



taurus data LIMOUSIN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

Measuring Cows

It is now possible to measure and store information relating to cow size, condition score and udder conformation. Although no EBVs are currently produced that use this information, they are indicators of efficiency and functionality which will become important as the evaluation is developed. Data recorded now will be used at this time.

Cow Mature Size

Breeders wishing to record the mature size of their cows can now record these weights on an annual basis at weaning time.

When weights are submitted breeders are also asked to record body condition score (1 to 5) and a management code, either commercial management (code 571) or standard pedigree management (code 572)

Condition Score can be assessed according to the following:

Score 1

Tail head – deep cavity with no fatty tissue under skin. Skin fairly supple, coat condition often rough. Loin – spine prominent and horizontal processes sharp. Ribs – sharp with no fat cover.

Score 2

Tail head – shallow cavity but pin bones prominent; some fat under skin. Skin supple. Loin – horizontal processes can be identified individually with ends rounded. Ribs – can be identified individually but feel rounded rather than sharp.

Score 3

Tail head – fat whole area and skin smooth but pelvis can be felt, but only with firm pressure. Loin – end of horizontal process can only be felt with pressure; only slight depression in loin. Ribs – individual ribs can only be felt with firm pressure.

Score 4

Tail head – completely filled and folds and patches of fat evident but soft to touch. *Loin* – cannot feel processes and have completely rounded appearance. *Ribs* – folds of fat developing over ribs.

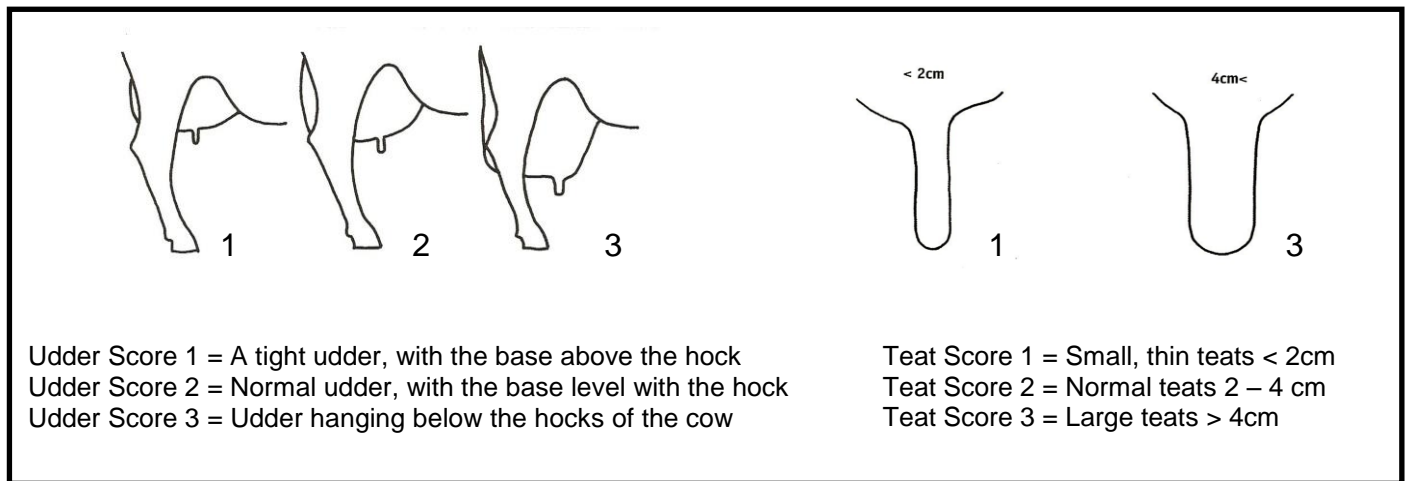
Score 5

Bone structure of the animal no longer noticeable. Tail head – almost buried in fatty tissue. Loin – pelvis impalpable even with firm pressure. Ribs – covered with thick layer of fat.

For further information about condition scoring with photographic examples type this link in to your browser: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb6491-cattle-scoring-020130.pdf>

Assessing Udders and Teats

Breeders wishing to record udder and teat conformation can score their cows on an annual basis at calving time using a 3-point scale and submit data on the following form. EBVs for these traits will be produced once sufficient amounts of data have been collected.



For enquiries contact:

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