

**The Basics of Dairy Judging**

**Frame- 15%**

**Rump-** long and wide throughout with pin bones slightly lower than hip bones. Thurls need to be wide apart and centrally placed between hip bones and pin bones. The tailhead is set slightly above and neatly between pin bones, and the tail is free from coarseness. The vulva is nearly vertical.

**Stature-** height, including length in the leg bones. A long bone pattern throughout the body structure is desirable. Height at the withers and hips should be relatively proportionate.

**Front End-** adequate constitution with front legs straight, wide apart and squarely placed. Shoulder blades and elbows need to be firmly set against the chest wall. The crops should have adequate fullness.

**Back-** Straight and strong; the loin- broad, strong, and nearly level.

**Breed Characteristics-** overall style and balance. Head should be feminine, clean-cut, slightly dished with broad muzzle, large open nostrils, and a strong jaw is desirable.

Rump, Stature, and Front End receive primary consideration when evaluating Frame.

**Dairy Character- 20%**

The physical evidence of milking ability is evaluated. Major consideration is given to general openness and angularity while maintaining strength, flatness of bone and freedom from coarseness. Consideration is given to stage of lactation.

**Ribs-** wide apart. Rib bones are wide, flat, deep, and slanted toward the rear.

**Thighs-** lean, incurving to flat, and wide apart from the rear.

**Withers-** Sharp with the chine prominent.

**Neck-** long, lean, and blending smoothly into shoulders. A clean-cut throat, dewlap, and brisket are desirable.

**Skin-** thin, loose, and pliable.

**Body Capacity- 10%**

The volumetric measurement of the capacity of the cow is evaluated with age taken into consideration.

**Barrel-** long, deep, and wide. Depth and spring of rib increase toward the rear with a deep flank.

**Chest-** deep and wide floor with well-sprung fore ribs blending into the shoulders.

The barrel receives primary consideration when evaluating Body capacity.

**Feet and Legs-15%**

Feet and rear legs are evaluated. Evidence of mobility is given major consideration.

**Feet-** steep angle and deep heel with short, well-rounded closed toes.

**Rear Legs - Rear View-** straight, wide apart with feet squarely placed.

**Side View-** a moderate set (angle) to the hock.

**Hocks-** cleanly molded, free from coarseness and puffiness with adequate flexibility.

**Pasterns-** short and strong with some flexibility.

Slightly more emphasis placed on Feet than on Rear Legs when evaluating this breakdown.

**Udder- 40%**

The udder traits are the most heavily weighted. Major consideration is given to the traits that contribute to high milk yield and a long productive life.

**Udder Depth-** moderate depth relative to the hock with adequate capacity and clearance. Consideration is given to lactation number and age.

**Teat Placement-** squarely placed under each quarter, plumb and properly spaced from side and rear views.

**Rear Udder-** wide and high, firmly attached with uniform width from top to bottom and slightly rounded to udder floor.

**Udder Cleft-** evidence of a strong suspensory ligament indicated by adequately defined halving.

**Fore Udder-** firmly attached with moderate length and ample capacity.

**Teats-** cylindrical shape and uniform size with medium length and diameter.

**Udder Balance and Texture-** should exhibit an udder floor that is level as viewed from the side.

Quarters should be evenly balanced; soft, pliable and well collapsed after milking.



**Dairy Showmanship**

**Appearance of Animal (30)**

**Cleanliness-** The best-fitted animals are always extremely clean, including hair, switch, feet, legs, and ears. Animal is completely dry.

**Grooming-** Properly groomed, hairdresser and powders not used in excess. No excessive manipulations of hair. Top lines may be blow-dried and hair sprayed to straighten them. Hooves trimmed correctly. Animals older than six months are dehorned.

**Clipping-** Final clipping done prior to the show. No visible clipper lines. Head, neck, ears, tail, udder (for cows), and elsewhere clipped as needed. Front and rear legs clipped to enhance flatness of bone and to remove stains. Top lines trimmed to improve straightness. Withers clipped to a sharp point. Body clipping is okay. (NO extra credit for professional clipping.) Belly and udder not clipped on heifers that have not freshened and are not springing close.

**Appearance of Exhibitor (10)**

Condition and thriftiness, showing normal growth, being neither too fat nor too thin.

Clothes and person neat and clean/ white costume preferred, standard 4-H exhibitor attire perfectly acceptable.

Durable, protective shoes recommended.

Practical clothing - following 4-H exhibitor guidelines.

**Showing Animal in the Ring (60)**

**Leading-** Lead the animal in a clockwise direction. Hold lead strap close to the halter with strap neatly gathered in one or both hands. Animal should lead rapidly. Use properly fitting dairy show halter placed correctly on animal (leather halter with leather or chain lead preferred). During judging, lead the animal by walking slowly facing the animal, otherwise walk facing forward at a quicker pace. When signaled to pull into line, move quickly. Lead at a comfortable pace with the animal's head held high. Keep even spacing between your animal and the one ahead of you. Do not lead in front of that animal so the judge cannot see it.

**Posing-** Stay on the animal's left side so you can see her feet and top line. Place feet squarely, with hind leg nearest the judge slightly behind (heifers and bulls) or slightly forward (cows). Train animal so it will move quickly and easily into the correct pose, and will reverse its rear legs when the judge walks around to view the other side. Do not over-quick. Face animal uphill, if possible. Move quickly into line when instructed, neither crowding other animals nor allowing large gaps. Animals may be backed out of line or led forward when a change in line is requested. Never lead animal between the judge and an animal being observed. Use the halter strap to move animal, instead of stepping on its hind feet.

**Showing animal to the best advantage -** Recognize the conformation faults of animal and show to overcome them. Know basic information such as birth date, fresh date, breeding date, and due date.

**Poise, alertness, and attitude-** Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the judge. Show the animal, not yourself. Respond rapidly to requests and be courteous and sportsmanlike. Show until the entire class has been placed and the judge has given reasons.



**Featured Livestock Judging Team**

Fort Scott Community College  
(High Junior College Team at the 2013 NAILE)



**Introducing Our New Judges**

**William Doig:** Waldron, IN (not pictured)

**Ashley Jacobsen:** Orland, CA (left)

**Doug Edge:** Rosedale, IN (right)

**Special Thanks To This Months New Newsletter Subscribers**

5 New Subscribers for the Month:



**U.S. Milk Production Keeps Up With Demand**

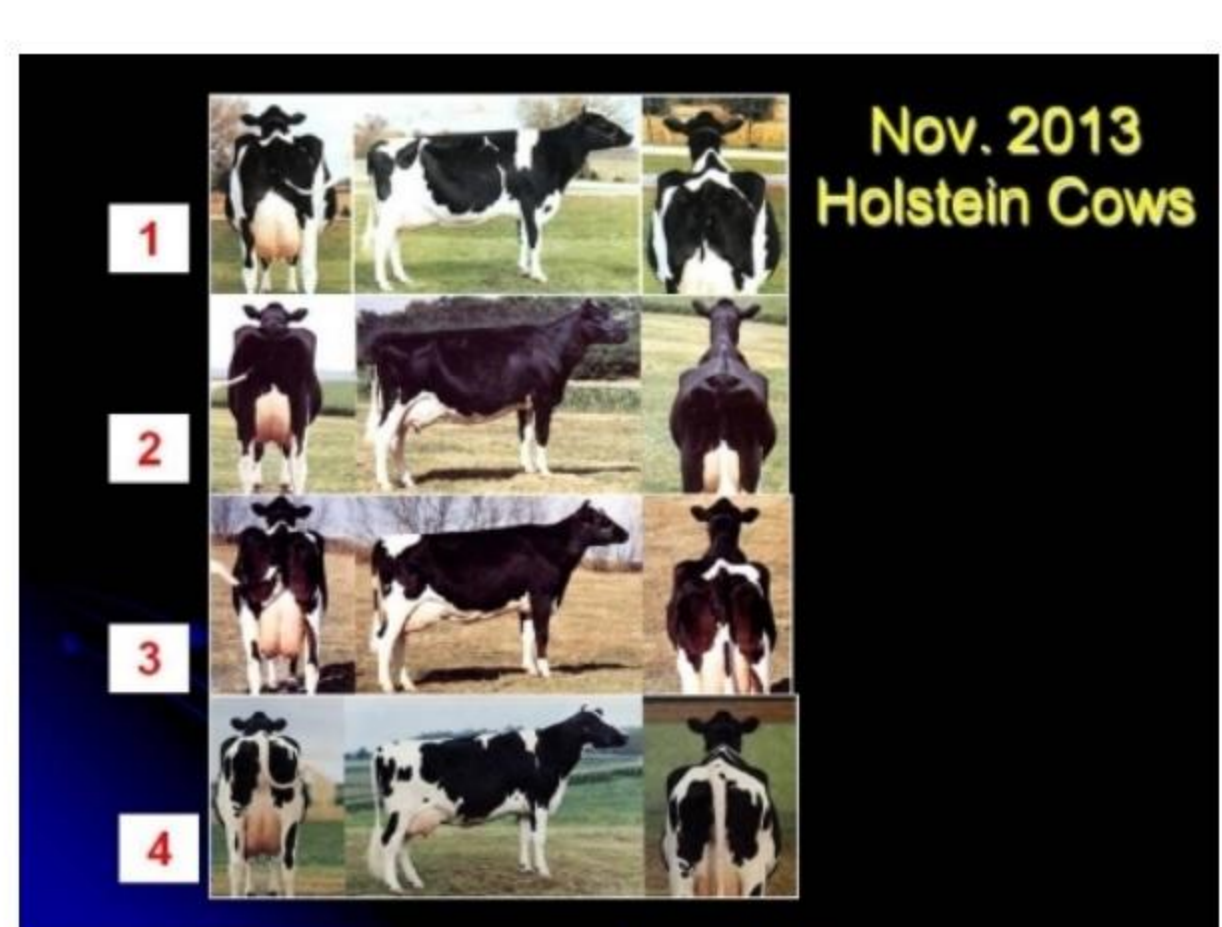
By: Robin Schmal, Dairy Today

Dairy exports have increased significantly from last year, with the value of dairy exports to China alone up 62% for the first nine months of this year compared to last year. The U.S. is not the only country excited about exports as New Zealand and Australia are hoping for increased business as well. Australia has been the larger supplier of dairy products to China, but there is no doubt the U.S. will gain some of this market share. After all, the value and amount of dairy products we ship China has already increased significantly, and that will continue.

Exports in general have increased significantly for most dairy products so far this year. Cheese and curd exports in September were up 40% over last year, reaching 25,782.5 metric tons, and year-to-date exports are up 14.1 % over the same period last year. Whey exports in September increased 6.6% to total 42,498.3 metric tons. Butter exports have improved dramatically over last year, with the amount exported in September up 49%, reaching 11,335 metric tons with year-to-date exports up 64%. Nonfat dry milk exports increased 39% from last year to 46,618 metric tons, and increase of 18.5% so far this year. We have quality dairy products available for purchase, and the world is coming to our door due to U.S. prices compared to world prices.

Milk production so far, it appears, is keeping pace with both domestic and international demand. The October "Cold Storage" report showed American cheese stocks are still 3% above last year. Other cheese stocks rose 4% with total cheese stocks up 3%, while Swiss cheese stocks declined 8% from last year. Butter stocks declined substantially from September with inventory at 174 million pounds, down 59.2 million pounds from last month, but up 20% from last year.

Improved exports and domestic demand have yet to reduce supply below last year and it may be difficult for this to take place this year. The upside is that we are improving milk production to keep up with the demands and to better position ourselves as a supplier for the world market. International buyers want a reliable source for dairy products, and we are rising to the challenge.



**Featured Nov. 2013 Holstein Cows**

[Official Reasons and Placings by Bill Brown](#)

Official Placing: 1-2-3-4

Cuts: 4-3-5

For more information on the Nov. 2013 Holstein Cow class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.



**Featured Nov. Judge**

**Bill Brown**  
Topeka, Kansas

Bill Judges Dairy Cattle

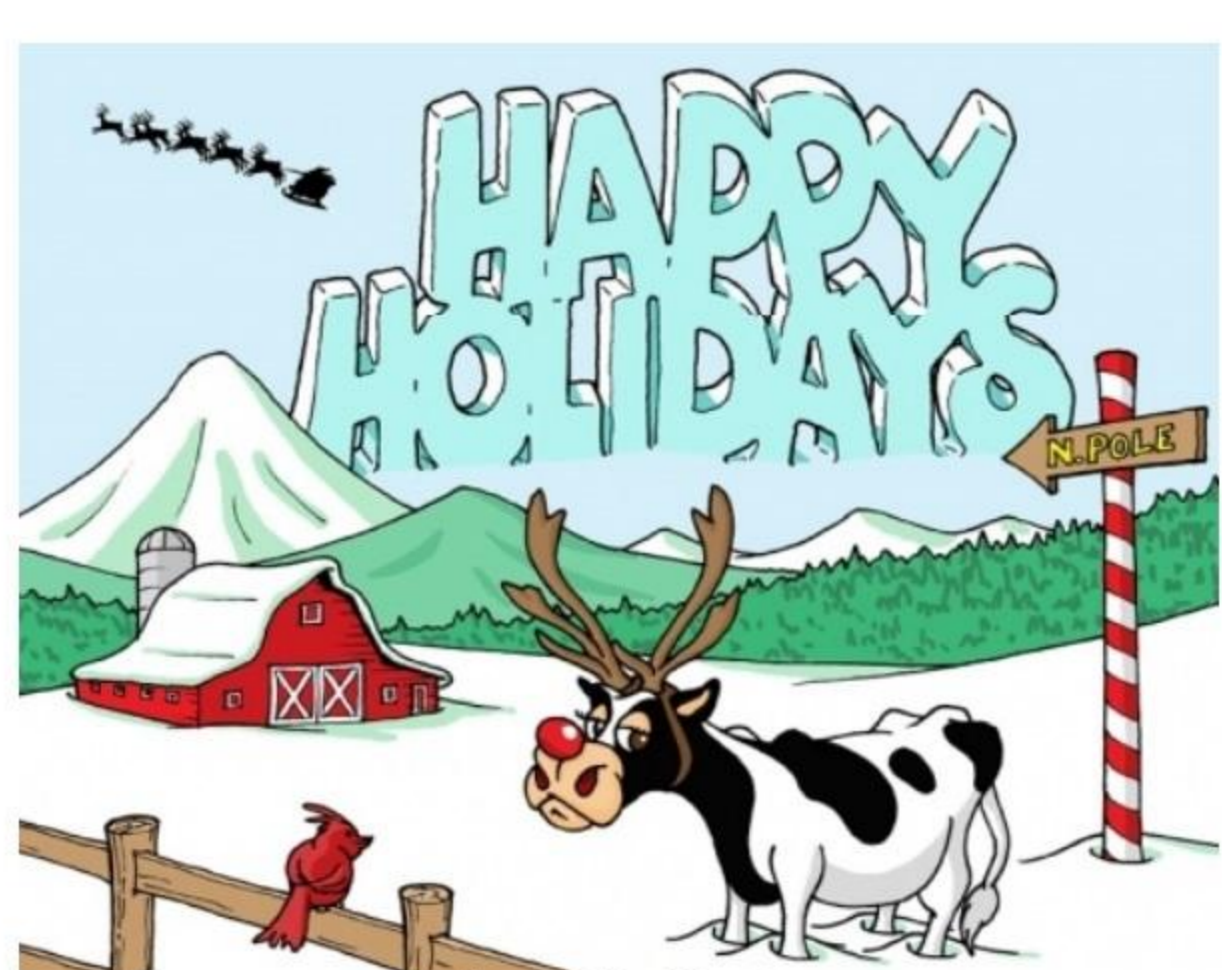
Bill was raised in the dairy industry, having grown up in the key dairy regions of Louisiana, Texas and Kansas. Bill's family operated about 250 acres with a small beef cow-calf operation. While his family did not have a dairy farm, he was actively involved in dairy projects through FFA and 4-H. In high school Bill purchased several Holstein, Brown Swiss and Jersey show heifers to exhibit at local and state shows. He had the honor of breeding and exhibiting the Honorable Mention Junior Champion Jersey heifer at the Kansas Junior Jersey Show in 2005. Today, Bill continues to maintain a small herd of Jerseys and Brown Swiss, focusing on developing animals for type for future show success.

Bill has been an active judge since his involvement with county 4-H team in Texas. He has judged competitively in 4-H, FFA, and collegiately, and has achieved success at the national level at both the World Dairy Expo, Louisville and Ft. Worth judging contests. He has judged numerous county and state shows.



**Featured Livestock Judging Individual**

Kyndal Reitzenstein  
(Redlands Community College)  
High Individual at the 2013 NAILE



**Happy Holidays**

On behalf of TheJudgingConnection.com, we would like to wish you and your family a Happy Holidays!

| forward to a friend

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