Type Standards

Relationship of Type to Productive Capacity and Longevity Since the raising of replacement heifers is costly, the longer the average productive life of the herd, the more economical production will be. Type must allow for ease of calving as well as ability to produce at a high level for long periods of time.

A major step towards setting a national-type standard in Canada was the development of the True Type cow and bull models. Committees for each dairy breed studied the best animals available and, through the combined efforts of a sculptor and artist, developed the True Type models.

A second major step was the uniform dairy cow score card developed to blend utility and beauty in Canadian dairy cattle. This score card is applicable to all dairy breeds and emphasizes various parts of the animal in accordance with experience in breeding efficient dairy cattle.

To encourage improvement of both type and production, official classifiers are employed by the breed assocation to classify cattle at regular intervals at the request of the breeder. Under certain circumstances these classifiers may travel abroad to assist in those countries where Canadian cattle are now performing. Each of the individual breed associations gives recognition for type qualities as well as for production excellence.

A new classification system in Canada, the Linear Type Classification System, allows the classifier to be more accurate in his assessment of individual animals thus enabling more precise cow evaluations and, ultimately, sire summaries. Linear classification refers to the description of physical characteristics from one biological extreme to another, e.g. large to small, wide to narrow, etc. The classifier describes the trait on a scale from 1 to 9. No evaluation is involved, only description.



