Dairy Strength
Dairy Strength makes up 25% of the Holstein score card.

“Evidence of milking ability, angularity, and general openness, without weakness; freedom from coarseness, giving due regard to stage of lactation. With attractive individuality indicating vigour, strength, stretch, size and stature with harmonious blending and proportional balance of parts; head indicating femininity with adequate strength, mid-section relatively large providing ample capacity.”

Holstein Cow
Height - 1.5 meters or 58 inches
Weight - 680 kg or 1500 pounds

Jersey Cow
Height - 1.3 meters or 52 inches
Weight - 450 kg or 1000 pounds
Head

- clean cut and feminine
- eyes large and bright
- ears carried alertly resulting in a head with character appropriate for the breed
- broad muzzle with large, open nostrils
- jaws meet properly without overlap
- strong lower jaw
- broad forehead

Ideal dairy head - with smooth blending of head, neck and shoulders

Neck

- long, lean and clean
- blending smoothly into the shoulder
- clean about the throat, dewlap and brisket
Withers
• well defined, prominent and wedge shaped
• dorsal process of vertebrae rise sharply above shoulder blades

![Desirable withers](image1) ![Undesirable withers](image2)

Ribs
• wide apart
• rib bones are wide, flat and long

Flanks
• deep and refined

Thighs
• incurring to flat from side view
• from the rear view, wide apart, providing ample room for the udder and it's rear attachment

Udder
• soft and pliable in texture
• free from excess tissue or edema (hardness or swelling in the udder)

Bone
• flat, strong and clean cut

Be Aware That:
Stage of lactation affects the appearance of the dairy character of the cow. A cow which has freshened two months prior will show more dairy character than a similar cow which has been milking for nine months. As the cow progresses in her lactation, she will carry more condition. Take this into consideration when you are judging dairy cattle.

Cows which are too dairy may be frail. There is a point where a cow lacks the strength to produce. A cow with good dairy character will also be strong.
Shoulder Blades
- set smoothly against the chest wall and withers
- form neat junction with the body

Chest
- wide floor, resulting in ample width between the legs
- well filled
- desirable width and power through chest
- narrow and pinched through the chest

Heart Girth
- large and deep
- full at the elbows with well sprung fore ribs
- fore ribs blend smoothly into the shoulders

Crops
- well filled

Back
- strong and straight
- vertebrae are well defined

Loin
- broad and slightly arched
- vertebrae are well defined
- attachment to hip bones is high and wide
Mid-section
- long ribs highly and widely sprung
- depth and width of ribs tending to increase towards the rear

Note
- Look at body capacity as being three dimensional. Always consider the length, depth and width of the dairy animal.

Feet and Legs
“Clean and strong boned, with shape and movement of feet and legs resulting in proper carriage of the animal.”

Feet and legs make up 25% of the score on the Holstein Score Card. When evaluating feet and legs, check for the following:

Feet
- short and well rounded, with deep heel
- toes slightly spaced
Legs

- pasterns strong, of medium length and flexible
- forelegs straight and wide apart with feet squarely placed
- hind legs nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern from side view
- straight and wide apart from the rear view
- hocks cleanly molded
- bone flat, strong and flinty, with tendons well defined

Rump

“Long, wide and clean cut, blending desirably with the loin.”

Rump accounts for 10% of the Holstein score card. The characteristics which should be evaluated when examining the rump are:

Hip or Hooks

- wide, but not prominent
- slightly higher than the pins

Pins

- wide apart and free from patchiness
- slightly lower set than hip or hooks

Thurls

- high and wide apart
- give consideration to the stage of lactation
- closer to a line drawn vertically from the hook is more desirable
Tailhead
- refined
- carrying out level with the backline
- set slightly higher than the pins

Tail
- long and slender

Pelvic Angle
- moderately sloped with pins set slightly lower than the hooks