

# ENHANCED TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

...consistent with harmonization in Europe

## BACKGROUND

A world working party has been named to continue developing harmonization in Europe and other Holstein-Friesian herdbooks. Dalton Hodgins, Holstein Canada's Program Manager for Type Classification is one of the five participants. The main task of this group is to recommend the basis for a worldwide harmonization of type classification: traits, classification systems, evaluations and publication of type proofs for A.I. bulls.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARMONIZATION

### Linear Type Traits

Different from previous classification systems, linear classification is based on measurement of type traits rather than opinions.

#### Advantages of linear scoring:

- a) traits are scored individually
- b) scores cover biological extremes
- c) variation within traits is identifiable
- d) degree, rather than desirability, is marked

The linear type traits are divided into two groups: (1) standard traits and (2) optional traits.

It would be advantageous if all countries would accept 12 standard traits and two optional traits. This is particularly important with the increasing genetic exchange worldwide. With harmonization of evaluations, it will be much easier for breeders to interpret and understand sire proofs of all countries.

### Standard Traits

Standard traits meet the following requirements and are:

- a) linear on a biological scale
- b) single traits
- c) heritable
- d) of economic value
- e) measured instead of scored
- f) showing variation within the population
- g) essential

### 12 Standard Traits

TRAIT	REMARKS
1. Stature	- height in front of hip bones
2. Body Depth	- depth of body at the rear rib
3. Rump Angle	- hips to pins; 3 is level on a 9 point scale
4. Rump Width	- pin width
5. Rear Legs Set	- angle; side view
6. Feet	- diagonal or foot angle (often difficult to score)
7. Fore Udder	- strength of attachment (attachment has economic value, length does not)
8. Rear Udder Height	- distance between base of vulva and top of milk secreting tissue
9. Centre Ligament	- named "udder support" earlier (cleft)
10. Udder Depth	- 2 is level with the hock on a 9 point scale
11. Teat Placement	- front teats
12. Teat Length	- front teats

### Optional Traits

There are a number of additional traits which do not meet all requirements for the standard traits. They may be added to the classification report of a country if considered beneficial.

The working group considers two optional traits to be more important than the others:

Chest width - width of chest floor (previously named "strength")

Angularity - evidence of milking ability (not a single trait)

## ENHANCED TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM

In Canada we now classify for 21 descriptive traits and 62 defective characteristics. With the implementation of the Enhanced Type Classification Program in late 1992, our system will involve 21 descriptive traits (some have been redefined) including evaluations for body depth and teat length and 25 - 30 defective characteristics. We will continue to evaluate for additional traits, including size, loin strength, bone quality, udder texture, rear attachment width, udder floor (tilt) and rear teat placement as well as defective characteristics. The Enhanced Type Classification Program will enable the Canadian dairy industry to continue to provide the most complete information to breeders worldwide.

# EXPORT NOTES

## *Showing is Important to Export Development*

Every year millions of dollars are contributed to the promotion of Canadian livestock genetics by the Canadian government, breed associations, Semex Canada and livestock exporters. Promotion is carried out through all and varied channels -- video, print, missions, hospitality ... the list goes on. Yet one of the most effective methods Canadians have of promoting their cattle is the use of the show ring.

Each year around the world and at home, Canadian-bred and sired cattle are shown and exhibited. The people attending these shows judge for themselves the quality of Canadian breeding. The majority of these show animals also have very substantial production records. The facts speak for themselves -- Canada is the source of truly "balanced breeding".

Cattle shows in Canada and outside the country are one of the best promotional tools we have. They are costly and time consuming, yet the benefits of increased interest in the breed is evident. A great deal of appreciation needs to be shown to those dedicated individuals who continue to show and promote the breed.

## Notes d'exportation

### *Les expositions sont importantes au développement de l'exportation*

Le gouvernement canadien, les associations de race, Semex Canada et les exportateurs de bétail contribuent, chaque année, des millions de dollars à la promotion de la génétique du bétail canadien. Toutes les possibilités de promotion sont utilisées -- vidéos, imprimés, missions, hospitalité, ... et la liste continue. Cependant, les concours d'exposition représentent une des méthodes de promotion les plus efficaces à la portée des canadiens. Chaque année, au Canada et partout dans le monde, des bovins d'élevage canadien et des sujets saillis par des géniteurs canadiens sont exposés. Les personnes qui assistent à ces expositions peuvent juger d'eux-mêmes la qualité de l'élevage canadien. La majorité de ces sujets d'exposition possèdent aussi des records de production appréciables. Il ne reste qu'à s'incliner devant les faits. Canada est effectivement une source "d'élevage équilibré".

Les expositions de bovins au Canada et à l'étranger représentent un des meilleurs outils promotionnels à notre disposition. Elles sont coûteuses et requièrent beaucoup de temps et d'efforts, mais les bénéfices résultant de l'intérêt croissant envers la race sont évidents. Tous ceux qui continuent à se dévouer pour exposer et promouvoir la race méritent toute notre appréciation.

## DESCRIPTIVE TRAITS

CURRENT TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM	ENHANCED TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM
Stature	Stature
Size	Size
Style	-
Head	-
-	Dairy Form
Chest Floor	Body Strength
Loin Strength	Loin Strength
-	Body Depth
Thurl Width	Pin Width
Thurl Location	-
Pin Setting	Pin Setting
Foot Shape	Foot
Bone Quality	Bone Quality
Rear Legs Side View	Rear Legs Set
Position / Stance	-
Udder Depth	Udder Depth
Udder Texture	Udder Texture
Median Suspensory	Median Suspensory
-	Udder Floor
Fore Attachment	Fore Attachment
Rear Attachment	Rear Attachment
Height	Height
Rear Attachment	Rear Attachment
Width	Width
Fore Teat Placement	Fore Teat Placement
Rear Teat Placement	Rear Teat Placement
-	Fore Teat Length

## DEFECTS

62

25-30

## SCORECARD

CURRENT TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM	ENHANCED TYPE CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM
General Appearance } Capacity	General Frame
Dairy Character	Dairy Character
Rump	Rump
Feet & Legs	Feet & Legs
Mammary System	Mammary System
-	Udder Profile
Fore Udder	Fore Udder
Rear Udder	Rear Udder