks of cereal grains such as wheat, oats, barley, etc. used mostly for livestock bedding
Swine: another name for hogs

T
Tom: a male turkey

W
Wether: a neutered male sheep or goat
Wool grading: separating fleece into categories that reflect differences in fiber diameter, length and condition