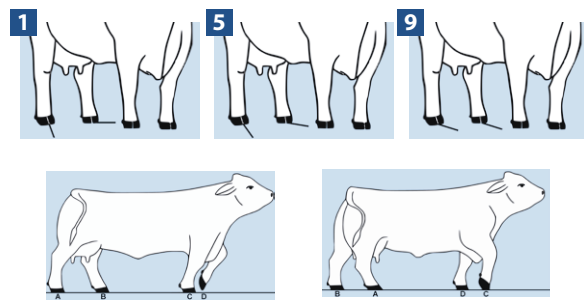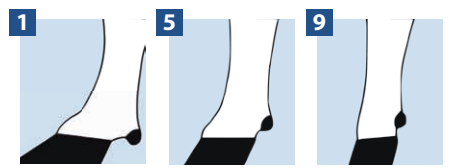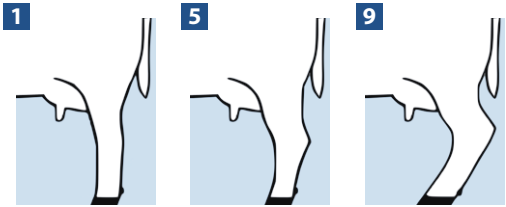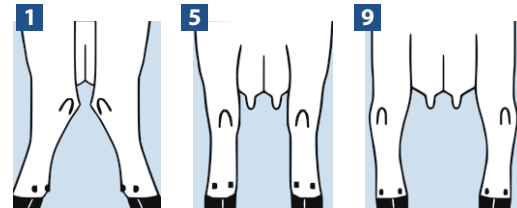# Beef Cattle Type Classification Guide

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. It is important to ensure you view the animal from all angles, considering the suggested reference points, to gain a rounded view of the animal's traits.

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Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Body Traits				
Stature	Measured from the top of the spine to the ground.	1 Short 5 Intermediate 9 Tall	Breed specific scale. For example, score 1 represents 96cm for Dexter but 130cm for South Devon, and score 9 represents 120cm for Dexter but 154 for South Devon.	
Body Depth	Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib – the deepest point, independent of stature.	1-3 Shallow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Deep	Optical in relation to the balance of the animal. Always look on the same side, because all cows are deeper on one side than the other.	
Chest Width	Measure from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.	1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide		
Development of Hindquarters	Curve of the rear part of the cow.	1-3 Narrow (Concave) 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide (Convex)		
Length from Withers to Pelvis (Hooks)	Distance between top of withers and start of the pelvis (hooks).	1-3 Short 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Long		
Rump Width	Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones.	1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide		

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Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Rump Angle	Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks/hips to pins.	1 High Pins (+4cm) 5 Intermediate (-4cm) 9 Extreme Slope (-12cm)		
Feet & Legs Traits				
Locomotion	When walking, the use of legs, feet, length and direction of the step.	1-3 Severe Abduction and/or Short Stride 4-6 Slight Abduction and Medium Stride 7-9 No Abduction and Long Stride	9 = Foot A and B should respectively land in the footstep of C and D when the cow moves forward.	
Foot Angle	Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the floor to the hairline at the right hoof.	1-3 Very low (15°) 4-6 Intermediate (45°) 7-9 Very Steep (65°)	If the Foot Angle is difficult to score, look at the angle of the hairline. In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored.	
Rear Leg Side View	Angle measured at the front of the hock.	1-3 Straight (160°) 4-6 Intermediate (147°) 7-9 Sickled (134°)	In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored.	
Rear Leg Rear View	As measured from the rear.	1-3 Severely outward pointing toe with hocks in/touching 4-6 Slight toe out with hocks slightly further apart 7 Feet point forward with hocks straight from the rear 9 Hocks pointing out	In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored.	

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Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Mammary Traits				
Udder Depth	The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.	1 Bellow hock 5 Intermediate 9 Shallow	Score 2 = level with the hock equal 0 cm.	
Fore Udder Attachment	The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall.	1-3 Weak and loose 4-6 Intermediate acceptable 7-9 Extremely strong and tight	In cases of significant difference in the quality of udder attachment of either side, the worst side must be scored. Only to be scored if the udder is healthy.	
Teat Length	The length of the front or the rear teat.	1-3 Short 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Long	Score 1 = 1 cm & 9 = 9cm. 1 cm per point for front teats. 0.75 cm per point for rear teats.	

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