

Selection of the Show Herd

THERE ARE MANY POINTS to consider when selecting animals for the show herd. Among these are: the type of individual animal; the age of the animal, so that it will fill its class to the best advantage; the sire and dam of the animal, for the purpose of filling out groups; and the stage of lactation of the cows.

This book is not intended to cover in detail the judging of cattle, but some of the more important things to look for in making your selections will be pointed out.

Unified Score Card

The unified score cards for the dairy cow and the bull are shown here through the courtesy of The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association. Anyone showing dairy cattle should familiarize himself with these cards so that he knows the stress placed upon the different parts of the animal and also what the desired conformation should be.

Throughout this book you will see pictured outstanding animals of the dairy breeds. These animals are representative of each individual class at the shows. They all have been winners or placed high in major shows throughout the United States and Canada. Every

UNIFIED DAIRY BULL SCORE CARD

Ideals of type and breed characteristics must be considered in the application of the terminology of this score card.

Based on Order of Observation	Perfect Score			
1. GENERAL APPEARANCE	30			
Attractive individuality, revealing vigor, masculinity with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts. Impressive style and attractive carriage with an active, well balanced walk.	20			
BREED CHARACTERISTICS (see reverse side)				
HEAD masculine, medium in length, clean-cut; broad muzzle with large open nostrils; lean, strong jaw; full, bright eyes; forehead broad between the eyes and moderately dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.				
SHOULDER BLADES set smoothly against chest wall and withers, forming neat junction with the body.				
BACK strong and appearing straight with vertebrae well defined.				
LOIN broad, strong and nearly level.				
RUMP long, wide; top-line level from loin to and including tail head.	10			
HIPS wide, approximately level laterally with back, free from excess tissue.				
THURLS wide apart.				
PIN BONES wide apart and slightly lower than hips, well defined.				
TAIL HEAD slightly above and neatly set between pin bones.				
TAIL long and tapering with nicely balanced switch.				
2. DAIRY CHARACTER	35			
Animation, angularity, general openness, and freedom from excess tissue.				
NECK masculine and long, with moderate crest blending smoothly into shoulders. Clean-cut throat, brisket and dewlap.				
WITHERS well defined and wedge-shaped with the dorsal processes of the vertebrae rising slightly above the shoulder blades.				
RIBS well arched, wide apart, rib bone flat, wide and long.				
FLANKS arched and refined.				
THIGHS when viewed from the side, flat, when viewed from the rear, wide apart. Well-cut-up between the thighs.	35			
SKIN of medium thickness, loose and pliable. Hair fine.				
TESTICLES both normal. Scrotum normal				
RUDIMENTARY TEATS wide apart, squarely placed and in front of scrotum				
MAMMARY VEINS large, long and well defined.				
3. BODY CAPACITY	20			
Relatively large in proportion to size of animal, and deep at the flank, providing ample digestive capacity, strength and vigor.	10			
BARREL deep, strongly supported, ribs wide apart, and well sprung.				
HEART GIRTH large, resulting from long, well sprung foreribs, wide chest floor between front legs, and fullness at the point of elbow	10			
4. LEGS AND FEET	15			
FORE LEGS medium in length, straight, wide apart, squarely placed. Feet short, and well rounded, with deep heel and level sole.	5			
HIND LEGS when viewed from the side, nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern. When viewed from the rear, legs wide apart and nearly straight. Bone, flat and flinty, tendons well defined. Pasterns, of medium length, strong, and springy. Hocks cleanly moulded. Feet same as above.	10			
TOTAL	100			

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Each of the five member dairy breed registry organizations has approved the statement of the distinguishing characteristics of its breed, and has concurred in the evaluation of defects in registered cattle as printed below.

AYRSHIRE CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—Red of any shade, mahogany, brown, or these with white, or white, each color clearly defined. Distinctive red and white markings preferable; black or brindle markings strongly objectionable.

SIZE—A mature bull in breeding condition should weigh about 1800 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining upward, medium size at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

GUERNSEY CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—A shade of fawn with white markings clearly defined, black or brindle markings objectionable. Skin should show golden yellow pigmentation. When other points are equal, a clear or buff muzzle will be favored over a smoky or black muzzle.

SIZE—A mature bull in breeding condition should weigh about 1700 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, medium size and yellow at base, refined, medium in length and tapering toward tips.

JERSEY CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—A shade of fawn, with or without white markings.

SIZE—A mature bull in breeding condition should weigh about 1500 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, incurving, small at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

BROWN SWISS CHARACTERISTICS

Strong and vigorous. Size and ruggedness with quality desired. Extreme refinement undesirable.

COLOR—A shade of brown varying from a silver to a dark brown. Hair inside ears is a lighter color than body. Nose and tongue black, with a light colored band around nose. Color markings which bar registry are: white switch, white on sides, top, head or neck and legs above knees or hocks. White on belly or lower legs objectionable.

SIZE—A mature bull in breeding condition should weigh about 1900 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward and slightly up. Medium size at base, medium length, tapering toward black tips.

HOLSTEIN CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—Black and white markings clearly defined. Color markings which bar registry are solid black, solid white, black in switch, black belly, black encircling leg touching hoof, black from hoof to knee or hock, black and white intermixed to give color other than distinct black and white.

SIZE—A mature bull in breeding condition should weigh about 2000 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, incurving, medium size at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

EVALUATION OF DEFECTS

In a show ring, disqualification means that the animal is not eligible to win a prize. Any disqualified animal is not eligible to be shown in the group classes. In slight to serious discrimination, the degree of seriousness shall be determined by the judge.

- EYES**
1. Total Blindness: *Disqualification.*
2. Blindness in one eye: *Slight discrimination.*
- WRY FACE**
Serious discrimination.
- PARROT JAW**
Serious discrimination.
- SHOULDERS**
Winged: *Serious discrimination.*
- CAPPED HIP**
Slight discrimination.
- TAIL SETTING**
Wry tail or other abnormal tail settings: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
- LEGS AND FEET**
1. Lameness—apparently permanent and interfering with normal function: *Disqualification.*
— apparently temporary and not affecting normal function: *Slight discrimination.*
2. Bucked Knees, blemished hocks, crooked hind legs, weak pasterns: *Serious discrimination.*
3. Evidence of arthritis, crampy hind leg: *Serious discrimination.*
4. Enlarged Knees: *Slight discrimination.*
- ABSENCE OF HORNS**
No discrimination.
- LACK OF SIZE**
Slight to serious discrimination.
- TESTICLES**
Bull with one testicle or with abnormal testicles: *Disqualification.*
- OVERCONDITIONED**
Serious discrimination.
- TEMPORARY OR MINOR INJURIES**
Blemishes or injuries of a temporary character not affecting animal's usefulness: *Slight discrimination.*
- EVIDENCE OF SHARP PRACTICE**
Animals showing signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation, or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness: *Disqualification.*

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UNIFIED DAIRY COW SCORE CARD

Ideals of type and breed characteristics must be considered in the application of the terminology of this score card.

Based on Order of Observation	Perfect Score				
1. GENERAL APPEARANCE	30				
Attractive individuality, revealing vigor, femininity with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts. Impressive style and attractive carriage with a graceful walk.					
BREED CHARACTERISTICS (see reverse side)	12				
HEAD — medium in length, clean-cut; broad muzzle with large open nostrils; lean, strong jaw; full, bright eyes; forehead broad between the eyes and moderately dished; bridge of nose straight; ears medium size and alertly carried.					
SHOULDER BLADES set smoothly against chest wall and withers, forming neat junction with the body					
BACK strong and appearing straight with vertebrae well defined.					
LOIN broad, strong and nearly level.	10				
RUMP long, wide; top-line level from loin to and including tail head.					
HIPS wide, approximately level laterally with back, free from excess tissue					
THURLS wide apart.					
PIN BONES wide apart and slightly lower than hips, well defined					
TAIL HEAD slightly above and neatly set between pin bones.					
TAIL long and tapering with nicely balanced switch.					
LEGS wide apart, squarely set, clean-cut and strong with fore legs straight.					
HIND LEGS nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern. When viewed from behind, legs wide apart and nearly straight. Bone, flat and flinty, tendons well defined. Pasterns, of medium length, strong and springy. Hocks cleanly moulded.	8				
FEET short and well rounded, with deep heel and level sole.					
2. DAIRY CHARACTER	20				
Animation, angularity, general openness, and freedom from excess tissue, giving due regard to period of lactation.					
NECK long and lean, blending smoothly into shoulders and brisket; clean-cut throat and dewlap.					
WITHERS well defined and wedge-shaped with the dorsal processes of the vertebrae rising slightly above the shoulder blades.	20				
RIBS wide apart. Rib bone wide, flat and long.					
FLANK deep, arched and refined.					
THIGHS incurving to flat from the side; wide apart when viewed from the rear, providing sufficient room for the udder and its attachment.					
SKIN of medium thickness, loose, and pliable. Hair fine.					
3. BODY CAPACITY	20				
Relatively large in proportion to size of animal, providing ample digestive capacity, strength and vigor.	12				
BARREL deep, strongly supported, ribs wide apart and well sprung; depth and width tending to increase toward rear of barrel.					
HEART GIRTH large, resulting from long, well sprung foreribs, wide chest floor between front legs, and fullness at the point of elbow	8				
4. MAMMARY SYSTEM	30				
A capacious, strongly attached, well carried udder of good quality, indicating heavy production and a long period of usefulness.					
UDDER — CAPACITY and SHAPE , long, wide and of moderate depth. Extending well forward, strongly attached, reasonably level floor. Rear attachment, high and wide. Quarters evenly balanced and symmetrical.	25				
TEXTURE soft, pliable and elastic. Well collapsed after milking.					
TEATS uniform, of convenient length and size, cylindrical in shape, free from obstructions, well apart and squarely placed, plumb.					
MAMMARY VEINS long, tortuous, prominent and branching, with numerous large walls. Veins on udder numerous and clearly defined.	5				
TOTAL	100				

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

Each of the five member dairy breed registry organizations has approved the statement of the distinguishing characteristics of its breed, and has concurred in the evaluation of defects in registered cattle as printed below.

AYRSHIRE CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—Red of any shade, mahogany, brown or these with white, or white, each color clearly defined. Distinctive red and white markings preferable; black or brindle markings strongly objectionable.

SIZE—A mature cow in milk should weigh about 1150 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining upward, small at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

BROWN SWISS CHARACTERISTICS

Strong and vigorous. Size and ruggedness with quality desired. Extreme refinement undesirable.

COLOR—A shade of brown varying from a silver to a dark brown. Hair inside ears is a lighter color than body. Nose and tongue black, with a light colored band around nose. Color markings which bar registry are: white switch, white on sides, top, head or neck and legs above knees or hocks. White on belly or lower legs objectionable.

SIZE—A mature cow in milk should weigh about 1400 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward and slightly up. Moderately small at base, medium length, tapering toward black tips.

GUERNSEY CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—A shade of fawn with white markings clearly defined, black or brindle markings objectionable. Skin should show golden yellow pigmentation. When other points are equal, a clear or buff muzzle will be favored over a smoky or black muzzle.

SIZE—A mature cow in milk should weigh about 1100 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, small and yellow at base, refined, medium in length and tapering toward tips.

HOLSTEIN CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—Black and white markings clearly defined. Color markings which bar registry are solid black, solid white, black in switch, black belly, black encircling leg touching hoof, black from hoof to knee or hock, black and white intermixed to give color other than distinct black and white.

SIZE—A mature cow in milk should weigh about 1500 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, incurving, small at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

JERSEY CHARACTERISTICS

COLOR—A shade of fawn, with or without white markings.

SIZE—A mature cow in milk should weigh about 1100 lbs.

HORNS—Inclining forward, incurving, small at base, refined, medium length and tapering toward tips.

EVALUATION OF DEFECTS

In a show ring, disqualification means that the animal is not eligible to win a prize. Any disqualified animal is not eligible to be shown in the group classes. In slight to serious discrimination, the degree of seriousness shall be determined by the judge.

EYES

1. Total blindness: *Disqualification.*
2. Blindness in one eye: *Slight discrimination.*

WRY FACE

Serious discrimination.

PARROT JAW

Slight to serious discrimination.

SHOULDERS

Winged: *Slight to serious discrimination.*

CAPPED HIP

Slight discrimination.

TAIL SETTING

Wry tail or other abnormal tail settings: *Disqualification.*

LEGS AND FEET

1. Lameness—apparently permanent and interfering with normal function: *Disqualification.*
—apparently temporary and not affecting normal function: *Slight discrimination.*

2. Bucked Knees, blemished hocks, crooked hind legs, weak pasterns: *Serious discrimination.*

3. Evidence of arthritis, crampy hind leg. *Serious discrimination.*

4. Enlarged Knees: *Slight discrimination.*

ABSENCE OF HORNS

No discrimination.

LACK OF SIZE

Slight to serious discrimination.

UDDER

1. One or more blind quarters: *Disqualification.*
2. Abnormal milk (bloody, clotted, watery): *Possibly disqualification. A slight to serious defect.*
3. Udder definitely broken away in attachment: *Serious discrimination.*
4. A weak udder attachment: *Slight to serious discrimination.*
5. One or more light quarters, hard spots in udder, side leak or obstruction in teat (spider): *Slight to serious discrimination.*

DRY COWS

In case of cows of apparently equal merit
Give preference to cows in milk

OVERCONDITIONED

Serious discrimination.

TEMPORARY OR MINOR INJURIES

Blemishes or injuries of a temporary character not affecting animal's usefulness: *Slight discrimination.*

EVIDENCE OF SHARP PRACTICE

1. Animals showing signs of having been operated upon or tampered with for the purpose of concealing faults in conformation, or with intent to deceive relative to the animal's soundness: *Disqualification.*
2. Heifer calves showing evidence of having been milked, in an attempt to deceive regarding natural form of udder: *Serious discrimination.*

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breeder would like to have animals of equal merit for his show herd, for he would be assured of a successful show season.

It is advisable to watch eligible calves and yearlings throughout the winter and spring months previous to the show season. Sometimes a calf that looks good for a while will go into a slump and not appear as good as before. This change should be noted and studied in selecting the animal. An individual may improve in type at a slow and constant rate, so that by show time she or he may be by far the outstanding animal. If such an animal is in the herd, it should certainly be included in the group being brought in for fitting, although at the time it may not be as good as another individual.

Age

It is often advantageous when selecting animals, to choose one which has the maximum age that a particular class allows — especially if there are two or more animals of equally desirable type. The older calf naturally should have more size and scale, and this often will be to its benefit. Although many judges will give the advantage to an older calf, a young individual that has outstanding type should not be discarded or left at home simply because there is an older one for the class.

The age limits at all the state and national shows and most local shows are on a uniform basis. The dividing line or date between each class is the same.

An exhibitor should check the age requirements in the premium list of each show which he plans to attend. You can get premium lists with full information by

writing to the secretary of the show or fair. Some of the smaller shows, and shows which are held during the winter or spring, may have different classifications.

These classes, as a rule, are as follows:

*Calf Class:** Born after July 1 of the year preceding the show.

Junior Yearling Class: Born from January 1 thru June 30 of the year preceding the show.

Senior Yearling Class: Born from July 1 thru December 31 the second year preceding the show.

Two-Year-Old Class: Born from July 1 of the third year prior to the show year thru June 30 of the second year prior to the show.

Three-Year-Old Class: Born a year earlier than the two-year-olds.

Four-Year-Old Class: Born a year earlier than the three-year-olds.

Five-Year-Old Class or Mature or Aged Cow Class: Born still another year earlier.

At some shows the *Four-Year-Old Cows* will show with the *Aged Cow Class*.

Bulls, Three-Year-Old and Over, will show in the *Aged Bull Class*.

In the female classes, yearling heifers must not be in milk, or they will be shown automatically in the two-year-old class, and, of course, be at a decided disadvantage. In the two-year-old class, there will be heifers that

* At some shows this class is divided into junior and senior calf classes.

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are not yet milking. They, too, will be showing at a disadvantage unless very close to calving and their udders without excess swelling. When selecting the females, you should choose animals that will be milking at the time of the show or springing very heavily. As noted on the score card, 30 points are given to the mammary development of the cow, and unless she is milking, the judge will not know to his satisfaction the type of udder the cow has. In most instances, cows that have been milking for 10 to 12 months or longer should not be chosen to go with the show herd. They will often be showing "stale." In other words, they will be carrying a little too much flesh over their shoulders and about their necks, so they will not have a refined dairy appearance.

Some of the leading showmen like to have the two-year-old heifers fresh two or three months before the show season starts. In that length of time the swelling will be worked out of the heifer's udder, and it will be showing its normal structure and quality. It is important that the texture of all udders be soft and pliable and not hard or meaty, which would be the case of an udder that is still showing swelling from calving.

In a two-year-old, the veining of the udder should be apparent and the skin should have the appearance of fineness and high quality. There should be no swelling to give the appearance of bulginess or weak attachments. In two or three months, the heifer will have regained her middle that was lost during calving. She will appear to have more capacity for feed. If she was a little fleshy at the time of calving, she should be milked

BULL CALF



Curtiss Candy Ned's Cheryl

1st Bull Calf, Reserve Jr. Champion, Dairy Cattle Congress, 1950; 1st Bull Calf, International Dairy Exposition, 1950.

This bull calf shows fine dairy characteristics about the head, neck, and hindquarters. Notice the breed type about the head and neck, straight topline, legs, and level rump.

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down to a condition that shows dairy character and quality. However, this must not be interpreted as meaning the heifer should be very thin.

Groups

The various groups such as *Get of Sire* and *Produce of Dam* should be kept in mind when selecting the animals for the show string, so that these groups can be filled. This may mean taking along an extra individual in some class in order to fill out a *Get of Sire* or a *Produce*. At most fairs, a *Get of Sire* consists of four animals by one sire with not more than two of them males. One of the group members must be two years of age or older if a junior *get of sire* class is listed.

Junior Get of Sire has the same qualifications, except that the animals must all be under two years of age and bred by the exhibitor.

The *Produce of Dam* is made up of two animals out of one cow. They may be either sex, and any age. Of course the more mature animals may be more desirable.

Another group, the *Dairy Herd*, consists of four cows which have freshened.

At the large shows, there may be additional classes for the *A. R. Get of Sire*, which consists of four females in milk which have met certain production requirements.

The *Best Three Females Bred by Exhibitor* may be of any age.

When choosing the groups one should strive for as much uniformity in type among the individuals as possible. This makes a more pleasing appearing group

and gives the impression that the bull or cow is reproducing a uniform group of offspring.

The *Best Udder Class* should be kept in mind. This class is judged on conformation of udder alone. A cow that has not been milking too long will make a better showing than one later in lactation. By that we mean she should be showing an udder that does not look stale and one that is milking evenly out of all quarters so that the udder will be balanced. The best udder cow should have been milking long enough so that there will be little or no swelling in the udder. At show time the udder should be showing its best conformation and type.

When selecting heifers, be sure to check for extra teats. Such teats should be removed not less than two months ahead of the show, and preferably when the calf is about six months of age. This will make a more pleasing appearing udder. If left on, extra teats will be bothersome when the heifer comes into milk, if they secrete or leak milk. This would develop an abnormal udder, practically disqualifying the heifer from future showing, and decreasing her sale value.