

Diary Cow Handbook

General Appearance Legs and Feet

General appearance is the overall attractiveness and beauty signified by correct structure and smooth blending of all parts. Breed character, femininity, vigor, stretch, scale, impressive style and carriage are also important in evaluating general appearance.

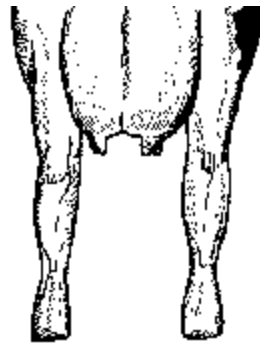
Feet and Legs

Front legs should be squarely placed with hoofs pointing forward. They should be straight and set wide apart. The rear legs should be straight and wide apart when viewed from the rear.

Rear legs should have proper set without being too straight or showing too much curvature. "Rear legs should be perpendicular from hock to pastern." The bone should be flat, strong and show good substance without being coarse.

The hocks and knees should be clean and strong looking without puffiness. The pasterns should be short and strong. Long pasterns tend to be weak and lay closer to the ground.

The feet should be short with a deep heel and level sole so that weight is more evenly distributed on the hoof and the cow stands with weight on her toe.



CORRECT Set



Cow-Hocked

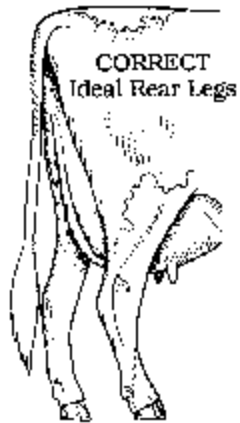
Rear View Legs



CORRECT
Thurl Placement



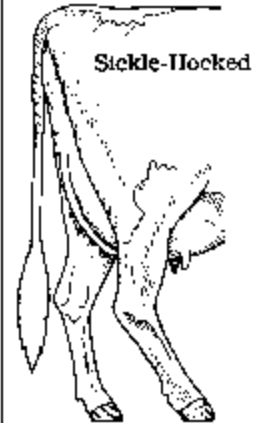
Thurls
Too Far Back



CORRECT
Ideal Rear Legs



Post Legged



Sickle-Hocked



CORRECT,
Ideal Pastern



Weak Pastern,
Shallow Heel

Dairy Cattle Feet