

OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING AMSS TYPE CLASSIFICATION

LINEAR DESCRIPTIVE TYPE TRAITS

A. Pictorial description and scale of linear type traits are presented in the center two pages of this brochure. .

B Standards for linear descriptive type traits using a scale of 1 to 9. [Approved by AMSS Board Summer Board Meeting 2002, implemented January 1, 2003.](#)

1. Stature: measured as height at the hips including moderate length of leg bone, with a long bone pattern throughout the body. Guidelines for height shall be for each 1" change (from 55" - 5 points) the point assignment shall change by 1. 59" = 9 points, 51"-1 point.
2. Strength (Chest & Body): measured from weakness, narrow, and frail (1) to extreme strength (9). Do not consider age of animal nor stage of lactation.
3. Body Depth: a measure of overall depth, primarily at the rib cage in the middle of the cow's body. Scores range from extremely shallow bodied (1) to extremely deep-bodied (9).
4. Dairy Form: scored on the basic structure of the animal and includes evidence of milking ability, including cleanness, sharpness, openness of rib, flatness of bone and length of neck. Stage of lactation is not taken into consideration.
5. Rump Angle (Side View): measures the degree of slope from hooks to pins. A level rump should be scored 2. For each 1" change, adjust scores 1 point. 1" slope from hooks to pins = 4 points. 4" slope from hooks to pins = 6 points. 2" reverse slope = 1 point.
6. Thurl Width: measure the width of the pelvic region with emphasis on width of thurls in relation to the rest of the cow.
7. Rear Legs (Side View): the leg which has a reasonable amount of set to it should be scored 5 points. Legs scored 3 or below will tend toward straightness and 7 or above will tend toward sickle-hocked.
8. Rear Legs-Rear View Rear legs viewed from the rear and scored as the amount of hocking in or straightness of tracking. 1 = severe hocking in, 4 - considerable hocking in, 8 - straight tracking, 9 = slight hocking out. Approved by the AMSS Summer Board Meeting 2002.
9. Foot Angle: measures foot angle on the first inch from the hairline. A foot with an intermediate angle (45°) should be scored 5 points. 50° = 8, 35° = 2.
10. Fore Udder Attachment: the strength of tightness of the fore udder to the body wall should be evaluated. No adjustment will be made for stage of lactation.
11. Rear Udder Height: will be measured at the top of the secretory tissue, and determined in relation to the midpoint of the pins and the point of the hock.
12. Rear Udder Width: this is to be measured at the top of the crease between the leg and the udder. Age of animal and stage of lactation are not considered. 6 1/2" = 5 points. For each 1" change, adjust scores 2 points. 8" = 8 points. 5" = 2 points. Based on 10 hours milk in the udders.
13. Udder Cleft: this is a measure of the depth of cleft of the udder. A 1" cleft-5 points. For each 1" change, adjust scores 3 points. Flat udders = 2 points. 2" cleft-8 points. Scores may be adjusted up to 1 point if the udder is flat in the rear, but has good cleft in the fore.
14. Udder Depth: this is measured from the point of hock as viewed from the rear in relation to the floor of the udder. Level with the hocks-3 points. Scores are adjusted 1 point per inch. 2" above hocks = 5 points. 4" above hocks = 7 points. 2" below hocks = 1 point.
15. Teat Placement (Rear View): this trait measures the placement of the front teats on the quarter. A score of 6 indicates the front teats are centrally placed. Lower scores indicate the front teats are up on the side or more to the outside of the udder (wide); higher scores indicate the

front teats are more to the inside of the quarter (close). The critical measurement is the position of the teat on the quarter.

16. Teat length: measured from an average length of 2 1/4 " scored 5 points. For a 3/4" change adjust scores 2 points. 3 1/4" = 9, 3" = 7, 11/2" = 3, 3/4" = 1.

II. CLASSIFICATION TRAITS

A. The classification traits will consist of five breakdown traits as described in the Milking Shorthorn Score Card as well as overall Final Rating. Each breakdown will be weighted as indicated in the parenthesis to determine Final Score. [This replaces the PDCA Unified Score Card effective June 1, 2007. Approved by the AMSS Board 2006 Summer Board Meeting, Dubuque, IA.](#)

1. Strength and Substance (15)

2. Dairy Quality (15)

3. Rump (10)

4. Mobility (20)

5. Mammary System (40)

Final Score - will reflect the degree to which the animal approaches the optimum expression of the five breakdown traits. The final score will be calculated from the numeric value traits weighted as above.

B. Bulls will be scored for the following breakdown traits with weighting in parenthesis. Strength and Substance (25), Dairy Quality (25), Rump (20) and Mobility (25). They will also be scored for the first 8 linear traits.

III CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

Each of the five breakdown classification traits and Final Score will be given a numerical score and categorized according to the following standards:

A. "Excellent" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 90 to 99 points.

B. "Very Good" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 85 to 89 points.

C. "Good Plus" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 80 to 84 points.

D. "Good" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 75 to 79 points.

E. "Fair" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 65 to 74 points.

F. "Poor" - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score less than 65 points.

IV, MAXIMUM SCORE PER LACTATION

Score	Lactation	MilkoRe	Different
		ut	Classifier
		g	

89	1st		
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92	2nd		
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93 if	3rd	yes	
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previously

92

94 if 3rd yes than made
previously her 93

95 if 4th yes than made
previously her 94

96 if >8yrs old yes than made
previously her 95

97 if >8yrs old yes than made
previously her 96

et cetera

If a cow is scored 90 or higher the classifier must see her walk. Cows scored 93 points or higher for final score must have a linear score for udder depth of 3 or higher, before and after milk out. [Different Classifiers for 93-94, etc. Approved AMSS Summer Board Meeting 2001. Maximum 89 point score on two-year olds approved by AMSS Summer Board Meeting 2002. Udder depth on 93+ cows Approved by AMSS Board Winter Meeting December, 2002. 90+ see cow walk approved by AMSS Summer Board Meeting, July, 2005.](#)

V.

MULTIPLE EXCELLENT PROGRAM

The following "Multiple Excellent" program recognizes cows that remain "Excellent" to an advanced age:

A. A cow classified "Excellent" for the first time shall be designated "E".

B. An "E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "2E" cow. Minimum age - 5 years.

C. A "2E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "3E" cow. Minimum age - 7 years calving since 5.

D. A "3E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "4E" cow. Minimum age -9 years calving since 7.

E. A "4E" cow which is reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "5E" cow. Minimum age -11 years calving since 9.

[AMSS Summer Board Meeting Summer Board Meeting, July, 2005](#)

VI.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND TERMS

A All first and second lactation animals must be scored if not previously classified in that lactation. Cows cannot be lowered after the age of 5.

B. Dry Cows: Classify only if:

1st or 2nd lactation and never been scored. Cows eligible for multiple "E".

C. Bulls: Optional and must be 2 years old.

D. In classifying a cow with a defective quarter when the opposite half of the udder is normal, if the defective quarter is definitely the result of injury or disease, the cow is not to be penalized. [Reaffirmed AMSS Summer Board Meeting July, 2005.](#)

E. In classifying a cow with one or more quarters admittedly defective at the time of first calving, the rating shall be at least one final rating below that which the cow would receive if the quarter were normal.

F. If it is evident that a cow was born with only three teats or with two teats grown together, such cows are to be classified "Poor".

G. Bulls with only one testicle shown are to be classified "Poor".

Board approved cut-off for age of classification to 40 months from 68 months due to the highly selective process/non-required classification of post second lactation AMSS animals. AMSS Summer Board Meeting June, 2004.

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