

Beefalo History

By Jon Nichols



Basolo Foundation Bull BHB-11 “Bob’s Pride”

Beefalo were developed in the early 1970’s by DC “Bud” Basolo of Tracy, California, a cross between the American Buffalo (bison) and domestic cattle.

Previously when Bison and cattle were crossbred they were known as Cattalo; however Cattalo were often plagued by fertility problems. Basolo is credited with solving those fertility issues, and developing a thoroughly sustainable breed of bison-cattle hybrids.

Basolo’s original cross was $\frac{3}{8}$ th bison $\frac{5}{8}$ th domestic cattle, using predominantly Hereford and Charolais breeding. Today Beefalo may be made up of any breed of cattle and must contain between 17 to 37.5 per cent bison to be classified or

registered as Beefalo. Animals that have more bison content than 37.5 percent are termed Bison Hybrids, also known as Ancestor Animals by the Breed Association.

Beefalo are known as a hardy breed having inherited tolerance to heat and cold from the Bison. They are better forage converters than regular cattle having also inherited a better stomach from the American Bison. Beefalo generally are long-lived with good disease resistance and the cows are easy calvers. Beefalo calves may be smaller at birth than regular calves, but have tremendous rates of gain. Beefalo mature faster, and go to market earlier. Basolo claimed these cattle could be raised up to 40 percent cheaper than conventional breeds.

One of the key reasons for raising Beefalo is their meat value, proven to be higher in protein, lower in fat and cholesterol, with outstanding flavor. Beefalo have consistently won in taste tests, winning over both cattle and bison.

Beefalo currently are enjoying a resurgence in popularity, due to the demands for healthier beef, and many are raised either organically, or entirely grass fed, without the use of hormones or antibiotics.

Beefalo have often been called a controversial breed; since Bud Basolo said how he developed the fertile cross would remain a secret. This led to many questioning how much bison was in “Basolo’s Hybrid Beefalo” as well as the many claims Basolo made about his cattle.

Since Basolo’s initial development others have contributed to new bloodlines within the breed and DNA testing has eliminated many of the questions regarding Bison content of Beefalo. Additionally the breed is one of the most tested to confirm their worth as hardy easy keeping animals with high meat quality.

For more history of Beefalo visit www.boldventure.info

