



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Appendix 4 of Section 5 of the ICAR Guidelines - The standard trait definition for Dairy Goats

Appendix 4 of Section 5 – Standard Trait Definition for Dairy Goats

Version November, 2021

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Change Summary

Date of Change	Nature of Change
November 2021	Creation of document. Rewrite of guidelines. Relationship between conformation and functional traits added. Standard trait definitions and relationship between conformation and functional traits moved to separate appendices.

1 Approved Standard Traits

Frame traits

1. Stature
2. Chest Width
3. Body Depth
4. Thurl Width
5. Rump Angle
6. Loin Strength
7. Angularity

Leg traits

8. Rear Legs rear view
9. Rear Legs side view
10. Locomotion

Udder traits

11. Fore Udder Attachment
12. Rear Udder Height
13. Central Ligament
14. Rear Udder Width
15. Udder Depth
16. Teat Placement rear view
17. Teat Placement side view
18. Teat Length
19. Teat Form

2 Standard Trait Definition

The precise description of each trait is well defined and it is essential that the full range of linear scores to identify the intermediate and extremes of each trait be used. The assessment parameters for the calculations should be based on the expected biological extremes of the same category animals in terms of sex and age scored. The scale must cover the biological extremes of the current population or category. The extremes and the intermediates are ordered according to the degree of expression of the trait. For example thin and thick, long and short etc. A high or a low score has no particular meaning and it is not necessarily desirable or undesirable.

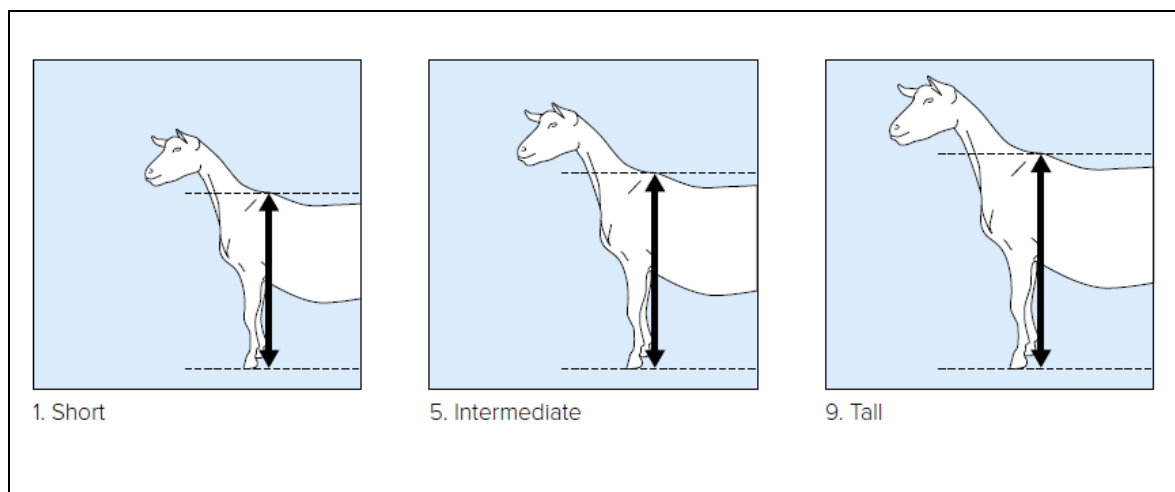
Recommended Scale 1 - 9

Note: The linear scale used, must cover the expected biological extremes of the population in the country of assessment.

1. Stature

Reference point: Measured from the top of the spine in between the shoulders to ground. Precise measurement in centimeters or inches, or linear scale.

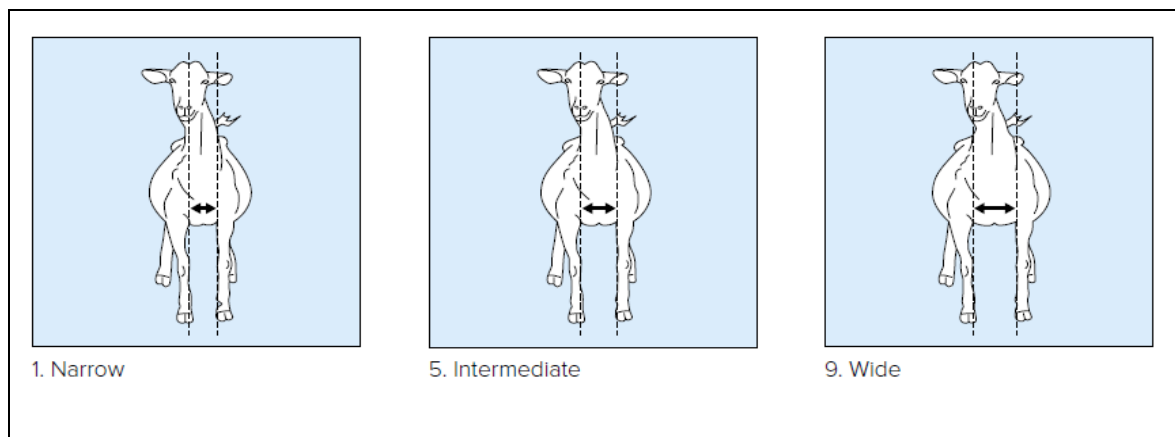
- 1 - Short
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Tall



2. Chest Width

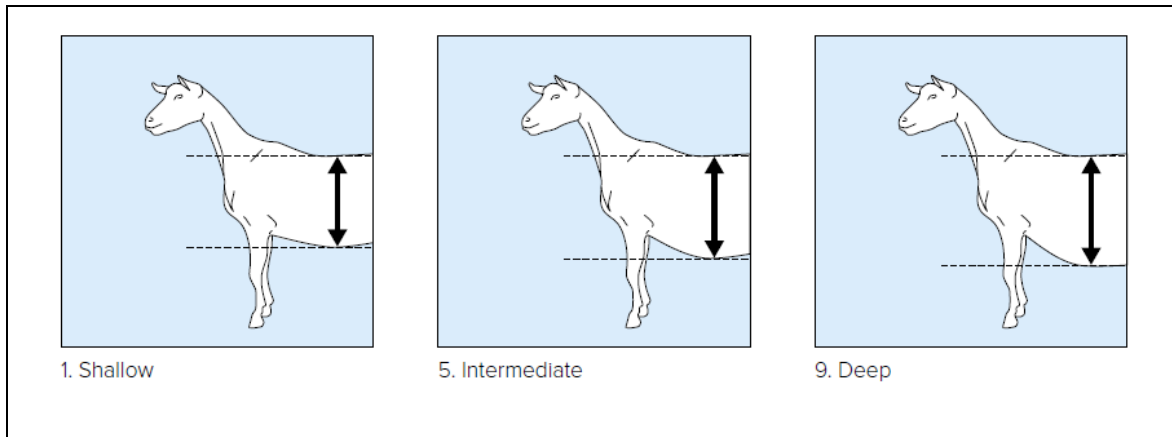
Reference point: Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.

- 1 - Narrow
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Wide



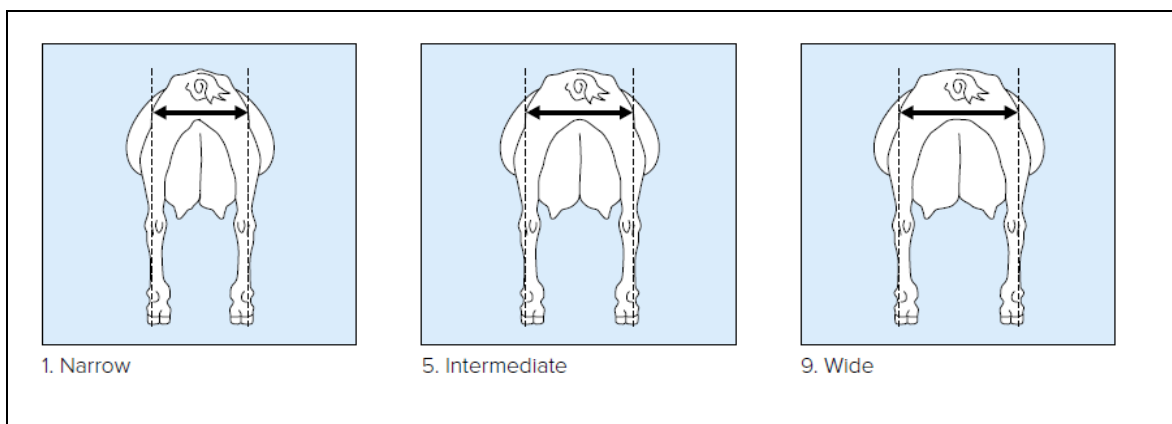
3. Body Depth

Reference point: Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib - the deepest point.
1 - Shallow
5 - Intermediate
9 - Deep



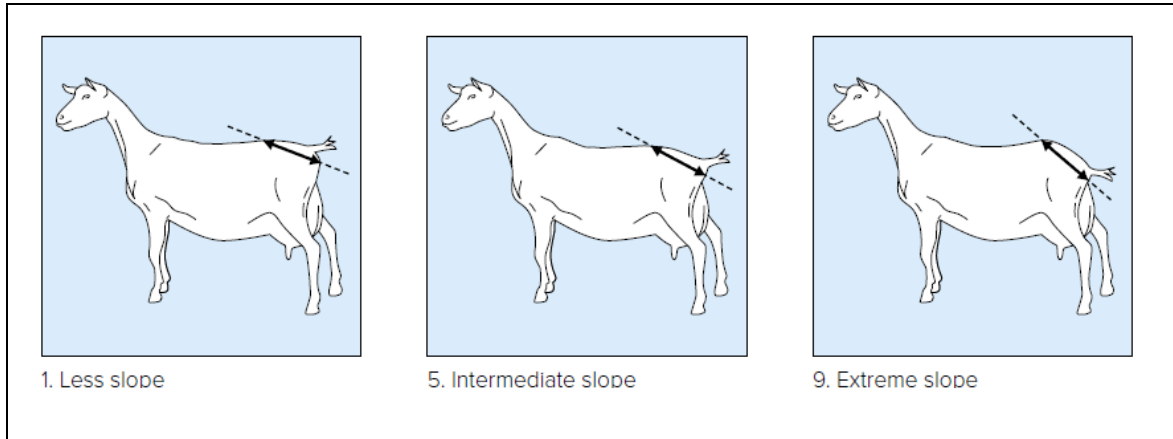
4. Thurl Width

Reference point: Distance between thurls.
1 - Narrow
5 - Intermediate
9 - Wide



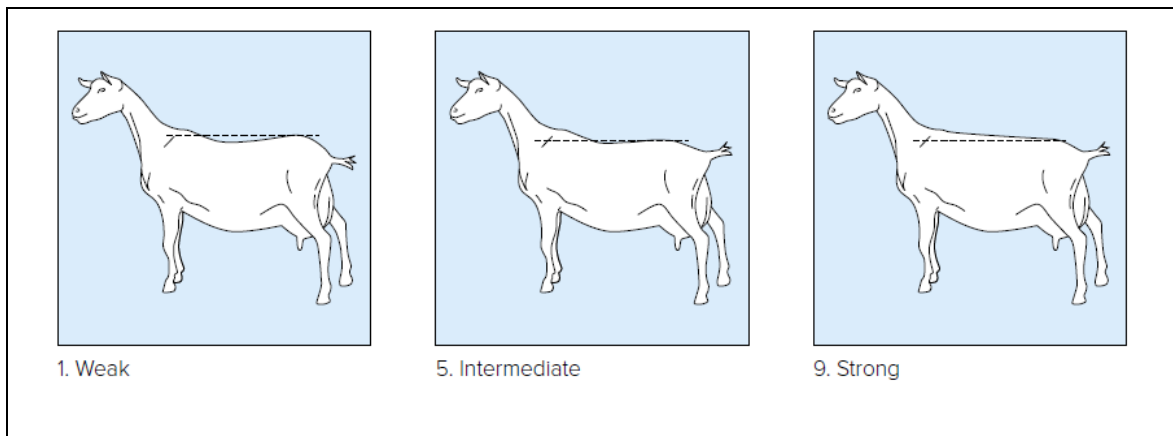
5. Rump Angle

Reference point: Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks (hips) to pins.
1 - Less slope
5 - Intermediate
9 - Extreme slope



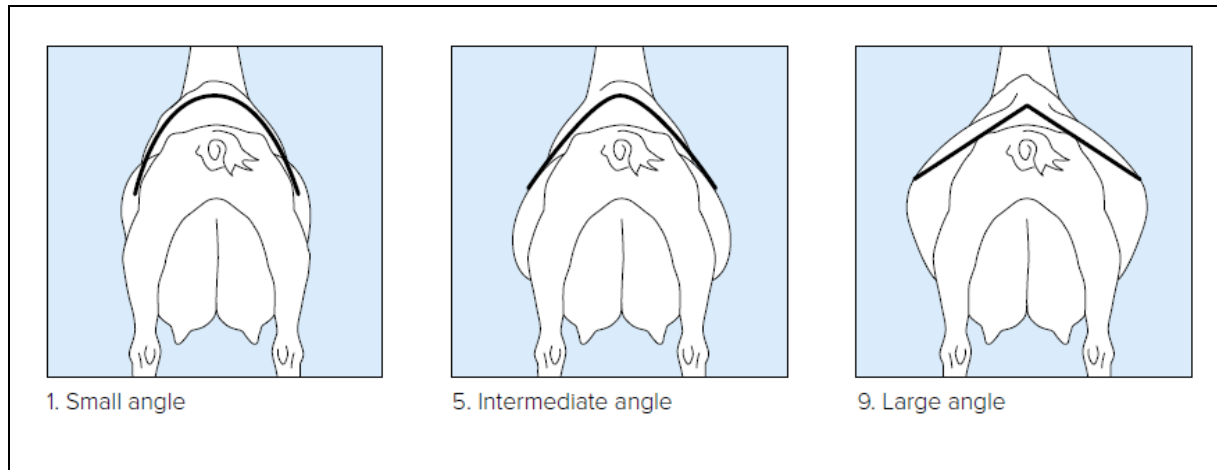
6. Loin Strength

Reference point: Strength of vertebrae between back and rump.
1 - Weak
5 - Intermediate
9 - Strong



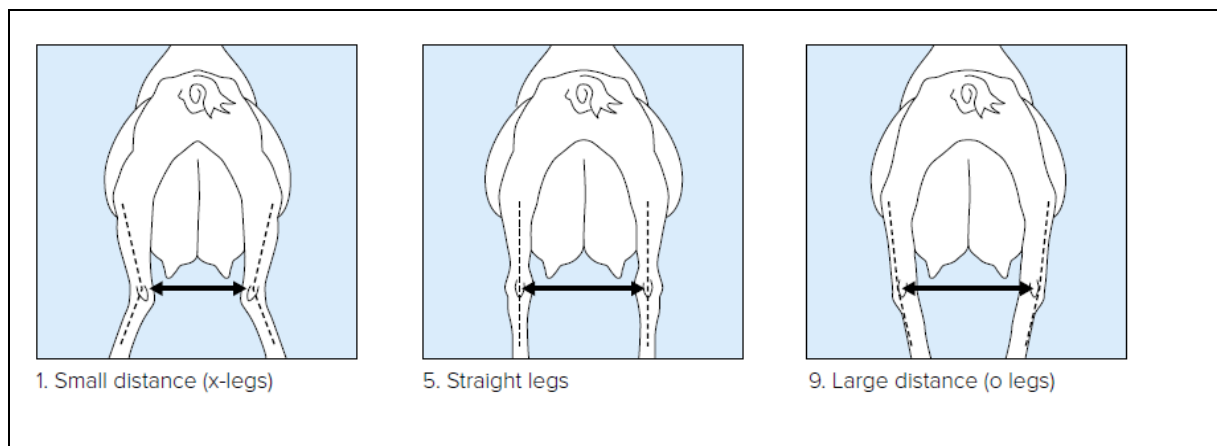
7. Angularity

Reference point: The spring of the ribs.
1 - Small angle
5 - Intermediate
9 - Large angle



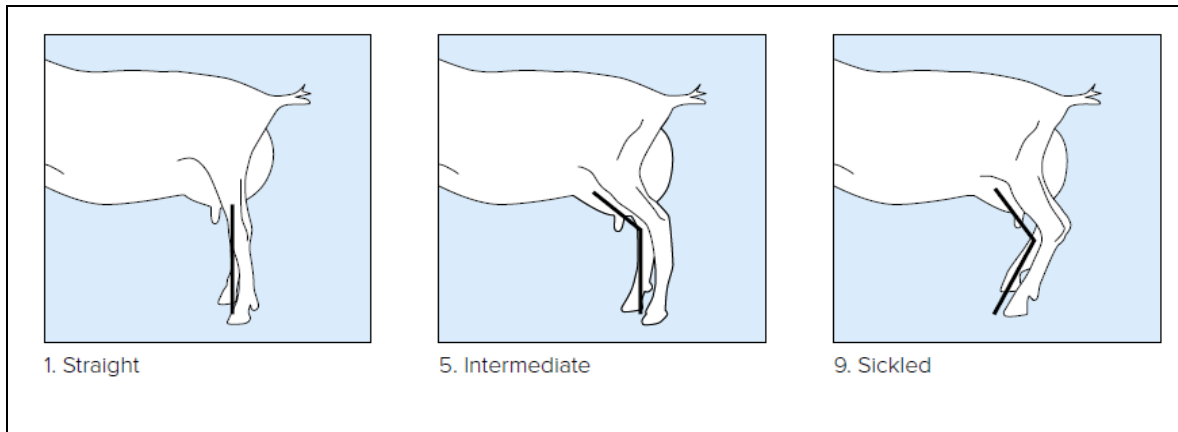
8. Rear Legs Set rear view

Reference point: Distance between the hocks.
1 - Small (x-legs)
5 - Intermediate
9 - Large (o-legs)



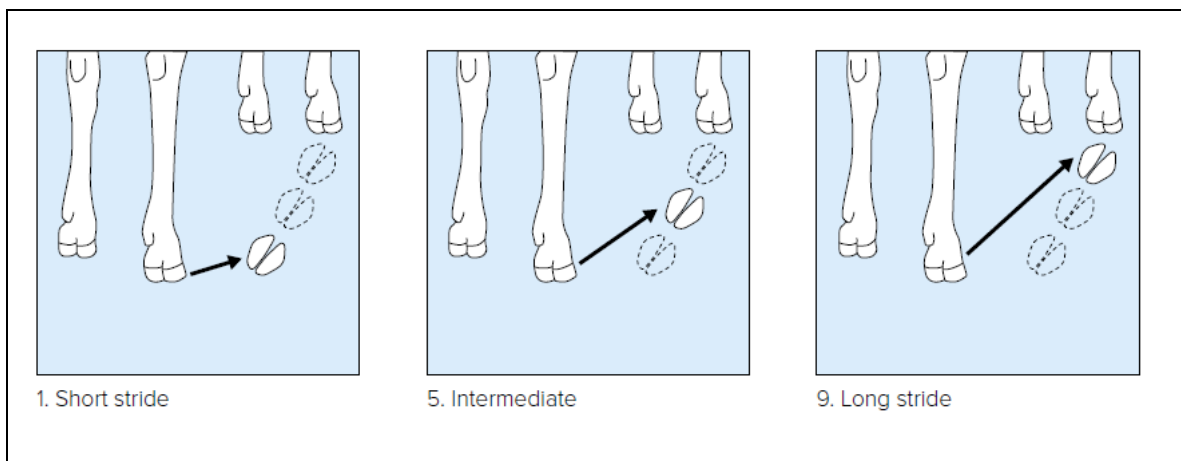
9. Rear Legs Set side view

Reference point: Angle measured at the front of the hock.
1 - Straight
5 - Intermediate
9 - Sickled



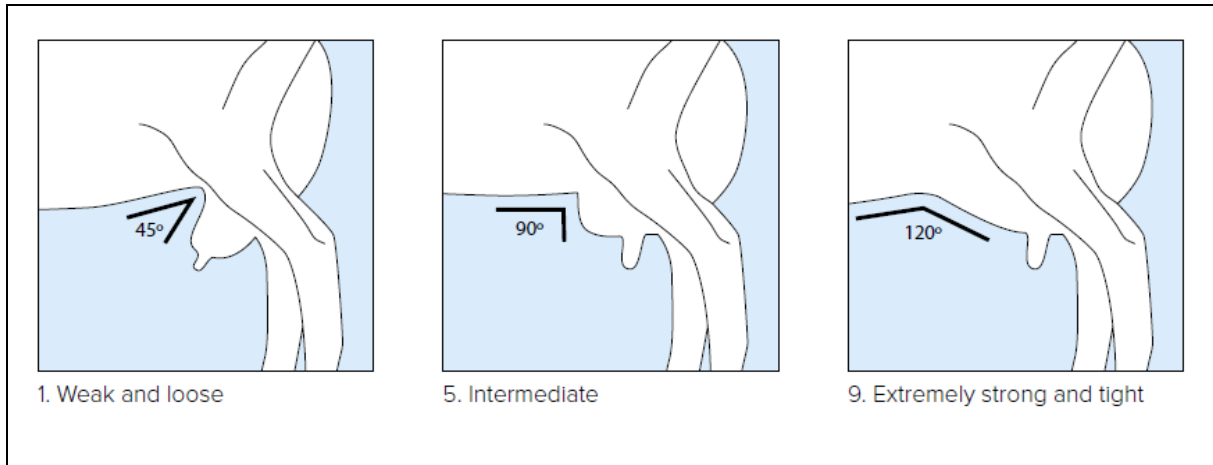
10. Locomotion

Reference point: The use of legs and feet, length and direction of the step.
1 - Severe abduction - short stride
5 - Slight abduction - medium stride
9 - No abduction - long stride



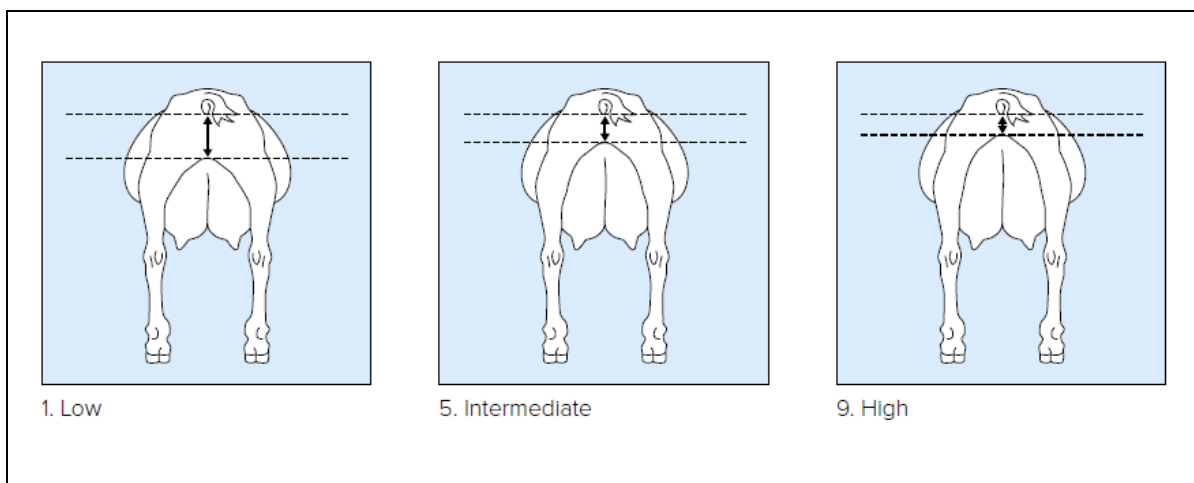
11. Fore Udder Attachment

Reference point: The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall.
Not a true linear trait.
1 - Weak and loose
5 - Intermediate
9 - Extremely strong and tight



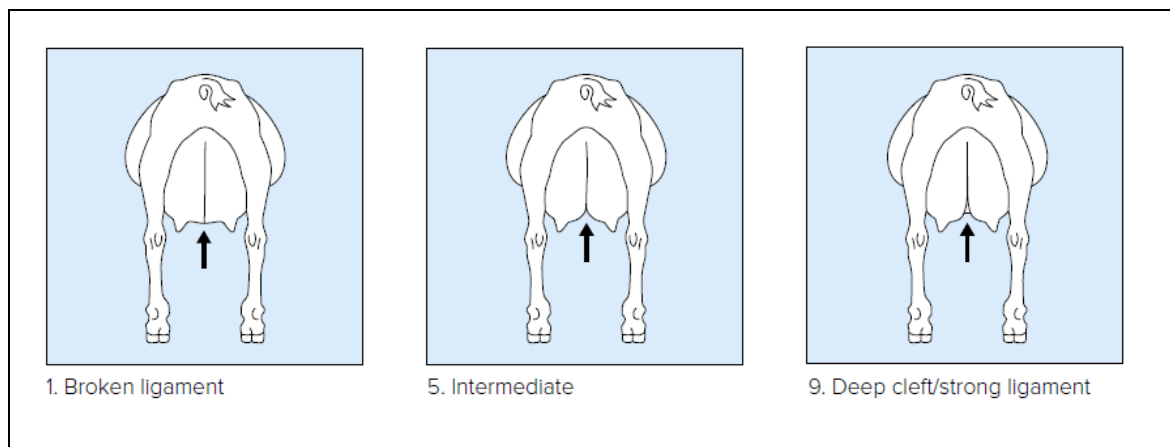
12. Rear Udder Height

Reference point: The distance between the bottom of the vulva and the milk secreting tissue.
1 - Low
5 - Intermediate
9 - High



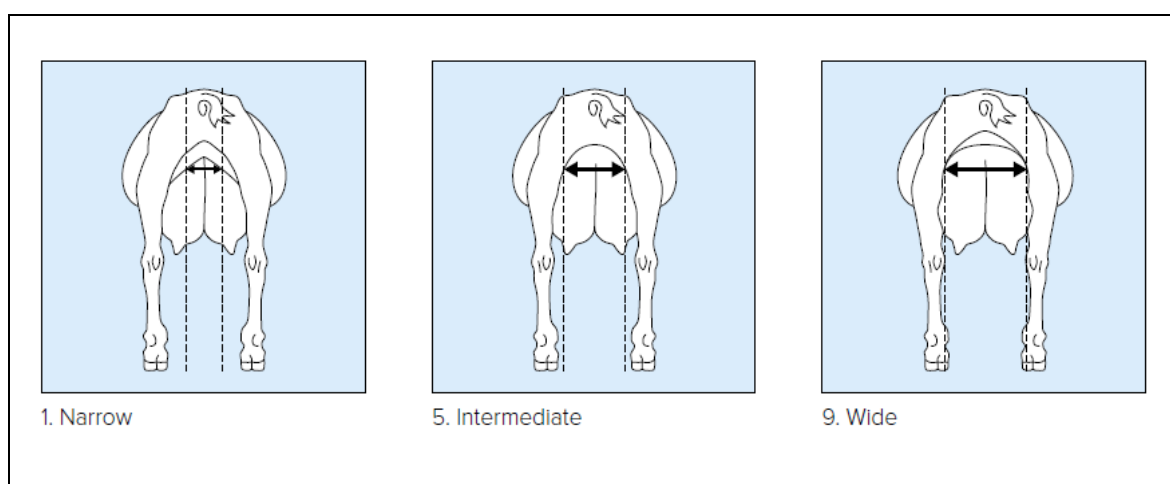
13. Central Ligament

Reference point: The depth of cleft at the base of the rear udder.
1 - Convex to flat floor (flat), broken ligament
5 - Intermediate
9 - Deep cleft/strong ligament



14. Rear udder width

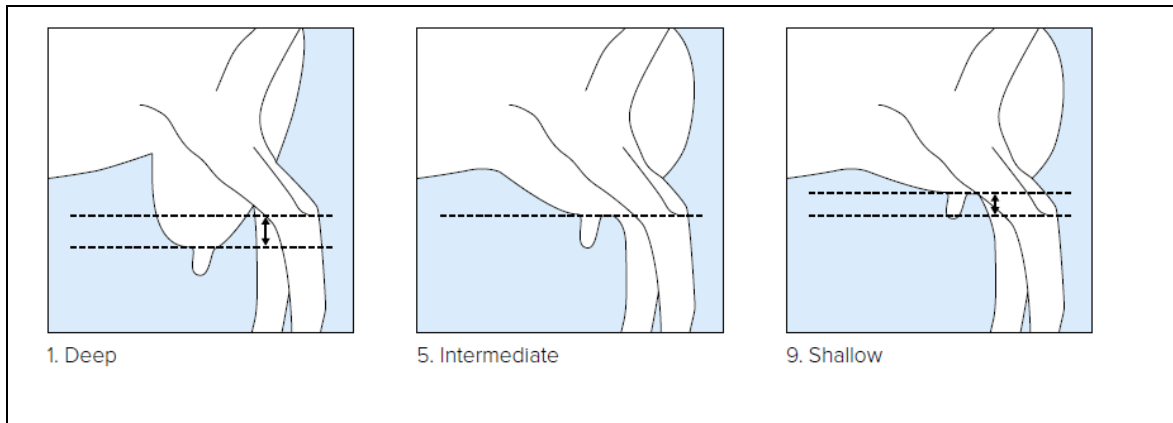
Reference point: Width of the udder at the point where the milk secretion tissue is attached to the body.
1 - Narrow
5 - Intermediate
9 - Wide



15. Udder Depth

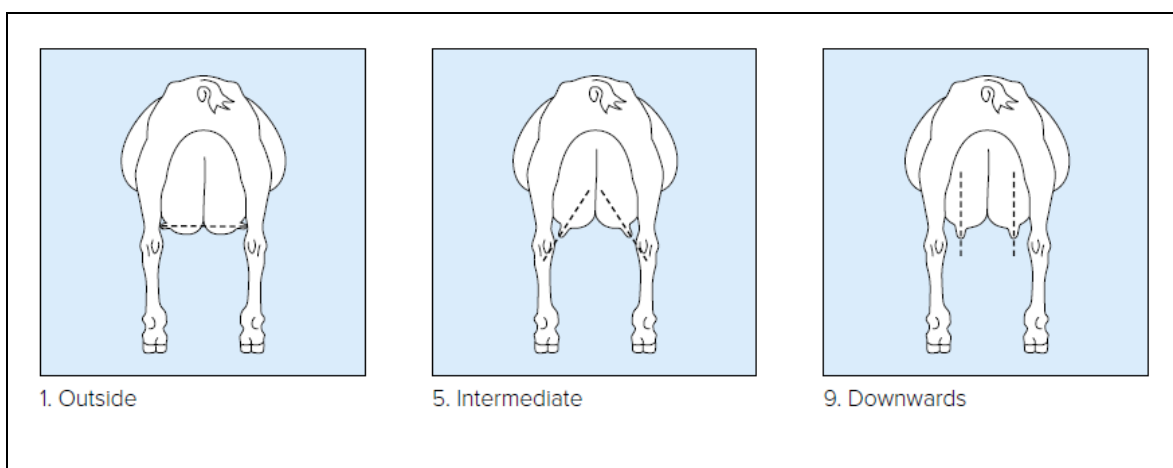
Reference point: The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.
1 - Deep
5 - Intermediate
9 - Shallow

Potential point of reference is the level with the hock.



16. Teat Placement rear view

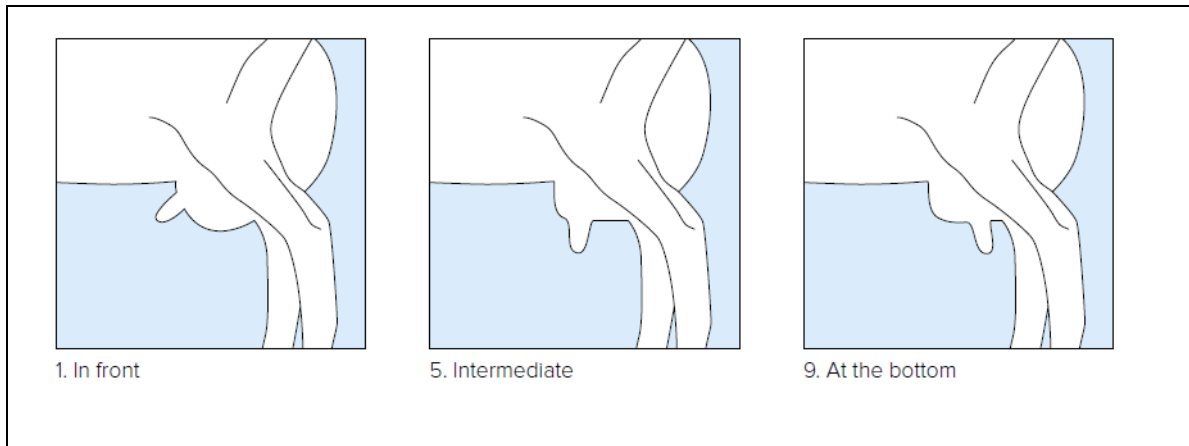
Reference point: The direction of the teats in relation to the udder viewed from rear.
1 - Outside
5 - Intermediate
9 - Downwards



17. Teat Placement side view

Reference point: The position of teat in udder viewed from the side.

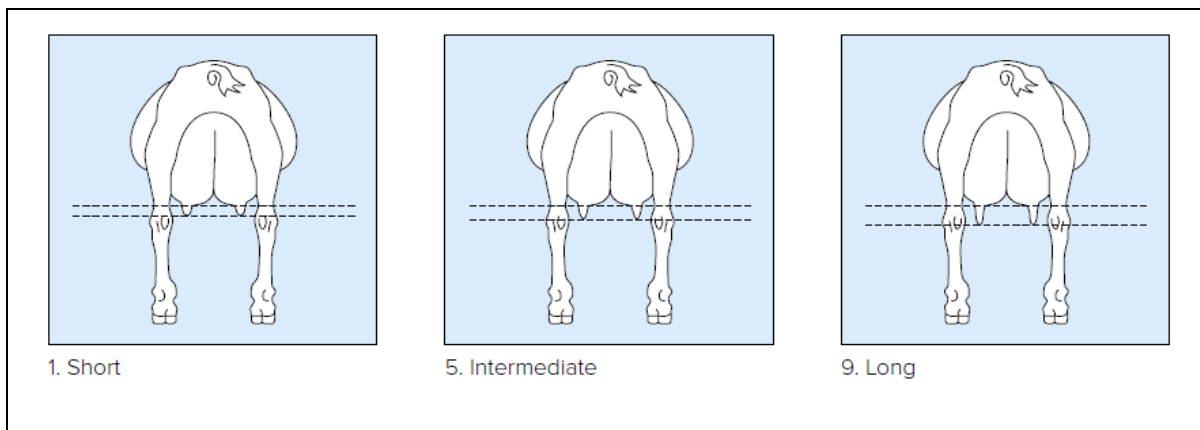
- 1 - In front
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - At bottom



18. Teat Length

Reference point: The length of the teat.

- 1 - Short
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Long



19. Teat Form

Reference point: The shape of the teat, from triangle to finger form, viewed from rear or from side.

- 1 - Triangle shape - Wide
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Finger shape - Narrow

