A useful guide to
Linear Assessment of
Dexter Cattle
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SCORING PROCEDURE

Inspections carried out by Holstein UK classifiers.

Stage of lactation and age of animal must be taken into consideration when assigning classification score and composite box breakdown.

• **Pointing System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90 – 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>85 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Plus</td>
<td>80 – 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>79 – 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>74 – 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>64 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **Maximum Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calver Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} Calver</td>
<td>89 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} Calver</td>
<td>90 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} Calver</td>
<td>93 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} Calver</td>
<td>95 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5\textsuperscript{th} Calver +</td>
<td>97 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **VG Heifer – 4 Box Breakdown**

90 point Maximum
85 point Minimum Mammary, Feet & Legs
83 point Minimum Dairy Strength & Rump

• **VG89 Heifers**

Must score a minimum of 89 points in every box

• **2\textsuperscript{nd} Calver Excellent – 4 Box Breakdown**

All of the boxes must be 90 points
Maximum score possible is 90 points for all four boxes

• **3\textsuperscript{rd} Calver Excellent – No restriction on 4 Box Breakdown**

Final score 93 point Maximum

• **4\textsuperscript{th} Calver Excellent – No restriction on 4 Box Breakdown**

Maximum final score 95 points

• **5\textsuperscript{th} Calver Excellent – No restriction on 4 Box Breakdown**

Maximum final score 97 points
• **Functional Trait Composite – 4 Box Breakdown**

The final class and score will be calculated from the subjective trait breakdown at the following ratio:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breed Character</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Conformation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs &amp; Feet</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammary</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hand-held data equipment will display a suggested final class and score, calculated from the functional trait composite breakdown. Classifiers may adjust the final score by one point.

The four functional trait composite areas are as follows:

- **Breed Character**
  Breed Character and dairy strength is not to be focused on size or stature, but as strength through the front end and heart region of the animal, strength of constitution & front rib.

- **Body Conformation**
  Body Conformation takes account of, independently, the entire skeletal structure of the animal to identify a ‘balanced’ animal rather than the extremes. (The Body Conformation composite includes the Rump structure).

- **Legs & Feet**
  The shape and quality of the legs & feet, resulting in good locomotion. The classification to take into consideration environment and management factors.

- **Mammary**
  The strength and quality of the fore and rear attachment, strength of central ligament and udder texture. The quantity of udder in relation to the size of animal, stage of lactation and time of inspection. Teat quality and position, with equal emphasis on teat position rear view and side view.

- **Final Score**
  The final score will be suggested automatically from a calculation of the 4 box breakdown. The classifier must take into consideration the age and stage of lactation when assigning the final score.

Holstein UK will carry out double inspections on heifers scoring VG89 and any cows scoring EX

- **Breed Standard**
  All females must comply with the DCS breed standard for colour.

  Stature linears of less than 1 (38 inches) and more than 7 (44 inches) for a female will result in non classification.
LINEAR INSPECTION

Heifer Inspections
Full range of points must be used.

2nd and Later Lactations
For traits not physically measured, the linear code assigned must be relative to a mature female
All females receive a linear assessment recorded on a 1 – 9 code scale:

Linear Traits

1. **Stature**  
   Measured at rump

2. **Chest Width**  
   Width of chest between the top of the front legs

3. **Body Depth**  
   Depth of rear rib

4. **Angularity**  
   Openness of rib, depth of rear rib

5. **Rump Angle**  
   Hip to pins

6. **Rump Width**  
   Pin width

7. **Rear Legs Set**  
   Angle-side view

8. **Feet**  
   Diagonal of foot angle – rear hoof

9. **Locomotion**  
   Movement of the animal

10. **Fore Udder Attachment**  
    Strength of attachment

11. **Rear Udder Attachment**  
    Distance from pins to milk secreting tissue

12. **Rear Udder Width**

13. **Udder Support**  
    Depth of ligament at base of udder

14. **Udder Depth**  
    The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock

15. **Front Teat Placement**  
    Position of the Front teats viewed from the rear

16. **Rear Teat Position**  
    Position of the Rear Teats

17. **Teat Position**  
    Side view

18. **Teat Length**  
    Length of the front teat
Heifer/Cow Scoring –
DIAGRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTIONS

Standard Trait Definition

The precise description of each trait is well defined and it is essential that the full range of linear scores to identify the intermediate and extremes of each trait be used. The assessment parameters for the calculations should be based on the expected biological extremes of two year-old heifers.

International WHFF Recommended Scale 1 - 9

1: Stature
Ref. Point: Measured from top of the spine in between hips to ground.
Precise measurement in centimetres/inches, or linear scale:

1 - 38 inches (approx 96cms)
5 - 42 inches (approx 107cms)
7 - 44 inches (approx 112cms)
9 - 48 inches (122cms)
2: Chest Width

*Ref. Point:* Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs:

- 1 – 3 Narrow
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Wide

3: Body Depth

*Ref. Point:* Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib – the deepest point:

- 1 – 3 Shallow
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Deep
4: **Angularity**  
*Ref. Point:* The angle and openness of the ribs:

- 1 – 3 Coarse
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Open

5: **Rump Angle**  
*Ref. Point:* Measured as the angle from the top of the hip to the top of the pin bone:

- 1 High Pins
- 2 " "
- 3 Level
- 4 Slight slope
- 5 Intermediate
- 7
- 9 Extreme slope
6: **Rump Width**  
*Ref. Point:* Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones:

1 – 3 Narrow  
4 – 6 Intermediate  
7 – 9 Wide

---

7: **Rear Legs Side View**  
*Ref. Point:* Angle measured at the front of the hock:

1 – 3 Straight  
4 – 6 Intermediate  
7 – 9 Sickled
8: Foot Angle

**Ref. Point:** Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the floor to the hairline:

1 – 3 Very low angle
4 – 6 Intermediate angle 45 degrees.
7 – 9 Very steep

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9: Locomotion

**Ref. Point:** The use of legs and feet, length and direction of the step

1-3 = Severe Abduction – Short Stride
4-6 = Slight Abduction – Medium Stride
7-9 = No Abduction – long stride
10: **Fore Udder Attachment**

**Ref. Point:** The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall:
Not a true linear trait - Optical

1 – 3 Weak and loose
4 – 6 Intermediate acceptable
7 – 9 Extremely strong and tight.

![Diagrams showing loose and strong attachment]

1: Loose  
5:  
9: Strong

11: **Rear Udder Attachment**

**Ref. Point:** The distance between vulva (pin bone) and the milk secreting tissue:
in relation to height of the animal:

1 – 3 Very low
4 – 6 Intermediate
7 – 9 High

![Diagrams showing low and high attachment]

1: Low  
5:  
9: High

- -10
12: Rear Udder Width

*Ref. Point:* Udder width viewed from behind

1 - 3 Narrow
4 - 6 Intermediate
7 - 9 Wide

*No picture available*

13: Udder Support (Central Ligament)

*Ref. Point:* The depth of cleft, measured at the base of the rear udder:

1 – 3 Convex to flat floor (flat)
4 – 6 Slight definition
7 – 9 Deep/strong definition

[Diagram of three udders with labels 1, 5, 9 showing Broken, and Strong]
14: **Udder Depth**

*Ref. Point:* The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock:

1. Below hock
2. Level with hock
5. Intermediate
9. Shallow (22cms Above Hocks)

15: **Front Teat Placement (FTP)**

*Ref. Point:* The position of the centre of the front teat placement at the point of the udder as viewed from the rear:

1 – 3 Outside of quarter
4 – 6 Middle of quarter
7 – 9 Inside of quarter.
16: Rear Teat Position (RTP)  
**Ref. Point:** The position of the centre of the Rear Teat placement at the point of the udder as viewed from the rear:

1 – 3 Outside of quarter  
4 – 7 Middle of quarter  
8 Touching  
9 Crossing

17: Teat Placement Side View  
**Ref. Point:** The distance between the front and rear teats

1 – 3 Close  
4 – 6 Intermediate  
7 – 9 Far Apart

No Picture Available

18: Teat Length  
**Ref. Point:** The length of the front teat:

1 – 3 Short  
4 – 6 Intermediate  
7 – 9 Long
DEXTER BULL CLASSIFICATION

Bulls must attain full compliance with DCS breed standard for colour.

Stature linears of less than 5 (42 inches) will result in none classification.
Bulls 2 to 3 years old max height 46 inches (Stature Linear 8)
Bulls 3 to 4 years old max height 47 inches (Stature Linear 8.5)
Bulls 4 years and over max height 48 inches (Stature Linear 9)

Bull must be a minimum of two years old.

Bulls may be presented for up-pointing or re-classification and cannot be down-pointed / down-graded.

Holstein UK will carry out double inspections on bulls scoring EX95, EX96 and EX97

4 box scores Body, Breed Character, Legs/Feet, Rump

9 – Linear Traits

Stature
Chest Width
Body Depth
Angularity
Rump Angle
Rump Width
Rear Legs Side View
Feet
Locomotion

Additional inspection for 2 same size testicles and 4 well placed even sized teats

- Functional Trait Composite – 4 Box Breakdown

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