









AGING CATTLE

Diagram 1. Handy guide to determining the age of cattle by the teeth		
	At birth to 1 month	Two or more of the temporary incisor teeth present. Within first month, entire 8 temporary incisors appear.
	2 years	As a long-yearling, the central pair of temporary incisor teeth or pinchers is replaced by the permanent pinchers. At 2 years, the central permanent incisors attain full development.
	2-1/2 years	Permanent first intermediates, one on each side of the pinchers, are cut. Usually these are fully developed at 3 years.
	3-1/2 years	The second intermediates or laterals are cut. They are on a level with the first intermediates and begin to wear at 4 years.
	4-1/2 years	The corner teeth are replaced. At 5 years the animal usually has the full complement of incisors with the corners fully developed.
	5 to 6 years	The permanent pinchers are leveled, both pairs of intermediates are partially leveled, and the corner incisors show wear.
	7 to 10 years	At 7 or 8 years the pinchers show noticeable wear; at 8 or 9 years the middle pairs show noticeable wear; and at 10 years, the corner teeth show noticeable wear.
	12 years	After the animal passed the 6th year, the arch gradually loses its rounded contour and becomes nearly straight by the 12th year. In the meantime, the teeth gradually become triangular in shape, distinctly separated, and show progressive wearing to stubs. These conditions become more marked with increasing age.
Source: R.F. Johnson. The Stockman's Handbook by Ensminger, 2nd ed., page 539.		