### **Useful livestock terms**

Livestock are animals that are kept for production or lifestyle, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses or poultry.

# General terms for all livestock types

* Dam – female parent
* Sire – male parent
* Entire – a male animal that has not been castrated and is capable of breeding
* Weaning – the process of separation of young animals from their mothers when they are no longer dependent upon them for survival

**Cattle**

**Cattle are mainly farmed for meat and milk.**

* **Bovine – refers to cattle or buffalo**
* **Cow –** a female bovine that has had a calf, or is more than three years old
* **Bull –** an entire male bovine
* **Calf –** a young bovine from birth to weaning (six–nine months old)
  + **Bull calf –** a male calf
  + **Heifer calf –** a female calf
* **Steer –** a castrated male bovine more than one year old
* **Heifer –** a female bovine that has not had a calf, or is aged between six months and three years old
* Calving **– giving birth**
* **Herd – a group of cattle**

# ****Sheep****

Sheep are **mainly** farmed for meat, fibre (wool) and sometimes milk.

* Ovine – refers to sheep
* Ram – entire male sheep that is more than one year old
* Ewe – a female sheep more than one year old
* Lamb – a young sheep less than one year old

NOTE **–** When referring to meat, lamb is meat from a sheep that is 12–14 months old or less

* + Ewe lamb – is a female sheep less than one year old
  + Ram lamb – is a male sheep less than one year old
* Weaner – a lamb that has been recently weaned from its mother
* Hogget – a young sheep before it reaches sexual maturity – aged between nine months and one year
* Wether – a castrated male sheep
* Lambing – giving birth
* Flock / Mob – a group of sheep

# ****Pigs****

Pigs are **mainly** farmed for meat.

* Porcine – refers to pigs
* Boar – an entire adult male pig
* Sow – an adult female pig
* Piglet – a baby or young pig before it is weaned
* Barrow – a male pig that has been castrated before sexual maturity
* Stag – a male pig that has been castrated after sexual maturity
* Gilt – a young female pig that has not yet had piglets
* Farrowing – birth of piglets

# Goats

**Goats are mainly farmed for meat, milk and fibre (hair or fleece).**

* **Caprine –** refers to goats
* **Buck –** a male goat more than one year old
* **Doe –** a female goat more than one year old
* **Kid –** a young male or female goat
* **Wether –** a castrated male goat
* **Kidding –** giving birth

# Horses

**Horses are mainly bred for riding.**

* **Equine –** refers to horses
* **Stallion –** an entire adult male horse
* **Mare –** an adult female horse
* **Foal –** a young horse before it is weaned
* **Colt –** a male horse less than three years old
* **Filly –** a female horse less than three years old
* **Gelding –** a castrated male horse
* Foaling **–** giving birth

# Poultry

Poultry are domesticated birds that are farmed for meat or eggs – such as chicken, turkey, duck and goose.

## Chickens

* Rooster / Cock – a male chicken more than one year old
* Hen – a female chicken more than one year old
* Chick – a newly hatched or a very young chicken
* Cockerel – a male chicken less than one year old
* Pullet – a young female in her first laying season, or prior to her first lay
* Egg laying **–** the production of eggs
* Hatching **–** when the chick emerges from the egg