

Calling All Breeders - SCORE YOUR REGISTERED CATTLE

As announced in the spring issue of Your Piedmontese Voice, the NAPA Board of Directors have launched the development of Phase 2 of the Piedmontese EPD Project.

The goal is to provide Piedmontese-specific EPD values on the following heritable traits: Structure, Disposition and Carcass Traits - to assist breeders toward breed improvement. The initial focus will be on the Structure and Disposition EPDs, based on the large body of information already collected through the Piedmontese Bull Test.

At this time, we ask all breeders with registered Piedmontese to support this project by **scoring your own cattle** for the various feet and leg characteristics (outlined on attached diagram pages) as well as disposition. It would also be very helpful to collect mature animal hip heights, if possible.

Association SCORE SHEETS are available to print off from the website.

Scoring can be done anytime that is convenient for you personally, over the next 6 to 8 months.

Helpful Tips:

If you process your cows through a chute system at any time during the year, Disposition and Hip Heights can be recorded. A very helpful tip is to pre-mark a vertical post (or even 2 or 3 posts) in the chute alley to use as your measuring stick, marked in inches. As the animal's hip passes by the measurement post, take note of the height in inches. If you have two or three such marked vertical posts, you can take that animal's hip height at different locations in the chute, and then average them, to account for differences in the animal's stance or walking surface irregularities.

Disposition can be scored using the BIF 6-point guidelines whenever you are working your cattle.

BIF Disposition Scoring Guidelines

Score 1 – Docile. Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. Does not pull on headgate when in chute. Exits chute calmly.

Score 2 – Restless. Quieter than average, but may be stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on headgate. Some flicking of tail. Exits chute promptly.

Score 3 – Nervous. Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on headgate. Exits chute briskly.

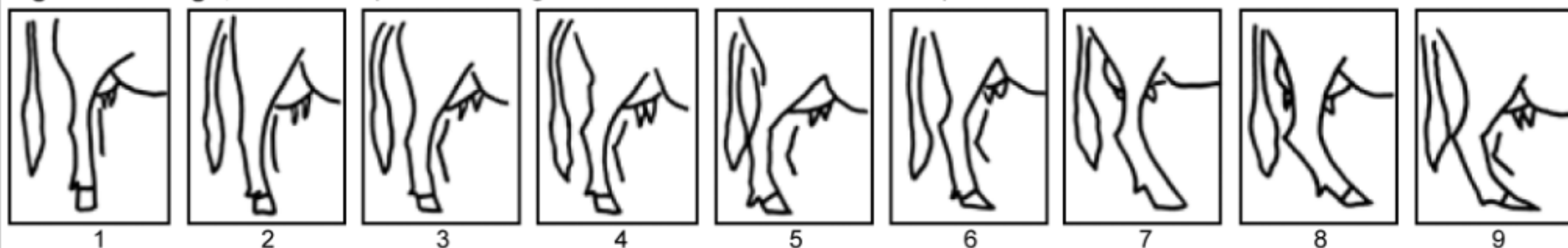
Score 4 – Flighty (Wild). Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing. Frantically runs fence line and may jump when penned individually. Exhibits long flight distance and exits chute wildly.

Score 5 – Aggressive. May be similar to Score 4, but with added aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute. Exits chute frantically and may exhibit attack behavior when handled alone.

Score 6 – Very Aggressive. Extremely aggressive temperament. Thrashes about or attacks wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.

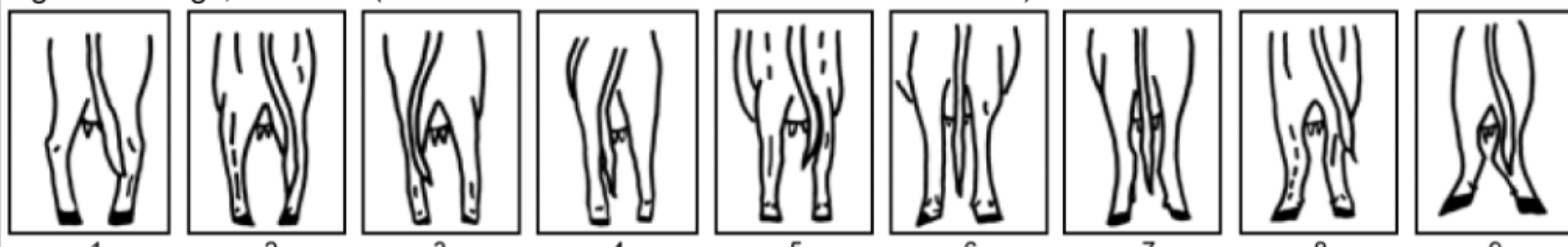
Leg and Orientation Guidelines

Fig. 3: Rear legs, side view (Reference: Angle measured at the front of the hock.)



1 – straight (post legged); 5 – good; 9 – sickle-hocked

Fig. 4: Rear legs, hind view (Reference: Direction of the feet when viewed from the rear.)

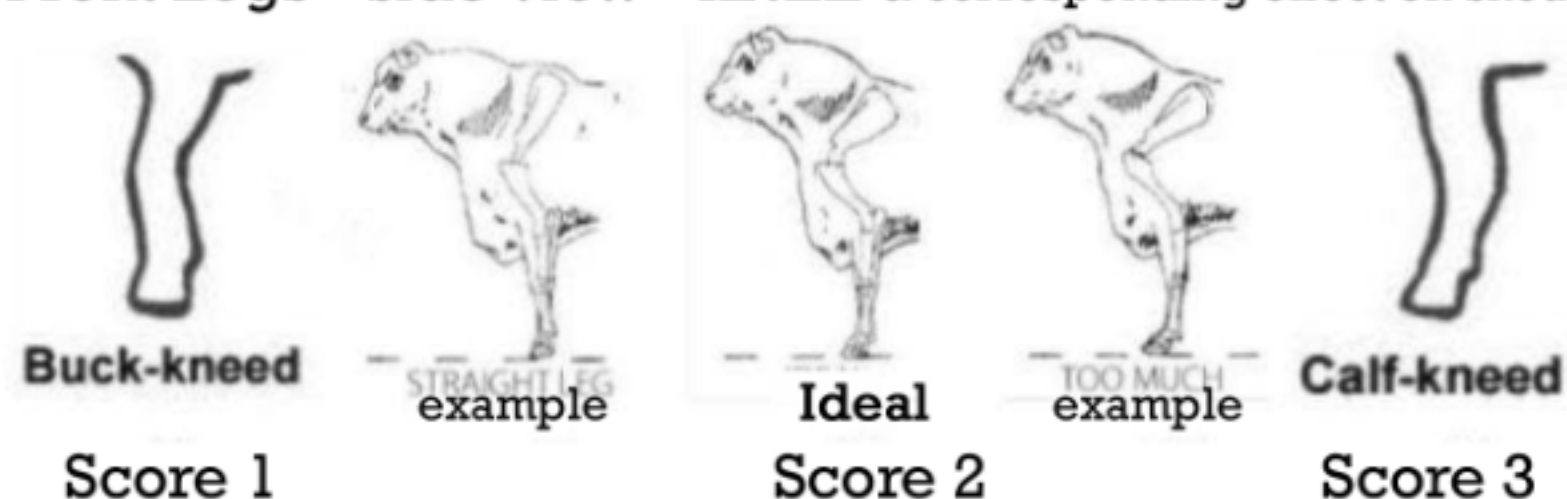


1 – bow-legged; 5 – good (parallel); 9 – cow-hocked

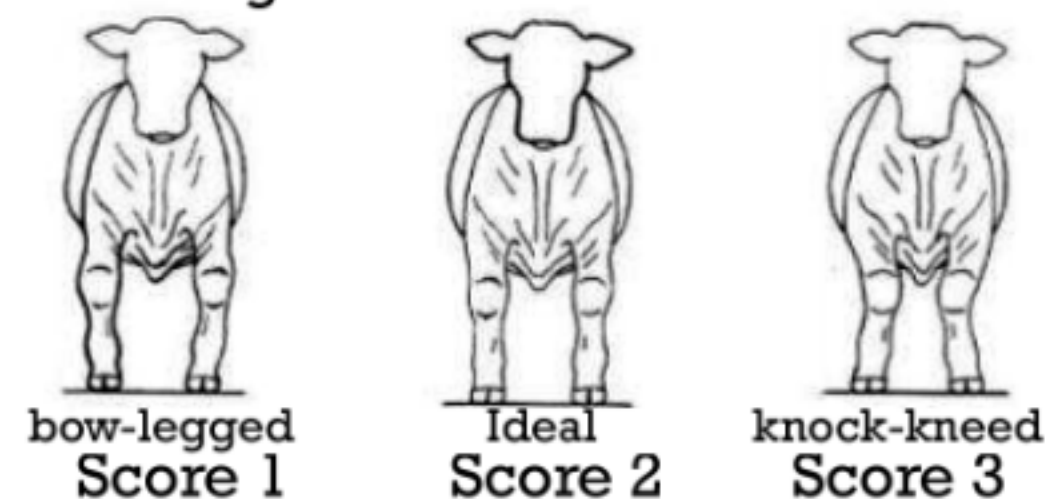
Above: the Rear Leg (front and side views) are scored on a 1 to 9 system, with 5 being ideal. Foot angle and claw shape on the previous page are also scored on a 1 to 9 model for both front and rear feet, with 5 being ideal.

Below: the KNEE and FOOT Orientation are scored on a 1 to 3 system, with 2 being ideal.

Front Legs - side view - KNEE & corresponding effect on shoulder

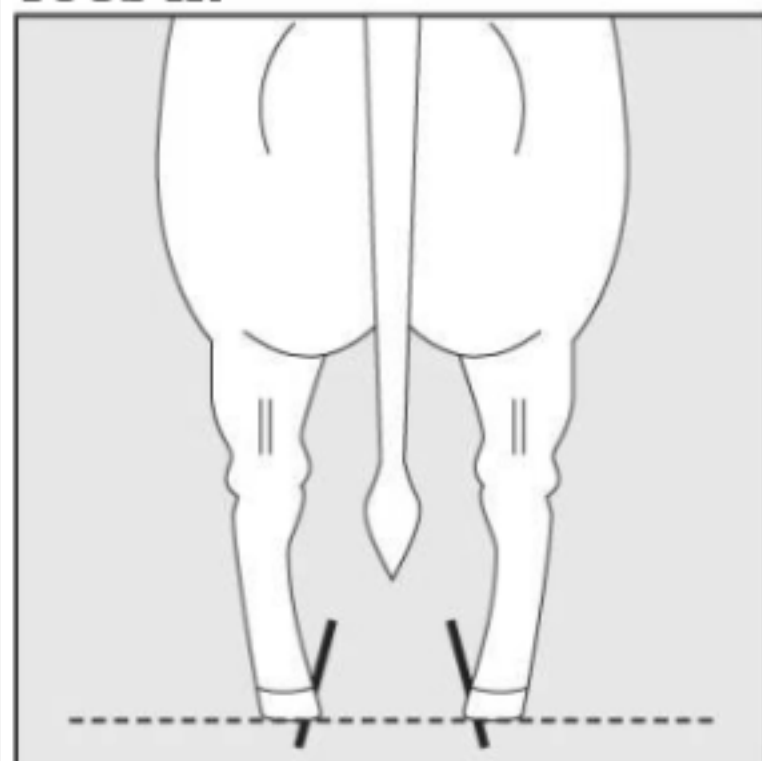


Front Legs - front view KNEE



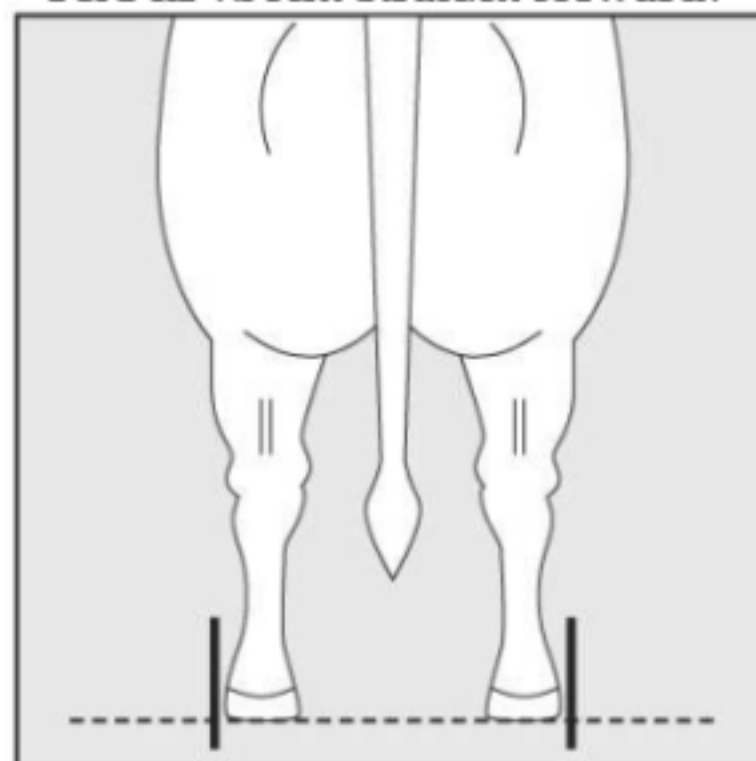
Front and Hind FOOT Orientation

Toes In



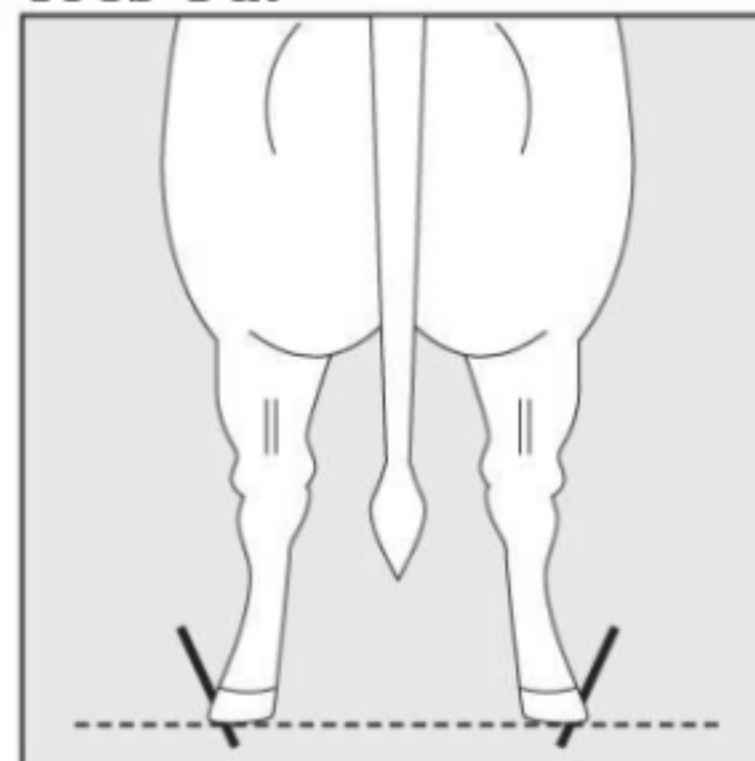
Score 1

Ideal (point straight forward)

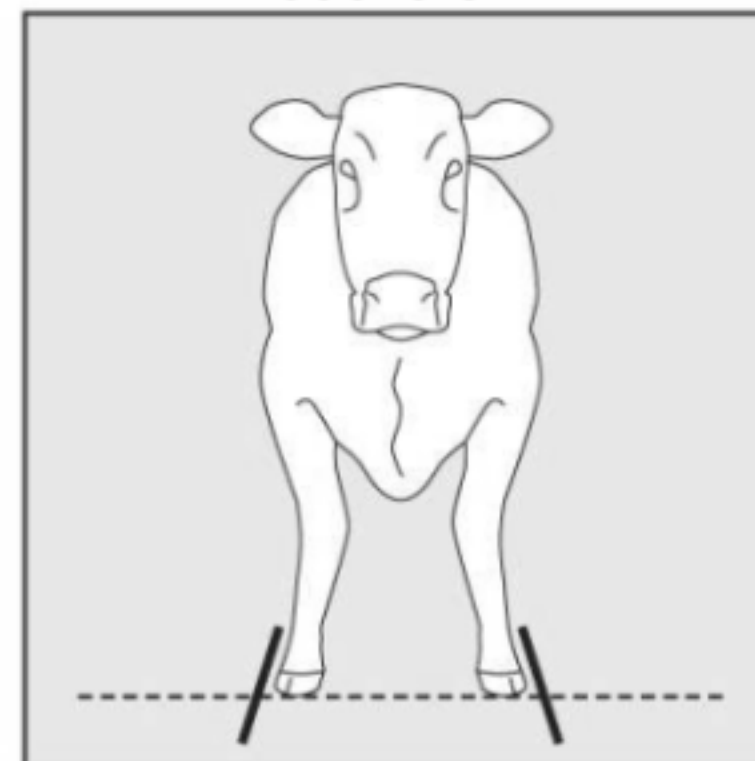
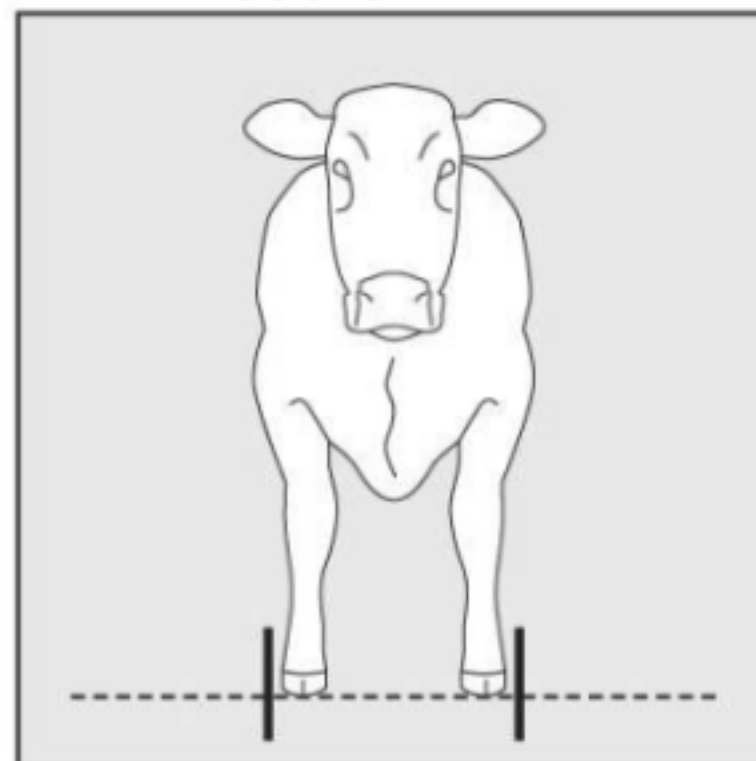
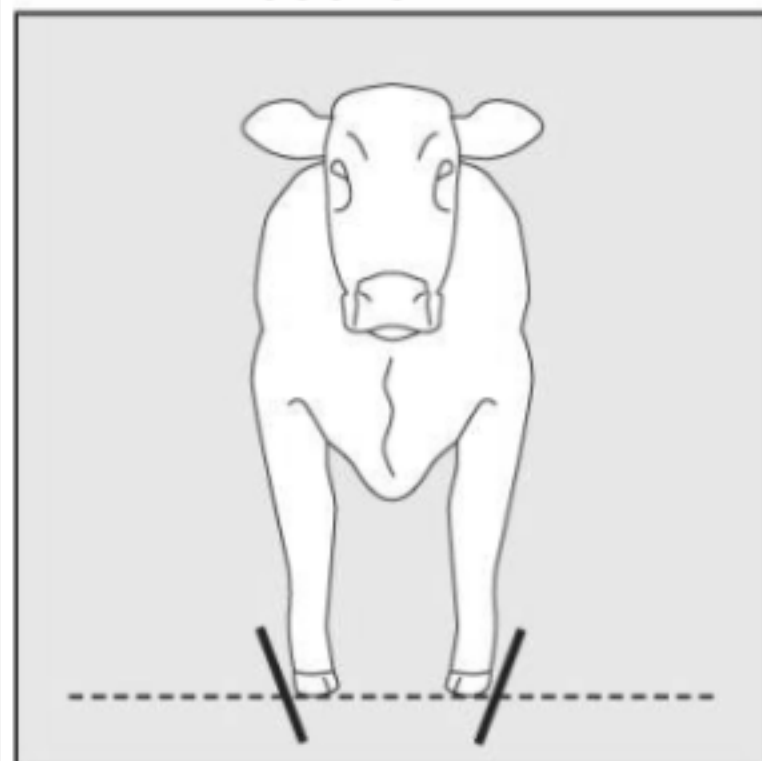


Score 2

Toes Out



Score 3



Foot Score Guidelines

Foot Angle (5 is ideal)



1

Extremely straight pasterns.
Very short toe. Unsound.



2

Straight front and rear pasterns.
Marginally unsound.



3

Moderately straight front
and rear pasterns.



4

Slightly straight front
and rear pasterns.



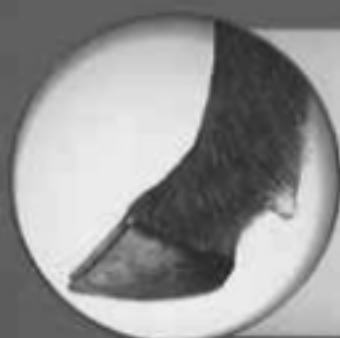
5

Ideal. Approximately 45-degree angle
at pastern joint. Appropriate length of
toe and depth of heel.



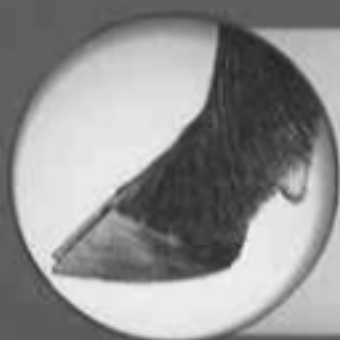
6

Slightly shallow heel and long toe.



7

Moderately shallow heel and long toe.
Somewhat weak pasterns.



8

Shallow heel and long toe.
Marginally unsound.



9

Extremely shallow heel and long toe.
Extremely weak pasterns. Unsound.

Claw Set (5 is ideal)



1

Extremely weak, open,
divergent claw set. Unsound.



2

Open, divergent claw set.
Marginally unsound.



3

Moderately open/divergent
claw set.



4

Slightly open/divergent
claw set.



5

Ideal. Symmetrical claws, with
appropriate space between claws.



6

Slight tendency for claws to curl.
One claw may be slightly larger
than the other.



7

Tendency for claws to curl, with one
claw larger than the other.



8

Moderate scissor claw and/or screw
claw. Curling of one or both claws. Near
crossing of claws. Marginally unsound.



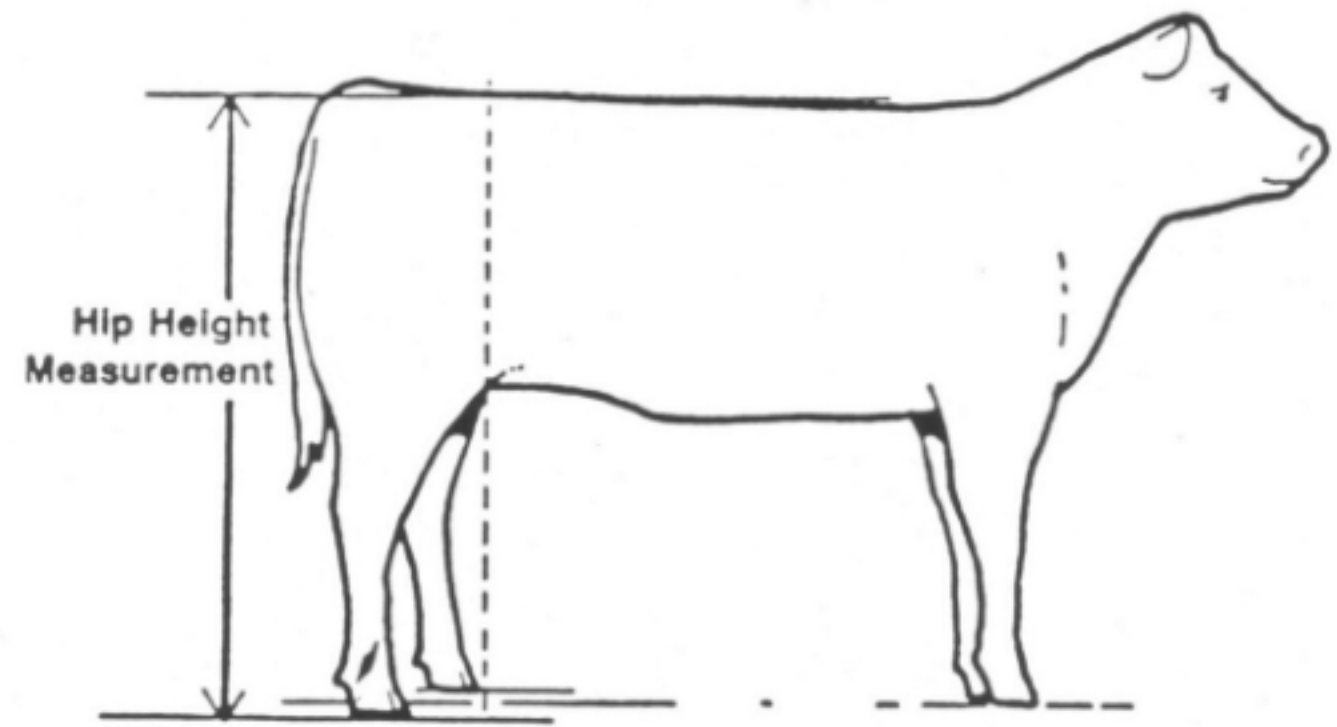
9

Extreme scissor claw and/or screw claw.
Pronounced curling of one or both claws.
Crossing of claws. Unsound

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Animal Tattoo	Animal Birth Date	DATE SCORED (month/day/yr)	Front Foot Angle (1-9)	Rear Foot Angle (1-9)	Front Foot Claw (1-9)	Rear Foot Claw (1-9)	Rear Leg SIDE View (1-9)	Rear Leg REAR View (1-9)	Front Foot Orientation (1-3)	Rear Foot Orientation (1-3)	Front KNEE Orientation (1-3)	Front Leg SIDE View (1-3)	Disposition BIF score (1-6)	Hip Height in Inches
ABC1D	3/1/16	9/15/19	4	6	4	7	7	6	2	3	2	3	3	60

Above is a general example of what the column headers include on the Score Card. The full version, *available online at www.piedmontese.org* will be in an EXCEL format, and will also include columns for Animal Sex and Registration Number. Score examples are given above for an imaginary 3.5 year old bull as scored in mid-Sept this fall.



Registered animals of all ages and both sexes should be included. All animals must be scored *prior* to any hoof trimming.

Ideally, scoring feet and legs, and also measuring hip height, is best done with the animal standing on a clean flat hard surface. Of course, those conditions sometimes are just not available to us. Even a pasture environment, with firm level ground and grass short enough not to hide the foot, is a workable option. Level ground is very important as even a slight slope affects an animal's stance.

The picture guidelines for the various characteristics are shown on the preceding pages. Foot angle, claw set and rear leg set ask for more detail (scores 1 to 9) while the foot orientation and front leg set are more general (score 1 to 3).

If you have any questions on scoring your herd, please contact Stacy Oliver-Bauereiss by phone: (701) 578-2547 or by email NAPA.piedmontese@gmail.com

PLEASE DO:

- score **ALL** your registered Piedmontese breeding stock that are of weaning-age or older
- score animals **BEFORE** any hoof trimming is done
- score animals standing on a level, firm surface / ground
- for traits with score range 1 to 3, you may use 1/2 point score increments to indicate a modest tendency: for example, Front Feet Orientation could be scored 2.5 to show a slight turning-out of the foot; or scored 1.5 to indicate slight turning-in of the foot
- please also measure Hip Height and score for Disposition if possible
- you may score animals on different dates and still report them all on one form, but please note the actual date animals were scored (especially important on younger animals)
- return Scoring Reports via email to NAPA.piedmontese@gmail.com either in the EXCEL file format or as a scanned PDF. (All reports are strictly confidential & shared only with Ag-Sights/BIO for EPD trait development.)