



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What are Scottish Highlands?

Scottish Highlands are beef cattle. They produce lean, well marbled meat.

## Why did you choose them?

Scottish Highlands are efficient grazers, meaning they efficiently convert grass into meat. They are docile animals, and easy to handle if they are treated correctly. They respect electric fences, are hardy animals that are happy in winter weather as long as they have a wind break and shade in the summer. They are healthy animals, their hair coat helps them with summer pests and winter weather, and are easy calving cattle.

## Are they mean?

Scottish Highlands are by nature docile animals. Ones that are not should be culled from the fold as was done in Scotland for centuries. That is how the docile nature became part of the breed.

## How much do they weigh?

Scottish Highland cows weigh around 1,100 lbs, mature bulls around 1,800 lbs, and finished steers around 1,000 lbs (from The Canadian Highland Cattle Society)

## What do Registered Highlands cost?

Weanling heifers \$800-\$1200, prices can increase as they get older.

Weanling bulls \$1200-\$2000, prices can increase as they get older.

Steers are normally sold at market price by private treaty.

## How do they take the hot/cold weather?

Scottish Highland cattle take the cold just fine – they prefer to be out in the cold and snow rather than take shelter. If it is windy they do need a wind break. When it comes to heat, they do not like it, but as long as they have water and shade they can do just fine. There are Highland cattle as far south as Texas.

## Do you use the hair?

We do not, but have had some inquiries by spinners to save the finer undercoat hair. Some craft stores in WI do carry Highland hair for spinners, but it is a specialty product.

## What do they taste like?

It tastes like beef! Our cattle are grass fed and may taste different than the corn fed meat people are used to eating. But it is a mild tasting meat that is tender.

### **What do you feed them?**

They are on pasture as long as the weather allows, and then are fed high quality hay when it is not possible for them to be on pasture. Young animals may be fed alfalfa pellets if they need a boost in protein when the rest of the fold does not need it.

### **Are they hard on fences?**

Highland cattle respect electric fences. They are protected by the thick dossan, or forelock, on their face but we have alternating hot and grounded wires and haven't had problems with them testing fences. Ones that do not respect a fence are animals that would be culled from our herd.

### **Do they eat weeds?**

Highlands love to browse on shrubs/trees and eat just about any weed we have. The only ones they have been hesitant to eat would be burdock and curly dock, although they will eat them if they are at the right stage of growth. They eat nettles, thistles, ragweed, honeysuckle, gooseberry, raspberries, and love to eat the leaves off the trees.