



# THE JUDGING JOURNEY





## WHY DO STOCK JUDGING?

Whether you are a commercial dairy farmer, a young breeder or a Master Judge, at some point, you will have to compare animals against each other.

## WHAT IS STOCK JUDGING?

Judging livestock requires the ability to compare and place livestock and explain your reasoning to a judge.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The ability to see clearly, make sound observations, and make rational decisions can all contribute to better returns for your calves and cows.

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The skill of stock judging entails both comparing and placing livestock, as well as explaining your reasoning to the judge. The terminology, as well as the key points to look for in each group of stock, varies.



## FIRST WORDS FIRST

When judging a class, you should always greet the audience and express your appreciation for the animals in front of you. For your first class of the day, you may also consider thanking the organisers or committee for inviting you to judge.

## GETTING STARTED

-1-

“Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. First of all, I would like to thank \*name/show\* for inviting me to judge here today. It is a huge privilege to stand in front of this fantastic class of heifers”

-2-

“This class has so much strength, dairyness and capacity, it really has been a challenge to split them!”

-3-

“This stylish heifer in first place is \*number\* She has the advantage for \*reasons\*....

## POSITIVITY IS KEY



## PLACING YOUR LINE-UP

Always judge your class from 1st to 6th place  
Your first place should have three to four reasons

Your second to sixth place should have one to two reasons

# USEFUL PHRASES

## FRAME: FRONT END & SHOULDERS

! COMPARE RATHER  
• THAN DESCRIBE



- Width through her muzzle
- Shows more cleanliness in her head, neck & shoulders
- More width & strength in her chest
- Blends more smoothly from neck to shoulders & shoulders to barrel
- Wider through the chest floor
- Stronger and more powerful
- A cow with more strength and power

## FRAME: TOP LINE, STATURE & RUMP

- She's tall, wide & great depth of rib, showing her overall body capacity
- More dairyness throughout
- Deeper through her heart
- More openness in the rib
- More spring to rib
- Deeper in the body
- Fuller behind the shoulder
- Cleaner down the top line
- More smoothness through the rump



- Wider through the rump
- Longer and level from hips to pins
- Wider through the pins
- Tail head that sits neatly between the pins
- More correctly set tail head

## UDDER



- A strong front udder attachment
- Lovely veination throughout her udder
- Strong centre ligament
- A more youthful udder
- High & wide in the rear udder attachment
- More height, width & fullness in the rear udder
- Balance throughout her udder
- Teats are placed in correct position under each quarter & an even length

## FEET & LEGS



- Tracking on a great set of feet & legs
- Walks more correctly on her front feet
- Cleaner through the hock
- More strength & substance of leg bone

## USEFUL WORDS

Angular  
Wider  
Deeper  
Longer  
Capacious  
Stronger  
Superior  
Dairyer  
Flatter boned  
Balanced

## ! REMEMBER TO NEVER CRITICISE THE COW IN LAST PLACE

### A REMINDER...

Every single judge you see in the show ring started where you are now. Practice makes perfect and the more you practice, the easier it will get. **Don't forget to smile and have fun!**

### SIXTH PLACE

There will always be a cow in last place but it's very important not to point out any flaws or criticise this animal

"I take nothing away from my cow in 6th position and that with a bit more time she might well be standing at the top"

"Taking nothing away from the cow in last position, a cow which has done her breed proud today"

"The cow in 6th place today is a strong dairy cow and just lacks that overall balance than the cows ahead of her"



As the next generation of Holstein UK, Holstein Young Breeders provides a wide range of activities for young dairy farmers as a means of promoting, learning and providing new and exciting experiences to develop your future careers and on-farm management skills.

You do not have to be a farmer to be in HYB! We welcome everyone aged 26 or under with an interest in dairy farming.

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