

Your key to high production, trouble-free, long-lasting cows

The Holstein Australia Classification Program helps you to breed high production, trouble-free and long-lasting cows.

Classification provides an objective and impartial assessment of the conformation of your cows. It compares each animal to the Holstein 'True Type', the internationally recognised yardstick of structural correctness.

Professional classifiers carefully assess 25 different traits grouped into four composites before assigning a final score out of 100. You can use this detailed information to make better breeding decisions, get the most from your genetics investment and increase the value of your herd!



How classification can help you breed a better business

- Receive a written and verbal assessment of the conformation of your cows
- Review the progress of your breeding program
- Define your breeding objectives
- Make better informed breeding decisions
- Accelerate your genetic improvement
- Get the most from your investment in genetics
- Improve the value of surplus cows and heifers
- Add significant long-term value to your herd
- Identify genetically superior individuals and families
- Benchmark your animals with herd and breed averages



Holstein
A U S T R A L I A

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We call it functional conformation.
You call it common sense.



Holstein
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Classification



IMC 2152B

Your type of cow

The Holstein 'True Type' cow represents the perfect balance of all the conformation traits needed for high production, fertility, management ease and longevity.

The capacity to take in large amounts of roughage and convert it into quality milk . . . A well-attached udder that will produce for many lactations . . . An ideal rump for easier calving . . . The dairy strength to sustain high levels of production and fertility, year after year . . . Good feet and legs to walk between the dairy and grazing paddocks.

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Functional conformation

- Clean, flat bones to produce calcium
- A wide muzzle and open nostrils for high food intake and ability to chew cud
- Good spring of rib for capacity
- Good feet and legs and a well-balanced walk
- A strong front end to walk long distances
- Rear legs that move comfortably past the udder
- A balanced and symmetrical udder
- A strong ligament to maintain udder shape
- A snugly-attached udder to produce milk for many years
- Correct teat placement and length
- High and wide rear udder attachment for plenty of capacity
- Firm and smooth fore udder attachment
- Wide rear pins for calving ease
- A good slope to the rump to ensure easy walking and calving ease
- Strong loin to hold up the udder, organs and developing foetus

How to classify your cows

- Contact Holstein Australia to arrange a property visit
- Present all cows requiring classification, including Appendix Register animals. Lactating animals can be evaluated either empty or with full mammary
- Provide either a Certificate of Registration or other approved identification, herd recording number, latest calving date and lactation number for each female to the classifier
- The Conformation Analysis Sheet will note a total score and category: **Excellent** (90+ points)
Very Good (85–89 points)
Good Plus (80–84 points)
Good (75–79 points)
- Holstein Australia will then provide you with a herd summary, listing all your classified animals and comparing your herd's averages to national breed averages
- After two or more classifications, you will receive a trend sheet showing how your traits and scores are moving

