

## 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

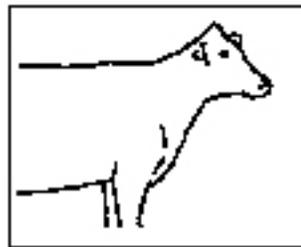
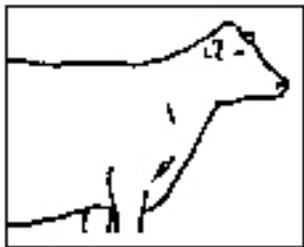
Height - 1.5 meters or 58 inches

Weight - 680 kg or 1500 pounds

### Jersey Cow

Height - 1.3 meters or 52 inches

Weight - 450 kg or 1000 pounds

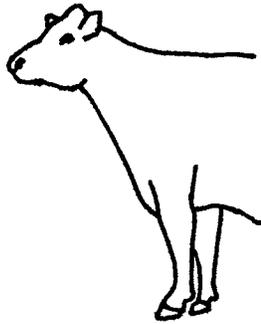


**Desirable dairy character  
(side and top view)**

**Undesirable dairy character  
(side and top view)**

## 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

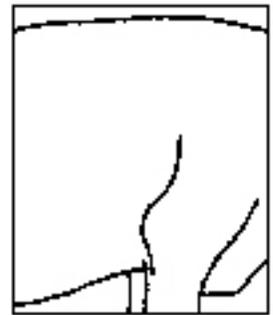
- long, lean and clean
- blending smoothly into the shoulder
- clean about the throat, dewlap and brisket



**Ideal dairy neck and shoulders**



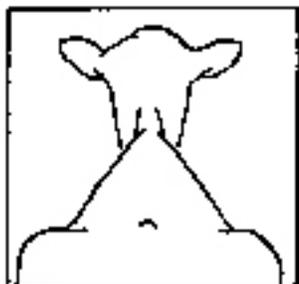
**Coarse shoulders, throaty**



**Winged shoulders**

## Withers

- well defined, prominent and wedge shaped
- dorsal process of vertebrae rise sharply above shoulder blades



**Desirable withers  
well defined**



**Undesirable withers  
overconditioned**

## Ribs

- wide apart
- rib bones are wide, flat and long

## Flanks

- deep and refined

## Thighs

- incurving to flat from side view
- from the rear view, wide apart, providing ample room for the udder and its 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



**Desirable Body Capacity**  
- deep through the heart  
- back strong and straight  
- broad, strong loin  
- ribs high and wide



**Undesirable Body Capacity**  
- shallow through the heart  
- back fleshed  
- weak over the loin  
- narrow ribbed

## Note

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

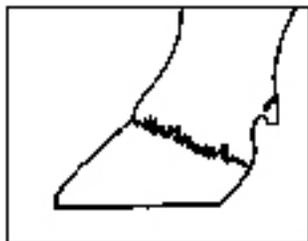
## Feet and Legs

"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



**Short, strong pasternus. Good depth of heel, proper angle.**



**Long, weak pasternus. Shallow heel. Low angle.**

## 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



**Ideal Rear Legs**



**Sickle Hocked**



**Post Legged**



**Cow Hocked**

## 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

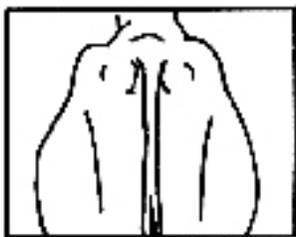
- refined
- carrying out level with the backline
- set slightly higher than the pins

### Tail

- long and slender

### Pelvic Angle

- moderately sloped with pins set slightly lower than the hooks



**Extremely Narrow Rump**



**Intermediate Width of Rump**



**Extreme Width of Rump**



**Pins set higher than hooks  
- undesirable**



**Nearly level Pelvic Angle  
- pins slightly lower than  
hooks**



**Severe slope  
- pins set extremely below  
hooks**