

**3rd calver maximum final score 93 points**

- Body conformation 97 points
- Beef character 97 points
- Legs and feet 97 points
- Mammary 97 points

**3rd calver excellent 90 or more**

- Body conformation 85 points or more
- Beef character 85 points or more
- Legs and feet 85 points or more
- Mammary 85 points or more

**4th calver excellent final score maximum 95 points**

**4th calver excellent 90 or more**

- Body conformation 85 points or more
- Beef character 85 points or more
- Legs and feet 85 points or more
- Mammary 85 points or more

**5th calver and above final score maximum 97 points**

**5th calver excellent 90 or more**

- Body conformation 85 points or more
- Beef character 85 points or more
- Legs and feet 85 points or more
- Mammary 85 points or more

**MALES**

18 - 24 months maximum 89 points (VG)  
24 months and above maximum 97 points (EX)



# LONGHORN CATTLE SOCIETY

## TYPE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the Longhorn Cattle Society Type Classification Scheme

Type classification has been standard practice in the dairy industry for many years and is seen as a clear, understandable method of grading cattle using independent assessors. By having your cattle graded you gain a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses and you can then select and breed accordingly to improve not only your cattle but in turn the national population of Longhorns. The classifiers are all employed by NBDC and have been trained to assess beef cattle. The scheme has been adopted by a number of breeds including the Beef Shorthorn Society, to whom the Longhorn Cattle Society are very grateful as we used their scheme as a template for our own.

Cattle are assessed for conformation and they are awarded an overall grade (eg VG, EX) and a numerical score. They are also measured for 14 individual type traits. Classification has two main benefits

- 1 Highly graded animals can have a considerably higher value than their non-classified counterparts
- 2 Specific strengths and weaknesses are highlighted, allowing improved corrective breeding decisions to be made and the general standard of conformation to be improved across the herd.

The Society would encourage members to have all their female cattle (1st calved heifers and older) classified at the first visit. In subsequent years just 1st calvers coming into the herd need to be classified, plus any older cows that you feel should be reinspected. First calved heifers are scored more severely than older cattle as once an animal has been classified she cannot be downgraded on any subsequent re-inspection. This gives the classifier ‘wriggle room’ for future assessment scores as the cow matures

Procedure for classification

- Members must notify the Society that they wish to classify. Information on the member’s herd will be passed on to NBDC in order that they can produce the type classification report at the end of the visit.
- Animals should preferably be inspected on a hard surface and presented to the classifier individually, but it is recognised that beef sucklers in-milk are predominantly at grass so a ‘walk round’ inspection can also be conducted.
- Bulls should be a minimum of 18 months old before being classified and can be re-classified. Bulls between 18 and 24 months are scored more severely than older bulls and once a bull has been classified he cannot be downgraded on any subsequent re-inspection.
- Females should be in milk to be classified
- All first calved heifers must be presented for classification. Older animals can be presented at the discretion of the owner, however the Society recommends that in the first instance all eligible females are classified.
- Animals can be re-presented for classification at subsequent visits. Scores cannot be altered downwards, only upwards
- The age of the cow and the number of calves she has had will be taken into consideration by the classifier
- The final score will be appended to the animal’s pedigree and composite and linear scores will be available online.

From 1st March 2024 the cost of classification is as follows:  
Flat rate fee of £137.98 for visits of 1-15 animals  
£9.21 per animal for 16-100 animals  
Bulls in conjunction with female classifications, £21.00 per bull  
Special bull visit - £137.98  
A cancellation fee of £137.98 applied for any scheduled visit cancelled with less than 3 days’ notice.  
All prices plus VAT.

LONGHORN CATTLE SOCIETY SCORING RULES

Females		
Stature	Linear	Height in cm
	9	148
	7	142
	5	136
	3	130
	1	124

Bulls		
Stature (mature)	Linear	Height in cm
	9	153
	7	147
	5	141
	3	135
	1	129

Final score calculation	females	males
• Body conformation	25%	27%
• Beef character	25%	30%
• Legs and feet	30%	33%
• Mammary/testicles	20%	10%

Final score	
100 - 90	Excellent (EX)
89 - 85	Very Good (VG)
84 - 80	Good Plus (GP)
79 - 75	Good (G)
74 - 70	Fair (F)
<70	Poor (P)

FEMALES

Heifers - maximum of 89 points

- No restrictions on composite boxes
- Can be scored by one classifier

Heifers scoring 85 points or above

- No restrictions on composite boxes

2nd calver maximum final score VG89

3rd calver maximum final score 93 points

- Body conformation 97 points
- Beef character 97 points
- Legs and feet 97 points
- Mammary 97 points

## **RECORDING OF ADDITIONAL HEIFER TRAITS**

### *TEMPERAMENT*

- 1 Vicious
- 2 Very nervous
- 3 Nervous
- 4 Slightly nervous
- 5 Average
- 6 Slightly above average
- 7 Quiet
- 8 Very quiet
- 9 Placid

The following defects/undesirable traits are recorded where appropriate and stored on the database. These will not be seen on the online database

### **Body miscellaneous**

- 1 Wry face
- 2 Low loin
- 3 Inset tailhead
- 4 Advanced anus
- 5 High tailhead
- 6 Weak back
- 7 Wry tail
- 8 Weak/undershot jaw
- 9 Weak in crops
- 10 Narrow muzzle

### **Welfare traits**

- 1 Mobility
- 2 Lameness
- 3 Dermatitis

### **Leg/feet miscellaneous traits**

- 1 Uneven toes
- 2 Open toes
- 3 Front toe out
- 4 Cramping

### **Mammary miscellaneous**

- 1 Bulgy fore-udder
- 2 Unbalanced
- 3 Webbed teat
- 4 Blind teat
- 5 Funnelled teat
- 6 Pencil teat

The four functional trait composite areas are as follows:

### **BODY CONFORMATION**

Body Conformation takes account of, independently, the entire skeletal structure of the animal to identify a 'balanced' animal rather than the extremes (the Body Conformation composite includes the Rump structure)

### **BEEF CHARACTER**

Beef Character takes account of length of the animal and hindquarter development as well as strength and constitution of front rib.

### **LEGS AND FEET**

Takes into account the shape and quality of the feet and legs, resulting in good locomotion. The classification will take into consideration environment and management factors.

### **MAMMARY (Cows)**

Takes into account the strength and quality of the fore and rear attachment, strength of central ligament and udder texture. Also the quantity of udder in relation to the size of the animal, stage of lactation, time of inspection and the teat quality, size and position.

### **TESTICLES (Bulls)**

Both testicles should be fully descended into the scrotum and of even size.

### **FINAL SCORE**

The final score will be suggested automatically from a calculation of the four box breakdown. The classifier will take into consideration the age and stage of lactation when assigning the final score.

## LINEAR INSPECTION

### Heifer inspections

The full range of points must be used.

### Inspections at 2nd and later lactations

For traits not physically measured the linear code assigned must be relative to a mature female.

All females receive a linear assessment recorded on a 1 - 9 code scale:

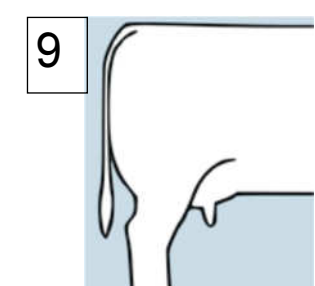
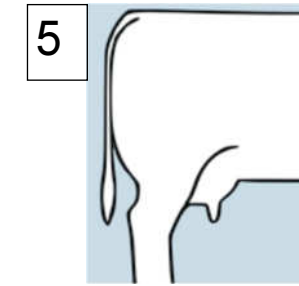
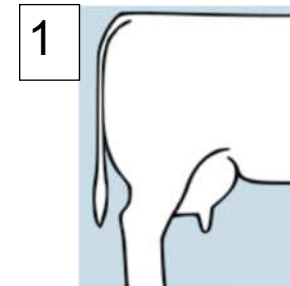
**Linear traits - see diagrammatical description on following pages**

1	<b>Stature</b>	Measured at rump
2	<b>Chest width</b>	Width of chest between the top of the front legs
3	<b>Body depth</b>	Depth to rear rib
4	<b>Length from withers to pelvis</b>	Length from top of withers to pelvis
5	<b>Rump Width</b>	Pin width
6	<b>Rump Angle</b>	Hip to pins
7	<b>Rear Legs Set</b>	Angle - side view
8	<b>Foot Angle</b>	Diagonal of foot angle - rear hoof
9	<b>Rear Legs, rear view</b>	Viewed from behind
10	<b>Development of hindquarters</b>	The level of roundness and fill of the rear end when viewed from the side
11	<b>Locomotion</b>	Movement of the animal
12	<b>Udder Attachment</b>	Strength of attachment
13	<b>Udder Depth</b>	The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock
14	<b>Teat Length</b>	Length of the teats

### 12. Udder Attachment

Strength of attachment

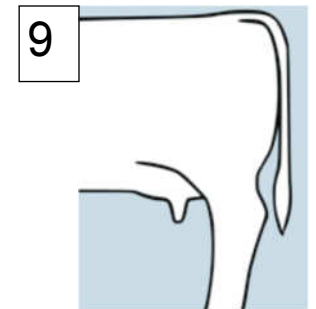
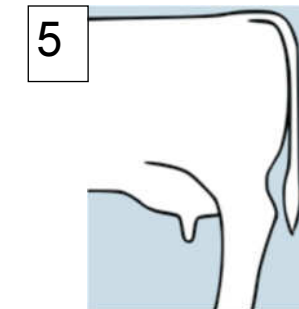
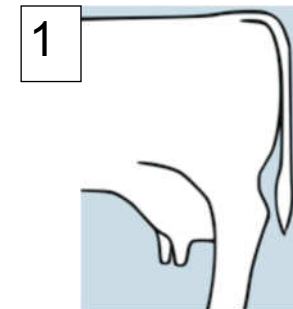
- 1 - 3 Weak and loose  
4 - 6 Intermediate acceptable  
7 - 9 Extremely strong and tight



### 13 Udder Depth

The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock

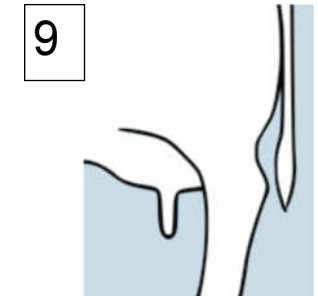
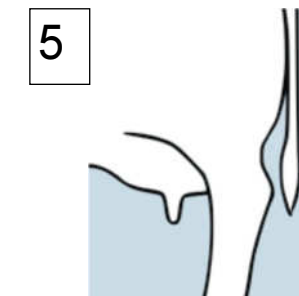
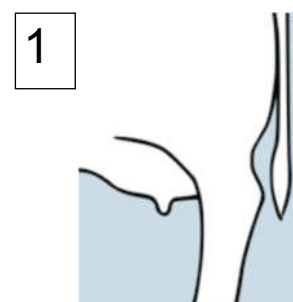
- 1 - 3 Below hock  
4 - 6 Intermediate  
7 - 9 Shallow



### 14 Teat Length

Length of the teats

- 1 - 3 Short  
4 - 6 Intermediate  
7 - 9 Long

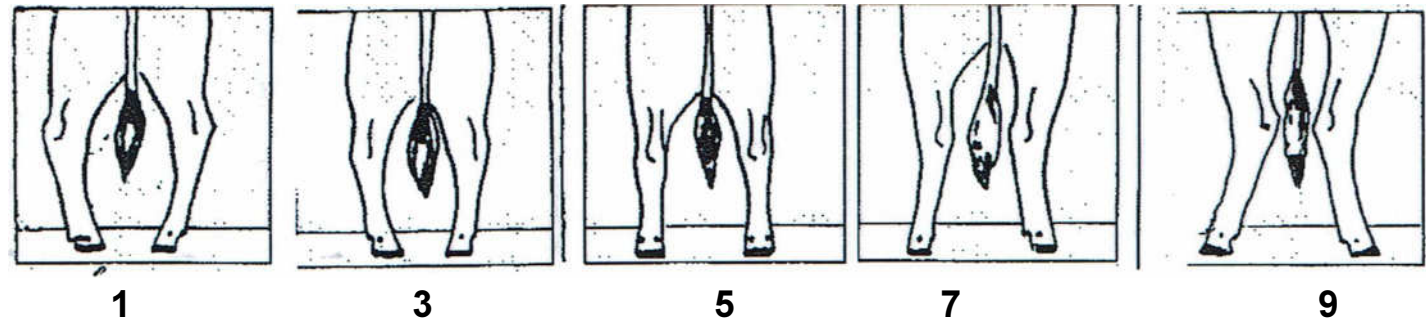




9. Rear Legs, rear view

Viewed from behind

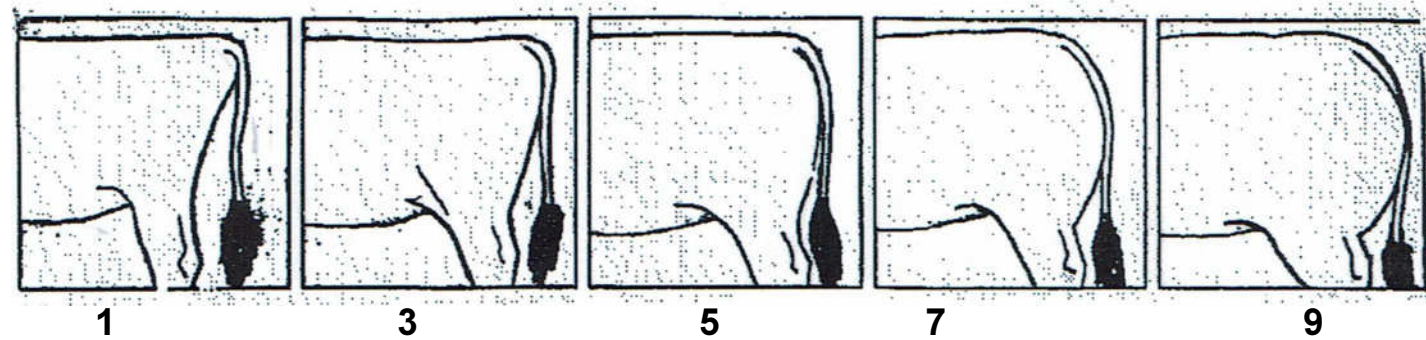
- 1 - 3 Hocks out, toes in
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Hocks in, toes out



10 Development of hindquarters

The level of roundness and fill of the rear end when viewed from the side

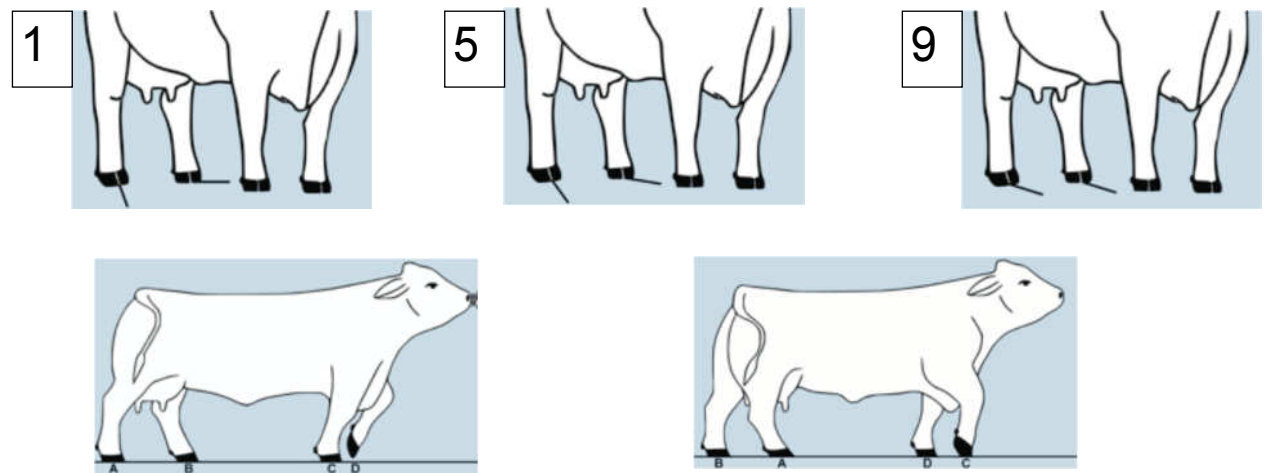
- 1 - 3 Narrow
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Wide



11. Locomotion

Movement of the animal

- 1 - 3 Severe abduction and/or short stride
- 4 - 6 Slight abduction and medium stride
- 7 - 9 No abduction and long stride



**HEIFER SCORING**  
**DIAGRAMMATICAL DESCRIPTIONS**

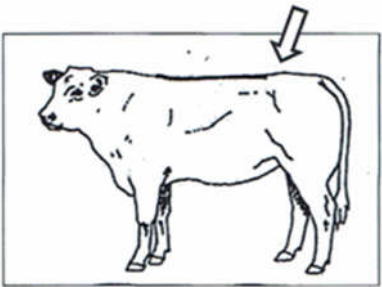
**STANDARD TRAIT DEFINITION**

The precise description of each trait is well defined and it is essential that the full range of linear scores to identify the intermediate and extremes of each trait be used. The assessment parameters for the calculations should be based on the expected biological extremes of two year old heifers. The scale must cover the biological extremes of the population of Longhorns in the UK

1. Stature

Measured at rump

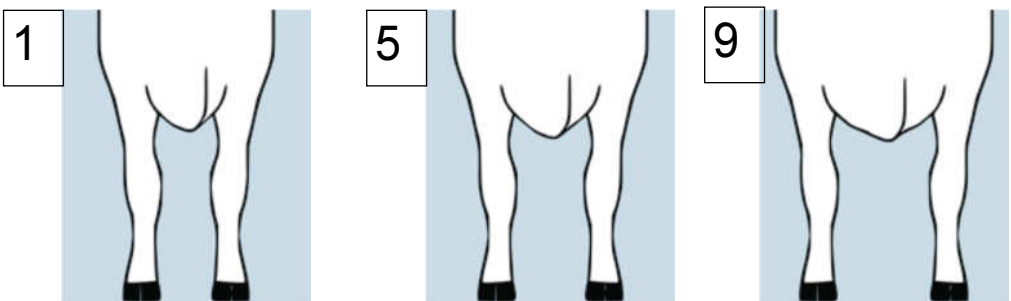
- 1 Short (124cm)
- 5 Intermediate (136cm)
- 9 Tall (148cm)



2. Chest width

Width of chest between the top of the front legs

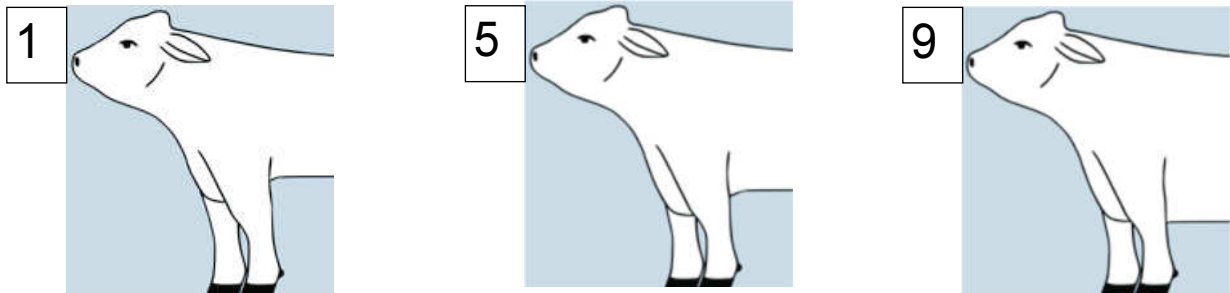
- 1 - 3 Narrow
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Wide



3. Body Depth

- 1 - 3 Shallow
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Deep

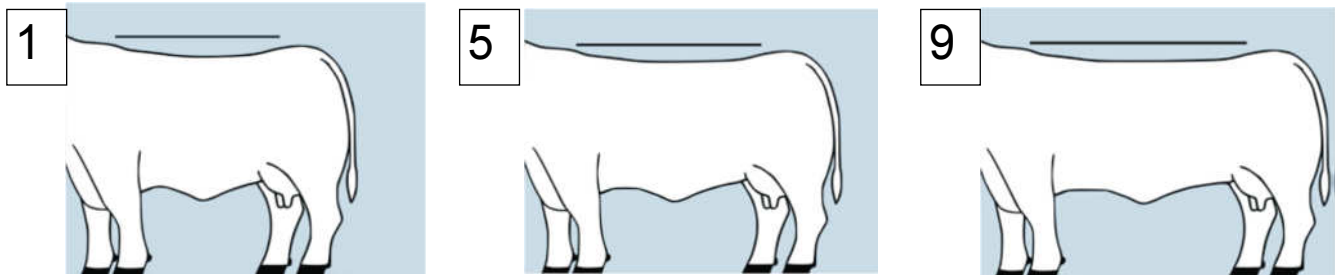
Depth to rear rib



4. Length from Withers to Pelvis

- 1 - 3 Short
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Long

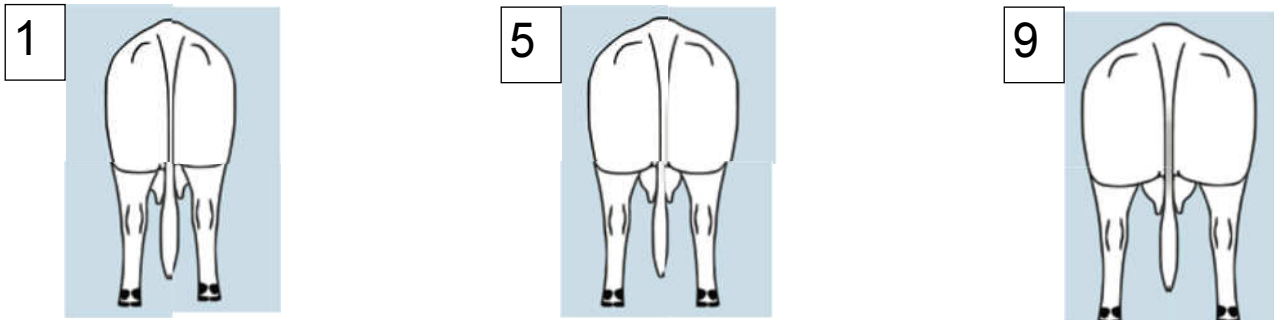
Length from top of withers to pelvis



5. Rump width

- 1 - 3 Narrow
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Wide

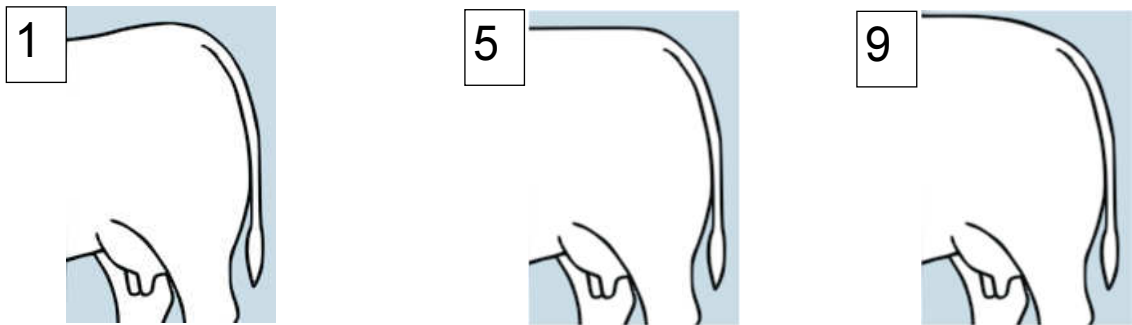
Pin width



6. Rump Angle

Hip to pins

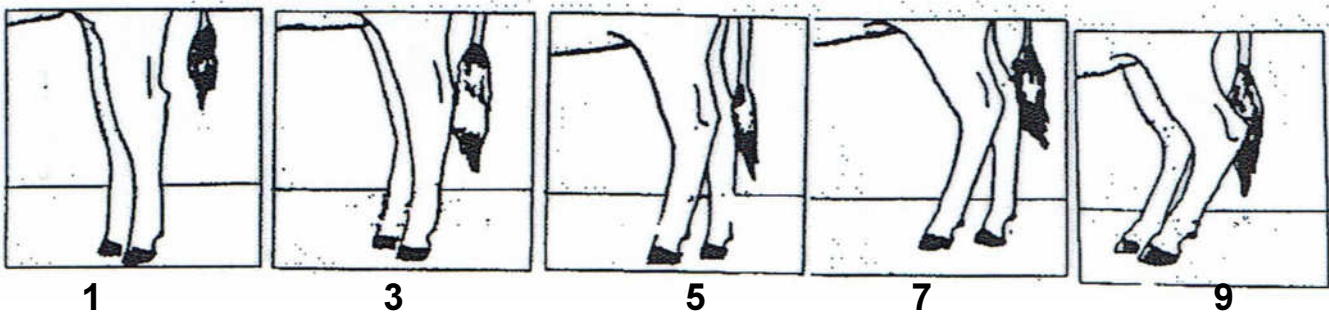
- 1 - 3 High pins
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 Extreme slope



7. Rear Legs Set

Angle - side view

- 1 - 3 Straight
- 4 - 6 Intermediate
- 7 - 9 sickle



8. Foot Angle

Diagonal of foot angle - rear hoof

- 1 - 3 Very low angle
- 4 - 6 Intermediate angle
- 7 - 9 Very steep

