

Ayrshire Type Classification Guide

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. It is important to ensure you view the animal from all angles, considering the suggested reference points, to gain a rounded view of the animal's traits.



Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Body Conformation Traits				
Stature	Measured from the top of the spine in between the hips to the ground. Please note that the following measurements are for the Ayrshire Breed.	1 Short (124cm) 5 Intermediate (136cm) 9 Tall (148cm)	124cm - 148cm 3cm per point.	
Body Depth	Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib - the deepest point, independent of stature.	1 - 3 Shallow 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Deep	Optical in relation to the balance of the animal. Always look on the same side, because all cows are deeper on one side than the other.	
Rump Angle	Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks (hips) to pins.	1 High Pins (+4cm) 5 Intermediate (-4cm) 9 Extreme Slope (-12cm)	(+) 4cm - (-) 12cm (-) 2cm per point from Score 1.	
Rump Width	Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones.	1 - 3 Narrow 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Wide	10cm - 26cm 2cm per point.	
Dairy Strength Traits				
Chest Width	Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.	1 - 3 Narrow 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Wide	13cm - 29cm 2cm per point.	
Angularity / Dairyiness	The spring of the ribs or the degree of openness between the ribs.	1 No spring and close ribbed 9 Well sprung and open ribbed	When ribs are tight there is no opening. When the ribs spring apart or expand open, the space between ribs becomes wider.	

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Feet & Leg Traits				
Rear Leg Set	Angle measured at the front of the hock.	1 - 3 Straight (160 degrees) 4 - 6 Intermediate (147 degrees) 7 - 9 Sickle (134 degrees)	In case of a significant difference the worst/extreme side must be scored.	
Rear Leg Rear View	As measured from the rear.	1 Severely outward pointing toe with hocks touching 5 Slight toe out with hocks slightly further apart 9 Feet point forward with hocks straight from the rear		
Foot Angle	Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the floor to the hairline at the right hoof.	1 - 3 Very low angle 4 - 6 Intermediate angle 7 - 9 Very Steep	1 = 15 degrees 5 = 45 degrees 9 = 65 degrees If the Foot Angle is difficult to score because of hoof trimming, flooring etc. it is possible to look at the angle of hairline. In case of a significant difference the worst/extreme side must be scored.	
Locomotion (Not a true Linear Trait)	When walking, the use of legs, feet, length and direction of the step.	1 - 3 Severe Abduction and/or Short Stride 4 - 6 Slight Abduction and Medium Stride 7 - 9 No Abduction and Long Stride	Abduction is the lateral deviation in respect to the straight line. The score of 9 means that the rear leg is put straight forward with force to the step of the foreleg, and (extreme) lame cows getting score 1 because they have short strides.	

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Mammary Traits				
Fore Udder Attachment (Not a true Linear Trait)	The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall.	1 - 3 Weak and loose 4 - 6 Intermediate acceptable 7 - 9 Extremely strong and tight	In cases of significant difference in the quality of udder attachment of either side the worse side must be scored. (Only if the udder is healthy).	
Rear Udder Height	The distance between the bottom of the vulva (pin bone) and the milk secreting tissue: in relation to height of the animal.	1 - 3 Very low 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 High	Measured on a scale between the bottom of the vulva and the hock; the midpoint represents a score 4 (29 cm); 2 cm per point.	
Rear Udder Width	The width of the milk secreting tissue as measured from the rear.	1 Very Narrow Rear Udder 5 Intermediate Rear Udder 9 Wide Rear Udder		
Udder Depth	The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.	1 Below hock 2 Level with hock 5 Intermediate 9 Shallow (22cms above hocks)	Score 2 = (0 cm); 3cm per point.	
Udder Support / Central Ligament	The depth of cleft, measured at the base of the rear udder.	1 Convex to flat floor (+1 cm) 2 (+0.5 cm) 3 (+0 cm) 4 Slight definition (-1 cm) 5 (-2 cm) 6 (-3 cm) 7 Deep definition (-4 cm) 8 (-5 cm) 9 (-6 cm)		
Udder Texture	The texture of the udder.	1 Thick heavy meaty texture 5 Intermediate 9 Silky texture with vein definition		

Trait	Reference Point	Score Breakdown	Reference Scale	Visual Aid
Teat Traits				
Front Teat Placement (Rear View)	The position of the front teat from the centre of the quarter as viewed from the rear.	1 - 3 Outside of quarter 4 - 6 Middle of quarter 7 - 9 Inside of quarter		
Rear Teat Placement (Rear View)	The position of the Rear Teat from the centre of the quarter as viewed from the rear.	1 - 3 Outside of quarter 4 - 7 Middle of quarter 8 Touching 9 Crossing	4 represents midpoint of the quarter.	
Teat Placement (Side View)	The distance between the front and rear teats.	1 - 3 Close 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Far Apart		
Teat Length	The length of the front or rear teat.	1 - 3 Short 4 - 6 Intermediate 7 - 9 Long	1-9 cm; 1 cm per point for front teats and 0.75 cm for rear teats.	