



Judging of Beef Cattle

Definition



Judging implies the comparative appraisal or placing of several animals.



Qualifications of a good animal judge

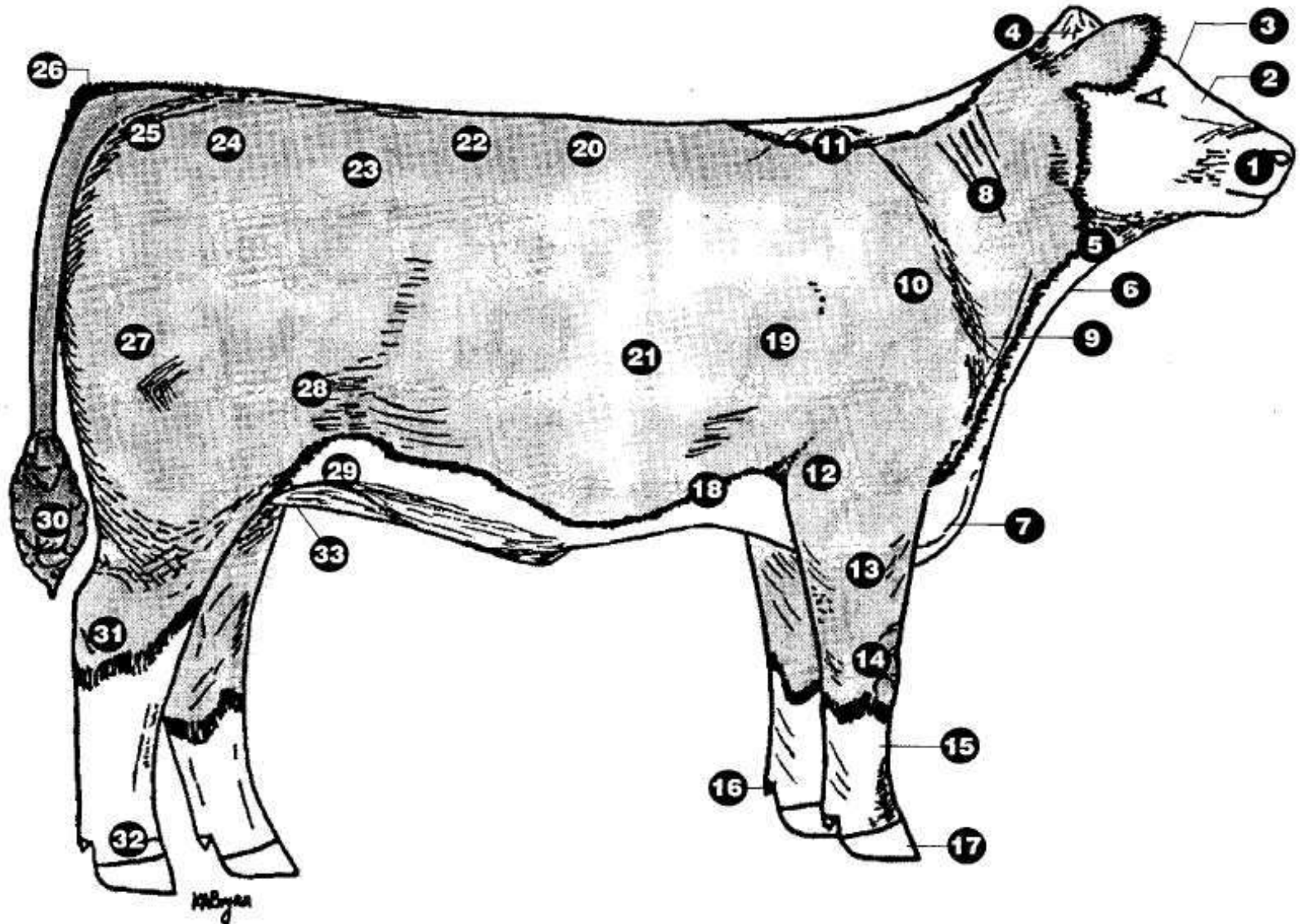
1. Knowledge of the parts of an animal
2. A clearly defined ideal or standard of perfection
3. Keen observation and sound judgement
4. Honesty and courage
5. Logical procedure in evaluating
6. Tact



Beef Cattle Classes

- Sex Classes
 - Steer
 - Male castrated before sexual maturity
 - Heifer
 - Has not had a calf or matured
 - Cow
 - Bull

Parts of Beef Cattle

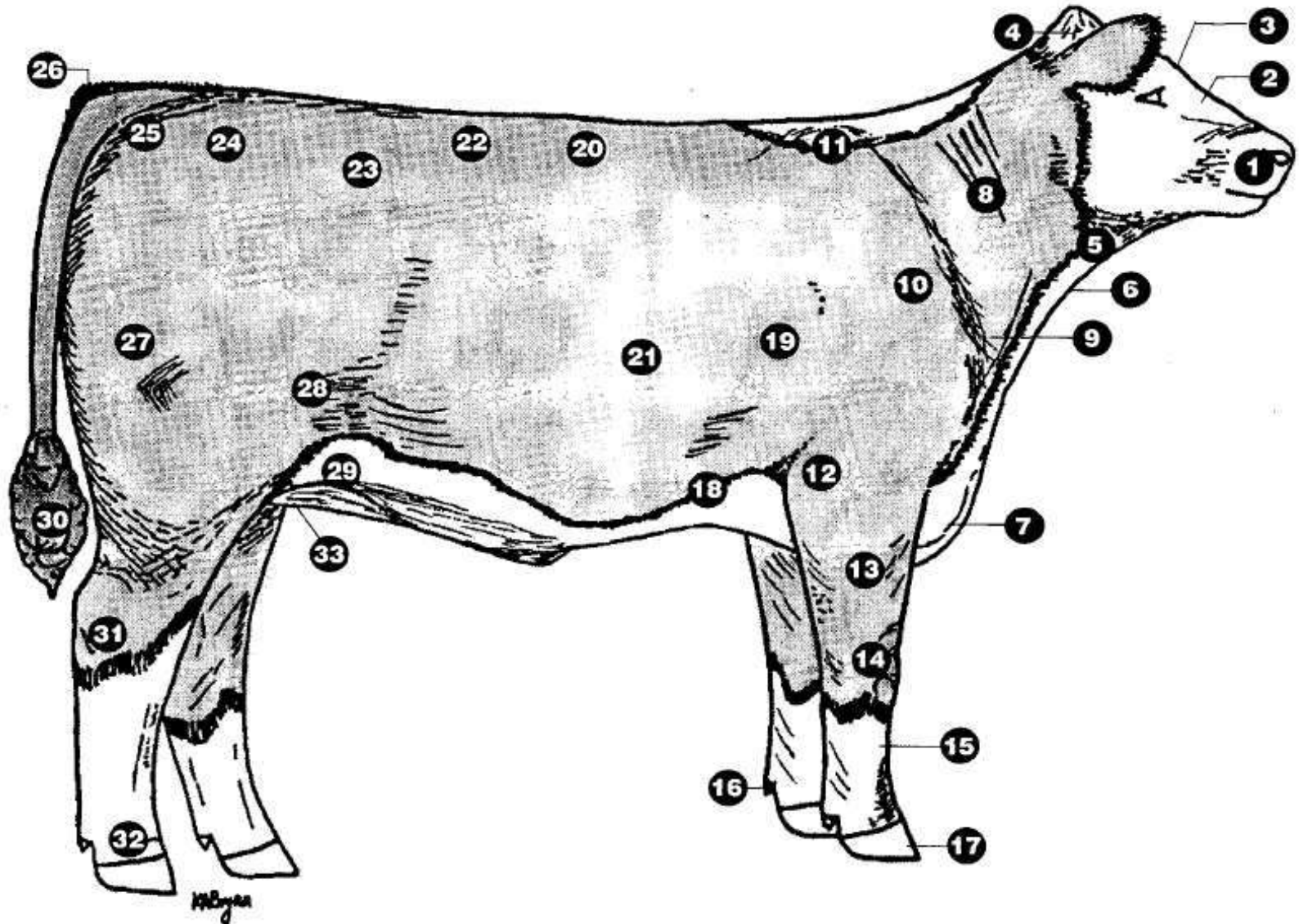


Parts of Beef Cattle

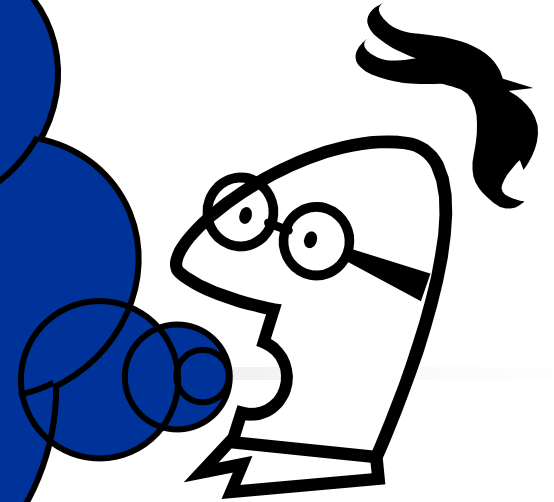


- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 muzzle | 13 forearm | 25 pin bone |
| 2 face | 14 knee | 26 tailhead |
| 3 forehead | 15 cannon | 27 quarter |
| 4 poll | 16 dewclaw | 28 stifle |
| 5 throat | 17 hoof | 29 rear flank |
| 6 dewlap | 18 lower forerib, fore flank | 30 switch |
| 7 brisket | 19 forerib | 31 hock |
| 8 neck | 20 back or top | 32 pastern |
| 9 point of shoulder | 21 rib | 33 udder (cow, heifer),
cod (steer),
scrotum (bull) |
| 10 shoulder | 22 loin | |
| 11 top of shoulder | 23 hook or hip | |
| 12 elbow | 24 rump | |

Parts of Beef Cattle

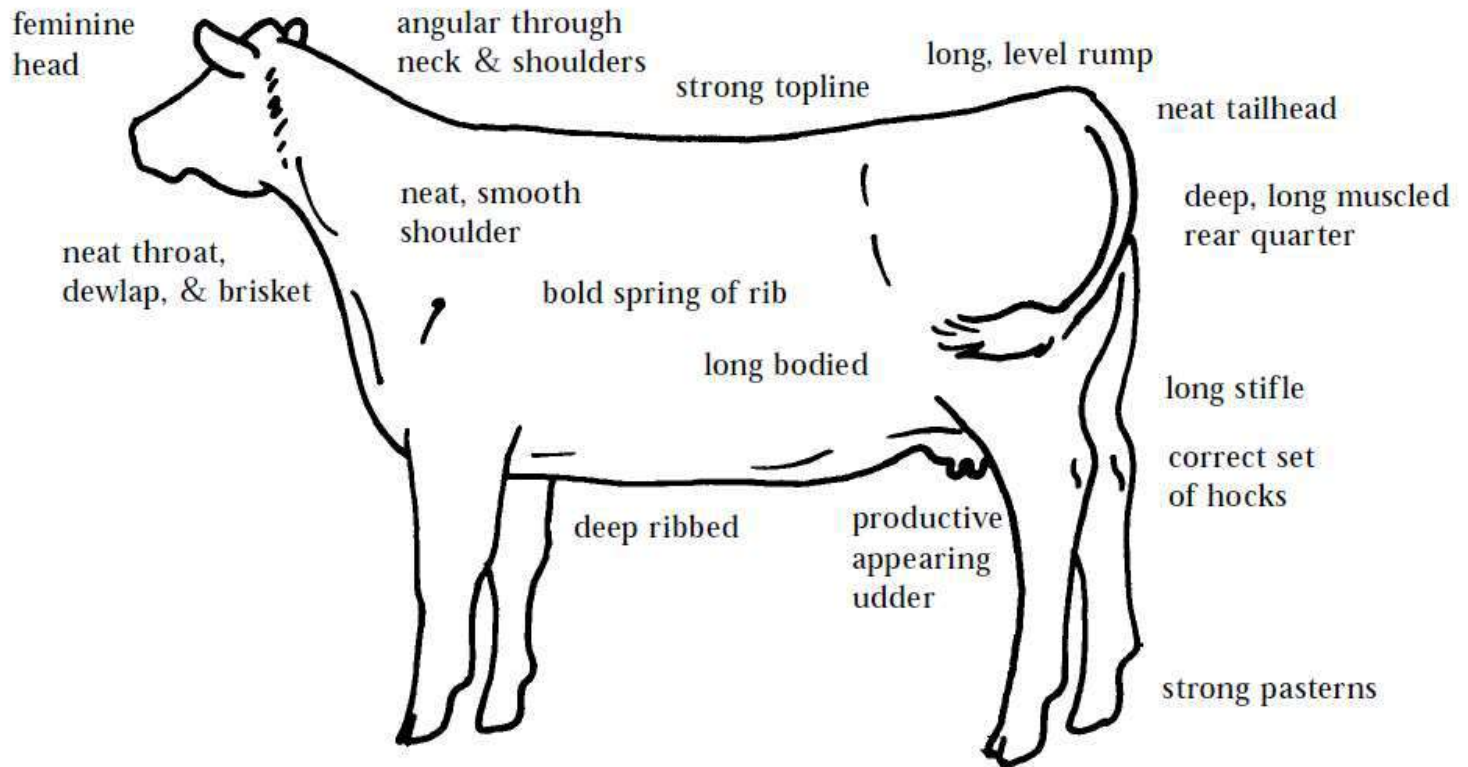


Judging of Beef Heifers

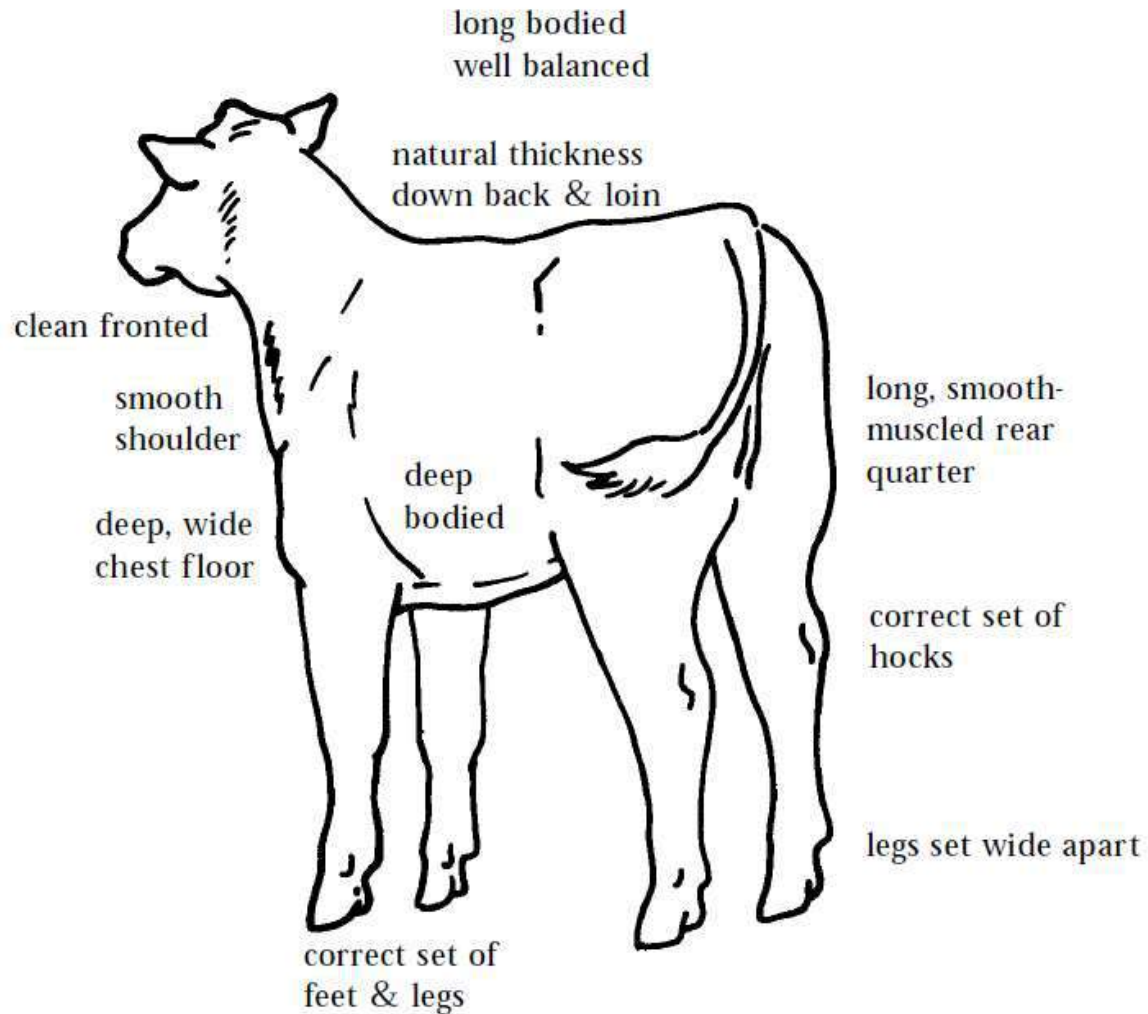


Characteristics of an ideal Breeding heifer

Ideal Heifer



Characteristics of an ideal Breeding heifer



Ranking of Traits for Judging Beef Heifers



1. Soundness and structural correctness.
2. Capacity or volume.
3. Style and balance.
4. Degree of muscling.
5. Femininity.

Evaluating Soundness



Evaluating Soundness and Structural Correctness

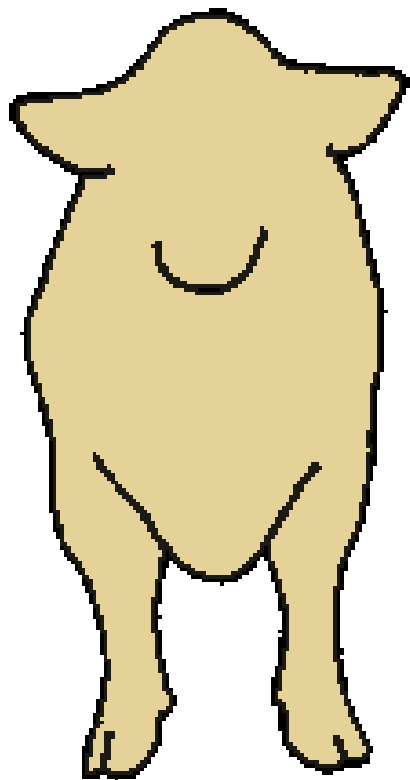


When evaluating soundness and structural correctness, attention should be given to:

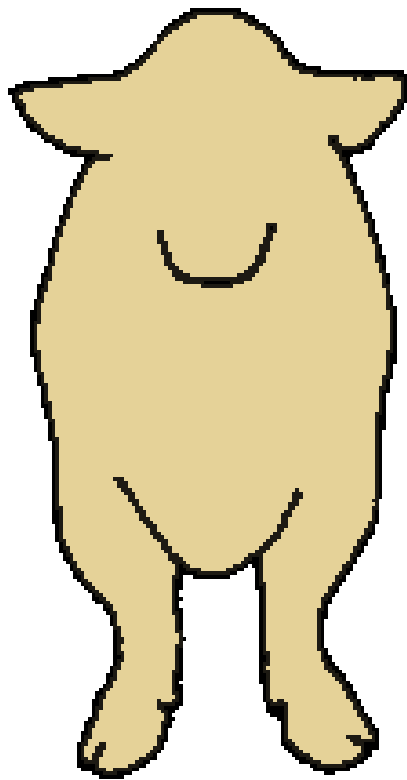
1. Front and rear leg columns
2. Feet
3. Pasterns
4. Hocks
5. Knees
6. Rump
7. Shoulders

Evaluating Structure

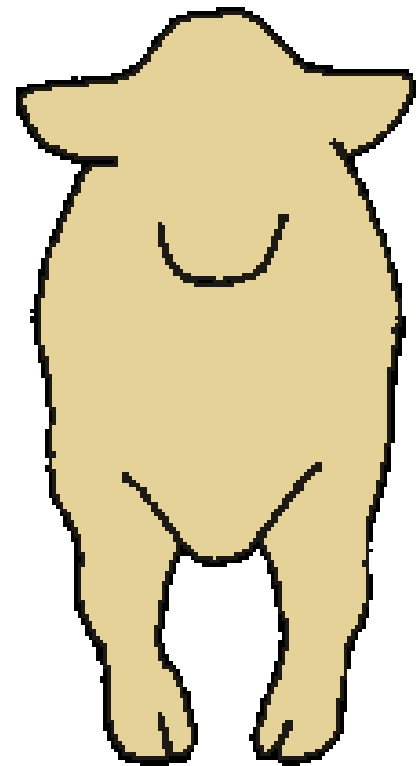
– Front Leg Column –



Correct Front Leg
Column



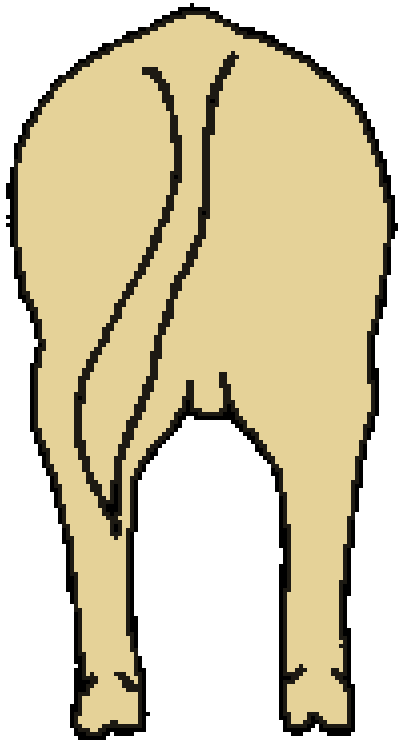
Splay-Footed
*(in at knees, out at
toes)*



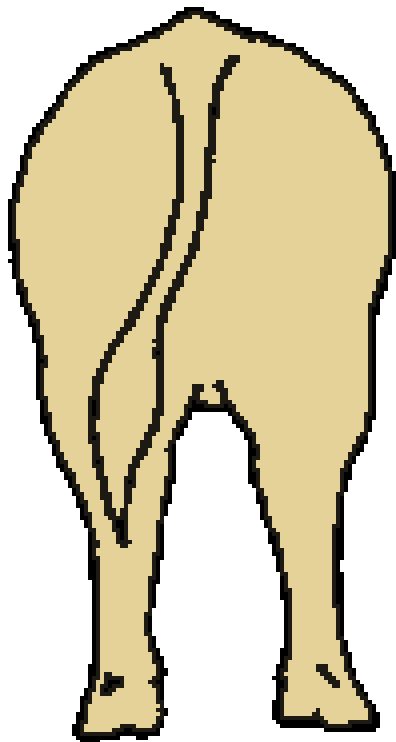
Pigeon-Toed
*(out at knees, in at
toes)*

Evaluating Structure

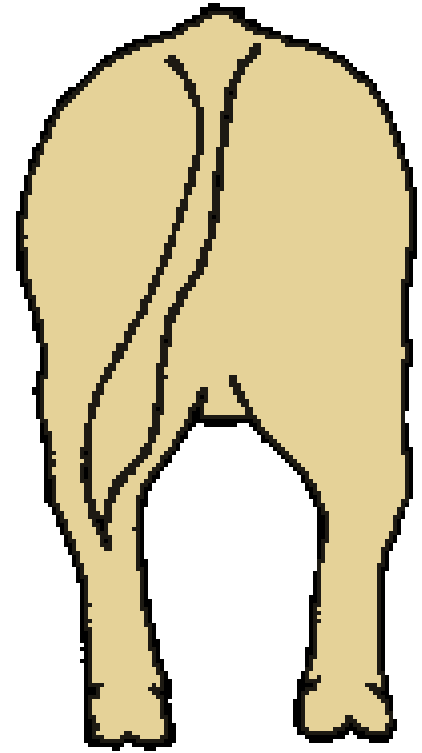
– Rear Leg Column –



Correct Rear Leg Column



Cow-Hocked (*close at hocks, out at toes*)



Bow-Legged (*out at hocks, close at toes*)

Evaluating Structure

– Rear Leg Column –



Correct Rear
Legs



Cow-Hocked

Evaluating Structure

– Feet –



Feet Turned Out (Not Square)



Hoof-skin junction too close to ground

Poor Depth of Heel

Evaluating Structure

– Feet –



Evaluating Structure

– Pasterns –



Pastern Too Weak



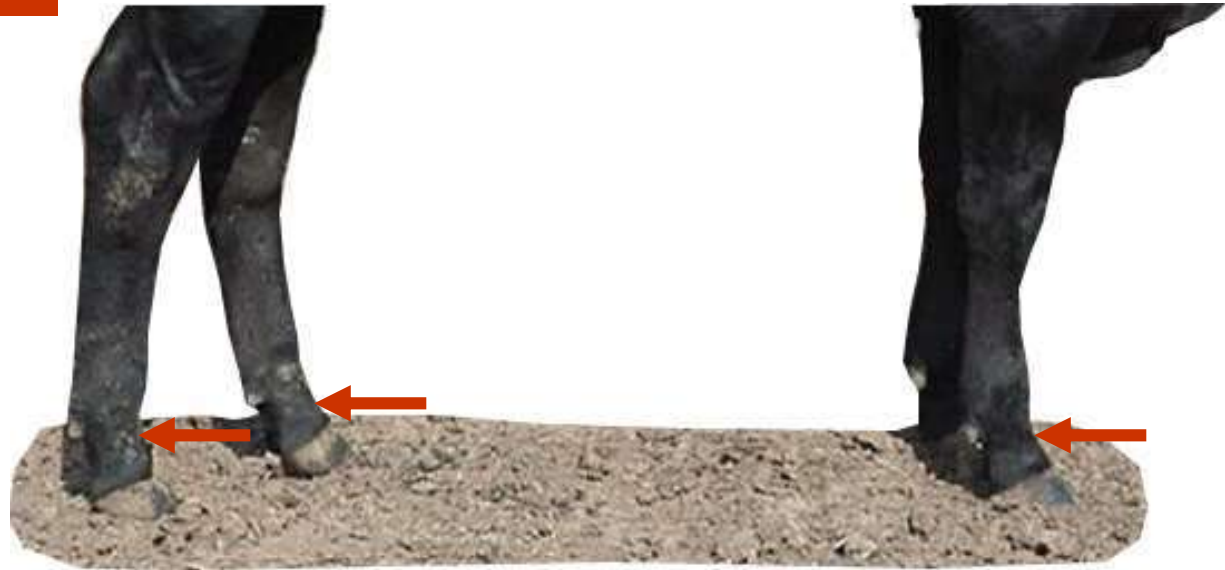
Pastern Too Straight

Evaluating Structure

– Pasterns –



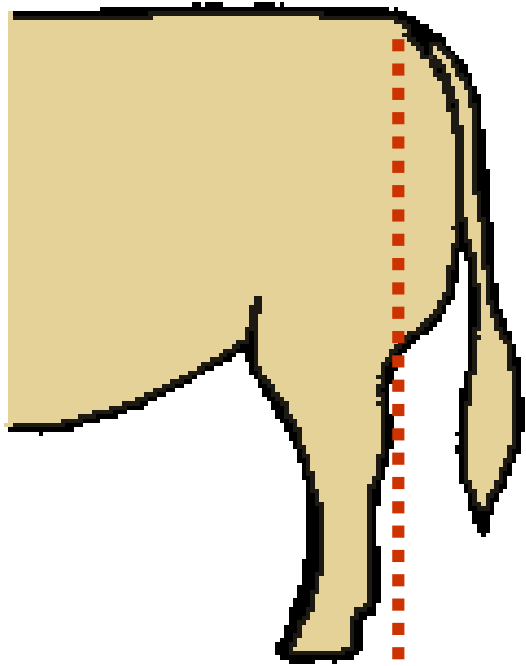
Flex with Strength



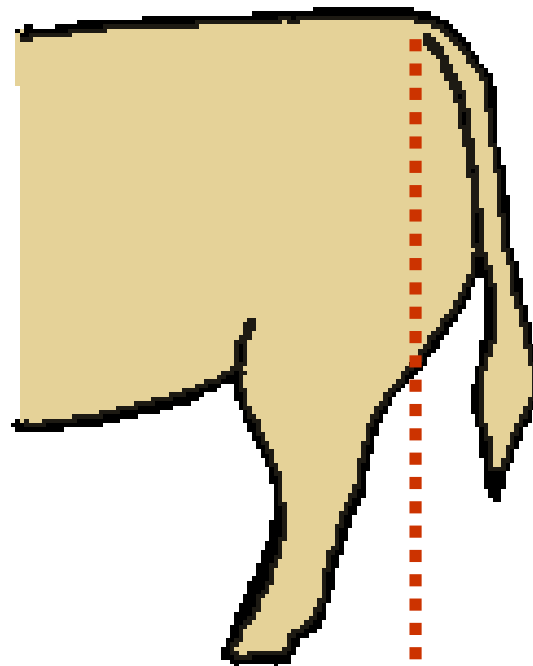
Nice Set to Pasterns

Evaluating Structure

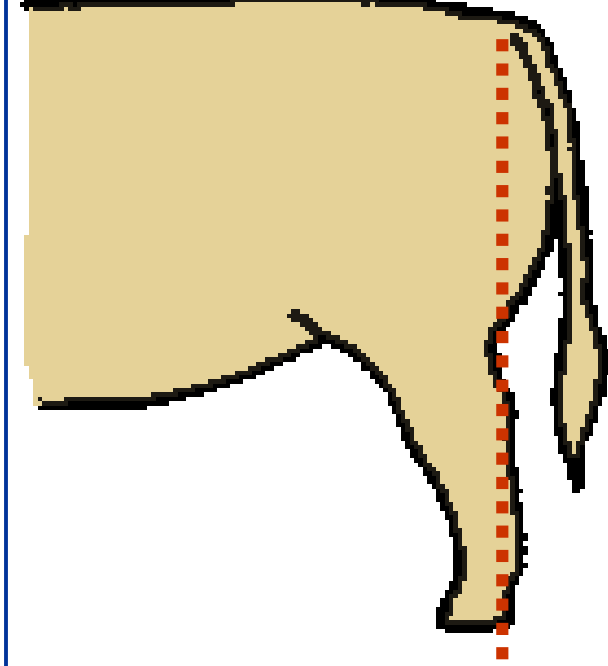
– Hocks –



Correct Hock Angle



Sickle-Hocked (*feet too far underneath*)



Post-Legged (*feet too far back*)

Evaluating Structure

– Hocks –



Sickle-Hocked



Post-Legged

Evaluating Structure

– Hocks –



Correct Set or Angle to Hocks (Square, Flat Boned, Powerful)

Evaluating Structure

– Rump –



Short and Steep
Rumped from Hooks
to Pins

Evaluating Structure

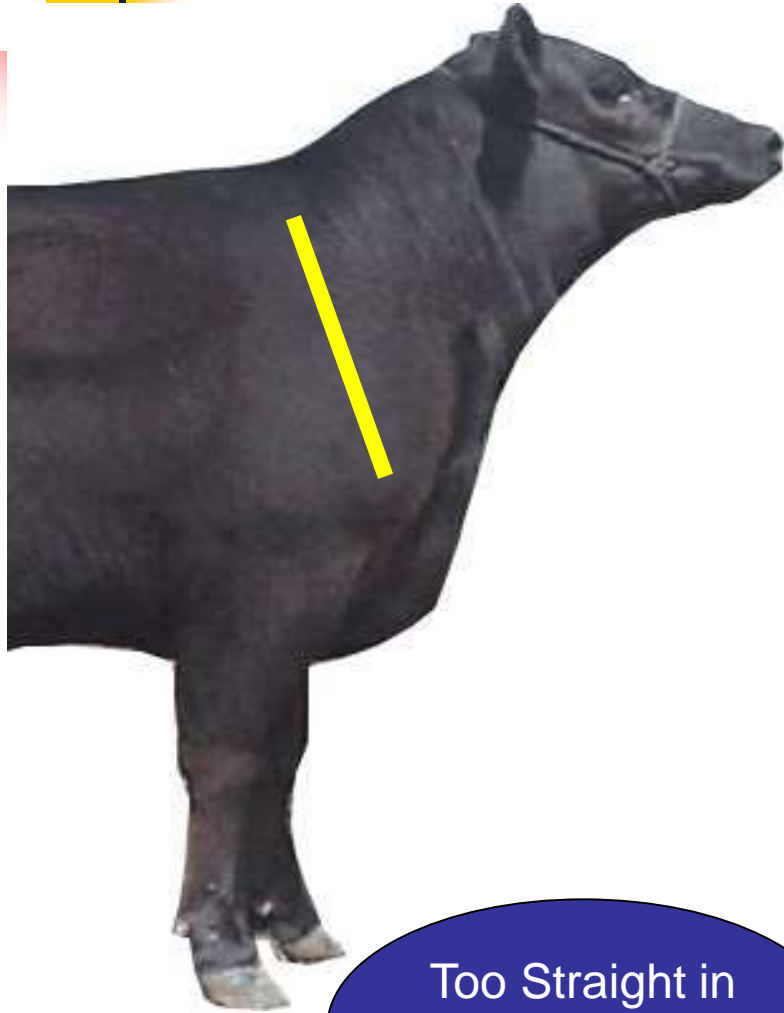
– Rump –



Long rumped and level from
hooks to pins



Evaluating Structure



Too Straight in
Shoulder



Too Coarse in
Shoulder

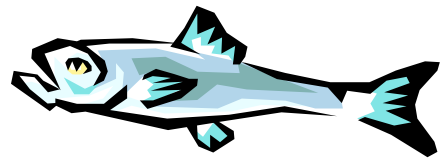
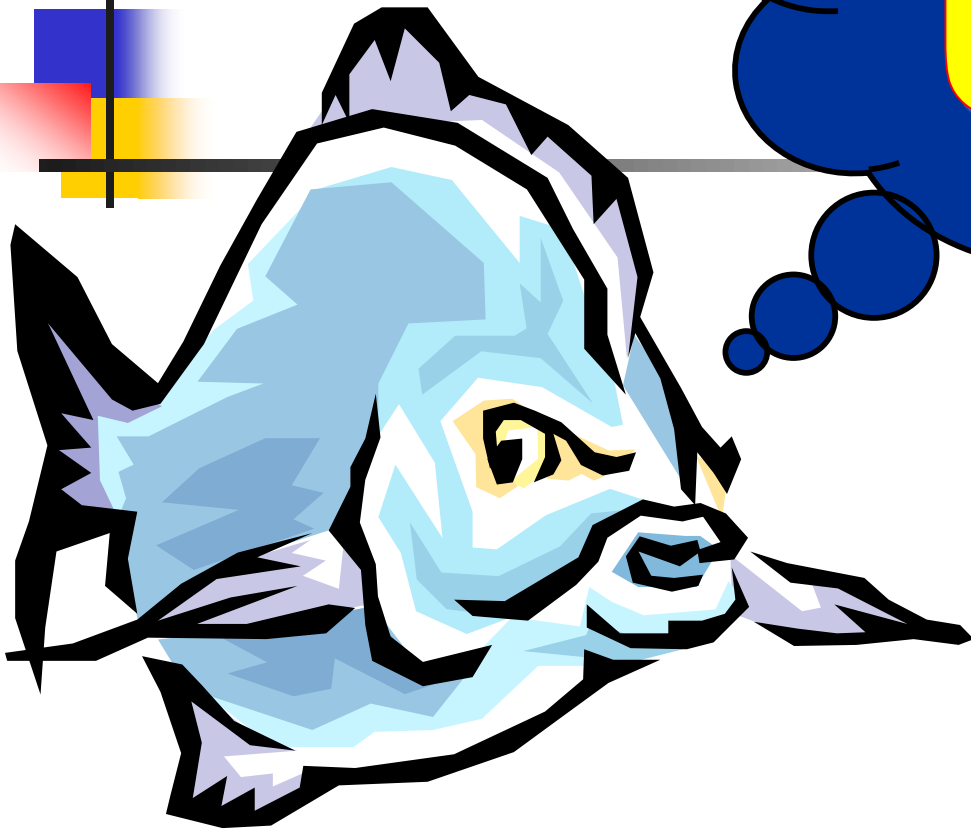
Evaluating Structure



Nice Set and
Smoothness to
SHoulder

Excellent
Shoulder

Evaluating Capacity



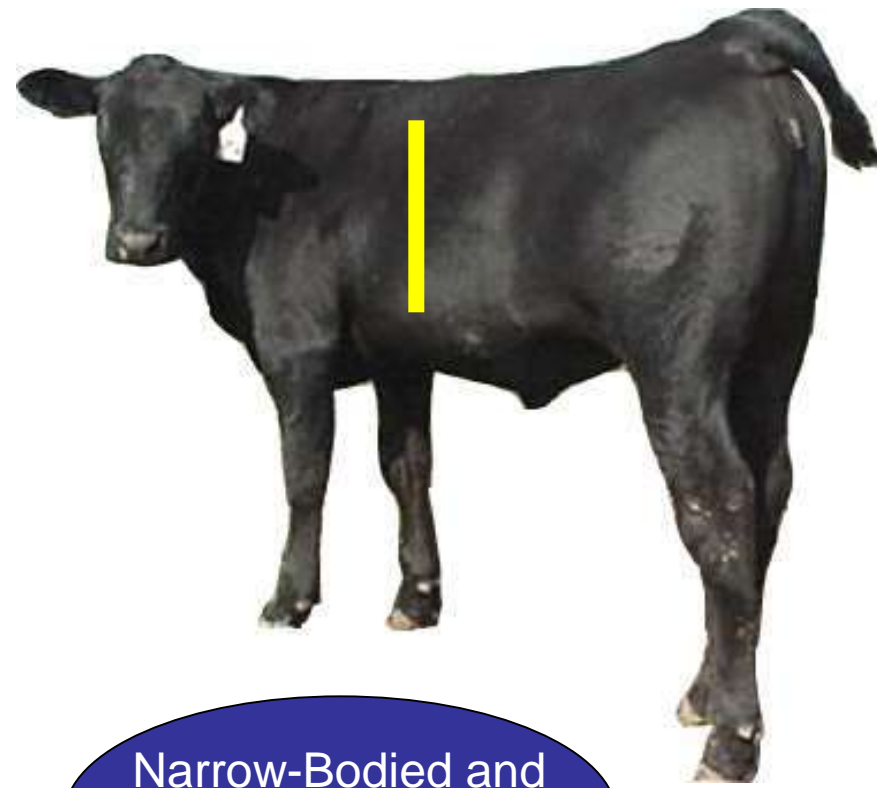
Evaluating Capacity or Volume



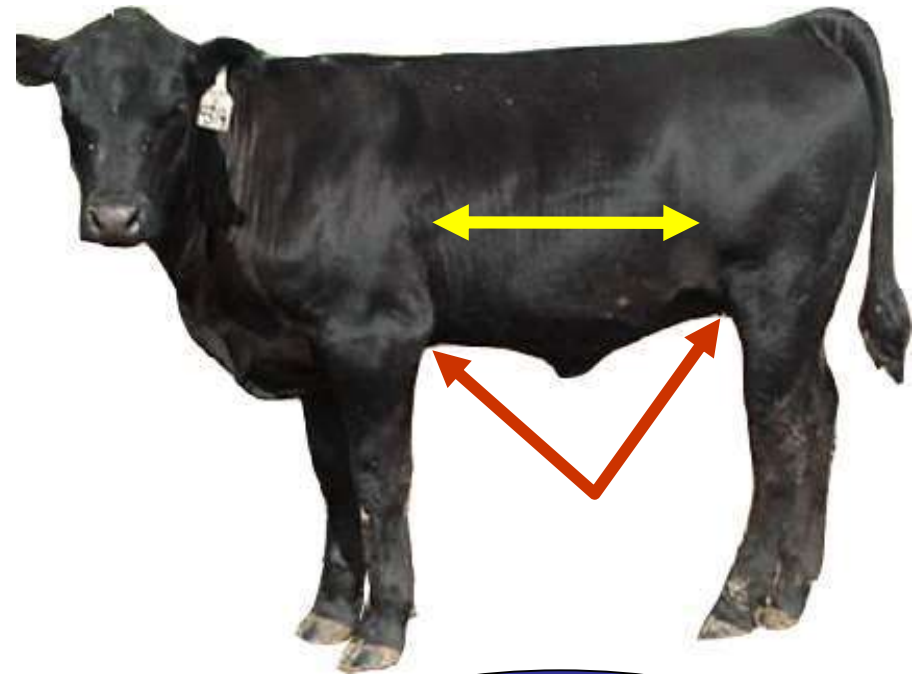
Capacity (volume) is determined by three factors:

1. Body width (rib shape)
 - ✓ Heifers should be wide-bodied with good spring of rib.
2. Depth of body
 - ✓ When viewed from the side, body depth should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the distance from the top of the back to the ground.
3. Length of body
 - ✓ Heifers should be long-bodied.

Evaluating Capacity



Narrow-Bodied and
Flat-Ribbed

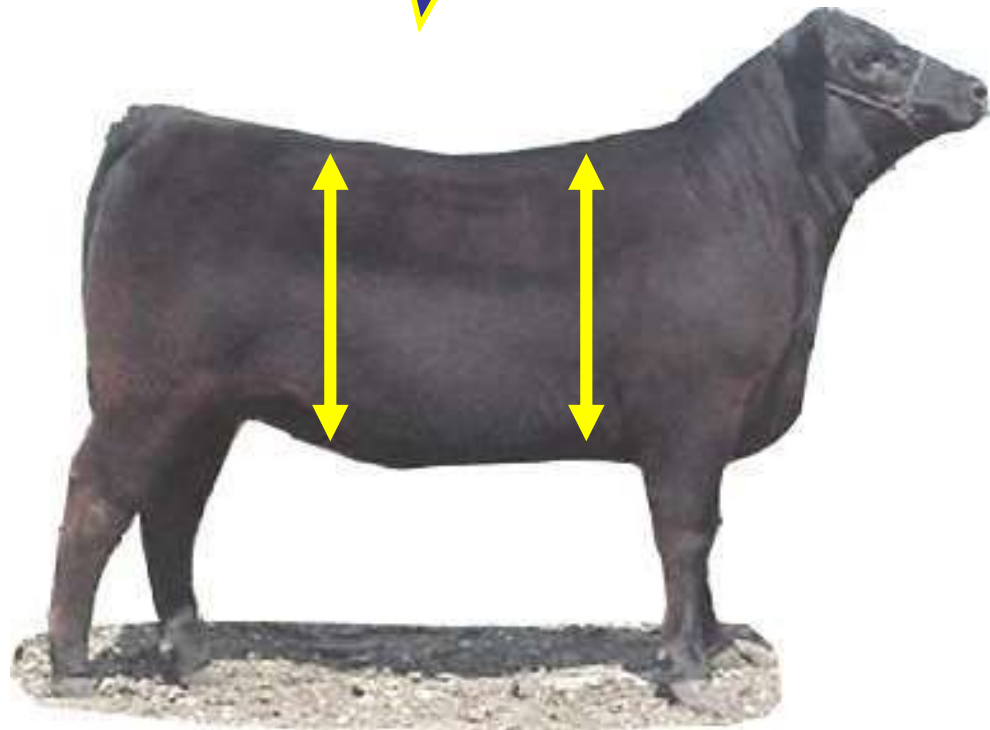


Short-Bodied and
Shallow-Flanked

Evaluating Capacity

Excellent, Wide, Open
Rib Shape

Excellent, Uniform Body
Depth



Evaluating Style and Balance



Evaluating Style and Balance



Style and balance refers to how well all the pieces of the heifer fit together.

Points to consider include:

1. Straightness of top-line.
2. Balance between body width, body depth, and body length.
3. Smoothness and angularity of front.
4. Blending of the shoulder, ribs, and hip.

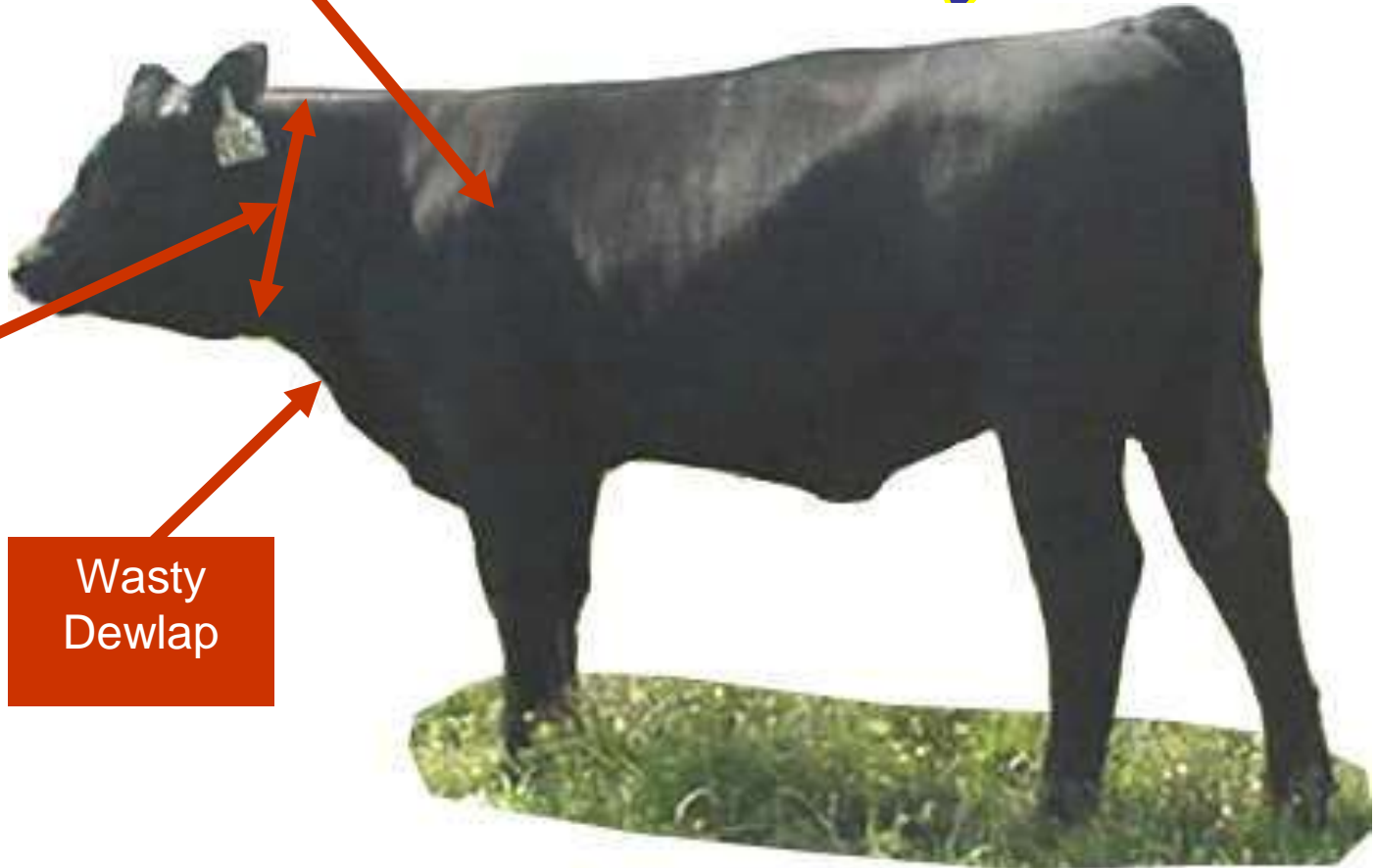
Evaluating Style and Balance

Unbalanced Alert

Coarse
Shoulder

Thick
Neck

Wasty
Dewlap



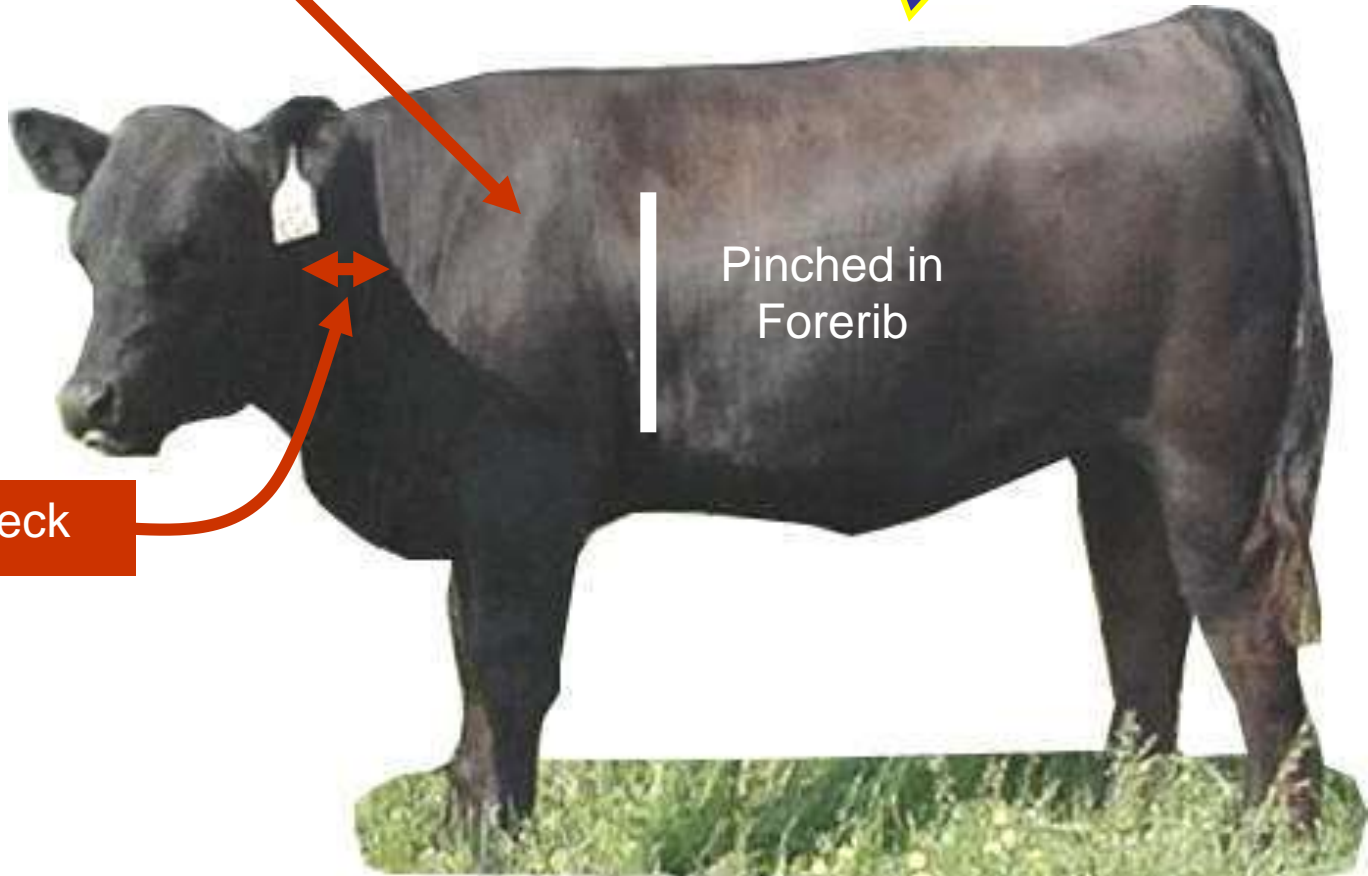
Evaluating Style

Coarse, Open
Shoulder

Unbalanced Alert

Short Neck

Pinched in
Forerib

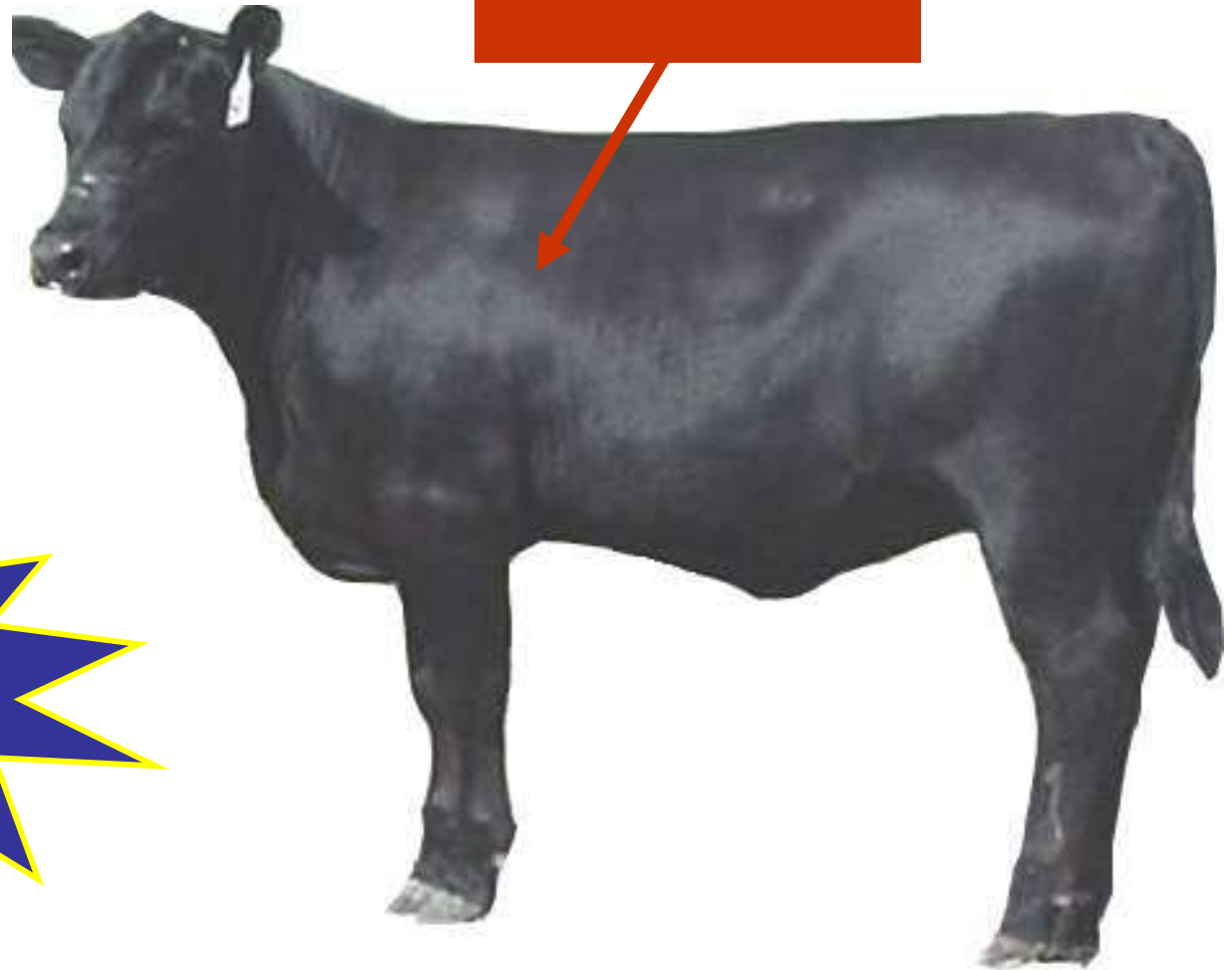


Evaluating Style

Shoulder Blends
Nicely with Forerib

nce

Smooth, Angular
Front



Good
Front-End

Evaluating Style and Balance

Straight Top-Line

Nice Blending of
Shoulder, Forerib,
and Hip

Long, Clean Neck

Excellent Style
and Balance

Nice Balance of Width, Depth, and Length

Evaluating Muscling



Evaluating Degree of Muscling



To determine degree of muscling, evaluate the following:

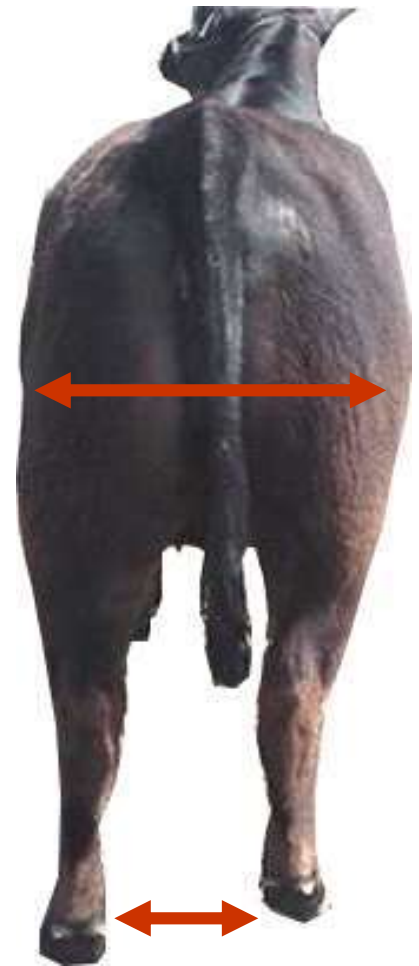
1. Thickness through the center of the quarter when viewed from the rear.
2. Width between rear feet when the heifer walks and stands.
3. Shape over the top (shape to the loin).

Evaluating Degree of Muscling

Light Muscled (*very narrow*)


Average Muscled (*average width*)

Heavy Muscled (*good width*)





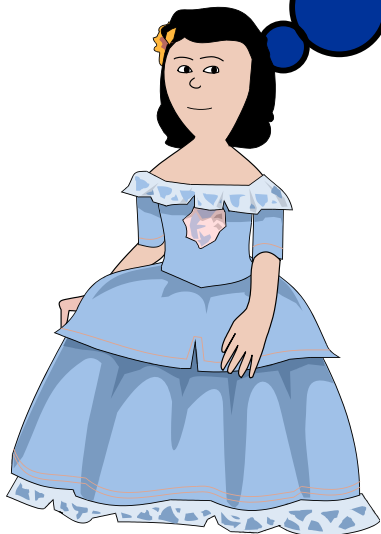
Evaluating Degree of Muscling



Great Top Shape (*heavy muscled*)



Evaluating Femininity



Evaluating Femininity



When evaluating femininity in heifers, pay careful attention to the following:

1. Refinement of the head.
2. Length of the neck.
3. Angularity of the neck and shoulder.
4. Blending of the shoulder to the forerib.

Evaluating Femininity

Too Thick and Coarse
Through Shoulder

Too Thick Through Neck

Coarse Head



Not Feminine!!
(Is This a Heifer or a Steer?)

Evaluating Femininity

Not Feminine!!

Too Much Shoulder



Excess Hide in Dewlap

ing Femininity

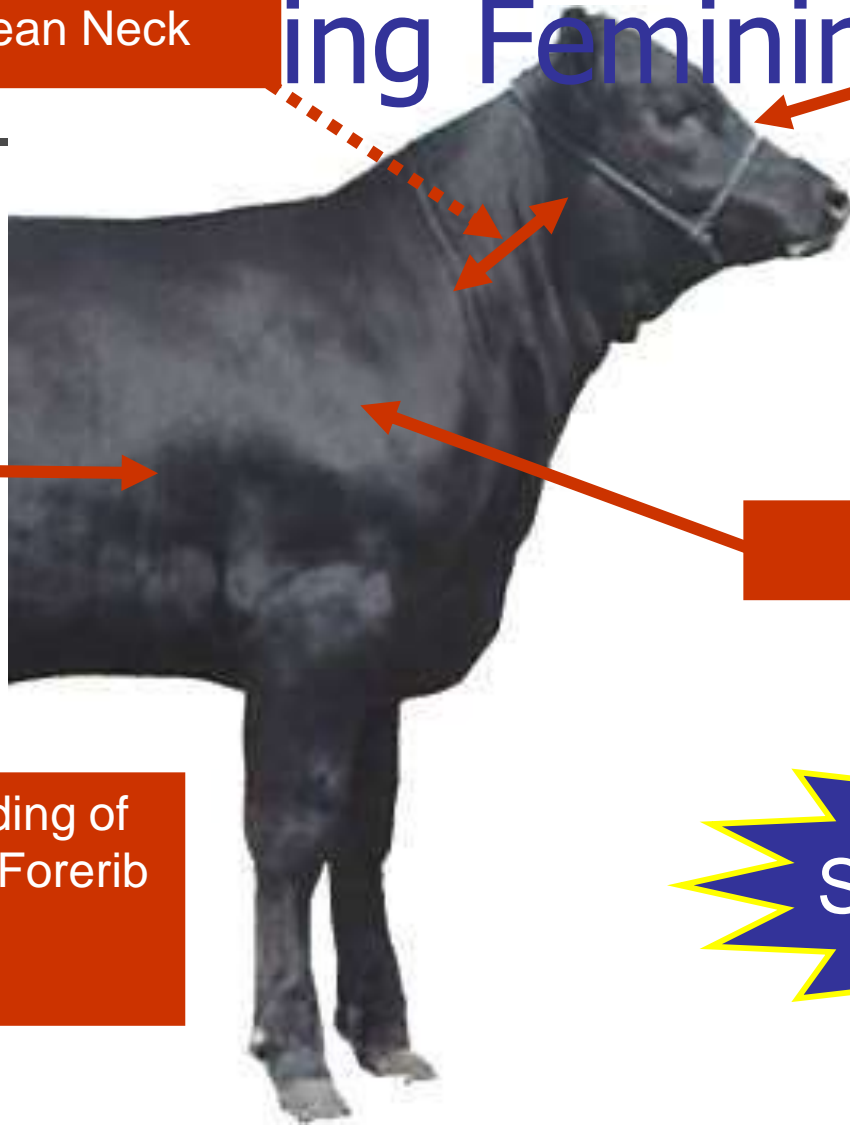
Long, Clean Neck

Refined Head (*narrow muzzle*)

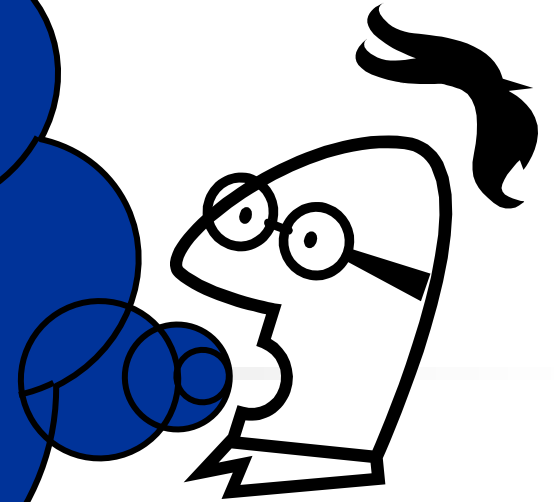
Clean, Angular Shoulder

Good Blending of
Shoulder to Forerib

Super Feminine



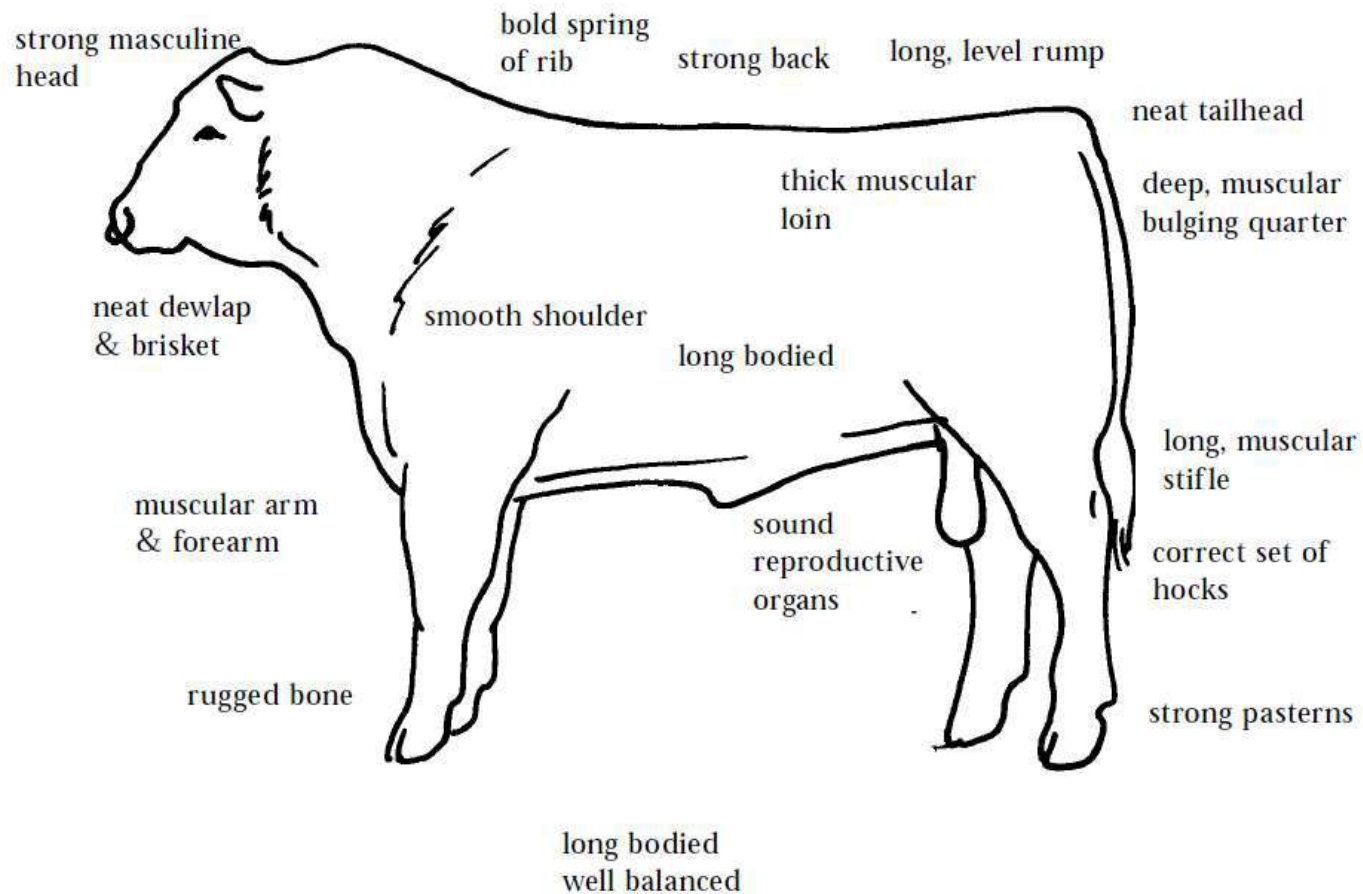
Judging of Breedign bull



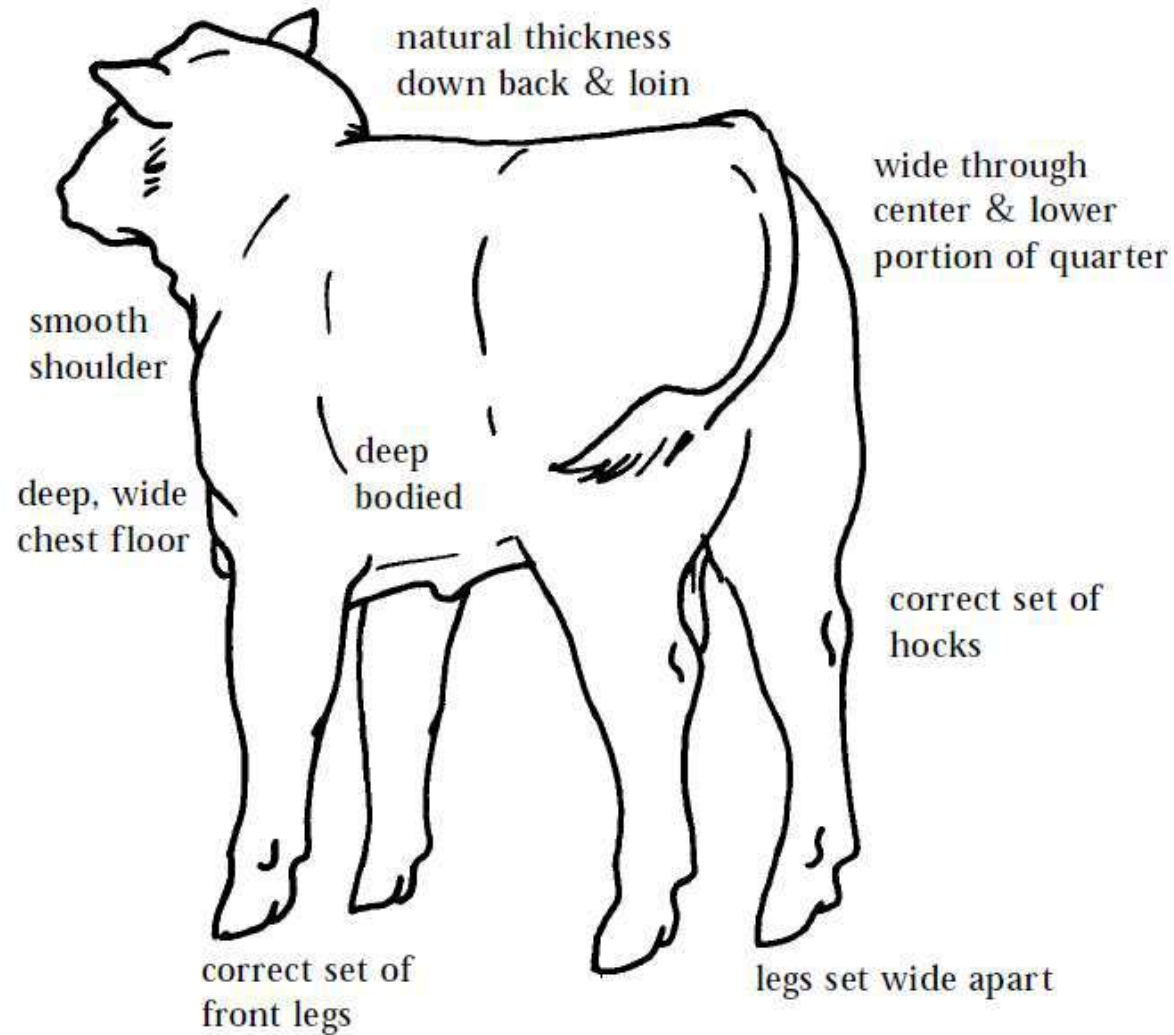
Characteristics of an ideal Breeding bull



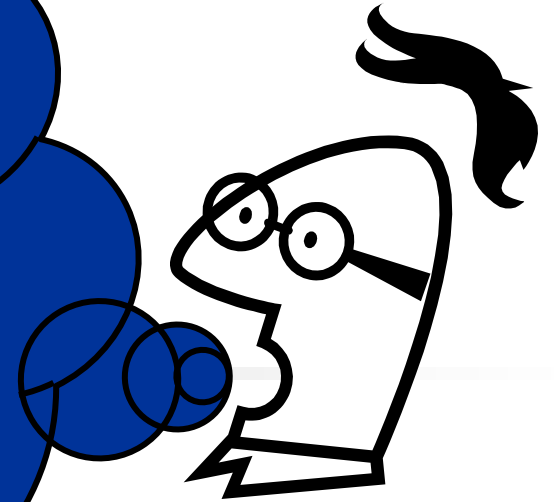
Ideal Bull



Characteristics of an ideal Breeding bull

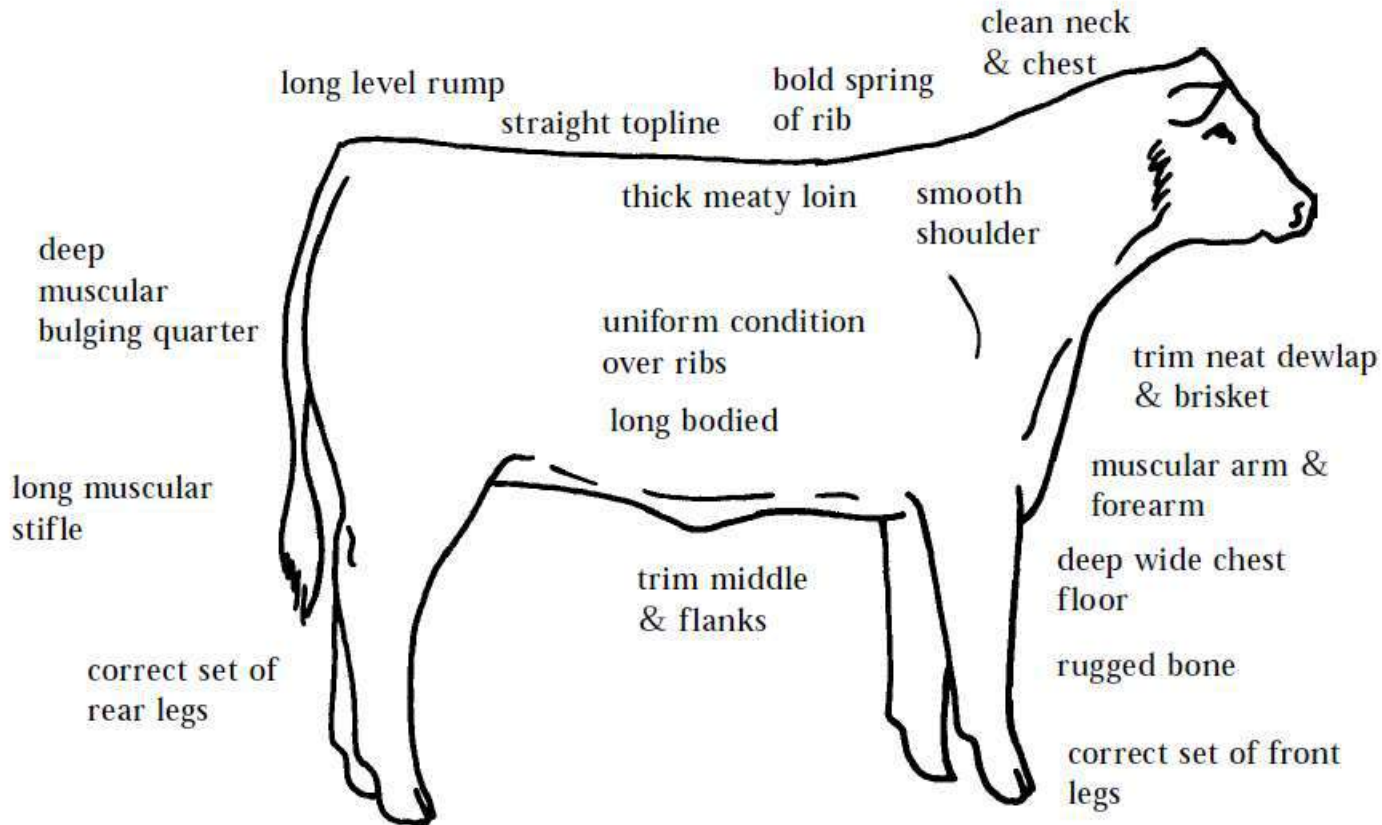


Judging of market steer

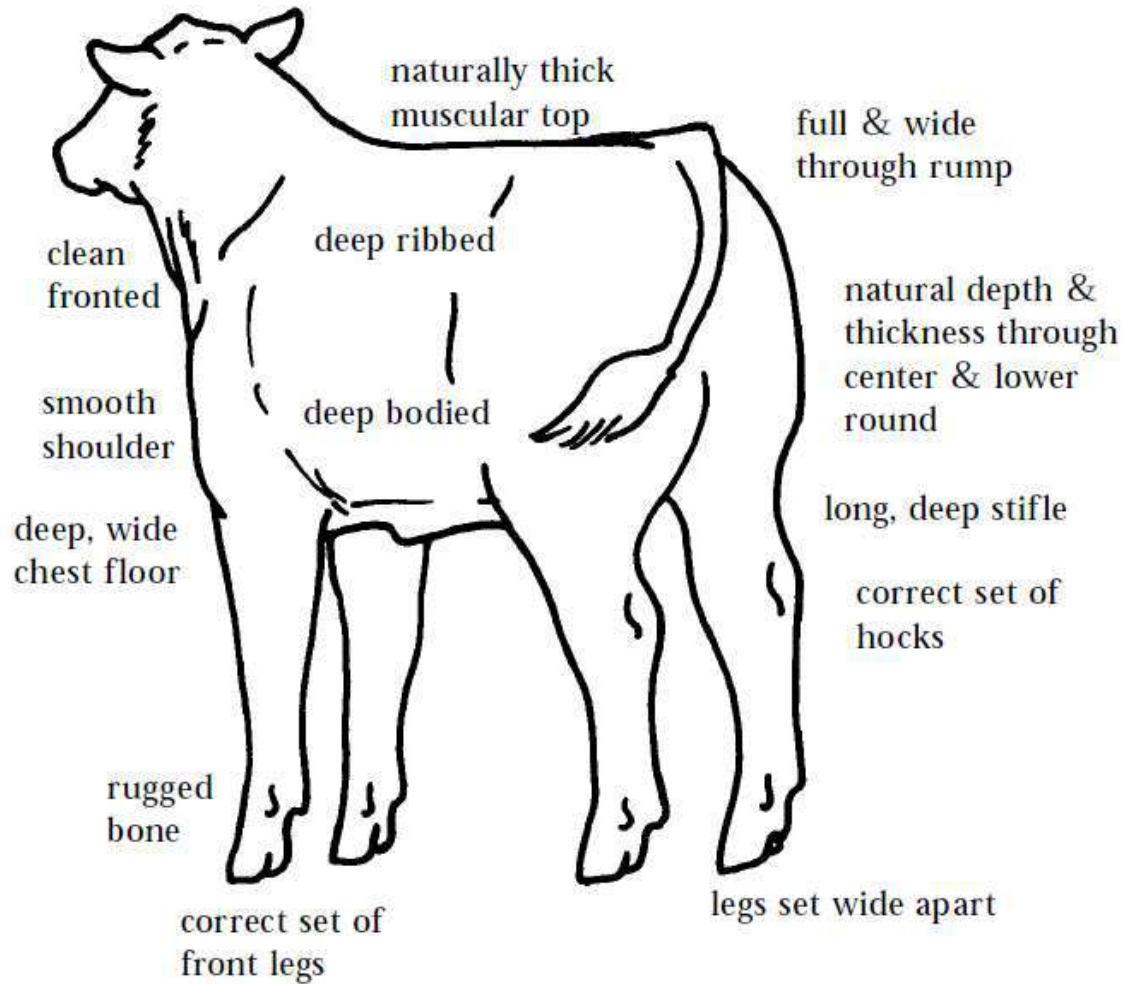
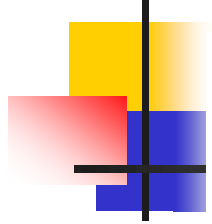


Characteristics of an ideal market steer

Ideal Market Steer



Characteristics of an ideal market steer



Judging Market Steers

Ranking Traits

1. Degree of muscling
2. Degree of finish (fat cover)
3. Growth capacity
4. Structure
5. Balance
6. Frame size



Evaluate Muscling

Muscling

- Muscle is the product of meat animals
- More muscle means a more valuable animal





Evaluate Muscling

Degree of muscling in steers is best determined by evaluating:

- Thickness through the center of quarter
- Width between rear feet when steer stands and(or) walks
- Shape over the top (butterfly shape desired)



Thin Muscle

Average Muscle

Thick Muscle

Super Thick



Very narrow width



Average width



Good width



Very good width



Evaluate Finish

Finish

- Finish is the amount of fat on the animal
- More finish means better tasting product
 - Marbling is intramuscular fat

Evaluate Finish

Areas to consider when evaluating degree of finish include:

- Top line
- Underline
- Body depth
- Brisket
- Tailhead
- Udder or cod
- Shoulder
- Over the ribs



Evaluate Finish



Smooth over top

Fat tailhead



Full brisket

Loose underline

Udder fat

Evaluate Finish

Nice brisket

Too trim



Full brisket (near ideal)



Empty brisket (lacks finish)



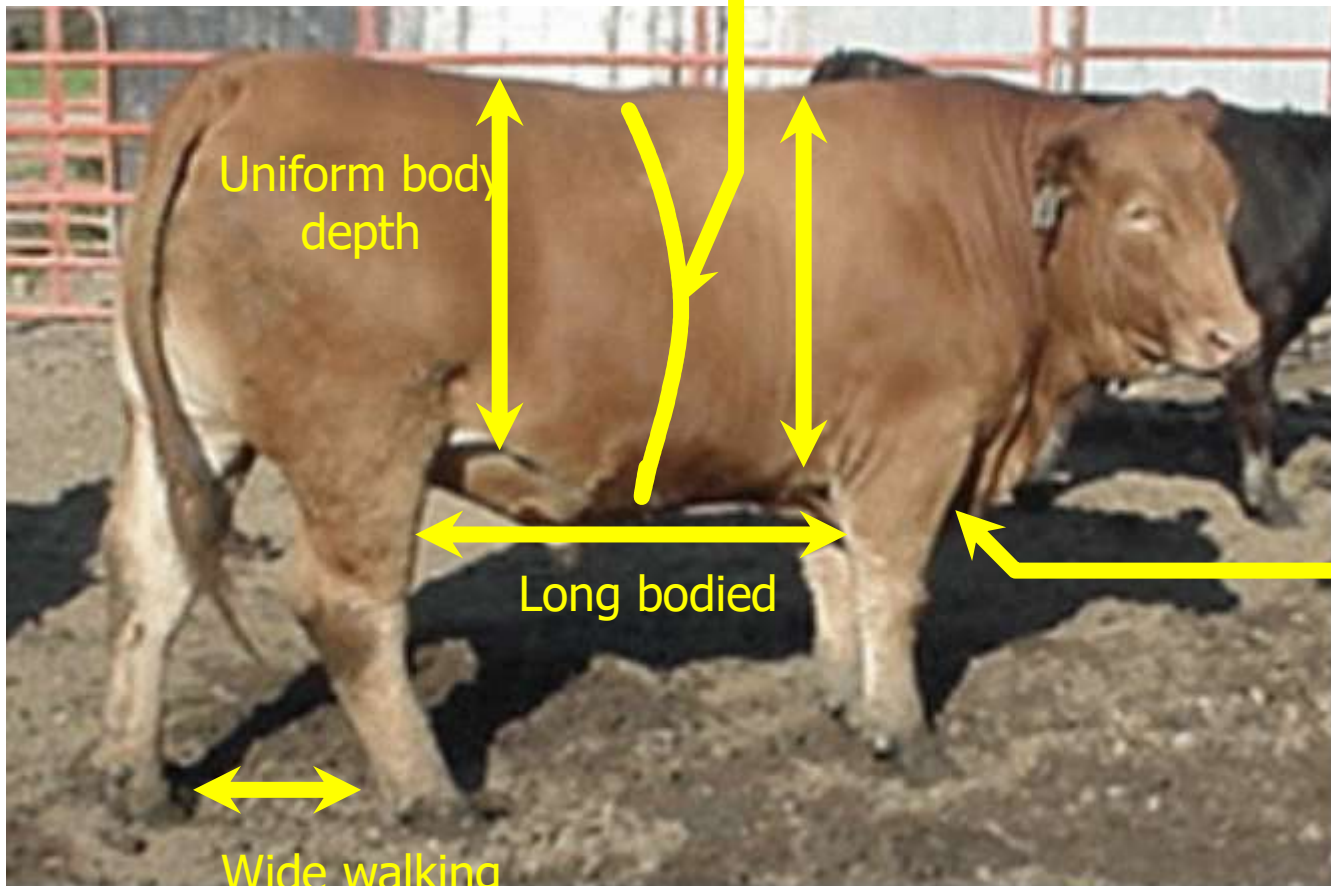
Evaluate Growth Capacity

Market steers with high growth capacity will be:

- Wide through the chest
- Wide between feet when walking or standing
- Uniform in their body depth
- Open through the ribs
- Long bodied

Good growth capacity

Open rib shape



Wide chested

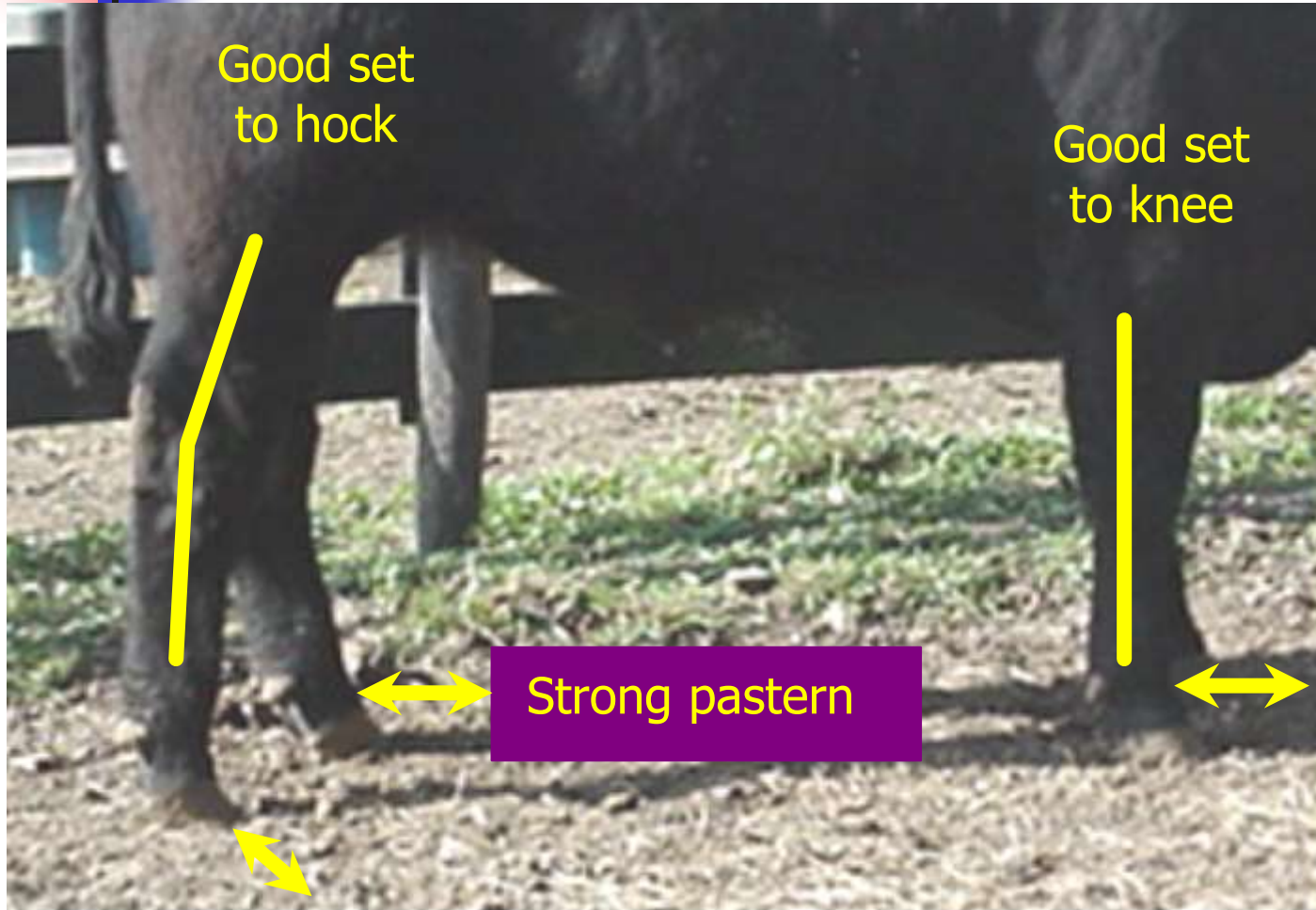


Evaluate Soundness

Sound and structurally correct animals will have:

- Long, straight top line
- Long, level rumps
- Flexible, clean, flat joints
- Long powerful stride (walk with long step)
- Good set to hocks and knees

Evaluate Soundness



Good set
to hock

Good set
to knee

Strong pastern

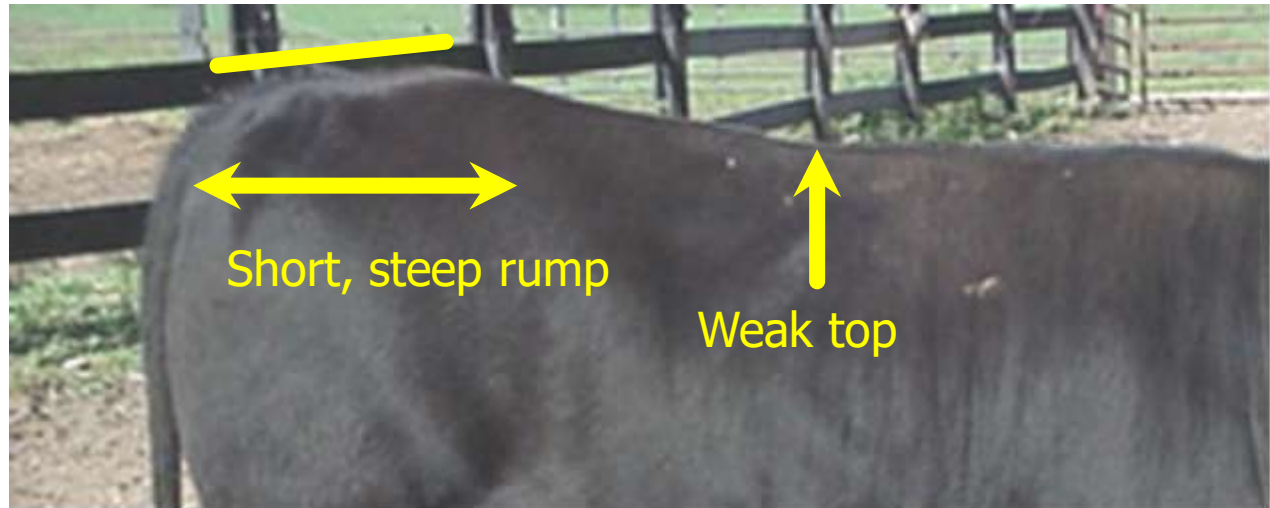
Big, square feet

Sound and
structurally
correct

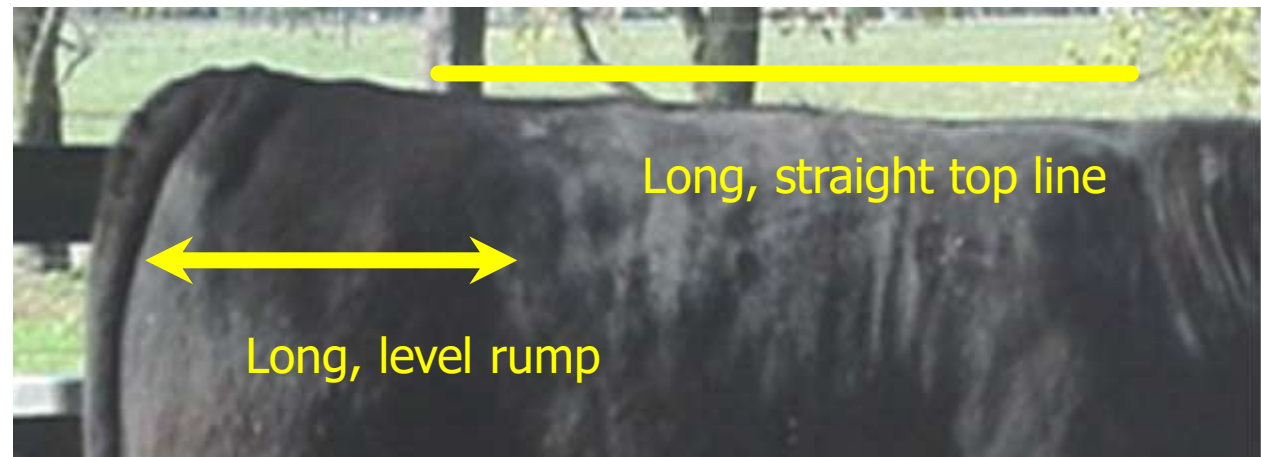
Strong pastern

Evaluate Soundness

Poor structure



Good structure



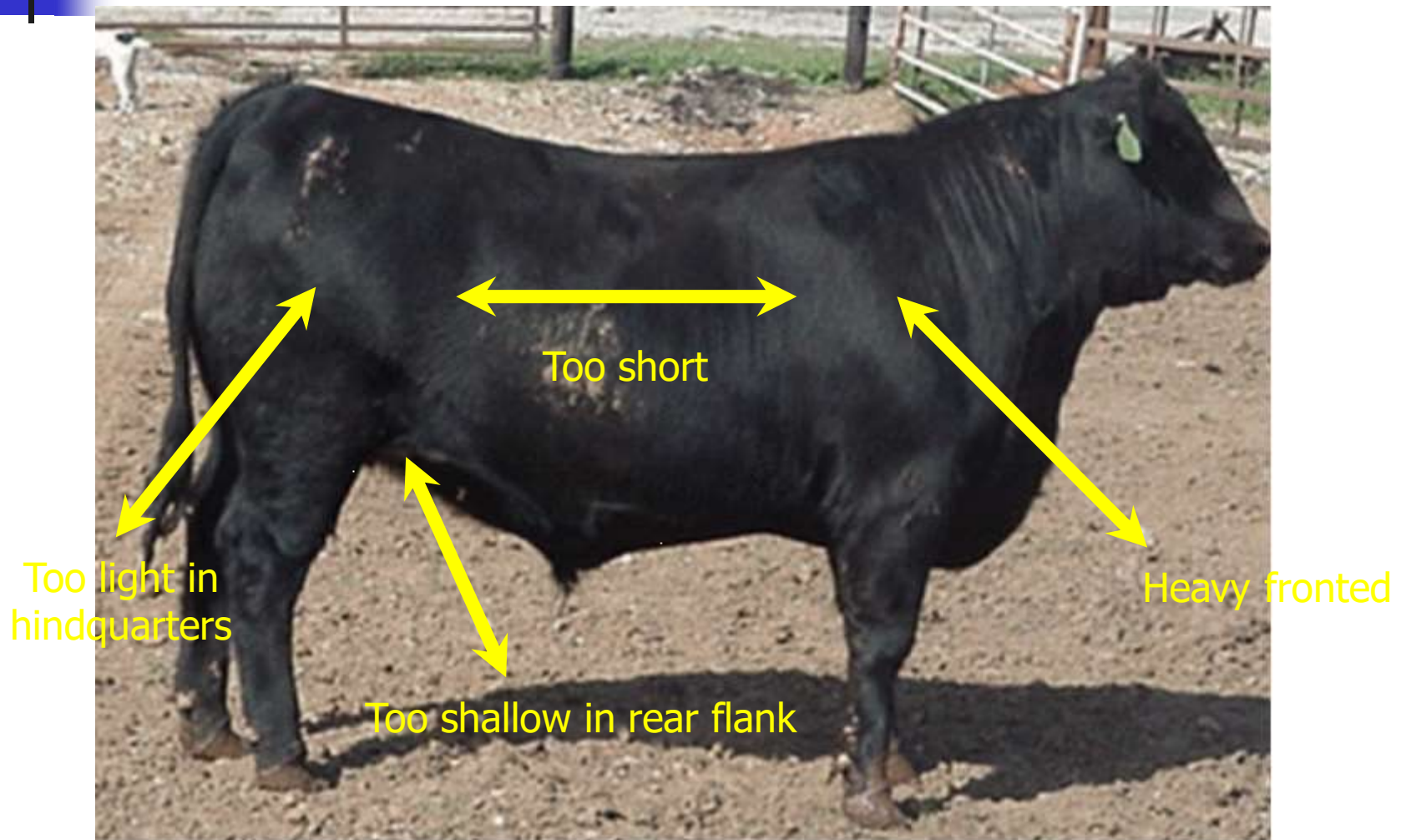
Evaluate Balance

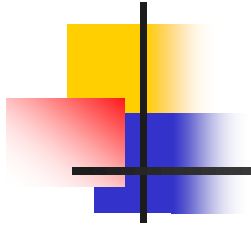
Balance refers to market steers having the correct portions of width, depth, and length

- Width, depth, and length should be in equal proportions that blend together



NO BALANCE ALERT !





Good
fronted
steer



Clean
necked

Smooth
shoulder

Well Balanced Steer

All the parts (width, depth, and length) fit together nicely



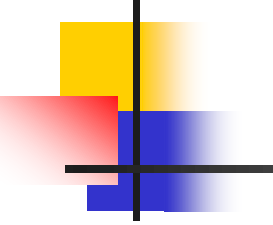


Evaluate Frame Size

The optimum steer for today's market should be medium framed and finish at about 1,200 lbs

- Large framed steers will get too big before developing adequate finish
- Small framed steers will be early maturing and get too fat before they reach optimum weight

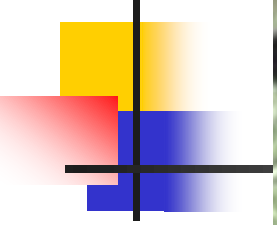
Evaluate Frame Size



too big

1,400 lb large framed steer with no finish

Evaluate Frame Size



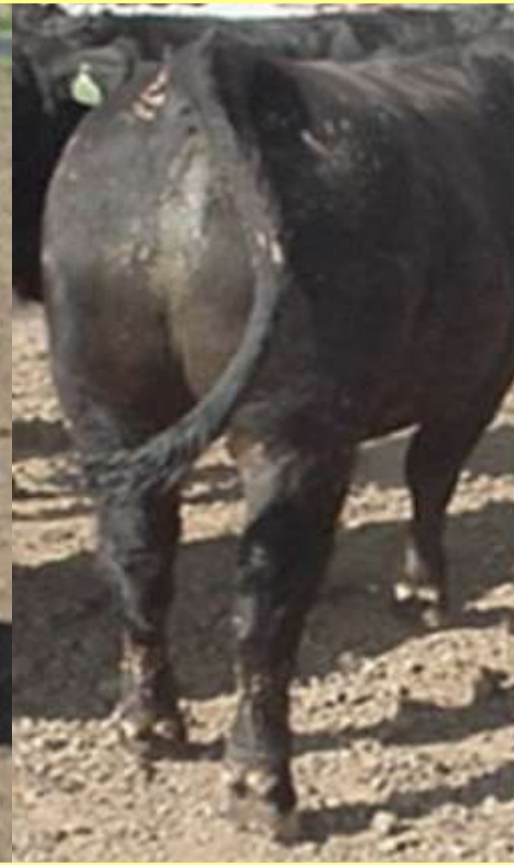
too small

900 lb small framed steer with too much fat

Evaluate Frame Size



just right



1,250 lb medium framed steer with proper finish