

Cow eugenics: Colombian ranchers breed cattle to stand their ground against big cat predators

If big cats don't kill livestock, farmers won't shoot them.

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The idea is to teach cattle self-defence, or rather to breed the instinct into them.

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a little-known subspecies of Criollo cattle descended from

Spanish fighting bulls. Few jaguars dare to challenge a massed group of 500kg (1,100-pound) San Martineros, their horns levelled. Docile with humans, they are fierce defenders of territory and their young.

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Eugenics seems to work. ... Cattle that are just a quarter San Martinero may be just as brave, says Mr Payán. No jaguars have attacked cattle on Las Pampas, [a] 4,000-hectare ranch, since the programme began, he says. Zebu-only ranches in the area suffer a dozen attacks a year.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Breeding cows that can defend themselves against jaguars](#)