

## **Rarámuri Criollo Video Transcript**

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[Background Music]

Welcome this video on Rarámuri Criollo brought to you by the Sustainable Southwest Beef Project.

We are working on this project with a team of scientists and ranchers from all over the Southwestern United States to study this desert-adapted breed of cow. A rangeland scientist named Dr. Gonzalez from Las Cruces, New Mexico and a group of other scientists decided to bring some Rarámuri Criollo cattle from Copper Canyon in Mexico to southern New Mexico.

Rarámuri Criollo look different than other types of cattle, like Angus. They are both cattle and have all the same main body parts, but as you can see the Rarámuri Criollo looks much smaller than Angus. Both of these pictures are of cows, which means they are female. And Angus cows do not have horns while the Criollo cows do have horns. Rangeland scientists have been studying Rarámuri Criollo in southern New Mexico since the year 2000, and they are finding that these cattle have traits that helped them live in the desert. Scientists like Dr. Gonzalez believe that this cow may answer many of the problems with raising cattle on ranches in the Southwestern United States.

[Dr. Gonzalez:]

"Well the Criollo came originally from Spain. In 1500s these animals were moved into Mexico. Since we're using these Criollo, these are animals that can range a lot further and they can go without water a longer time. We've shown that they are adapted to these areas they do very good."

Rarámuri Criollo also have these traits:

Female cows with horns that are usually 23 inches wide. Ears that are five inches long. Hair length of one-and-a-half inches, and an average height of 48 inches.

Pause to think about what these Criollo traits mean.

Just like in dogs, many traits are passed down from parent Criollo cattle to their offspring. Sometimes a trait is NOT inherited but can be caused by the environment. For example a cow might have a trait of a broken horn, which might happen if it gets caught in a fence

Scientists continue to study Rarámuri Criollo cattle and will discover more about the inherited traits that help them survive in the desert. Perhaps we may be seeing more Rarámuri Criollo as time passes.

[Background Music]