



# THE JUDGING JOURNEY





## WHY DO STOCK JUDGING?

Whether you are an avid dairy farmer, a young breeder or a master judge, at some point, you will need to compare animals against each other.

## WHAT IS STOCK JUDGING?

Stock judging is the skill of comparing, assessing and placing livestock and explaining your reasoning to a judge.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

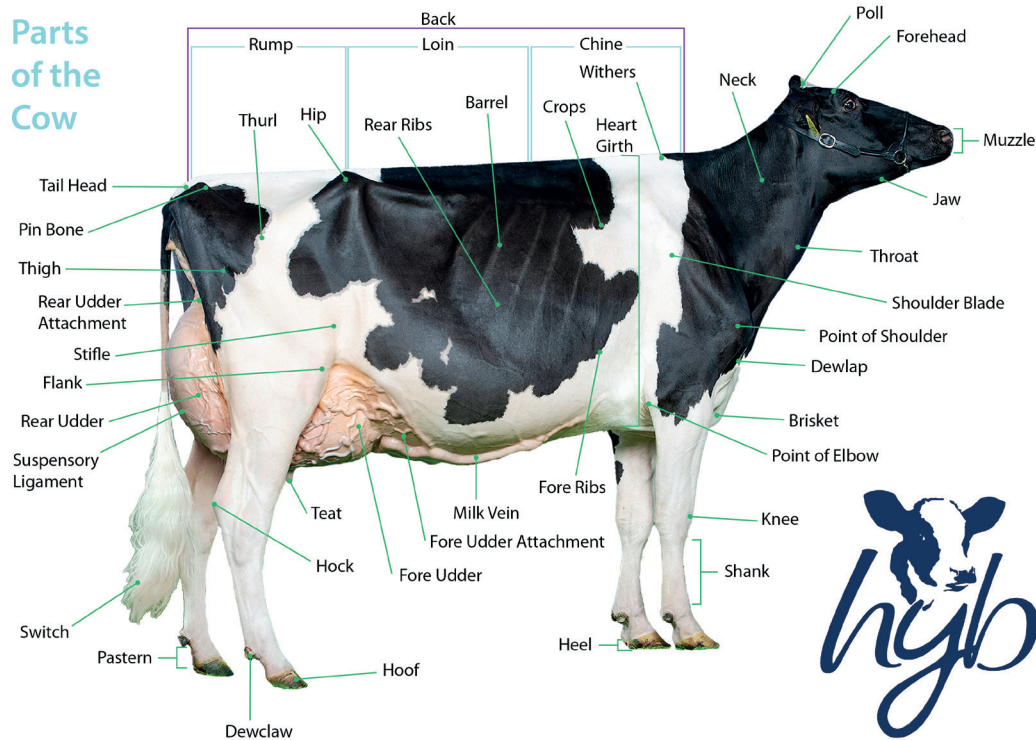
Judging dairy cows, whether in a competition or for farm management purposes, can offer several benefits for both farmers and the dairy industry. Stock judging helps to identify cows with superior confirmation to assist in breeding long lasting, healthy cows that will also produce plenty of milk.

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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.



## Parts of the Cow



## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

### BE PREPARED

At national, and some club-level, competitions, ensure you are wearing your white shirt, white trousers, HYB tie and sturdy boots. Make sure you have a pen or pencil and you may also like to use a clipboard.

### INITIAL STEPS

There are many factors to consider when stock judging. Start by standing back and watching the animals parade (walk), to observe the whole class. When on parade, pay attention to their legs and feet to begin with. Observe each animal from the head to the rear. You may find it easier to look for any faults first.

### IMPORTANT POINTS

Establish how long you have to judge the class and to give your reasons to avoid any time penalties. When giving your reasons, you should always greet the audience and express your appreciation for the animals in front of you.



## STOCK JUDGING CARDS

At national and club competitions, you will be given a judging card to complete; you will keep one half of this as a prompt when giving your reasons, and the other half will be handed to the steward. Make sure you add your details correctly and ensure you put the same order on both halves.

## 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 become. Most importantly, don't forget to smile and enjoy yourself!

### 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.

Learn more: [www.hyb.org.uk](http://www.hyb.org.uk)