

PHENOTYPES REMAIN KING

FEET AND LEG SCORING SYSTEM

Animals should have minimum structural requirements to ensure optimum levels of production and adaptability to the environment. Loss of structural integrity leads to financial losses. Commercial cattlemen continue to ask for selection tools to assess structural soundness differences in bull buying decisions. IBBA members should attempt to collect phenotypic data to develop a future selection index or EPD to serve this purpose. It is recommended that four different measures be taken prior to the animal reaching 600 days of age. They include front and rear foot angle, front and rear claw set, front and rear view leg set, and side profile leg set.

Front and Rear Foot Angle

- 1 = Too straight
- 2 = Slightly straight
- 3 = Correct angle
- 4 = Slightly too much set or angle
- 5 = Too much angle or set

Front and Rear Claw Set

- 1 = Widely spread
- 2 = Spread more than normal
- 3 = Narrow width, slight touching of claws
- 4 = Claw tips are long
- 5 = Claw tips cross over each other



Top-Left: Foot Angle 3 | Top-Right: Foot Angle 5 | Bottom-Left: Claw Set 3 | Bottom-Right: Claw Set 2