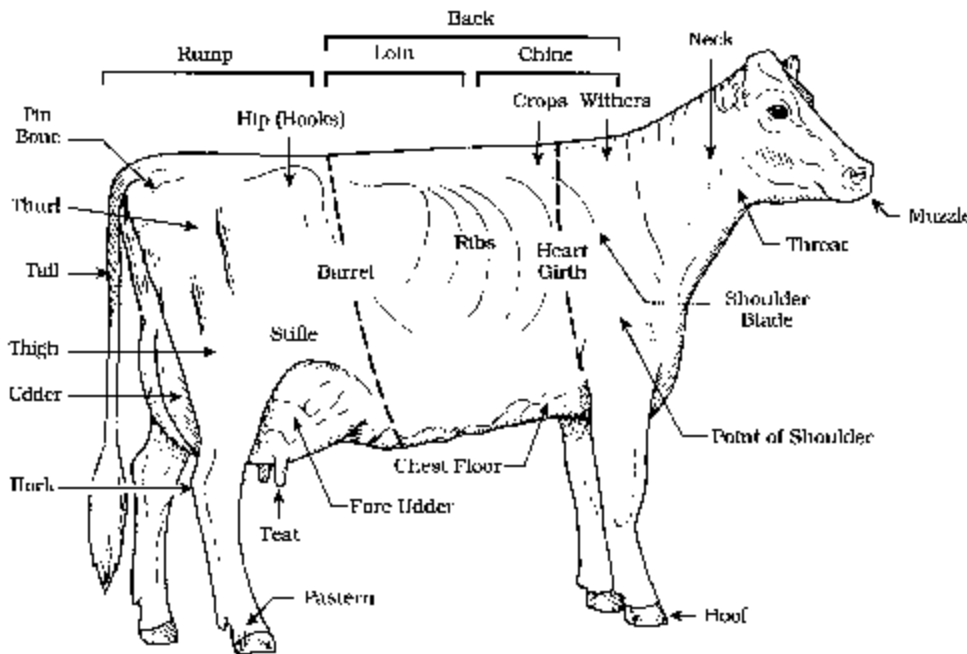


Dairy Cows



Dairy Cattle Type

This refers to body conformation or physical appearance. Type is controlled by structure of bone and other body components and how well all these components fit together as a unit --the cow.

General Appearance

This refers to the how the cow looks overall. If a cow is immediately attractive being large, straight, well boned, having style, balance and being feminine, we consider her good in general appearance. Some terms which describe cows of good general appearance include: straighter top-line, size and scale, length and stretch, substance of bone, style and balance, straighter and stronger rear legs, longer flatter rump, and width at hips and pins.

Mammary System

This refers to the udder and teats. Since we are concerned with dairy cows, the mammary system is of prime importance. To produce large quantities of milk, cows must have sound udders which will remain strong and not be subject to disease or physical damage. A good udder is one that is large, spacious and well balanced. It should be firmly and smoothly attached in both front and rear. The udder should extend well up under the belly wall and should be level on the floor. A desirable udder is uniformly wide from top to bottom when viewed from the rear. The rear attachment should be high as well as wide. Teats should be of uniform size and shape. They should be squarely placed and should point straight down. Some terms which describe

To Judge dairy cattle, one must have knowledge of dairy cow anatomy (body parts), desirable dairy type, factors of good general appearance. mammary system, dairy cow character and body capacity.

You must be able to observe, evaluate and make a decision that is accurate and logical.

desirable udders include: larger more spacious udder, more level udder floor, teats of more uniform size and shape, teats more squarely placed, more height and width of rear attachment, smoother fore attachment, and strength of fore (or rear) attachment.

Dairy Character

This indicates that a cow shows evidence of being a good producer. A cow with good dairy character is one who is sharp, particularly at the shoulders and withers, and one who shows no excess flesh or fat. A long, lean neck showing refinement and not coarseness is desirable. Thickness at the shoulders, neck, withers or thighs indicates a lack of dairy character.

Body Capacity

This indicates a cow's ability to consume large quantities of feed and thus greater milk production potential. All cows have the same number of ribs, so those cows with ribs that are wider and farther apart have longer bodies and those with longer ribs have deeper bodies. Length, width and depth of body all determine capacity. Width and depth of chest are associated with good body capacity. The chest cavity serves as the container for the heart and lungs. Maximum space is desired for adequate heart and lung capability. Some terms used to describe good body capacity include: deeper and fuller in the heart, depth of fore rib, depth of rear rib, depth of body, length of body, width of chest, and spring of rib.

Judging Dairy Cows

| | |
|----------|--|
| T | When first looking at a class of animals, it is desirable to view from a distance so that all four animals can be seen as a group. |
| T | This is the best method to pick out strong and weak points of cows relative to each other. Often, a more correct evaluation can be made from a distance than up close. |
| T | A side view permits the judge to evaluate depth of heart, length of body, spring of rib, straightness of top line, levelness of rump, straightness of rear legs, fore udder attachment and levelness of udder floor. |
| T | A front view permits evaluation of chest width, breed character of head, broadness of muzzle, flare of nostril, thickness of shoulders, etc. |
| T | The rear view allows the judge to examine height, width, and strength of rear udder attachment, depth of rear udder, thickness of thighs, straightness of rear legs, width of rump, width of pins and hips. |

Order Of Observation

1. GENERAL APPEARANCE:

Attractive individuality with vigor, stretch, scale and a blending of all parts with impressive style and carriage.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| BREED CHARACTERISTICS | See Breed Chart for descriptions |
| STATURE | height including moderate length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure. |
| FRONT END | adequate constitution with strength and dairy refinement. |
| | Shoulder Blades and elbow set firmly and smoothly against the chest wall and withers to form a smooth union with the neck and body. |
| | Chest deep and full with ample width between front legs. |
| BACK | straight and strong; |
| | Loin broad, strong and nearly level |
| | Rump long, wide and nearly level with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones. |
| | Thurls high and wide apart; |
| | Tail Head set nearly level with topline and with tail head and tail free from coarseness. |
| LEGS AND FEET | bone flat and strong. |
| | Front Legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed; |
| | Hind Legs, nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern from a side view and straight from the rear view; |
| | Hocks cleanly molded free from coarseness and puffiness; |
| | Pasterns short and strong with some flexibility; |
| | Feet short, well rounded with deep heel and level sole. |

2. DAIRY CHARACTER

Angularity and general openness without weakness, freedom from coarseness, and evidence of milking ability with udder quality giving due regard to stage of lactation

| | |
|------|---|
| NECK | long, lean and blending smoothly into shoulders; clean cut throat, dewlap, and brisket: |
| | <p>Withers sharp with chine prominent;</p> <p>Ribs wide apart, rib bones wide, flat and long;</p> <p>Thighs incurving to flat and wide apart from the rear view, providing ample room for the udder and its rear attachment;</p> <p>Skin thin, loose and pliable.</p> |

3. BODY CAPACITY

Relatively large in proportion to size, age and period of gestation of animal, providing ample capacity, strength and vigor.

| | |
|-------|---|
| CHEST | large, deep and wide floor with well sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders; crops full. |
| | <p>Body strongly supported, long, deep and wide; depth and spring of rib tending to increase toward the rear;</p> <p>Flanks deep and refined.</p> |

4. UDDER

Strongly attached, well-balanced with adequate capacity possessing quality indicating heavy milk production for long period of usefulness

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| FORE UDDER | strongly and smoothly attached, moderate length and uniform width from front to rear. |
| REAR UDDER | strongly attached, high, wide with uniform width from top to bottom and slightly rounded to udder floor. |
| UDDER SUPPORT | udder carried snugly above the hocks showing a strong suspensory ligament with clearly defined halving. |
| TEATS | uniform size of medium length and diameter, cylindrical, squarely placed under each quarter, plumb, and well spaced from side and rear views. |
| BALANCE, SYMMETRY AND QUALITY | symmetrical with moderate length, width and depth, no quartering on sides and level floor as viewed from the side: soft, pliable and well collapsed after milking; quarters evenly balanced |

Because of the natural undeveloped udder in heifer calves and yearlings, less emphasis is placed on udder and more on general appearance, dairy character and body capacity.

A slight to serious discrimination applies to overdeveloped, fatty udders in heifer calves and yearlings.

Judging Dairy Cows

BREED CHART OF CHARACTERISTICS

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. |

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. |

Judging Dairy Cows

Mammary System

Study the mammary system first.

- T The mammary system accounts for the most points on a scorecard and should demand greatest attention.
- T In a close placing, always choose the cow with the best udder.
- T The mammary system will often determine the placings of a class.
- T The udder should be strongly attached, held close to the body (especially in young cows) of uniform shape, of good quality and big.

- The most important consideration of udder attachment is the middle support (medial suspensory ligament) which is displayed by a definite crease between the halves when viewed from the rear.
- Teats should be evenly spaced, hanging plumb to the ground or pointing slightly inward.
- A flat udder floor and strutted teats indicate a weak middle support.
- The fore udder should be attached well forward, and attached strongly and smoothly.
- The rear attachment should be very high and wide.
- Weak attachments are denoted by: no crease in the udder floor, a bulging fore udder that swings as the cow walks, a deep rear udder, a sloping udder floor, teats that point outward, or an udder wider on the floor than at the top.
- Udders should be big but not necessarily large.
- Depth of udder is usually not a desirable trait.
- Capacity is determined by size and quality.
- Size is preferred in length and width but not depth of udder.
- Quality is the display of large amounts of secretory tissue as opposed to connective, fatty, or scar tissue. Veining, pliability and softness are signs of udder quality.
- Udders in young cows should be held close to the body and even in older cows should be well above the hocks.
- Udders should be uniform with teats at the same level indicating that all quarters are healthy and secreting milk.
- Udders should be symmetrical without heavy or large quarters.

Excellent Udder



Strong middle support as displayed by a definite crease between the halves when viewed from the rear.

Teats are evenly spaced, hanging plumb to the ground or pointing slightly inward.

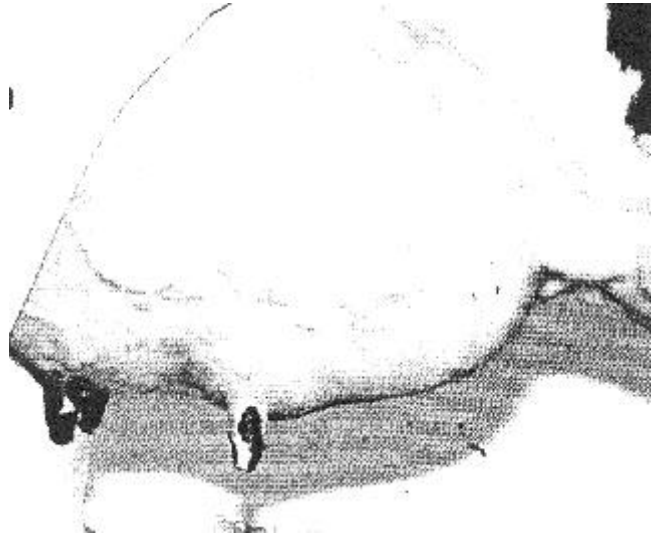
The fore udder is attached well forward, and attached strongly and smoothly.

The rear attachment is very high and wide.

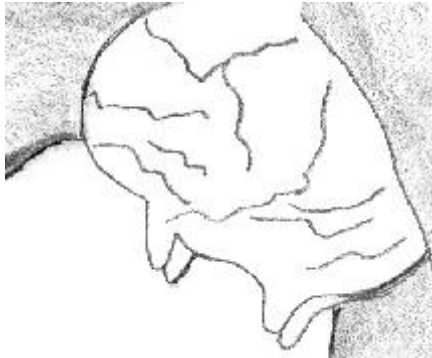
Udders is uniform with teats at the same level indicating that all quarters are healthy and secreting milk. Udders is symmetrical without heavy or large quarters.

Differing Mammary Structures

Short and abruptly attached fore udder with misshaped rear udder limits capacity. Teats are too long and udder lacks overall symmetry and quality.



The fore udder is bulgy and the attachment is loose. It is also deep and shows more fullness in the fore than in the rear quarters.

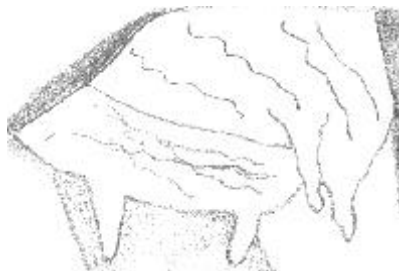


Tilted udder floor with bulgy fore udder and short fore attachment.



This udder is below the hocks and is deep in the rear and fore quarters.

Ill shaped teats and udder is halved.



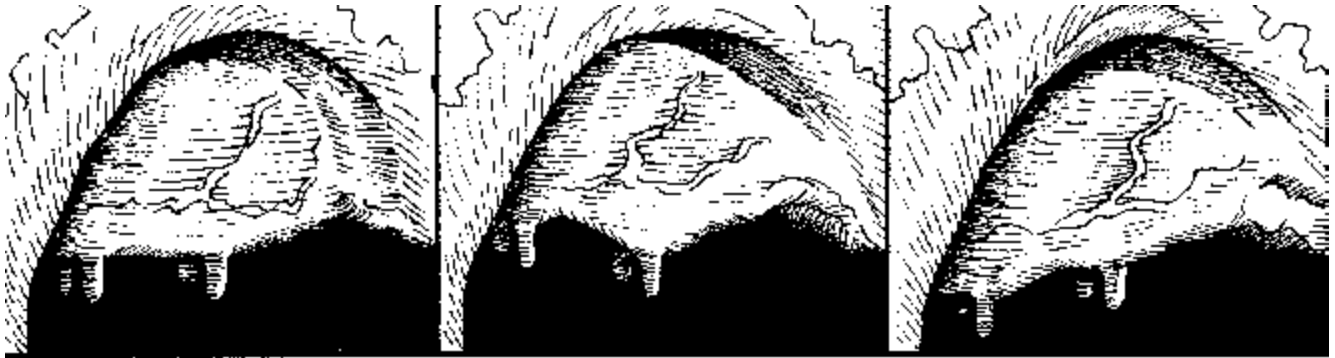
This udder tilts forward and is very weak in the fore udder attachment.



Lack of medial suspensory ligament shown by no crease on udder floor also a weak and broken fore attachment.

Differing Mammary Structures

UDDER FLOOR



CORRECT

**Unbalanced Udder Floor
(Forward Tilt)**

**Unbalanced Udder Floor
(Rear Tilt)**

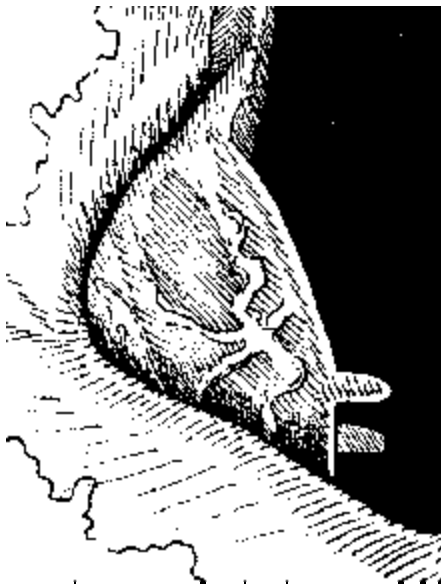
TEAT LENGTH



CORRECT

Too Long

Too Short



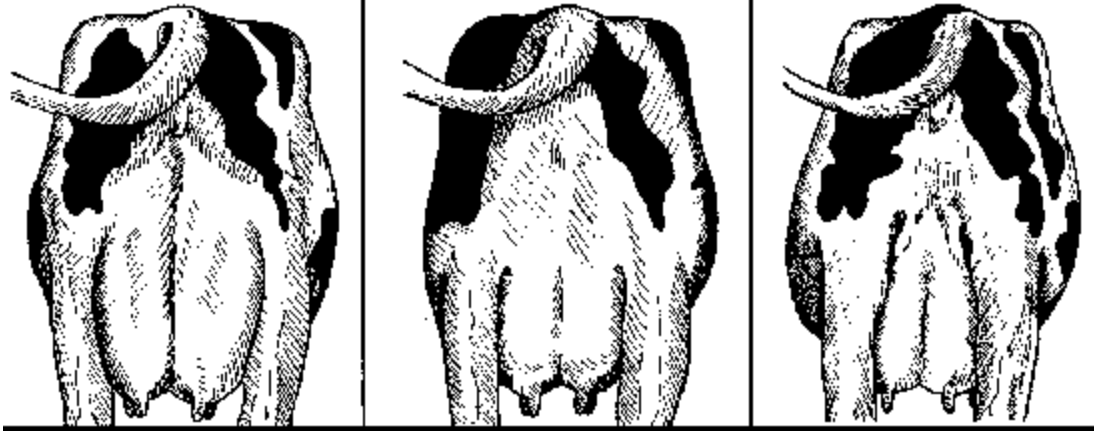
**CORRECT
Tight Fore
Udder Attachment**



**Bulgy Fore
Udder Attachment**

Differing Mammary Structures

REAR UDDER ATTACHMENTS

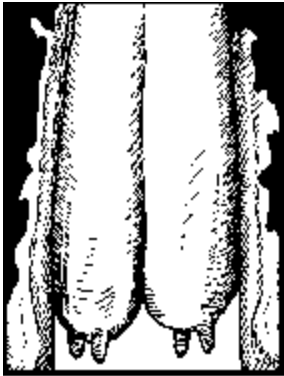


IDEAL
High, Wide Udder

Low Udder

**Pear-Shaped,
Narrow Udder**

CENTRAL LIGAMENT



IDEAL, Strong



Broken Cleft

UDDER DEPTH

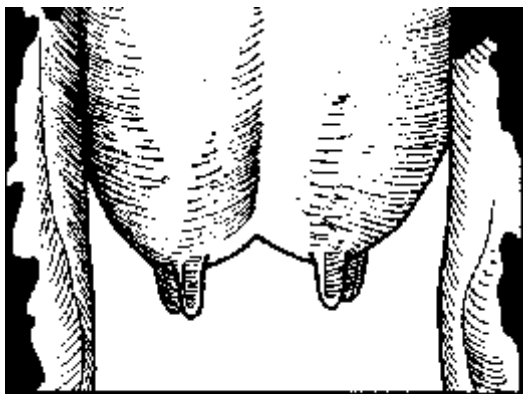


IDEAL, Shallow Udder

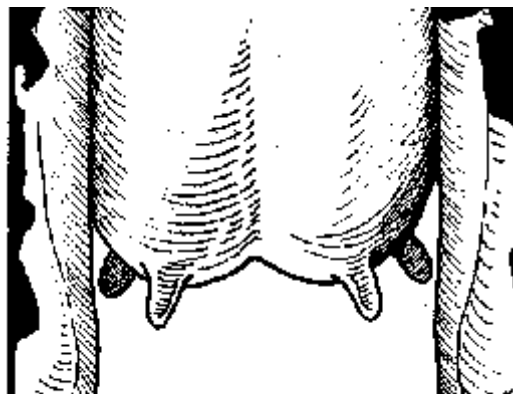


Deep Udder

TEAT PLACEMENT



CORRECT



Strutting

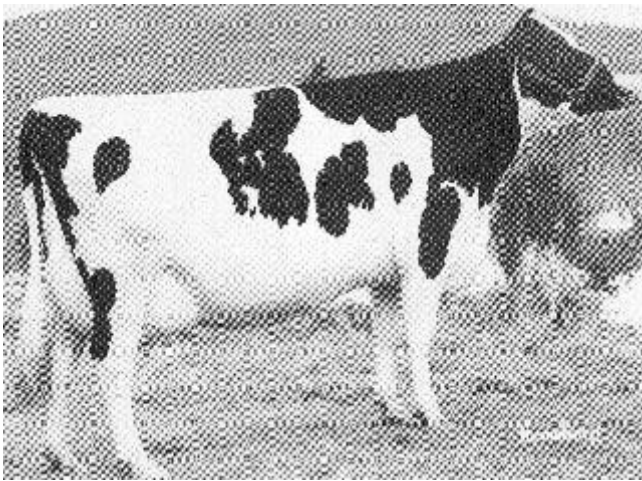
Judging Dairy Cows

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.

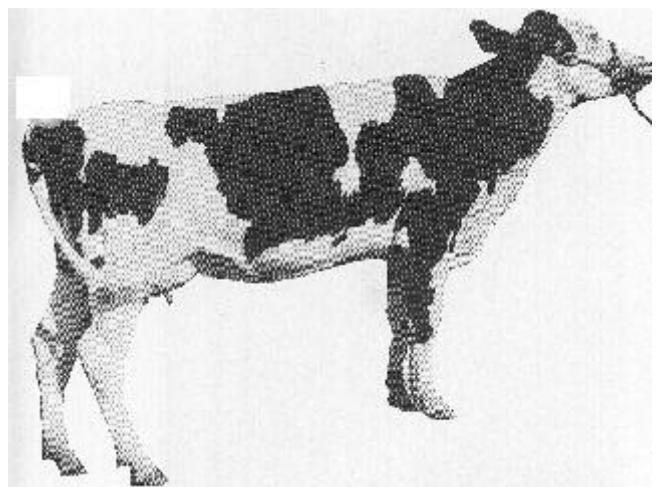
Body Capacity is indicated by length of body; length and depth of fore and rear rib increasing in the rear ribbing; width of chest; spring of ribs as viewed from the rear; fullness at the crops and at the elbow; and openness of ribbing as viewed from the side. Judges also like dairy cattle tall at the 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.



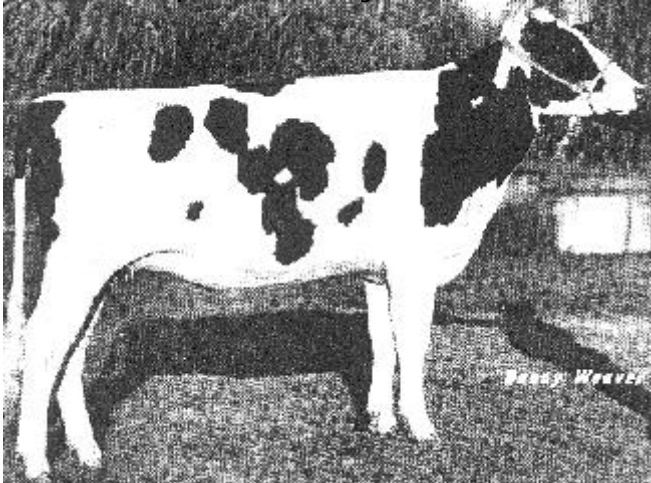
Judging Dairy Cows

Dairy Character

Dairy character is an indication that the cow converts feed into milk rather than body flesh. Dairy cattle are bred for this purpose and high producers can not eat enough feed to gain in flesh during most of the lactating period. Cows in later lactation, or during the dry period and spring heifers must be given due allowance for carrying more flesh. Thinness due to under-feeding should not be confused with dairy character.

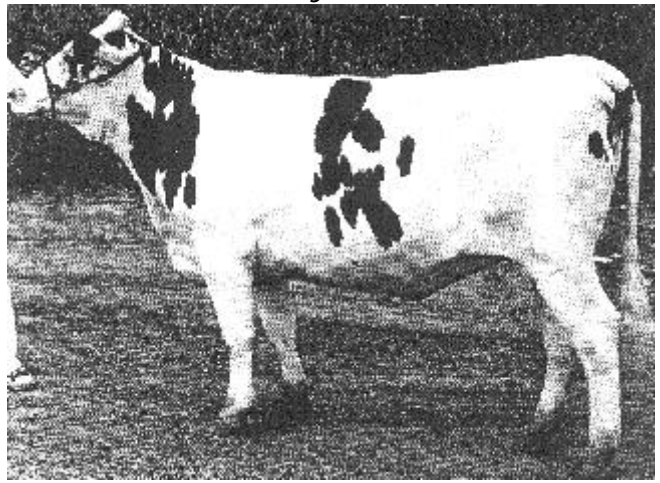
Dairy Character is signified by freeness of flesh; sharpness at the withers; incurving, flat thighs set wide apart; loose and pliable skin; long, lean, smooth blending neck; clean cut throat, dewlap, and brisket; wide, flat and well spaced ribs; and deep and refine flanks.

Acceptable Dairy Character



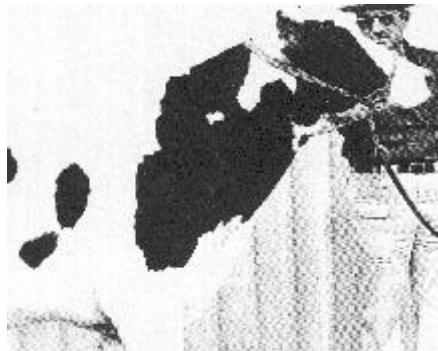
Note her length of neck, sharpness over the withers and cleanness throughout.

Poor Dairy Character



This heifer has a short heavy neck and throat, is thick in the thighs, patchy over the pins and meaty over the rump.

This heifer has a long clean neck.



This heifer shows an extremely short neck and heavy throat.



Outstanding.

Note the sharpness of withers and cleanness over the hips and pins and flatness of the thigh.

Over Conditioned

Carrying too much flesh. She is smooth and round over the withers and lacks bold and clean hips and pins.



Judging Dairy Cows

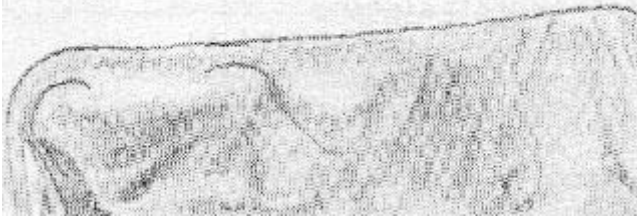
General Appearance Topline and Rump

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.

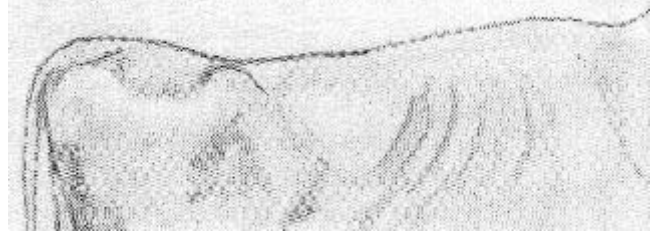
Topline and Rump

The back and rump should be strong and straight. The vertebrae should be clearly defined in the back. The rump should be wide from one hip bone to the other and wide at the pins. The rump should be long and level from hips to pins with a smooth, squarely set tail head. The thurls should be high and full and the rump clean and free of excess flesh.

Excellent Topline that is strong and straight with high full thurls.



Weak at the loin and high at the tail.



Acceptable strong and straight topline, but a bit rough with weak thurls.



Sloping from hook to pins and patchy across the rump.



Excellent rump that is long a level from hooks to pins. High and wide thurls.



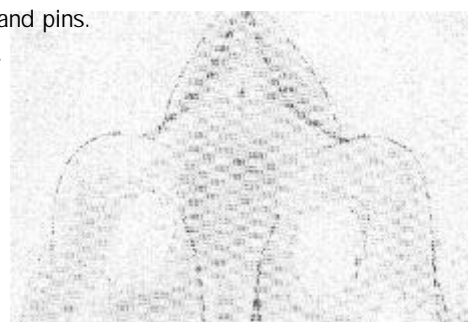
High tail head setting with low, weak thurls.



Weak in chine and a sloping rump



Prominent hooks and pins.
Wide at the pins.



Judging Dairy Cows

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

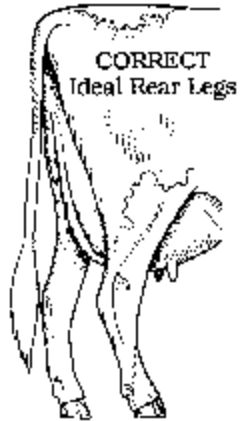
Rear View Legs



CORRECT
Thurl Placement



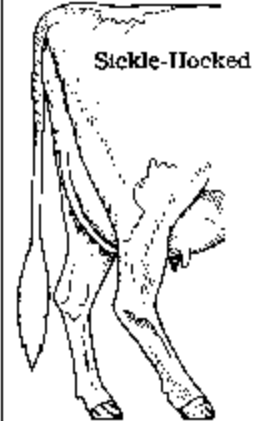
Thurls
Too Far Back



CORRECT
Ideal Rear Legs



Post Legged



Sickle-Hocked



CORRECT,
Ideal Pastern



Weak Pastern,
Shallow Heel

Dairy Cattle Feet

Judging Dairy Cows

General Appearance Head, Neck and Shoulders

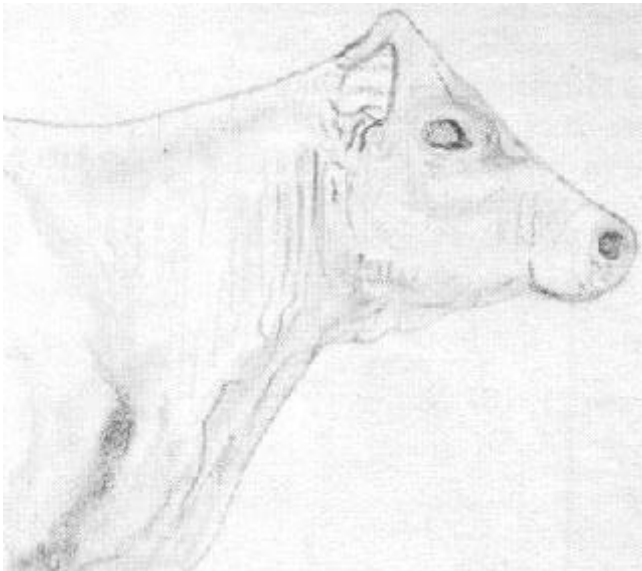
General appearance is the overall attractiveness and beauty signified by correct structure and smooth blending of all parts. Breed character, femininity, vigor, stretch, scale, impressive style and carriage are also important in evaluating general appearance.

Head

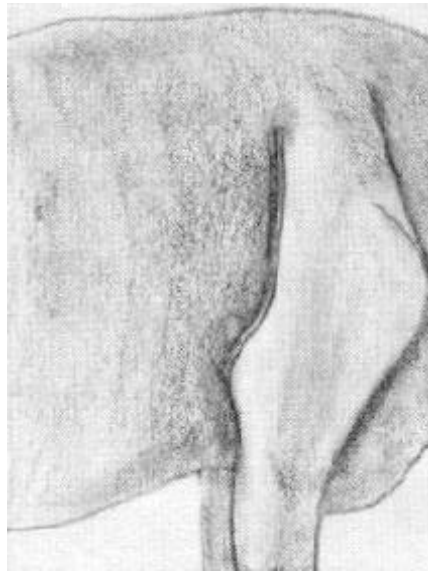
The head should be trim, neat and well formed with a broad muzzle, large nostrils, strong jaws and lustrous and alert eyes. The size of the head should be in proportion with the body, with a straight bridge to the nose, a broad, slightly concave forehead, and medium sized alert ears.

Neck and Shoulders

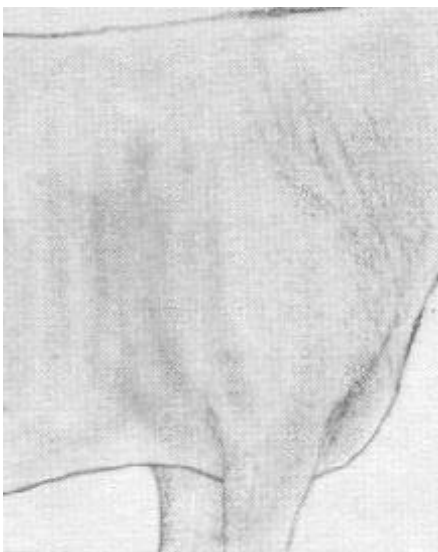
The neck should be long, lean, clean-cut and blending in smoothly with the shoulders. The shoulders should be set firmly and smoothly to the body, especially noticeably at the point of the shoulder, the elbow and the point of the withers.



Good blending of head, neck and shoulders.

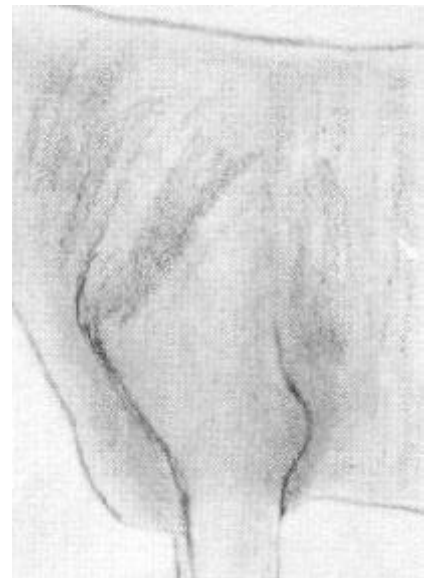


Winged Shoulders



Smooth blending of shoulders

Coarse Shoulders



Judging Dairy Cows

Breed Character

Breed character indicates that the cow conforms to the standards set forth by the breed organizations for size, color and other attributes.



Fig. 8. This is an example of an excellent Ayrshire head. She has a strong jaw and wide muzzle, and expresses dairy quality with strength.

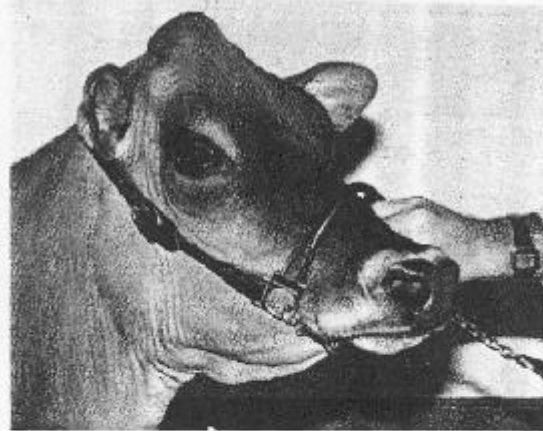


Fig. 9. This is an excellent example of Jersey breed character. Note the dish of forehead as measured between the eyes as well as from nose to the pole.



Fig. 10. This Brown Swiss cow has an excellent head. She, too, is strong in the muzzle, wide between the eyes with much strength and femininity.



Fig. 11. This is an example of excellent Guernsey breed character. Note the strength of muzzle, width between the eyes, and slight dish of forehead.

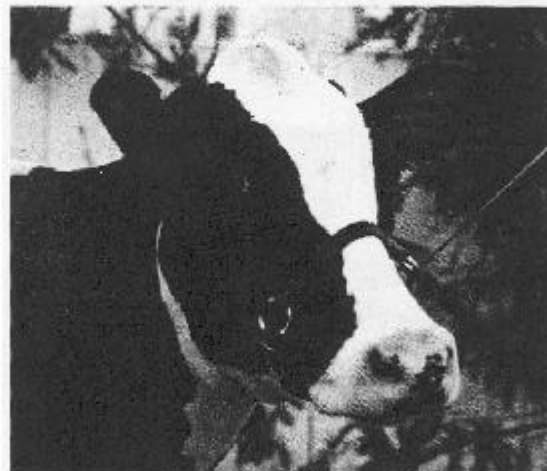


Fig. 12. This cow's head is an example of excellent Holstein breed character. It is strong with well-proportioned length and width, with a bright, attractive eye.



Fig. 13. This Milking Shorthorn has an excellent head. Note the wide muzzle, slight dish of forehead and bright eye.

Judging Dairy Cows

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
has 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 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

Priorities in Judging Dairy Cattle

K.F. Knowlton
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Overall: A systematic and logical method will make judging cows much easier, and will keep you from busting classes. A technique that works well is to always keep in mind your priorities. You're looking for **good uddered**, dairy cows with **functional feet and legs** and **size and strength** to top the class. Your priorities are udder, dairy character, and feet and legs, **then** body capacity, **then** the rest of general appearance. Your top cows **must** be sound in their udder, dairy, and have functional feet and legs. It is incredibly important not to get hung up on details like tail settings, topline or shoulders when making your initial groupings. Udder, dairyness and legs are the priorities. Group cows on these and then within that group, fuss about details. Learn to make the distinction between something that is really wrong, and something that you'd like to change but you can live with. If a cow can't walk, that's wrong, but you can live with an ugly topline and some set to her hocks if she's dairy with a good udder and is functional.

Priorities Within Category:

- i Udder:** Suspensory ligament, teat placement, height and width of rear udder and strength of fore udder attachment are the priorities. Shape of fore and rear udder, teat size and shape and veining are less critical.
- i Dairyness:** Cleanliness over the shoulder, ribs, rump and thighs, length of neck and flatness of bone are the priorities.
- i Correctness/General Appearance:** Set to the hock, location of the thurl and hindleg relative to the body and strength of pastern are the priorities. Straight topline, neatly laid in shoulders and level rumps are less important.
- i Body capacity:** Stature, depth of rib, length of body and spring of rib are important within this category, but remember, body capacity is the LEAST important of categories.

Initial Analysis:

For each cow, ask yourself (I N T H I S O R D E R):

- i Udder:** What do I like? What would I like to change? Within udder, what are my priorities? Is this a cow with a good udder, an udder I can live with but I'd like to beat, or a poor udder that has to move down toward the bottom of the class?
- i Dairyness:** What do I like? What would I like to change? Is this a dairy cow, an acceptably dairy cow I can live with, or a fat pig who has to move down?
- i Feet and legs:** What do I like? What would I like to change? Within feet and legs, what are my priorities? Is this a cow with a good feet and legs, feet and legs I can live with but I'd like to beat, or a poor set of legs that has to move down toward the bottom of the class?
- i** And **only** then do you worry about body capacity, topline, shoulders and rumps.

Grouping and Placing: Start the class with your good uddered, dairy cows with sound feet and legs. If you have more than one cow that is good uddered and dairy with functional feet, and legs, sort cows out **within** that group, and start with the cow that has the most going for her. Next come your cows that are only okay on dairy with good udders, feet and legs. Next come your cows that are okay on two of the three. Stale cows, fat cows, poor uddered cows, cows that can't walk **must** go last. The only cows the fat cow or the poor uddered cow can beat are cows that combine two or three of these problems. When you get into a bind, **remember your priorities**. If you don't have an easy class winner, give up some size and scale to get the cow that combines dairyness, udder and functional correctness. Close your eyes to the ugly rump, or less than perfect leg set. **Don't pay for extra!** You're looking for that animal that **best combines** dairyness, udder, correctness and size and scale. Do not give up this combination for an animal that's extra in one area, but lacking in others. You do **not** necessarily need the BEST uddered cow at the top of the class, or the **most** dairy. You need the cow that **best combines** udder and dairyness with functional correctness. **Find the easiest thing to do first, and do it.** Slam that small ugly bad uddered thing, start with that All-American. Get her out of the way and focus your effort on the tough decisions. This does not mean knee jerk on an ugly rump, or a slight problem in udder.