

# OFFICIAL RULES GOVERNING AMSS TYPE CLASSIFICATION

## I. LINEAR DESCRIPTIVE TYPE TRAITS

Standards for linear descriptive traits using a scale of 1 to 9.

- Stature:** Measured height at the hips. For each 1" change, adjust score by 1 point. Very short 51" = 1, Short 53" = 3, Intermediate 55" = 5, Tall 57" = 7, Very Tall 59" = 9.
- Strength:** Measured chest depth and width, heart girth, and bone mass in relation to the rest of the cow. Very narrow/frail = 1, Narrow/frail = 3, Intermediate width & strength = 5, Wide and strong = 7, very wide and strong = 9.
- Body Depth:** Measured overall depth primarily at the ribcage in relation to the rest of the cow. Extremely shallow = 1, Shallow = 3, Intermediate = 5, Deep = 7, Extremely Deep = 9.
- Dairy Form:** Basic structure including evidence of milking ability, cleanness, sharpness, openness of rib, length and flatness of bone and length of neck. Very coarse & tight ribbed = 1, Coarse & tight ribbed = 3, Intermediate sharpness, openness & cleanness = 5, Sharp, open ribbed & clean cut = 7. Very sharp, open ribbed & clean cut = 9.
- Rump Angle:** Measured degree of slope from hooks to pins. Level rump = 4. For each 1" of change, adjust score by 1 point. Pins higher than hooks by 3" = 1, Pins higher than hooks by 1" = 3, Pins level with hooks = 4, Ideal - 2" slope from hooks to pins = 6, Moderate - 3" slope = 7, Extreme 5" slope = 9.
- Thurl Width:** Measured width of the pelvic region with emphasis on width of thurls in relation to the rest of the cow. Extremely narrow at thurls = 1, Slightly narrow at thurls = 3, Intermediate width at thurls = 5, Moderately wide at thurls = 7, Extremely wide at thurls = 9.
- Rear Legs (Side View):** Scores the amount of set of the leg. Extremely posty = 1, Nearly straight in hock = 3, slight set in hock = 5, Moderate set in hock = 7, Extremely sickle hocked = 9.
- Rear Legs (Rear View):** Scored as animal walks or stands. Rear legs viewed from the rear and scored as the amount of hocking in or straightness of tracking. Severe hocking in = 1, Considerable hocking in = 4, Moderate hocking in = 6, Straight tracking, parallel hind legs = 8, Slight hocking out = 9.
- Foot Angle:** Measured on the first inch down from the hair line (3" = 1 point). Extremely low angle - 33 degree = 1, Moderately low angle - 39 degree = 3, Intermediate angle - 45 degree = 5, Moderately steep angle - 51 degree = 7, Extremely steep angle - 57 degree = 9.
- Fore Udder Attachment:** Measure strength of the attachment of fore udder to body wall. Extremely loose, weak or broken = 1, Very loose, weak = 3, Strong attachment = 5, Very strongly attached = 7, Extremely tight and strongly attached = 9.
- Rear Udder Height:** Measured at the top of secretory tissue in relation to the midpoint of the pins and the point of the hock. Extremely low = 1, Low = 3, Intermediate height (2" above the midpoint), High = 7, Extremely high = 9.
- Rear Udder Width:** Measured at the top of the crease between the leg and udder. Extremely narrow - 4 1/2" = 1, Narrow - 6" = 3, Intermediate width - 7 1/2" = 5, Wide - 9" = 7, Extremely wide - 10 1/2" = 9.
- Udder Cleft:** Measured depth of cleft of the udder (1/3"/point). Negative cleft, broken = 1, Extremely deep cleft = 9.
- Udder Depth:** Measured from the point of hock as viewed from the rear in relation to the floor of the udder (1"/point). Extremely deep - below hock - 2" = 1, Level with hock = 3, Slightly above hock - 2" = 5, Floor well above hock - 4" = 7, Extremely high - shallow - 6" above = 9.
- Teat Placement (Rear View):** Measured placement of front teats on the quarter. Low numbers = wide and high numbers = close. Base of front teats extremely wide = 1, Placement moderately toward outside (wide) = 3, Placement slightly toward outside = 5, Centrally placed = 6, Placement slight toward inside (close) = 7, Base of teats extremely close = 9.
- Teat Length:** Measured length of teat. From average of 2 1/4", a 1/4" change adjusts score 2 points. Extremely short - 3/4" = 1, Moderately short - 1 1/2" = 3, Intermediate length - 2 1/4" = 5, Moderately long - 3" = 7, Extremely long - 3 3/4" = 9.

## II. CLASSIFICATION TRAITS

- The classification traits will consist of five breakdown traits as described in the PDCA Dairy Cow Unified Score Card as well as overall Final Rating. Each breakdown trait will be weighted as indicated in parenthesis in determining Final Score. Maximum score for each major breakdown is "99".
  - Strength and Substance (15)
  - Dairy Quality (15)
  - Rump (10)
  - Mobility (20)
  - 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 above.

- Bulls will be scored for the following breakdown traits with weighting in parenthesis: Strength and Substance (25), Dairy Quality (25), Rump (20), Mobility (30). Bulls are optional and must be a minimum of 2 years old and have no maximum score.

## 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:

- "Excellent"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 90 to 99 points.
- "Very Good"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 85 to 89 points.
- "Good Plus"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 80 to 84 points.
- "Good"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 75 to 79 points.
- "Fair"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score 65 to 74 points.
- "Poor"** - Animals which in the opinion of the classifier score less than 65 points.

## IV. MAXIMUM SCORE PER LACTATION

Final Score	Mammary	Lactation	Different Classifier
88	89	1st	
90	91	2nd	
92	93	3rd	
94	95	4th	than made her 93
No Restrictions		5th & greater	than made her 93, 94, 95 or 96

Cows scored 93 points or higher for final score are required to have a milkout and must have a linear score for udder depth of 3 or higher (before and after milk out). **97 points will be the maximum a cow can be scored.**

## V. MULTIPLE EXCELLENT PROGRAM

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

- A cow classified "Excellent" for the first time shall be designated "E".
- An "E" cow which reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "2E" cow. Minimum age = 5 years calving since last designated "E".
- A "2E" cow which reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "3E" cow. Minimum age = 7 years calving since 5.
- A "3E" cow which reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "4E" cow. Minimum age = 9 years calving since 7.
- A "4E" cow which reclassified and retains her "E" rating shall be designated a "5E" cow. Minimum age = 11 years calving since 9.

## VI. MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND TERMS

- All first and second lactation animals must be scored if not previously classified in that lactation.
- Dry Cows: Classify only : if 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> lactation and never been scored or Cows eligible for multiple "E"
- Bulls: optional and must be 2 years old.
- 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.
- In classifying a cow with one or more quarters admittedly defective at the time of calving, the rating shall be at least one final rating below that which the cow would receive if the quarter were normal.
- 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".
- Bulls with only one testicle shown are to be classified "Poor".
- For a cow to receive a permanent score, a cow must be scored at 5 years or older. A cow cannot be lowered after reaching her permanent score.

**American Milking Shorthorn Society**  
 800 Pleasant Street, Beloit, WI 53511  
 Ph: (608) 365-3332 - Fax: (608) 365-6644  
 registrations@milkingshorthorn.com  
[www.milkingshorthorn.com](http://www.milkingshorthorn.com)

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