



Type Classification Service

The importance of breeding cows of good conformation has never been greater, as modern production systems impose stringent demands on the dairy cow. Both milk buyers and the general public find conformation defects increasingly unacceptable and dairy farmers themselves are becoming more aware that cows of better type produce more easily and for longer.

The modern dairy cow needs good functional traits: a well-supported udder with strong central ligament, correctly set legs with good foot angle and the general constitution to cope with life on a modern dairy farm. These are the principles behind Holstein UK's Type Classification Service.

The service offers its users two key advantages:

?? It provides an independent assessment of every cow in the herd.

?? It provides a final score for the your heifers and cows, which can substantially increase their value.

The system is appropriate to every type of farming system and currently evaluates over 100,000 animals every year. Holstein UK operates an internationally recognised appraisal system and it is used by the AI industry in the British Isles to provide reliable type proofs.

The system has two basic components:

?? Linear assessment

?? Classification

Linear Assessment

Linear assessment involves the measurement of 16 individual traits on a scale of one to nine. It describes the degree of the trait rather than its desirability,

The traits are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Body | stature |
| | chest width |
| | body depth |
| | angularity |
| | rump angle |
| | rump width |
| Legs & Feet | rear legs, side view |
| | foot angle |
| | locomotion |
| Udder | Fore attachment |
| | rear height |
| | central ligament |
| Teats | depth |
| | placement – side and rear |
| | length |
| Management traits | temperament |
| | milking speed |
| | condition score |

The scores for these traits are used to calculate recommended matings using Holstein UK's acclaimed Select-a-Bull programme, available free as part of the type assessment service.

Classification

Classification involves the appraisal of an animals in comparison to the ideal. An overall score and grade are awarded, according to the following scale:

90+ Excellent (EX)
85-89 Very Good (VG)
80-84 Good Plus (GP)
75-79 Good (G)
65-74 Fair (F)
50-64 Poor (P)

A similar score and grade are awarded to each of the four areas of the cow – body conformation, dairy character, legs & feet and mammary – and it is from each of these four assessments that the final score and grade is calculated.

There are two forms of the service, one to suit the breeder with single-purpose Holstein objectives, and another designed for those wishing to pursue the more traditional British Friesian route. In either case, the service offers the potential to substantially increase the value of your herd and opens up services such as Select-a-Bull.

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