

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Agriculture Vocabulary & Terms

A

Apiary: place where bees are kept

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 (intact)

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

Broiler chickens: breeds used in meat production

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

Capon: neutered male rooster

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

Dual-purpose breeds: animals or plants that provide two or more resources (meat, eggs and milk, wool or hide)

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

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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

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

Layer hens: breeds of chicken used in egg production

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 (intact)

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