

A useful guide to
Linear Assessment
of
Dexter Cattle

Dexter Cattle Society
Charolais Pavilion
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2RG
Tel:- 02476 692300 Fax:- 02476 692400
Email:- secretary@dextercattle.co.uk
www.dextercattle.co.uk

DCS February 2013

CONTENTS

Page	Details
2 - 3	Scoring Procedure
4	Linear Inspection
5 - 14	Heifer /Cow Scoring – Diagrammatical Descriptions
15	Bull Classification

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**

Excellent	90 – 97
Very Good	85 – 89
Good Plus	80 – 84
Good	79 – 75
Fair	74 – 65
Poor	64 and below

- **Maximum Points**

1 st Calver	89 points
2 nd Calver	90 points
3 rd Calver	93 points
4 th Calver	95 points
5 th Calver +	97 points

- **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

- **2nd Calver Excellent – 4 Box Breakdown**

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

- **3rd Calver Excellent – No restriction on 4 Box Breakdown**

Final score 93 point Maximum

- **4th Calver Excellent – No restriction on 4 Box Breakdown**

Maximum final score 95 points

- **5th 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:

Breed Character	15 %
Body Conformation	15 %
Legs & Feet	30 %
Mammary	40 %

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

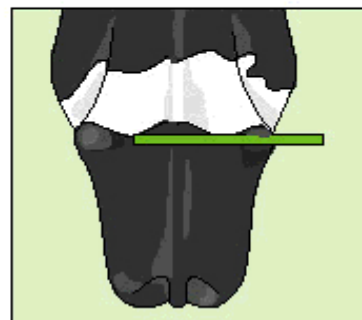
Ref. Point: Measured from top of the spine in between hips to ground.
Precise measurement in centimetres/inches, or linear scale:

1 - 38inches (approx 96cms)

5 - 42 inches (approx 107cms)

7 - 44 inches (approx 112cms)

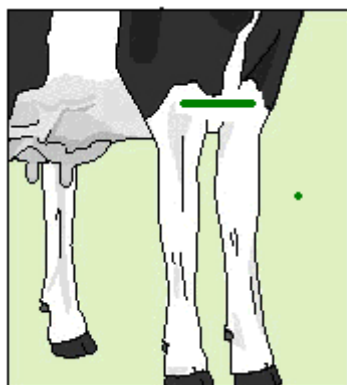
9 - 48 inches (122cms)



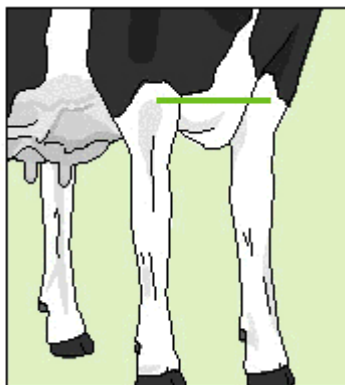
2: Chest Width

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

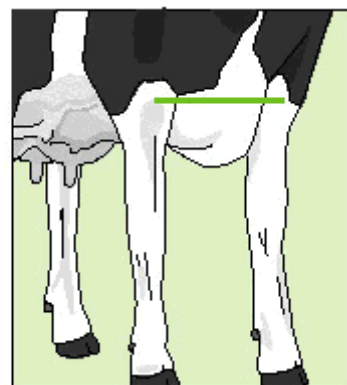
- 1 – 3 Narrow
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Wide



1
Narrow



5

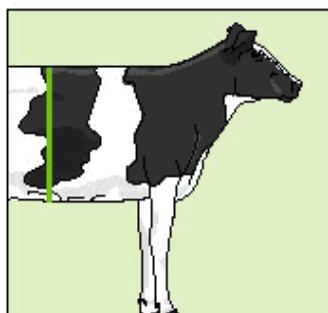


9
Wide

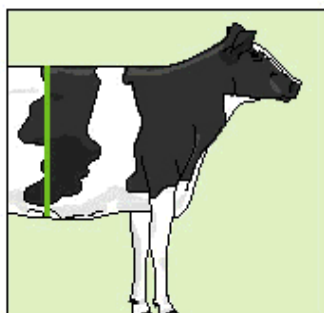
3: Body Depth

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

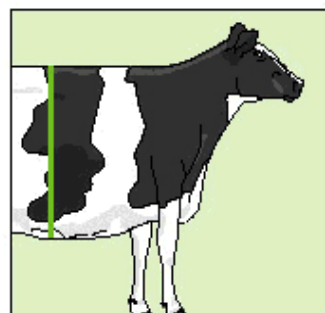
- 1 – 3 Shallow
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Deep



1
Shallow



5

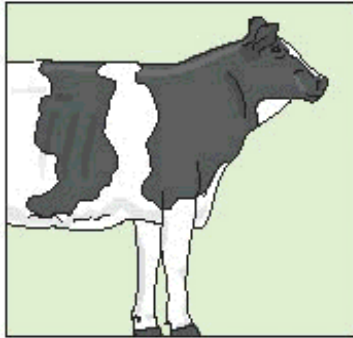


9
Deep

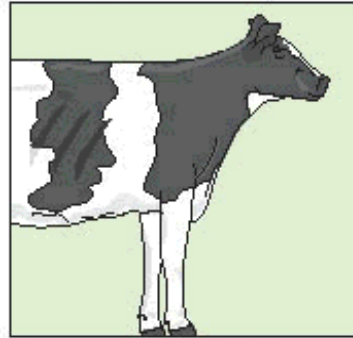
4: Angularity

Ref. Point: The angle and openness of the ribs:

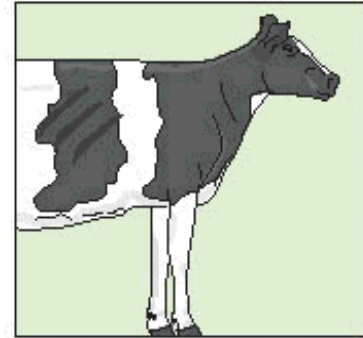
- 1 – 3 Coarse
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Open



1
Coarse



5

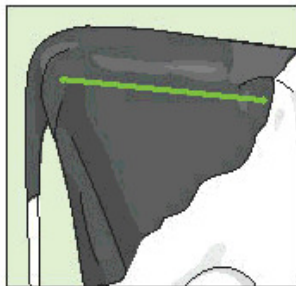


9
Open

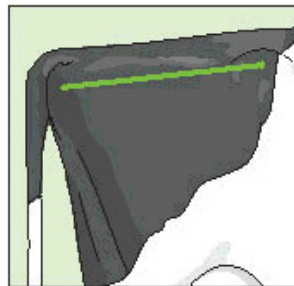
5: Rump Angle

Ref. Point: Measured as the angle from the top of the hip to the top of the pin bone:

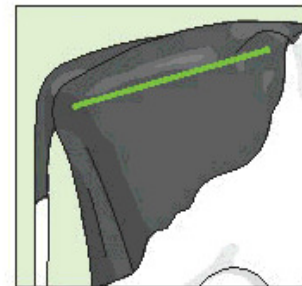
- 1 High Pins
- 2 " "
- 3 Level
- 4 Slight slope
- 5 Intermediate
- 7
- 9 Extreme slope



1
High Pins



5

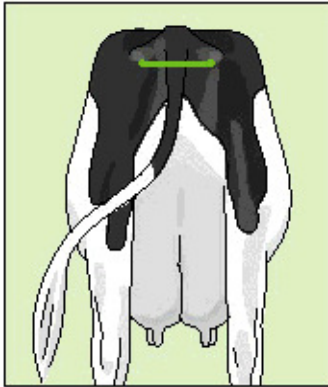


9
Sloped

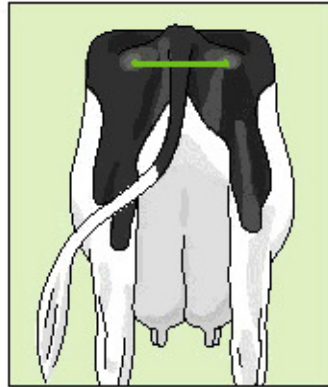
6: Rump Width

Ref. Point: Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones:

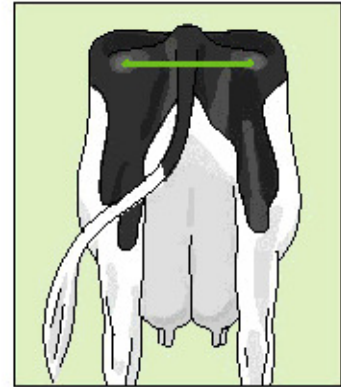
- 1 – 3 Narrow
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Wide



1
Narrow



5

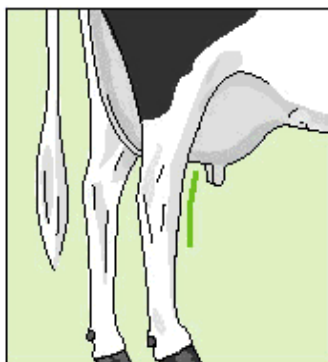


9
Wide

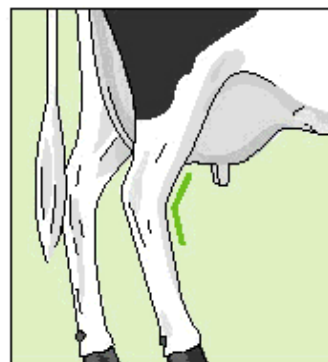
7: Rear Legs Side View

Ref. Point: Angle measured at the front of the hock:

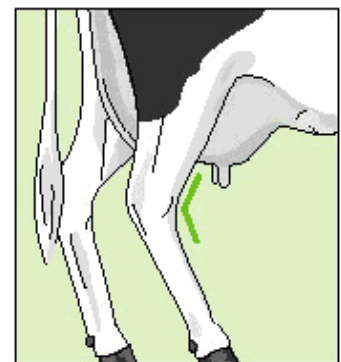
- 1 – 3 Straight
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Sickled



1
Straight



5



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



1
Low



5

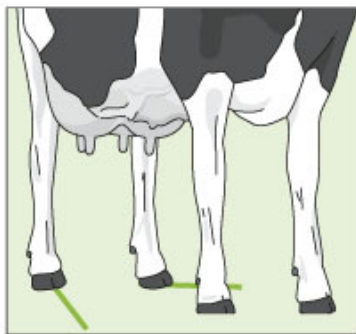


9
Steep

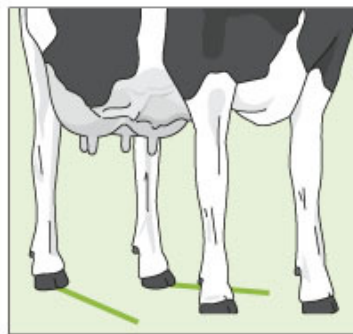
9: Locomotion

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

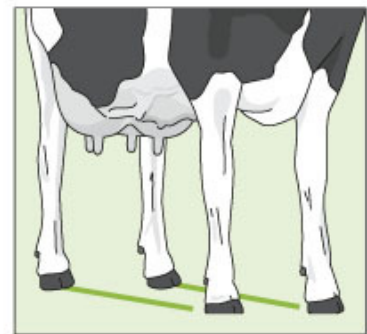
- 1-3 = Severe Abduction – Short Stride
- 4-6 = Slight Abduction – Medium Stride
- 7-9 = No Abduction – long stride



1
Severe Abduction/Short Stride



5

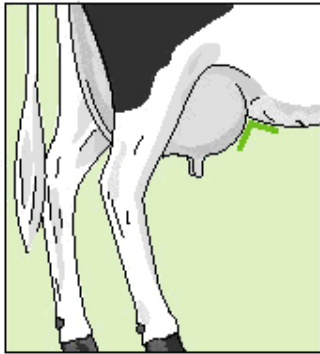


9
No Abduction/Long Stride

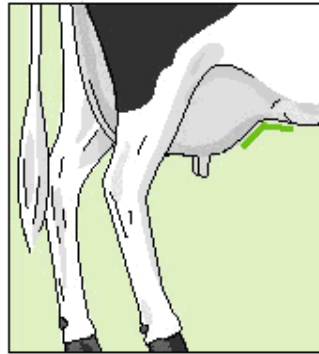
10: Fore Udder Attachment

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

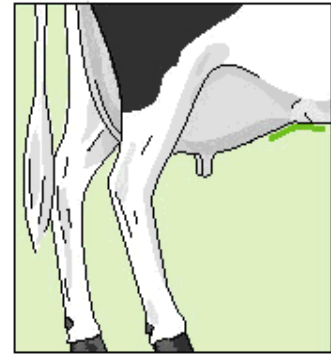
- 1 – 3 Weak and loose
- 4 – 6 Intermediate acceptable
- 7 – 9 Extremely strong and tight.



1
Loose



5

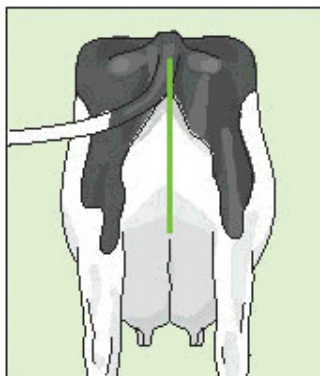


9
Strong

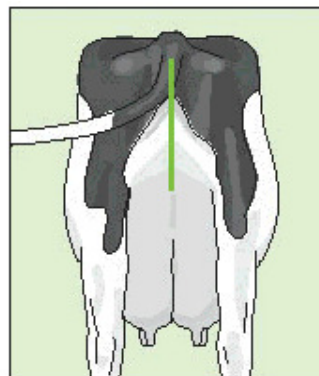
11: Rear Udder Attachment

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

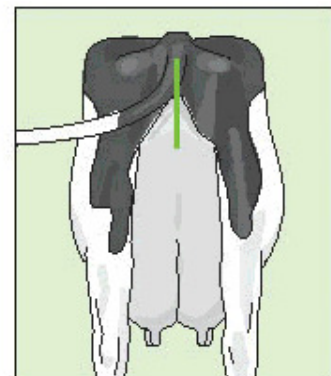
- 1 – 3 Very low
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 High



1
Low



5



9
High

12: Rear Udder Width

Ref. Point: Udder width viewed from behind

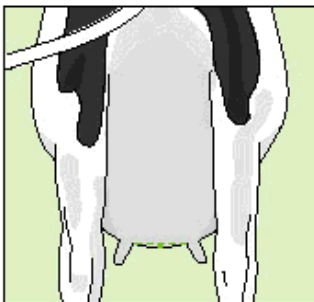
- 1 - 3 Narrow
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Wide

No picture available

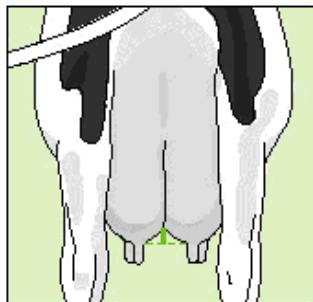
13: Udder Support (Central Ligament)

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

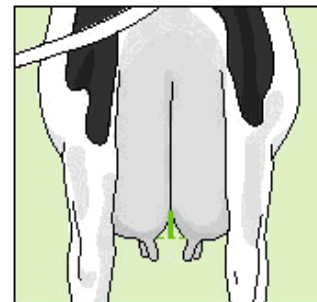
- 1 – 3 Convex to flat floor (flat)
- 4 – 6 Slight definition
- 7 – 9 Deep/strong definition



1
Broken



5

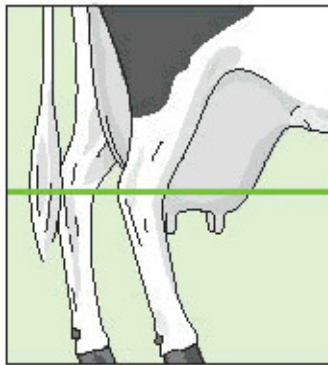


9
Strong

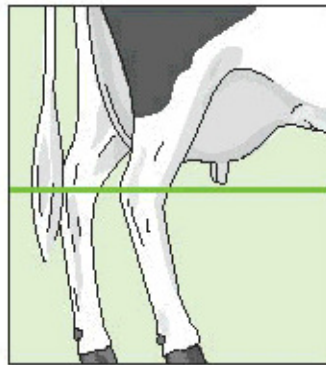
14: Udder Depth

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

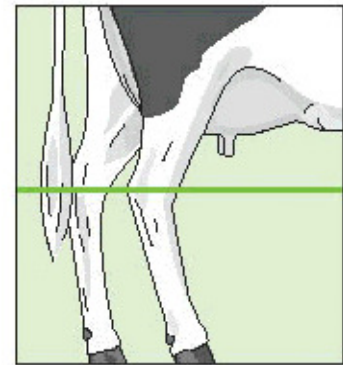
- 1 Below hock
- 2 Level with hock
- 5 Intermediate
- 9 Shallow (22cms Above Hocks)



1
Deep



5

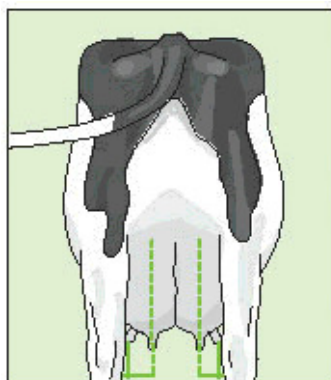


9
Shallow

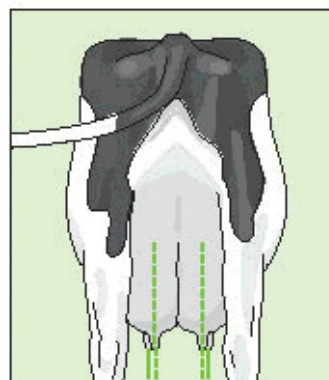
15: Front Teat Placement (FTP)

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

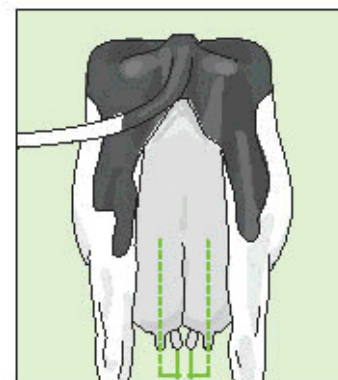
- 1 – 3 Outside of quarter
- 4 – 6 Middle of quarter
- 7 – 9 Inside of quarter.



1
Outside



5

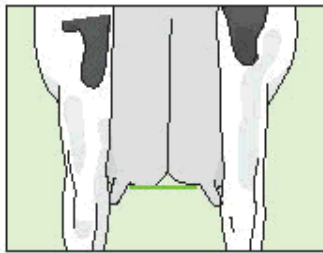


9
Inside

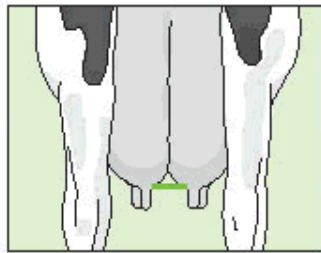
16: Rear Teat Position (RTP)

Ref. Point: The position of the centre of the Rear Teat placement at the point of the udder as viewed from the rear:

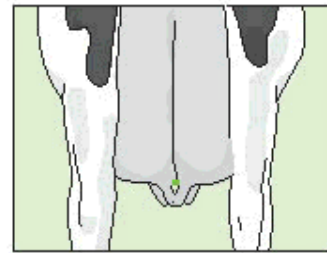
- 1 – 3 Outside of quarter
- 4 – 7 Middle of quarter
- 8 Touching
- 9 Crossing



1
Outside



5



9
Inside

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

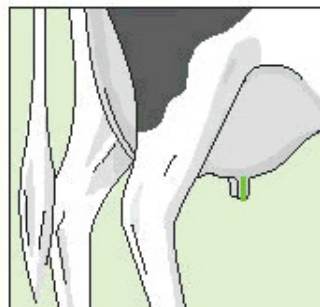
18: Teat Length

Ref. Point: The length of the front teat:

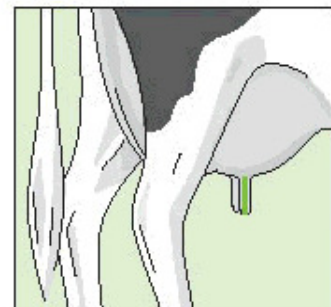
- 1 – 3 Short
- 4 – 6 Intermediate
- 7 – 9 Long



1
Short



5



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

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

Breed Character	25 %
Body Conformation	25 %
Legs & Feet	25 %
Rump	25 %

Notes