

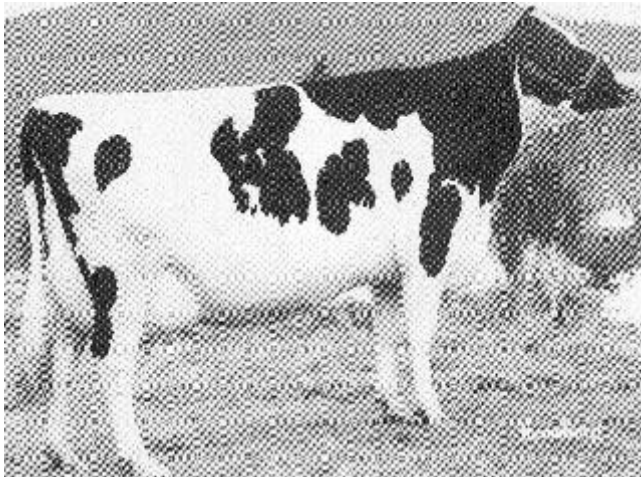
Diary Cow Handbook

Body Capacity

A cow's potential for milk production may be limited by the amount of feed the cow is able to consume. Therefore, it is desirable for the cow to have a large digestive capacity. A large space is also, desirable for great lung capacity for adding oxygen to the blood and for the heart and blood supply which carries nutrients to the udder for milk synthesis. For these reasons, dairy cattle judges desire cows with a large body capacity.

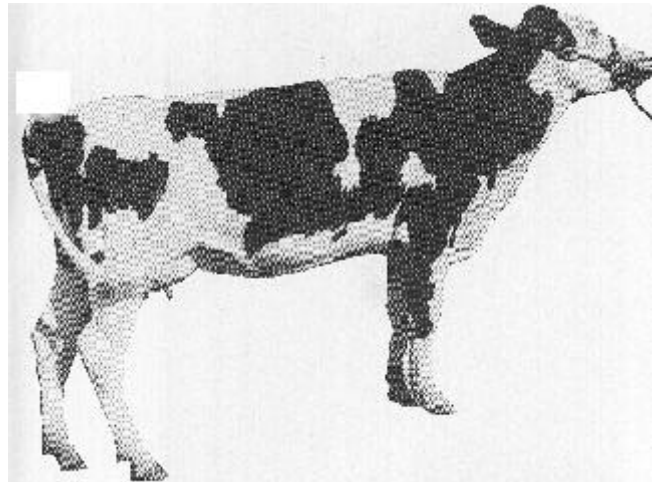
Body Capacity is indicated by length of body; length and depth of fore and rear rib increasing in the rear ribbing; width of chest; spring of rib as viewed from the rear; fullness at the crops and at the elbow; and openness of ribbing as viewed from the side. Judges also like dairy cattle tall at the point of withers; wide across the hips; long from hooks (hips) to pins; and displaying a lengthy head with a broad muzzle and large open nostrils.

Good Body Capacity



Deep chest, deep heart girth, deep in rear rib and flank, open ribbing, full thurls.

Poor Body Capacity



Lack of depth and length of body and spring of rib.

Deep, wide chest floor.



Shallow and narrow chest with limited capacity.

