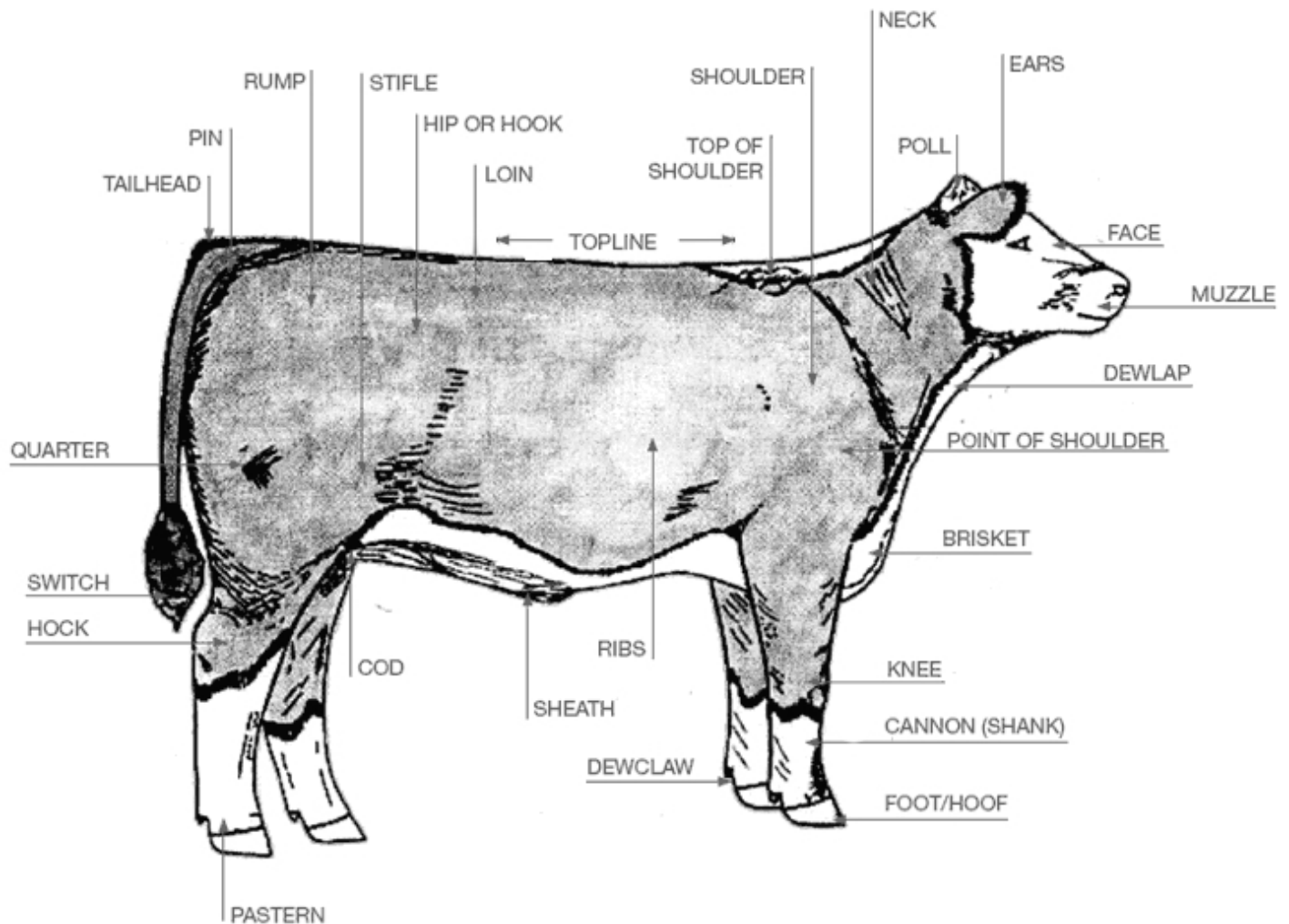




**The Canadian Junior Hereford Association  
Presents:**

# **BEEF JUDGING**



**choose the best!**

## INTRODUCTION

Learning how to judge takes a lot of practice. The more you practice, the better you will get at it. Always remember that people will have a different opinion than yourself, so it is very important to keep an open mind. When judging an animal try to have valid reasons for the way you placed the class, and use this guide to increase your judging vocabulary. Listening to the reasons given by more experienced judges at shows will also improve your terminology. Livestock is produced for two major reasons. They are raised either for breeding purposes or for market animals. There are distinct differences in these two purposes, and judges should be aware of them.

### BREEDING ANIMALS

Breeding animals are maintained in a herd for reproduction. Breeding requires long, reasonably sized animals with good conformation, standing on correct feet and legs. Conformation involves skeletal structure size and scale.

In order for cows and bulls to cover many miles while grazing, carry a fetus, or go through the stress of breeding and weather conditions for several years, a good skeletal structure is essential. With an unsound skeletal structure, stresses on certain muscles and tendons can cause breakdown of the muscles, joints, or tendons. Broken down pasterns, arthritic joints, weak backs and leg problems may result. Skeletal structure involves the actual make-up of bones in the body. Since breeding animals should remain in the herd for a period of years, good skeletal structure is very important.

Breeding animals also require length, height and width. Breeders always want to improve the herd, so shorter, narrower animals are undesirable. Size is often a matter of personal preference, but breeding animals that are either too big or too small can cause problems within a herd. A moderate frame size is the most desirable.

Muscling is evident by rippling movement under the skin when the animal moves and a general roundness to the overall shape. Breeding animals should show good evidence of muscling through the shoulder, loin and rear quarters. If this muscling is not readily visible, the animal is probably carrying too much finish. Overly finished females will have problems conceiving and giving birth. In addition, over fat sires are less desirable in an active breeding herd. Animals that are too skinny are will also have problems with reproduction.

### MARKET ANIMALS

As in breeding animals, skeletal structure is important in market animals. Market animals must be physically able

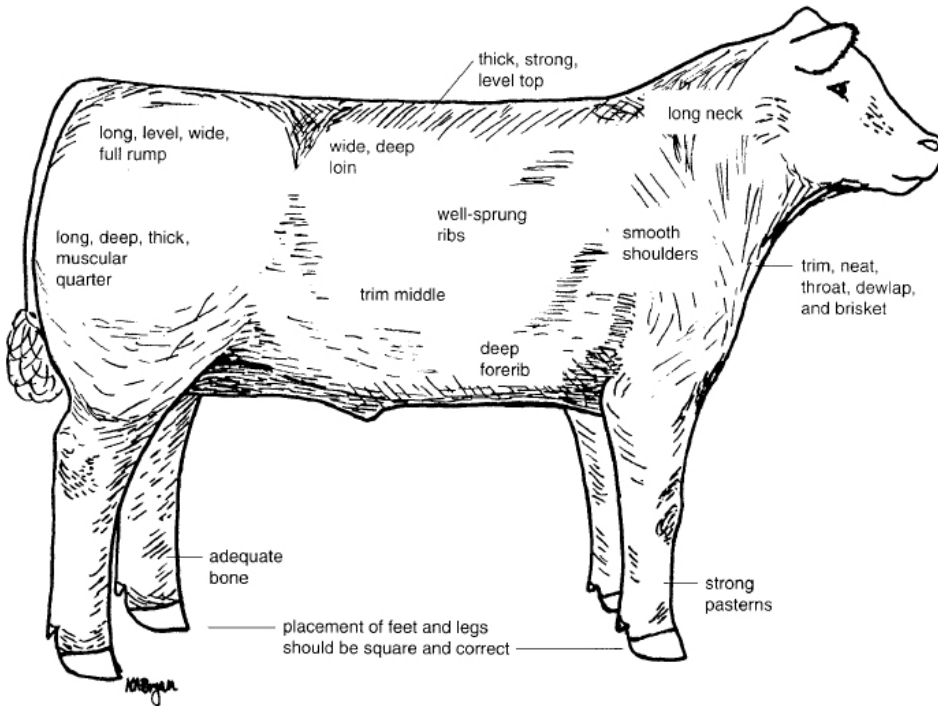
to compete in the feedlot until they are ready for market. The same problems can result in market animals as in breeding animals, if skeletal structure is unsound.

Muscling is a very important characteristic in a market animal for it is this muscle that provides us with meat. Market animals should be wide over the loin and wide through the rump. These areas are the prime retail cuts and therefore the most valuable.

Market animals also require a certain amount of fat to flavor the meat and to minimize carcass shrinkage. As well, this fat lengthens shelf life in the retail market. However, excess fat greatly reduces the cutability (% yield) of a carcass. Excess fat or overfinish can be seen in an animal that has a heavy brisket, full twist or cod, and the areas on either side of the tailhead will appear puffy. An excessively smooth animal will be overfat, as fat fills in all ridges and bulges. Fat is smooth and soft, muscle is bulgy and hard.

The best way to tell if an animal is overfat is by touch. Firmly run your hands over the ribs, and along the loin. The loin should be easily defined, with a small layer of fat over the top. If it is hard to feel the loin the animal is overfat. You should be able to feel each rib, but they should not be sharp. If the ribs feel overly sharp, the animal is underfinished. If you cannot tell where one rib ends and the next begins, the animal is too fat. Don't poke the animal with your fingertips, but use a firm, flat-handed motion so you don't spook or tickle the animal.

# QUALITIES TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE JUDGING



## THE IDEAL MARKET STEER

### From the front:

Stands wide and shows trimness in the brisket and neck.

### From the rear:

The top is rounded with the widest point through the stifle. The legs stand wide apart and the quarter shows evidence of muscle development.

### From the side:

The brisket and neck are trim, the topline is long and straight, and the legs show the correct set. The flank and middle are trim but not shallow. Assess the size and scale of the animal. Remember to look at the cannon bone for an indication of size of bone and skeleton.

## THE IDEAL BREEDING ANIMAL

### Feet and Legs:

Legs have correct set, square and placed wide apart. No swellings, cracks, or lesions in the legs or hooves.

### General Appearance:

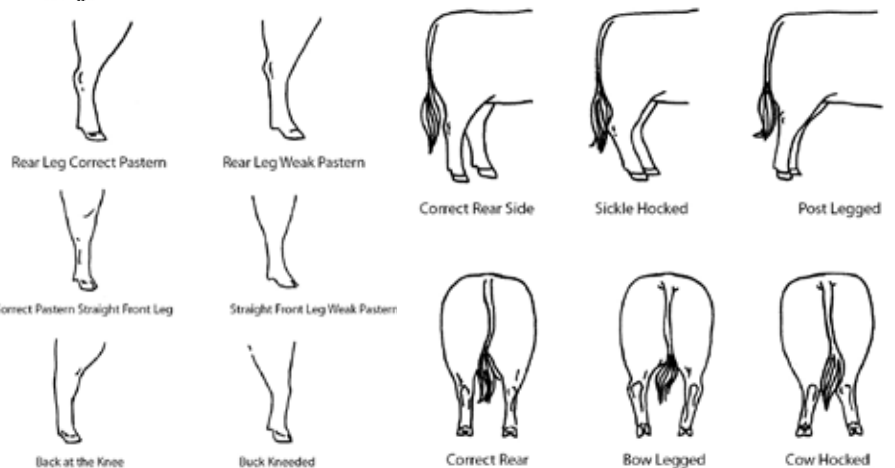
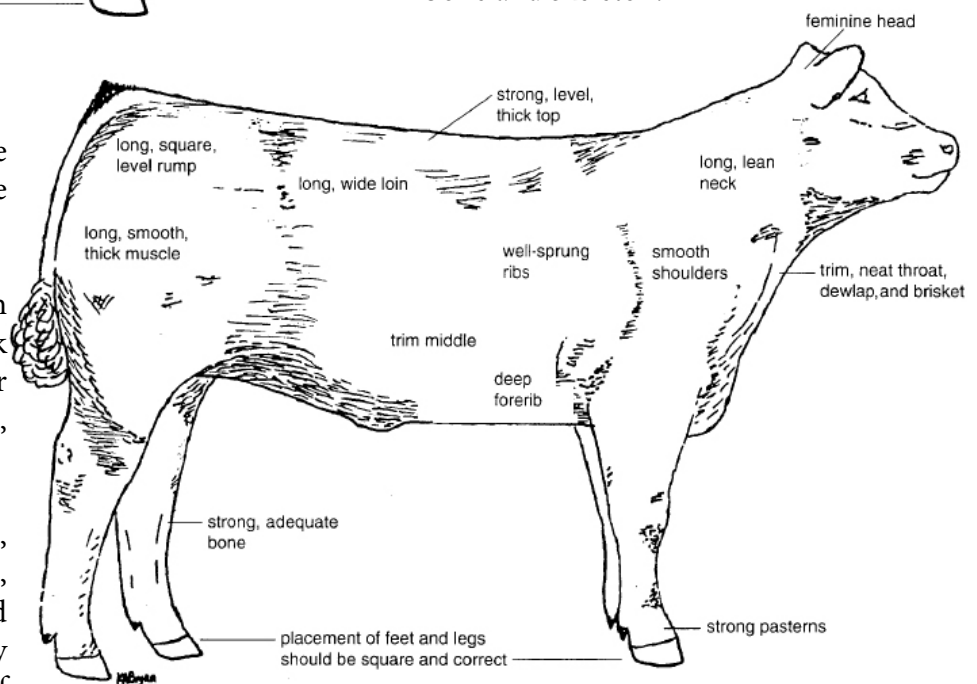
Appears healthy and alert. Blended, smooth body. Widest at the stifle. Bulls are thick and massive, females are refined with udder development. Evidence of lots of muscle, with little waste in the neck and brisket.

### Fertility and Reproductive Capacity:

Bulls have a high headset, crest development, super muscling, a large, straight scrotum, and a compact sheath. Females are refined and smooth, pins show width and are very slightly below hooks, should have lots of length from the hooks to pins, show capacity and depth, udder development, and udders on cows should be balanced, with evenly spaced teats of moderate size.

### Condition & Structure:

Less finish than a steer, show evidence of superior muscling. Long and straight topline, lots of capacity, depth and spring of rib. Move out easily and track in a straight line.



# MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to be an open, enthusiastic and honest group dedicated to the improvement of ourselves, our group, and our industry. We exist to encourage, organize and unite all young Hereford supporters. While working towards this goal, we will work together, enjoy ourselves and one another, and put the interests of the group above our own."

## Steer Terminology

### Muscle & Volume – positive

- Wider chested, wider based, wider tracking, more massive, more masculine, more functional, powerfully constructed, ruggedly designed, heavier muscled, stouter hipped, more expressively muscled (region of body), more shape, more dimension, greater spread of muscle through his ..., more natural thickness down his top and through his hip and quarter, wider from stifle to stifle, more width through the center of his quarter, more volume of muscle through his ..., more shape over his top, bigger ribbed, more spring of rib, deeper bodied, deeper chested, more uniform in his body depth from rib to flank

### Muscle & Volume – negative

- Narrow chested, narrow based, narrow tracking, light muscled, flat quartered, flat ribbed, tight flanked, shallow bodied, frail made

### Balance & Correctness – positive

- Straighter lined, nicer balanced, leveler designed, leveler hipped, leveler from hooks to pins, stronger topped, bigger footed, nicer profiling, more attractive, longer striding, more fluid on the move, better fills his track, more flexibility, more ground consuming stride, more correct slope to his shoulder, freer moving, sounder structured, cleaner fronted, smoother shoulder, tighter shoulder

### Balance & Correctness – negative

Weak topped, breaks behind his shoulders, weaker loined, steep hipped, short bodied, short coupled, shallow heeled, fine boned, straight hocked, stiff hocked, short striding, restricted in his movement, straight shoulder, straight fronted, cow hocked, sickle hocked, poorly balanced, shallow flanked, short necked, coarse shouldered, splay footed, turned out on front feet, extreme design, extreme frame size

### Carcass Terms – positive

- More market ready, more packer acceptable, more uniform in his finish, fuller through his fat indicators, handles (when appropriate) with more cover over both his fore and rear rib and down into his flank, trimmer, leaner, higher cutability, ... thus, should produce a higher yielding carcass, ... as a result should yield a carcass with less trimmable waste, should produce a heavier muscled carcass with a larger ribeye

### Carcass Terms – negative

- Greener, harder handling (when applicable), bare, overconditioned, excessively conditioned, wasty, least market ready, produce a low yielding product

## Bull Terminology

### Muscle & Volume – positive

- Wider chested, wider based, wider tracking, more massive, more masculine, more functional, powerfully constructed, ruggedly designed, heavier muscled, stouter hipped, more natural thickness down his top and through his hip and quarter, wider from stifle to stifle, more width through the center of his quarter, bigger volumed, bigger ribbed, deeper bodied, deeper chested, more uniform in his body depth from rib to flank

### Muscle & Volume – negative

- Narrow chested, narrow based, narrow tracking, light muscled, flat quartered, flat ribbed, tight flanked, shallow bodied, frail made

### Balance & Correctness – positive

- Straighter lined, nicer balanced, leveler designed, leveler hipped, leveler from hooks to pins, stronger topped, deeper heeled, bigger footed, nicer profiling, more attractive, longer striding, more fluid on the move, better fills his track, more flexibility, more ground consuming stride, truer moving, more correct slope to his shoulder, freer moving, sounder structured

### Balance & Correctness – negative

- Easy topped, weak topped, breaks behind his shoulders, steep hipped, short bodied, short coupled, shallow heeled, fine boned, straight hocked, short striding, restricted in his movement, straight shoulder, straight fronted, cow hocked, sickle hocked, poorly balanced, shallow flanked, short necked, coarse shouldered, open shouldered, bold shouldered, splay footed, turned out on front feet

### Scrotal Development – positive

- Larger testicled, greater scrotal development, straighter, more symmetrical

### Scrotal Development – negative

- Smaller testicled, less testicular development, twisted scrotum, asymmetrical scrotum

### Condition – positive

- More functional, greater longevity, easier keeping, easier fleshing, cleaner fronted, smoother shoulder, tighter shoulder

### Condition – negative

- Frail made, harder doing, extreme design, extreme frame size, excessive condition, overly conditioned

## Heifer Terminology

### Muscle & Volume – positive

- Wider chested, wider based, wider tracking, more massive, broodier, more functional, more brood cow potential, powerfully constructed, ruggedly designed, heavier

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muscled, stouter hipped, more natural thickness down her top through her hip and quarter, wider and squarer in her pins, functionally wider at her pins, wider from stifle to stifle, wider through the center of her quarter, bigger volumed, bigger ribbed, bolder ribbed, deeper bodied, deeper chested, deeper hearted, deeper flanked, more uniform in her body depth from rib to flank

### Muscle & Volume – negative

- Narrow chested, narrow based, narrow tracking, light muscled, flat quartered, flat ribbed, tight flanked, shallow bodied, tight hearted, frail made

### Balance & Correctness – positive

- Straighter lined, more balanced, leveler designed, leveler hipped, leveler from hooks to pins, stronger topped, deeper heeled, bigger footed, nicer profiling, more attractive, more upheaded, flashier, longer striding, more fluid on the move, better fills her track, more flexibility, more ground consuming stride, more correct slope to her shoulder, freer moving, sounder structured

### Balance & Correctness – negative

- Weak topped, breaks behind her shoulders, steep hipped, low in her pins, short bodied, short coupled, shallow heeled, fine boned, straight hocked, short striding, restricted in her movement, straight shoulder, straight fronted, cow hocked, sickle hocked, poorly balanced, shallow flanked, short necked, coarse shouldered, bold shouldered, open shouldered, splayed footed, turned out on front feet

### Femininity & Condition – positive

- Broodier, more maternal, more functional, brood cow prospect, greater longevity, easier keeping, easier fleshing, cleaner and more refined about her front end, cleaner fronted, smoother shoulder, tighter shoulder, more feminine



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