The skeletal parts of the cow, with the exception of feet & legs, and rump. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

**COWS**

- **Front End & Capacity:** 15%
- **Dairy Strength:** 20%
- **Rump:** 5%
- **Feet and Legs:** 20%
- **Udder:** 40%

In assigning major breakdown scores, the classifier considers such factors as age, number of lactations, and stage of lactation. Major breakdown and final score is expressed numerically. Those numbers correspond with the following brackets:

- **Excellent [E]**: 90-97 points
- **Very Good [VG]**: 85-89 points
- **Good [G]**: 75-79 points
- **Fair [F]**: 65-74 points
- **Poor [P]**: 50-64 points

**MAJOR BREAKDOWN DESCRIPTIONS**

**FRONT END AND BODY CAPACITY  15%**

The skeletal parts of the cow, with the exception of feet & legs, and rump. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Front End:** Adequate conformation with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows set firmly against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness.
- **Chest:** Deep and wide floor with well-sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.
- **Barrel:** Long, with adequate depth and width; spring of rib increasing toward the rear with a deep flank.
- **Back/Loin:** Back should be straight and strong, with loin broad, strong, and nearly level.
- **Stature:** Height including length in the leg bones with a long bone pattern throughout the body structure. Height at withers and hips should be relatively proportionate.
- **Breed Characteristics:** Exhibiting overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean-cut, slightly dished with broad muzzle, large open nostrils and strong jaw.

**DAIRY STRENGTH  20%**

A combination of daireness and strength which supports sustained production and longevity. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, width of chest, spring of fore rib, and substance of bone with freedom from coarseness. Body condition should be appropriate for the stage of lactation. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Ribs:** Wide apart. Rib bones wide, flat, and deep, and slanted toward the rear.
- **Width of Chest:** Wide, showing capacity for vital organs.
- **Spring of Fore Rib:** Well sprung, expressing fullness and extending outside the point of elbows.

**RUMP  5%**

The rump should be long and wide throughout with thurls centrally placed to enhance mobility. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Rump Angle:** Pin bones should be slightly lower than hip bones.
- **Rump Width:** Thurls should be wide apart with adequate pin width.
- **Vulva:** Should be nearly vertical and the anus should not be recessed.

**TAIL HEAD:** Should set slightly above and neatly between pin bones and be free from coarseness.

**FEET AND LEGS  20%**

Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Rear legs, Rear view:** Straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed.
- **Rear legs, Side view:** Moderate set (angle) to the hock.
- **Feet:** Steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded closed toes.
- **Thurl Position:** Centrally placed between hip and pin bones.
- **Hocks:** Clearly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.
- **Bone:** Flat and clean with adequate substance.
- **Pasterns:** Short and strong with some flexibility. Slightly more emphasis placed on Feet than on Rear Legs when evaluating this breakdown.

**UDDER  40%**

The udder traits are evaluated. Major consideration is given to the traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Udder Depth:** Moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age.
- **Fore Udder:** Firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity.
- **Rear Udder:** Wide and high, firmly attached with uniform width from top to bottom and slightly rounded to udder floor.
- **Teat Placement:** Squarely placed under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced from side and rear views.
- **Udder Cleft:** Evidence of a strong suspensory ligament indicated by adequately defined halving.
- **Teats:** Cylindrical shape; uniform size with medium length and diameter.
- **Udder Balance and Texture:** Udder floor level as viewed from the side. Quarters evenly balanced; soft, pliable and well collapsed after milking.

**FINAL SCORE**

A cow’s final score is based on the five major classification categories or breakdowns of front end and capacity, dairy strength, rump, feet and legs, and udder. The classifier numerically assigns each category a score ranging from 1 to 100 points. The numbers are based on the level of desirability exhibited by individual cows for each category compared to the true-type model. The final score is the sum of the five major breakdown scores weighted as follows:

- **COWS**
  - **Front End & Capacity:** 15%
  - **Dairy Strength:** 20%
  - **Rump:** 5%
  - **Feet and Legs:** 20%
  - **Udder:** 40%

- **BULLS**
  - **Front End & Capacity:** 40%
  - **Dairy Strength:** 25%
  - **Rump:** 10%
  - **Feet and Legs:** 25%
  - **Udder:** 40%

**Linear Descriptive Traits**

**Holstein Association USA, Inc.**
1 Holstein Place, PO Box 808, Brattleboro, VT 05302-0808
800.952.5200 www.holsteinusa.com

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Primary Trait</th>
<th>Secondary Trait</th>
<th>Tertiary Trait</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATURE - ST</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR UDDER, HEIGHT - UH</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR UDDER, WIDTH - UW</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDDER CLEFT - UC</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRONT TEAT PLACEMENT - TP</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRENGTH - SR</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUMP WIDTH - RW</td>
<td>1 pt. = 2”</td>
<td>25 pts. = 4-1/2”</td>
<td>50 pts. = 7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR TEAT PLACEMENT - RT</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY DEPTH - BD</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAIRY FORM - DF</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR LEGS, SIDE VIEW - LS</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAR LEGS, REAR VIEW - RL</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>No toe-out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOT ANGLE - FA</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUMP ANGLE - RA</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAYER ANGLE - FR</td>
<td>1-5 pts.</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>45-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY CONDITION - CS</td>
<td>1-10 pts.</td>
<td>21-30 pts.</td>
<td>41-50 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A cow’s final score is based on the five major classification categories or breakdowns of front end and capacity, dairy strength, rump, feet and legs, and udder. The classifier numerically assigns each category a score ranging from 1 to 100 points. The numbers are based on the level of desirability exhibited by individual cows for each category compared to the true-type model. The final score is the sum of the five major breakdown scores weighted as follows:

**COWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front End &amp; Capacity</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Strength</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet and Legs</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udder</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BUCKS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front End &amp; Capacity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89 points</td>
<td>Very Good [VG]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84 points</td>
<td>Good [G]</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fair [F]</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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</table>

**MAJOR BREAKDOWN DESCRIPTIONS**

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A combination of dairyness and strength which supports sustained production and longevity. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, width of chest, spring of fore rib, and substance of bone with freedom from coarseness. Body condition should be appropriate for the stage of lactation. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

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- **Width of Chest:** Wide, showing capacity for vital organs.
- **Spring of Fore Rib:** Well sprung, expressing fullness and extending outside the point of elbows.

**RUMP  5%**
The rump should be long and wide throughout with thurls centrally placed to enhance mobility. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Rump Angle:** Pin bones should be slightly lower than hip bones.
- **Rump Width:** Thurls should be wide apart with adequate pin width.
- **Vulva:** Should be nearly vertical and the anus should not be recessed.
- **Tail Head:** Should set slightly above and neatly between pin bones and be free from coarseness.

**FEET AND LEGS  20%**
Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

- **Rear legs, Rear view:** Straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed.
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- **Hocks:** Cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.
- **Bone:** Flat and clean with adequate substance.
- **Pasterns:** Short and strong with some flexibility.

Slightly more emphasis placed on Feet than on Rear Legs when evaluating this breakdown.

**UDDER  40%**
The udder traits are evaluated. Major consideration is given to the traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life. Listed in priority order, the descriptions of the traits to be considered are as follows:

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