

Dairy Cattle Judging Manual



Morgan Cavitt

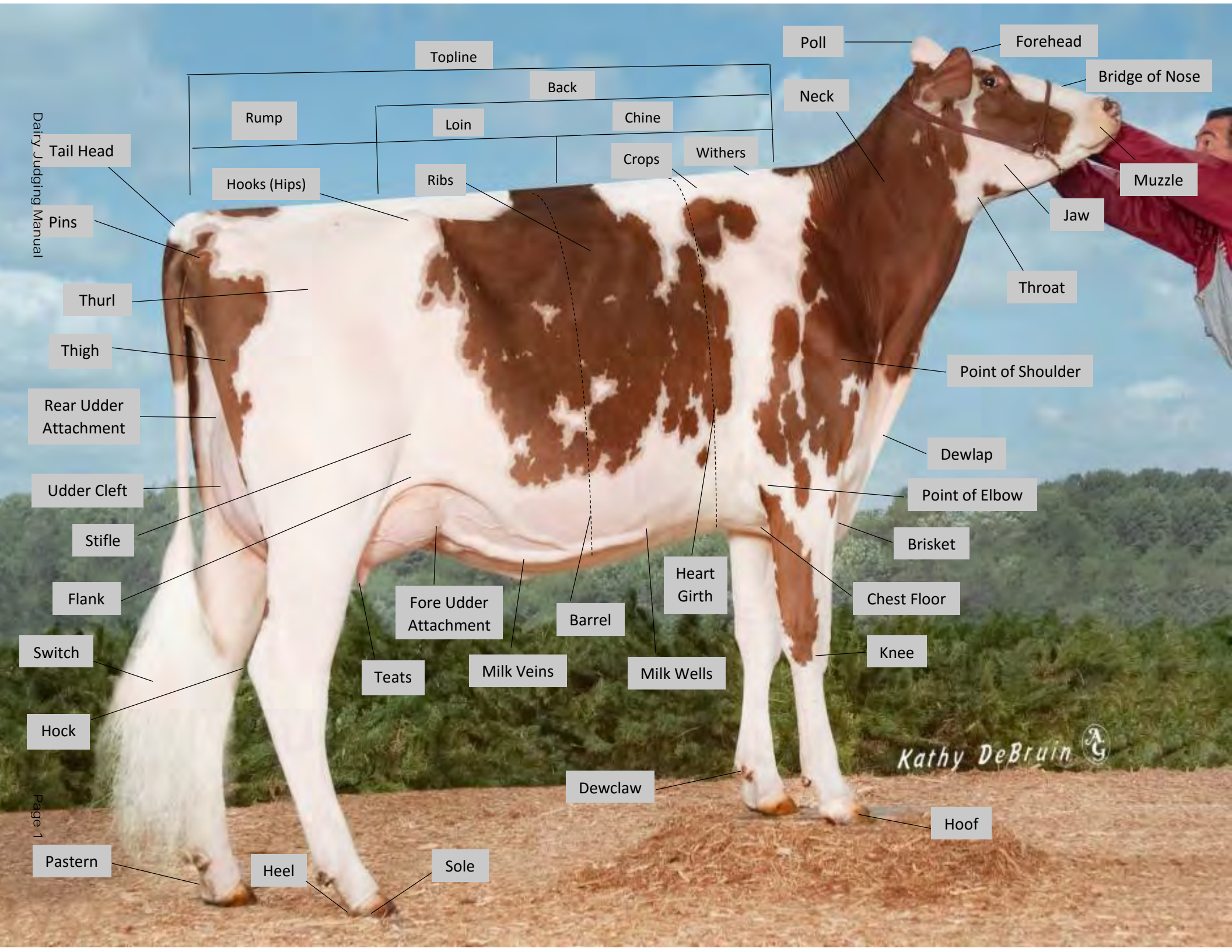
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Topline

Poll

Forehead

Bridge of Nose

Back

Neck

Rump

Loin

Chine

Tail Head

Crops

Withers

Hooks (Hips)

Ribs

Pins

Jaw

Muzzle

Throat

Thurl

Point of Shoulder

Thigh

Dewlap

Rear Udder Attachment

Point of Elbow

Udder Cleft

Stifle

Brisket

Flank

Fore Udder Attachment

Barrel

Heart Girth

Chest Floor

Switch

Teats

Milk Veins

Milk Wells

Knee

Hock

Dewclaw

Hoof

Pastern

Heel

Sole

Kathy DeBruin

DAIRY COW UNIFIED SCORECARD

Breed characteristics should be considered in the application of this scorecard.

MAJOR TRAIT DESCRIPTIONS

There are four major breakdowns on which to base a cow's evaluation. Each trait is broken down into body parts to be considered and ranked.

1) Frame - 15%

The skeletal parts of the cow, with the exception of rear feet and legs. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Rump (5 points): Should be long and wide throughout. Pin bones should be slightly lower than hip bones with adequate width between the pins. Thurls should be wide apart. Vulva should be nearly vertical and the anus should not be recessed. Tail head should set slightly above and neatly between pin bones with freedom from coarseness. **Front End (5 points):** Adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart, and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows set firmly against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness blending into the shoulders. **Back/Loin (2 points):** Back should be straight and strong, with loin broad, strong, and nearly level. **Stature (2 points):** Height including length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure. Height at withers and hips should be relatively proportionate. Age and breed stature recommendations are to be considered. **Breed Characteristics (1 point):** Exhibiting overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean-cut, slightly dished with broad muzzle, large open nostrils and strong jaw.

2) Dairy Strength - 25%

A combination of dairyness and strength that supports sustained production and longevity. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, width of chest, spring of fore rib, and substance of bone without coarseness. Body condition should be appropriate for stage of lactation. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Ribs (8 points): Wide apart. Rib bones wide, flat, deep, and slanted towards the rear. Well sprung, expressing fullness and extending outside the point of elbows. **Chest (6 points):** Deep and wide floor showing capacity for vital organs, with well-sprung fore ribs. **Barrel (4 points):** Long, with adequate depth and width, increasing toward the rear with a deep flank. **Thighs (2 points):** Lean, incurving to flat and wide apart from the rear. **Neck (2 points):** Long, lean, and blending smoothly into shoulders; clean-cut throat, dewlap, and brisket. **Withers (2 points):** Sharp with chine prominent. **Skin (1 point):** Thin, loose, and pliable.

3) Rear Feet and Legs - 20%

Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Movement (5 points): The use of feet and rear legs, including length and direction of step. When walking naturally, the stride should be long and fluid with the rear feet nearly replacing the front feet. **Rear Legs-Side View (3 points):** Moderate set (angle) to the hock. **Rear Legs-Rear View (3 points):** Straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed. **Feet (3 points):** Steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded closed toes. **Thurl Position (2 points):** Near central placement between the hip and pin bones. **Hocks (2 points):** Adequate flexibility with freedom from swelling. **Bone (1 point):** Flat and clean with adequate substance. **Pasterns (1 point):** Short and strong with some flexibility, having a moderate, upright angle.

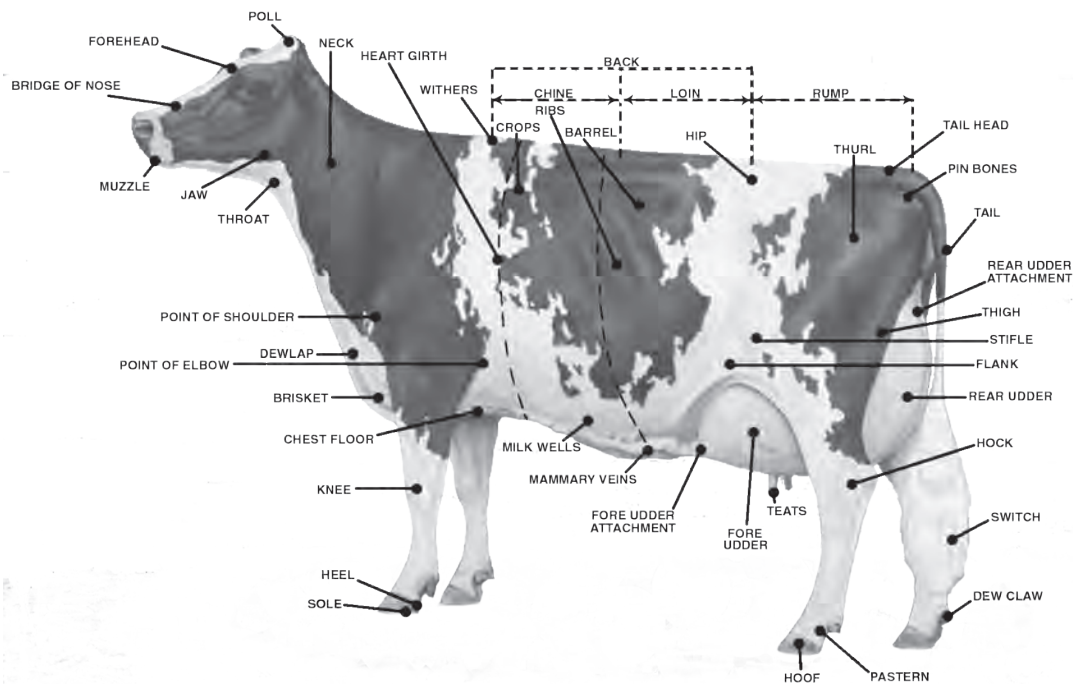
4) Udder - 40%

The udder traits are evaluated. Major consideration is given to the traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Udder Depth (10 points): Moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age. **Rear Udder (9 points):** Wide and high, firmly attached with uniform width from top to bottom and slightly rounded to udder floor. **Teat Placement (5 points):** Squarely placed under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced. **Udder Cleft (5 points):** Evidence of a strong suspensory ligament indicated by clearly defined halving. **Fore Udder (5 points):** Firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity. **Teats (3 points):** Cylindrical shape; uniform size with medium length and diameter; neither short nor long is desirable. **Udder Balance and Texture (3 points):** Udder floor level as viewed from the side. Quarters evenly balanced; soft, pliable, and well collapsed after milking. (Note: In the Holstein breed, an equal emphasis is placed on fore and rear udder (7 points each). All other traits are the same as listed above.)

TOTAL

100



THE SEVEN BREEDS



Ayrshire



Brown Swiss



Guernsey



Red & White



Holstein



Jersey



Milking Shorthorn

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Except for differences in color, size, and head character, all breeds are judged on the same standards as outlined in the Unified Score Card. If any animal is registered by one of the dairy breed associations, no discrimination against color or color pattern is to be made.

Ayrshire Strong and robust, showing constitution and vigor, symmetry, style and balance throughout, and characterized by strongly attached, evenly balanced, well-shaped udder.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and moderately dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- light to deep cherry red, mahogany, brown, or a combination of any of these colors with white, or white alone, distinctive red and white markings preferred.

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1200 lbs.

Brown Swiss Strong and vigorous, but not coarse. Adequate size with dairy quality. Frailness undesirable.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and slightly dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- body and switch solid brown varying from very light to dark; muzzle has black nose encircled by a white ring; tongue and hooves are dark brown to black.

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1400 lbs.

Guernsey Strength and balance, with quality and character desired.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and slightly dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- shade of fawn and white markings throughout clearly defined.

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh 1200-1300 lbs.; Guernsey does not discriminate for lack of size.

FACTORS TO BE EVALUATED

The degree of discrimination assigned to each defect is related to its function and heredity. The evaluation of the defect shall be determined by the breeder, the classifier or judge, based on the guide for discrimination and disqualifications given below.

HORNS

No discrimination for horns.

EYES

1. Blindness in one eye: *Slight discrimination.*
2. Cross or bulging eyes: *Slight discrimination.*
3. Evidence of blindness: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
4. Total blindness: *Disqualification.*

WRY FACE

Slight to serious discrimination.

CROPPED EARS

Slight discrimination.

PARROT JAW

Slight to serious discrimination.

SHOULDERS

Winged: *Slight to serious discrimination.*

CAPPED HIP

No discrimination unless affects mobility.

TAIL SETTING

Wry tail or other abnormal tail settings: *Slight to serious discrimination.*

LEGS AND FEET

1. Lameness- apparently permanent and interfering with normal function: *Disqualification.*
- Lameness- apparently temporary and not affecting normal function: *Slight discrimination.*
2. Evidence of crampy hind legs: *Serious discrimination.*
3. Evidence of fluid in hocks: *Slight discrimination.*
4. Weak pastern: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
5. Toe out: *Slight discrimination.*

UDDER

1. Lack of defined halving: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
2. Udder definitely broken away in attachment: *Serious discrimination.*
3. A weak udder attachment: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
4. Blind quarter: *Disqualification.*
5. One or more light quarters, hard spots in udder, obstruction in teat (spider): *Slight to serious discrimination.*

Red & White Rugged, feminine qualities in an alert cow possessing adequate size and vigor.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and slightly dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- must be clearly defined red and white; black-red and brindle is strictly prohibited.

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1400 lbs. and be well balanced.

Holstein Rugged, feminine qualities in an alert cow possessing Holstein size and vigor.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and moderately dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- black and white or red and white markings clearly defined

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1400 lbs.

UDDER- equal emphasis is placed on fore and rear udder (7 points each), all other traits are the same as listed on the PDCA scorecard.

Jersey Sharpness with strength indicating productive efficiency.

HEAD- proportionate to stature showing refinement and well chiseled bone structure. Face slightly dished with dark eyes that are well set.

COLOR- some shade of fawn with or without white markings; muzzle is black encircled by a light colored ring; switch may be either black or white.

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1000 lbs.

Milking Shorthorn Strong and vigorous, but not coarse.

HEAD- clean cut, proportionate to body; broad muzzle with large, open nostrils; strong jaw; large, bright eyes; forehead, broad and slightly dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.

COLOR- red or white or any combination (no black markings allowed).

SIZE- a mature cow in milk should weigh 1400 lbs.

6. Side leak: *Slight discrimination.*

7. Abnormal milk (bloody, clotted, watery): *Possible discrimination.*

LACK OF ADEQUATE SIZE

Slight to serious discrimination. (Note: Guernsey does not discriminate for lack of size.)

EVIDENCE OF SHARP PRACTICE

(Refer to PDCA Code of Ethics)

1. Animals showing signs of having been tampered with to conceal faults in conformation and to misrepresent the animal's soundness: *Disqualification.*
2. Uncalved heifers showing evidence of having been milked: *Slight to serious discrimination.*

TEMPORARY OR MINOR INJURIES

Blemishes or injuries of a temporary character not affecting animal's usefulness: *Slight to serious discrimination.*

OVERCONDITIONED

Slight to serious discrimination.

FREEMARTIN HEIFERS

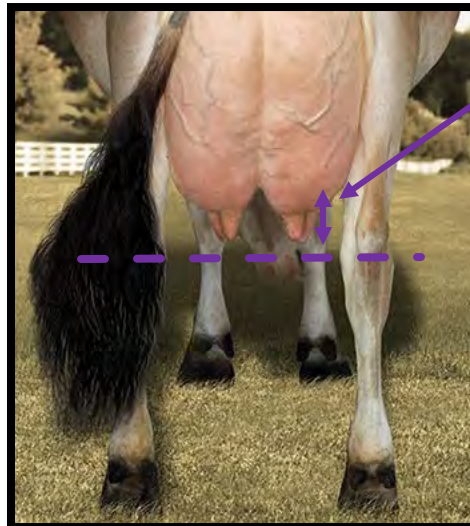
Disqualification.

UDDER – 40%

1.Udder Depth – 10 points

- ✚ Careful consideration should be given depending on the age and number of lactations. (Ex. A 2 year old should carry her udder higher above the hocks than a 5 year old.)
- ✚ Cows should have a moderate depth to their udder that allows them to have adequate capacity. In most cases, the more distance between the hock and udder floor, the better.
- ✚ Cows should carry their udder above the hocks in every case. If they fall below the hocks, it is a moderate to severe discrimination.

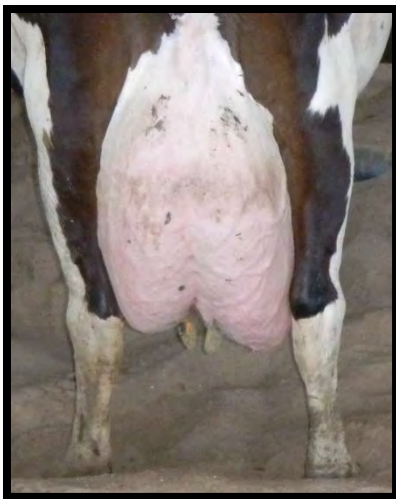
Measurement



Udder Depth: measured by how much space there is from the udder floor to the hock

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LOW



Udder that is carried below the hocks

HIGH



Udder carried extremely high above the hocks

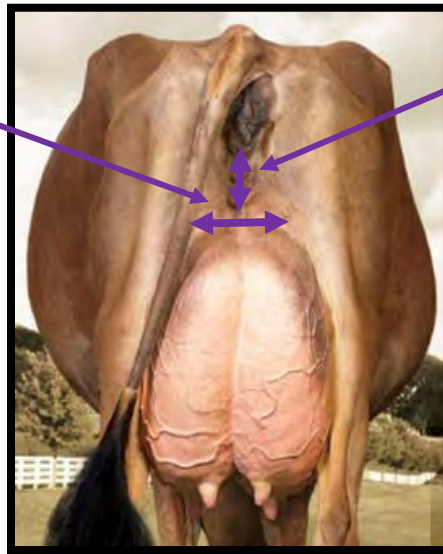
UDDER – 40%

2.Rear Udder – 9 points

- ✚ The rear udder component contains two different parts: Height and Width of Rear Udder.
- ✚ High, wide, strong rear udder attachment

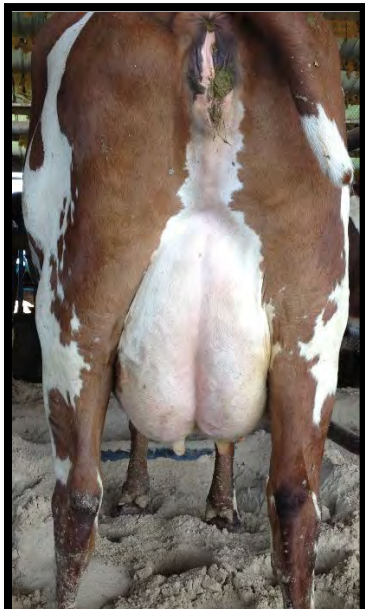
Measurement

Width of Rear Udder:
measured as to how wide the udder is from one side to the other



Height of Rear Udder:
measured by how much space there is from the attachment to the vulva

NARROW AND LOW



Narrow udder with a low rear udder attachment

HIGH AND WIDE



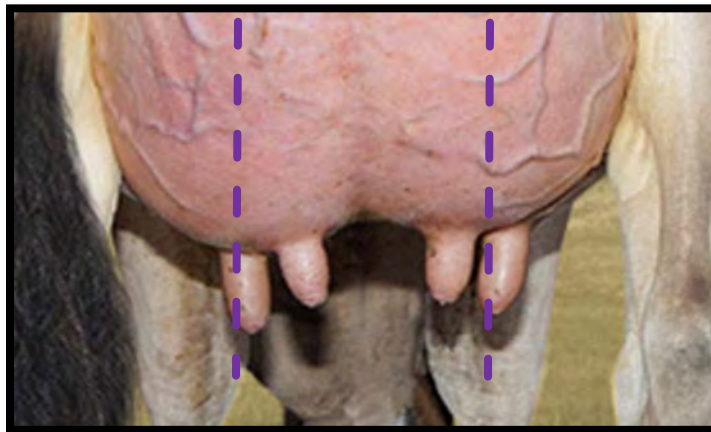
Extremely high and wide rear udder attachment

UDDER – 40%

3. Teat Placement – 5 points

- ✚ Teats should be placed squarely and neatly under each quarter.
- ✚ In most cases, it is acceptable for the teats to be placed slightly to the inside of each quarter.
- ✚ However, it is not acceptable for teats to be placed on the outside of the quarters.

Measurement



Teat Placement:
measured as close the teats are to being centrally placed

INSIDE



Teats placed slightly to the inside of each quarter

CORRECT



Teats placed centrally under each quarter noting that the front teat size is too large

OUTSIDE



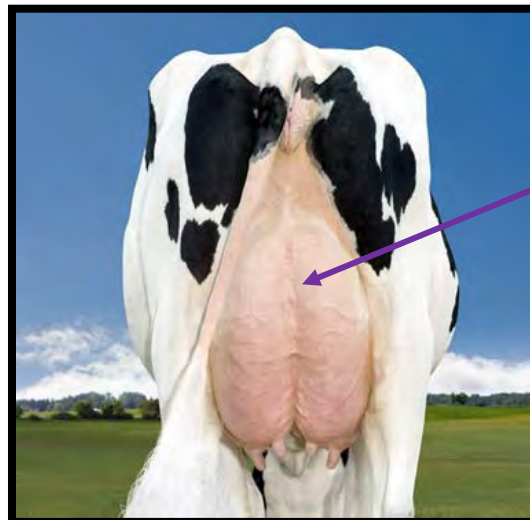
Teats placed too far to the outside of each quarter

UDDER – 40%

4.Udder Cleft – 5 points

- ✚ Should have a defined median suspensory ligament that runs down the center of the udder.
- ✚ Should look as though there is a crease that splits the udder in half.
- ✚ Lack of udder cleft results in a slight to serious discrimination depending on the severity.

Measurement



Udder Cleft:
measured as to how deep of a crease there is separating the quarters in half

WEAK

STRONG



Extremely weak udder cleft that it not defined



Strong udder cleft with a prominent crease

UDDER – 40%

5. Fore Udder – 5 points

- ✚ Firmly and smoothly attached.
- ✚ Should extend into the body with modest length.

Measurement



Fore Udder

Attachment:

measured as to how strong, long, and firmly attached the udder is

WEAK



Poor fore udder attachment that does not blend smoothly and is not elongated into the body wall

LONG & BLENDING



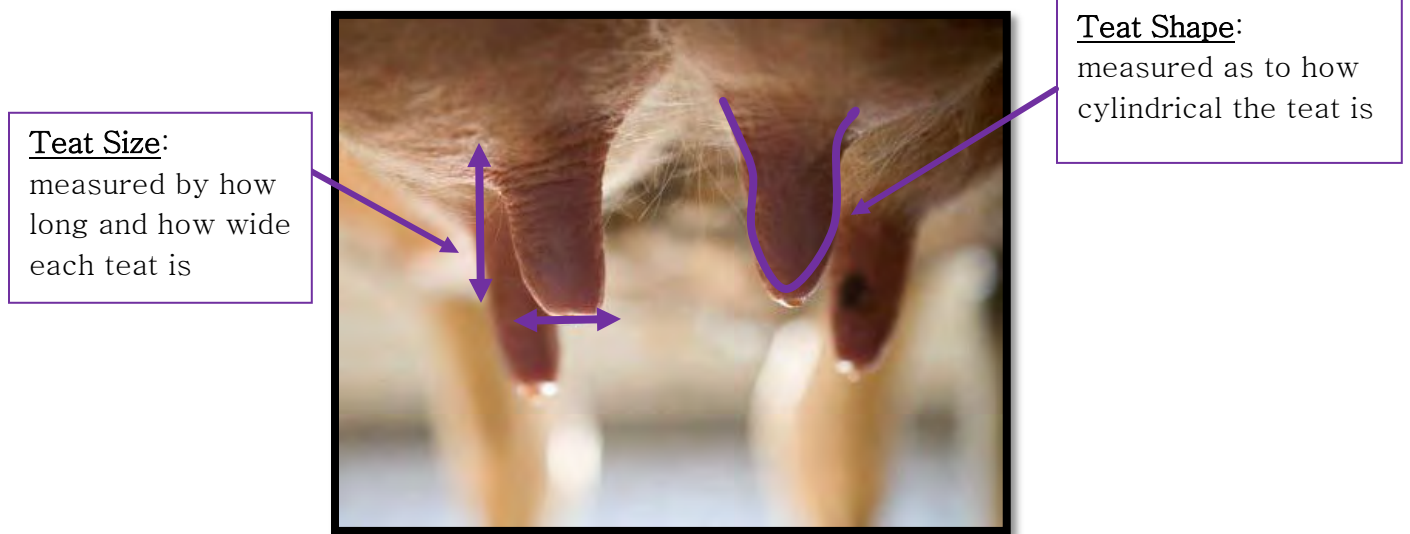
Excellent fore udder attachment that blends smoothly and seamlessly into the body wall

UDDER – 40%

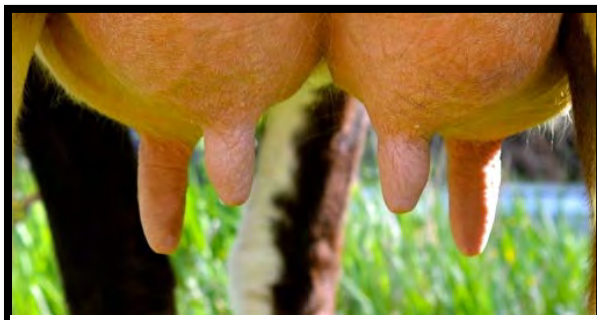
6. Teat Size and Shape – 3 points

- A cylindrical shape that has a moderate length and width.
- Neither too long nor too short is desirable. However, as a general rule, teats that are too short (but functional) are preferred over teats that are extremely long.

Measurement



LONG TEATS



Extremely long front teats that are “pencil” like, however, the rear teats are a more correct size

CORRECT SIZE AND SHAPE



Teats that have an exceptional teat size and shape

UDDER – 40%

7.Udder Balance and Texture – 3 points

- ✚ The udder floor should be level when viewed from the side and be free of quartering.
- ✚ Quarters should be evenly balanced.
- ✚ Udder should have a pliable texture.
- ✚ While not listed in the PDCA scorecard, veining is always an added bonus.

Measurement

Udder Floor:
measured as to
how level the
udder floor is

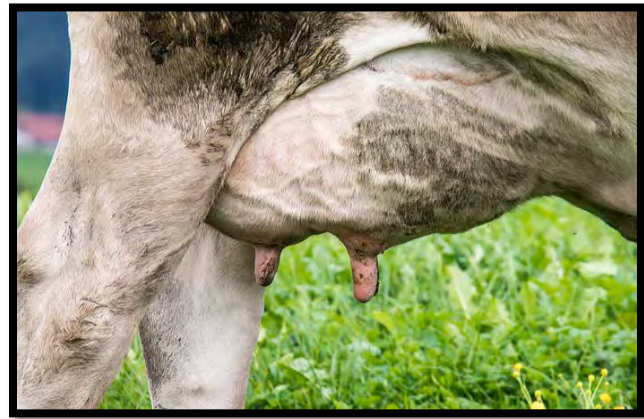


LEVEL



Extremely strong udder floor that is level throughout

QUARTERING



Unlevel udder floor that shows quartering

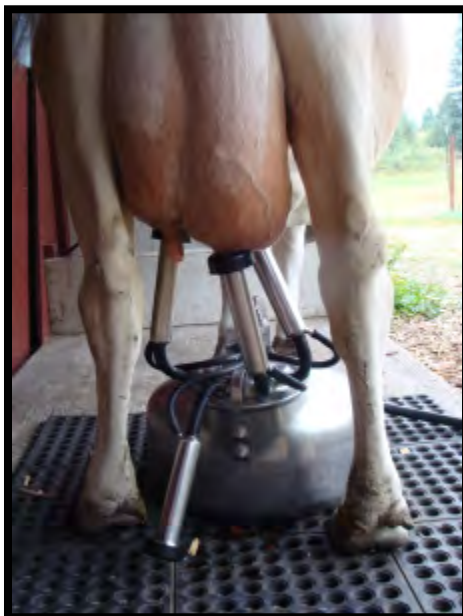
UDDER – 40%

8. Extras

- ✚ Blind Quarter – a quarter that is not producing milk (Disqualification)



- ✚ Light Quarter – a quarter this is producing milk but is not producing as much as the other three quarters (Slight to Serious Discrimination)



DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

1. Ribs – 8 points

- ✚ Ribs should be spaced wide apart, flat, and open.
- ✚ Should be slanted towards the rear.
- ✚ Should spring out when viewed from the rear.

Measurement

Sweep of Rib:

measured as how much of an angle there is to the ribs



Openness of Rib:

measured as how much space there is from one rib to the next

****Openness also refers to how open they are when view from the rear. The more belly you see from the rear, the better.****

BAD SWEEP AND SPACING OF RIB



Ribs that are nearly straight up and down and have little space between each rib

GOOD SWEEP AND SPACING OF RIB



Ribs are slanted at an exceptional angle with adequate space between each rib

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

2. Chest – 6 points

- Depth, width, and strength of the chest floor.
- Front feet should be placed apart with adequate space for the chest.

Measurement



Depth of Chest:
measured as to depth
of the chest floor

Width of Chest:
measured as how
much space there is
from the inside of the
upper part of the
front legs to the
other front leg

BAD



*Narrow chest floor
with little width or*

GOOD



*Extreme width, depth, and strength
of the chest floor*

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

3. Barrel – 4 points

Barrel should be deep and increasingly get deeper to the rear

Measurement

Rear Rib: Measured towards the rear of the animal from the topline to the deepest point of the cows belly



Fore Rib: Measured towards the front of the animal, slightly behind the withers and straight down to the belly

SHALLOW



Shallow-ribbed cow that has little depth in the fore or rear rib

DEEP



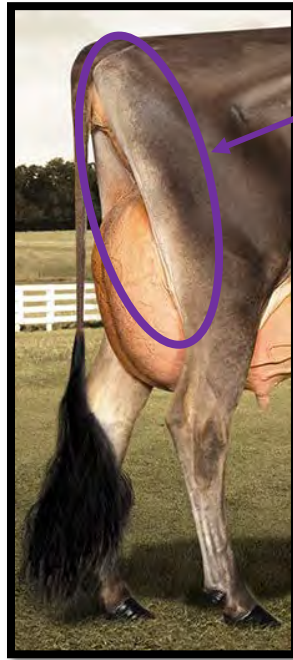
Excellent depth of fore and rear rib with the barrel getting increasingly bigger from front to rear

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

4. Thighs – 2 points

- Should be clean and incurving with no excess conditioning.

Measurement



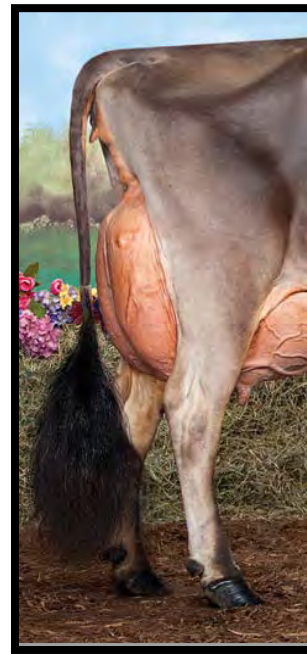
Thigh: Should be measured by how much excess flesh or how clean they are in the thigh

THICK



Extremely thick in the thigh without incurve

CLEAN



Exceptional cleanliness throughout the thigh with a slight incurve and has not excess flesh

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

5. Neck – 2 points

- ✚ Neck should be clean and feminine throughout and free of excess conditioning.
- ✚ Neck should blend smoothly into the shoulder.

Measurement

Neck: Measured by the cleanliness anywhere in the neck from the muzzle to the shoulder and from the top of the neck down to the brisket



THICK



Unfeminine and unrefined head with excess “throat” hanging from the jaw

CLEAN



Extremely clean and feminine head and neck with no excess flesh

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

6. Withers – 2 points

- Sharp and clean without excess flesh.

Measurement



Sharpness: Measured by how clean and sharp the withers are when looking at them from the rear

THICK



Thick with more of a “dome” shape over the withers

SHARP



Extremely sharp with a more “cone” shape over the withers

DAIRY STRENGTH – 25%

7. Skin – 1 point

- ✚ Loose and pliable.
- ✚ In a normal dairy judging contest, contestants must disregard this component since they will not be able to touch the animal.

8. Extras

- ✚ Over Conditioned – When a cow shows excess flesh throughout the body, especially in the head and neck, over the withers, hooks, and pins, and throughout the thigh. (Slight to Serious Discrimination)



Cow that is extremely over conditioned being very thick and unfeminine in the head and neck, thick through the thigh and over the withers hooks and pins

REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

1. Movement – 5 points

✚ When walking correctly, cows should track as though the rear feet are replacing the front feet.

✚ Should track straight and move fluidly.

2. Rear Legs – Side View – 3 points

✚ Moderate set to the hock

Measurement



Set to the Hock: measured by how much of an angle the leg is set

SICKLED



Sickle hocked with feet set to far up under herself

CORRECT



Exceptional set to the hock

POSTY



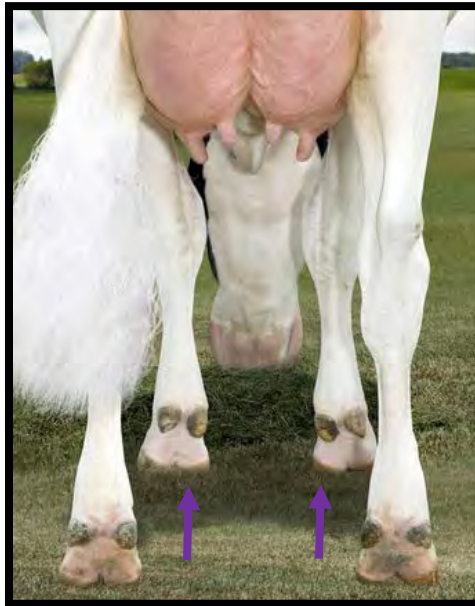
Posty set to the hock

REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

3. Rear Legs – Rear View – 3 points

- ✚ Feet should be placed squarely under the body with width.
- ✚ Rear feet should point forward as if pointing toward the front feet.

Measurement



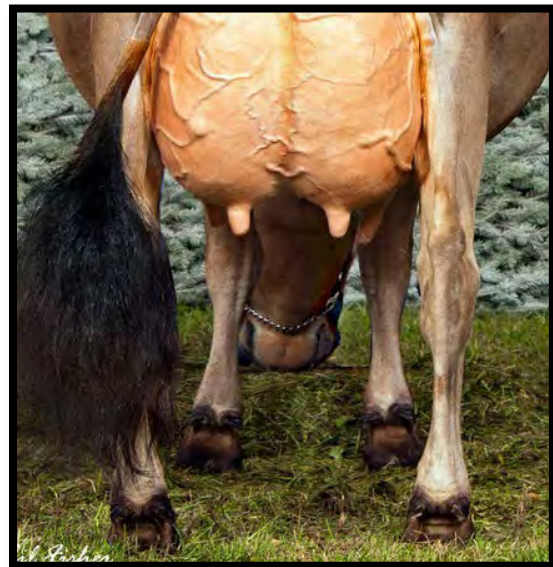
Legs: measured as to how straight the back legs are and how squarely each foot is placed beneath the cow

BAD



Feet are turned to the outside and are not placed correctly under the cow

GOOD



Feet placed squarely under body with adequate width and the feet facing straight

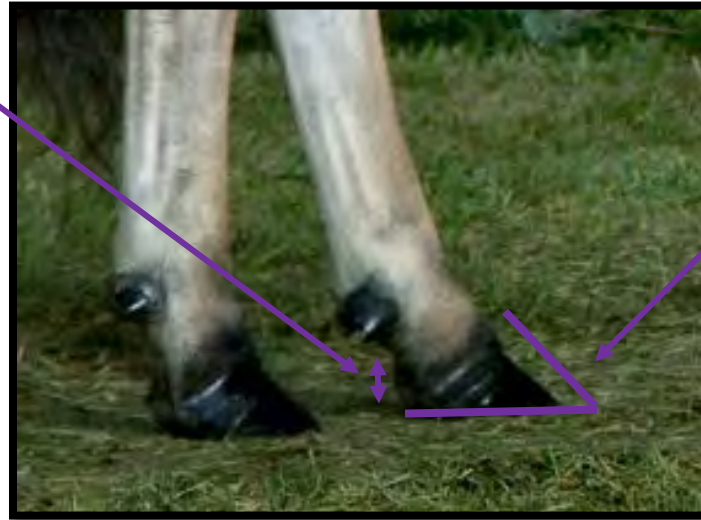
REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

4. Feet – 3 points

- ✚ Deep heel with a steep foot angle.
- ✚ Well rounded hoof that is not long.

Measurement

Depth of Heel:
measured as to how much hoof there is from the sole to the beginning of the pastern



Foot Angle: measure as to how steep the animal's foot angle is

LOW FOOT ANGLE/SHALLOW HEEL



Foot angle is at 45 degrees or less and is lacking a heel with substance

STEEP FOOT ANGLE/DEEP HEEL



Exceptional foot angle and depth of heel having an almost 90 degree foot angle and at least an inch of heel

REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

5. Thurl Position – 2 points

- ✚ Placed centrally between the hooks and pins.
- ✚ Placed below the hooks and pins.

Measurement

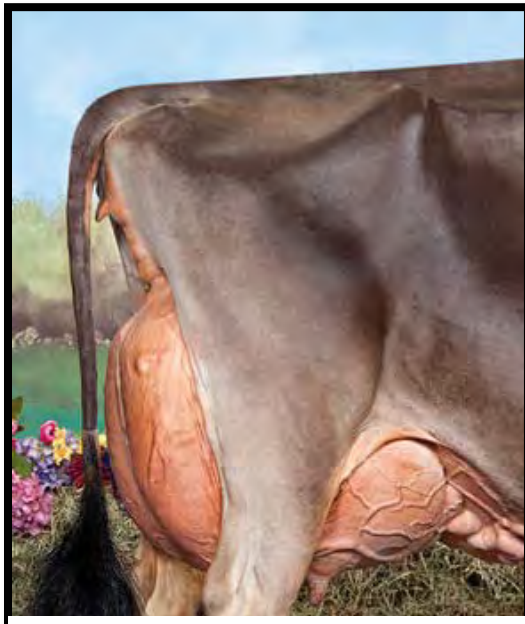
**** Should create a “V” shape with each side of the “V” being equal.****



Thurls: measured as to how centrally placed the thurls are between the hooks and pins

S

PLACED TO THE REAR



Thurls placed too far to the rear of the cow

CENTRALLY PLACED



Thurls that are placed centrally between the hooks and pins

REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

6. Hocks – 2 points

- Free of swelling
- Adequate flexibility

FREE OF SWELLING



Clean hock that is free of swelling

SWELLING



Swelling at the hock

7. Bone – 1 point

- Adequate substance
- Flat and clean

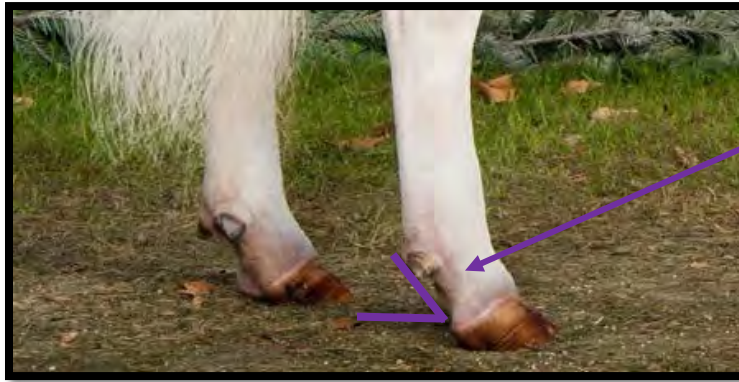
REAR FEET & LEGS – 20%

8. Pasterns – 1 point



Moderate angle with moderate flexibility.

Measurement



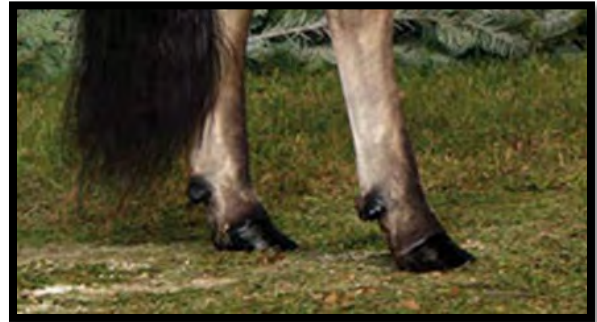
Pasterns: measured as to how weak or strong the animal is in the pastern or by how much they “stand on their toes.”

WEAK



Weak pasterns that cause the animal to have a foot angle of less than 45 degrees

STRONG



Strong pasterns which allow the animal to have a close to 90 degree foot angle while being adequately flexible

FRAME – 15%

1. Rump – 5 points

- ✚ Long and wide with width between the pins and thurls.
- ✚ Tail head should be placed neatly between the pins.
- ✚ Hooks and pin should be nearly level with only the pins being slightly lower than the hooks.

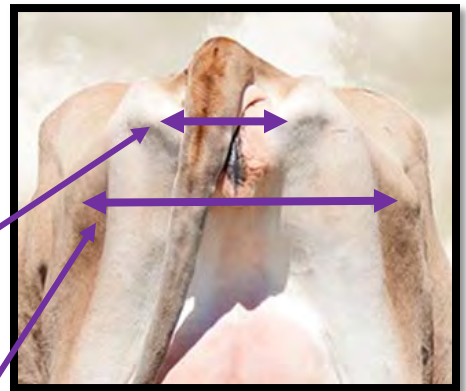
Measurement



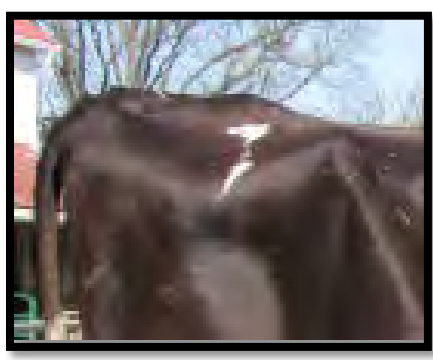
Levelness: measured by how much slope there is from hooks to pins

Width of pins: measured by how much space there is from one pin to the next

Width of Thurls: measured by how much space there is from one thurl to the the next



HIGH PINS



High in the pins

GOOD – LEVEL



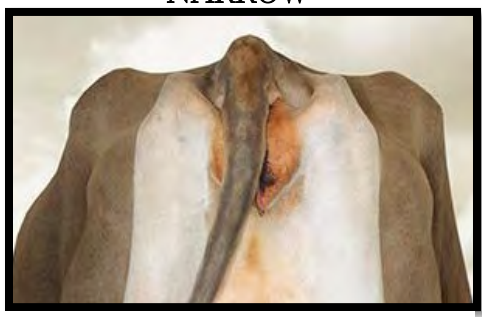
Nearly level from hooks to pins

SLOPED



Too sloped from hooks to pins

NARROW



Narrow width between pins

WIDE



Exceptional width between pins

FRAME – 15%

2. Front End – 5 points

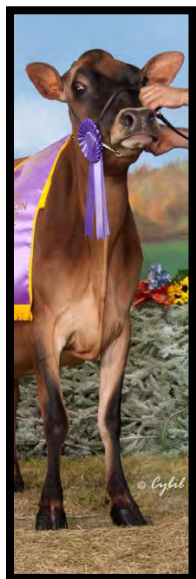
- Front legs should be straight, squarely placed, and wide apart to allow space for the chest floor.

Measurement



Front End: measured by how much width there is between the front legs and how straight they are

WEAK



Narrow width between front legs with the front legs pointing out below the knee

STRONG



Excellent width between front legs with lots of power throughout

FRAME – 15%

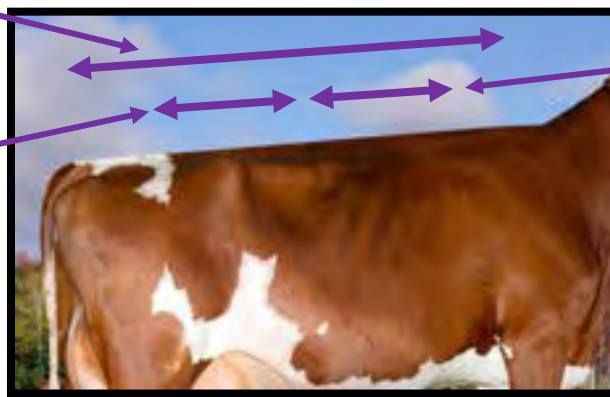
3. Back (Loin and Chine) – 2 points

- Should be level and straight from the withers to the tail head.
- Loin and chine should be strong showing no weakness.
- Crops should be full, creating a straight line from the withers to the chine.

Back: measured by how strong the back is from the withers to the tailhead

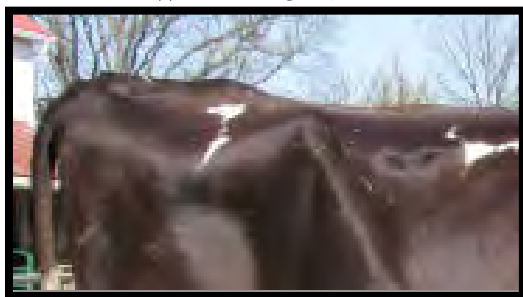
Loin: measured by how strong or weak the back is from the end of the chine to the beginning of the rump

Measurement



Chine and Crops: measured by how strong or weak the back is from the withers to the middle of the back

WEAK LOIN

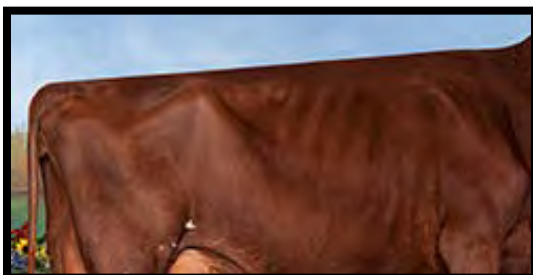


Extremely weak in the loin (pins are also very high)

WEAK CROPS/CHINE



Weak in the crops



Strong back from end to end

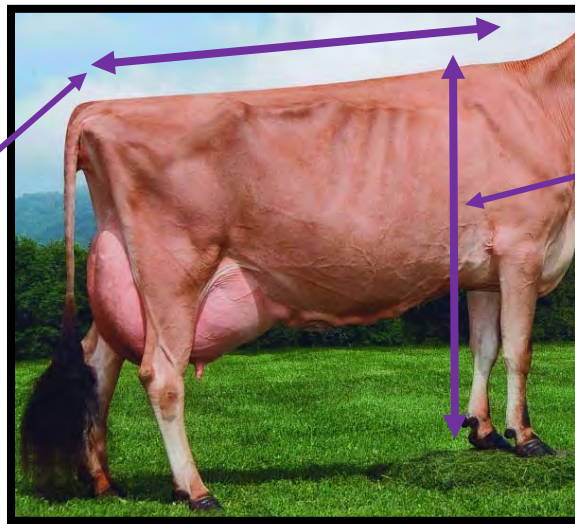
FRAME – 15%

4. Stature – 2 points

- ✚ Age and breed should be considered for stature. (Ex. Jerseys are much smaller than Holsteins.)
- ✚ Should be as tall as possible.
- ✚ Height at the withers and hips should be almost the same. (A cow taller at the withers than at the hips is acceptable.)

Measurement

Levelness:
measured by levelness from the withers to the pins



Height: measured as to how tall they are

BAD



Undesirable downhill slope from hooks to the withers

GOOD



Exceptional uphill run from hooks to withers

FRAME – 15%

5. Breed Characteristics – 1 point

- Should look like their breed exhibiting typical breed characteristics. (Refer to the characteristics section on the PDCA Scorecard.)

HOLSTEIN



RED AND WHITE HOLSTEIN



JERSEY



BROWN SWISS



AYRSHIRE



GUERNSEY



MILKING SHORTHORN





Calf & Heifer SCORE CARD

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Attractive individuality and harmonious blending of parts, with the exception of rear feet and legs, is evaluated. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Style and Balance: Harmonious blending of parts; proportionate height, length and depth. **Rump:** long and wide throughout with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones. Thurls wide apart and centrally placed between hip bones and pin bones. Tailhead set slightly above and neatly between pin bones. Tail free from coarseness. The vulva is nearly vertical. **Back:** straight and strong; Loin: broad, strong and nearly level; slight arch preferred. **Front End:** adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows set firmly against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness. **Breed Characteristics:** clean cut head, broad muzzle with large, open nostrils, and strong jaw.

35

DAIRY CHARACTER

Evidence of potential milking ability is evaluated. Major consideration should be given to general openness and angularity without weakness, flatness of bone, and freedom from coarseness. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Ribs: wide apart. Rib bones wide, flat, deep, and slanted toward the rear. **Thighs:** lean, incurving to flat and wide apart from the rear. **Withers:** sharp with chine prominent. **Neck:** long, lean and blending smoothly into shoulders; clean cut throat, dewlap, and brisket. **Skin:** thin, loose and pliable.

Allowance should be made for winter and fall yearlings to carry more condition as they approach calving.

25

REAR FEET AND LEGS

Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Movement: The use of feet and rear legs, including length and direction of step. When walking naturally, the stride should be long and fluid with the rear feet nearly replacing the front feet. **Rear Legs-Side View:** Moderate set (angle) to the hock. **Rear Legs-Rear View:** Straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed. **Feet:** Steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded closed toes. **Thurl Position:** Near central placement between the hip and pin bones. **Hocks:** Adequate flexibility with freedom from swelling. **Bone:** Flat and clean with adequate substance. **Pasterns:** Short and strong with some flexibility, having a moderate, upright angle.

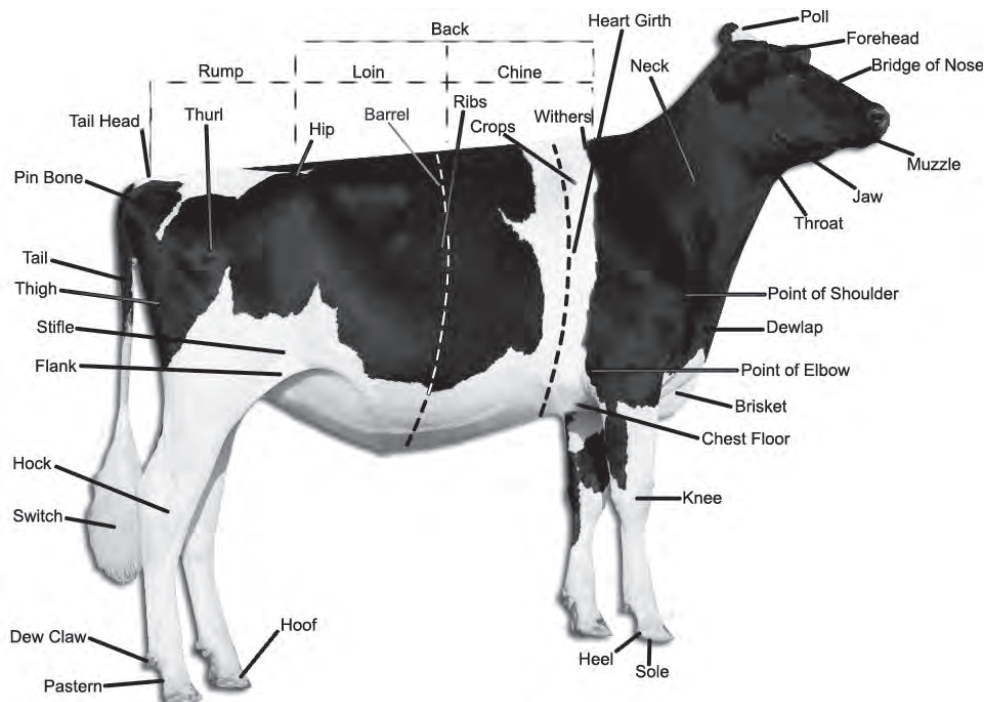
20

SIZE

Growth, vigor and good health are evaluated. Major consideration should be given to height at the point of wither. The description of the trait to be considered is as follows:

Stature: height including length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure; height at withers and hips should be relatively proportionate. **Barrel:** long, deep and wide; depth and spring of rib increasing toward the rear with a deep flank. **Chest:** deep and wide floor with well sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.

20




PEDIGREES

Analyzing pedigrees is an important part of the selection process when purchasing registered cattle. Pedigrees allow us to see the dam, sire, grand dams, and grand sires of an animal and are much like a family tree for a cow. They allow us to predict how offspring performance and tell us characteristics about their parents.

Pedigree classes will consist of four different pedigrees and the contestant's job is to calculate the score of each pedigree. After scoring each, they will be placed in order from the highest score to the lowest score. Below are the steps to work through pedigrees.

1. As is shown in the pedigree below, there are multiple numbers, names, and abbreviations, however, you will only need to know how to calculate the numbers in red. The sire and dam have been labeled in the pedigree below.



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
DAIRY CATTLE CDE

PEDIGREE #1

DAM

Flashy 121
NLD 159659231 100% RHA-NA TV

TPI
+ 1555

1/19/1995

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1532 M	+98	F	+63	P	80 %R
PTA		+0.18	%F	+0.08	%P	0%US
PTA	+569	NM	+1.3	PL	3.47	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.37 T	+1.25	UDC	+2.37	FLC	84 %R

TSU 122345
NLD 159659231 100% RHA-NA TV

TPI
+1200

1/19/1995

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1400 M	+102	F	+85	P	88 %R
PTA		+0.18	%F	+0.10	%P	0%US
PTA	.600	NM	+1.5	PL	3.5	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.4 T	+1.3	UDC	+2.5	FLC	68 %R

FRISCO'S 123456
USA 17121078 100% RHA-NA TV

CTPI
+2000

9/18/1996

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+2300 M	+110	F	+90	P	73 %R
PTA		+0.06	%F	+0.05	%P	
PTA	.700	NM	-0.03	PL	+3.5	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.5 T	+0.59	UDC	+0.01	FLC	74 %R

SIRE

18-WD FRISCO-ET
USA 17121078 100% RHA-NA TV

CTPI
+ 1325

9/18/1996

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+2300 M	+111	F	+89	P	72 %R
PTA		+0.06	%F	+0.04	%P	
PTA	+600	NM	-0.03	PL	3.16	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.46 T	+0.59	UDC	-0.02	FLC	68 %R

OKLAHOMA 125663
NLD 159659231 100% RHA-NA TV

TPI
+1265

1/19/1995

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1396 M	68	F	+63	P	87 %R
PTA		+0.18	%F	+0.08	%P	0%US
PTA	.652	NM	+1.0	PL	3.48	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.37 T	+1.52	UDC	+2.5	FLC	88 %R

MILK MACHINE 2256
USA 17121078 100% RHA-NA TV

CTPI
+620

9/18/1996

MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1000 M	90	F	.15	P	57 %R
PTA		+0.07	%F	+0.05	%P	
PTA	+633	NM	-0.03	PL	3.5	SCS
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION				
PTA	+1.5 T	+0.60	UDC	+0.2	FLC	55 %R

2. Now it is time for the math. Let's start with the math on the dam. Add the two numbers next to %R together (80+84=164) and then divide that number by 2 (164÷2=82). Divide that number by 100 (82÷100=.82).

DAM									
Flashy 121									
NLD 159659231 100% RHA-NA TV									
1/19/1995									
TPI + 1555									
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+1532	M	+96	F	+63	P	80 %R	5/2002	
PTA			+0.18	%F	+0.08	%P	0%US		
PTA	+569	NM	+1.3	PL	3.47	SCS			
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+1.37	T	+1.25	UDC	+2.37	FLC	84 %R	5/2002	

80
+ 84

164
÷ 2

82
÷ 100

.82

3. Notice that TPI is the other number used on the dam. Take the number you received from the previous step (.82) and multiple it times the TPI (.82x1555=1,275.1). At this point, you are halfway to finishing a pedigree. Save the last number you get (1,275.1) for later.

DAM									
Flashy 121									
NLD 159659231 100% RHA-NA TV									
1/19/1995									
TPI + 1555									
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+1532	M	+96	F	+63	P	80 %R	5/2002	
PTA			+0.18	%F	+0.08	%P	0%US		
PTA	+569	NM	+1.3	PL	3.47	SCS			
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+1.37	T	+1.25	UDC	+2.37	FLC	84 %R	5/2002	

.82
X 1555

1,275.1

4. Now to look at the sire. You will do the same as you did with the dam. Add the two %R together (72+68=140) and the divide that number by 2 (140÷2=70). Divide that number by 100 (70÷100=.70).

SIRE									
B-WD FRISCO-ET									
USA 17121078 100% RHA-NA TV									
2-06 87 VEVVV GMD DOM									
9/18/1996									
CTPI + 1325									
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+2300	M	+111	F	+89	P	72 %R	5/2002	
PTA			+0.06	%F	+0.04	%P			
PTA	+600	NM	-0.03	PL	3.16	SCS			
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION							
PTA	+1.46	T	+0.59	UDC	-0.02	FLC	68 %R	5/2002	

72
+ 68

140
÷ 2

70
÷ 100

.70

5. Notice that for the sire you will use the CTPI number. Take the number you received from the previous step (.70) and multiply it times the CTPI (.70x1325=927.5). Remember the last number you received.

B-WD FRISCO-ET							CTPI
USA 17121078							+ 1325
2-06 87 VEVVV							
100% RHA-NA TV							
GMD DOM							9/18/1996
PTA	+2300	M	+111	F	+89	P	72 %R
PTA			+0.06	%F	+0.04	%P	
PTA	+600	NM	-0.03	PL	3.16	SCS	
PTA	+1.46	T	+0.59	UDC	-0.02	FLC	68 %R
							5/2002

.70
X 1325
<hr/>
927.5

6. Add the total you got from the dam (1,275.1) to the total you got from the sire (1,275.1+ 927.5=2,202.6).

Flashy 121							TPI
NLD 159659231							+ 1555
100% RHA-NA TV							
							1/19/1995
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION					
PTA	+1532	M	+96	F	+63	P	80 %R
PTA			+0.18	%F	+0.08	%P	0%US
PTA	+569	NM	+1.3	PL	3.47	SCS	
MACE	YIELD	EVALUATION					
PTA	+1.37	T	+1.25	UDC	+2.37	FLC	84 %R
							5/2002

Dam = 1,275.1

B-WD FRISCO-ET							CTPI
USA 17121078							+ 1325
2-06 87 VEVVV							
100% RHA-NA TV							
GMD DOM							9/18/1996
PTA	+2300	M	+111	F	+89	P	72 %R
PTA			+0.06	%F	+0.04	%P	
PTA	+600	NM	-0.03	PL	3.16	SCS	
PTA	+1.46	T	+0.59	UDC	-0.02	FLC	68 %R
							5/2002

+ Sire = 927.5

2,202.6

7. You have finished calculating your first pedigree! Continue calculating all four pedigrees until you have a score for each one. Rank them from the highest scores to the lowest score.

CALCULATING YOUR SCORE

Knowing how to score classes allows contestants to see exactly how they did following the contest against the official placing.

The highest score a contestant can receive on a class is 50 points. Fifty points on a class is rewarded to those individuals who get a placing exactly the same as the judge and their score will go down the farther away the placing is from the judge. This is calculated by a system known as cuts. Cuts give a number value to how close or easy each pair was in a class. Judges will place higher numbered cuts on pairs they see as an easy placing, while they give lower numbered cuts on pairs that they viewed as harder. An example of cuts is 8-2-6. This means that the top and bottom pairs were considered to be easily placed, while the middle pair was much more difficult.

There is a relatively simple way of making all of this information a little less confusing. First, look at the official placing. Contestants will compare the official placing with their own, making six different comparisons. Below are a few examples to help understand how it all works.

Example 1

My Placing: 3-2-1-4

Official Placing: 2-3-4-1

Cuts: 3-6-2

1. Did I place 2 over 3?	NO	-3
2. Did I place 2 over 4?	YES	NONE
3. Did I place 2 over 1?	YES	NONE
4. Did I place 3 over 4?	YES	NONE
5. Did I place 3 over 1?	YES	NONE
6. Did I place 4 over 1?	NO	+ -2
		<hr/>
		-5

$$50 - 5 = 45$$

Example 2

My Placing: 3-4-1-2

Official Placing: 2-1-4-3

Cuts: 6-4-3

7. Did I place 2 over 1?	NO	-6
8. Did I place 2 over 4?	NO	-6 & -4 = -10
9. Did I place 2 over 3?	NO	-6, -4, & -3 = -13
10. Did I place 1 over 4?	NO	-4
11. Did I place 1 over 3?	NO	-4 & -3 = -7
12. Did I place 4 over 3?	NO	+ -3
		<hr/>
		-

$$50 - 43 = 7$$

QUESTION CLASSES

Many contests will ask questions on at least one class and, in many cases, two classes or more. Questions are given to make sure that contestants paid attention to details that stood out in a class. The judges can ask anything over the classes and it is best to take good notes over questions classes. While there is not a set list of questions one can pull from, below is a good list of sample questions that could be asked.

Udder Questions

1. Which cow had the (highest, widest/lowest, most narrow) rear udder attachment?
2. Which cow had the (weakest/strongest) fore udder attachment?
3. Which cow had the (largest/smallest) teats?
4. Which cow showed the most quartering when viewed from the side?
5. Which cow had the (most/least) level udder floor?
6. Which cow had the (strongest/weakest) udder cleft?
7. Which cow carried her udder highest above the hock?
8. Which cow carried her udder below the hock?
9. Which cow had the (most/least) correct teat placement?
10. Which cow's teats were placed too far to the (outside/inside) of each quarter?
11. Which cow had a reverse tilt to her udder?
12. Which cow was light in her right rear quarter?
13. Which cow had edema in her udder?

Dairy Strength Questions

1. Which cow had the (most/least) depth of fore and rear rib?
2. Which cow was the (cleanest/most fleshy) throughout the head and neck?
3. Which cow was the (most/least) prominent in her hooks and pins?
4. Which cow was showing the (most/least) conditioning?
5. Which cow had the (most/least) depth, width, and strength of the chest floor?
6. Which cow was the (sharpest/least sharp) over the withers?

Feet and Legs

1. Which cow tracked straightest when viewed from behind?
2. Which cow was (posty/sickled) in her rear legs?
3. Which cow had the more correct set to the hock?
4. Which cow had the (deepest/most shallow) heel?
5. Which cow had the (steepest/lowest) foot angle?
6. Which cow had the (most correct/least correct) set to the thurls?
7. Which cow had swelling in her hocks?
8. Which cow was (strongest/weakest) in her pasterns?

Frame

1. Which cow had the (most/least) width between her pins?
2. Which cow had the least desirable tail head placement?
3. Which cow had the (most/least) correct slope from hooks to pins?
4. Which cow was high in her pins?
5. Which cow had too much slope from hooks to pins?
6. Which cow was (strongest/weakest) in the crops?
7. Which cow was the (strongest/weakest) down the topline?
8. Which cow was the (strongest/weakest) in her loin (or chine)?
9. Which cow was the (tallest/shortest) at the withers (or hips)?
10. Which cow was the (longest/shortest) from nose to tail?

Extras

1. Which cow was (black/white/red/darkest/lightest/etc.)?
2. Which cow had a wry face (or tail)?
3. Which cow had a parrot nose?
4. Which cow was limping?
5. Which cow had horns?
6. Which cow had an injury on her front leg?

RESOURCES

Practice Classes

1. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/4hdairyjudgingvideos/>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5lFdAnz07I>
3. <http://www.dairyjudging.com/classes.aspx>
4. <http://www.uvm.edu/~jagilmor/judging/evaluatingc11.html>
5. http://www.thejudgingconnection.com/pdfs/Dairy_Cattle_Judging_Classes.pdf
6. <http://ddffa.org/AgriScienceDepart/Judging/Dairy/class.html>
7. <http://www.edugamer.org/app/playGame.aspx?userGameId=4573>
8. <http://boe.jeff.k12.wv.us/Page/5554>

Dairy Cattle Questions

1. Blank - https://www.texasffa.org/docs/2016%20Dairy%20Cattle%20Questions_98757.pdf
2. Key - https://www.texasffa.org/docs/2016%20Dairy%20Cattle%20Key_69627_14577.pdf

Other Resources

1. *Dairy Cattle Judging Made Easy: 2nd Edition* – Order online for \$25 per CD at:
<http://www.hoards.com/bookstore/JUCD>
2. *Hoard's Dairyman Judging Guide* – Order online for \$9 per book at:
<http://www.hoards.com/bookstore/JUDG>
3. *Holstein Foundation Dairy Judging Workbook* – free online at:
<http://holsteinfoundation.org/education/workbooks.html>

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Look to see if a cow comes easily to the top or to the bottom. If one does, you can then focus on the other three animals in the class.
2. Look to see if there are pairs in a class. Identifying pairs allows for you to be sure that you won't be hit with a heavy cut.
3. If you are struggling with picking between two cows, think about the PDCA Scorecard. Udder makes up 40% of the scorecard.
4. Never change your placing after the class has left the ring. You have to trust yourself when judging dairy cattle and stick with what you truly feel is right. Remember, dairy judging is subjective.
5. Look at the class the entire time you are given. You actually may notice a key point halfway throughout the class.
6. Double check your cards or scantrons before turning them in. We are all human and make mistakes. Don't let one mistake cost you that 1st place ribbon!

TERMINOLOGY

General Terms

Positive Terms:

- more stylish
- more overall style and balance

General Udder Terms

Positive Terms:

- shows more apparent udder quality
- more veining throughout
- more quality to the udder
- shows more bloom to the udder

Rear Udder

Positive Terms:

- higher rear udder attachment
- wider rear udder attachment
- high and wider rear udder
- more capacious rear udder
- stronger rear udder attachment
- more bloom/width/capacity to the udder
- more symmetrical rear udder
- more uniform width of the rear udder
- carries udder higher above the hocks
- more balance and symmetry to the rear quarters

Negative Terms:

- poorly attached rear udder
- lower in the rear udder attachment
- narrow rear udder attachment
- lacks bloom/width/capacity to the rear udder

Fore Udder

Positive Terms:

- stronger fore udder attachment
- longer fore udder attachment
- blends more smoothly into the body wall
- blends more correctly into the body wall
- stronger fore udder attachment
- more firmly attached fore udder
- smoother fore udder attachment
- snugger in the fore udder attachment

Negative Terms:

- poorly attached fore udder attachment
- unbalanced fore udder

Udder Cleft

Positive Terms:

- stronger median suspensory ligament
- stronger udder cleft
- stronger cleft with a more prominent crease
- more defined cleft
- more clearly defined udder cleft

Negative Terms:

- weaker udder cleft/median suspensory ligament
- light quarter (not which one)
- lacks a crease to the udder

Teat Size, Shape, and Placement

Positive Terms:

- teats are more centrally located
- more squarely placed beneath each quarter
- placed more correctly beneath each quarter
- more nearly correct front/rear teat placement
- more desirable in size, shape, and placement
- smaller teats

Negative Terms:

- placed too far to the outside/inside of each quarter
- longer teats
- cone-shaped teats

Feet and Legs

Positive Terms:

- more correct set to the hock
- tracks straighter when viewed from behind
- cleaner and more refined in the hock
- flatter hock
- more strength and substance of bone
- walks on a stronger set of feet and legs
- walks on a more correct set of feet and legs
- stronger pasterns
- deeper heel
- steeper foot angle
- stands more squarely on her rear legs

Negative Terms:

- weak pasterns
- too much set to the hock
- post legged
- toes out
- lacking substance of bone

Dairy Character

Positive Terms:

- more angularity
- more angularity over the withers, hooks and pins
- less excess conditioning
- less excess flesh
- sharper over the withers
- cleaner down the topline
- more prominent in the hooks and pins
- cleaner/leaner in the thighs
- more openness, depth, spring of rib
- longer and leaner throughout the head and neck
- cleaner and more refined throughout the head and neck

Negative Terms:

- carries more conditioning
- carries more excess flesh throughout the head and neck
- more coarse
- tighter ribbed
- thicker thighs

Body Capacity

Positive Terms:

- stronger, more powerful cow
- more strength and width throughout
- longer from end to end
- longer from poll to pins
- longer bodied cow
- more spring of rib
- more depth of rib
- more depth of fore and/or rear rib
- wider throughout the chest floor
- stronger in the chest floor

Negative Terms:

- short bodied
- shallow bodied/ribbed
- frail
- weak crops
- shallow fore and rear rib
- lacks strength in the front end

Back

Positive Terms:

- stronger over her topline
- more level down the topline
- harder down her topline
- stronger in the loin
- stronger in the chine
- stronger in the crops

Negative Terms:

- weaker in the crops
- weaker in the chine
- weaker in the loin
- weaker over the topline
- easy over the topline

Rump

Positive Terms:

- more correct slope from hooks to pins
- more level from hooks to pins
- less slope from hips to pins
- wider in the pins/thurls/hips
- more correct tail head setting
- neater at the tail head
- tail head placed more neatly between pins
- thurls more correctly placed

Negative Terms:

- higher in the pins
- extreme slope from hooks to pins
- more narrow in the rump
- more slope from hooks to pins

Stature

Positive Terms:

- taller, more upstanding
- taller at the point of withers
- excels in size and scale
- runs more uphill
- longer from end to end
- longer from poll to pins
- stretchier

Negative Terms:

- smaller cow

Shoulders

Positive Terms:

- smoother, more blending shoulders
- fuller at the elbow
- less prominent at the elbow
- blends more correctly from neck to shoulder and shoulder to barrel
- blends more smoothly into the fore rib

Negative Terms:

- more prominent point of shoulder
- winged shoulders
- coarser in the shoulder

PREPARING YOUR REASONS

A judge, whether in a contest or at a show, has not only one job but actually two jobs. The first is to place the cows in order from most desirable to least desirable and the second is to explain to the audience their decisions when placing the class. Keep in mind that reasons take careful practice, time, and studying the correct terminology is imminent.

When it comes to evaluating dairy cattle, it all comes down to opinion. No two judges will judge a class exactly the same and no one's placing of a class can really be claimed as right or wrong. It is especially important to keep this in mind as you are preparing your reasons because, as a contestant, you are entitled to your own opinion regardless if you agree with the judge that day or not.

In giving reasons, there is really two objectives: make the judge understand why you placed the class the way you did and convey that opinion confidently and carefully. With this there are two main ideas to keep in the back of your mind when preparing and giving reasons.

1. Be truthful in your reasons. This is the most important step in making the judge understand your placing. Saying something that is definitely untruthful will knock you down some points automatically so make sure that what you are saying about the cows is truthful. If you are not sure that she was weak in the loin (or any other characteristic), it is in your best interest to leave that point out and include the ones that you do know.
2. Be confident. While giving reasons at first may seem scary, it is important to remember that the reasons takers are ordinary people just like you. Everyone has to start somewhere and gaining confidence is 50% of the challenge. Walk into the room as if you know your placing is the official, smile, and, most importantly, have a good time!

Where do I start?

When in the ring, it is important to take a detailed mental picture of each cow so that you will remember them later when you prepare and giving your reasons. It makes it much easier when you go to talk about the class that you can visualize the cows.

Aside from visualizing, you will be able to take notes to study after you finish the classes. Detailed will notes set you up for success. There are many different ways to take notes however, I have found that the best way to take notes is to model them after the following format.

<p>Cow 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Red ➤ Smallest ➤ Stylish 	<p>4 over 1: (easy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HWRUA, more correct TSS 2. More youthful udder that is carried HAH 3. Stronger topline, esp. in the loin 4. More level H to P (1=HP) <p>Grant – more depth, openness, and spring of rib</p>
<p>Cow 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Over conditioned ➤ Bad F/L ➤ Tallest 	<p>1 over 3: (close)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More level UF (3=Reverse Tilt) 2. Sharper, cleaner over the withers 3. More angular over the w, h, & p <p>Grant – more correct TSS and Placement/Taller</p>
<p>Cow 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deep bodied ➤ Powerful ➤ Large teats 	<p>3 over 2: (easy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More capacious udder 2. Stronger pasterns, more correct set to the H 3. More depth, openness, spring of rib <p>Grant – taller, more upstanding</p>
<p>Cow 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Frail ➤ Angular ➤ Long 	<p>Last: 2</p> <p>While I admire 2 for her, <u>strength over the topline</u>, I feel justified in leaving her last because she lacks the <u>HWRUA, the strength on her F/L, and the overall S & B</u> to place any higher in the class today.</p>

Since you will have limited time to place the classes and write down notes, it is always good to use short hand abbreviations like the ones used in the example notes on the previous page when possible. The following are good abbreviations to use for writing down notes.

Abbreviations

- 4UA – fore udder attachment
- HWRUA – high wide rear udder attachment
- UF – udder floor
- UHAH – udder higher above the hocks
- TSS – teat size and shape
- TP – teat placement
- F/L – feet and legs
- S & B – style and balance
- HP – high pins
- H to P – hooks to pins

Putting Together Reasons

After you have a good set of notes, it is time to start making your reasons. Reasons consist of 3 main parts: opening, middle, closing.

The opening statement is one of the most important parts of a set of reasons. This is your chance to make a good first impression to the judge and show your confidence in your placing. The opening consists of a one sentence intro that gives the judge the name of the class and how you placed them.

Opening Statements

- I placed this class of (Ex. 2 year old Holstein cows), __, __, __, __.
- After carefully analyzing todays class of (Ex. Aged Jersey cows), I have come to the conclusion of placing them __, __, __, __.
- __, __, __, __ is my placing for this class of (Ex. 4 year old Guernsey cows).

After deciding on an opening statement, it is time to work on the body of your reasons. The body consists of a top pair, middle pair, bottom pair, and bottom cow.

In your top, middle, and bottom pair, you must describe why one cow placed over the other. This is the part where knowing terminology comes in handy (refer to page X for terminology). It is also important that you keep a nice flow between statements and, therefore, using different connecting statements throughout your reasons will come in handy.

Connecting Terms

- In addition,
- Additionally,
- Furthermore,
- Moreover,
- More importantly,
- Also,

Grants are also an important part of reasons and, in each pair, recognizes the lower placed cow for a trait that they have that is better than the cow placing before it. They are great to put into reasons, however, it is important to make sure that if you want to use grants, that you use grants for every pair.

Grant Terms

- I do admit that...
- I did not fail to recognize that...
- I do realize...
- I grant that...
- I do concede...

After carefully describing each pair, you must describe your bottom cow.

Bottom Cow Statements

- While I admire __ for her __, I feel justified in leaving her last because she lacks ____ to place any higher in the class today.

Finally, you end your reasons with a closing statement that will remind the judge of the class and your placing.

Closing Statements

- For these reasons, I place this class of (Ex. Aged Holstein cows) , __, __, __, __.
- These then are my reasons for placing this class of (Ex. 2 year old Ayrshire Cows), __, __, __, __.

What Not to Do

1. Do not state your name, where you are from, or anything else that might identify you to the judge unless otherwise noted in the rules.
2. Do not refer to cows as “cow 1” or “the number 1 cow.” Always just refer to cows as their number such as “4.”
3. Do not use the words “displays,” “exhibits,” or “shows” when describing the cows in each pair. It is much more appropriate to say that she “has” or she “is.”

Example Reasons

Set 1 – Beginner (Junior Level)

When starting out, it is important to just get the basics down before rushing into being “wordy” in your reasons. On a beginner level, there are four main aspects to include: a beginning statement, closing statement, defined pairs, and correct terminology. Below is a very good example of what a beginner set of reasons should look like.

I place this class of three year old Holstein cows, 2, 3, 1, 4.

In my top pair, I placed 2 over 3 because she has a higher, wider rear udder attachment and a more correct teat size and shape. Also, she is taller and longer from end to end and has more depth and spring of rib. I grant that 3 tracks straighter when viewed from behind.

In my middle pair, I placed 3 over 1 because she has a stronger udder cleft. Also, she is a stronger cow that has more strength of the chest floor and more depth of rib. Furthermore, she is stronger in her pasterns and has a deeper heel and steeper foot angle. I grant that 1 has more dairy strength being cleaner in her head and neck and through the thigh.

In my bottom pair, I placed 1 over 4 because she has a stronger fore udder attachment and carries her udder higher above the hocks. Also, she is a more angular cow that is carrying less conditioning throughout. Lastly, she has a more correct slope from hooks to pins.

I am leaving 4 last because she lacks the height and width of rear udder and the style and balance to place any higher in the class today.

For these reasons, I place this class of three year old Holstein cows, 2, 3, 1, 4.

Set 2 – Intermediate (Senior Level)

As you get more comfortable with the format of the reasons, you should gradually add more terminology and wording to your reasons. Notice that the cows are described in more detail and that each pair has an opening statement that describes the main points before going into detail. At this point, your reasons should always start with udder qualities since it is 40% of the scorecard. Additionally, the wording for grants changes in each pair which adds a different spin to keep the reasons interesting. Below is a good example of what senior level reasons should look like.

After carefully evaluating today’s class of three year old Holstein cow, I place them 2, 3, 1, 4.

In my top pair, I placed 2 over 3 because of her definite advantage in the mammary system and overall style and balance. She has a higher, wider rear udder attachment and a more correct teat size, shape, and placement noticing the large teats on 3 that are

placed on the outside of each quarter. Also, she is a taller, more upstanding cow that is longer from end to end and has more depth, openness, and spring of rib. However, I do admit that 3 is stronger on her feet and legs and tracks straighter when viewed from behind.

In my difficult middle pair, I placed 3 over 1 because of her exceptional mammary system and advantage in feet and legs. She has a stronger, more defined udder cleft and a more balanced rear udder criticizing 1 for her light right rear quarter. Additionally, she has more strength and width to the chest floor and has more depth of rib. More importantly, she is stronger on her feet and legs being stronger in her pasterns, having a deeper heel, and a steeper foot angle. However, I do grant that 1 exhibits more dairy strength being more clean and incurving in her thigh and more feminine throughout the head and neck.

Finally, in my easy bottom pair, I placed 1 over 4 because of her definite advantage in the mammary system and overall dairy strength. She has a smoother, more blending fore udder attachment and a more youthful udder that is carried high above the hocks. Moreover, she exhibits more dairy strength being more angular over the top, more clean and incurving in her thigh, and is carrying less conditioning throughout.

While I admire 4 for her body capacity, she lacks the height and width of rear udder, strength of feet and legs, and the overall style and balance to place any higher in the class today.

For these reasons, I place this class of three year old Holstein cows 2, 3, 1, 4.

Set 3 – Advanced (Collegiate Level)

After years of careful practice, you will eventually feel comfortable with giving reasons and will branch out to try new things. At this level, you should have an entire dictionary full of terms to pull from and have a format of how reasons are done. The best way to reach this level is to listen to judges at major shows give reasons so you continue to expand knowledge. Below is a good example of advanced level reasons.

After carefully analyzing today's class of three year old Holstein cows, I have come the conclusion of placing them 2, 3, 1, 4. 2 easily sorted her way to the top of the class because of her superior mammary system and overall style and balance.

She has a higher, stronger rear udder attachment and a more capacious udder with more width, bloom, and capacity. In addition, she also has a more correct teat size, shape, and placement noticing the large cone-shaped teats on 3 that are placed too far to the outside of each quarter. More importantly, she is a taller, more upstanding cow that is longer from poll to pins and has more body capacity with more depth, openness, and spring of rib. However, I did not fail to recognize that 3 walks out on a stronger and more correct set of feet and legs, tracking straighter when viewed from behind and being stronger in her pasterns.

3 uses this advantage in feet and legs along with an exceptional mammary system to place her in a more difficult placing over the red cow 1. She has a stronger median suspensory ligament with a more prominent and defined crease and has more balance and symmetry to the udder criticizing 1 for her light right rear quarter. Moreover, she is a stronger cow that has more width, depth, and strength of the chest floor and has more body capacity with more depth of fore and rear rib. To tip the scales even further, she walks out on a stronger set of feet and legs being stronger in her pasterns, having a deeper heel, and a steeper foot angle. However, I will admit that 1 is a more stylish cow that is more clean and incurving in her thigh and more feminine and refined throughout the head and neck.

Finally, 1 gets the nod over 4 in an easy bottom pair. She has a stronger, longer fore udder attachment that blends more smoothly and correctly into the body wall and a more youthful udder that is carried higher above the hocks. Furthermore, she is a more dairy cow that is more angular over the withers, hooks, and pins, more clean and incurving in her thigh, and is carry less conditioning throughout. Lastly, she has a more correct slope from hooks to pins noticing the high pins on 4.

While I admire 4 for her depth, spring, openness, and sweep of rib, I feel justified in leaving her last because she lacks the height and width of rear udder, strength on her feet and legs, and the overall style and balance to place any higher in the class today.

For these reasons, I place this class of three year old Holstein cows 2, 3, 1, 4.

Presenting Your Reasons

Now that you have your reasons memorized and ready to go, it is time to go before a judge or audience to present your reasons. Below is a check list of things to remember to make sure that you are successful in your presentation.

1. Before saying your reasons, take a deep breath! Remember that your audience is filled with normal people. They are human just like you and are just as excited that you are there.
2. It is a good rule of thumb to NOT state your name, where you are from, or any other identifier when in a contest or wear any clothing that would identify you. Many contests do not want the reasons official to know anything about you other than your contestant number. This keeps bias out of the contest and allows for you to have a fair chance of winning.
3. Ask the judge if they are ready for you to start when you walk in the room. If they are not ready, they definitely will not catch your opening statement and will not get that great first impression you are shooting for.
4. When the judge is ready, take another deep breath and make sure not to lock your knees. Locking your knees creates a better chance of you passing out and that is fun for no one!

5. STAY STILL. This rule cannot be said enough. Fidgeting during a set of reasons is extremely distracting to the official and is a sure way to lose some easy points. If you must play with your hands, put them behind your back.
6. Once you have made it through your reasons, it is very possible that they will ask you questions about the class. Which cow had the highest rear udder attachment? Which cow was red? Make sure to note things in your notes and take a mental picture of things that stand out in the class.