



# JUDGING

## Breeder Heifer Terminology

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### Quick Facts...

Breeding heifer judging involves making decisions based on visual observation and often is combined with individual performance traits and/or expected progeny differences.

Making decisions based on visual observations will help determine which animals stay in the breeding herd (selection) and/or which sires will be mated to which dams.

When you have an understanding of the terms in this fact sheet, you will be able to completely describe all of the important points of a class of breeding heifers.

Breeding heifer judging involves making decisions based on visual observation and often is combined with individual performance traits and/or expected progeny differences. These decisions help determine which animals stay in the breeding herd (selection) and/or which sires will be mated to which dams. The terminology found below will help youth develop their livestock vocabulary. As you look over the terms, try to picture an animal with the characteristics described by the terminology. When you have an understanding of these terms, you will be able to completely describe all of the important points of a class of breeding heifers. If you are uncertain about the exact meaning of a term or phrase, ask your coach, parent, 4-H leader, volunteer or Colorado State University Cooperative Extension agent.

### Priorities for Judging Breeding Heifers

- Muscle and Volume
- Structural Correctness
- Growth (Performance)
- Balance
- Correctness of Condition

#### Muscle Terminology

##### **Advantages**

Heavier muscled  
Naturally thicker  
More volume of muscle  
Wider tracking  
Has more top  
More dimension to her top  
Thicker rumped  
Thicker quartered  
More thickness from hooks to pins

##### **Criticisms**

Light muscled  
Narrow tracking  
Narrow topped  
Flat quarter  
Shallow quarter

#### Volume Terminology

##### **Advantages**

Bigger (higher) volumed  
More overall dimension and capacity  
Broodier  
Wider chested  
Bolder hearted  
Bolder sprung  
More spring of rib  
Deepest and fullest in her rib  
More spring and dimension to her rib  
More depth to her rib and flank

##### **Criticisms**

Low volumed  
Narrow chested  
Flat ribbed  
Tight ribbed  
Shallow bodied  
Tight in her fore rib





### **Structural Correctness Terminology**

#### **Advantages**

Structurally more correct  
 Longer (freer) striding  
 Sounder striding  
 Easier moving  
 More desirable slope of shoulder  
 Moved with more flex to her hock  
 Traveled truer off her rear (front) legs  
 More correct (desirable) set to her hock  
 Stands wider and squarer behind  
 More functional appearing  
 Leveler from hooks to pins  
 Heaviest boned  
 Larger footed

#### **Criticisms**

Poorest structured  
 Short (tight) stride  
 Straight shouldered  
 Toes out up front  
 Straight in the hock  
 Post legged  
 Straight pasterned  
 Sickie hocked  
 Narrow tracking  
 Cow hocked  
 Low at her pins  
 Light (fine) boned

### **Growth (Performance) Terminology**

#### **Advantages**

Larger framed (ONLY when appropriate)  
 Appeared to be faster growing  
 Growthier appearing  
 Longer patterned (bodied, fronted)  
 More moderately framed  
 More sensible in her size  
 More conservative in her frame

#### **Criticisms**

Smaller framed  
 Appeared pounds light  
 Early maturing  
 Lower W.D.A. in class  
 Short bodied (fronted)  
 More extreme in her frame (to big)

### **Balance Terminology**

#### **Advantages**

Highest quality  
 More stylish (eye appealing)  
 More balance (symmetry)  
 Nicer profiling  
 Cleaner patterned  
 More refined head  
 Longer necked  
 Cleaner fronted  
 Smoother shouldered  
 Neck blends smoother into her shoulder  
 Lays neater and tighter in the shoulder  
 Stronger topped  
 Leveler hipped (rump)  
 Leveler and squarer from hooks to pins  
 Cleaner naveled  
 More correct vulva size and placement

#### **Criticisms**

Plain (unattractive)  
 Ill made  
 Poor balanced  
 Breaks behind the shoulder  
 Easy (weak) topped  
 Short fronted  
 Heavy fronted  
 Low headed  
 Heavy brisket  
 Coarse shouldered  
 Weak topped  
 Steep rumped  
 High tailhead  
 Large naveled

### **Correctness of Condition Terminology**

#### **Advantages**

Easier fleshing (keeping)  
 Better doing  
 Easier maintaining  
 Lighter conditioned  
 Trimmer patterned

#### **Criticisms**

Heavier conditioned  
 Harder fleshing  
 Harder doing  
 Heavier brisket  
 Wasty through her udder

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