Fall 2020 newsletter

The Breed Improvement Committee is working for you.

Starting in early 2021, the weighting for feet and legs conformation traits will change. The "Feet and Legs" section we normally use will be divided into two separate sections: "**Foot**" and "**Mobility**." The first section, "Foot," will account for 10% of the final score; 60% of the evaluation will be devoted to heel depth, while 40% will be dedicated to foot angle.

The second section, "Mobility," will account for 15% of the final score. As indicated in the table below, evaluation and weighting will differ based on the type of barn, whether tie stall or free stall.

Table 1

Proposal for changes to the classification worksheet / Conformation Analysis - Female Proposition de changements à la carte de pointage / Analyse de la conformation - Femelle				
Sections / Sections	**Descriptive Traits /** Caractères descriptifs	**Current % /** % Actuel	**Proposal /** Proposition	
Rump / Croupe		10%	**10%**	
Mammary system / Système mammaire		40%	**40%**	
Dairy Strength / Puissance laitière		25%	**25%**	
Feet & Legs / Pieds & Membres		25%	**0%**	
Foot (NEW) / Pied (NOUVEAU)			**10%**	
	Heel depth / Profondeur talon		60%	
	Foot angle / Angle du pied		40%	
Mobility (NEW) / Mobilité (NOUVEAU)			**15%**	
			Tie Stall / Stabulation entravée	Free Stall / Stabulation libre
	Bone quality / Qualité ossature	12%	10%	10%
	Rear legs side view / Vue côté membres arrière	15%	25%	15%
	Rear legs rear view / Vue arrière membres arrière	30%	40%	35%
	Front legs view / Vue membres avant		10%	10%
	Thurl placement / Position trochanter	5%	15%	15%
	Locomotion / Déplacement			15%

Classification Worksheet / Carte de pointage de classification

Why the changes?

In Table 2, the classification statistics show that for our breed, the three (3) points that are farthest from the ideal are rear view, heel depth, and bone quality. We can all probably agree that bone quality is important but is not a major reason for elimination. That is why we have prioritized rear view and heel depth in this calculation.

WESTERN Ayrshire Breeder's Associations — AYRSHIRE QUÉBEC — AYRSHIRE ONTARIO — Atlantic Ayrshire's Breeders Club

Table 2

AY classification - Jan 1, 2019 to Aug 31. 2020 - All Classifications Classification-AY - du 1er janvier 2019 au 31 août 2020 - Toutes les classifications		
Descriptive Traits Caractères descriptifs	**Average Score /** Pointage moyen	**Ideal Score /** Pointage idéal
Feet & Legs / Pieds et Membres	82,13	
Foot angle / Angle du pied	6,02	7
Heel Depth / Profondeur talon	5,48	7 to/à 9
Bone Quality / Qualité ossature	6,55	9
Rear Legs Side View / Vue de côté membres arr.	5,25	5
Rear Legs Rear view/ Vue arrière membres arr.	5,83	9
Thurl Placement / Position trochanter	5,51	6

Thurl placement will have greater importance and will jump from 5% to 15% (Table 1). Some breeders want this point to have even greater importance? Remember that it also affects the final score for the rump with to a level of 15%.

This new way of evaluating our animals will change the way we see our cows. More than ever, we are aiming for a functional cow, for a longer life. **The Ayrshire breed has a longer lifespan than other major Canadian breeds, which ensures long-term profitability.**