

Linear Descriptive Traits



U.S. Registered Holsteins
FOR MAXIMUM PROFIT

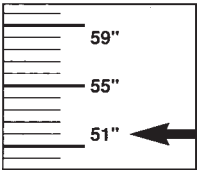


HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION USA, INC.

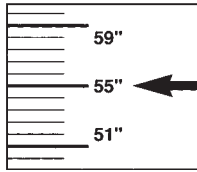
Holstein AssociationSM
1 Holstein Place, Brattleboro, VT 05302-0808
800.952.5200 www.holsteinusa.com

STATURE - ST

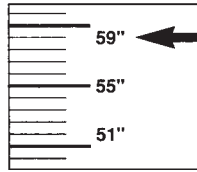
Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely short



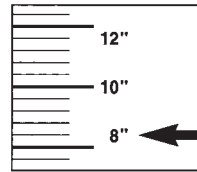
25 pts.
Intermediate



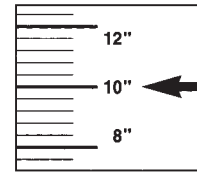
45-50 pts.
Extremely tall

THURL POSITION - TH

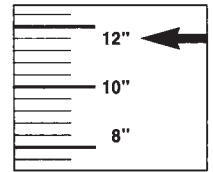
Secondary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely high



25 pts.
Intermediate



45-50 pts.
Extremely low

The distance from the animal's topline to the point of the thurl joint.

STRENGTH - SR

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely narrow and frail



25 pts.
Intermediate



45-50 pts.
Extremely strong & wide

RUMP WIDTH - RW

Primary Trait



1 pt. = 2"
Extremely narrow



25 pts. = 4-1/2"
Intermediate width



50 pts. = 7"
Extremely open

BODY DEPTH - BD

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely shallow body



25 pts.
Intermediate



45-50 pts.
Extremely deep body

REAR LEGS, SIDE VIEW - LS

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Posty and straight



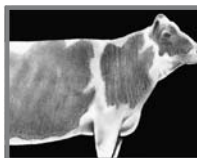
25 pts.
Intermediate set in hock



45-50 pts.
Extremely sickled

DAIRY FORM - DF

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely tight



25 pts.
Intermediate



45-50 pts.
Extremely open

REAR LEGS, REAR VIEW - RL

Primary Trait



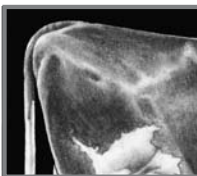
1-5 pts.
Severe toe-out



45-50 pts.
No toe-out

RUMP ANGLE - RA

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Pins clearly higher than hooks



25 pts.
Slight slope from hooks to pins



45-50 pts.
Extremely sloped from hooks to pins

FOOT ANGLE - FA

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extreme low angle



25 pts.
Intermediate angle



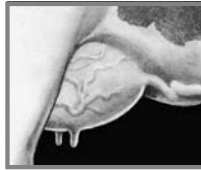
45-50 pts.
Extremely steep angle

FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT - FU

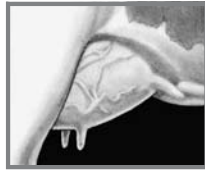
Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely loose



25 pts.
Intermediate strength



45-50 pts.
Extremely snug & strong

FRONT TEAT PLACEMENT - TP

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely wide placement
on outside of quarter



25 pts.
Centrally placed
on quarter



45-50 pts.
Base of teats on
extreme inside of quarter

REAR UDDER, HEIGHT - UH

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely low



25 pts.
Intermediate height



45-50 pts.
Extremely high

TEAT LENGTH - TL

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
1-1/4 inches or smaller



25 pts.
2-1/4 inches



45-50 pts.
3-1/4 inches or longer

REAR UDDER, WIDTH - UW

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Narrow rear udder



25 pts.
Intermediate width



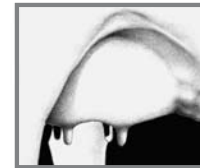
45-50 pts.
Extremely wide rear udder

UDDER TILT - UT

Secondary Trait



1-5 pts.
Rear quarters deep



30 pts.
Front and rear quarters level



45-50 pts.
Front quarters deep

UDDER CLEFT - UC

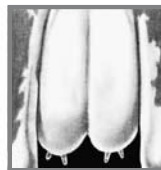
Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Weak cleft



25 pts.
Intermediate



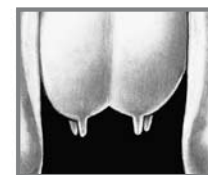
45-50 pts.
Extremely strong cleft

REAR TEAT PLACEMENT - RT

Secondary Trait



1-5 pts.
Extremely wide placement
on outside of quarter



25 pts.
Centrally placed
on quarter



40-45 pts.
Base of teats on
extreme inside of quarter

UDDER DEPTH - UD

Primary Trait



1-5 pts.
Very deep udder floor
well below hocks



25 pts.
Udder floor
above hocks



45-50 pts.
Extreme height of udder
floor above hocks

BODY CONDITION - CS



1-10 pts.



21-30 pts.



41-50 pts.

FINAL SCORE

A cow's final score is based on the five major classification categories or breakdowns of front end/capacity, dairy strength, rump, feet and legs, and udder. The classifier numerically scores each category within a range of 1 to 100 points. These scores are based on the level of desirability exhibited by individual cows for each category compared to the true-type model. The final score is the sum of the five major breakdown scores weighted as follows:

COWS		BULLS	
Front End/Capacity	20%	Front End/Capacity	40%
Dairy Strength	20%	Dairy Strength	25%
Rump	5%	Rump	10%
Feet and Legs	15%	Feet and Legs	25%
Udder	40%		

In assigning major breakdown scores, the classifier considers such factors as age, number of lactations, and stage of lactation. Major breakdown and final score is expressed numerically. Those numbers correspond with the following brackets:

Excellent [E]	90-97 points	Good [G]	75-79 points
Very Good [VG]	85-89 points	Fair [F]	65-74 points
Good Plus [GP]	80-84 points	Poor [P]	50-64 points

MAJOR BREAKDOWN DESCRIPTIONS

FRONT END/CAPACITY

The skeletal parts of the cow, with exception of feet & legs, and rump. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Front End- Adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows set firmly against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness.

Chest- Deep and wide floor with well-sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.

Barrel- Long, deep, and wide: depth and spring of rib increasing toward the rear with a deep flank.

Back/Loin- Back should be straight and strong, with loin broad, strong, and nearly level.

Stature- Height including length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure. Height at withers and hips should be relatively proportionate.

Breed Characteristics- Should exhibit overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean cut, slightly dished with broad muzzle, large open nostrils and strong jaw.

DAIRY STRENGTH

A combination of dairyness and strength which supports sustained production and longevity. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, width of chest, spring of fore rib, flatness of bone and freedom from coarseness. Consideration is given to stage of lactation. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Ribs- Should be spaced wide apart. Rib bones wide, flat, deep and slanted toward the rear.

Width of Chest- Wide, showing capacity for vital organs.

Spring of Fore Rib- Well sprung, expressing fullness and extending outside the point of elbows.

Thighs- Lean, in curving to flat and wide apart from the rear.

Withers- Sharp with chine prominent.

Neck- Long, lean, and blending smoothly into shoulders; clean-cut throat, dewlap, and brisket.

Skin- Thin, loose, and pliable.

RUMP

The Rump should be long, wide throughout with thurls centrally placed to enhance mobility. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Rump Width- Thurls should be wide apart.

Rump Angle- Pin bones should be slightly lower than hip bones.

Thurl Position- Centrally placed between hip and pin bones.

Tail Head- Should set slightly above and neatly between pin bones and be free from coarseness.

Vulva- Should be nearly vertical.

FEET AND LEGS

Slightly more emphasis is placed on feet than on rear legs when evaluating this breakdown. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration when evaluating feet and legs. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Feet- Steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded closed toes.

Rear Legs:

Rear View- Straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed.

Side View- A moderate set (angle) to the hock.

Hocks- Cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness, or swelling, with adequate flexibility.

Pasterns- Short and strong with some flexibility.

UDDER

The udder traits are the most heavily weighted. Major consideration is given to the traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

Udder Depth- Moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age.

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

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

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

Fore Udder- Firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity.

Teats- Cylindrical shape and uniform size with medium length and diameter.

Udder Balance and Texture- Should exhibit an udder floor that is level as viewed from the side with quarters evenly balanced; soft, pliable and well collapsed after milking.