

Glossary of Breeding Terms

The terms below describe various mating schemes and the progeny resulting from specific mating programs.

- **Backcross**
Progeny resulting from the mating of a two-breed cross animal to one of the parental breeds. For example, using two breeds designated as P_1 and P_2 , backcross progeny would be produced by mating the two-breed cross animal ($P_1 \times P_2$) with either of the P_1 or P_2 parental breeds.
- **Crisscrossing**
A continuous program of crossbreeding in which there is an alternate use of males belonging to two breeds. Using two breeds designated as P_1 and P_2 , a crisscrossing program, beginning with the two-breed cross animal ($P_1 \times P_2$), would begin by backcrossing to one of the parental breeds [$(P_1 \times P_2) \times P_1$]. Females resulting from these matings would be bred to a P_2 male, [$(P_1 \times P_2) \times P_1$] $\times P_2$, and so on.
- **Crossbred**
Progeny resulting from the mating of outcross animals belonging to different breeds.
- **Genus cross**
Mating of animals belonging to different genera (for example, mating of domestic cattle, *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*, to the American buffalo, *Bison*).
- **Grading**
Mating of purebred males of a given breed to non-purebred females and the resultant female offspring in successive generations.
- **Inbred line**
Line of animals produced by mating related animals.
- **Inbreeding**
Mating of animals more closely related to each other than the average relationship within the breed or population concerned.
- **Incross**
Progeny resulting from the mating of animals from different inbred lines within a breed.
- **Incrossbred**
Progeny resulting from the mating of animals from inbred lines of different breeds.
- **Linebreeding**
Generally mild form of inbreeding in which animals mated are related to some supposedly outstanding individual.
- **Outbreeding**
Mating of animals less closely related to each other than the average relationship within the breed or population concerned.
- **Outcross**
Progeny resulting from the mating of unrelated animals within a breed.