

# An Introduction To Type Classification

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 Type Classification programme accentuates economically important conformation traits that influence a cow's ability to withstand modern production and management practices. 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.

## 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.

NBDC classifiers operate an internationally recognised appraisal system which is used by the AI industry in the British Isles to provide reliable type proofs.

Classification involves the appraisal of an animal in comparison the the Holstein Breed Standard. an overall score and grade are awarded, according to the following scale:

Final Linear Score	Final Grade
<b>90+</b>	Excellent (EX)
<b>85 - 89</b>	Very Good (VG)
<b>80 - 84</b>	Good Plus (GP)
<b>75-79</b>	Good (G)
<b>65-74</b>	Fair (F)
<b>50-64</b>	Poor (P)

Maximim Points	
<b>1st Calver</b>	89 Points
<b>2nd Calver</b>	89 Points
<b>3rd Calver</b>	93 Points
<b>4th Calver +</b>	97 Points

The stage of lactation and age of animal must be taken into consideration when assigning a classification score and composite box breakdown. The classification brenchmark standard is by comparison to the Societies Breed Standard Animal.

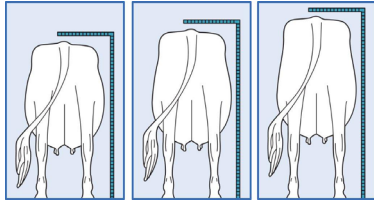
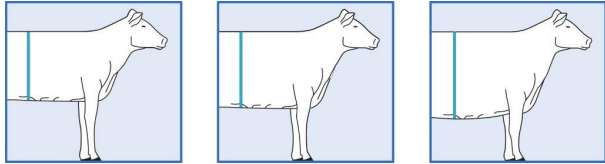
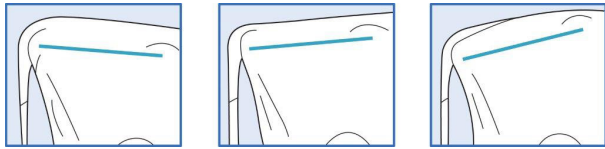
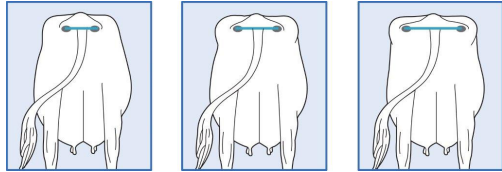
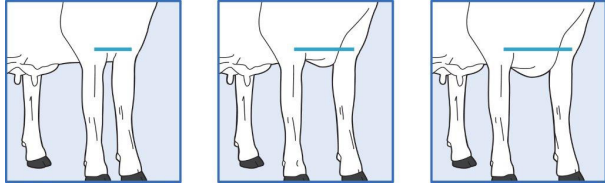
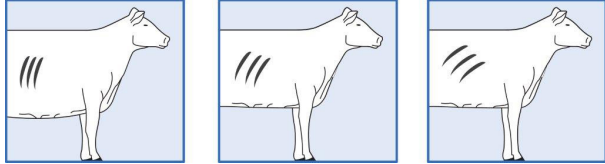
The NBDC Classification Team assess 18 breeds of cattle across the UK and Channel Islands. The below table shows all the breeds currently participating in the Type Classification Scheme.




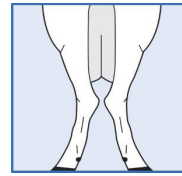
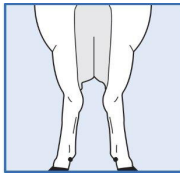
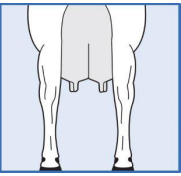
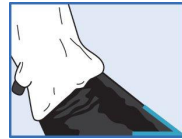


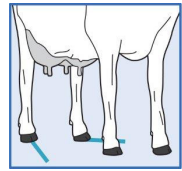
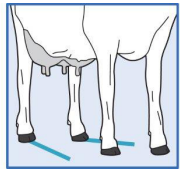
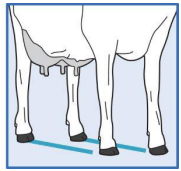
Box Breakdowns	
<b>VG Heifer</b>	90 Point Maximum 85 Point Minimum Mammary & Feet & Legs 83 Point Minimum Dairy Strength & Rump 142cms Minimum Height
<b>VG 89 Heifer</b>	Must have a minimum of 89 points in each box Must have calved before her third birthday
<b>VG 89 Second Calver</b>	Does <b>not</b> have to be VG89 points in every box Maximum score possible is 90 points for all boxes
<b>Excellent 3rd Calver</b>	Final score 93 point maximum
<b>Excellent 4th Calver</b>	Maximum final score 95 points
<b>Excellent 5th Calver</b>	Maximum final score 97

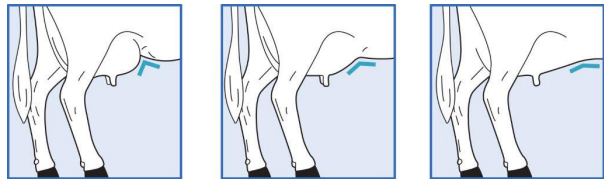
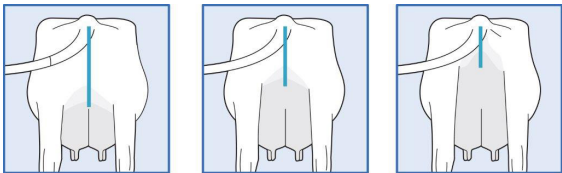
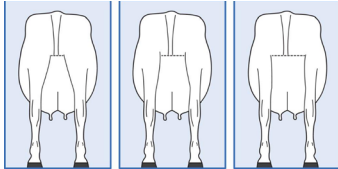
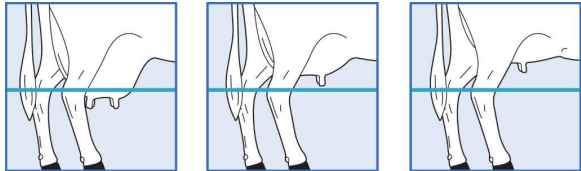
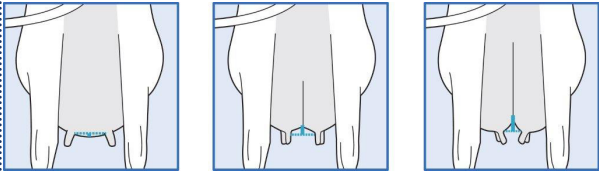
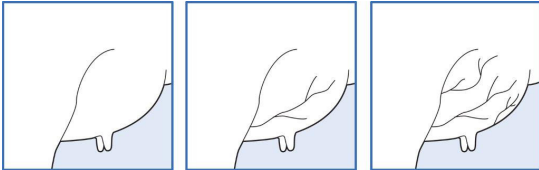
Dairy Breeds	Beef Breeds
<b>Ayrshire</b>	<b>Beef Shorthorn</b>
<b>British Friesian</b>	<b>Dexter</b>
<b>Brown Swiss</b>	<b>Gloucester</b>
<b>Dairy Shorthorn</b>	<b>Irish Moiled</b>
<b>Guernsey Island</b>	<b>Longhorn</b>
<b>Guernsey UK</b>	<b>Simmental</b>
<b>Holstein</b>	<b>South Devon</b>
<b>Jersey Island</b>	<b>Welsh Black</b>
<b>Jersey UK</b>	
<b>Montbeliarde</b>	

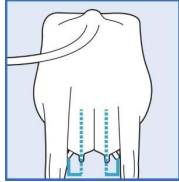
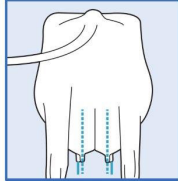
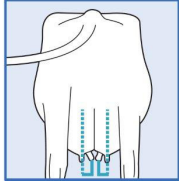
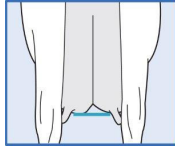
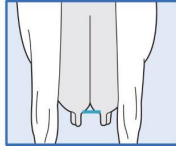
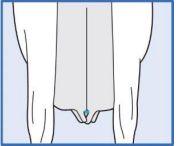
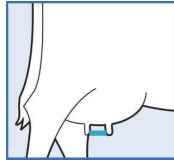
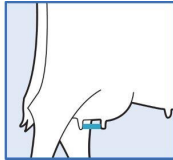
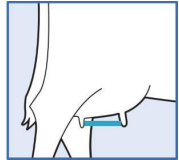
# Type Classification Guide

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.

Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
<b>Body Conformation Traits</b>				
<b>Stature</b>	Measured from the top of the spine in between the hips to the ground. Please note that the following measurements are for the <b>Holstein</b> Breed.	1 Short (136cm) 5 Intermediate (148cm) 9 Tall (160cm)	136cm -160cm 3cm per point.	
<b>Body Depth</b>	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.	
<b>Rump Angle</b>	Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks (hips) to pins.	1 High Pins (+4cm) 5 Intermediate (-4cm) 9 Extreme Slope (-12cm)	(+) 4cm - (-) 12cm (-)2cm per point from Score 1.	
<b>Rump Width</b>	Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones.	1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide	10cm – 26cm 2cm per point.	
<b>Dairy Strength Traits</b>				
<b>Chest Width</b>	Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.	1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide	13cm – 29cm 2cm per point.	
<b>Angularity / Dairyness</b>	The spring of the ribs or the degree of openness between the ribs.	1 No spring and close ribbed 9 Well sprung and open ribbed	When ribs are tight there is no opening. When the ribs spring apart or expand open, the space between ribs becomes wider.	

Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Feet & Leg Traits				
<b>Rear Leg Set</b>	Angle measured at the front of the hock.	1-3 Straight (160 degrees) 4-6 Intermediate (147 degrees) 7-9 Sickie (134 degrees)	In case of a significant difference the worst/extreme side must be scored.	  
<b>Rear Leg Rear View</b>	As measured from the rear.	1 Severely outward pointing toe with hocks touching 5 Slight toe out with hocks slightly further apart 9 Feet point forward with hocks straight from the rear		  
<b>Foot Angle</b>	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	1= 15 degrees 5= 45 degrees 9= 65 degrees  If the Foot Angle is difficult to score because of hoof trimming, flooring etc. it is possible to look at the angle of hairline. In case of a significant difference the worst/extreme side must be scored.	  
<b>Locomotion (Not a true Linear Trait)</b>	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	Abduction is the lateral deviation in respect to the straight line.  The score of 9 means that the rear leg is put straight forward with force to the step of the foreleg, and (extreme) lame cows getting score 1 because they have short strides.	  

Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
<b>Mammary Traits</b>				
<b>Fore Udder Attachment (Not a true Linear Trait)</b>	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 worse side must be scored. (Only if the udder is healthy).	
<b>Rear Udder Height</b>	The distance between the bottom of the vulva (pin bone) and the milk secreting tissue: in relation to height of the animal.	1 - 3 Very low 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 High	Measured on a scale between the bottom of the vulva and the hock; the midpoint represents a score 4 (29 cm); 2 cm per point.	
<b>Rear Udder Width</b>	The width of the milk secreting tissue as measured from the rear.	1 Very Narrow Rear Udder 5 Intermediate Rear Udder 9 Wide Rear Udder		
<b>Udder Depth</b>	The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.	1 Below hock 2 Level with hock 5 Intermediate 9 Shallow (22cms above hocks)	Score 2 = (0 cm); 3cm per point.	
<b>Udder Support / Central Ligament</b>	The depth of cleft, measured at the base of the rear udder.	1 Convex to flat floor (+1 cm) 2 (+0.5 cm) 3 (+0 cm) 4 Slight definition (-1 cm) 5 (-2 cm) 6 (-3 cm) 7 Deep definition (-4 cm) 8 (-5 cm) 9 (-6 cm)		
<b>Udder Texture</b>	The texture of the udder.	1 Thick heavy meaty texture 5 Intermediate 9 Silky texture with vein definition		

Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Teat Traits				
<b>Front Teat Placement (Rear View)</b>	The position of the front teat from the centre of the quarter as viewed from the rear.	1 - 3 Outside of quarter 4 - 6 Middle of quarter 7 - 9 Inside of quarter		  
<b>Rear Teat Placement (Rear View)</b>	The position of the Rear Teat from the centre of the quarter as viewed from the rear.	1 - 3 Outside of quarter 4 - 7 Middle of quarter 8 Touching 9 Crossing	4 represents midpoint of the quarter.	  
<b>Teat Placement (Side View)</b>	The distance between the front and rear teats.	1 - 3 Close 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Far Apart		  
<b>Teat Length</b>	The length of the front or rear teat.	1 - 3 Short 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Long	1-9 cm; 1 cm per point for front teats and 0.75 cm for rear teats.	