

Diary Cow Handbook

Phrases and Terms Used To Describe Dairy Animals

MAMMARY SYSTEM

Desirable

has a more snugly attached udder
carries her udder closer to the body
the floor of the udder is carried higher above the hocks
is higher, wider and stronger in rear udder attachment
exhibits a stronger medial suspensory ligament
has a stronger, smoother fore udder attachment
teats that hang more nearly plumb
has more balance of rear (or front) quarters
carries up and out better in the rear quarters
has a
has teats of more uniform size and shape
has teats that are more evenly and correctly placed

Criticism

has a more bulgy and weaker attached fore udder
has a broken udder attachment
has a more unbalanced udder
is pinched and narrow in the rear attachment
has an abruptly attached fore udder
has teats pointing outward indicating a weak middle
is too short in the fore udder
has an unbalanced udder
has an udder which hangs too low
is cut up between front and rear quarters
has a badly quartered udder
has a rear udder tucked inward which limits capacity
lacks capacity of udder by being narrow and short

BODY CAPACITY

Desirable

is a much larger framed cow
has greater spring of fore rib and/or rear rib
has greater depth of rib
is deeper in the heart or wider in the chest floor
is fuller in the crops
shows more length and stretch
is deeper in the flank
is fuller in the heart girth

Criticism

is more narrow in the chest
is a more narrow bodied cow
is a shorter and more compact individual
is a shorter coupled cow
is weaker in the crops
is pinched at the elbow
is a more shallow bodied cow
lacks depth and spring of rib

DAIRY CHARACTER

Desirable

is sharper over the withers
is longer and leaner in the neck
is flatter and cleaner in the thighs
is cleaner in the throat
is flatter and more open ribbed
is neater and more refined at the tail setting
is cleaner over the top with more prominent vertebrae
is thinner in the thighs
is freer from excess flesh
is more prominent at the hooks and pins

Criticism

is heavier over the shoulders
is shorter and thicker through the neck
has thicker and heavier thighs
is thick and meaty over the rump
is heavy and coarse at the tailhead
is close ribbed
is throaty
is thicker over the withers
is a beefier looking individual
carries too much excess flesh throughout
is over-conditioned

BREED CHARACTER

Desirable

more resembles the breed type
shows more breed character about the head
conforms to breed type

Criticism

lacks size and scale for her breed
is plain and lacks breed character
lacks style and breed characteristics

DAIRY CHARACTER

Desirable

is sharper over the withers
is longer and leaner in the neck
has more "bloom" of udder
is flatter and cleaner in the thighs
is cleaner in the throat
is cleaner cut about the head
is thinner in the thighs
is more prominent at the hooks and pins

Criticism

is shorter and thicker through the neck
has thicker and heavier thighs
is thick and meaty over the rump
is heavy and coarse at the tailhead
is thicker over the withers
is a beefier looking individual
carries too much excess flesh throughout
is over-conditioned

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Desirable

shows more style and balance
has smoother blending parts throughout
shows more angularity and sharpness
shows more maturity

Criticism

does not blend well
is awkward when walking
is dumpy
tends to lose symmetry when on the move

GENERAL APPEARANCE - TOPLINE AND RUMP

Desirable

has a wider and more level rump
is wider and more level from hips to pins
is smoother at the tailhead
is higher at the thurls
is wider at the pins
is stronger over the back and loin
is stronger in the chine
has a stronger, straighter topline
is higher in the chine

Criticism

is weak in the chine
is weak in the loin
has a narrow and sloping rump
is narrow in the rump especially at the pins
has a high and coarse tailhead setting
is thick and patchy over the rump
is low in the thurls
is low at the pins
is high and rough at the tail setting

GENERAL APPEARANCE - HEAD, NECK AND SHOULDERS

Desirable

has a more feminine head
is more alert and has a brighter eye
has a smoother blending head and neck

Criticism

is too coarse and plain about the head
has a wry face
has winged shoulders

GENERAL APPEARANCE - FEET AND LEGS

Desirable

stands on a stronger, straighter set of legs
stands wider between front legs
stands more correctly on her feet and legs
stands straighter on her rear legs
stands more squarely on her legs
is straighter on her legs when viewed from the rear
is flatter and cleaner in bone
stands squarely on her hoof

Criticism

is narrow between front legs
is sickle-hocked in the rear
has crooked rear legs
shows evidence of lameness
tends to hock in and toe out in the rear
has shallow heels
is too long in the pasterns
stands too straight on her rear legs