

What Makes a Good Holstein Dairy Cow?

Nice flat bones to produce calcium for milk

A cow that is too beefy will convert feed into body condition rather than milk

Nostrils should be broad and open

Wide muzzle for good food intake and ability to chew cud

Good spring of rib to allow for large capacity to eat

Plenty of room for heart

A cow that produces 25 litres of milk needs to eat about 80kg of pasture every day

A Holstein cow should show attractive individuality, revealing vigor and femininity with a harmonious blending and proportional balance of all parts.

Strong back and loin to hold up udder, organ attachments and calf foetus when pregnant.

Pins to be wide at rear and to be slightly below level of the hips for calving ease.

Udder high attachment to allow plenty of capacity to hold milk.

Fore udder requires firm and smooth attachment to body wall.

Udder quarters to be balanced and symmetrical. Teats to be placed under centre of quarters and of moderate size to allow milking machine cups to be easily connected.

A well balanced walk and attractive carriage

Good feet and legs to enable cows to walk to and from the dairy and to graze in paddocks

Rear legs must move comfortably past the udder

Good milk veins to convey blood back to the heart.

For every litre of milk, more than 400 litres of blood must flow through the udder to deliver the nutrients and water for making milk

