

# **NW DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

## **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICES**

### **Visual appraisal for Functional Efficiency in Beef Cattle**

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# Basic concepts in visual appraisal

- Is visual appraisal the same as judging?
- **Yes**, visual appraisal is the same as judging!
- Then what can we appraise or judge cattle for?
- **Show** ring, Feedlot **finishing**, **Breed** standards,  
and importantly for **Functional efficiency**?



# What is - Visual appraisal for functional efficiency

- The art of **comparing and ranking** beef cattle for visible traits that ensures desirable functioning.
- How then do we determine if a particular animal possesses the important traits for functioning efficiently?



**Animal Morphology** based on **functionality** as related **production**



# Visual appraisal for functional efficiency - Approach

A functional animal must be able to **Eat; Walk and Reproduce** for it to be able to be true to its **Function**

**It is essential to See the animal from the :**

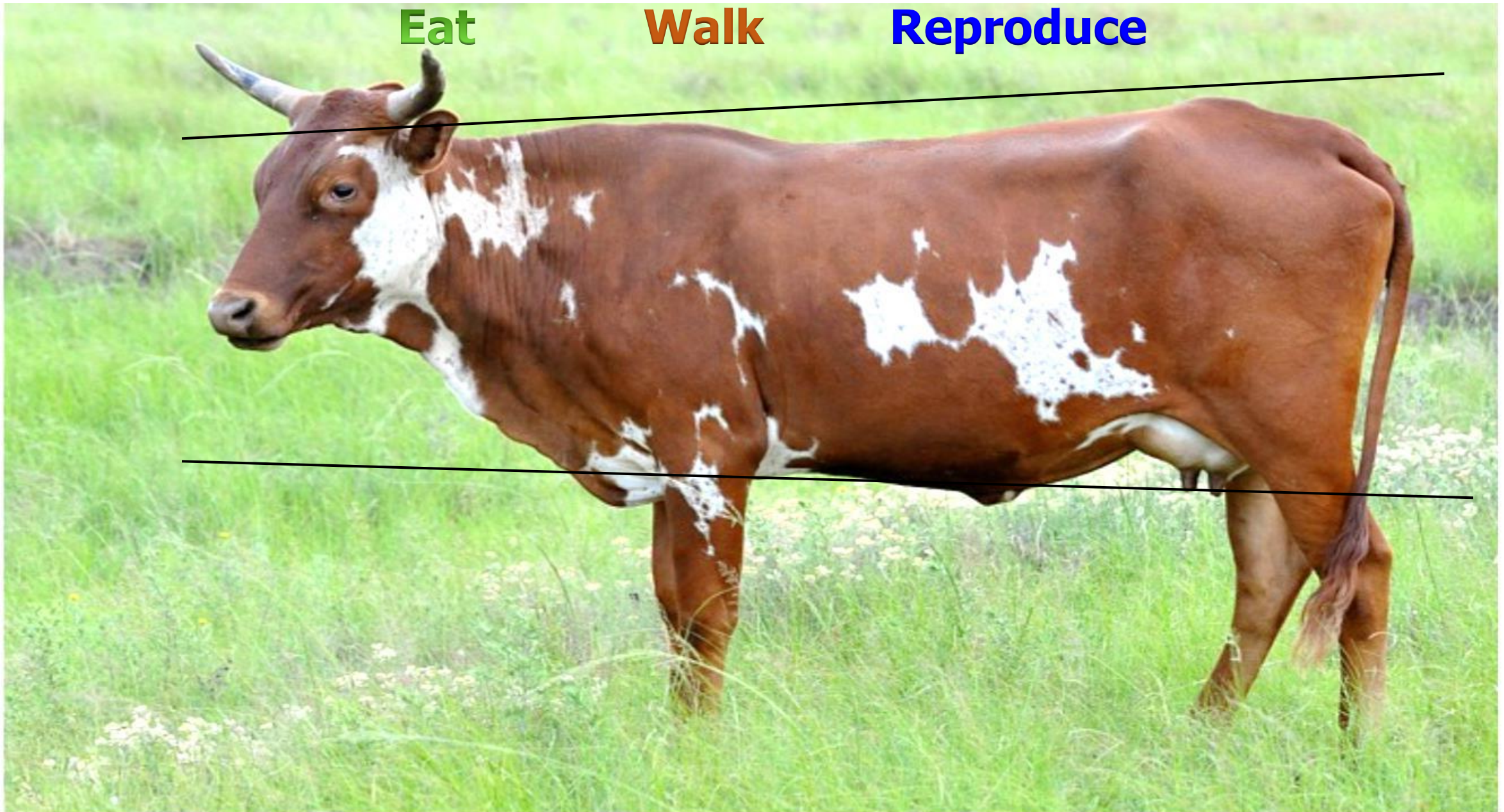
**Side**

**Front  
&  
Rear**





A example of a functionally efficient and fertile cow – Correct wedge!!





A example of a functionally inefficient and sub-fertile cow – Incorrect wedge!!





**Eat**

**Walk**

**Reproduce**

## Head - **No**

undershot jaw, overshot jaw, skew muzzle or skew face

## Front and Hind legs

Strong and structurally sound with **No**  
Loosely attached shoulders or Withers  
extending far above or beyond shoulders

## Reproductive organs

Udder and scrotum should be of functional  
shape and size and not hairy

## Chest/ Girth, Back and mid-piece

No Devil's grip, Hollow / Hunch back or  
Narrow chested

## Rump, tail attachment and pelvis **Cull against**

Very prominent root of tail  
Wry tail and skew tail attachment  
Congenital knock in upper third of tail



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# What about EBV's??

Visual appraisal without the use of EBV's is tantamount to shooting in the dark.

Thank you, and I wish you all the best!

