

DAIRY CATTLE

The general scorecard used for most 4-H activities is the Holstein Cow Scorecard, which is provided with a description of each category on the next page. Individual breed differences are indicated on the chart below and may be used for more advanced judging or when focusing more on specific breeds. These scorecards are updated periodically although the general areas of importance remain the same. For the most up-to-date information, contact Holstein Canada (<https://www.holstein.ca/classification/ClassificationTheProgram/en>) or Holstein Ontario. The standard guide for judging dairy cattle is Holstein Canada's "You be the Judge" manual.

Canadian Dairy Breed Scorecards

(Current as of April 1, 2013)

	Ayrshire	Brown Swiss	Canadienne	Guernsey	Holstein	Jersey	Milking
Mammary System	40	40	40	40	42	48	40
Feet & Legs	25	25	25	25	28	15	26
Dairy Strength	25	25	25	25	20	29	24
Rump	10	10	10	10	10	8	10

Structural Defects of Dairy Cattle and their Discriminations

Structural Defect	Show Ring Discrimination
Abdominal rupture	Serious
Advanced anus	Serious
Corkscrew claw	Serious
Freemartin	Very serious
Roman nose	Slight
Recessed or advanced tailhead	Slight
Spastic (crampy) syndrome	Very serious, particularly in younger cows
Teat fistula (side leak)	Serious
Undershot or overshot jaw	Serious
Webbed teat	Serious
Wry face	Serious
Wry tail	Moderate, depending on degree of curvature

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	COWS	HEIFERS
MAMMARY SYSTEM	42	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Udder is symmetrical, wide, deep, moderate length and slight quartering - Median Suspensory Ligament is strong with definite cleavage - Udder Texture- soft, pliable, elastic - Fore Udder is firm, smoothly attached, balanced quarters - Rear Udder- attached high, wide and strong, slightly rounded; uniform width from top to floor, balanced quarters - Teats are medium size, uniform, hang plumb - Mammary Veins are long, tortuous, branching 		
FEET AND LEGS	28	40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feet- short, well-rounded, deep heels - Legs- strong, flexible pasterns, straight square fore legs - hind legs straight, wide, refined hooks - flat, refined, strong bone with well defined tendons 		
DAIRY STRENGTH	20	40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head- broad muzzle, large nostrils, strong jaw, broad forehead - Shoulder Blades- set smoothly against chest and withers - Chest- wide floor, ample width between legs - Heart Girth- large and deep, full elbows and well sprung rib - Crops- well filled - Back- strong and straight with vertebrate well defined - Loin- broad and slightly arched, attached high and wide - Mid-Section- long and wide ribs highly and widely sprung - Neck- long and lean, blending smoothly into shoulder - Withers- well defined and wedge-shaped, "sharp" - Ribs- wide apart, wide rib bones, flat and long - Flanks- deep and refined - Thighs- curving to flat, wide apart with ample udder room - Skin- loose and pliable, fine hair - Udder- soft, pliable, free from excess tissue or edema - Bone- flat, strong, clean cut 		
RUMP	10	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hips- wide, slightly higher than pins - Pins- wide apart and free from patchiness - Thurls- high and wide apart, considering stage of lactation - Tail-head and Tail - refined and level with backline with long and slender tail 		

