

DAIRY CHARACTERISTICS

They can be all grouped in three classes, according as they indicate good conformation, fineness and quality of udder.

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GOOD CONFORMATION

Conformation is very important. To produce a large quantity of milk without doing harm to herself, a dairy cow must have a good chest, permitting the heart and lungs to work freely. She must also have a capacious abdomen indicating a powerful, well developed digestive apparatus, because a high producer of milk must be a good eater.

The body or barrel of the cow should be long, wide and deep. Allow me to insist on the length and breadth for there is harmony of constitution and length among the different parts of the body: a long udder, extending well up behind, and well under the body, mostly always corresponds to a long barrel; to a wide barrel corresponds a wide udder, extending well from side to side.

Length can be appreciated by:

- a) The length of the tail, which will extend below the hock.
- b) The depressions found between the joints of the back-bone, along the withers and loin.
- c) The spacing of the ribs, especially of the last two, a good milch cow affording a space sufficient to receive 3 or 4 fingers.
- d) The width of rib,