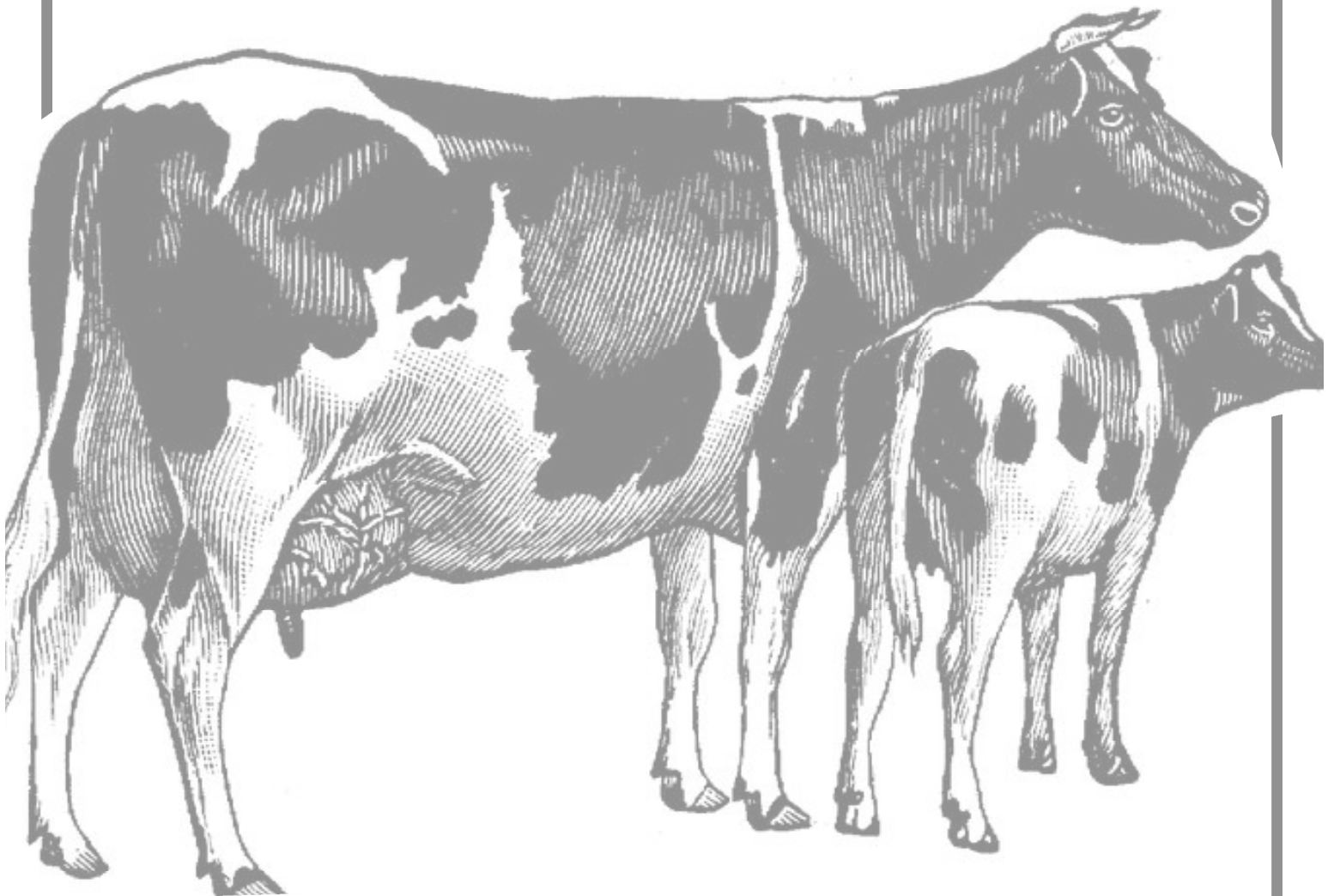


# DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING

Mississippi State  
UNIVERSITY  
Extension  
SERVICE



# DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING

Dairy cattle judging has been very important to dairy farmers and dairy cattle breeders for years. The goal is to have show-winning cows with excellent-type conformation. It is difficult to determine the dollar value of type, but cows and bulls in high demand are usually ones with excellence in milk production and good type.

Being able to evaluate type conformation requires a lot of hard work and training. You can learn this and have a great time as well through the 4-H dairy judging program. You will learn how to evaluate type by making comparisons and accurate observations that lead to decision making. You will also learn the importance of type as it relates to production through sound feet and legs and udders that are attached strongly and carried above the hock. Giving oral reasons helps you learn to express yourself concisely and to the point. It also helps you think more clearly, improve your memory, and develop confidence in yourself.

## TYPE

"Functional type," a term related to dairy cattle judging, is important to all dairymen because recent research shows cer-

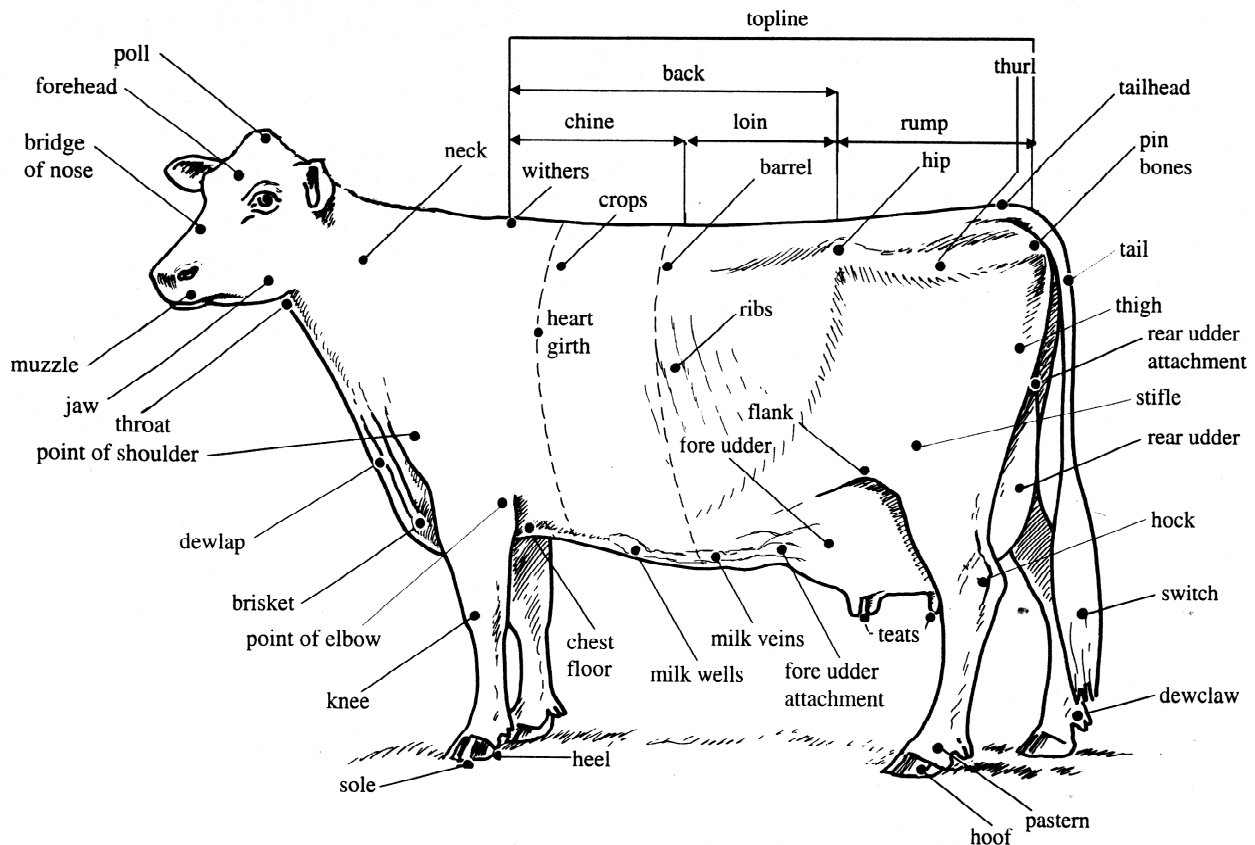
tain type traits (strength of udder support, feet and legs, and body size) are positively related genetically to longer herd life and higher lifetime production. It may be defined as body conformation suitable for efficient milking and management, allowing cows to live a long life and use their inherited ability for high milk production.

## PARTS OF A DAIRY COW

The first thing you need to do in learning to judge dairy cattle is learn the names of the parts of the dairy cow. Study the diagram below thoroughly and learn each part.

## THE DAIRY COW UNIFIED SCORE CARD

The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Score Card is found on pages 3 and 4. It has five major divisions with each part counting different amounts based on its importance (frame, 15 points; dairy character, 20 points; body capacity, 10 points; feet and legs, 15 points; and udder, 40 points). Each part of a cow



## DAIRY COW UNIFIED SCORE CARD

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*Breed characteristics should be considered in the application of this score card*

### MAJOR TRAIT DESCRIPTIONS

There are five major classification traits on which a classifier bases a cow's score. Each trait is broken down into body parts to be looked at and ranked.

#### 1) Frame - 15%

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

**Rump** - long and wide throughout with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones. Thurls need to be wide apart and centrally placed between hip bones and pin bones. The tailhead is set slightly above and neatly between pin bones, and the tail is free from coarseness. The vulva is nearly vertical. **Stature** - height, including length in the leg bones. A long bone pattern throughout the body structure is desirable. Height at the withers and hips should be relatively proportionate. **Front End** - adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows need to be firmly set against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness. **Back** - straight and strong; the loin - broad, strong, and nearly level. **Breed Characteristics** - overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean-cut, slightly dished and broad muzzle, large open nostrils and a strong jaw is desirable.

Rump Stature, and Front End receive primary consideration when evaluating Frame.

#### 2) Dairy Character - 20%

The physical evidence of milking ability is evaluated. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, flatness of bone and freedom from coarseness. Consideration is given to stage of lactation. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

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

#### 3) Body Capacity - 10%

The volumetric measurement of the capacity of the cow (length x depth x width) is evaluated with age taken into consideration. Listed in priority order the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

**Barrel** - long, deep, and wide. Depth and spring of rib increase toward the rear with a deep flank. **Chest** - deep and wide floor with wellsprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.

The Barrel receives primary consideration when evaluating Body Capacity.

#### 4) Feet and Legs - 15%

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:

**Feet** - steep angle and deep heel with sort, well-rounded closed toes. **Rear Legs: Rear View** - straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed. **Side View** - a moderate set (angle) to the hock. **Hocks** - cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility. **Pasterns** - short and strong with some flexibility.

Slightly more emphasis placed on Feet than on Rear Legs when evaluating this breakdown.

#### 5) Udder - 40%

The udder traits are the most heavily weighted. 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** - moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age.

**Teat Placement** - squarely place under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced from side and rear views.

**Rear Udder** - wide and high, firmly attached with uniform width from top to bottom and slightly rounded to udder floor.

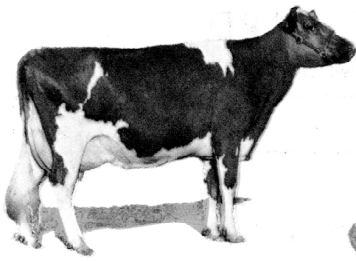
**Udder Cleft** - evidence of a strong suspensory ligament indicated by adequately defined halving.

**Fore Udder** - firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity.

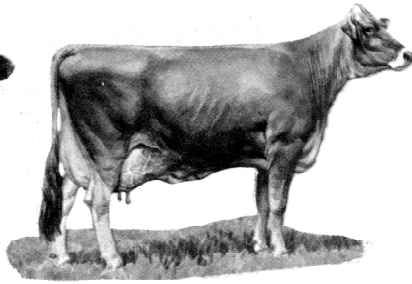
**Teats** - cylindrical shape and uniform size with medium length and diameter.

**Udder Balance and Texture** - should exhibit an udder floor that is level as viewed from the side. Quarters should be evenly balanced; soft pliable and well collapsed after milking.

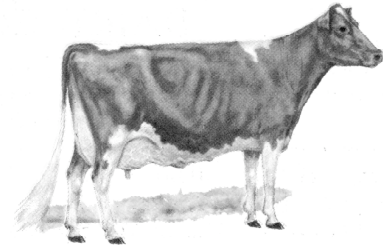




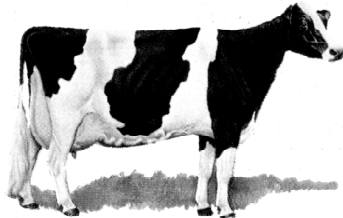
**AYRSHIRE**



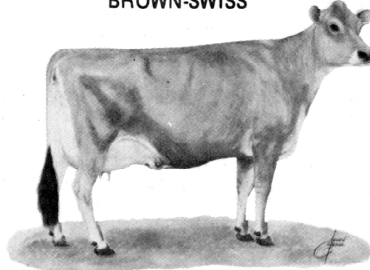
**BROWN-SWISS**



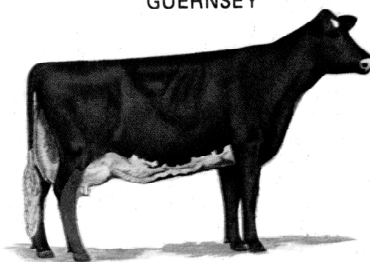
**GUERNSEY**



**HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN**



**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 an 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.

#### 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 a minimum of 1500 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 moderately dished; bridge of nose straight; ears, medium size and alertly carried.

**COLOR**—red or white or any combination.

**SIZE**—a mature cow should weigh 1400 lbs.

#### BROWN SWISS

Strong and vigorous, but not coarse. Size and ruggedness with quality desired. Extreme refinement 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**—solid brown varying from very light to dark. Muzzle is black encircled by a mealy colored ring, and the tongue, switch and hooves are black.

**SIZE**—a mature cow in milk should weigh 1500 lbs.

#### GUERNSEY

Size and strength, 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**—a shade of fawn with white markings throughout clearly defined. When other points are equal, clear (buff) muzzle will be favored over a smoky or black muzzle.

**SIZE**—a mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1150 lbs.

#### 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, and the tongue and switch may be either white or black.

**SIZE**—a mature cow in milk should weigh about 1000 lbs.

### 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 the judge, based on the guide for discriminations 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.*

#### TAIL SETTING

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

#### CAPPED HIP

*No discrimination unless affects mobility.*

#### 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 having: *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.*

6. Side leak: *Slight discrimination.*
7. Abnormal milk (bloody, clotted, watery): *Possible discrimination.*

#### LACK OF SIZE

*Slight to serious discrimination.*

#### 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 discrimination.*

#### OVERCONDITIONED

*Slight to serious discrimination.*

#### FREEMARTIN HEIFERS

*Disqualification.*

is in one of these five divisions. If you know the points allowed for each, you can evaluate an animal based on its strengths and weaknesses.

### **FRAME (15 Points)**

The frame represents all the skeletal parts of the cow. It can be thought of as the silhouette or outline of the cow. That is the reason it can be evaluated easiest 20 to 25 feet away from the animal. The traits on the scorecard in order of importance are rump, stature, front end, back, and breed characteristics.

The rump includes the hip (hook), thurls, and pins. The rump is ideally long, wide, and nearly level. Since the rump is the framework for the udder, it helps make the udder wide, long, and nearly level. Thurls should be wide and set almost centered between the hips and pins. The location of the thurls determines rear leg structure, so this is an important part to observe. Pins should be high and wide.

Stature is evaluated by height and length of leg bones. Taller animals usually carry their udders higher and tend to be larger cows that eat more feed, giving them the nutrients to produce more milk. The front end consists of width and depth of chest, with smooth blending of the shoulder to the body wall. Smoothly blended shoulders give a cow the appearance of harmony, style, and balance.

### **DAIRY CHARACTER (20 Points)**

Dairy character is determined by signs the cow can produce lots of milk. Excellent dairy character is shown by a great deal of angularity and openness, freedom from coarseness, and cleanness throughout. The order of importance for dairy character traits is ribs, thighs, withers, neck, and chine. Dairy animals should have a long lean neck and sharp withers, with no evidence of fat there. The topline and rump show no fat, with the hip bones and pin bones sharply defined. Thighs should be thin and curve in, showing no excess fat. Skin should be thin, loose, and pliable. Dairy animals should be open-ribbed and clean-cut at the throat, dewlap, and brisket.

### **BODY CAPACITY (10 Points)**

Body capacity is usually associated with an animal's being able to eat lots of feed in order to have nutrients to produce large amounts of milk. Body capacity counts only 10 points on the scorecard. It is less important than other major categories. Body capacity is a function of the length and depth of the animal. Good body capacity is usually characterized by capacity, strength, and vigor. It is expressed in terms of length, width, and depth of barrel. An animal should be wide in the chest, with ribs that angle back slightly toward the udder and be well-sprung and deep.

### **FEET AND LEGS (15 Points)**

This part of the scorecard is probably the most difficult to evaluate because its appearance is affected so much by management. Feet and legs are very important in the functional type category, so they count 15 points on the PDCA scorecard.

The order of importance for this category is feet, rear legs (rear and side view), hocks, and pasterns.

The ideal foot has a short toe and a deep heel with a short, strong pastern. Rear legs should be wide apart and straight with moderate set to the hock. The perfect leg walks straight ahead when viewed from the rear. The ideal hock is flat and clean, with no swelling.

### **UDDER (40 Points)**

The udder is the most important part of the cow. Since a dairy cow's main job is to produce milk, much emphasis should be placed on mammary system. For long-term performance under the stress of high production, an udder must be strongly attached, have acceptable size and capacity, and be well balanced.

The fore udder should be moderately long, strongly attached, and blend smoothly into the body wall. It should be uniformly wide from front to rear and be balanced with the rear udder. The udder should have little movement when the cow is walking.

The rear udder attachment should be high, wide, smooth, and deep. The rear quarters should be of equal size and the same width from top to bottom.

The median and lateral suspensory ligaments are the main support for the udder. The median suspensory ligament is located between the halves of the udder, and the lateral ligaments are located on the sides of the udder.

Udders with weak ligaments hang well below the hocks. Weak median suspensory ligaments cause the udder floor to be flat, and there will be no crease between the quarters. A weak median suspensory ligament generally causes teats to point out, making the cow difficult to milk.

The teats should be the same size and shape and 1½ to 2½ inches long. They should be placed squarely under the corners of the udder, pointed slightly inward before the udder is filled, and hang straight down when the udder is full.

Balance, symmetry, and quality are terms used to characterize udders. The udder should be nearly level on the floor, and there should be no signs of quartering. The skin should be soft, pliable, and loose. Large mammary veins are evidence of an excellent quality udder.

You should consider an animal's age and stage of lactation when evaluating udder capacity. As the cow grows older, her udder becomes deeper and larger. When a cow is under 5 years old, serious discrimination should be given if the udder hangs below the hocks.

### **JUDGING SUGGESTIONS**

Here are a few suggestions on procedure for a beginner judge:

1. Learn to locate and identify the parts of the animal.
2. Study the Unified Scorecard and learn how many points are given for frame, feet and legs, dairy character, body capacity, and mammary system. Learn the importance of the various parts of the cow's body.
3. Get a picture of the ideal cow clearly and firmly fixed in

mind. You can learn by studying models and pictures. Breed publications with pictures of state and national champions are good resources. The Unified Scorecard has a picture of the ideal cow for each breed.

4. In approaching a class to be judged, stop first at a distance of 25 or more feet and view the animals. You can observe all four animals better from this distance. Beginners often make the mistake of going up close for their first look.
5. Put in first place the animal that is most nearly ideal and in last place the one least like the ideal animal. This leaves only two animals to place. Put the one more like the first place animal in second place, which automatically leaves the other animal in third place.
6. Work quietly to avoid disturbing animals, and be polite to and considerate of others who are judging. Allow 10 minutes for placing.
7. Write down placing on card, remembering that first impressions are usually best. Rely on your own judgment rather than trying to place the class as some other contestant has placed it. Correct placing counts 50 points.
8. Check your card to be sure placing and name of class are as you mean them to be. Also, be sure your number is correct. Mistakes with this can mean you get a zero score for the class.
9. Make notes on classes that require oral reasons. These classes are designated at the beginning of contest.

## SUGGESTIONS ON GIVING REASONS

1. Study notes diligently so you have your reasons organized but not memorized when called to give them. Practice giving your reasons thoroughly before giving them. They count 50 percent of the total score. You have 2 minutes to give oral reasons. You should never refer to notes while giving reasons.
2. When called to give reasons, move promptly to the judge and stand attentively and straight some 5 or 6 feet in front of the judge. Speak clearly, distinctly, and confidently. Make reasons fit the class rather than giving mechanical reasons that may or may not apply.

3. Be neatly dressed. Present a neat, clean, well-groomed appearance.
4. Stand squarely on your feet. Don't slouch. Look directly at the person to whom you are speaking. Know what to say, and say it. Be sure to use correct terms.
5. **Always** compare two animals being discussed rather than describe one animal. Use comparative terms ending in "er" (such as longer, larger, deeper) rather than descriptive terms (long, large, deep).
6. **Never** use the word "better" in giving reasons. Instead, use a comparative term that points out exactly what you mean.
7. Tell the important differences first. Emphasize the superior points of why one animal excels, and then grant any strong points to the animal you placed lower.
8. Never go back. Say all you intend to about one placing, then proceed to the next. When you have completed your reasons on the cow in last place, you are finished.
9. Avoid any "questionable points" on which the judge could disagree with you.
10. Use numbers of the cows often enough the judge can follow you easily.
11. Always carry a clear, mental picture of the class.
12. A courteous attitude and sportsmanlike conduct have never lowered the score of a contestant.

Keep in mind that you can make a good score on reasons even if your placing score is not good. Try to convince the judge on your placement with clear, accurate information.

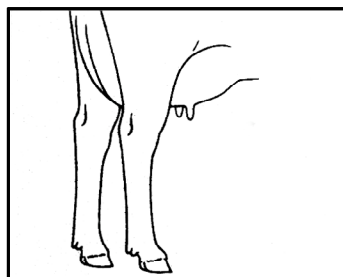
## DAIRY TERMINOLOGY

### EXAMPLES OF OPENING STATEMENTS

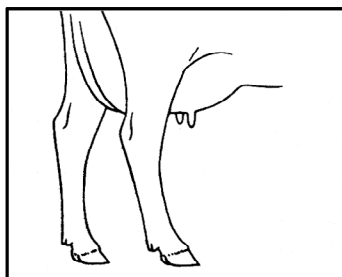
1. 1-2-3-4 is my placing in this class of (class name).
2. I place this class of (class name) 1-2-3-4.
3. My placing for this class of (class name) is 1-2-3-4.

*These drawings show three examples of the 12 most important functional-type traits. They should be helpful in understanding correct conformation.*

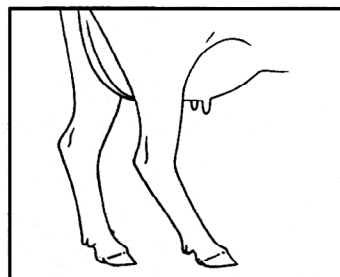
### Rear Legs (Side View)



Extremely posty



Slight set in hock

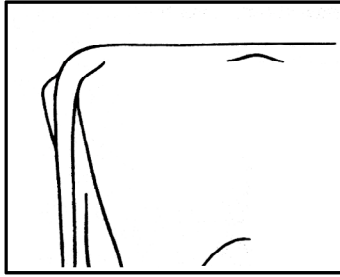


Extremely sickled

## Pelvic Angle



Pins higher than hooks

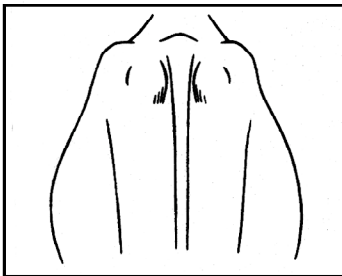


Nearly level

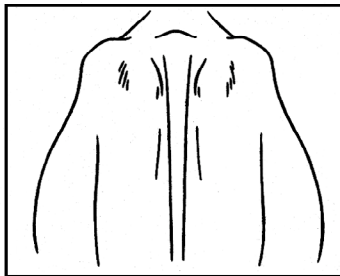


Severe slope

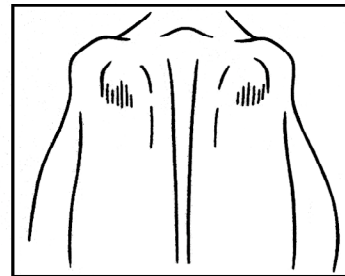
## Rump Width



Extremely narrow

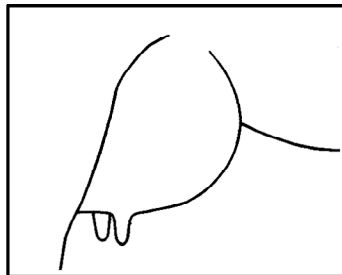


Intermediate width

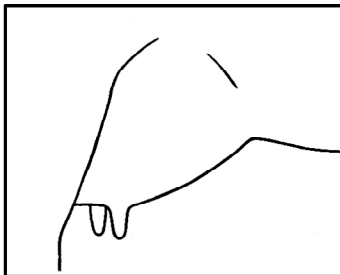


Extreme width

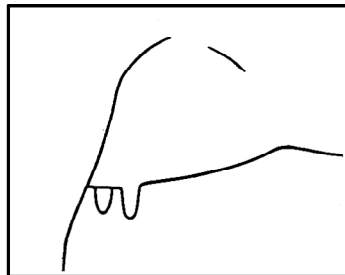
## Fore Udder Attachment



Extremely broken

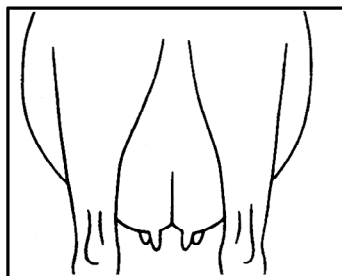


Intermediate strength

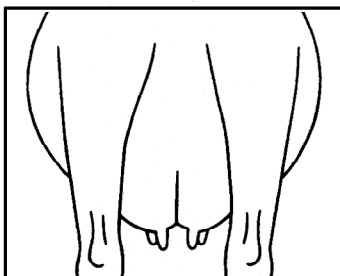


Extremely tight attachment

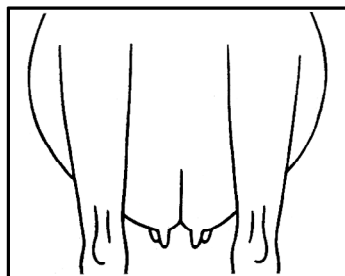
## Rear Udder Width (At Attachment)



Extremely narrow



Intermediate width



Extremely wide

4. This class of (class name) has a very logical placing of 1-2-3-4.
5. In placing this class of (class name), 1-2-3-4, I found a —  
-----.

## EXAMPLES OF CLOSING STATEMENTS

1. For these reasons I place this class of (class name) 1-2-3-4.
2. These are my reasons for placing this class of (class name) 1-2-3-4.
3. These reasons justify my placing of this class of (class name) 1-2-3-4.
4. It is for these reasons that I placed this class of (class name), 1-2-3-4.

## EXAMPLE OF CRITICISM OF THE LAST COW

1. I place 4 last because she lacks the ---- to merit a higher placing.
2. I place 4 last because she lacks the ---- to place any higher in the class.
3. I am leaving 4 last because she lacks----
4. I must leave 4 last because she lacks-----
5. Even though I admire the ---of 4, I'm leaving her last because she lacks the ----
6. Granted 4 had ----, I faulted her and left her last because-----

## SAMPLE TERMS COMPARING UDDERS

### UDDER SUPPORT

1. a more youthful udder
2. stronger center support in the udder
3. a deeper crease in her udder
4. a deeper cleft in her udder
5. more clearly defined halving in the udder
6. more halving when viewed from the rear
7. stronger center attachment
8. leveler on the udder floor, faulting 2 for having a reverse (forward) tilt
9. carries her udder higher above the hocks
10. udder held tighter to the body wall

### NEGATIVE TERMS

1. weaker attachments
2. less halving
3. stale (udder lacks bloom)
4. lacks udder support
5. light quarter

### REAR UDDER

1. higher in the rear udder
2. wider in the rear udder attachment
3. higher and wider in the rear udder

4. fuller at the top of the rear udder
5. more fullness at the bottom of the rear udder
6. more fullness of rear udder
7. more correct turn to the rear udder
8. more height and strength of rear udder attachment
9. more symmetry and balance of rear udder

### NEGATIVE TERMS

1. unbalanced and loosely attached in the rear udder
2. light in the left (or right) rear quarter
3. lower in the rear udder attachment
4. weak and narrow in the rear udder attachment

### FORE UDDER

1. stronger fore udder attachment
2. a longer, more tightly attached fore udder
3. less bulginess of fore udder
4. tighter in the fore udder (attachment)
5. more firmly attached fore udder
6. fore udder that blends more smoothly into the body wall
7. snugger in the fore udder attachment
8. longer fore udder attachment

### NEGATIVE TERMS

1. loosely attached fore udder
2. bulgier appearing fore udder
3. deep in the fore udder
4. steeper in the fore udder attachment
5. shorter in the fore udder attachment
6. unbalanced fore udder
7. cut-up in the fore udder

### TEATS AND TEAT PLACEMENT

1. teats more desirable in size, shape, and placement
2. more nearly correct teat size
3. teats hanging more nearly plumb
4. teats placed more correctly beneath each quarter
5. more nearly correct front teat placement
6. teats placed more squarely beneath the quarters
7. more correct teat placement as viewed from the side (or rear)

### NEGATIVE TERMS

1. funnel, bottle, or pencil-shaped teats
2. teats too small
3. teats placed to the side of the udder
4. teats too long
5. teats of undesirable size and shape
6. teats hang too close together

### UDDER QUALITY

1. more apparent quality in the udder
2. an apparently softer, more pliable udder
3. more desirable texture to the udder, noting the congestion in 4's udder
4. an advantage in stage of lactation, noting the congestion in 4's udder



5. less congestion (or swelling) in the udder
6. more prominent veining

### **GENERAL UDDER TERMS**

1. larger, more capacious udder
2. more symmetry of udder
3. more "bloom" and capacity of udder
4. more balance of udder
5. leveler on the udder floor
6. she has an advantage in stage of lactation, having more bloom and capacity of udder

### **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. flatter on the udder floor
2. broken, weak median suspensory ligament
3. low, loose pendulous udder
4. udder lacking cleavage
5. lacks a crease to the udder when viewed from the rear

## **TERMS FOR COMPARING DAIRY CHARACTER**

1. more angularity and clean-cutness
2. milkier appearance
3. more openness of ribbing
4. more open in her conformation
5. more dairyness throughout
6. more length and stretch
7. longer and leaner in the neck
8. more prominent about the hips and pins
9. cleaner down that topline
10. flatter (leaner or thinner) in the thighs
11. more curving in the thighs
12. longer and more open throughout
13. sharper at the point of withers

### **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. shorter, thicker neck
2. tighter, closer ribbed
3. throatier
4. carrying excess flesh in the throat, brisket, or dewlap
5. thick and fleshy about the throat and neck
6. thicker thighs
7. thicker, rounder shoulder
8. plainer
9. coarse and thick about the head and neck

## **TERMS FOR COMPARING LEGS & FEET**

1. Straighter in her rear legs as viewed from behind (the side), faulting 2 for ...
2. more correct set to the hock, noting the straight (set) leg on 3

3. cleaner through the hock, faulting 4 for being puffy in the left hock
4. handles her rear legs more correctly on the walk, faulting 3 for ...
5. more mobility, noting 2's crampiness
6. more strength and substance of leg bone
7. a cleaner, flatter hock (leg bone)
8. flatter leg bone
9. stronger in the pasterns
10. deeper in the heel (and shorter in the toe)
11. walks more correctly on her front feet, noting that 3 toes out (toes in)
12. more mobility

### **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. shallow heel
2. post-legged
3. weak, refined or coarse boned
4. weak pasterns
5. light-boned and lacking substance
6. hocks in when viewed from the rear
7. thick in the hock
8. too much set to her rear legs when viewed from the side
9. close at the hocks (cow-hocked)
10. toes out (toes in)
11. stands too close at the hocks
12. more coarseness at the hock
13. puffy about the hock

## **TERMS FOR COMPARING FRAME (Structure & Form)**

### **RUMP**

1. longer and leveler from hips (hooks) to pins
2. wider in the pins (and thurls)
3. less slope from hooks to pins
4. more nearly correct rump angle, criticizing 2 for being too low (high) in the pins
5. more nearly level from hooks to pins; faulting 3 for being too low (high) in the pins
6. tail head that sets more neatly between the pins
7. neater in the tail setting
8. more correctly set tail head

### **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. shorter, narrower rump
2. higher and coarser at the tail head
3. narrow between the hooks and pins
4. sloping and pinched in the rump
5. higher at the pins
6. more sloping in the rump
7. reverse tilt to the rump

## **STATURE (Height)**

1. taller, more upstanding
2. taller at the point of withers
3. more stature
4. more height at the point of withers
5. a taller front-ended cow

## **TOPLINE**

1. straighter down her topline, especially — — — —
2. stronger in the loin
3. stronger in the chine
4. stronger through the middle of her back; stronger in the loin (chine)
5. wider through the loin
6. longer from head to tail
7. more nearly level from withers to pins

## **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. less strength of topline
2. easy over the topline
3. weak in the chine and crops
4. weak in the loin
5. weak over the topline

## **FRONT END (Shoulders)**

1. more width and strength
2. smoother blending shoulder
3. tighter at the point of shoulder
4. tighter at the point of elbow
5. fuller in the crops
6. blends more smoothly from neck to shoulder and shoulder to barrel
7. more harmonious blending through the front end (throughout)
8. wider on the chest floor
9. more width and strength of chest

## **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. coarser shoulder
2. looser shoulder
3. winged-shoulders
4. more prominent at point of shoulder
5. shallow shoulder lacking strength
6. open behind the shoulders

## **HEAD**

1. more breed character about the head
2. more femininity about the head
3. more alertness and style
4. stronger through the jaw, faulting 3 for her Roman nose
5. more strength of muzzle

## **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. plainer about the head
2. head lacks style and breed characteristics

3. coarse about the head
4. short and plain about the head

## **TERMS FOR COMPARING BODY CAPACITY**

1. more width and strength throughout
2. more width and strength in the chest
3. fuller behind the shoulders
4. deeper in the chest
5. more spring of rib
6. more spring of fore rib
7. deeper in the barrel
8. fuller in the heart
9. wider through the chest floor
10. deeper in the rear rib
11. a stronger, more powerful cow
12. a cow with more strength and power
13. more size, scale, and substance
14. deeper the flank
15. more depth of fore and rear rib
16. longer from end to end

## **NEGATIVE TERMS**

1. less spring of rib
2. narrow chest floor
3. narrow, pinched heart girth
4. weak, front-ended cow
5. lacks openness and sweep to the rib
6. shallow-ribbed
7. narrow, weak, and frail
8. tight-ribbed
9. shallow fore and rear rib
10. pinched in the chest
11. shallow in the heart
12. short-bodied
13. shallow-bodied
14. ribs lacking in fullness and spring
15. round-ribbed

## **GENERAL TERMS**

1. a more youthful cow
2. more style and balance (throughout)
3. more harmonious blending of parts
4. more symmetry and balance
5. a cow with more bloom (and capacity)
6. placing the more recently fresh cow over
7. more balance throughout
8. she has an advantage in stage of lactation

## **DESCRIPTION FOR INDIVIDUAL COWS**

Make your reasons more interesting by using color, markings, or some other clearly distinctive characteristics instead of the animal's number.

- “the black cow” (Holstein)
- “the dark colored cow” (Holstein, Brown Swiss, or Jersey)
- “the light colored cow” (Brown Swiss, Jersey, or Guernsey)
- “the white cow” (Holstein or Ayrshire)
- “the speckled cow” (Holstein or Ayrshire)
- “the spotted cow” (Holstein, Ayrshire, or Guernsey)
- “the broken colored cow” (Jersey)
- “the red cow” (Guernsey or Ayrshire)
- “the short eared cow”
- “the stub-horned cow”

## GENERAL STATEMENTS

You can use many statements to add variety to your reasons. Some may help you show that the placing on one of the pairs is close or easy. Others help you make a statement of admission. Good reasons also have statements that help lead the listener from one pair to another.

### TO INDICATE AN OBVIOUS (EASY) PLACING

1. A handy winner in this class
2. A logical winner in the class
3. An easy winner in the class
4. A clear cut winner in the class
5. She has a decided advantage
6. She has a definite advantage
7. She has a distinct advantage
8. In a more logical placing
9. She has much more ...
10. An outstanding cow in this class

### TO INDICATE A CLOSE (DIFFICULT) PLACING

1. In a close placing 1 goes over 2 because
2. In a close pair, 1 places over 2 because
3. 2 is somewhat more . . . than 3
4. In a closer decision, 2 goes over 3 . . .
5. 2 gets the edge because she is . . .
6. 2 has a bit more . . . than 3
7. She has a slightly more . . .
8. Tends to be more . . .
9. Has a slight advantage

### ADMISSION (GRANT) STATEMENTS

1. I admit that 4 is . . .
2. I grant that 4 is . . .
3. However, I give her the advantage
4. On the other hand
5. I realize that 4 is . . .
6. However, 4 is clearly
7. I concede that 4 is . . .
8. I recognize that 4 is . . .
9. I give her credit, however
10. 4 must be given the advantage, however, in . . .
11. I credit 4, however, for being . . .
12. I appreciate the . . . of 4, however . . .

## TRANSITIONAL STATEMENTS (MIDDLE OR BOTTOM PAIR ONLY)

1. . . . then placing 2 over 3 because
2. . . . next placing 2 over 3 because
3. . . . next, I place 2 over 3 because
4. . . . in the middle pair, 2, places over 3 because
5. . . . concerning my middle pair, 2, places over 3 because
6. . . . going to my middle pair, 2, places over 3 because
7. . . . finally, placing 3 over 4 because
8. . . . in the bottom pair, 3 places over 4 because
9. . . . in my final pair, 3, goes over 4 because
10. . . . lastly, placing 3 over 4 because

## JERSEY COWS SAMPLE REASONS

In placing this class of senior 2-year-old Jersey cows 2-1-4-3, I found a close top pair between the well uddered 2 and the powerful 1, followed by the very dairy 4 and ending with an easy bottom in the overconditioned 3.

It is 2's advantage in frame that carried her over 1 in my top pair. 2 was a taller, longer, more upstanding individual, showing more strength down her topline, was neater about the tailhead, and was wider in her hips and pins. 2 also had a slight advantage in mammary, carrying her udder higher above the hocks and having a smoother, tighter fore udder attachment and a more defined udder cleft.

However, I did not fail to realize 1 had a higher, wider rear udder attachment and a more capacious udder with more depth of udder.

Reviewing my middle pair, 1 overwhelmed 4 in mammary, having a more capacious, higher quality udder with a higher, wider rear udder attachment, a tighter, smoother blending fore udder attachment, and more correct teat placement. Moreover, 1 had the advantage of feet and legs, standing on a more correct set of rear legs, having a more desirable set to the hock, a steeper foot angle, and a deeper heel. In addition, 1 was flatter boned and squarer rumped.

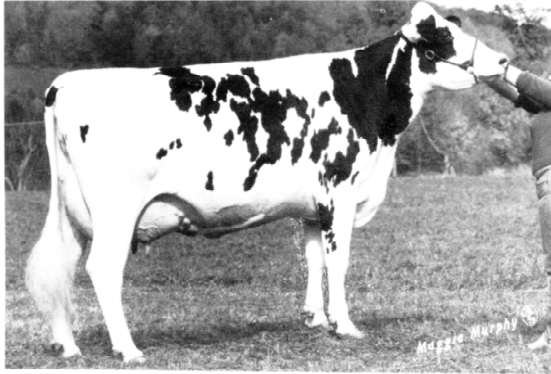
4 easily places over 3 in my bottom pair because of her definite advantage of dairyness and frame. 4 was longer and leaner in the neck, being cleaner in the throat latch, showed more openness and sweep of rib, and was sharper over the withers. Not to mention the fact 3 was more nearly level from hock to pins and was flatter in the thigh.

I admit 3 was flatter boned, mainly in the hock, and was tighter in her shoulder structure. I faulted 3 and placed her last, for she lacked the frame, dairyness, and mammary of the cows I placed above her. It is for these reasons I placed this class of senior 2-year-old Jersey cows 2-1-4-3.

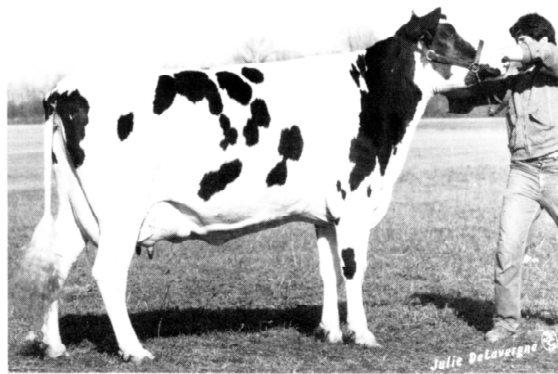
Thank you. Do you have any questions?

Prepared by  
Andrea Slocum,  
Former Tate County 4-Her

## 4-YEAR-OLD HOLSTEIN COWS



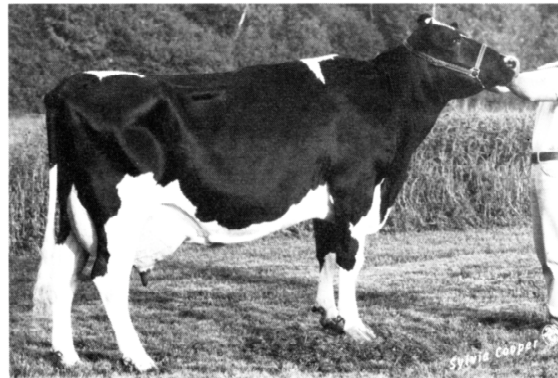
Cow 1



Cow 2



Cow 3



Cow 4

### REASONS ON 4-YEAR-OLD HOLSTEIN COWS

Good morning. I am contestant number 10-A. I placed this class of 4-year-old Holstein cows 1-2-3-4. I find this class to have an obvious top in 1 and bottom in 4 and a close pair in 2 and 3.

Number 1 places over 2 easily because of her tremendous advantage in mammary. She exhibits a higher rear udder attachment and stronger fore udder attachment. Further, she has more desirable size and placement of teats. Number 1 easily places over 2 in feet and legs, being straighter in rear legs, having a rounder foot with deeper heel and stronger pasterns. Finally, 1 has an advantage over 2 in dairy character, being cleaner about the head, neck, and throat and sharper over the withers. I do grant that 2 is a larger cow, being longer, taller, and deeper bodied than 1.

In my middle pair I find a close placing. Number 2 places over 3 because of her advantage in frame. She is straighter and stronger across the topline and wider in the chest and blends more smoothly at the neck-shoulder junction. Number 2 further places over 3 in mammary, being smoother in fore

udder attachment. However, I grant 3 an advantage in dairy character, being cleaner about the head, neck, and shoulder, long in the neck, sharper in the withers, carrying less flesh over the ribs and thighs, and showing more prominence of mammary veins. Number 3 further is more correct in teat size and shape.

In the bottom pair, 3 has an advantage over 4 in udder depth, carrying her udder higher above the hocks. Number 3 is stronger and more balanced in fore udder and has more desirable teat size and shape. She also excels in udder balance and appears to have greater veining. Finally, 3 has an advantage in frame, being longer from hips to pins and straighter across the topline. I grant 4 an advantage in rear legs, having a more desirable set.

I place the black cow, number 4, last because of her lack of strength in frame to place any higher today. She is narrow in the chest, U-necked, and coarse in the shoulder. For these reasons, I place this class of 4-year-old cows 1-2-3 and 4.

Are there any questions?

## BROWN SWISS COWS SAMPLE REASONS

I placed this class of three- year-old Brown Swiss cows 4-3-2-1. I started the class, in a very close placing, with the most complete individual in the class, combining both mammary system and dairy character to the highest degree. In my middle pair, 3 excelled 2 in both frame and body capacity. 1 was the smallest in the class being an easy bottom, and therefore, leaving a logical third in 2.

After closely analyzing my top pair, I chose 4 over 3 because she was a more refined, stylish, angular individual with decisive advantages in dairy character and mammary system. In this advantage in dairyness, 4, the dark colored cow, was cleaner about the head and neck, sharper over the withers, cleaner across the topline, more prominent about the hips and pins, and also flatter in the thigh. She also excelled in mammary being in bloom and thus having a more capacious udder.

I must admit that 3 had a tremendous advantage in size and scale.

In reviewing my second pair of 3 over 2, 3 was the most upstanding, longest, growthiest, most powerfully front-ended individual in the pair. 3 had an advantage in frame possessing more harmonious blending of body parts, blending especially more smoothly through the shoulders. Furthermore, 3 excelled in body capacity being deeper through the heart, possessing more depth of fore and rear rib, more spring of rib when viewed from the rear, and also more width throughout the rump.

However, I realize 2 did have an advantage in udder capacity.

Going to my bottom pair in a logical placing, 2 places over 1 for her definite advantage in mammary system. 2 had a more youthful udder with a higher, wider, stronger rear udder attachment. She was also stronger and straighter across the top, especially over the chine and loin.

In placing 1, the light colored cow, at the bottom of the class, I do realize she did have a very desirable udder, except for the fore udder attachment, but because she lacked the size and scale, was weak over the top, and possessed a sloping rump, I could not place her any higher in the class today. These reasons justify my placing of this class of 3 year-old Brown Swiss Cows, 4-3-2-1.

Thank you. Are there any questions?


## MAKING NOTES FOR ORAL REASONS

To be a successful judge of dairy animals, you must cultivate your memory and, thereby, have a clear, mental picture of the class. However, a brief and complete set of notes can be very valuable to you for study before giving oral reasons to the judge.

Notes are for study purposes only and not to read to the judge. **Do not refer to your notes while giving reasons.**

This example is on the Brown Swiss cow's sample reasons in the manual:

| 4-H JUDGING REASON NOTECARD  |  | Identification          |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| Class Name <u>Brown Swiss Cows</u> Placing <u>4-3-2-1</u>  |  | 1. <u>light colored</u> |
| Opening Statement <u>Close placing, most complete ind., mammary system, dairy character</u>                                    |  | 2. _____                |
|  |  | 3. _____                |
|  |  | 4. <u>Dark colored</u>  |
| Top Pair - Reasons for <u>4</u> over <u>3</u>  |  | Grant to <u>3</u>       |
| <u>D.C. - More refined; stylish; angular; cleaner head &amp; neck; sharper withers, topline, hips &amp; pins flatter thigh</u> |  | <u>Size &amp; scale</u> |
| <u>MS - Bloom; capacious</u>   |  | Criticize _____         |
| Middle Pair - Reasons for <u>3</u> over <u>2</u>   |  | Grant to <u>2</u>       |
| <u>F - upstanding; longest; powerful front end; harmonious blending (shoulder)</u>   |  | <u>udder capacity</u>   |
| <u>BC - deepen heart; depth base &amp; rear rib, spring of rib; width through rump</u>   |  | Criticize _____         |
| Bottom Pair - Reasons for <u>2</u> over <u>1</u>   |  | Grant to _____          |
| <u>MS - youthful udder; wider, stronger rear udder attachment</u>  |  |                         |
| <u>F - stronger &amp; straighter top; especially over chine &amp; loin</u>   |  | Criticize _____         |
| I placed <u>1</u> last because: <u>weak fore udder attachment; lacked size &amp; scale; weak top; sloping Rump</u>             |  |                         |

  
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### Writing Reasons\*

- \_\_\_\_\_ is my placing for this class of (class name).
- \_\_\_ places over \_\_\_ primarily because:
- She is also:
- I admit that \_\_\_ is:
- In the middle pair, \_\_\_ places over \_\_\_ because of her definite advantage in:
- Furthermore, she is:
- However, I realize that \_\_\_ is
- Finally, \_\_\_ places over \_\_\_ because of her decided advantage in:
- In addition, she is:
- I realize that \_\_\_ is:
- But she lacks the: \_\_\_\_\_ to merit a higher placing.
- These are my reasons for placing this class of (class name) , \_\_\_\_\_ .

\* Reproduced from "Dairy Cattle Judging Made Easy" by Dr. Dave Dickson



|   |           |                             |                  |           |  |              |
|---|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| Mississippi 4-H Livestock/Horse Judging Contest   | SR.       | 10-A                        | Brown Swiss Cows |           |  |              |
|   | Contest   | Team No. and Contestant No. | Class            | Class No. |  | Reason Score |
| DIRECTIONS - Below are all the possible placings for a class of 4 individuals. Draw a circle around the placing which you consider correct for the class you are judging. |           |                             |                  |           |  |              |
| A=1-2-3-4   | G=2-1-3-4 | M=3-1-2-4                   | S=4-1-2-3        |           |  |              |
| B=1-2-4-3   | H=2-1-4-3 | N=3-1-4-2                   | T=4-1-3-2        |           |  |              |
| C=1-3-2-4   | I=2-3-1-4 | O=3-2-1-4                   | U=4-2-1-3        |           |  |              |
| D=1-3-4-2   | J=2-3-4-1 | P=3-2-4-1                   | V=4-2-3-1        |           |  |              |
| E=1-4-2-3   | K=2-4-1-3 | Q=3-4-1-2                   | W=4-3-1-2        |           |  |              |
| F=1-4-3-2   | L=2-4-3-1 | R=3-4-2-1                   | X=4-3-2-1        |           |  |              |

## JUNIOR YEARLING GUERNSEY HEIFERS SAMPLE REASONS

Good morning. I am contestant number 10-A. I placed this class of Junior Yearling Guernsey Heifers 3-1-2-4.

I placed 3 over 1 because she is a longer-bodied heifer. She is longer and more level from hips to pins, indicating greater length of udder upon maturity. 3 is higher and wider at the pins and more desirable about the tail setting. She has more balance and symmetry throughout.

I placed 1 over 2 because she is a more upstanding animal and is much stronger over the topline. She has more width of chest and is straighter in her fore legs. No. 1 shows more promise of udder, in that she has more loose folds of skin. Her teats are also more squarely placed.

I concede that 2 is more neatly blended at neck and shoulders.

I placed 2 over 4 mainly on dairy character. She is much cleaner and sharper throughout. She is sharper over the withers and is more prominent at hips, pins, and thurls. 2 is also more neatly blended at the neck and shoulders.

I placed 4 last in an easy placing because she is somewhat weak over the topline, has a sloping rump, and is shorter and more compact.

For these reasons, I placed this class of Junior Yearling Guernsey Heifers 3-1-2-4.

Are there any questions?

## JUDGING HEIFERS

The Dairy Heifer Scorecard is shown. As you can see, the greatest emphasis should be on Dairy Character. Good heifer judges look for tall, straight animals with correct feet and legs. Keep in mind that heifers are simply undeveloped cows, and most things that apply to cows also apply to heifers. The explanations of frame, feet and legs, dairy character, and body capacity described earlier in this publication also apply to heifers.

Of course, you cannot be sure how the udder on a young heifer will develop upon calving, but there are indications for guidance. For instance, distance from hips to pin bones indicates whether the udder will be short or will have desired length. The basis for this is that a perpendicular line dropped from the hip of a cow will fall even with front of udder, and one dropped from pin bone will fall even with rear udder. Likewise, something of the width of udder a heifer will have upon freshening can be determined by observing width between hips, thurls, and pin bones.

If hips, thurls, and pin bones are wide apart, the heifer's udder should develop into a uniformly wide udder. There is a close correlation in that respect. On the other hand, if hips are wide and pin bones close together, udder tends to be wide in front and narrow behind. These principles also apply to dry cows, whose collapsed udders do not show their normal shape and size.

# DAIRY HEIFER SCORE CARD

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## FRAME

40

**Backline** - *straight and strong; loin broad, strong and level with chine an rump; rump long, wide with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones; tail head refined, blending smoothly with the rump; thurls.. set high and wide.*

**Stature** - *tall and upstanding in consideration of age. Height at withers and hips should be similar.*

**Front End** - *indicating strong constitution with dairy refinement. Shoulder blades set smoothly and tightly with the neck and body. Chest deep, wide and strong.*

**Breed Characteristics** - *see Unified Dairy Cow Scorecard.*

## DAIRY CHARACTER

20

*Emphasizing angularity, sharpness, openness, and cleanness with strength and freedom of coarseness.*

**Withers** - *sharp, with vertebrae and chine defined.*

**Ribs** - *wide apart, flat and long.*

**Thighs** - *flat and free of excess flesh, well apart providing ample space for udder development.*

**Neck** - *long and lean with throat and dewlap free of excess flesh.*

## FEET AND LEGS

30

*Emphasizing ease of mobility through correctness in leg structure with strength of pasterns and soundness of feet.*

**Feet** - *steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded, closed toes.*

**Rear Legs; Rear View** - *straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed. Side View* - *a moderate set (angle) to the hock. Hocks* - *cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.*

**Pasterns** - *short and strong with some flexibility. Slightly more emphasis placed on Feet than when evaluating this breakdown.*

## BODY CAPACITY

10

*Corresponding size to scale of animal, providing adequate capacity for large intakes of forage. Consideration given to period of gestation.*

**Body** - *long, deep and wide with depth and spring of rib increasing toward the rear. Flanks, deep.*

**Chest** - *strong with wide floor and well sprung fore ribs. Crops full.*

## MAMMARY DEVELOPMENT

0

*The heifer should have four teats that hang plumb (extra teats removed). It should also have adequate folds of skin to show promise of udder development with due consideration given to stage of gestation if bred.*

**A slight to serious discrimination should be made when a teat or teats is too long, strut widely, or are poorly spaced. An enlarged quarter or udder that is fat and over developed is also objectionable and should be discriminated against.**



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