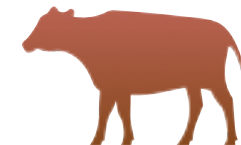


Life Cycle Of A Cow



At **Washingpool Farm** they have had 18 calves born so far this year. The herd is now 78 strong and consists of mostly Devon Ruby Reds with just a couple of Limousins. It is a **beef** herd. The Devon cows are bred especially because they are a **native** breed to the South west and therefore do well out doors. They are good natured, really good mothers and not too big!



Ear Tags - the calf on the left has a yellow ear tag. All the animals have 2 tags. This is so they can be easily identified for traceability, to track any disease outbreak and help to maintain the integrity of **British beef**.

When calves are first born (or soon after), they get a tag with their unique number. This relates to a passport the farmer has to fill in that holds the number of the calf and the numbers of it's dam (Mum) and it's sire (Dad).

Devon Ruby Reds - some facts ...

History: An ancient **British** breed of cattle, there is a mention of red cattle in the South-West around 55 BCE during a Roman Occupation. Red Devons were one of the first breeds taken to 'The New World' by the Pilgrim Fathers on the ship **Charity** in 1623.

Characteristics:

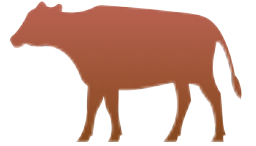
- colour ranges from a rich, deep red to a much lighter tawny or chestnut red
- coat is of medium thickness and is often long and curly in the winter months and short and sleek in the summer
- really adaptable to changes in temperature
- need little supplementary feeding, no grain or concentrates in their diet
- good quality meat, excellent marbling



Animal
Identification
number

The Crown logo
and UK stamp
says it's British.
Followed by the
Herd Number.

Life Cycle Of A Cow



A female calf is called a heifer, a male calf is a bull.

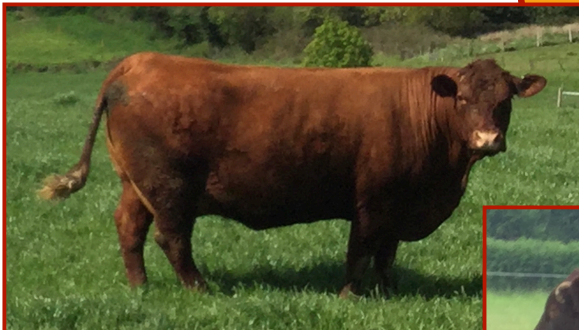


After the calf is born the cow will lick it clean. After about half an hour to an hour it is up on its feet. The calf will drink from its mother as soon as it can to get all the vitamins it needs to be healthy and strong.



The calves stay out with their dams until they are weaned.

The calves at Washingpool are weaned at about 9 months old. This Varys according to the farm and the breed.



The cow is pregnant for about 9 months, similar to humans.



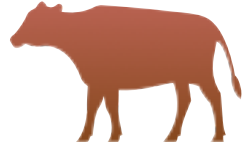
The Bull and cow mate to create a calf. The bull is much larger than the cow, this one weighs 1.1 tonnes!



A heifer is a female cow that hasn't given birth to a calf yet. When she is about 2 years old she will be able to have her own calf.

And so the cycle continues.

Life Cycle Of A Cow



National Curriculum Links				
Science	Yr 1- Animals Identify, describe and compare a variety of common animals.	Yr 2- Animals Understand that animals, including humans, have offspring. Introduce the process of reproduction and growth. Understand that all animals have basic needs to survive.	Yr 3- Animals Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat.	Yr 5- Living Things Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.
				