

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

Vol. XXXV No. 2

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1920

\$1 a Year, 5c. a Copy



Timely Farm Suggestions

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Livestock Judging

SUCCESS in learning to judge livestock is dependent on natural ability and much study and practice. Without an eye for form, and the ability to measure with the eye lines and form, no one will ever make a good comparative or show ring judge. With these natural faculties, anyone by the aid of good written descriptions of correct form, the use of the score card and much practice on good specimens of the live animals can acquire fair proficiency in stock-judging. A good judge, if he be also a good teacher, can lighten the labors of any student of stock-judging, but there is no "royal road" to learning to judge livestock. Hard work, much practice on many animals under the guidance of good written description and score cards, or a good teacher, offer the only way to success in learning to judge livestock well.

But even learning to judge individual animals well does not necessarily make a good judge for the show ring, where judging by comparison or the relative placing of the animals is demanded.

The score card is a great aid to the student starting to learn judging of livestock, but it is not used because not applicable in show ring judging. No one, however, should study judging without the use of the score card, although he must also practice comparative judging or the placing of the different animals in a class.

Score Cards

THE score card which gives a numerical value to the different parts is valuable for one beginning the study of stock-judging. Its chief value is that it familiarizes the student with the location and relative values of the different parts and with the points of excellence of the ideal animal. If the ideal animal scores 100 and the different parts are given values which total 100 then it is easy for the beginner to learn the relative importance of the different parts.

It is plainly impossible to give the score cards for the male of each breed of purebred animals in this issue, and we have, therefore, selected one or more of the different classes or types of animals as examples of what the score card is and what it teaches. Anyone wishing to become a good judge of a certain breed should procure a good written description of the points of excellence, a score card and the assistance of a good teacher and then practice may do the rest.

Judging the Beef Bull

EACH beef breed has a score card for the male of the breed which differ more or less, yet all agree approximately in the relative values attached to the different parts of the beef bred bull. There are slight differences in these values in some cases, but they are not material.

Curtis, in his book on livestock judging, gives a "score card for beef cattle" which is given with slight modifications below.

This will serve to show the relative values of the parts of a beef animal, and a bull of any of the beef breeds may be judged as to form by this

score card. Of course, special breed characteristics, or breed type as it differs in the different breeds, must be considered, and in judging the breeding bull, masculinity and style are of great importance. The head of the herd should show by his impressive appearance and style that he is really the "head of the herd." A low-headed, steerish or feminine-appearing bull is less likely to prove an impressive, prepotent sire.

Score Card for Beef Cattle

	Perfect Score
General Appearance—40 points	
Form: Straight top line and under line; deep, broad, low set, stylish.	10

Quality: Firm handling, hair fine, pliable skin, dense bone, evenly fleshed	10
Condition: Deep, even covering of firm flesh, especially in regions of valuable cuts	10
Temperament: Quiet disposition, tending to easy fattening	4
Head and Neck—8 points	
Muzzle: Broad, mouth large, jaw wide, nostrils large	1
Eyes: Large, clear, placid	1
Face: Short, quiet-expression	1
Forehead: Broad, full	1
Ears: Medium size, fine texture	1
Horns: Fine texture, oval, medium size	1
Neck: Thick, short, throat clean, well set on body	2
Forequarters—8 points	
Shoulder vein (part where neck joins body) full	3
Shoulder: Covered with flesh, broad and smooth on top	2
Brisket: Advanced but not excessive, breast wide	1
Dewlap: Skin not too loose and drooping	1
Legs: Straight, short; arm full; shank fine, smooth	2
Body—32 points	
Chest: Full, deep, wide; girth large; Crops (part just back of shoulder) full	4
Ribs: Long, arched, thickly fleshed	8
Back: Broad, straight, smooth, even	10
Loin: Thickly fleshed, broad	8
Flank: Full, even with under line	2
Hindquarters—12 points	
Hips: Smoothly covered, distance apart in proportion with other parts	2
Rump: Long, wide, even, tail-head smooth, not patchy	2
Pelvic bones: Not prominent, far apart	1
Thighs: Full, deep, wide	2
Twist: (Between the thighs) deep, full	2
Legs: Straight, short, shank fine, smooth and hard	3
Total	100

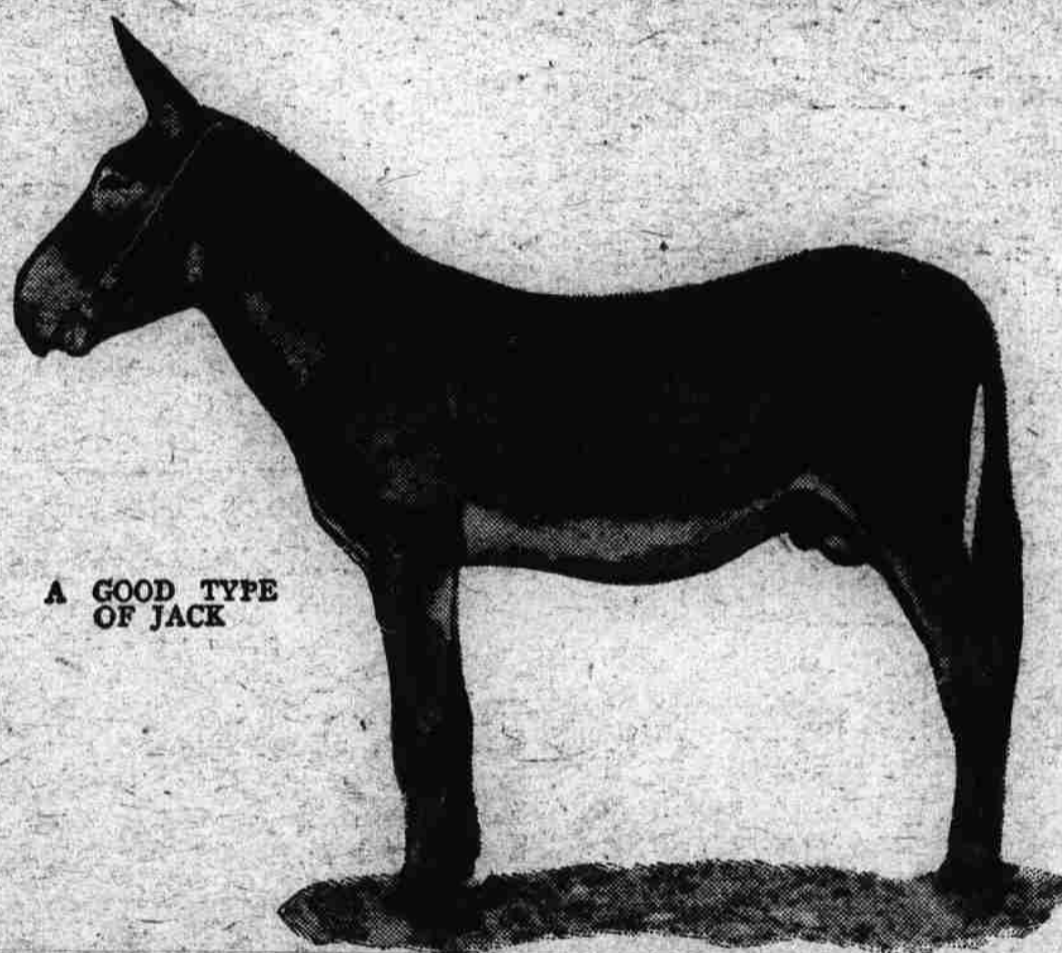
Score Card of Dairy Bull

AS AN example of the dairy type bull, we are giving below the score card for the Jersey bull. This

will serve to show the type, but in the judging of bulls of other dairy breeds, the breed characteristics must be recognized. The dairy type is fairly well fixed or agreed upon, and the Jersey may well be used as an example:

Standard of excellence and scale of points for the Jersey bull:

	Points
Head:	
Broad, medium length; face dish-ed; narrow between horns, horns medium in size and incurving	5
Muzzle broad, nostrils open, eyes full and bold; entire expression one of vigor, resolution and masculinity	5
Neck:	
Medium length, with full crest on arch at maturity, clean at throat	7
Body:	
Shoulders full and strong, with well defined withers; chest deep and full between and just back of fore legs	15
Barrel or body long, of good depth and breadth, with strong, rounded, well-sprung ribs	15
Back straight and strong	5
Rump of good length and proportion to size of body and level from hip bones to rump bones	7



A GOOD TYPE OF JACK

Loins broad and strong; hips rounded, and of medium width compared with female	7
Thighs rather flat, well cut up behind, high-arched flank	3
Legs proportionate to size and of fine quality (clean and hard), well apart with good feet and not to weave or cross in walking	5
Rudimentary teats well placed	2
Hide loose and mellow (not thick and hard nor thin and papery)	2
Tail thin, long, reaching the hock, with good full switch, not coarse or high at setting on or tall-head	2
Size:	
Mature bulls 1200 to 1500 pounds	5
General Appearance:	
Thoroughly masculine in character, with a harmonious blending of the parts to each other; thoroughly robust and such an animal as in a herd of wild cattle would likely become master of the herd by the law of natural selection and survival of the fittest	15
Total	100

How to Select a Jack

SINCE jacks are used in this country for breeding purposes only, they should be judged from the standpoint of their fitness for this purpose. And in the South the jack is most largely used for mule production, hence in selecting the jack for breeding to mares for the production of mules, his fitness for this special purpose or his probable ability to sire high-class mules should be the chief consideration.

It should be remembered that the mule takes the characters of his head, feet and legs largely from his sire, the jack; while his body more closely resembles that of his dam, the mare. In judging the jack for mule breeding, therefore, much consideration should be given the character and quality of the head, legs and feet, and to the

general vigor, style and quality of the individual.

As an illustration of the value placed on excellent feet, legs, head and general appearance and action, it may be stated out of a total of 100 points the following values are assigned these important parts:

	Points
Feet: Fore and hind	16
Front legs: Knees, cannons, fetlocks and pasterns	9
Hind legs: Hocks, cannons, fetlocks and pasterns	9
Head	8
General appearance	20
Action	6
Total	68

A total of 68 points out of 100 is allowed to those points of special importance in the selection of the jack for mule breeding, and only 32 points to all other portions and characters.

Large size in the mules can only be obtained from the inheritance from the mare, because large jacks as compared with large mules and horses are not to be found. Of course, good size and weight in the jack are desirable if accompanied by good quality, but for mule breeding a good head, good feet and legs, general high quality and action are more important than great size and weight.

The American or Mammoth Jack is a distinctive breed derived from several breeds of imported jacks, principally the Catalonian.

The following measurements are given as typical of this breed of jacks:

	Inches
Tip to tip of ears	33
Width between eyes	9
Length of face, poll to end of upper lip	33
Circumference of jaw and face	40
Circumference of neck	42
Circumference of body-girth	72
Circumference of flank	70
Circumference of arm	16½
Circumference of knee	16
Circumference of front cannon	9½
Circumference of hock	19
Circumference of hind cannon	10½
Length from poll (between ears) to end of tail, total length of body	84

A jack of 15½ hands (62 inches) to 16 hands (64 inches) or height at withers and weighing 1050 to 1100 pounds, is a good standard to have in mind in selecting a jack. The most popular color is black with light points.

A jack to be used for mule breeding that is, for breeding to mares, should never have been used for breeding to jennets and should have been raised with or have run with mares or other young horse stock.

Angora Goats for Breeding

A READER asks: "Is it advisable to buy Angora goats, which are five years old, for breeding purposes? What is the age limit?"

Angora goats reach maturity at about 16 to 18 months of age and are in their prime from two to six years old. They sometimes breed up to 14 or 15 years of age, but perhaps the average life of Angora goats is about 12 years. Of course, from these facts one may safely state that goats about two years old are of the best age for purchase for breeding. If bought at five years old there is a loss of three years of the goat's usefulness, but as they are in their prime from two to six years old, there should be little other objection to purchasing them at five years of age, except that three years of their usefulness have passed. They should, however, be useful until eight to ten years old.

The mohair from older goats is coarser than that from those one or two years old, and is therefore less valuable; but for breeding purposes they are at their best when three to five years old.