

DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION

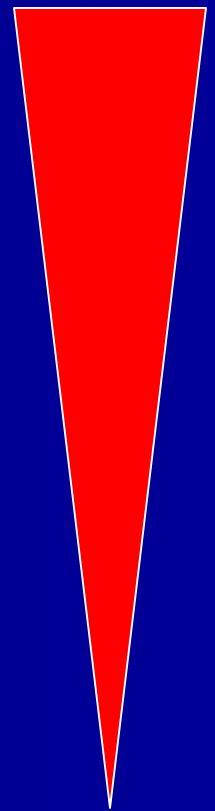
WHY JUDGE DAIRY CATTLE?

GAIN A BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF
WHAT MAKES A
PRODUCTIVE AND
FUNCTIONAL DAIRY COW

IMPORTANT DAIRY COW CHARACTERISTICS:

- 40% MAMMARY SYSTEM
- 20% DAIRY CHARACTER
- 15% FRAME
- 15% FEET & LEGS
- 10% BODY CAPACITY

MOST
IMPORTANT



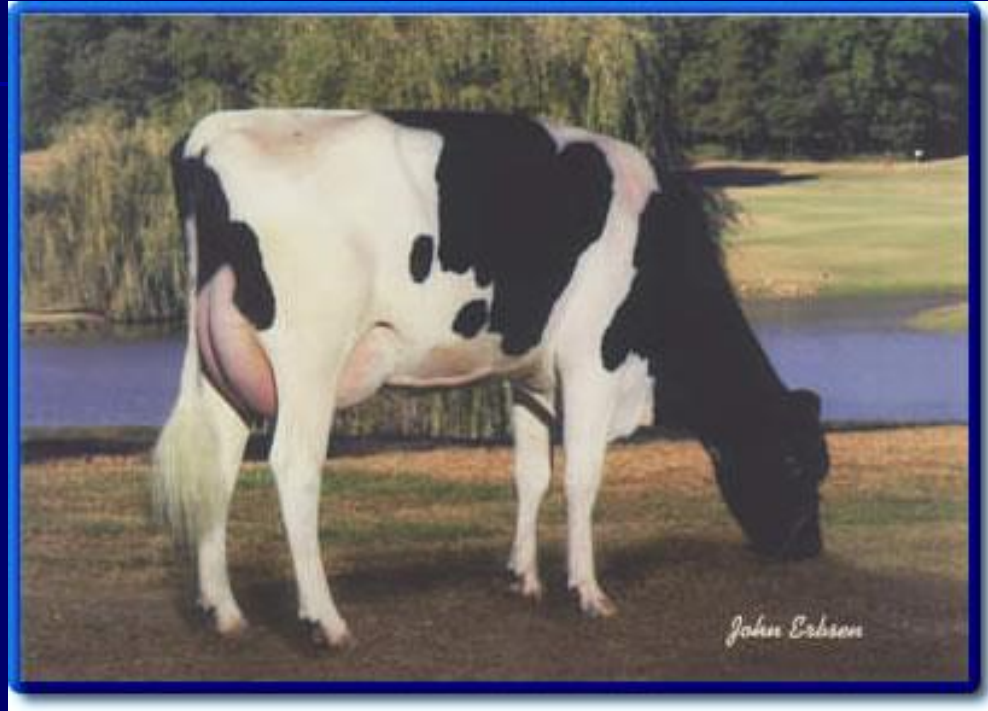
LEAST
IMPORTANT

1 - MAMMARY SYSTEM 40 %



1- MAMMARY SYSTEM

A - UDDER DEPTH



HOW HIGH ABOVE THE HOCK IS THE
UDDER?

1- MAMMARY SYSTEM

B - TEAT PLACEMENT & SIZE

WHERE ARE THE TEATS
PLACED ON THE
QUARTERS?

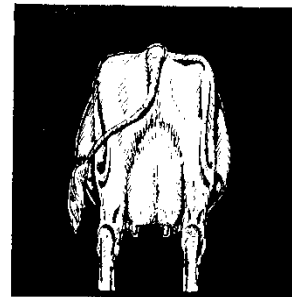
- TEATS SHOULD BE
 - ABOUT 2 INCHES LONG
 - CYLINDRICAL
 - PLACED SQUARELY UNDER EACH QUARTER
 - NOT TO ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER



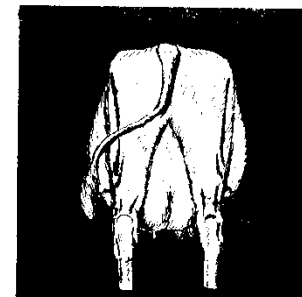
1- MAMMARY SYSTEM

C - REAR UDDER WIDTH & HEIGHT

- REAR UDDER WIDTH IS MEASURED AT THE ATTACHMENT
- THE HIGHER THE REAR UDDER THE BETTER!



GOOD UDDER AND
REAR UDDER
ATTACHMENT



POOR UDDER AND
REAR UDDER
ATTACHMENT

1- MAMMARY SYSTEM

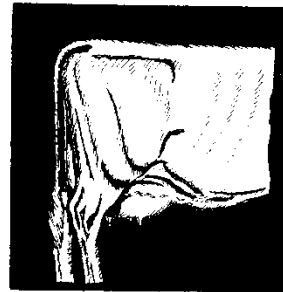
D - FORE UDDER & UDDER QUALITY

- ❖ LENGTH & SMOOTHNESS OF THE FORE UDDER ATTACHMENT

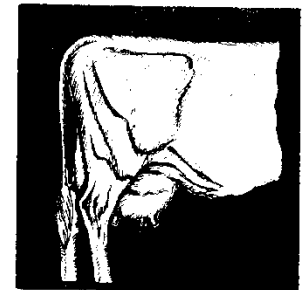
 - SHOULD ATTACH SMOOTHLY INTO ABDOMEN



- ❖ VEINING OF THE UDDER SHOULD BE VISIBLE



GOOD UDDER AND
FORE UDDER
ATTACHMENT



POOR UDDER AND
FORE UDDER
ATTACHMENT

2 - DAIRY CHARACTER 20%

WHAT IS DAIRY CHARACTER?



DOES IT LOOK LIKE A DAIRY COW OR A
BEEF COW?

2- DAIRY CHARACTER

A - RIB & BONE

- RIBS THAT SWEEP BACK TOWARD THE FLANK
- RIBS THAT ARE WIDE APART AND FLAT
- BONE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE FLAT & REFINED



2- DAIRY CHARACTER

B - CLEANLINESS & ANGULARITY



- SHARP
WITHERS,
HIPS & PINS
- CLEAN DOWN
THE NECK
AND THIGH

3 - FRAME

15%

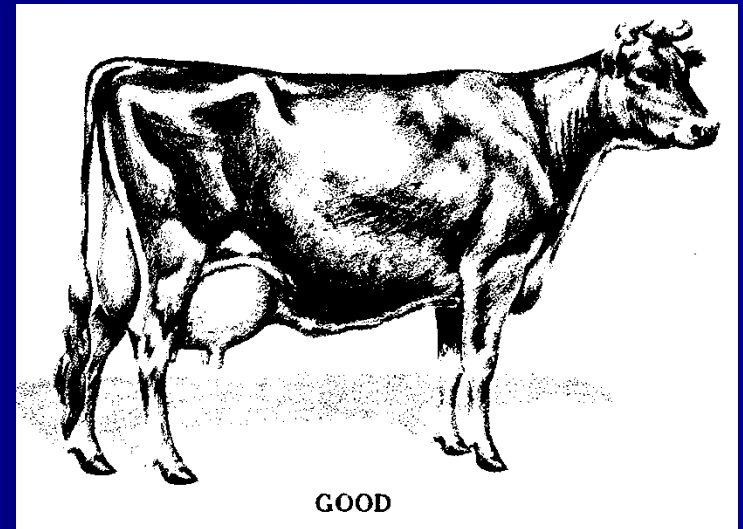
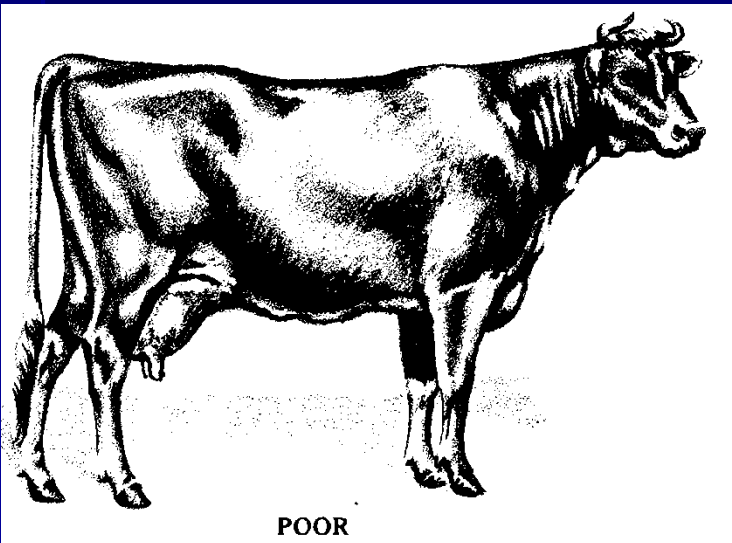
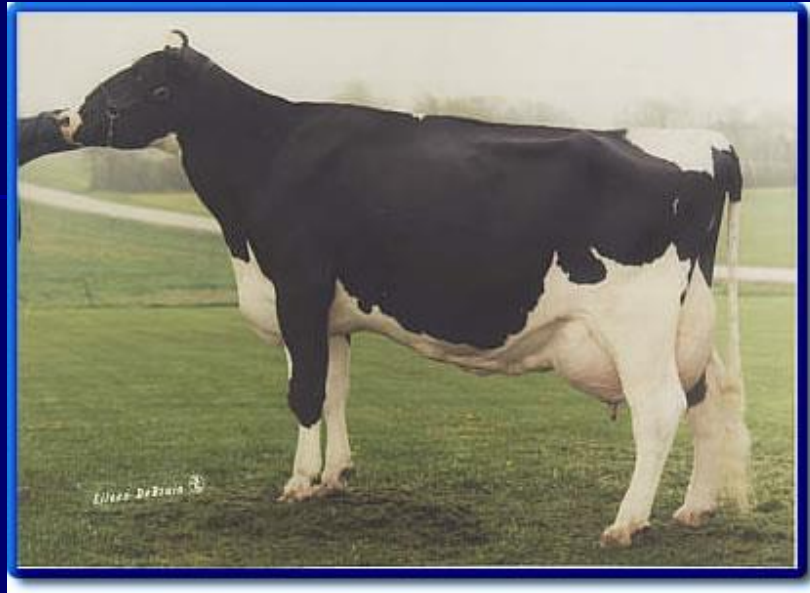
■ COMPONENTS OF FRAME

- RUMP
- STATURE
- FRONT END
- BACK
- HEAD & BREED CHARACTER

A - RUMP, STATURE & BACK

- SLIGHT SLOPE FROM HOOKS TO PINS
- WIDE FROM HOOK TO HOOK AND PIN TO PIN
- STATURE IS HOW TALL THE COW IS AT THE WITHERS.
- THE BACK SHOULD BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT THE WITHERS THAN HIPS AND STRAIGHT ALL THE WAY ACROSS.

A. RUMP, STATURE & BACK



B - FRONT END & STRENGTH



- FRONT END ASSEMBLY IS THE SHOULDER AND CHEST
 - IT SHOULD BE SMOOTH AND TIGHT
- STRENGTH = WIDTH OF CHEST & MUZZLE.

C - HEAD & BREED CHARACTER



LOOK FOR:

- A FEMININE HEAD
- CORRECT BREED COLORS AND SHAPE OF HEAD
- DEEP JAW & WIDE MUZZLE



4 - FEET & LEGS

15%

COMPONENTS OF FEET AND LEGS:

- SHORT TOE
- REAR LEGS – STRAIGHT FROM REAR
- REAR LEGS – MODERATE ANGLE FROM SIDE

LEGS – SIDE VIEW

- VIEW THE REAR LEGS FROM THE SIDE
- THE LEG SHOULD HAVE A MODERATE ANGLE TO THE HOCK
- THE HOCK SHOULD BE CLEAN AND FLEXIBLE

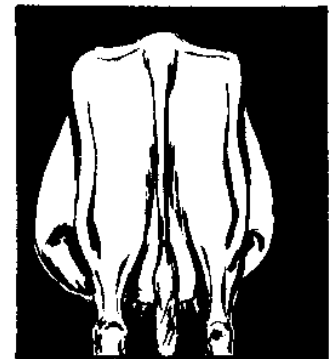


5 - BODY CAPACITY

– 10%

- BODY CAPACITY IS SIMPLY THE VOLUME OF THE COW
 - LENGTH X WIDTH X DEPTH
- LOOK FOR:
 - A LONG BODY
 - A WIDE CHEST
 - A DEEP BARREL

A. LENGTH & DEPTH OF BARREL



GOOD



POOR

LETS PRACTICE!

HERE IS A PRACTICE CLASS OF BROWN SWISS COWS...

- ❖ LOOK AT EACH COW
- ❖ WRITE DOWN SEVERAL THINGS THAT YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE ABOUT THAT COW.
- ❖ PLACE THE CLASS

CLASS # 1

BROWN SWISS COW # 1



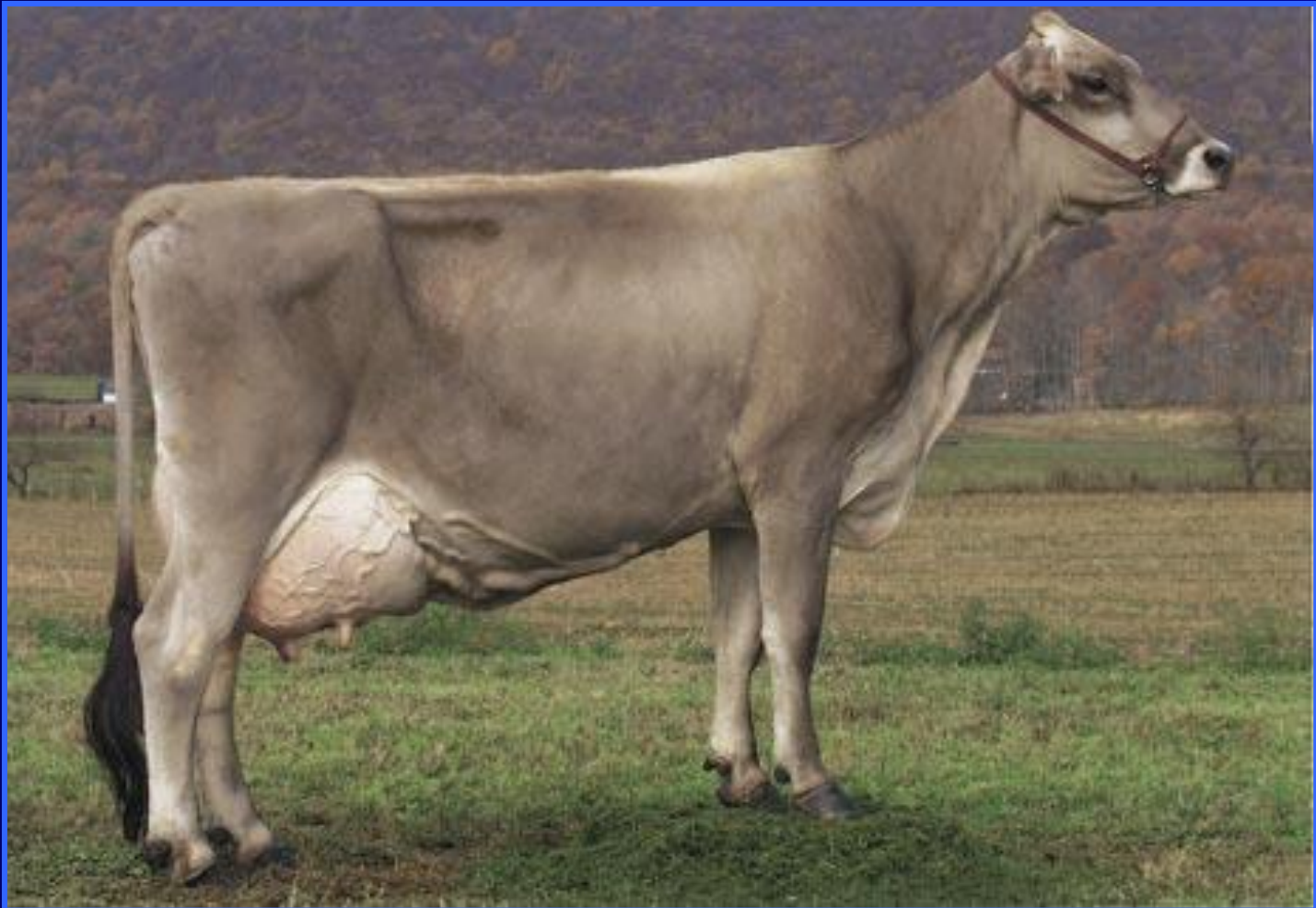
CLASS # 1

BROWN SWISS COW #2



CLASS # 1

BROWN SWISS COW #3



CLASS # 1

BROWN SWISS COW #4



CLASS #1: BROWN SWISS COWS



TIME FOR DECISIONS...

- MAMMARY SYSTEM:

-BEST A

-WORST B

- DAIRY CHARACTER:

-BEST C

-WORST B

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

■ FRAME:

-BEST A

-WORST D

■ FEET & LEGS:

-BEST C

-WORST B

■ BODY CAPACITY:

■ -BEST A

-WORST B

CLASS # 1 : BROWN SWISS COWS OFFICIAL PLACING

1 3 4 2

TO READ WHAT THE JUDGE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THIS CLASS OF COWS GO TO:
HOARD'S DAIRYMAN - THE NATIONAL DAIRY FARM MAGAZINE

CLASS #2
HOLSTEIN DAIRY COWS

CLASS #2



1

CLASS #2



2

CLASS #2



CLASS #2



3

CLASS #2



4

CLASS #2



CLASS #2





OFFICIAL PLACING

1 - 2 - 4 - 3

FFA APPLICATION: DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING



- **JUDGE CLASSES OF DAIRY CATTLE**
- **GIVE ORAL REASONS**





Breeds of Dairy Cattle



Holstein History

- The Holstein cow originated in Europe
- The major historical development of this breed occurred in what is now the Netherlands
- Winthrop Chenery brought the first Holstein over so the sailors could have milk
 - He noticed her high production and started to bring over more



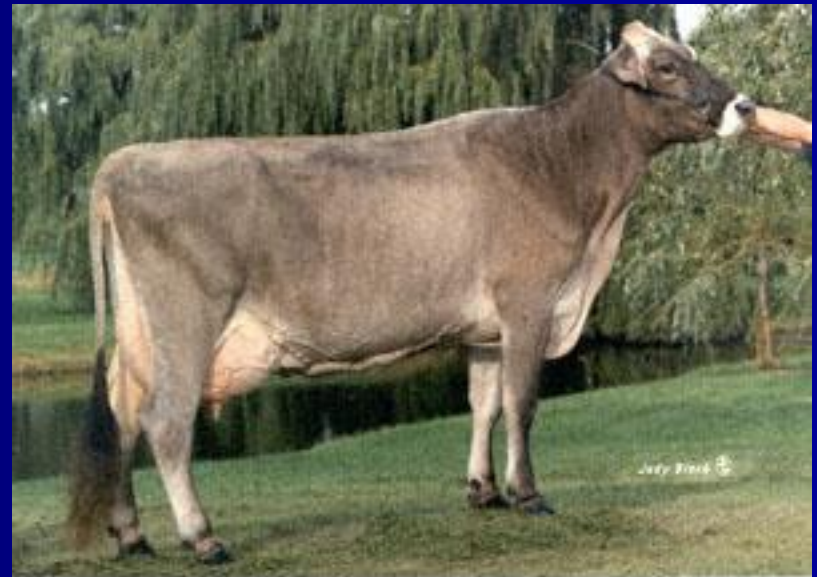
provided by Hoard's Dairyman

Holstein Characteristics

- Holsteins are large, stylish animals with color patterns of black and white or red and white
- Average production for all Holsteins enrolled in official U.S. production-testing programs in 1987 was 17,408 pounds of milk, 632 pounds of butterfat and 550 pounds of protein per year

Brown Swiss History

- Brown Swiss breed originated in the mountain pastures of the Swiss Alps
- The Brown Swiss breed in the United States was declared a dairy breed in 1906

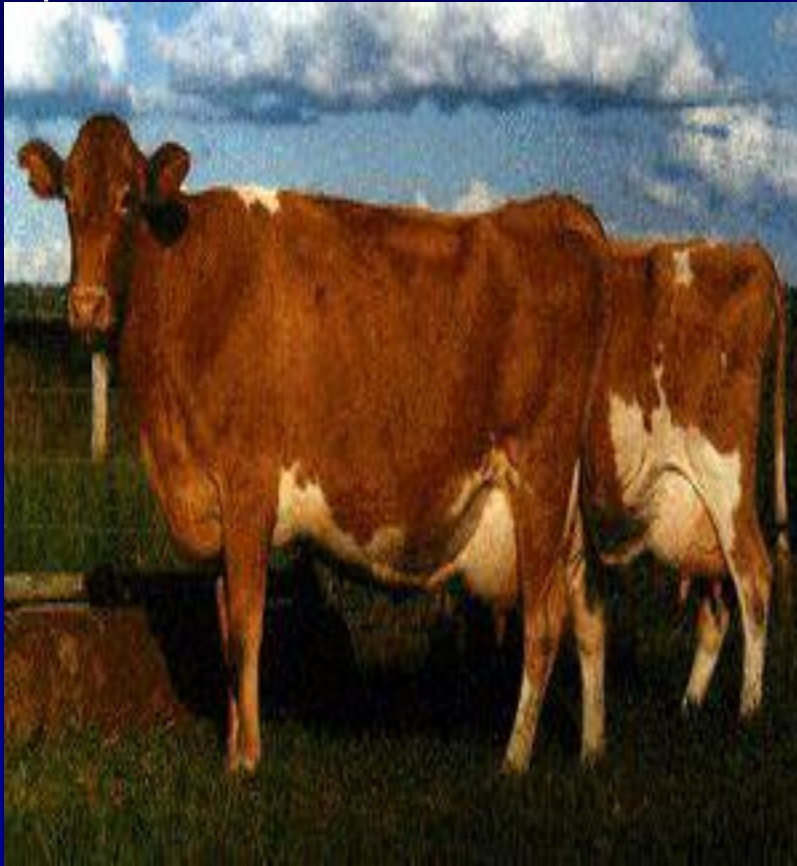


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Brown Swiss Characteristics

- light silver to dark brown with dark points
- 15,883 lbs of milk per lactation;
3.97% fat
- a mature female weighs 1400 lbs
- particularly strong feet and legs
because of the mountains
- docile, people-friendly demeanor

Guernsey History



- The Isle of Guernsey, a tiny island in the English Channel off the coast of France, is the birthplace of the Guernsey cow
- The Monks from France brought Frances best bloodlines and came up with the Guernsey
- Introduction of the Guernsey to America occurred around September 1840, when Captain Belair of the Schooner Pilot brought three Alderney cows to the port of New York

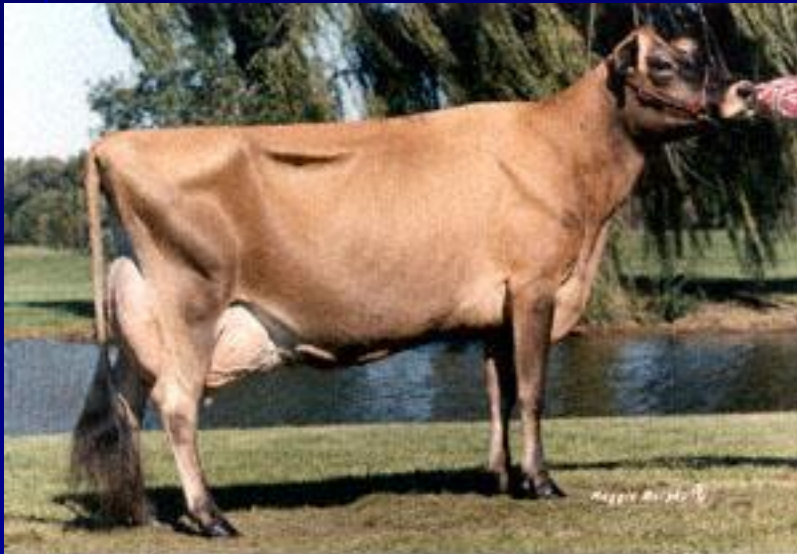
Guernsey's Characteristics

- The Guernsey cow is known for producing high-butterfat and high-protein milk
- Guernseys produce their high quality milk while consuming 20 to 30 percent less feed per pound of milk
- The Guernsey is also an excellent grazer
- Produces 14,667 pounds of milk, 659 pounds of butterfat and 510 pounds of protein



provided by Hoard's Dairyman

Jersey History



provided by Hoard's Dairyman

- The Jersey breed originated on the Island of Jersey, a small British island in the English Channel
- The island of Jersey was very protective of this breed. Because of this the breed stayed distinctive for many years

Jersey Characteristics

- Jerseys are adapted to a wide range of climatic and geographical conditions
- Jerseys vary greatly in color, but the characteristic color is golden fawn, with or without white markings
- smallest of the dairy breeds
- long life (61.1 months vs 56.2 months)
- its nutritive content is 28.46% greater than ordinary milk



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Provided by The American Jersey Cattle Association

Ayrshire History

- The Ayrshire breed originated in the County of Ayr in Scotland, prior to 1800
- Prior to 1800 many of the cattle of Ayrshire were black, although by 1775 browns and mottled colors started to appear.
- early breeders carefully crossed and selected the various strains of cattle



provided by Hoard's Dairyman

Ayrshire Characteristics

- red and white
- medium-sized cattle and should weigh over 1200 pounds at maturity
- strong, rugged cattle that adapt to all management systems including group handling on dairy farms with free stalls and milking parlors
- 12,000 pounds of milk with a 3.9% Butterfat
- Calves are strong and easy to raise

Shorthorn History



provided by the American Shorthorn Association

- Shorthorn originated Tees River Valley in the northeastern part of England
- The Colling brothers, Charles and Robert, are often referred to as the founders of the Shorthorn breed of cattle
- first systematic breeding program
- They were brought to America in 1783

Shorthorn Characteristics

- color ranges from red to roan to white
- In the feedlot, these cattle attain 1,000 to 1,200 pound weights at an early age
- ease of calving
- docile
- healthy calves

