Dairy Cattle Evaluation
Why Judge Dairy Cattle?

Gain a better understanding of what makes a productive and functional dairy cow.
Important Dairy Cow Characteristics:

- 40% Mammary System
- 20% Dairy Character
- 15% Frame
- 15% Feet & Legs
- 10% Body Capacity
1 - Mammary System
40 %
A - UDDER DEPTH

How high above the hock is the udder?
B - Teat Placement & Size

Where are the teats placed on the quarters?

- Teats should be
  - About 2 inches long
  - Cylindrical
  - Placed squarely under each quarter
    - Not to one side or another
1 - Mammary System

C - Rear Udder Width & Height

- Rear udder width is measured at the attachment.
- The higher the rear udder the better!
LENGTH & SMOOTHNESS OF THE FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT

- SHOULD ATTACH SMOOTHLY INTO ABDOMEN

VEINING OF THE UDDER SHOULD BE VISIBLE
What is dairy character?

Does it look like a dairy cow or a beef cow?
2. Dairy Character

A - Rib & Bone

- Ribs that sweep back toward the flank
- Ribs that are wide apart and flat
- Bone structure should be flat & refined
2. Dairy Character

B - Cleanliness & Angularity

- Sharp withers, hips & pins
- Clean down the neck and thigh
3 - Frame
15%

Components of Frame

• Rump
• Stature
• Front end
• Back
• Head & Breed Character
A - Rump, Stature & Back

- Slight slope from hooks to pins
- Wide from hook to hook and pin to pin
- Stature is how tall the cow is at the withers.
- The back should be slightly higher at the withers than hips and straight all the way across.
A. Rump, Stature & Back
B - Front End & Strength

- Front end assembly is the shoulder and chest
  - It should be smooth and tight
- Strength = width of chest & muzzle.
Look for:

- A Feminine Head
- Correct Breed Colors and Shape of Head
- Deep Jaw & Wide Muzzle
4 - Feet & Legs
15%

Components of Feet and Legs:

- Short toe
- Rear legs — straight from rear
- Rear legs — moderate angle from side
Legs – Side View

- View the rear legs from the side
- The leg should have a moderate angle to the hock
- The hock should be clean and flexible
5 - Body Capacity – 10%

- **Body capacity is simply the volume of the cow**
  - Length x Width x Depth

- **Look for:**
  - A Long Body
  - A Wide Chest
  - A Deep Barrel
A. Length & Depth of Barrel
Let's Practice!

Here is a practice class of Brown Swiss cows...

- Look at each cow
- Write down several things that you like or dislike about that cow.
- Place the class
Class #1

Brown Swiss
Cow #1
Class #1

Brown Swiss
Cow #2
Class #1

Brown Swiss Cow #3
Class #1

Brown Swiss Cow #4
Class #1: Brown Swiss Cows
TIME FOR DECISIONS...

- **Mammary System:**
  - Best A  
  - Worst B

- **Dairy Character:**
  - Best C  
  - Worst B
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- **Frame:**
  - Best: A
  - Worst: D

- **Feet & Legs:**
  - Best: C
  - Worst: B

- **Body Capacity:**
  - Best: A
  - Worst: B
Class #1: Brown Swiss Cows
Official Placing

1 3 4 2

To read what the judge had to say about this class of cows go to:
HOARD'S DAIRYMAN - The National Dairy Farm Magazine
Class #2
Holstein Dairy Cows
Class #2
Class #2
Class #2
Class #2
Official Placing

1 - 2 - 4 - 3
FFA Application:
Dairy Cattle Judging

- Judge classes of dairy cattle
- Give oral reasons