# Beef Cattle 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Reference Point</th>
<th>Score Breakdown</th>
<th>Reference Scale</th>
<th>Visual Aid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body Traits</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stature</td>
<td>Measured from the top of the spine to the ground.</td>
<td>1 Short 5 Intermediate 9 Tall</td>
<td>Breed specific scale. For example, score 1 represents 96cm for Dexter but 130cm for South Devon, and score 9 represents 120cm for Dexter but 154 for South Devon.</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Depth</td>
<td>Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib – the deepest point, independent of stature.</td>
<td>1-3 Shallow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Deep</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Width</td>
<td>Measure from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.</td>
<td>1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of Hindquarters</td>
<td>Curve of the rear part of the cow.</td>
<td>1-3 Narrow (Concave) 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide (Convex)</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length from Withers to Pelvis (Hooks)</td>
<td>Distance between top of withers and start of the pelvis (hooks).</td>
<td>1-3 Short 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Long</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rump Width</td>
<td>Distance between the most posterior point of pin bones.</td>
<td>1-3 Narrow 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Wide</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Visual Aid" /></td>
</tr>
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| **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)                                  |                                                                                                      | ![Rump Angle Visual Aid]                                                                         |
| **Feet & Legs Traits** |                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      | ![Feet & Legs Visual Aid]                                                                   |
| **Locomotion**         | 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                                                                | 9 = Foot A and B should respectively land in the footstep of C and D when the cow moves forward.    | ![Locomotion Visual Aid]                                                                      |
| **Foot Angle**         | Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the floor to the hairline      | 1-3 Very low (15°)  
4-6 Intermediate (45°)  
7-9 Very Steep (65°)                                                                 | If the Foot Angle is difficult to score, look at the angle of the hairline. In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored. | ![Foot Angle Visual Aid]                                                                     |
| **Rear Leg Side View** | Angle measured at the front of the hock.                                         | 1-3 Straight (160°)  
4-6 Intermediate (147°)  
7-9 Sickled (134°)                                                                                     | In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored. | ![Rear Leg Side View Visual Aid]                                                             |
| **Rear Leg Rear View** | As measured from the rear.                                                       | 1-3 Severely outward pointing toe with hocks in/touching  
4-6 Slight toe out with hocks slightly further apart  
7 Feet point forward with hocks straight from the rear  
9 Hocks pointing out                                                                               | In case of a significant difference between the left and the right leg, the worst/extreme side must be scored. | ![Rear Leg Rear View Visual Aid]                                                             |
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<tr>
<td>Udder Depth</td>
<td>The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.</td>
<td>1 Bellow hock 5 Intermediate 9 Shallow</td>
<td>Score 2 = level with the hock equal 0 cm.</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fore Udder Attachment</td>
<td>The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall.</td>
<td>1-3 Weak and loose 4-6 Intermediate acceptable 7-9 Extremely strong and tight</td>
<td>In cases of significant difference in the quality of udder attachment of either side, the worst side must be scored. Only to be scored if the udder is healthy.</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teat Length</td>
<td>The length of the front or the rear teat.</td>
<td>1-3 Short 4-6 Intermediate 7-9 Long</td>
<td>Score 1 = 1 cm &amp; 9 = 9 cm. 1 cm per point for front teats. 0.75 cm per point for rear teats.</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
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### National Bovine Data Centre (NBDC) Contacts

<table>
<thead>
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