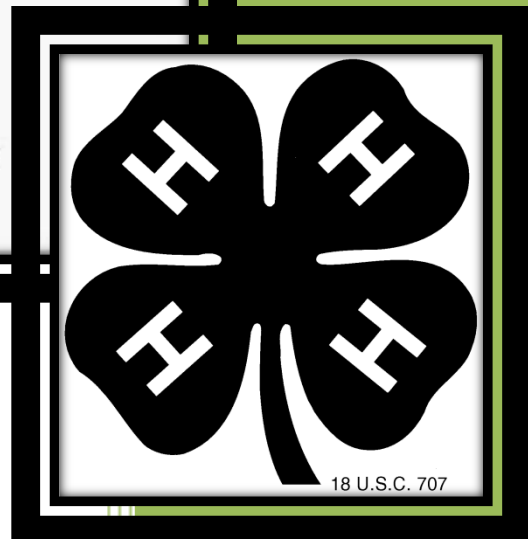
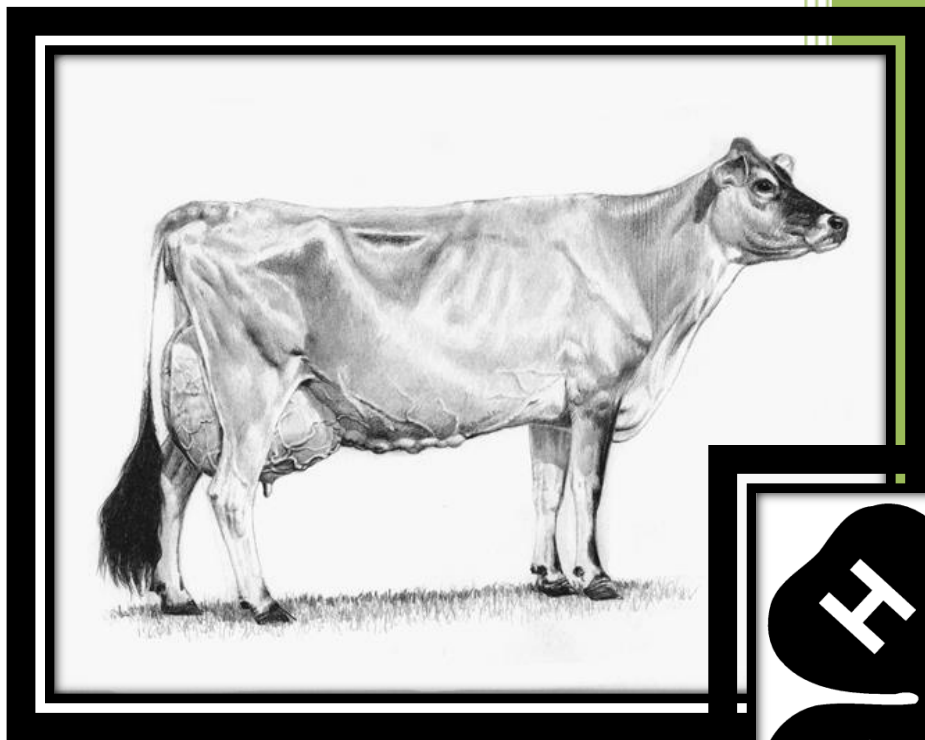
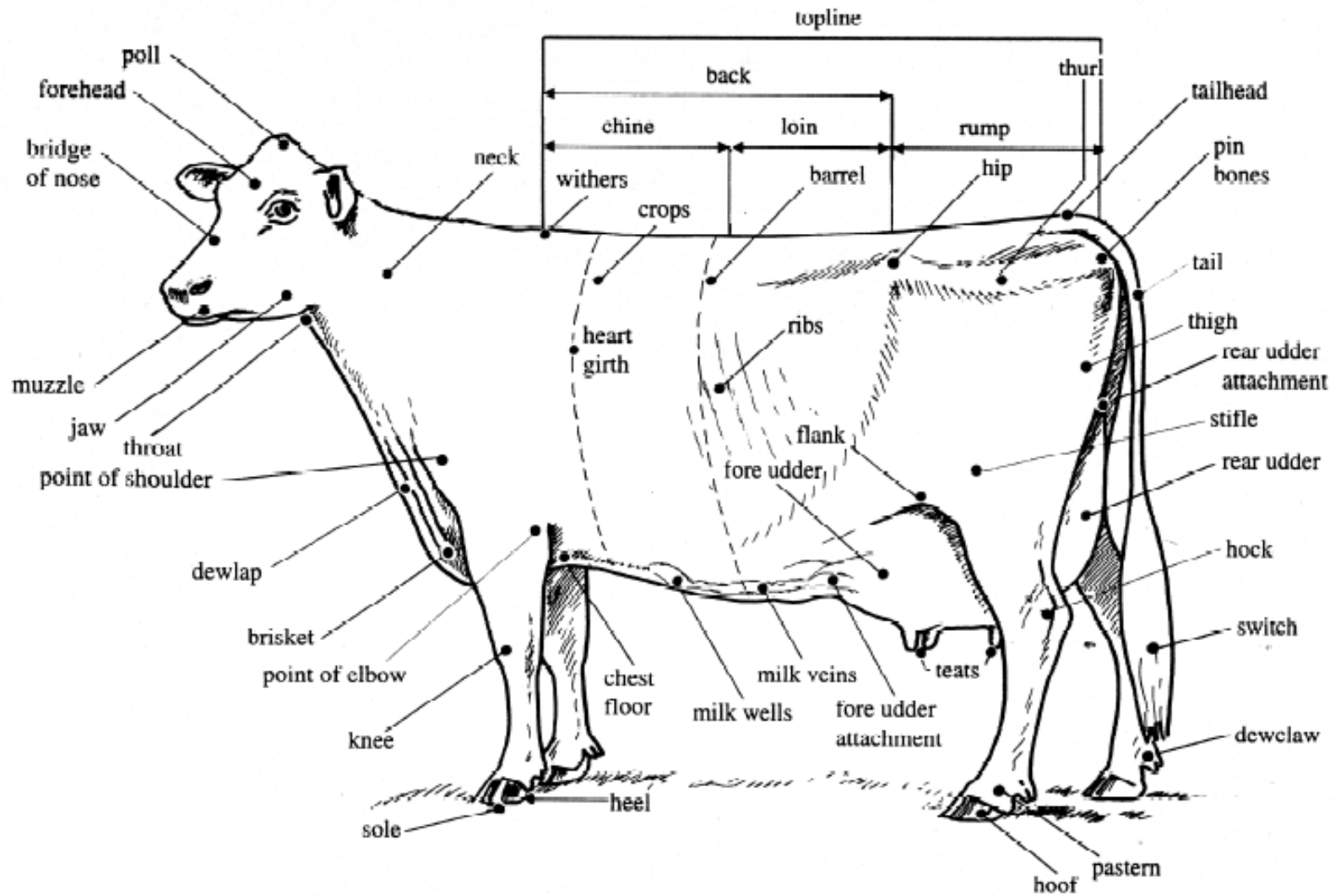


# Dairy Cattle Showmanship



# Parts of a Dairy Cow



## Ideal Dairy Cow



**Breed Characteristics:** Overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean cut, slightly dished with broad muzzle; large open nostrils and a strong jaw are desirable.

**Ribs:** Wide apart. Rib bones are wide, flat, deep, and slanted toward the rear. Well sprung, expressing fullness and extending outside the point of elbows.

**Chest:** Deep and wide floor showing capacity for vital organs, with well sprung fore ribs.

**Barrel:** Long, with adequate depth and width, increasing toward the rear with a deep flank.

**Rump:** Long and wide throughout with pin bones slightly lower than hipbones and adequate width between the pins

**Udder Depth:** Moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance.

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

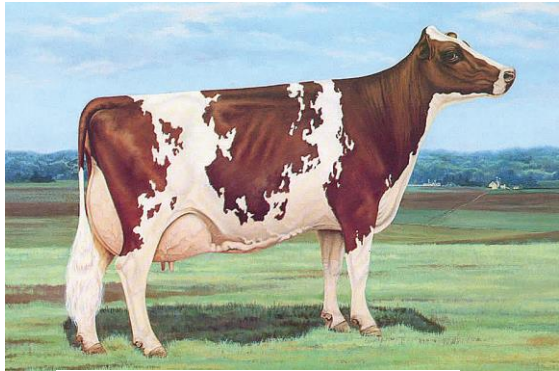
**Teat Placement:** Squarely placed under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced from side and rear views.

**Udder Cleft:** Evidence of a strong suspensory ligament indicated by adequately defined halving.

**Fore Udder:** Firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity.

**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.

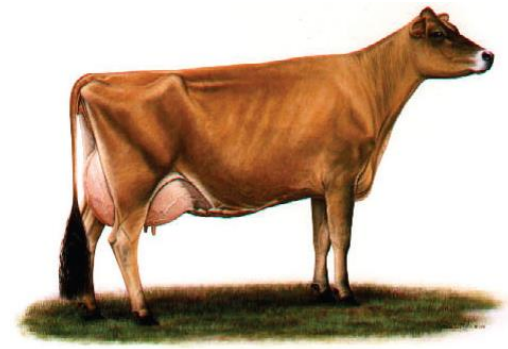
## Dairy Cattle Breeds



**Ayrshire**



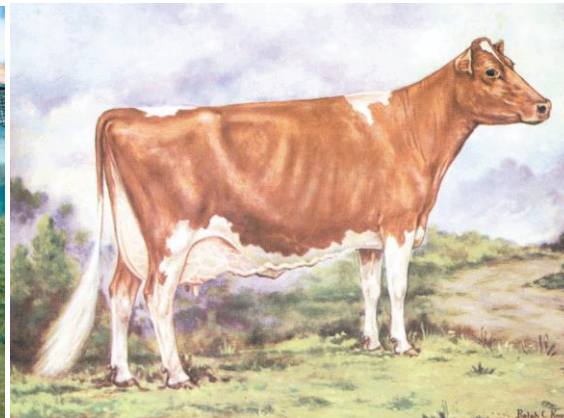
**Holstein**



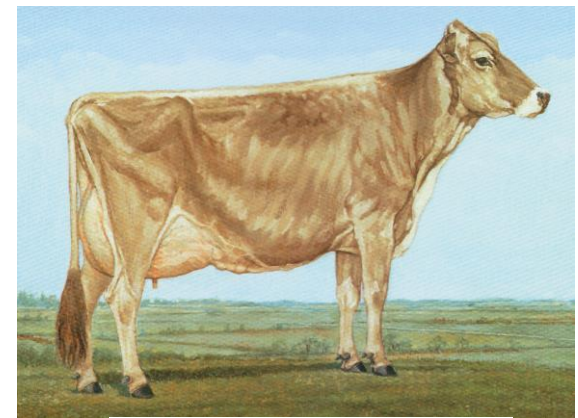
**Jersey**



**Milking Shorthorn**



**Brown Swiss**



**Guernsey**

## Showmanship Terms/Questions

Heifer: a female calf who has not given birth

Cow: a female who has given birth

Bull: an intact male

Steer: a castrated male

Calf: a young bovine

Freemartin Heifer: a female calf that is born as a twin with a male and is sterile as a result of exposure to masculinizing hormones produced by the male.

Parturition: the act of giving birth

1. What is the gestation period of a dairy cow?
  - a. 9 months
2. Which breed produces the most pounds per day of milk?
  - a. Holstein
3. How many pounds per day of milk does a Holstein produce?
  - a. 54 – 80 lbs. per day
4. Which breed produces the highest butterfat content?
  - a. Jersey
5. A Brown Swiss heifer would most likely be judged on...?
  - a. The conformation of her feet and legs, her potential udder conformation, and the balance and distance of her hook bones and pin bones
6. The standard length of lactation of a dairy cow is?
  - a. 305 days
7. A dairy heifer should be first bred at what age?
  - a. 20 – 24 months
8. The first milk secreted after parturition is colostrum. Colostrum is vital because it contains...?
  - a. Antibodies
9. An inflammation of the mammary gland results in...?
  - a. Mastitis
10. The average estrus cycle length in dairy cows is?
  - a. 21 days
11. Name a reproductive disease that causes abortions.
  - a. Vibriosis, leptospirosis, or brucellosis
12. The calving interval of a dairy cow should be no longer than...?
  - a. 12 ½ months

13. Dairy cattle should not have access to silage 2-3 hours prior to milking. Why?
  - a. It may cause milk to have an off flavor
14. For milk let down to occur, what hormone is stimulated by the calf or milker?
  - a. Oxytocin
15. The average cow reaches maturity and maximum milk production at what age?
  - a. 6 years
16. What causes mastitis?
  - a. Trauma to the udder, strains of streptococcus bacteria, or dirty milking equipment
17. Dairy calves are typically weaned at what age?
  - a. 6 – 8 weeks
18. Low fiber rations can often cause a “DA” in early lactation dairy cows. What does “DA” stand for?
  - a. Displaced Abomasum
19. Which class of milk is to be marketed for drinking (fluid milk)?
  - a. Class 1
20. What are the top milk producing states?
  - a. California, Wisconsin, New York, Idaho, Pennsylvania

## Dairy Showmanship

Always lead your animal in a clockwise manner; this puts you on the outside of the circle. Walk the animal slowly and with short steps with its head carried high.

As the judge studies your animal, the preferred method of leading is walking slowly backward, facing the animal and holding the lead strap in the left hand with the extra lead neatly but naturally gathered in one or both hands (Figure 1). When given the signal to pull into line, move quickly to that position in the ring.



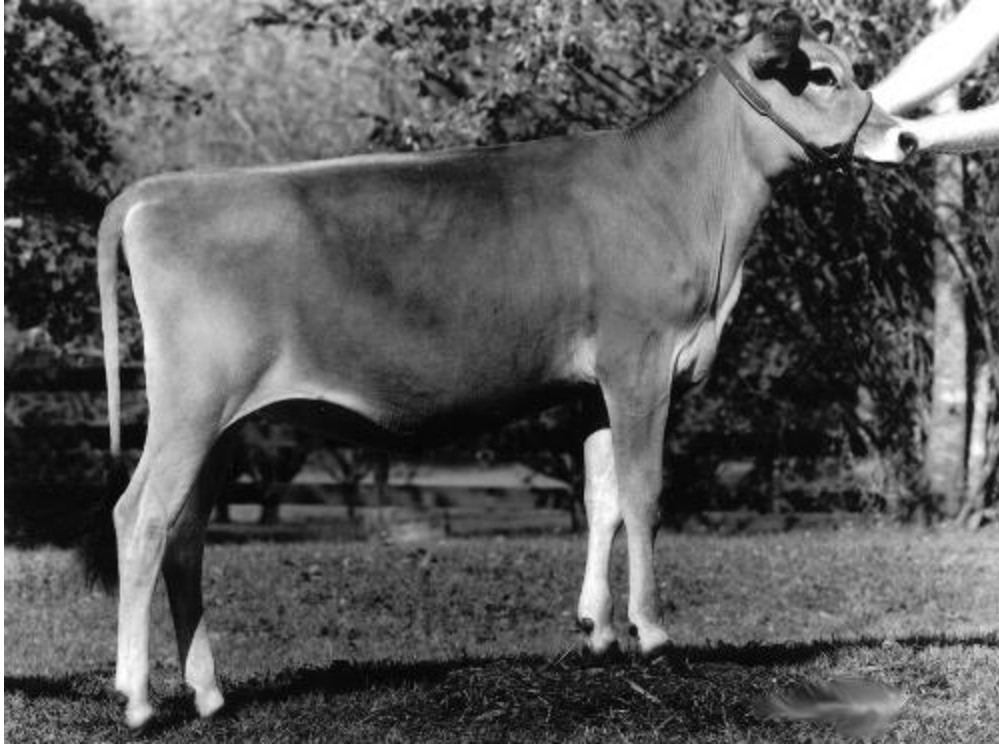
**Figure 1.**

Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk. Never allow a large gap to occur between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not crowd the exhibitor ahead of you nor lead in front of an animal so it cannot be seen by the judge.



**Figure 2.**

When posing and showing a dairy animal, stay on the animal's left side and stand faced at an angle to her in a position far enough away to see the stance of her feet and topline (Figure 2). Pose the animal with her feet squarely placed.



**Figure 3. The hind leg nearest the judge is to be posed slightly behind the other when showing heifers.**



**Figure 4. For cows and springing heifers, the hind leg nearest the judge should be far enough ahead of the opposite rear leg to allow the judge to see the fore and rear udder.**

The position of the rear legs should be reversed when the judge walks around to view the animal from the other side. Do not overshadow an animal. When the judge is observing the animal, get the feet posed reasonably well, and let her stand. Do not delay the show in an attempt to pose the feet perfectly. Face the animal uphill, if possible, with her front feet on a slight incline.

Always move quickly into line when given the signal by a judge. Neither crowd the exhibitor next to you nor leave enough space for another animal when you lead into a side-by-side position. Animals may be backed out of a line when a judge requests that her placing be changed. Move the animal back by exerting pressure on the shoulder point with the thumb and finger of the right hand while pushing back with the halter. You may also lead the animal forward and around the end of the line or back through a break in the line. Do not lead the animal between the judge and an animal being observed by the judge. To move the animal ahead, pull gently on the lead strap. Do most of the showing with the halter lead strap, and avoid stepping on the animal's feet to move them.