# IRISH HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION

Poll
Forehead
Bridge of Nose
Muzzle
Nostril
Jaw
Throat
Shoulder Blade
Point of Shoulder
Dewlap
Brisket
Point of Elbow
Knee
Shank
Sole
Heel
Neck
Withers
Chine
Heart Girth
Crops
Barrel
Back
Loin
Rear Ribs
Rump
Hip
Thurl
Tail Head
Pin Bone
Thigh
Tail
Rear Udder Attachment
Stifle
Flank
Rear Udder
Suspensory Ligament
Switch
Chest Floor
Milk Wells
Fore Ribs
Mammary Veins
Fore Udder Attachment
Teat
Fore Udder
Hock
Hoof
Dew Claw
Pastern

# A GUIDE TO CONFORMATION & TYPE CLASSIFICATION

# The Benefits of Conformation and Type Classification

IHFA breeding goal is to breed profitable cows that are long living, durable and suit the dairy farmers system.

To help achieve this aim IHFA provide a Type Classification service to its members, and to all dairy farmers, through Linear Scoring of daughters of AI bulls and cows. This helps with breeding decisions, as it identifies bulls with the biological diversity to suit all systems

## Independent linear-based assessment

- Identifies Strengths and Weaknesses
- Identifies Herd Trends
- Builds Profile for Cow Families
- Data aids towards herd management

# Type Classification Scheme

The necessity for long lasting trouble free cows is always vital in profitable milk production.  Linear scoring and type classification plays an important role in achieving this.

Linear Assessment is the first method.  It describes the animal in terms of the biological extremes on a scale of 1 - 9. It doesn't necessarily mean if it is 1 it is good and 9 bad or vice versa i.e. on leg set side view 1 would be straight and 9 would be sickled.  Therefore 5 is desired.

## The 22 linear traits are as follows:

|  | 1 | 9 |
|---|---|---|
| **Stature** | 130cm | 154cm |
| **Chest Width** | Narrow | Wide |
| **Body Depth** | Shallow | Deep |
| **Rump Angle** | High | Wide |
| **Rump Width** | Narrow | Wide |
| **Angularity** | Thick | Open ribbed & angular |
| **Dairy Strength** | Frail & Heavy | Strong & Dairy |
| **Rear Legs (side view)** | Straight | Sickled |
| **Rear Legs (rear view)** | Toes out | Straight |
| **Foot Angle** | Shallow | Steep |
| **Locomotion** | (1 lame) 2 poor | Excellent |
| **Bone Quality** | Thick | Sharp |
| **Fore Udder** | Loose | Tight |
| **Rear Udder height** | Low | High |
| **Rear Udder width** | Narrow | Wide |
| **Centre Ligament** | Broken | Tight |
| **Udder Depth** | Below Hocks | 22cm above hocks udder |
| **Front Teat Placement** | On outside of udder | On inside of udder |
| **Teat Placement (side view)** | Very close | Very wide |
| **Teat length** | Short | Long |
| **Rear Teat Placement** | On outside | Back teats crossed |
| **Udder texture** | Fleshy | Like Silk |

The importance at these 22 linear traits immense and effects every one that uses A.I. It is these scores, on heifers only, that go into figures that determine the bulls proofs.

In correlation with this there is the Type Classification where the cows are scored from 50 points to a maximum of 97 points on any of the five main breed traits. Legs and feet, rump, dairy character, frame and finally the udder which would also have the biggest weighting of 40% on the final score with frame 15%, Rump 10%, legs and feet 25% and dairy character 10%.

Heifers can be scored in 5 grades, namely:
| | |
|---|---|
| VG | 85 - 89 points |
| Good plus | 80 - 84 points |
| Good | 75 - 79 points |
| Fair | 65 - 74 points |
| Poor | Below 65 |

## Conformation Scores

Cows are classified for conformation on inspection, with the scores designed to describe the structure of the cow.
Points as a percentage of the final score are allotted as follows: -
40% mammary 25% legs & feet 15% body 10% rump 10% dairyness

Maximum score for cows with 4 calves or more EX 97
Maximum score for cows with 3 calves EX 93
Maximum score for cows with 2 calves EX 90
Maximum score for cows with 1 calf VG 89

*EX90 2E 4YR*
*EX 90 (Meaning animal was classified EX 90)*
*EX90 2E (Meaning animal was classified EX 90 a second time)*
*EX 90 2E 4YR (Meaning animal was classified EX 90 a second time and was 4 years old at the time of this classification)*

## STATURE HEIGHT OF ANIMAL AT RUMP



Measured from top of the spine in between hips to ground.
Precise measurements in centimetres, or inches, or linear scale

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Short | (1.30cm) |
| 5 | Intermediate | (1.42cm) |
| 9 | Tall | (1.54cm) |

Reference scale: 1.30cm - 1.54cm - 3cm per point

## CHEST WIDTH

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

1-3     Narrow
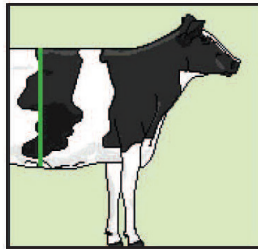4-6     Intermediate
7-9     Wide
Reference scale: 13cm - 29cm, 2cm per point
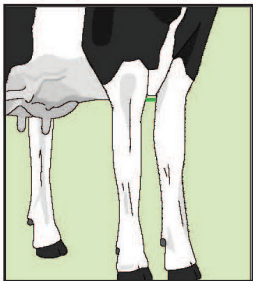


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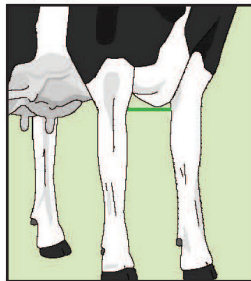


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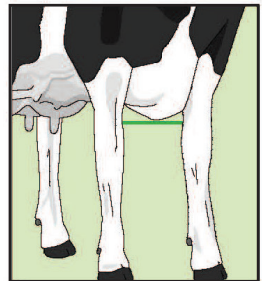


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# BODY DEPTH

Ref. point: Distance between the top of spine and the bottom of the barrel at last rib - the deepest point. Independent of stature

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

Reference scale: optical in relation with the balance of the animal
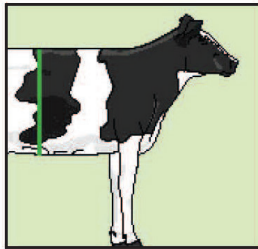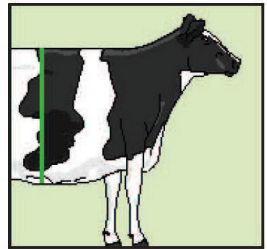


1          5          9


# ANGULARITY

Ref. point: The angle and openness of the ribs, combined with flatness of bone avoiding coarseness. Not a true linear trait.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1-3 | Lacks angularity close ribs coarse bone |
| 4-6 | Intermediate angle with open rib and inter median bone quality |
| 7-9 | Very angular open ribbed flat bone |
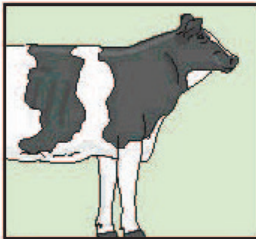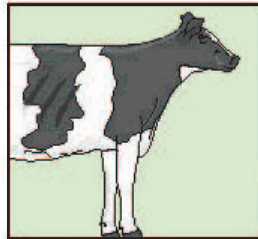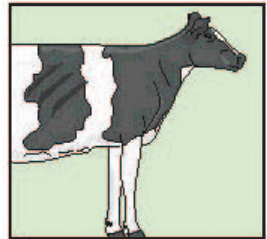
Reference scale: weighing of the three components; angle and open rib 80%, bone quality 20%



1          5          9

## RUMP ANGLE

Ref. point: Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks (hips) to pins

| 1 | High pins | (+4cm) |
|---|-----------|--------|
| 2 | | (+2cm) |
| 3 | Level | (+0cm) |
| 4 | Slight slope | (-2cm) |
| 5 | Intermediate | (-4cm) |
| 6 | | (-6cm) |
| 7 | | (-8cm) |
| 8 | | (-10cm) |
| 9 | Extreme slope | (-12cm) |
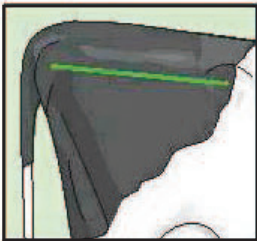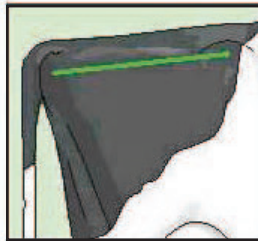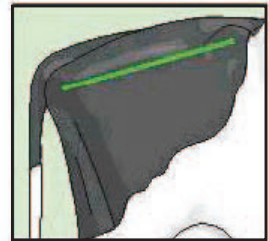


## RUMP WIDTH

Ref. point: The distance between the most posterior point of pin bones

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

Reference scale: 10cm - 26cm, 2cm per point
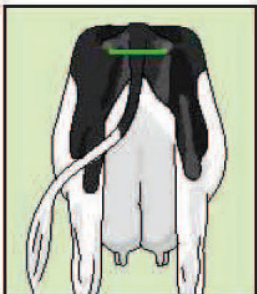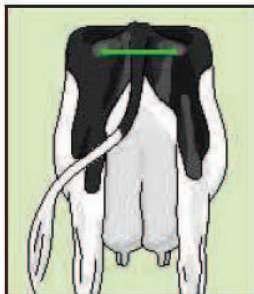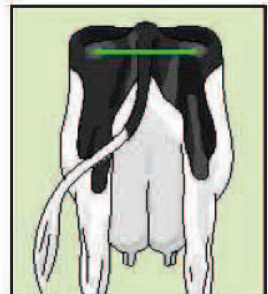
# REAR LEGS, SIDE VIEW

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

| 1-3 | Straight | (160 degrees) |
|-----|----------|---------------|
| 4-6 | Intermediate | (147 degrees) |
| 7-9 | Sickle | (134 degrees) |
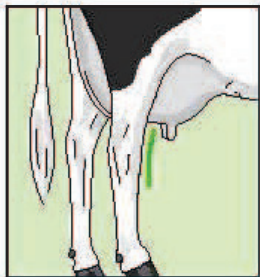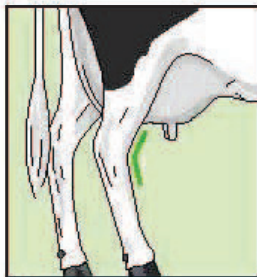


# FOOT ANGLE

Ref. point: Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the floor to the hairline at the right hoof

| 1-3 | Very low angle |
|-----|----------------|
| 4-6 | Intermediate angle |
| 7-9 | Very steep |

Reference scale: 1 = 15 degrees, 5 = 45 degrees, 9 = 65 degrees
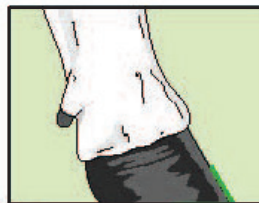
# FRONT TEAT PLACEMENT, REAR VIEW

Ref. point: The positions of the front teat from centre of quarter

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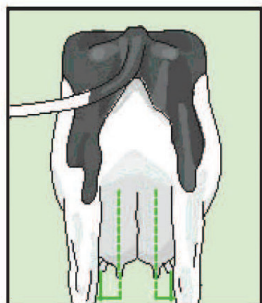


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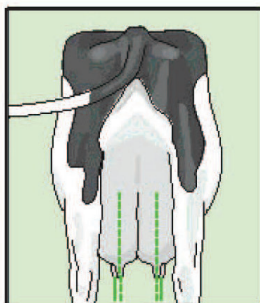


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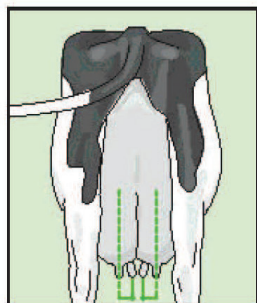


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# REAR UDDER HEIGHT

Ref. point: The distance between the bottom of the vulva and the milk secreting tissue in relation to the height of the animal.

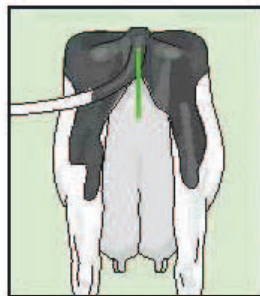| | |
|---|---|
| 1-3 | Very low |
| 4-6 | Intermediate |
| 7-9 | High |

Reference scale measured on a scale between the bottom of the vulva and the hock; the mid-point represents a score 4 (29cm) - 2cm per point
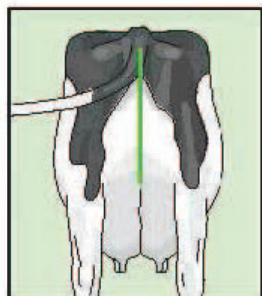


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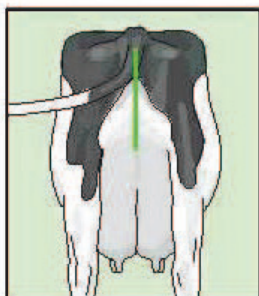


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# CENTRAL LIGAMENT

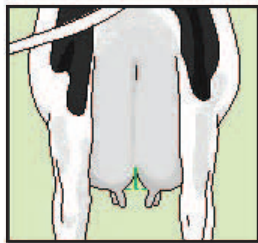Ref. point: The depth of cleft, measured at the base of the rear udder

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Convex to flat floor | (+1cm) | 6 | | (-3cm) |
| 2 | | (+0.5cm) | 7 | Deep definition | (-4cm) |
| 3 | | (+0cm) | 8 | | (-5cm) |
| 4 | Slight definition | (-1cm) | 9 | | (-6cm) |
| 5 | | (-2cm) | | | |
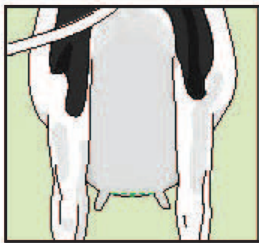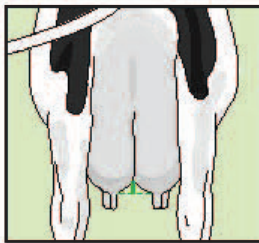


1      5      9

# UDDER DEPTH

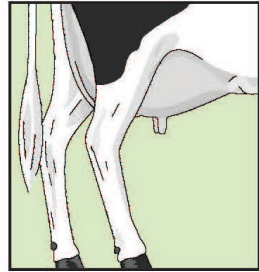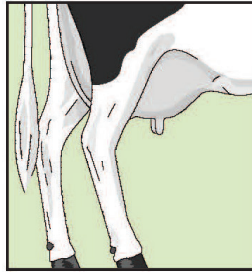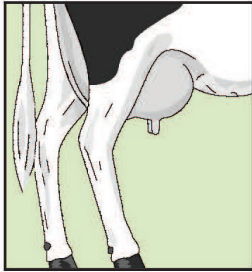| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Below hock |
| 2 | Level with hock |
| 5 | Intermediate |
| 9 | Shallow |

Reference Scale: level = 2 (0cm) - 3 per point
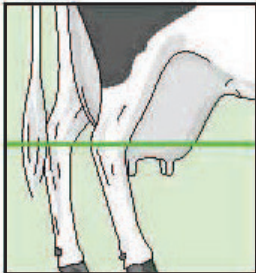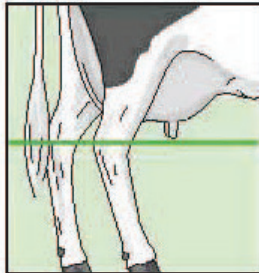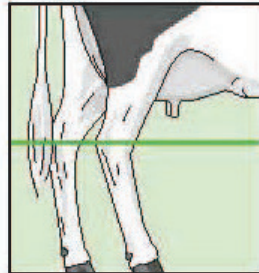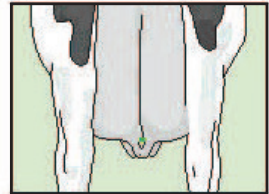


1      5      9

# TEAT PLACEMENT, SIDE VIEW

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



1



5



9

# REAR TEAT PLACEMENT

| 1-2 | Outside |
| 4 | Mid-point |
| 7-9 | Inside of Quarter |

Reference scale: to obtain population distribution, it is recommended that 4 represents mid-point of the quarter



1



5



9
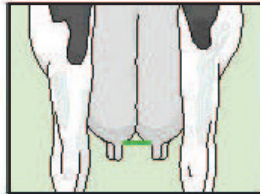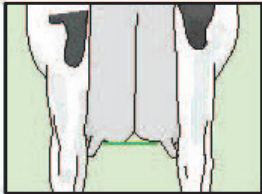
# TEAT LENGTH

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

Reference scale: 1-9cm - 1cm per point



1

5

9