ADCA Classification Program

The American Dexter Cattle Association's primary goal for having a classification program is to provide a standard of excellence for breed type traits that serves as a useful and understandable guide to Dexter cattle breeders and owners.

Basically, classification is an evaluation of a livestock animal's conformational strengths and weaknesses with an emphasis placed on the areas that impact the animal's functionality, longevity, and ability to produce. Linear classification is a livestock evaluation system used throughout the world, and widely accepted as the most accurate method of functional type assessment for livestock. Linear descriptive/type traits form the basis of all modern type classification systems. Linear classification is based on the measurements and observations of individual type traits by an experienced classifier. These traits are evaluated individually, within a scoring system that covers a biological range. Variation within type traits is measurable or observable and a linear scale records the degree of variation rather than desirability. The point score that correlates to the linear scale then defines the desirable range for each type trait.

The ADCA Classification Program consists of the following documents:

- Dexter Breed Characteristics & Examples of Excellent Breed Type

- Linear Descriptive/Type Traits and Classification Scoring

- Body Condition Scoring

- Dexter Cattle Score Card

- Classification Score Worksheet/Report Form(s) – A maximum of 10 animals can be individually scored on each report form.

- Classifier Training CD

The ADCA provides the owner with a copy of the Dexter Breed Characteristics, the Linear Descriptive/Type Traits and Classification, the Body Condition Scoring, and Dexter Cattle Score Card documents, along with the Classification Score Worksheet/Report Form(s). This is sent to the owner in advance of the classifier's visit. In this manner, the owner has all the information at hand to ask questions and to better understand the classifier's scoring choices and decisions.

The owner provides his/her name, address, and the name, ADCA Registration No, date of birth, and number of lactations for each animal to be classified by preparing the Classification Score Worksheet/Report Form, prior to the arrival of the classifier. The owner then provides the classifier this report form before the evaluation and scoring begins.

Since certain type traits contribute more than others to a livestock animal's functionality, longevity, and productivity, these specific type traits are "weighted" in higher proportion by being worth more points and thus contribute more to the animal's final overall classification point score. In the ADCA classification program, the linear scale for each type trait is correlated with a specific point score in the Linear Descriptive/Type Traits document and the point scores are recorded directly onto the Classification Score Worksheet/Report Form by the classifier. The individual point scores are then totaled on this report form to determine breakdowns by subcategory and an overall Final Score for each animal evaluated during the visit. At the completion of the classification evaluation, the classifier gives the owner a completed copy of the Classification Score Worksheet/Report Form and also submits a copy of this form to the ADCA for secure record keeping.

The Classifier Training CD is used to help prepare new classifiers and classifiers that are unfamiliar with the specific type traits associated with the dual-purpose Dexter breed or with the ADCA Classification Program. Classifiers are provided this tool in advance of each year's classification tour to refresh and review specifics about the Dexter breed and the ADCA Classification Program. [Note: Copies of this Training CD will be provided by the ADCA to the Brown Swiss Association, the current service provider for Dexter classifiers. Copies of this CD will also be made available to the ADCA membership for a nominal fee to cover cost of production, shipping and handling.]

Dexter Breed Characteristics

Color: Solid black, solid red, or solid dun are of equal merit. A small amount of white on the reproductive organs, udder and/or underline is permissible. A few white hairs in the tassel (switch) of the tail are also permissible.

Type: The Dexter is a dual-purpose breed with both beef and dairy qualities.

Head & Horns: Short, broad head, tapering gracefully towards a broad muzzle. Jaw should be wide enough to accommodate well-placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes should be bright and prominent. Horns should be moderately thick with an inward, upward curve. Removal of horns is allowed without penalty. Polled animals are also allowed.

Neck: Deep and thick, but not too short, blending well into the shoulders. Head should be carried above the spine.

Body: Ample chest width giving plenty of room for the heart and lungs; well sprung ribs, wide across the loins. Quarters thick and deep, broad full hips, well- rounded rump.

Straight topline with tail set level with spine. Good width between both front and back legs. Legs should be of moderate length, in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body, wide apart and perpendicular when viewed from the rear. Feet should be short-toed, deep heeled and level soled. They should not turn either outwards or inwards.

COWS: Udder should be well attached with high and wide rear attachment and strong median suspensory ligament. The four teats should be of medium size and well spaced on the udder, hanging plumb and of equal length. All four quarters should be of equal size.

BULLS: Well hung testicles of even size. Four well defined teats evenly spaced. Bull's sheath should be of moderate size and held near the body. The penis should retract completely into the sheath when at rest.

Skin: Loose and pliable. Hair should be short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter.

Stature: **COWS**: Typical range in height is between 34 inches and 46 inches; however, the **preferred height** for all mature (3+ years old) females is between 38 inches and 42 inches, measured at the hip.

BULLS: Typical range in height is between 36 inches and 50 inches; however, the **preferred height** for all mature (3+ years old) males is between 40 inches and 44 inches, measured at the hip.
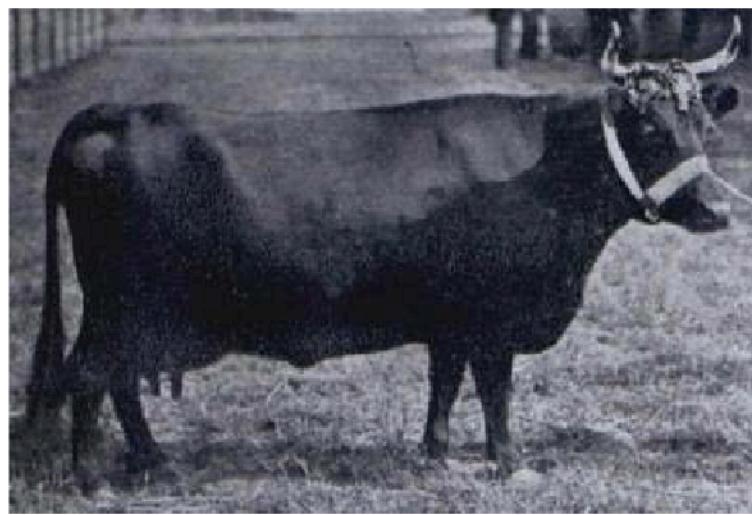
**Dexter Cows – Examples of "Excellent" Breed Type
(HC – Heterozygous Carriers of Chondrodysplasia)**

DC-2
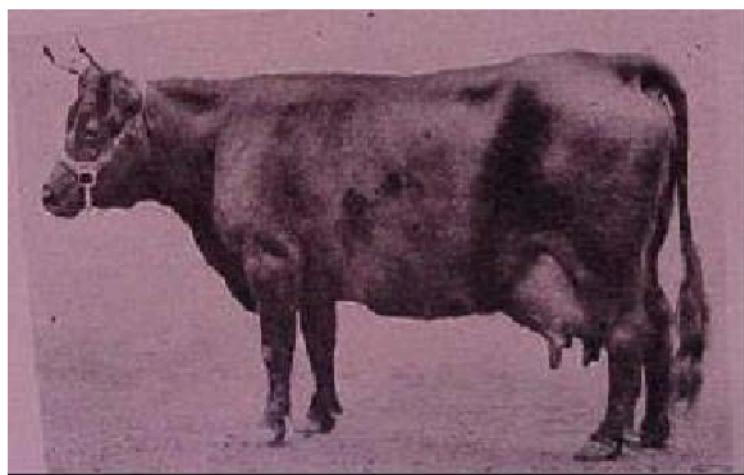
Dexter Cows – Examples of "Excellent" Breed Type
(HN – Homozygous Normal, Non-carriers of Chondrodysplasia)

Dexter Bulls – Examples of "Excellent" Breed Type
(HC – Heterozygous Carriers of Chondrodysplasia)

Yom Kippur of Clove Brook

Dexter Bulls – Examples of "Excellent" Breed Type
(HN – Homozygous Normal, Non-carriers of Chondrodysplasia)
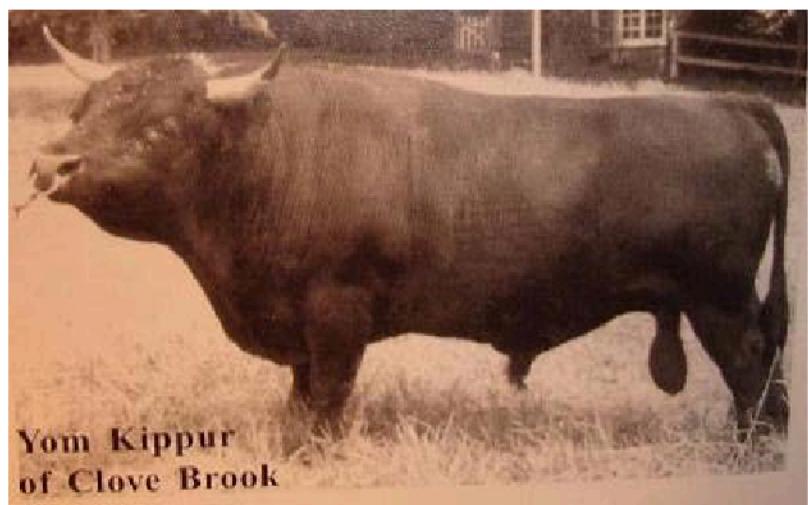
Linear Descriptive/Type Traits & Classification Point Scoring

For Dexter Cattle

Pictorial descriptions and scale of linear descriptive/type traits are presented in the following pages. A linear scale of 1 to 9 is used to represent the typical biological range within each descriptive/type trait. Point score is then correlated to the linear scale for each trait, with maximum point values assigned to the preferred or ideal breed type for the Dexter breed. The classifier records the linear score and corresponding point score for each trait directly onto the Classification Worksheet/Score Report and then totals the points to give the Final Score for each animal being classified. A copy of the Classification Worksheet/Score Report is provided directly to the owner; the classifier then submits another copy to the American Dexter Cattle Association. Final Score reflects the degree to which the animal approaches the "ideal breed type" for the Dexter breed. Final Scores are categorized according to the following standards:

Excellent - Animals that score 90 to 94 points. These are animals that are excellent representatives of the Dexter breed. To be scored 95 or higher, an animal must be submitted for special evaluation by a committee of three representatives from the ADCA Classification Committee.

Very Good – Animals that score 85 to 89 points. These are well above average animals.

Good Plus - Animals that score 80 to 84 points. These are above average animals with a few trait deficiencies.

Good - Animals that score 75 to 79 points. These are average animals that need improvement in several traits.

Fair - Animals that score 65 to 74 points. These are below average animals with significant or multiple trait deficiencies. Keeping breeding stock from the offspring of these animals is not recommended.

Poor – Animals that score less than 65 points. These are well below average animals with major type trait deficiencies. Breeding stock replacements should not be kept from the offspring of these cattle.

The minimum age for classification is 2 years old for either Bull or Cow; and Cows must have had at least one calf prior to being classified for the first time. Animals should be reclassified periodically, as they mature and age. Dry cows may be classified; however they are assigned a preliminary point score and they are not scored for Rear Udder Depth or Udder Cleft. Dry cows should be reclassified after they are in milk to determine their permanent final point score. Bulls cannot have any penile deviations (such as "S" curve or corkscrew or bent penis) and must have two testicles descended into the scrotum to be considered for classification.

Linear descriptive/type traits are grouped within the following breakdown categories:

- **Form & Substance** (50%) – Cows and Bulls
- **Mobility** (25%) – Cows and Bulls
- **Female Mammary System** (25%) – Cows Only
- **Male Reproductive System** (25%) – Bulls Only

**Form & Substance – 50% of Total Score (Perfect Score = 50 points)**

1. Stature: Measured as height at the hips while the animal is standing on a hard, flat surface in a natural position. Preferred hip height for Dexter cow is between 38 inches and 42 inches. Preferred hip height for Dexter bull is between 40 inches and 44 inches. Scale ranges from less than 36-inches (1) to greater than 46-inches (9).
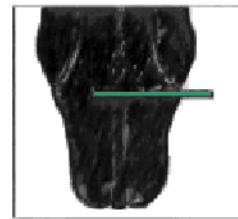
Stature as Hip Height (inches):

Cows -	≤36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	≥44
Bulls -	≤38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	≥46
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	5	8	10	10	10	10	10	8	5

Ideal for Dexter Breed Type

2. Chest Width: Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs. Scale ranges from weakness, narrow and frail (1) to extreme width and strength (9). Do not consider age of animal or stage of lactation when scoring.


Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 0   1   1   2   2   3   3   3   2

Ideal for Breed Type
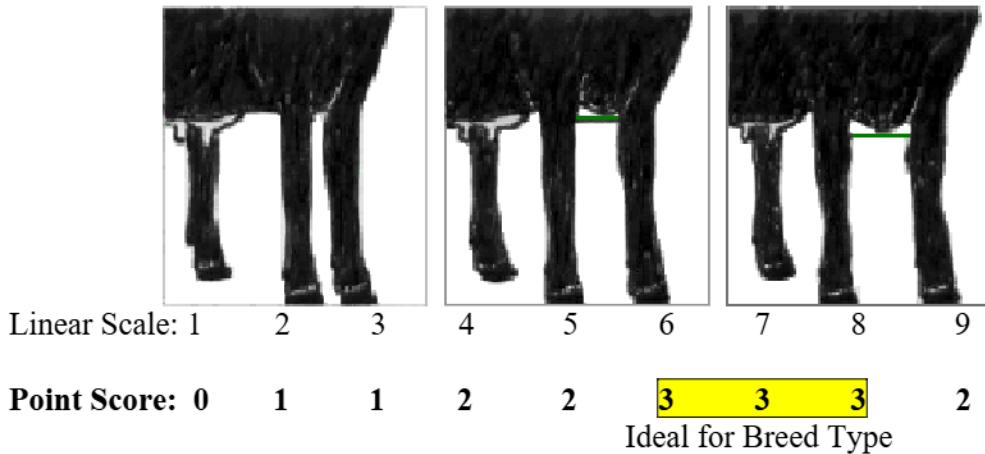
3. Body Depth: A measure of overall depth, primarily at the rib cage in the animal's midsection. Scale ranges from extremely shallow bodied (1) to extremely deep bodied (9).

Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 0   1   1   2   2   3   3   3   2

Ideal for Breed Type
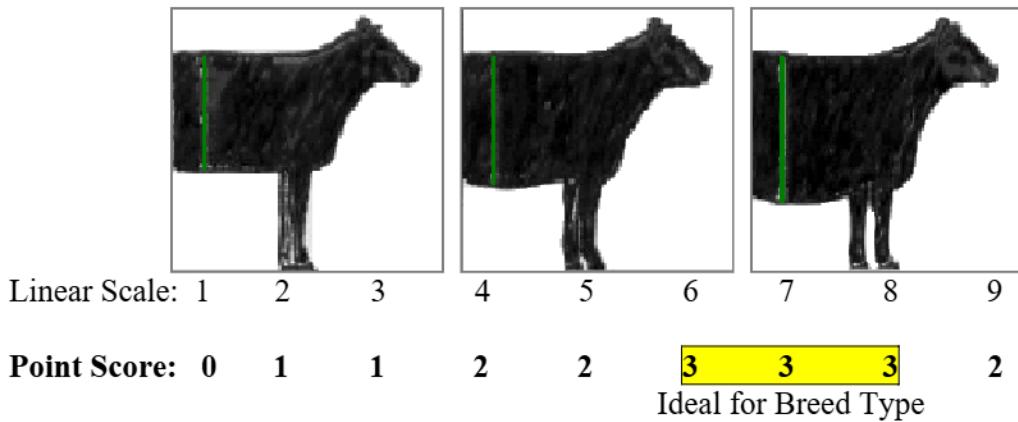
4. Body Length: Adequate length of body is necessary for proper proportion and balanced overall appearance. Important beef carcass traits are associated with length and size of loin, rib, and flank. Scale ranges from close-coupled (1) to extremely long-bodied (9).

Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 0   1   2   3   4   5   5   5   4
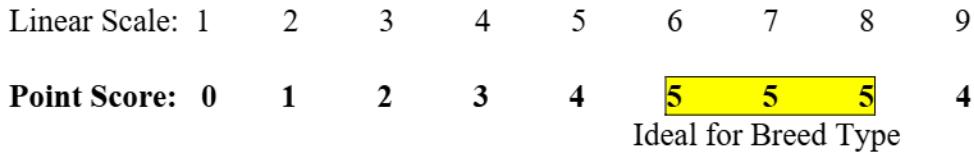
Ideal for Breed Type

5. Topline & Tail Set: The preferred topline is straight with tail head set level with the spine. Scale ranges from sway back (1) to roach back (9).

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	0

Ideal for Breed Type

6. Ribs & Bone: Ribs should be well sprung and widely spaced, providing width across the loins and ample capacity to accommodate the vital organs. The term "bone" means bones and tendons as indicated by total circumference of the legs. The bone should be adequate to provide structural support for the animal's body, but not be excessively heavy or massive. Scale ranges from fine and fragile (1) to excessively heavy or massive (9).
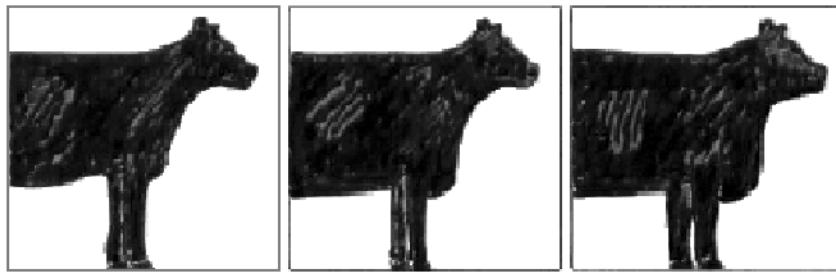
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	1

Ideal for Breed Type

7. Muscling: Measured by examination of the loin and hindquarters. Loin should be thick and wide; hindquarters should be deep and rounded. Scale ranges from narrow, shallow, light muscling (1) to extremely heavy muscling (9).

| Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	5	4

Ideal for Breed Type

8. Rump Angle (Side View): Measures the degree of slope from hooks to pins. Proper rump angle is associated with calving ease and decreased incidence of postpartum infection.

Preferred rump angle is a slight drop from hooks to pins. Scale ranges from strong upward slope (1) to strong downward slope (9).
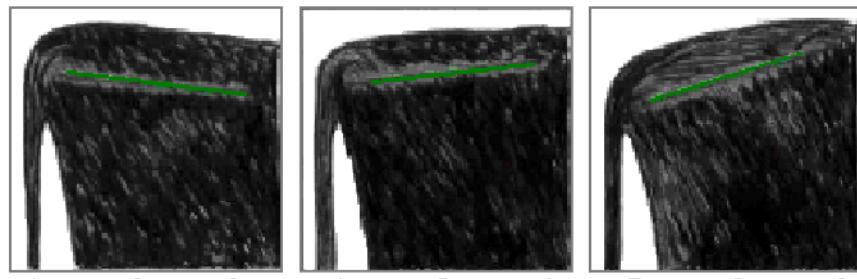
Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 0   1   2   3   3   3   2   1   0

Ideal for Breed Type

9. Rump Width: Measures the width of the hip and pelvic area. Scale ranges from extremely narrow (1) to extremely wide (9).
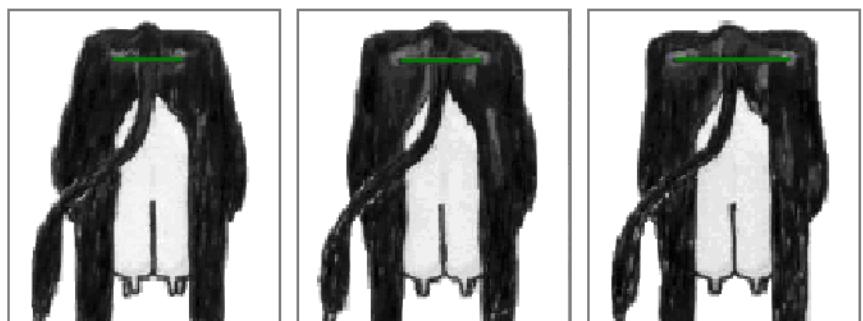
Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 0   1   2   3   4   5   5   5   4

Ideal for Breed Type

10. Style/Balance: Scored on the overall appearance and behavior of the animal and includes 2 points each for overall proportion, breed character, masculinity/femininity, presence, and temperament. Scale ranges from atypical animal (1) to outstanding representative of the breed (9).

Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10

Ideal for Breed Type

**Mobility – 25% of Total Score (Perfect Score = 25 points)**

1. Front Legs – Front View: Measures extent to which the front legs and hooves, when viewed from the front, deviate from being straight and parallel to each other. Scale ranges from extremely toed-in (1) to extremely toed-out (9).

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	0

Ideal for Breed Type

2. Front Foot Angle – Side View: Measures foot angle on the first inch from the hairline. A foot with an intermediate to steep angle (45o or greater) is preferred. Scale ranges from extremely flat (1) to extremely steep (9).
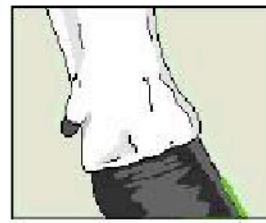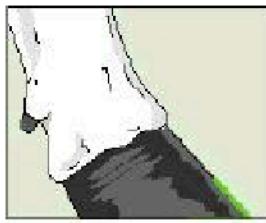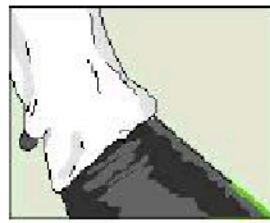
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	1

Ideal for Breed Type

3. Rear Legs & Foot Angle – Side View: Examines rear leg set, including hock, pastern, and hoof set and angles. Scale ranges from extremely posty (1) to extremely sickle hocked (9).

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	0

Ideal for Breed Type

Rear Foot Angle:
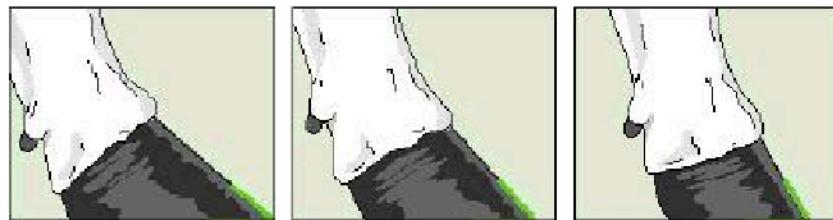
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	1

Ideal for Breed Type

4. Rear Legs – Rear View: Measures extent to which the rear legs, when viewed from the rear, deviate from being parallel to each other. Scale ranges from severe hocking in (1) to slight hocking out (9).
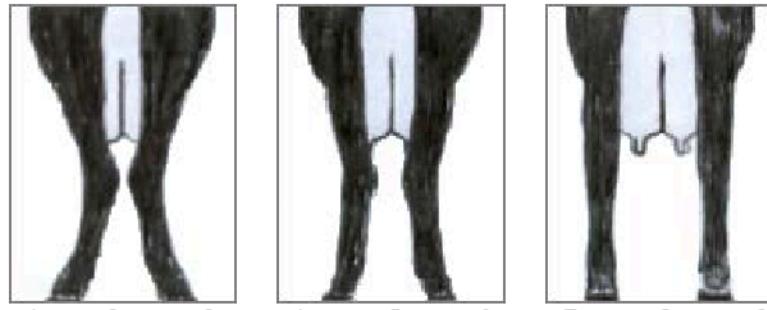
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	4	5	5	5	4

Ideal for Breed Type

5. Movement/Tracking: Examines how an animal tracks as it walks. Smooth movement is preferred with the rear hooves tracking exactly in-line with front hooves in a graceful, regular motion. Scale ranges from rough, choppy, irregular movement (1) to very smooth, in-line movement (9).

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Ideal for Breed Type

Cow: Mammary System – 25% of Total Score (Perfect Score = 25 points)

1. Fore Udder Attachment: Examines the strength and snugness of attachment of the fore udder to the body wall. No adjustment is made for stage of lactation. Scale ranges from extremely loose (1) to extremely snug and strong (9).
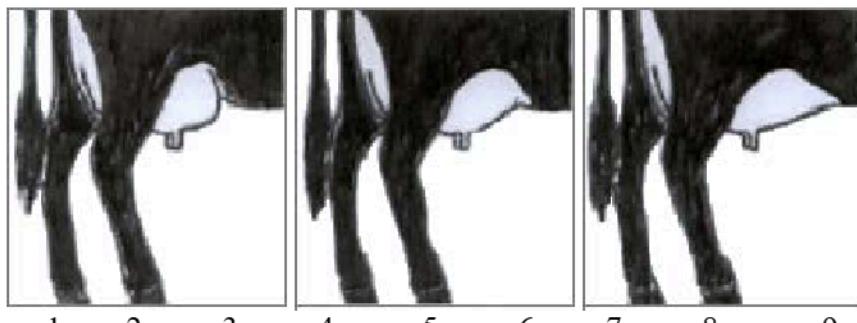

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	5

Ideal for Breed Type

2. Rear Udder Height: Examines the distance between the bottom of the vulva and the top of the udder. No adjustment is made for stage of lactation. Scale ranges from very low (1) to very high (9).
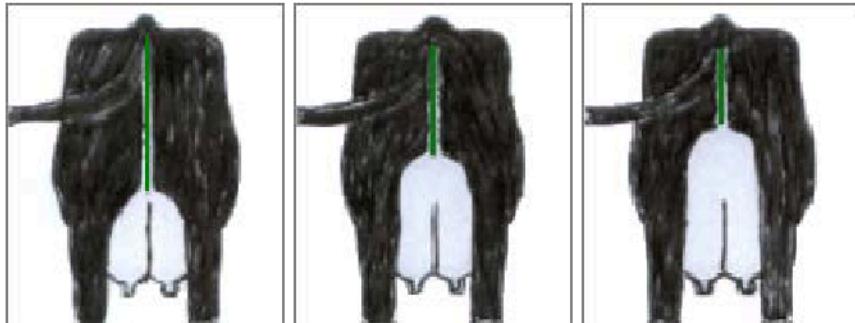
Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3

Ideal for Breed Type

3. Rear Udder Cleft: Examines the depth of the cleft as an indicator of the strength and integrity of the central ligament from the base of the rear udder. Scale ranges from convex – no cleft (1) to deep definition cleft (9). Dry cows are not scored for this trait.

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	5

Ideal for Breed Type
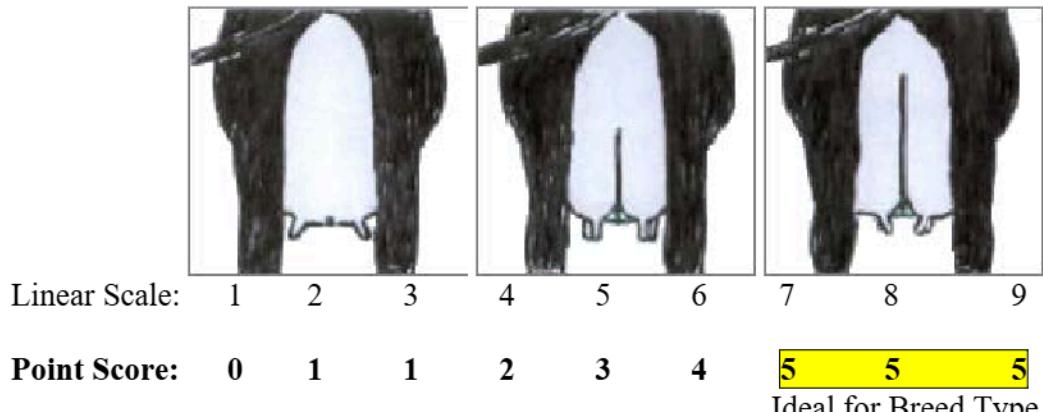
4. Udder Depth: The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock. Scale ranges from very deep/well below hocks (1) to extremely shallow/well above hocks (9). Dry cows are not scored for this trait.

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	0	1	2	3	4	5	4	3	2

Ideal for Breed Type
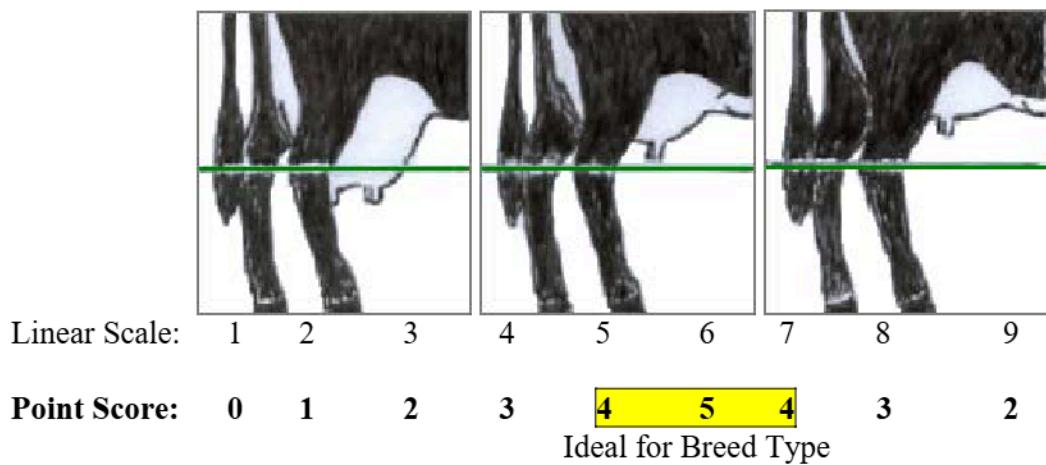
5. Teat Placement – Rear View: Measures the placement of the front and rear teats relative to the center of each quarter. No adjustment is made for stage of lactation. Linear Scale ranges from extreme outside of quarters (1) to extreme inside of quarters (9).

Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 1   2   3   3   3   2   1   1   0

Ideal for Breed Type
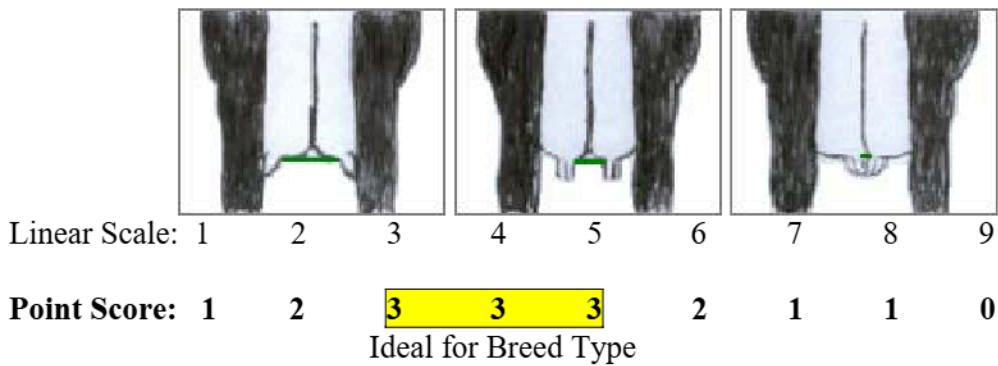
6. Teat Length: Reference length of 2¼-inches at Linear 5. No adjustment is made for stage of lactation. Linear Scale ranges from less than ¾-inch (1) to greater than 3¾-inch (9).

Linear Scale: 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9

Point Score: 1   2   3   4   4   4   3   2   1

Ideal for Breed Type
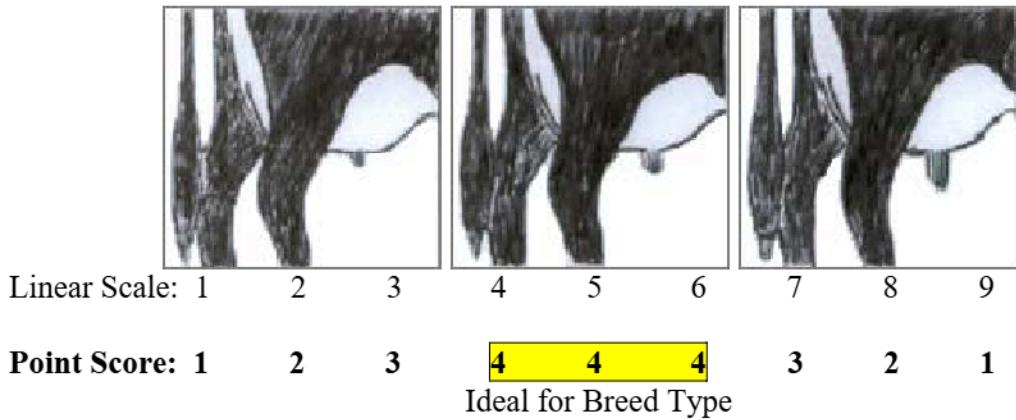
Bull: Reproductive System – 25% of Total Score (Perfect Score = 25 points)

1. Scrotum & Testicles: Testicular size is measured as scrotal circumference. Shape and size of scrotum are indications of a bull's fertility. Exact scrotal circumference can be measured during a breeding soundness exam (BSE) done by a veterinarian prior to the

breeding season. Bulls must have two testicles descended into the scrotum in order to be considered for classification. Scrotal shape is also very important since the bull must be able to raise and lower the testicles for proper temperature control. Testicles should hang down well away from the body. There should be an obvious neck at the top of the scrotum, with the two testicles hanging down large and of equal-size, giving an overall pear shape to the scrotum. Linear Scale ranges from straight-sided or undersized scrotum (1) to tapered or excessively large scrotum (9). The middle of scale range (5) is for proportionately sized, properly shaped scrotum and testicles.

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	**1**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**1**

Ideal for Breed Type

2. Sheath: The sheath should be of moderate size, held near the body, but not overly tight or restrictive. Linear Scale ranges from loose, distended sheath (1) to overly tight, restrictive sheath (9). The middle of scale range (5) is for moderate size, and held near the body in good form.

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	**1**	**3**	**6**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**1**

Ideal for Breed Type

3. Penis: The bull should retract the penis completely into the sheath while at rest. An inadequately retracted penis is subject to injury and infection. Bulls with penile deviations such as S curve, corkscrew, or rainbow (bent in a semicircle) will not be considered for classification. Linear Scale ranges from poorly retracted penis (1) to completely retracted penis (9).

Linear Scale:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Point Score:	**0**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**5**

Ideal for Breed Type

Body Condition Scoring

Body condition is important because it is an indication of the cow's body reserves. The body condition of cows during the breeding season affects their reproductive performance in terms of number of services per conception, calving interval, and percentage of open cows. The body condition of cows at calving time is associated with length of postpartum time interval, lactation performance, calf health and vigor, and increased incidence of calving difficulties in extremely fat cows and heifers. Figure 1 illustrates the main areas on a cow that are used to determine body condition scores.

Figure 1. Main Areas Used to Determine Body Condition Score

1.BACK_____ 2.TAIL HEAD_____ 3.PIN _____
4.HOOKS _____ 5.RIBS _____ 6.BRISKET_____
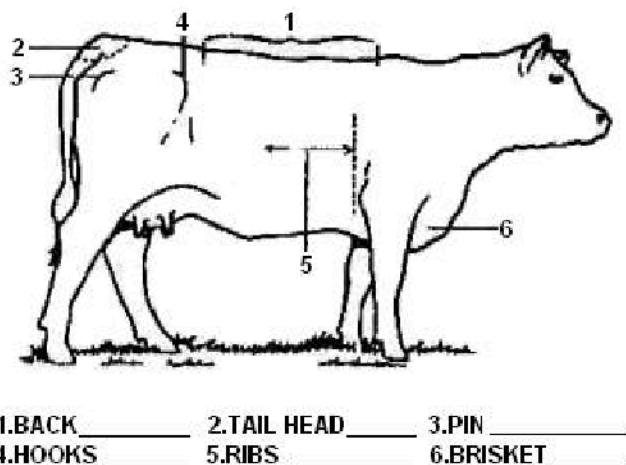
Body Condition Scores (BCS) are numbers used to indicate the relative fatness or body composition of cattle. A scale of 1 to 9 is commonly used for beef cattle, with a score of 1 representing very thin body condition and a score of 9 representing extreme fatness. Table 1, on the following pages, defines each BCS number and utilizes photos of cattle to illustrate these definitions for clarity. In Dexters, there is normally a difference of only 50 – 60 pounds (or about 7 – 8% of total weight) between each body condition score. To optimize performance, body condition scores of cows should be within a range of BCS 5 to BCS 7 (optimum condition) at the beginning of each calving season and remain in this range throughout the breeding season.

Table 1. Body Condition Score (BCS) Definitions

BCS 1   Emaciated – Bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins are sharp to touch and clearly visible. Little or no evidence of fat deposits or muscling.

BCS 1

BCS 2   Very Thin – Little or no evidence of fat deposits, but some muscling still visible in the hindquarters. The spinous processes feel sharp to the touch and are easily visible, with space between them.

BCS 2

BCS 3   Thin – Beginnings of fat cover over the loin, back, and fore ribs. While there is very little visible fat, there is still visible muscling in both the forequarters and hindquarters. The backbone is highly prominent and visible. Spinous processes can be identified individually by touch and may also be visible. Spaces between processes are less pronounced.

BCS 3

**Table 1. Body Condition Score (BCS) Definitions, continued . . . .**

BCS 4   Borderline – Fore ribs not noticeable; but 12th and 13th ribs are still visible, especially in cattle with a big spring of rib and widely spaced ribs. Straightness of muscling in the hindquarters, with some fullness is apparent. Transverse spinous processes can be identified only by palpation and they feel rounded rather than sharp.

BCS 4

BCS 5   Moderate – 12th and 13th ribs not clearly visible to the eye. Areas on each side of tail head are filled in but not mounded. Fairly smooth overall appearance, with no bone structures clearly visible. The transverse spinous processes can only be felt with firm pressure and they feel very rounded. Spaces between processes are not visible, but can be distinguished by palpation with firm pressure. BCS 5 should look average, neither thin nor fat.

BCS 5

Table 1. Body Condition Score (BCS) Definitions, continued . . . .

BCS 6   Good – Ribs fully covered, not noticeable to the eye. Smooth overall appearance due to fat layers over all bone structures, most noticeable over the ribs, back, and hips. Hindquarters appear plump and full. There is a noticeable spongy feel over fore ribs and each side of the tail head. Firm pressure is required to feel transverse spinous process.

BCS 6

BCS 7   Very Good – Abundant fat cover on either side of tail head with some patchiness evident. Ends of the spinous processes can only be felt with very firm pressure. Spaces between processes are barely distinguishable.

BCS 7

Table 1. Body Condition Score (BCS) Definitions, continued . . . .

BCS 8   Fat – Animal takes on a smooth, blocky appearance; bone structure disappears from sight. Fat cover feels thick and spongy with patchiness evident.

BCS 8

BCS 9   Extremely Fat – Bone structure not visible or easily felt. The quarters are very rounded, with a plump and blocky appearance. Tail head is buried in fat. Animal's movement and mobility may be impaired by excess amount of fat. Increased incidence of calving difficulty may also result.

BCS 9

References:

1. Dr. Shane Gadberry, MP 373 – Feeding Beef Cows Based on Body Condition Scores, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service.
2. Dexter Photos (BCS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) from private collection of Patti & Clay Adams, Wakarusa Ridge Ranch, 2005-2007.

Dexter Cattle Score Card

Copyrighted by the American Dexter Cattle Association, 2007.

Major Trait Descriptions

There are three major categories of descriptive/type traits on which the classifier bases a final classification point score.

Perfect Score

For a Dexter cow, these three major categories are:

1) Form & Substance - 50%

50

The type traits included in this category are stature, chest width, body depth, body length, topline & tailset, ribs & bone, muscling, rump angle, rump width, and overall style/balance of the animal. The Dexter is a dual-purpose breed, and as such, the qualities required for both milk and beef production are balanced in the ideal animal. The head should be short and broad, tapering gracefully towards a broad muzzle. The jaw should be wide enough to accommodate well-placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes should be bright and prominent. Horns should be moderately thick with in inward, upward curve. Removal of horns is permitted without penalty, as are polled animals. The neck should be deep and thick, but not too short, it should blend well into the shoulders. The head should be carried above the spine. The chest width should be ample to give plenty of room for the heart and lungs. Ribs should be well sprung, loins wide, quarters thick and deep, with broad full hips, and a well-rounded rump. Topline should be straight with the tail set level with the spine. The coat color should be solid black, or solid red, or solid dun. A small amount of white on the reproductive organs, udder and/or underline is permissible. A few white hairs in the tail switch are also permissible. The skin should be loose and pliable. Hair should be short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter. The **preferred height** (stature) for cows is between 38 inches and 42 inches, measured at the hip. The ideal animal will have a calm, docile, easy-going temperament; and an intelligent, curious presence. She should be feminine in appearance, proportional, symmetrical, and balanced.

2) Mobility - 25%

25

The type traits included in this category are front legs-front view, front foot angle-side view, rear legs-side view, rear foot angle-side view, rear legs-rear view, and movement/tracking. There should be good width between both the front and back legs. The legs should be of moderate length, in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body, wide apart and perpendicular to the body when viewed from the rear. The feet should be short-toed, deep heeled, and level soled. The feet should not turn either outwards or inwards. The animal's rear feet should track in-line with its front feet in a smooth, even motion when it walks.

3) Mammary System - 25%

25

The type traits included in this category are fore udder attachment, rear udder height, rear udder cleft, udder depth, teat placement, and teat length. The udder should be well attached with high and wide rear attachment and strong median suspensory ligament forming a deep cleft when the cow is in milk. The floor of the udder should be above the animal's hocks. The four teats should be of medium size and well spaced on the udder, hanging plumb and of equal length. All four quarters should be of equal size. Dry cows may be classified, however they do not receive a point score for rear udder cleft or udder depth. Dry cows receive a preliminary final score and they should be reclassified (when they are in milk) to receive their permanent final score.

Total   100
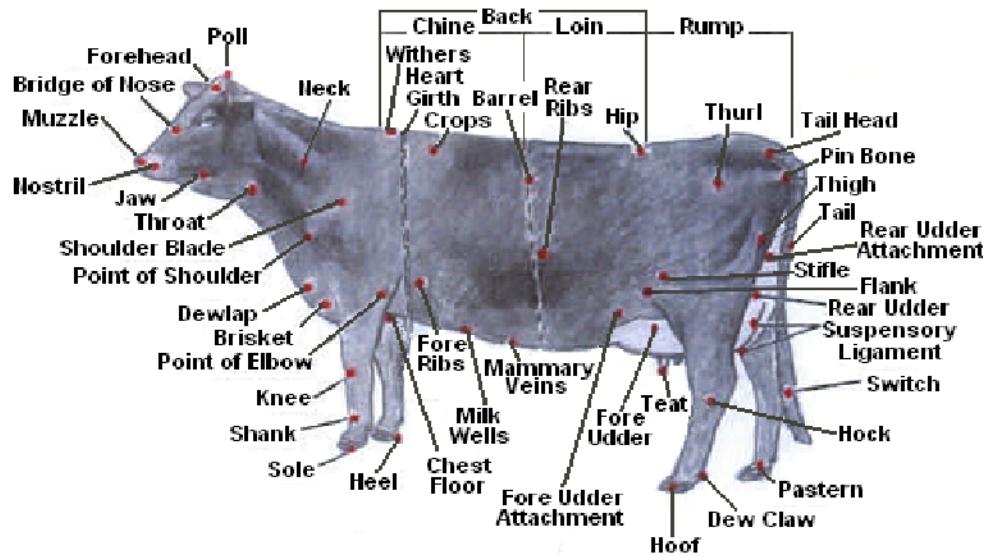
Diagram of a Cow

For a Dexter bull, these three major categories are:

1) Form & Substance - **50%**   50

The type traits included in this category are stature, chest width, body depth, body length, topline & tailset, ribs & bone, muscling, rump angle, rump width, and overall style/balance of the animal. The Dexter is a dual-purpose breed, and as such, the qualities required for both milk and beef production are balanced in the ideal animal. The head should be short and broad, tapering gracefully towards a broad muzzle. The jaw should be wide enough to accommodate well-placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes should be bright and prominent. Horns should be moderately thick with in inward, upward curve. Removal of horns is permitted without penalty, as are polled animals. The neck should be deep and thick, but not too short, it should blend well into the shoulders. The head should be carried above the spine. The chest width should be ample to give plenty of room for the heart and lungs. Ribs should be well sprung, loins wide, quarters thick and deep, with broad full hips, and a well-rounded rump. Topline should be straight with the tail set level with the spine. The coat color should be solid black, or solid red, or solid dun. A small amount of white on the male reproductive organs and/or the underline is permissible. A few white hairs in the tail switch are also permissible. The skin should be loose and pliable. Hair should be short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter. The **preferred height** (stature) for bulls is between 40 inches and 44 inches, measured at the hip. The ideal animal will have a calm, docile, easy-going temperament; and an intelligent, curious presence. He should be masculine in appearance, proportional, symmetrical, and balanced.

2) Mobility - **25%**   25

The type traits included in this category are front legs-front view, front foot angle-side view, rear legs-side view, rear foot angle-side view, rear legs-rear view, and movement/tracking. There should be good width between both the front and back legs. The legs should be of moderate length, in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body, wide apart and perpendicular to the body when viewed from the rear. The feet should be short-toed, deep heeled, and level soled. The feet should not turn either outwards or inwards. The animal's rear feet should track in-line with its front feet in a smooth, even motion when it walks.

3) Male Reproductive System - **25%**   25

The type traits included in this category are scrotum & testicles, sheath, and penis. The ideal animal should have have well-hung testicles of even size. The sheath should be of moderate size, held near the body, but not be excessively tight or restrictive. The penis should retract completely into the sheath when the animal is at rest. Bulls must have two testicles descended into the scrotum and no penile deviations (i.e. S-curve, corkscrew, or half bent), to be considered for classification.

                                                                                                    Total   **100**