

holstein UK

holstein & british friesland

Type Classification provides an independent assessment of cows in your herd reviewing the strengths and weaknesses to enhance longevity, health and welfare. It provides an overall classification score for your heifers and cows, which can substantially increase their value.

- ✓ See your cows through fresh eyes
- ✓ Classifiers score twenty-four individual 'linear' traits
- ✓ Insight enables better corrective breeding decisions to be made
- ✓ Identify the top percentage of the herd on type to breed your replacements from
- ✓ Helps breed in good functional conformation and reduces unnecessary rearing costs
- ✓ Classification information is used in our truly independent mating program
- ✓ 'WebMate' which is a fully interactive tool to make breeding decisions easier
- ✓ Highly graded animals can have a considerably higher value than their non-classified counterparts

The NBDC Type Classification scheme currently evaluates over 130,000 dairy and beef animals every year.



www.holstein-uk.org



Assessment

The NBDC classifiers, who visit farmers to undertake assessments, operate an internationally recognised appraisal system which is used by the AI industry in the British Isles to provide reliable type proofs.

The system has two basic components:

- ✓ **Classification** - Classification involves the appraisal of animals in comparison to the ideal cow covering four areas of the cow – body conformation, dairy strength, legs & feet and mammary. It is from each of these four assessments that the final score and grade is calculated and awarded.
- ✓ **Linear Assessment** – involves the measurement of the cows body, legs, feet and mammary along with temperament, milking speed and condition score. The scoring covers 24 individual traits on a scale of one to nine, describing the degree of the trait rather than its desirability.

Additional Services

Type Classification offers the potential to substantially increase the value of your herd and access to additional services:

- ✓ **Class Act**
A web based programme to maximise the information collected by the classifier. Highly classified animals have a greater value and this service helps identify specific strengths and weaknesses to allow more informed breeding decisions to be made so that the general conformation and productivity of the entire herd can be improved upon.
- ✓ **Red Tractor Reports**
The Red Tractor Report is a list of traits that have been collected by Holstein UK classifiers which comply with Red Tractor standards. The list can be printed out and used in official farm records.
- ✓ **Bull Selector**
Independent and unbiased, Bull Selector is free to use by members and non-members. It offers an easy way to select Holstein or British Friesian sires that suit the relevant dairy farming system.

Additional Services *(continued from overleaf)*

✓ **WebMate**

Online tool designed to allow breeders to request mating recommendations for different groups of animals. The program is most useful to breeders using Type Classification with various options to choose from when deciding which groups of females to analyse, such as by latest classification only, by certain trait ranges or youngstock by selection of an age range. Once a group of females has been selected, the program will analyse which bulls to use with which females in order to breed animals that compliments the system. WebMate enables inbreeding to be kept to a minimum and exclusion of certain sires from the breeding recommendations. The program generates three optimum choices of bulls per cow, which allows further selection by the breeder on production and management traits.