



Dairy Judging Terminology

A Guide to Saying What She Is, Not What She Isn't

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This guide is designed to help you improve your reasons for your placings in dairy cattle evaluations. Slowly incorporate new terms into your oral reasons and your ability to describe what you see will continue to improve. Concentrate on what you see instead of what you don't see. You only have 2 ½ minutes to justify your placings. Use I.D. points, and Practice! Practice! Practice!

The PDCA (Purebred Dairy Cattle Association) United Dairy Scorecard for cows and heifers is as follows:

Trait	Score (%)	
	Cow	Heifer
Frame	15	25
Dairy Strength	25	40
Rear Feet & Legs	20	35
Udder	40	

Look at that the terms that can be used with each section of the scorecard. Always take breed characteristics into account. The following are examples of terms and phrases used to describe specific differences between animals.

Mammary System/Udder (40% of PDCA Scorecard)

General Ways to Describe the Udder:

- More bloom to the udder
- More veining of the udder
- More udder texture
- Exhibits more bloom and capacity of the udder
- More balance and symmetry to the udder
- Less quartering when viewed from the side

Fore Udder:

- Stronger/ firmer attachment when viewed from the side (say which side)

- Smoother fore udder attachment
- Fore udder was held closer to the body wall
- Cleaner fore udder attachment
- Fore udder blended more smoothly and naturally into the body wall
- Longer and firmer fore udder attachment

Rear Udder:

- Higher, wider rear udder
- More capacious rear udder
- More fullness to the udder when viewed from behind (or rear)
- More symmetrical rear udder
- More fullness and capacity at the bottom of the rear udder
- More uniform width of the rear udder
- Carries the udder higher above the hocks
- More clearly defined udder cleft/median suspensory ligament
- Stronger center support in the udder
- More cleft in the udder with a more prominent crease
- More defined seam (or cleft)

Teat Placement:

- Teats were more centrally located
- Teats were more squarely placed on the quarters
- Teats were smaller (or longer)

Dairy Strength (25% of PDCA Scorecard)

- Sharper over the shoulders
- More width through front end
- Cleaner across the topline
- Cleaner and more refined in the head and neck
- Has an advantage in dairyness
- More prominent through the hips and pins
- More feminine throughout the head and neck
- Longer and leaner neck
- Presents cleaner thighs
- Incurving thighs
- Carrying less flesh
- More refined and dairylike
- More angular at the withers
- Shows more definition from hooks to pins
- More open-ribbed
- Over-conditioned in the dewlap or bristlet
- Width through ribs
- Stronger, flatter-boned

Frame (15% of PDCA Scorecard)

- Taller at the point of withers
- Shoulders blend more smoothly into the body
- Stronger, straighter, smoother back
- Longer from head to pins
- More nearly level from chine to loin
- Stronger, smoother, straighter loin
- Stronger in the chine
- More level topline, straighter topline
- Higher and wider in the thurls
- Longer from hooks to pins
- More functionally correct slope from hooks to pins
- More correct set to the thurls
- Wider in the pins (or thurls)
- More width in the pins (or thurls)
- Wider in the rump (or thurls)
- Exhibited less slope from hips to pins
- Straighter and smoother over the topline
- Squarer in the rump
- More correct in slope from hooks to pins

Feet and Legs (15% of PDCA Scorecard)

- More desirable angle to the foot
- More correct shape to the foot
- Stronger and shorter pasterns
- Cleaner and flatter bone
- Cleaner at the hock
- More substance of bone (say where)
- Straighter or more correctly placed legs when viewed from the side (or rear)
- More desirable set angle to the hock when viewed from the side
- Front legs or rear legs set more squarely beneath the body
- Walks with more ease and grace
- Tracks straighter (or more correctly)
- Walks straighter and on a more correct set of feet and legs

Body Capacity (10% of PDCA Scorecard)

- Stronger (or) more powerful cow
- Deeper in the heart and barrel
- Deeper in the chest or chest floor
- Deeper-bodied
- Greater circumference in the heart girth
- More total body circumference
- Greater spring to the rib
- Bigger, larger barrel (or heart girth)

Use the following phrases to help you get started, tie things together and wrap up your reasons.

Introductions

- 1, 2, 3, 4 is my preferred placing in this/today's class of ____.
- After closely analyzing this/today's class of ____ (e.g. 2-year-old Holsteins), I decided upon the placing of ____.
- After evaluating this/today's class of ____ (e.g. 2-year-old Jerseys), I placed them ____.
- In a close placing, I placed this/today's class of ____.
- I placed this/today's class ____.
- I found this class to be a two-pair class.

- I found this class to have an easy top/bottom animal.
- I found this class to have a close top pair.

General Statements

- More stylish individual.
- More style, balance or symmetry.
- Smoother blending of parts.
- Individual (or animal/cow/heifer) with the best combination of ___ (say what).
- Most complete individual (or animal/cow/heifer).
- More powerful from end to end (or head to tail).
- Outstanding animal easily wins this class.

Connecting Terms

- Furthermore,
- In addition to,
- Also,
- Moreover,
- However, it is this ____
- More importantly,
- I recognize
- Therefore,
- Equally important,

Grants

- I realize,
- I admit,
- I recognize that,
- More importantly,
- I did not fail to recognize,
- I concede,
- However, 1 ____.
- Giving 1 an advantage in ____.

Other Terms/Suggestions

- Presents
- Exhibits
- Shows
- Displays
- Demonstrates

Closings

- For these reasons, I placed this/today's class of ___ (e.g., 3-year-old Brown Swiss) 1-2-3-4.
- 1-2-3-4 is how I placed this/today's class of ___ (e.g., Guernsey Heifers).
- Thank you (to show you are finished).

Recognize Superlatives:

- 1, the best-uddered cow in the class, placed over 2 due to her definite advantage in dairy strength.
- 1, the best-framed cow in the class ____.
- I found an easy top in the smooth, stylish 3, by far the best-uddered cow in the class.
- In the top pair, the two best-uddered cows, 1 places over 2 due to her advantage in dairy strength.

Use qualifying statements to emphasize specific points of advantage:

- 1 has more desirable front teat placement, faulting 2 for having wide and strutting front teats.
- 1 is smoother in fore udder attachment, particularly when viewed from the right side.
- 1 has more balance of rear quarters, criticizing 2 for being light in the left rear quarter.

Smooth Transitions between Pairs

- It is this advantage in (from grant) that places her easily over (the next animal) in my next pair.

Some example sets of reasons are:

Example 1

After carefully analyzing today's class of ___ (insert age, breed, cow/heifer [e.g., 4-year-old Holsteins]), I placed them B, C, A, D.

B places easily over C, finding an easy top in the black cow, B, who excelled in mammary system and dairy strength. B displayed a smoother, stronger fore udder attachment whose udder blended more naturally into the chest wall. Furthermore, when viewed from behind she showed more width, bloom and capacity as well as having a more defined udder cleft. B was taller at her point of withers and was sharper and more angular throughout. I do admit C was higher in her rear udder attachment, thus allowing me to place C over A in my intermediate pair.

C was superior in udder quality and capacity to A. She displayed more veining and was more youthful in her udder appearance. In addition, C was a deeper-bodied individual and had greater depth and spring to her barrel. However, I do acknowledge A stood on a set of shorter and stronger pasterns.

In my bottom pair, I placed A over the mainly white D. A was stronger and wider when viewed from the front. Furthermore, she was wider in her pins when viewed from behind. She also stood on a more correct set of feet and legs. In addition, I appreciate that A was more feminine and dairy about her head and neck. I do concede that D carried less flesh, but she lacked femininity, dairy strength and udder quality to place any higher in today's class.

For these reasons, I placed today's class of ___ (e.g., 4-year old Holsteins) B, C, A, D. Thank you.

Example 2

I placed this class of Jersey cows 3, 2, 1, 4. The spotted cow, 3, excels to the top of this class due to her superior mammary system. She has a more capacious udder and has a higher, wider rear udder attachment and greater width to the rear udder. 3 has a smoother fore udder attachment, faulting 2 for her slightly bulgy right fore udder.

I grant that 2, the darker cow, carries her udder higher above her hocks and has a slightly stronger udder cleft. It is this cleft strength that carries her over 1 in my middle pair.

I found a close middle pair in this class, placing 2 and 1. 2 has a wider rear udder attachment and slightly stronger fore udder attachment. 2 has less quartering in her udder and has more correct teat size and shape, faulting 1 for her large, cone-shaped teats. 2 is stronger in the pasterns and cleaner at the hocks. I admit that 1 has more width to her rump, thurls and rear udder.

I placed 1 over 4 due to her higher, wider rear udder. 1 is leveler on the udder floor, and has a more correct teat placement, with more prominent veining than 4. She is also straighter across her top and stronger in her loin. She also has stronger pasterns and a more correct foot angle.

I admit that 4 has a smoother fore udder attachment and a more correct teat size and shape. However, I found 4 to be an easy bottom cow in this class. She lacks the mammary capacity, rear udder width and overall style to place above the other three cows today. For these reasons, I placed this class of Jersey 4-year old cows 3, 2, 1, 4. Thank you.

The form on the following page may help you practice developing your reasons.

Oral Reasons Note Card

Class Name: _____

Animal Description (list major items to help you recall the animal):

I placed this class of: _____

Class Description Statement: _____

Top Pair:

I placed _____ over _____ because _____

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

_____ than _____

Middle Pair:

I placed _____ over _____ because _____

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

_____ than _____

Bottom Pair:

I placed _____ over _____ because _____

_____ than _____

I grant _____ was _____

_____ than _____

Bottom Animal:

I placed _____ last because _____

For these reasons, I placed this class of _____

Oral Reasons Top Ten List

1. Emphasize the most important points first. Say what you saw!
2. Use “er” words to compare differences between items (e.g., longer, wider) — don’t describe.
3. Look the official in the eye. Convince him/her your placing is correct. Sound confident.
4. Include an opening statement describing the class.
5. Giving grants are important; however, if there are none, don’t give any.
6. Use I.D. points to identify animals. It helps you remember and prepare.
7. Oral reasons are to be presented to the judge without the use of any notes.
8. Relax, talk slowly and don’t run out of gas. Breathe!
9. Call heifers "heifers" and cows "cows"!
10. Practice! Practice! Practice!

Learning *for* Life

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