

BEEFCLASS STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

How to use:

The Beef Class Structural Assessment System uses a 1-9 scoring system for feet and leg structure, udder evenness and teat size and shape:

- A score of 5 is ideal (exception fat score)
- 4 and 6 show slight variation from ideal, but this includes most animals. Any animal scoring 4 and 6 would be acceptable in any breeding program
- 3 and 7 shows greater variation, but would be acceptable in most commercial breeding programs, however seedstock producers should be wary
- 2 and 8 are low scoring animals and should be looked at carefully before purchasing
- 1 and 9 should not be catalogued and are considered culls

A 1-5 scoring system is used for capacity, sheath and udder attachment. Again, a score of 5 is considered ideal.

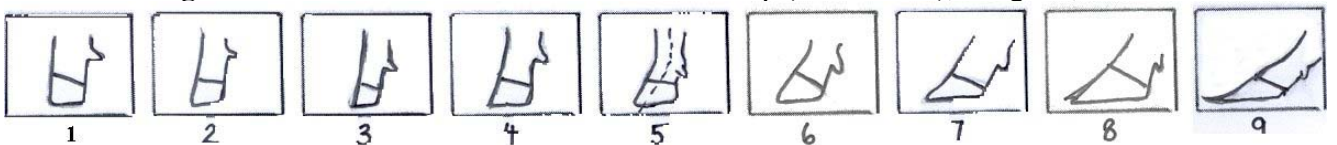
Traits:

<i>Trait</i>	<i>Scoring Range</i>	<i>Description</i>
Front Feet Claw Set	1 – 9	1 – open divergent; 5 – good; 9 extreme scissor claw
Rear Feet Claw Set	1 – 9	1 – open divergent; 5 – good; 9 extreme scissor claw



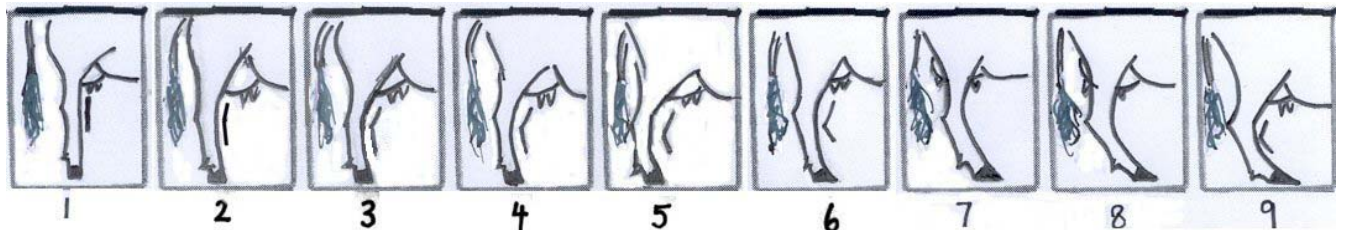
Reference: Shape (primarily curl) and evenness of the claw set.

Front Feet Angle	1 – 9	1 – steep (stubbied toe); 5 – good; 9 – shallow heel
Rear Feet Angle	1 – 9	1 – steep (stubbied toe); 5 – good; 9 – shallow heel



Reference: Strength of pastern, depth of heel and length of foot.

Rear Legs Side View	1 – 9	1 – straight (post legged); 5 – good; 9 – sickle
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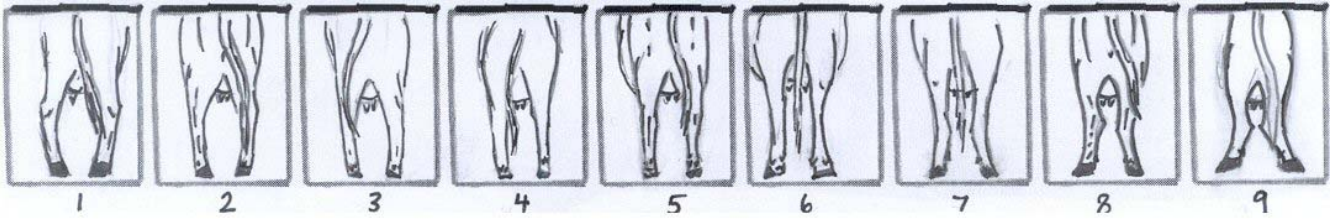


Reference: Angle measured at the front of the hock.

Rear Leg Hind View
Hocked

1 – 9

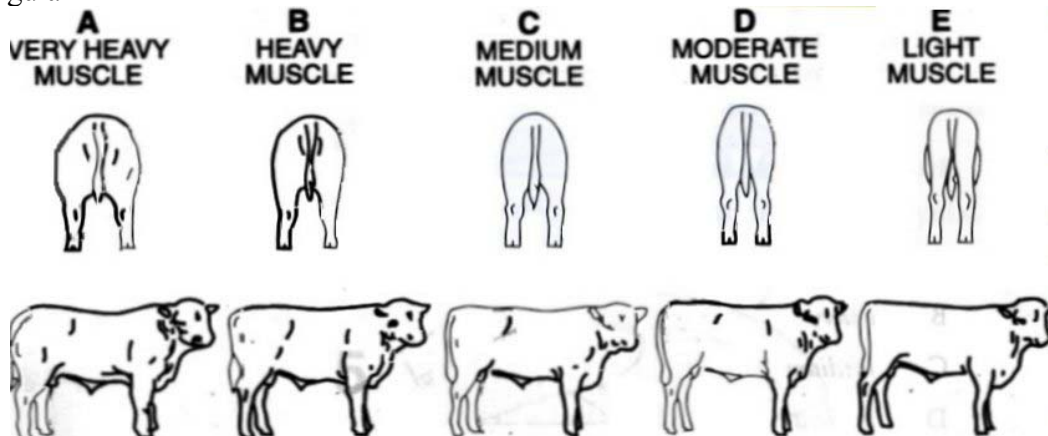
1 – Bow Legged; 5 – good (parallel) ; 9 – Cow



Reference: Direction of the feet when viewed from the rear.

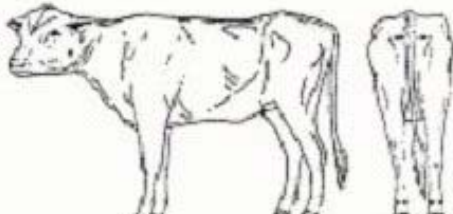
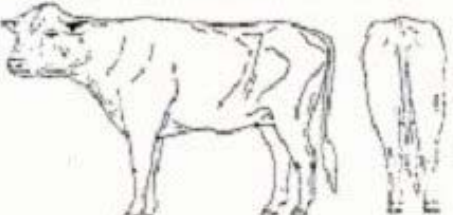
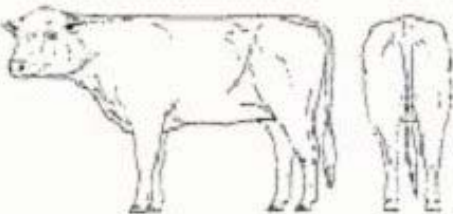
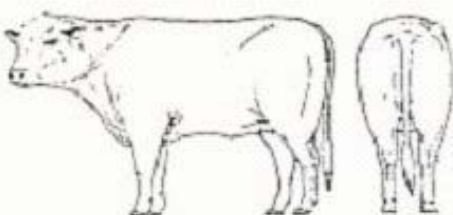
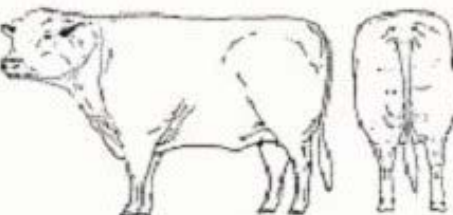
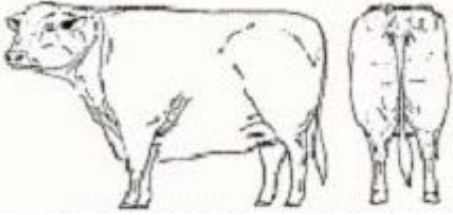
Muscle Score:

- A+ = Double-muscled
- A = Extremely heavy muscle
 - pronounced creasing between muscles
- B = Heavily muscled
 - well rounded hindquarter
- C = Average muscle
 - hindquarter slightly rounded
- D = Poor muscle
 - narrow concave hindquarter
- E = Extremely poor muscle
 - angular



Reference: Primarily hindquarter roundness or convexity, width across the stifle and width of stance. Also width and muscle expression across the back, particularly behind the shoulder and in the loin. Jump muscle (about the P8 site) and forearm bulge may be taken into consideration.

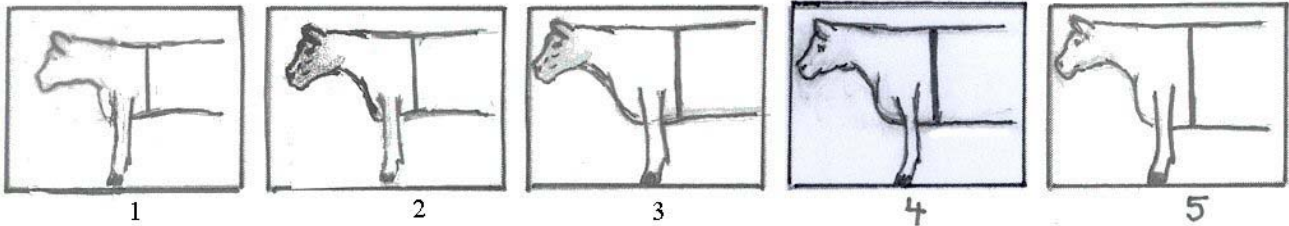
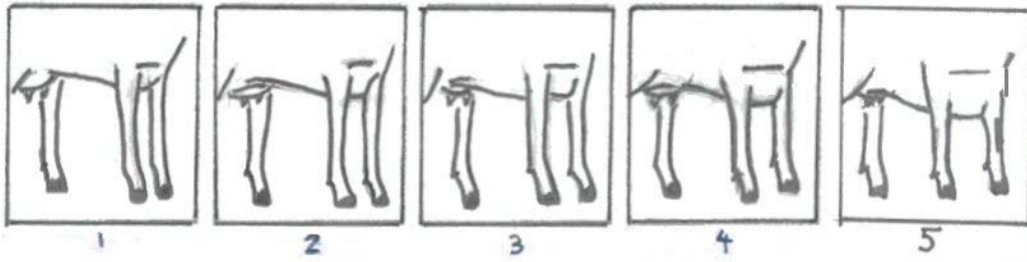
Fat Score

1 Very Lean 0-2mm		<p>Angular and narrow. Hips, pins, backbone and ribs very prominent. No filling in the brisket. Cut up flank.</p>
2 Lean 3-6mm		<p>Hips, pins, backbone and ribs very obvious but not prominent. Flank still cut up. A little filling in the brisket.</p>
3 Medium 7-12mm		<p>Moderately rounded appearance. Hips, pins, backbone and ribs lightly covered. Flank filled to about stifle joint. More filling in brisket.</p>
4 Fat 13-22mm		<p>Smooth covering over hips, pins, backbone and ribs to give well rounded appearance, particularly near tail head. Flank filled to below stifle joint. Brisket full.</p>
5 Very Fat 23-32mm		<p>Heavy fat covering, starting to be lumpy over hips, pins, backbone and ribs. Pronounced fat deposits near tail head. Distended brisket.</p>
6 Extreme 33+mm		<p>Very heavy and lumpy covering over hips, pins, backbone and ribs. Very pronounced ('boxing gloves') near tail head. Very distended brisket.</p>

Capacity

1 – 5 1 – lacking capacity; 5 – large volume

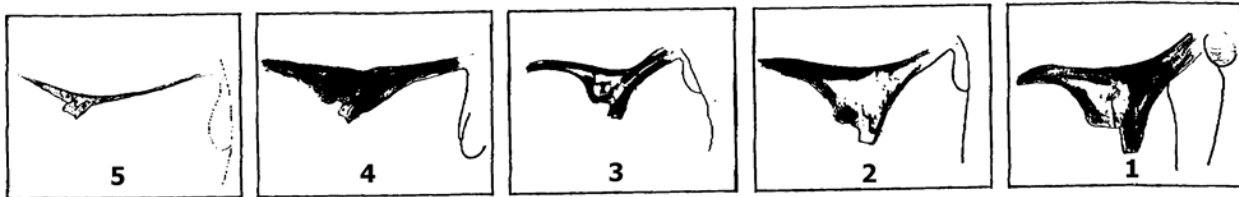
Reference: Measure of the chest width (width between the front legs), body depth (distance between the top of the spine and chest floor in the heart region) and ‘spring of rib’.



Sheath and Naval Scores

1 – 5 1 – extremely pendulous; 5 – extremely clean/tight to body

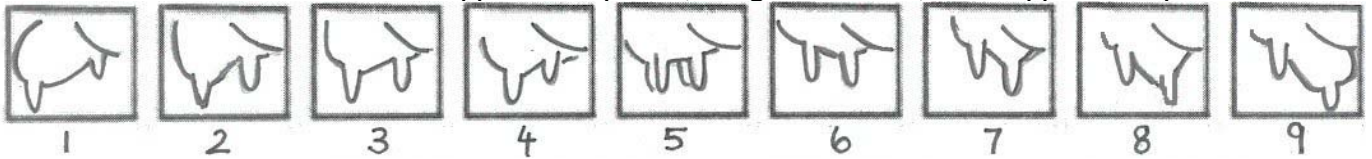
SHEATH SCORES



Reference: Sheath attachment

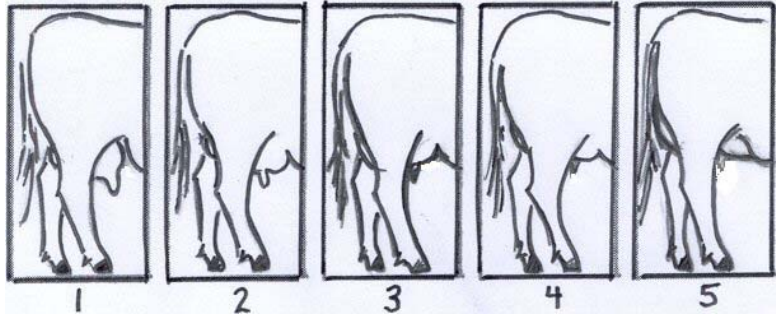
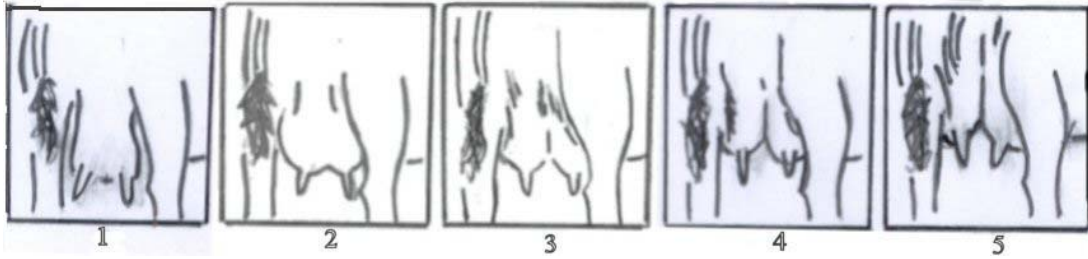
Udder Evenness

1 – 9: 1 – dropped hind quarter; 5 – good balance; 9 – dropped fore quarters



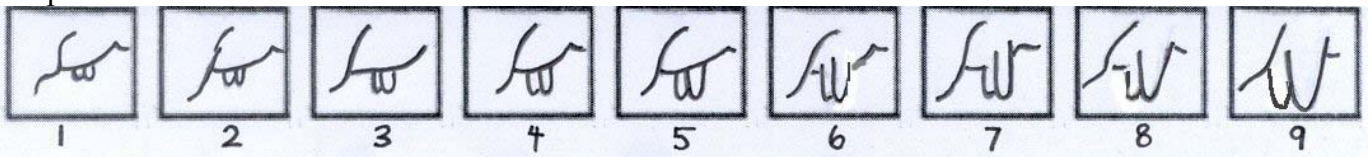
Reference: Even distribution of the fore and hindquarters of an udder viewed from both sides.

Udder Attachment 1 – 5 1 – low or weak attachment; 5 strong or high attachment;



Reference: Strength of the median and lateral suspensory ligaments or rear udder attachment firmness. The strength of the attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall is also considered.

Teat Size and Shape 1 – 9 1 – very small button tits; 5 – thin/good; 9 – Very large/Bulbous/Carrot Shaped



Reference: Size and shape of four main tits.