

Livestock Judging



What is Livestock Judging?

- Analysis of animals and measuring them against a standard that is accepted as ideal
- Three parts
 - Making observations
 - Organizing thoughts
 - Expressing opinion via oral reasons



Basic Judging Criteria

- Four animals in a class
 - Numbered 1- 4 from left to right when viewed from the rear when tied, in stanchions or racks.
 - Or clearly marked by
 - 1, 2, 3, 4
 - |, ||, |||, ||||



Basic Judging Criteria

- Three species judged in market and breeding classes
 - Beef
 - Sheep
 - Swine



Basic Judging Criteria

- **Strategy**

- Evaluate from a distance of 20 to 30 feet
- Handle animals if appropriate to confirm placing
- Go with first impression




Basic Judging Criteria

- **The Hormel system and the judging card.**
- Each class is worth 50 points for the placing.
- Each set of reasons is worth 50 points.
- Classes are divided into three “pairs”
 - Top Middle and Bottom



Basic Judging Criteria

- The Hormel System
 - There are 24 different possibilities to place four animals.

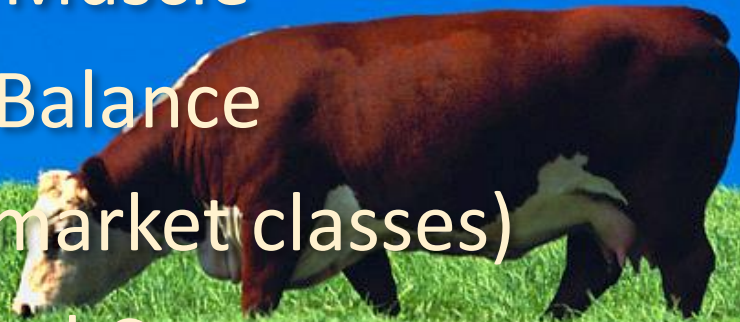


1234
1243
1324
1342
1423
1432
2134
2143
2314
2341
2413
2431

Basic Judging Criteria

- **What to look for?**

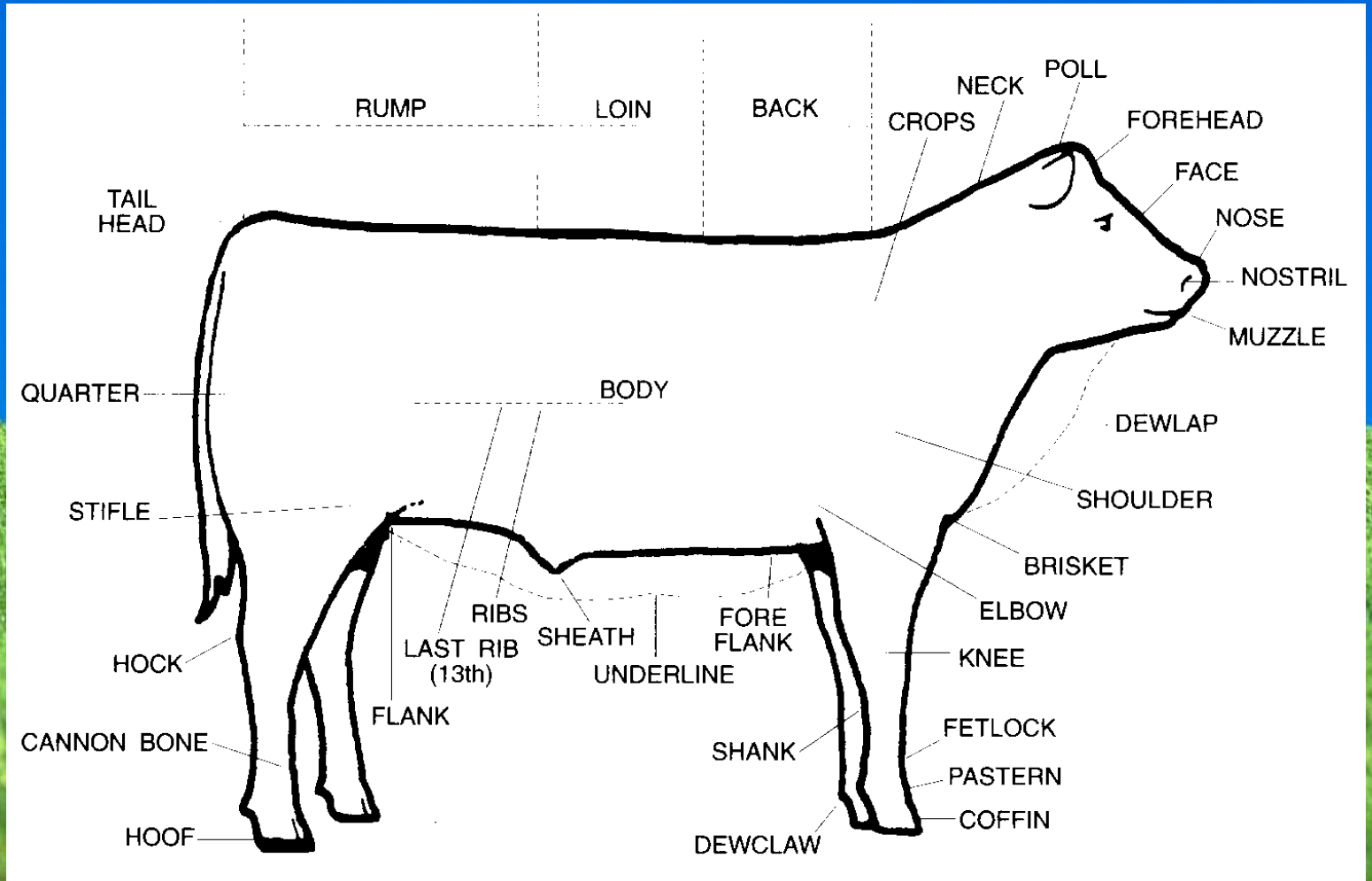
- Frame
- Muscle
- Balance
- Finish (market classes)
- Structural Correctness
- Breed and Sex Character



Show Steer Selection



Parts of the Steer



Selection Criteria

- ◆ Age
- ◆ Frame Size
 - ◆ Muscle
 - ◆ Balance
- ◆ Structural Correctness
 - ◆ Disposition



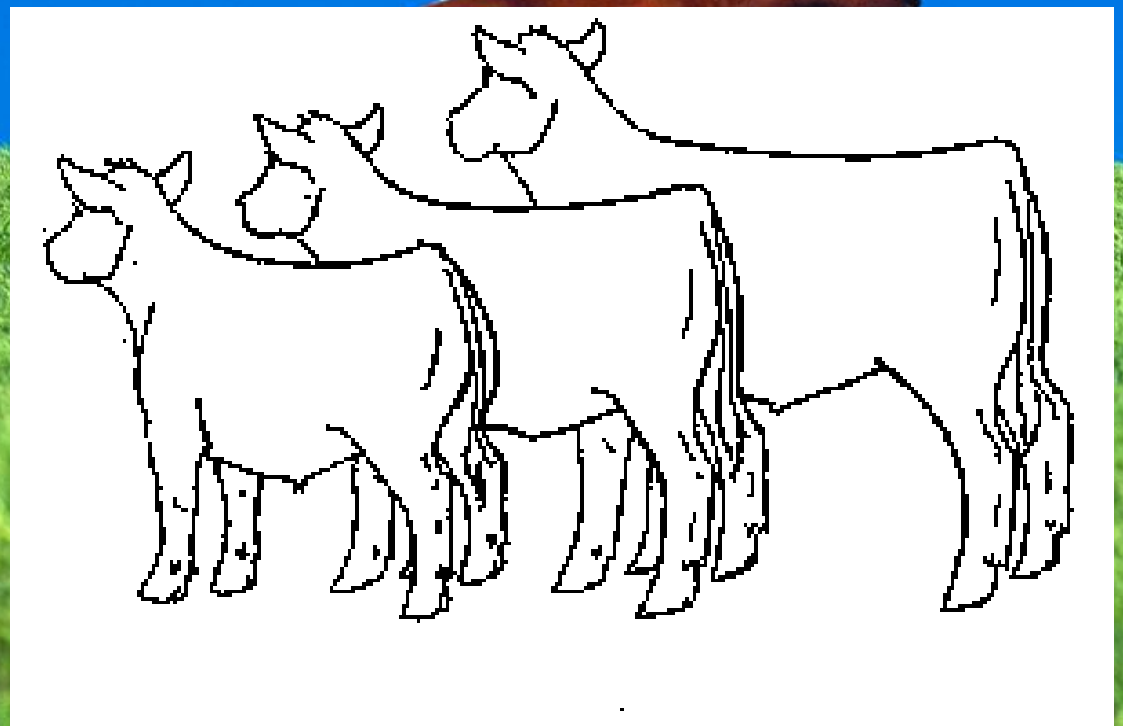
Age

- Show calves will be market ready when 15 to 18 months old at County Fair
- Born between February and May of the previous year
- For example a steer born in March of 2003 will be 17 months old at fair time



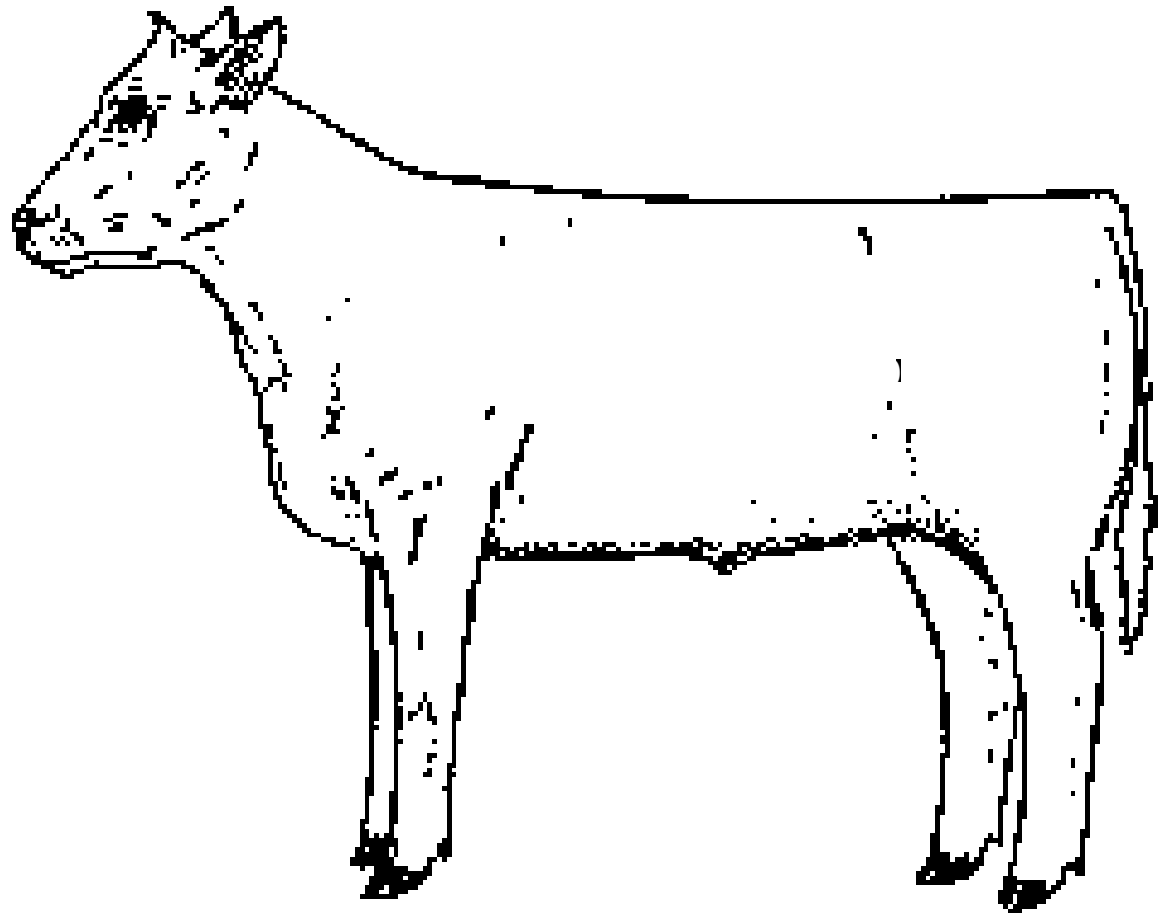
Frame Size

- Adequate
- Long Bodied
- Clean



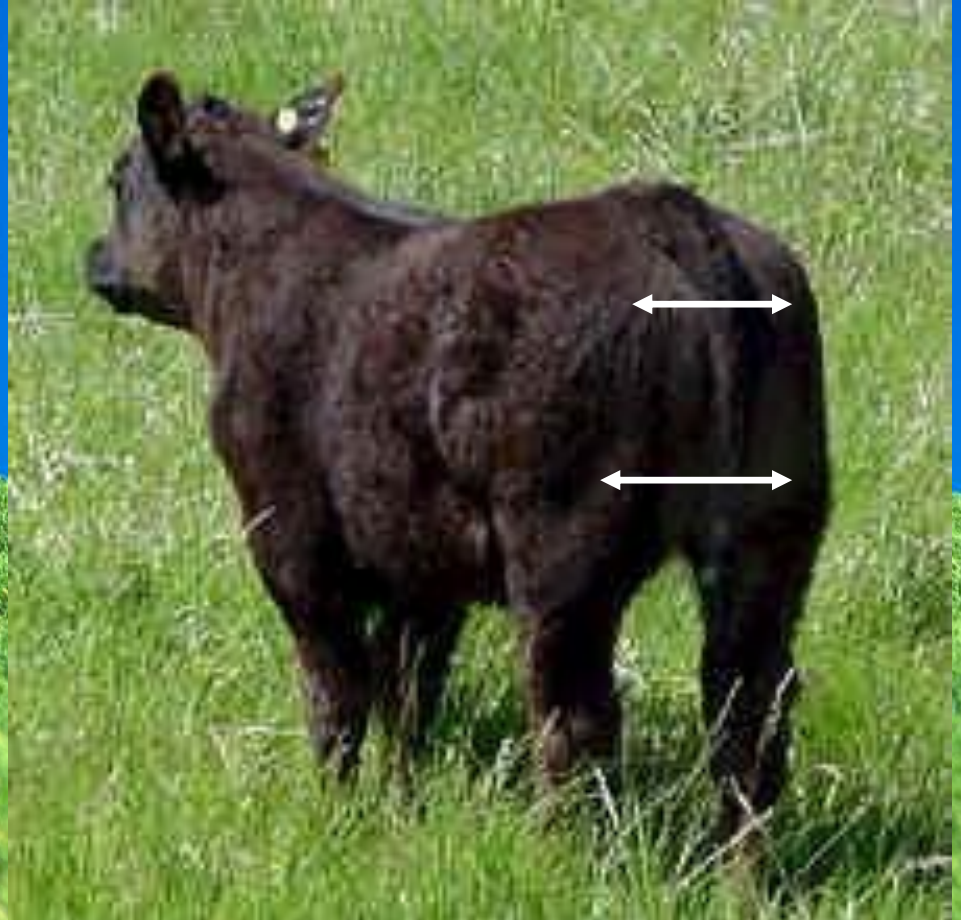
Muscle

Five Indicators of Muscle



Muscle - Hind Quarter

- Width between pin bones
- Stifle



Muscle - Shoulder



- Bold and rugged
- Thick fore arm
- Smooth



Muscle - Top

- Long
- Level
- Straight



Muscle - Top

- Wide Topped

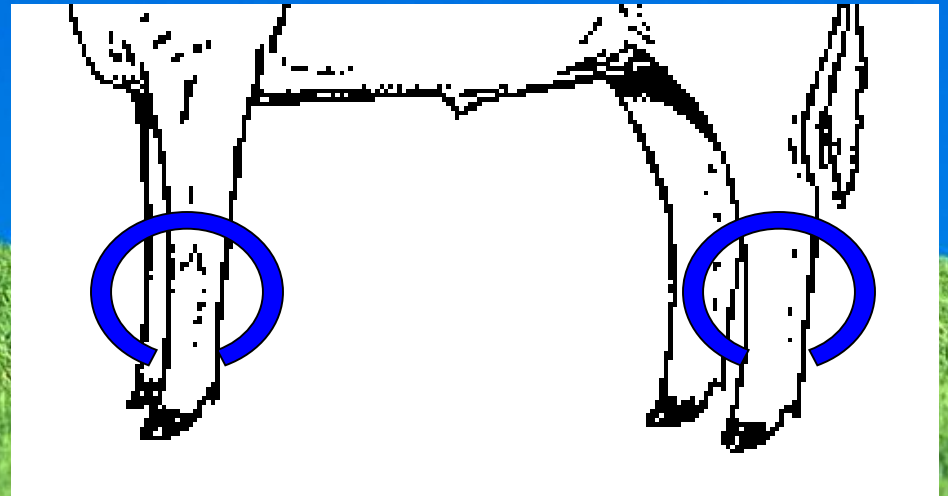


Muscle - Wide Based

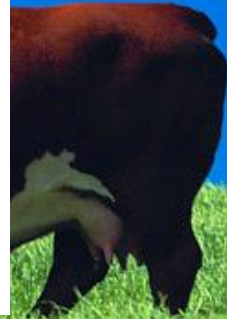
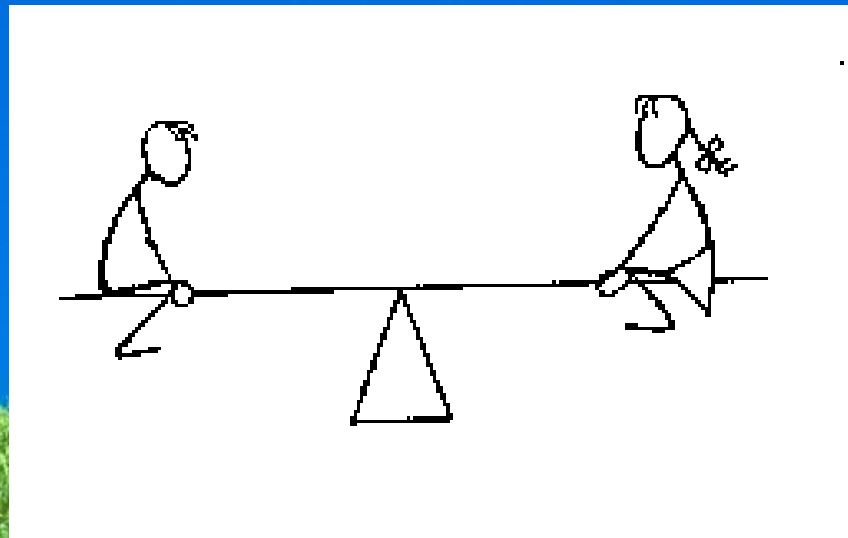


Muscle - Bone

- Large circumference of bone



Balance



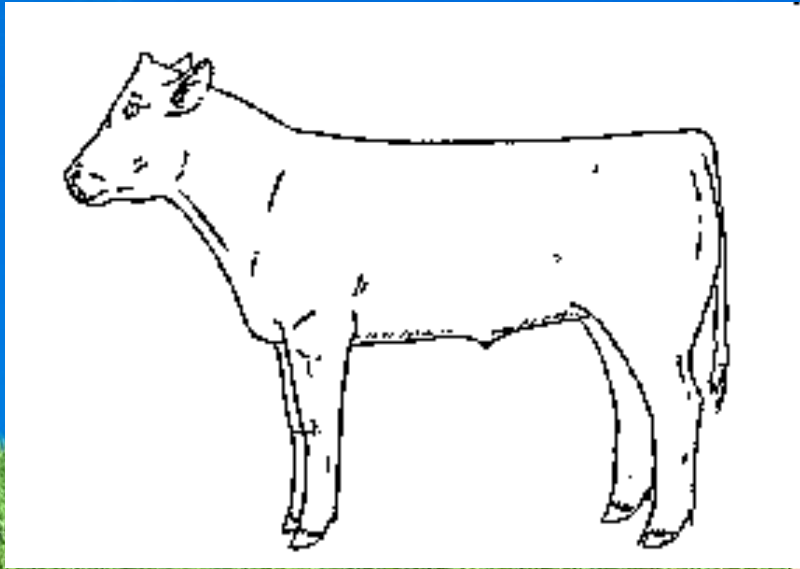
Your calf should be balanced on both ends

Balance

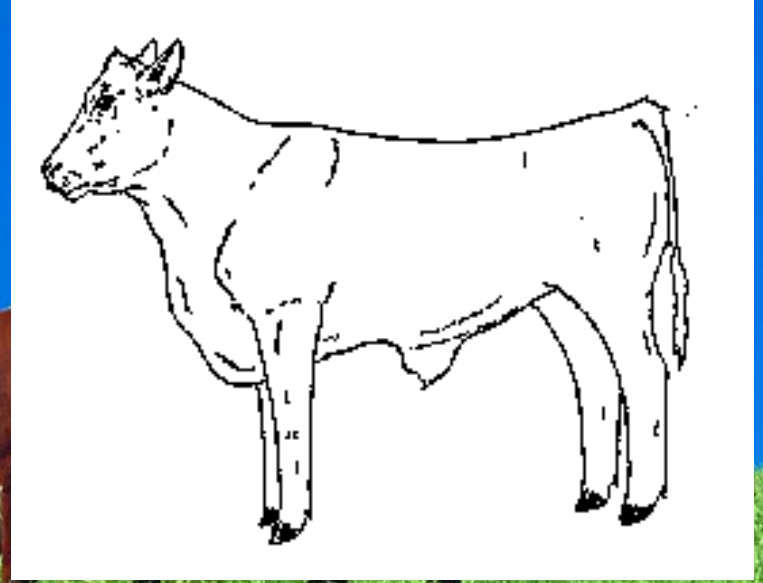
- **Select a calf with style**
- **A deep bodied calf that is full in the flank**
- **Uniform in capacity and ruggedness**
- **Smooth**



Examples of Balance



Good Balance



Poor Balance



Structural Correctness

- Legs and feet
- Set to hock
- Flex at pastern
- Take long strides

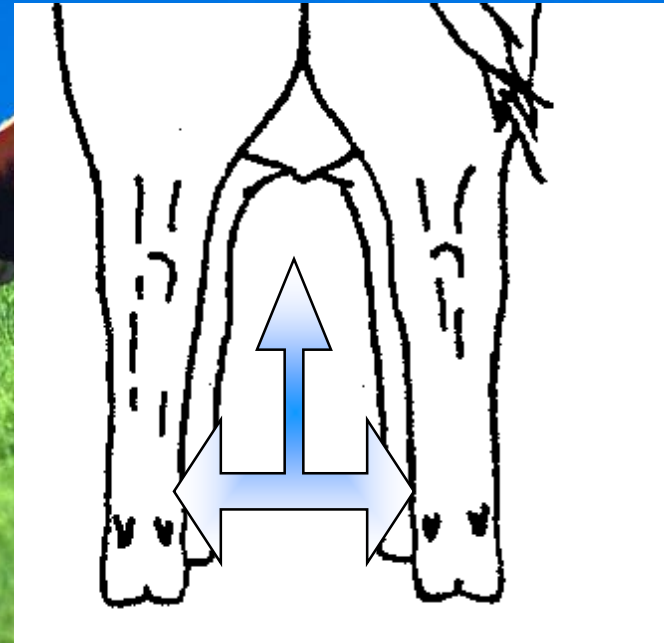


Structural Correctness

Legs

Legs should hit the ground straight

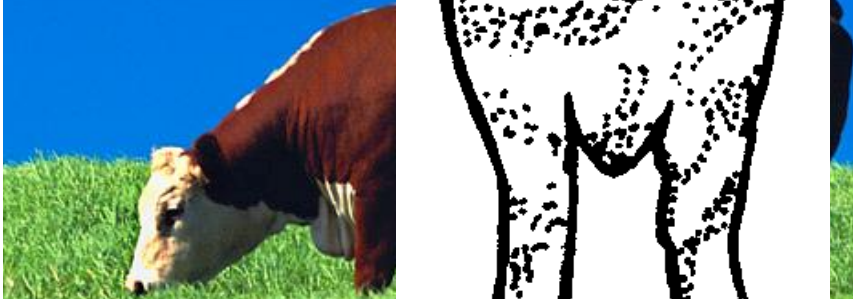
Point straight ahead



Structural Correctness Legs

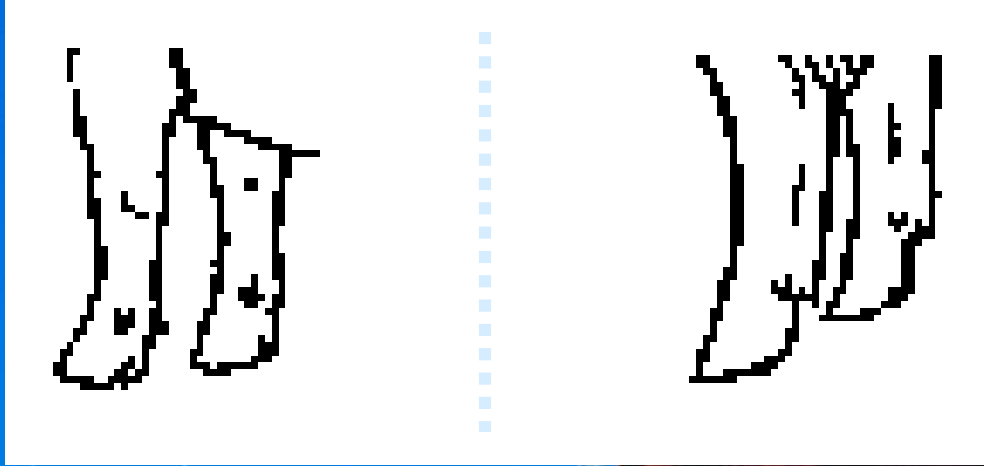


Toes In



Toes Out

Structural Correctness Feet



Feet should be big and rugged

Slope to pasterns



Introduction to Beef Selection



Criteria for Beef Selection

- Soundness
 - Structural
 - Reproductive
- Volume and Capacity
- Muscle
- Skeletal Extension
- Femininity/ Masculinity



Ideal Beef Heifer



Structural Correctness

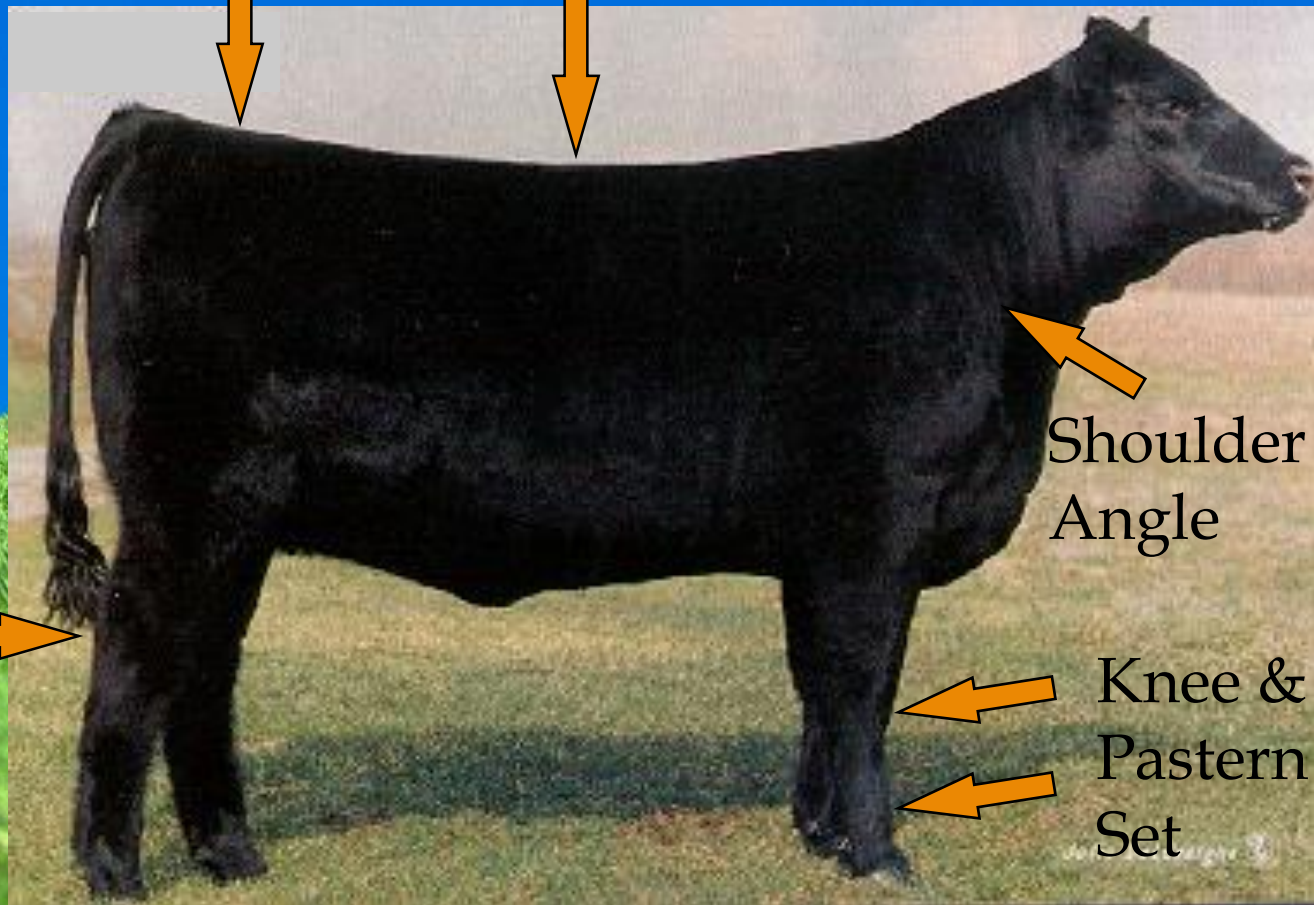
- Correct joint angles
 - Shoulder, knee, hock and pastern
- Strong top
- Level rump structure
 - Hooks to pins
- Large, square foot
- Adequate bone



Structurally Correct Heifer

Level rump

Strong top



Shoulder Angle

Hock Angle

Knee &
Pastern
Set

Correct Structure: Rear view



Straight Structured



Incorrect Hip and Hind Leg Structure



Low
Pin
Set

Too
Much
Set
to
Hock

Volume and Capacity

- Most critical in beef production
- “Fleshing Ability”
 - The ability for a mature female to maintain body condition while in lactation
- Deep, bold-sprung ribs for feeding and breeding capacity
- Wide-chested and wide-based



High Volume Heifer



Deep Fore &
Rear Flank

John Deere

Muscle

- Heavy muscled cattle are preferred if muscle pattern is long and smooth
- Tight, round muscle can inhibit movement



Skeletal Extension

- Long bodied, long fronted cattle are preferred
- Cattle being too large in their frame can be detrimental
- Problems with cattle that are “too big”
 - Females too large as mature cows
 - Feedlot cattle do not deposit marbling until excessive weights are reached



Frame Size

- Measured with Frame Score
 - Considers both age and hip height
- Ideal frame score range
 - British Breeds: 5 to Low 7
 - Continental Breeds: 6 to High 7



Femininity

- Females need to be refined through their shoulder, neck, and head
- Vulvas need to be developed with correct udder structure



Correct Femininity



Masculinity

- Bulls need to be masculine about their shoulder, neck and head, but not coarse
- Bulls should have well developed testicles that are even in size
- Minimum scrotal circumference requirements
 - Maternal sire: 34 cm
 - Terminal sire: 32 cm



Correct Masculinity

