

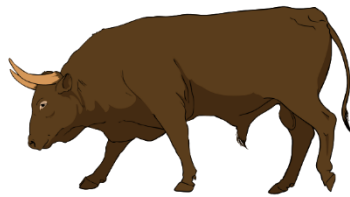
personal english



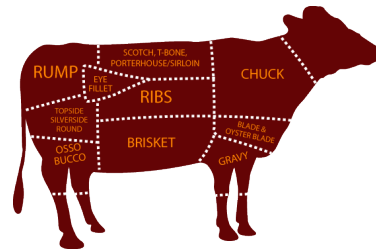
Semantic Field #5

FOOD:

Saxon or *Norman*?



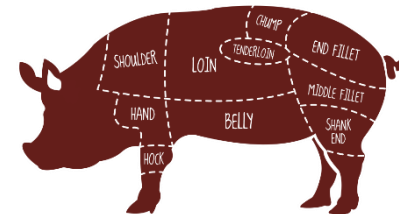
Ox



Beef / Veal / Calf



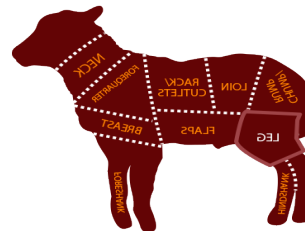
Pig



Pork



Sheep



Mutton / Lamb



Rooster



Chicken

When it comes to talking about food, the English language confronts us with a riddle: animals are called one way when alive, and another after getting butchered. Why? Because in the early **Middle Ages**, **Saxon peasants** would breed the livestock to be served on gilded plates to **Norman aristocrats**. This explains why the names for the livestock are of Saxon origins, whereas the names for meat cuts have derived from **Old French**.