



**PERDIDO RIVER FARMS**

# WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?



A few facts about cattle producers, including Perdido River Farms

According to the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, there were 671,000 beef cows that gave birth in January 2014. The state ranks 14th among all states in beef cow numbers. The total value of cattle on Alabama farms for fiscal year 2014 was \$1,252.4 million, a record high.

Alabama cattle producers primarily are cow-calf operations; this includes

Perdido River Farms, which has more than 1,300 heads of cattle. A cow-calf operation is a method of raising beef cattle using a permanent herd to produce calves with the intent to be sold later.

Did you know the term "cow" actually refers only to the female? Most people who don't work on a farm or ranch use the term to describe

all cattle, regardless of gender or status. However, those who work in the industry use the official names of each animal. So how do you tell the difference?

Below are the classified names and definitions of each animal in a cattle herd.

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**Cattle:** General plural term for more than one bovine

**Cow:** A mature female bovine that has given birth to at least one or two calves

**Ox (plural: Oxen):** A bovine that is trained for draft work

**Calf (plural: Calves):** An immature bovine reliant on milk in order to survive and grow

**Bull:** A mature, intact (testicles present and not removed) male bovine used for breeding purposes. Not all bulls have horns

**Freemartin:** An infertile or sterile heifer or heifer calf

**First-calf Heifer or First-calver:** A female bovine that has given birth to her first calf

**Steer:** A male bovine (or bull) that has been **precastrated** and is primarily used for beef

**Stag:** A male bovine (or bull) that has been castrated **after or upon** reaching sexual maturity and is primarily used for beef

**Heifer:** A female bovine (often immature, but beyond the "calf" stage) less than 1 to 2 years of age that has never calved

