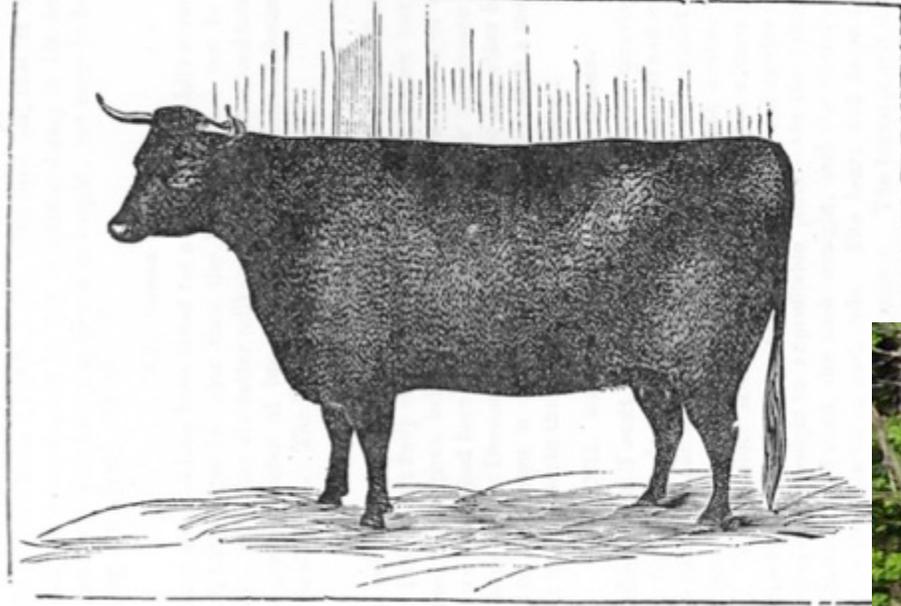


Judging American Milking Devons



By Drew Conroy, Ph.D.

**Professor of Animal Science and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
At the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH**



IMPROVED DEVON COW.

Many breeders have tried to maintain historic characteristics, and not crossbreed with others to get a polled modern beef animal



The current Milking Devon
has many of the same
characteristics of animals
from nearly 120 years ago

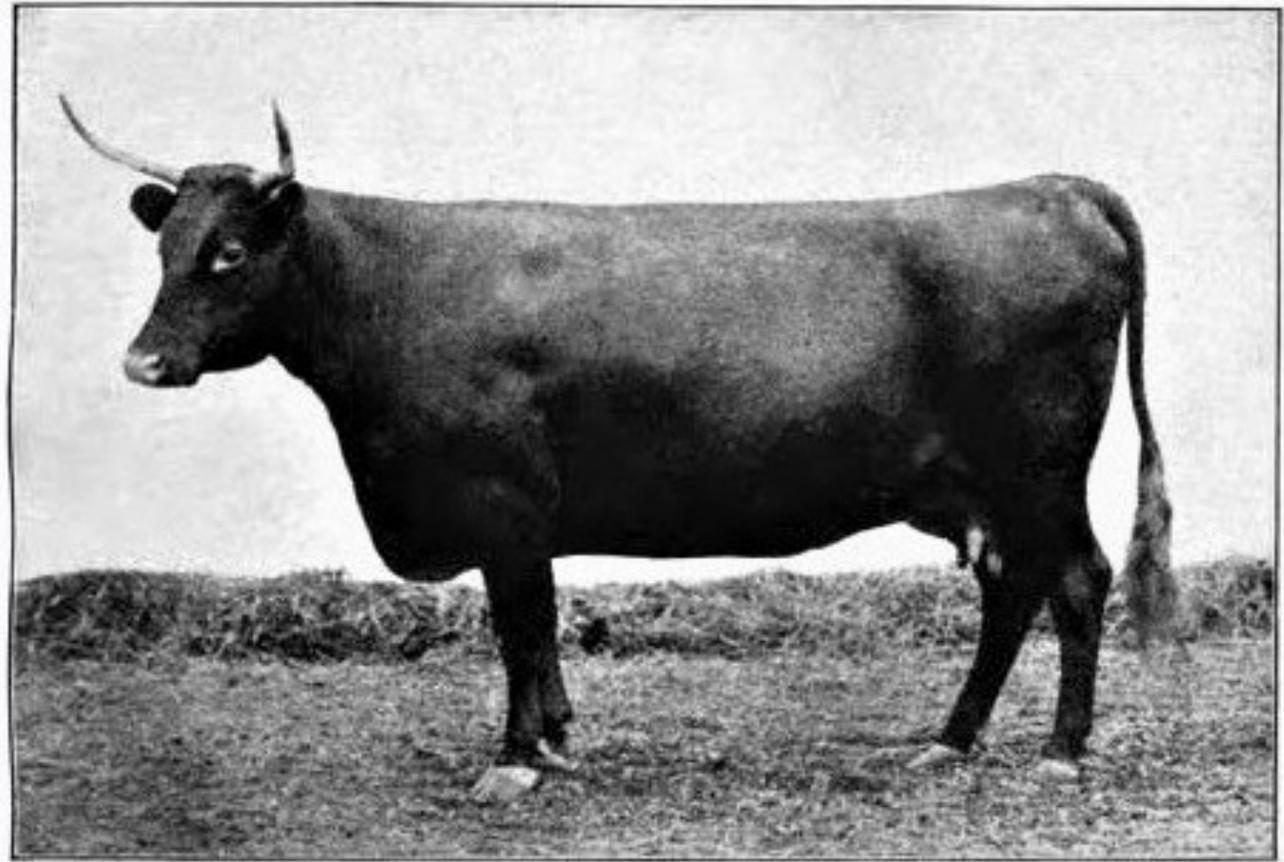
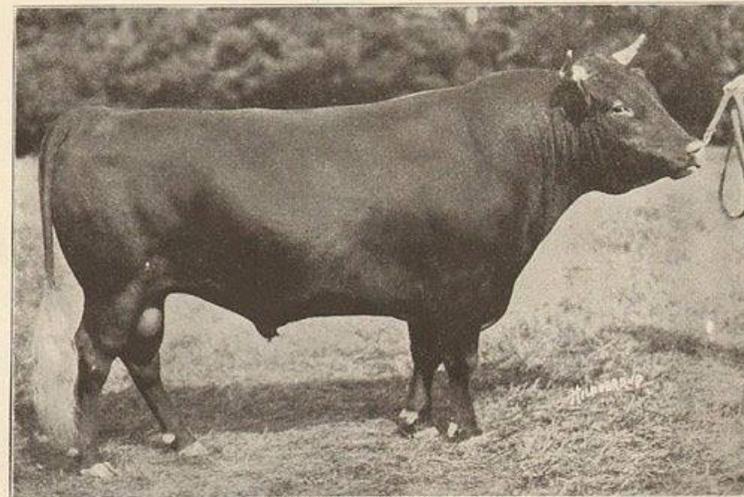


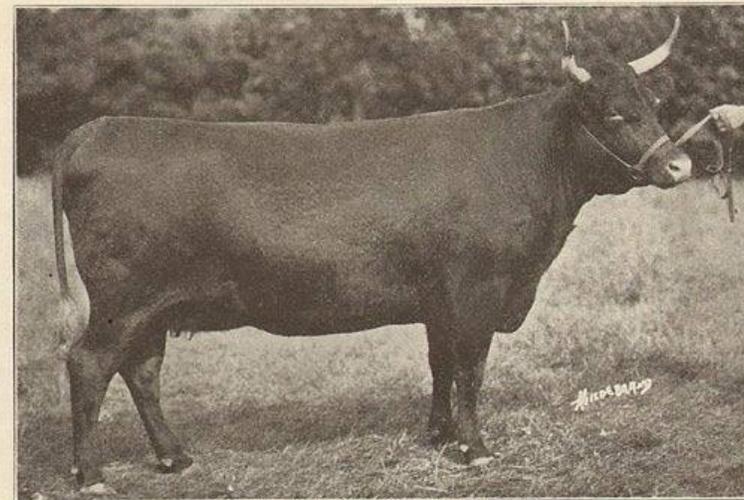
FIG. 1.—PUREBRED DEVON COW PRETTY PET 10579.
First prize and sweepstakes three-year-old at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, 1901.

America's Foremost Devon Herd

Devon milk contains 13.77% total solids, including 3.76% protein, more milk sugar and ash than the milk of any other breed.
THE AVERAGE OF OUR ENTIRE HERD IN 1923 WAS 5.3% FAT
 Dolly Dartmouth 15586, milk record 14,472.9 lbs., butterfat 601.84 lbs., is in our herd.



PRINCE OF GREENSBORO 9470



SONGSTRESS OF BATCHELDER FARMS 16223

BUTTER — MILK — BEEF

When you send for illustrated booklet, mention The Breeder's Gazette.

Batchelder Farms, Mont Vernon, New Hampshire

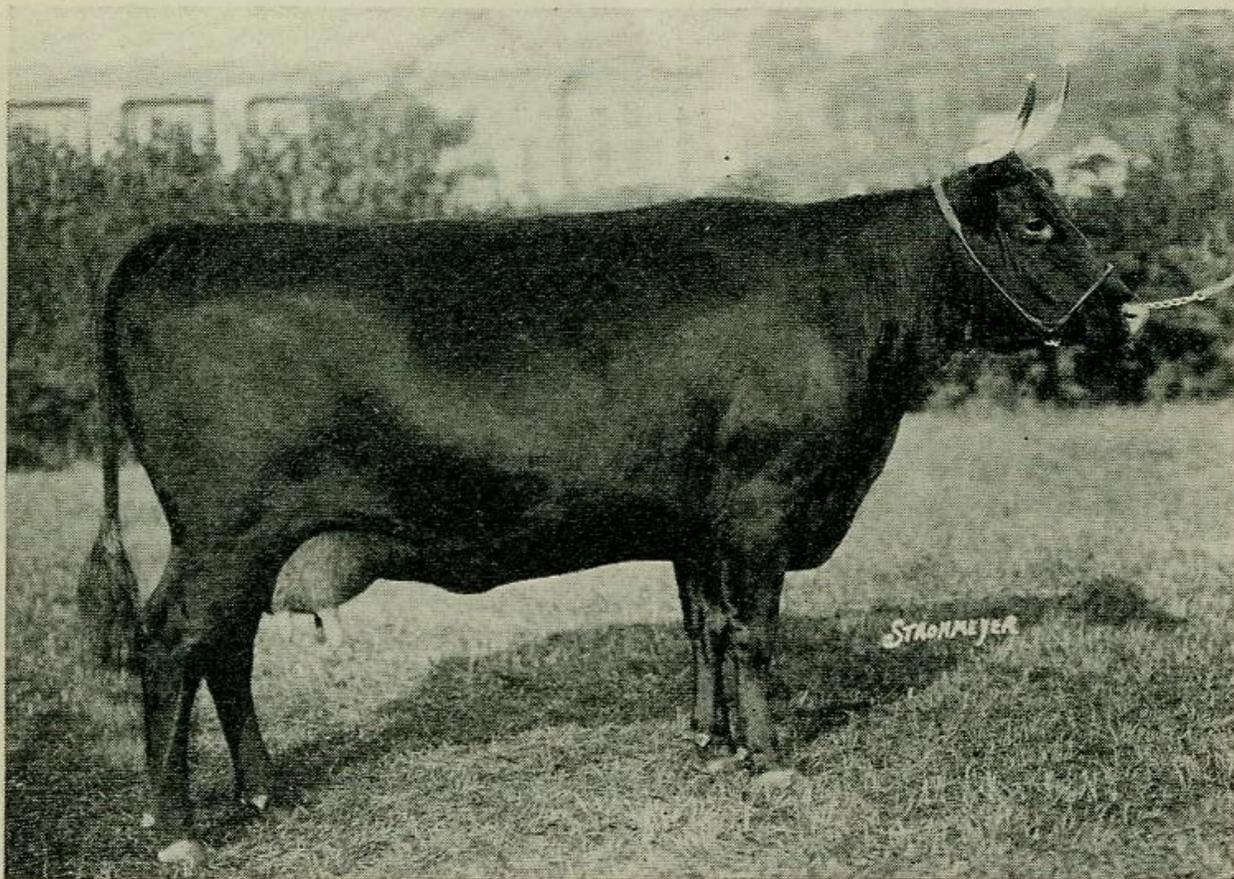


FIG. 148.—Yetive 16237, grand champion Devon cow, Eastern States Exposition and Connecticut State Fair, 1930. Record of Merit record, 8797 pounds milk and 371 pounds fat. Owned by Connecticut Agricultural College.

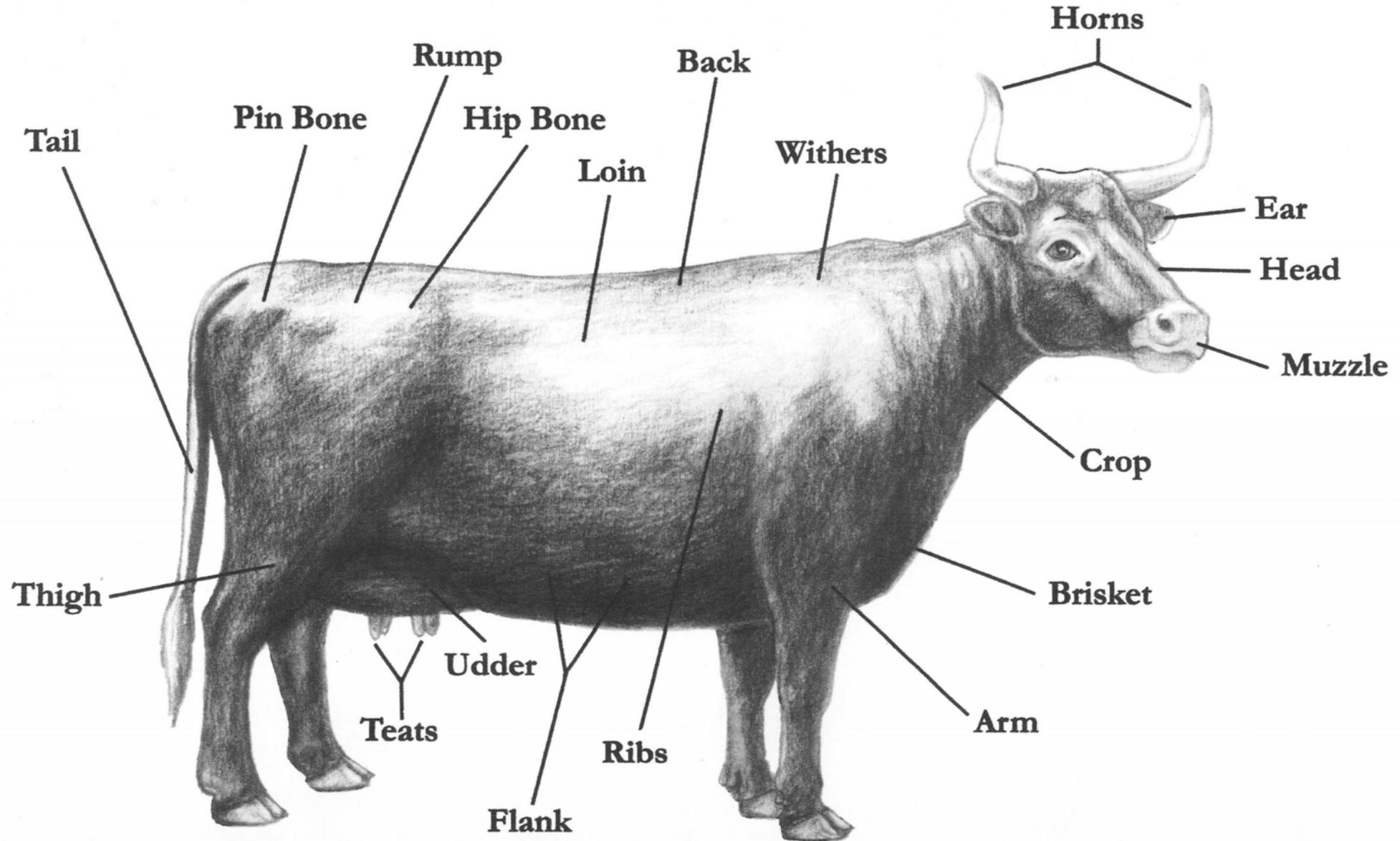


Beef Devon Cattle – Have a different shape and standard

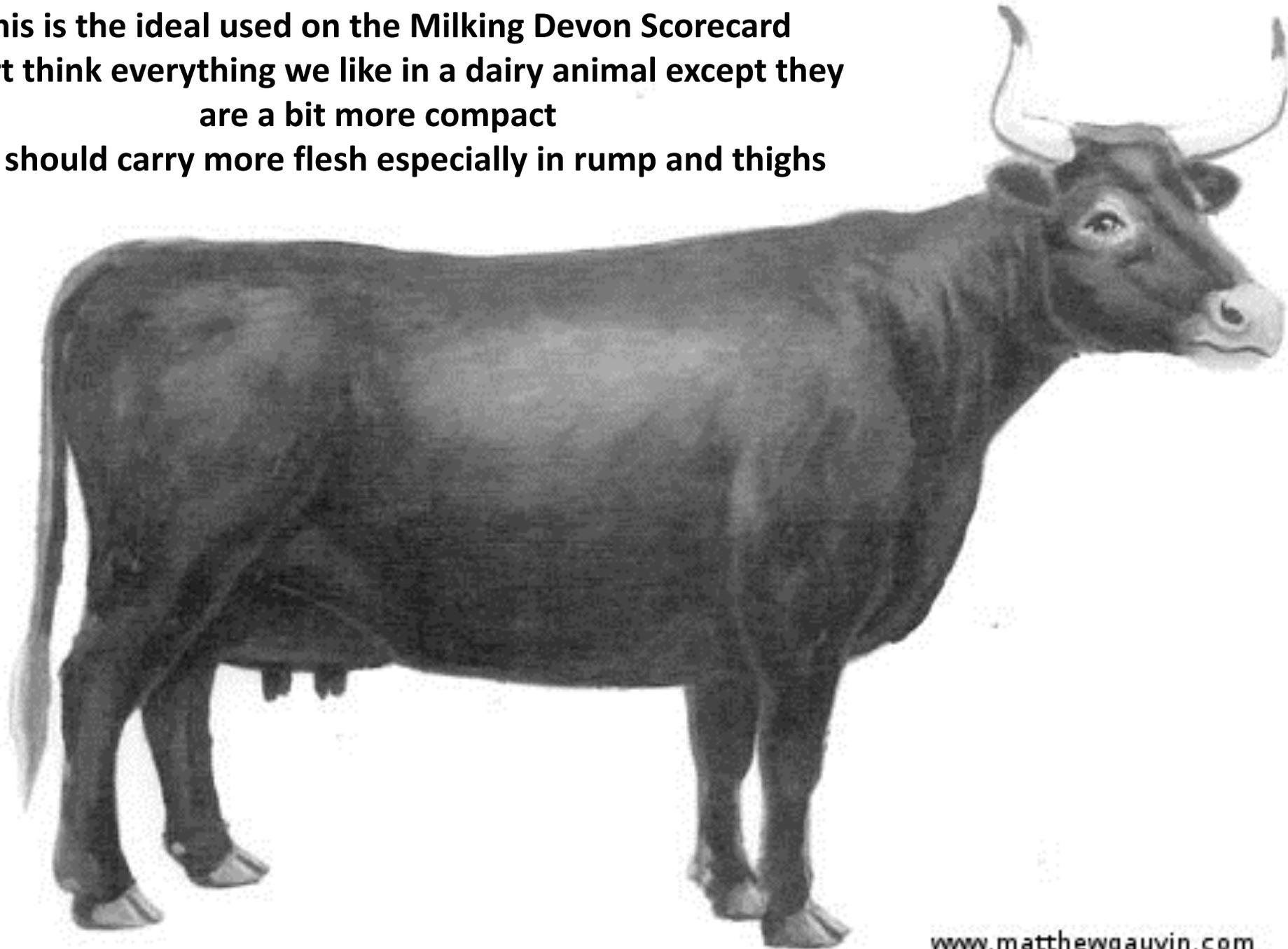


Saved from
TERRY DEWAYNE LEE

American Milking Devon Cattle



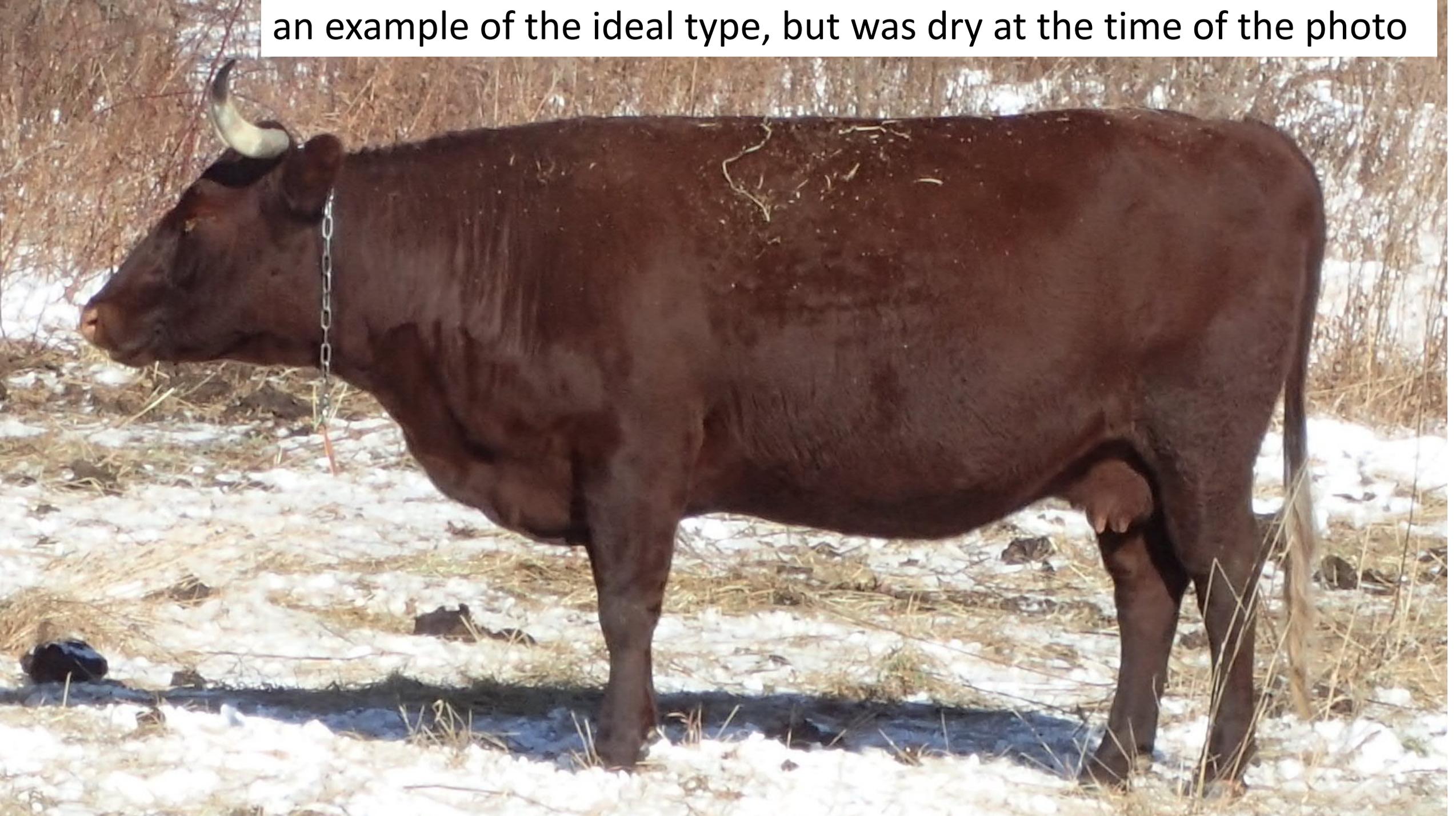
**This is the ideal used on the Milking Devon Scorecard
In part think everything we like in a dairy animal except they
are a bit more compact
and should carry more flesh especially in rump and thighs**





This is a cow that best represents the ideal

an example of the ideal type, but was dry at the time of the photo



This cow won the Regional Show in Virginia in 2018,
but you have to judge what you have.
More desirable animals might be seen on farms or in
other shows

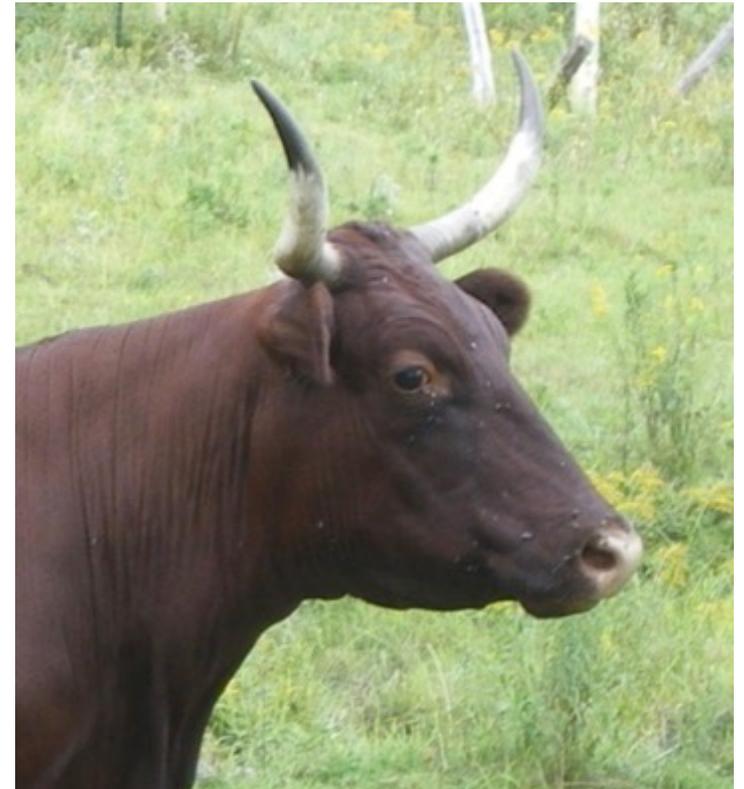




HEAD moderately long, with a broad indented Forehead, tapering considerably towards the Nostrils; the Nose of creamy-white, the Nostrils high and open, the Jaws clean, the Eye bright, lively and prominent; Throat clean, Ears thin, the Expression being gentle and intelligent; Horns matching, long, spreading, and gradually turned up, of waxy color, tipped with a darker shade.	10
NECK of medium length, growing from the Head to the shoulders, and spreading out to meet them.	4
WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping and well covered.	6
RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep and fully developed.	8
BACK straight and level from the Withers, to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, Hips of medium width and on a level with the Back.	12
RUMPS moderately long and level.	8
HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick and square.	10
UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed.	20
TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with a brush of strong hair, reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the back.	5
THE UNDER LINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top.	6
LEGS straightly and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking.	5
SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; white about the Udder is admissible, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks or any other part of the Limbs or Body.	6
Perfection	100

HEAD moderately long, with a broad indented Forehead, tapering considerably towards the Nostrils; the Nose of creamy-white, the Nostrils high and open, the Jaws clean, the Eye bright, lively and prominent; Throat clean, Ears thin, the Expression being gentle and intelligent; Horns matching, long, spreading, and gradually turned up, of waxy color, tipped with a darker shade.

10 points, that's a lot compared to other breed standards



NECK of medium length, growing from the Head to the shoulders, and spreading out to meet them. **4 points**

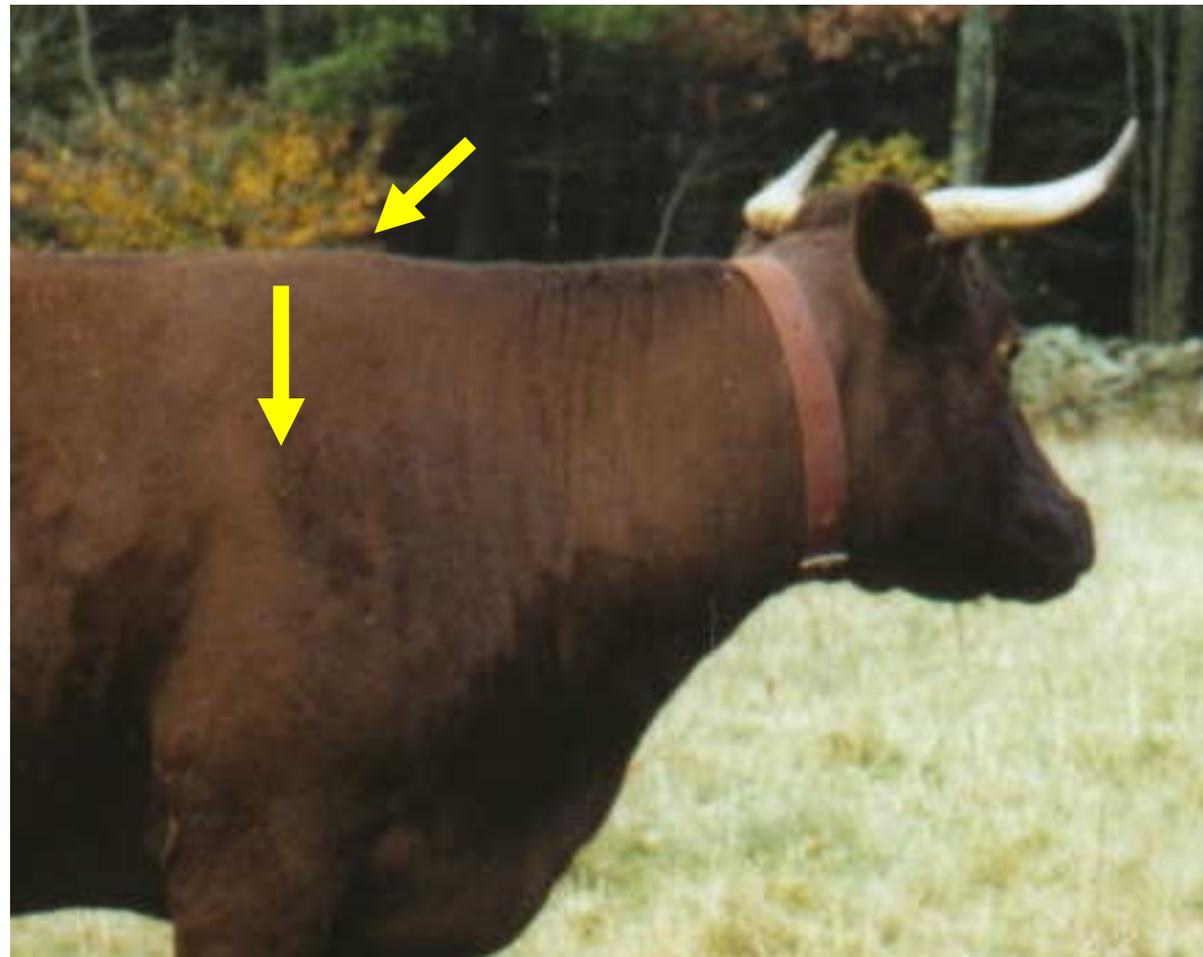
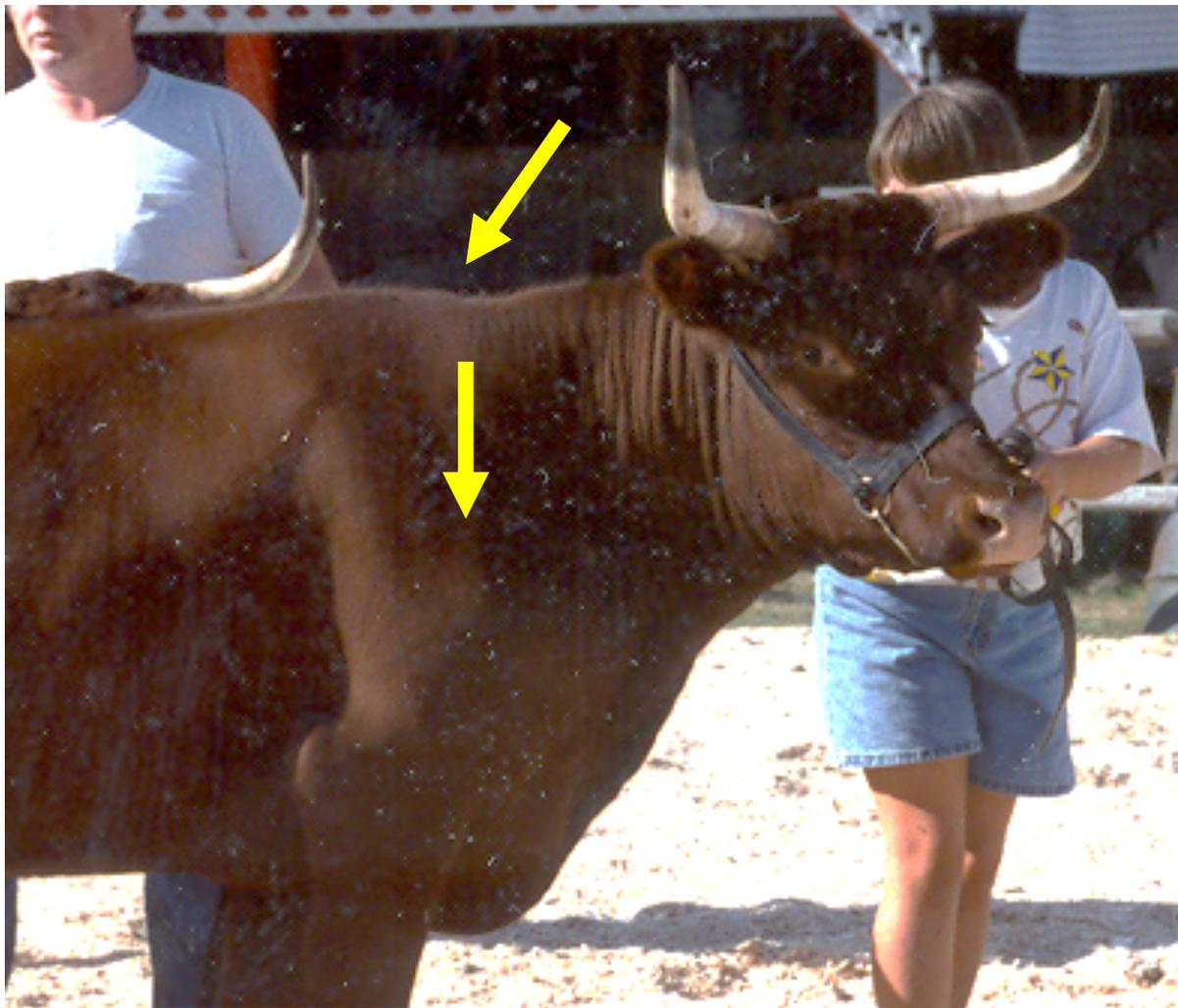


This cow is not as clean in the head and neck

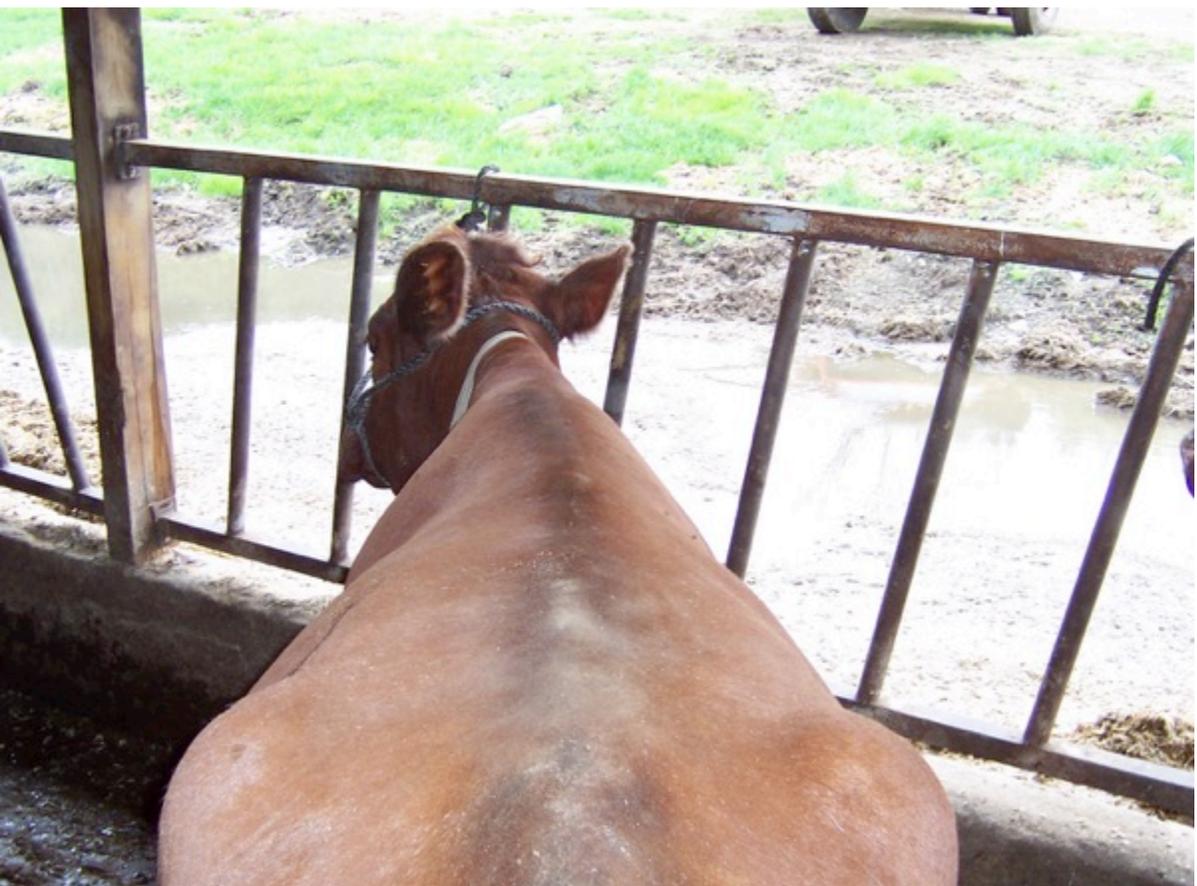
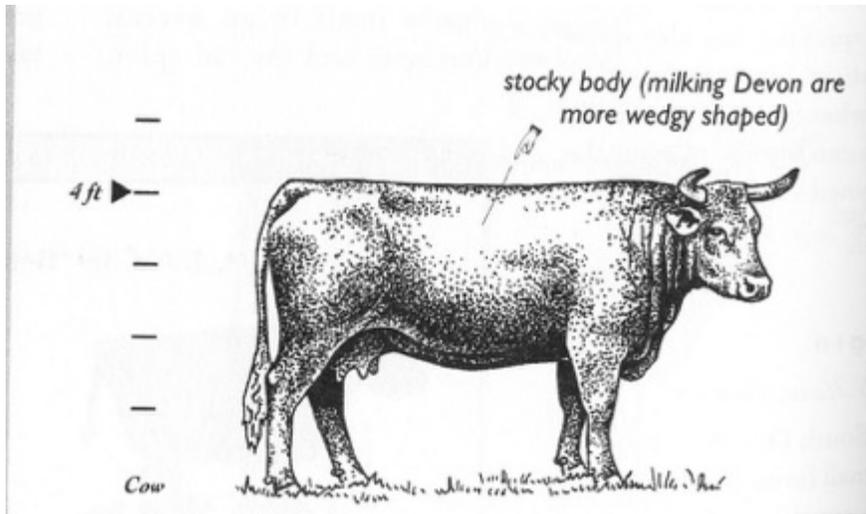


This cow is longer and cleaner (less dewlap) in the head and neck

WITHERS fine, Shoulders flat, sloping and well covered. **6 points**

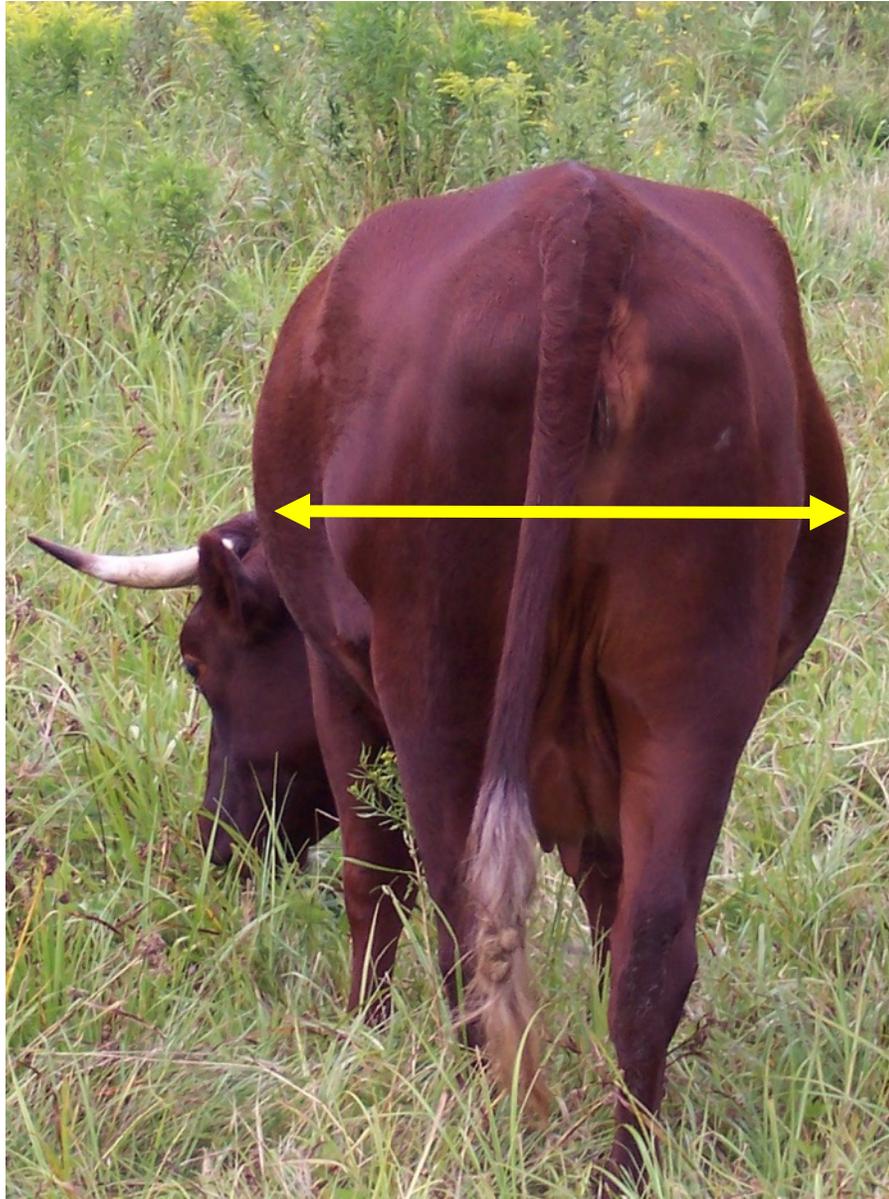


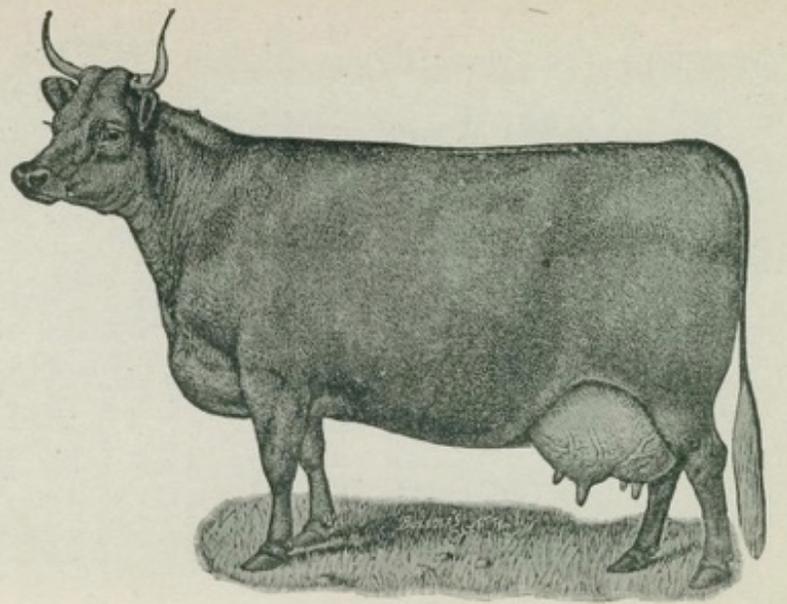
Cow on left is loose in the shoulders & not smooth between the neck, withers and topline



RIBS well sprung from the Backbone, nicely arched, deep and fully developed.

8 points





(164)

Fig. 26. Typical Devon Cow

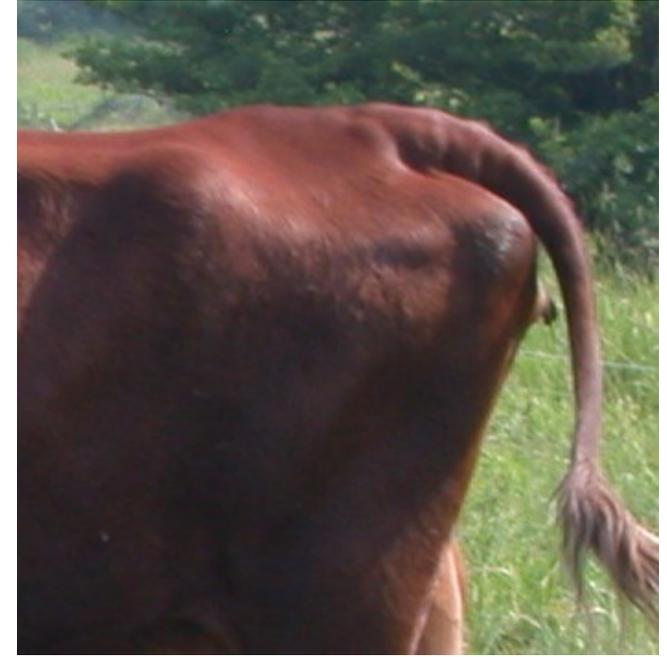
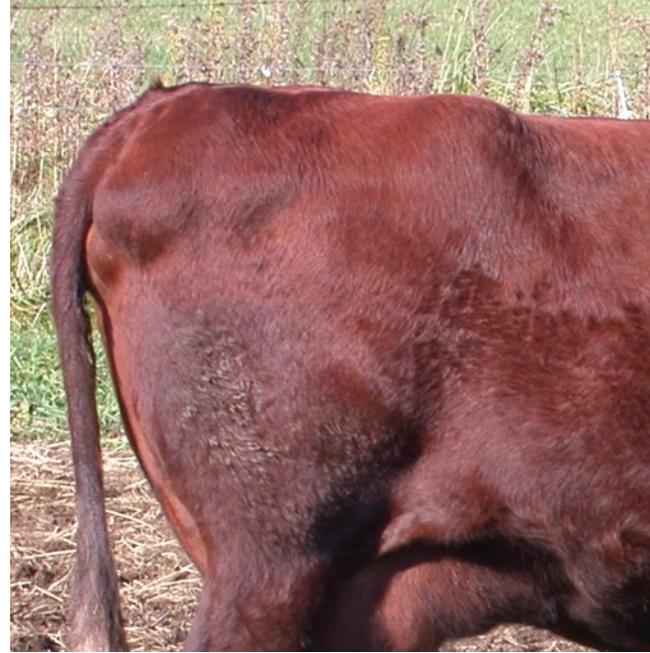
4 highly productive cows, bottom left, less than ideal teats, the bottom right more ideal in topline. None are perfect even the drawing the udder is too low.



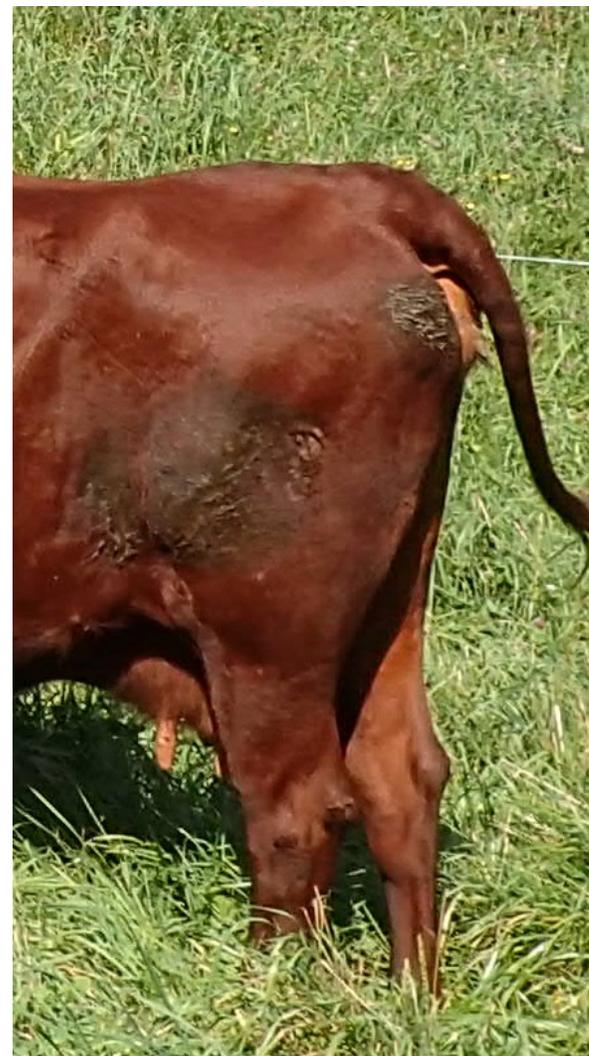
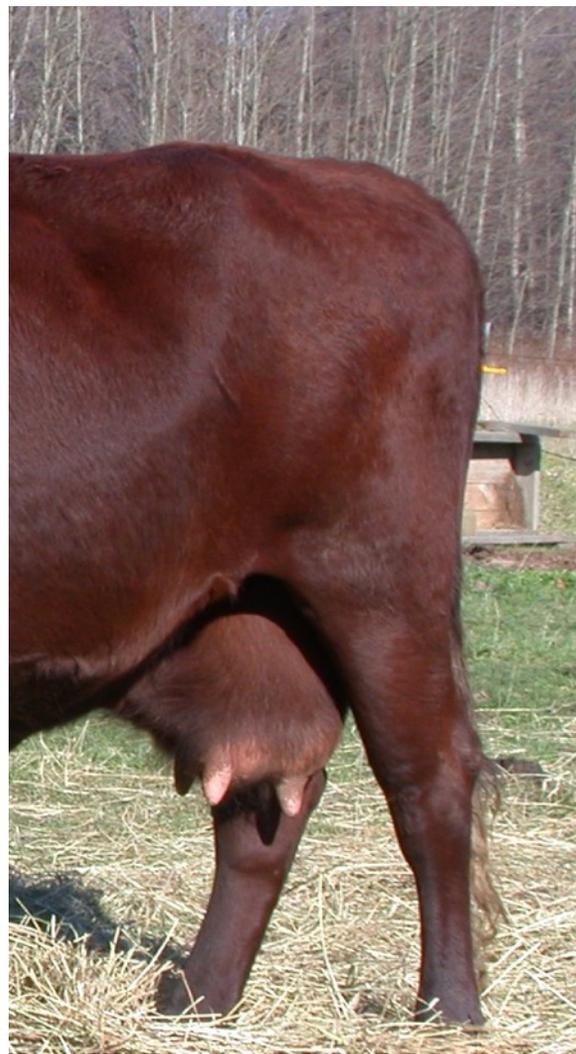
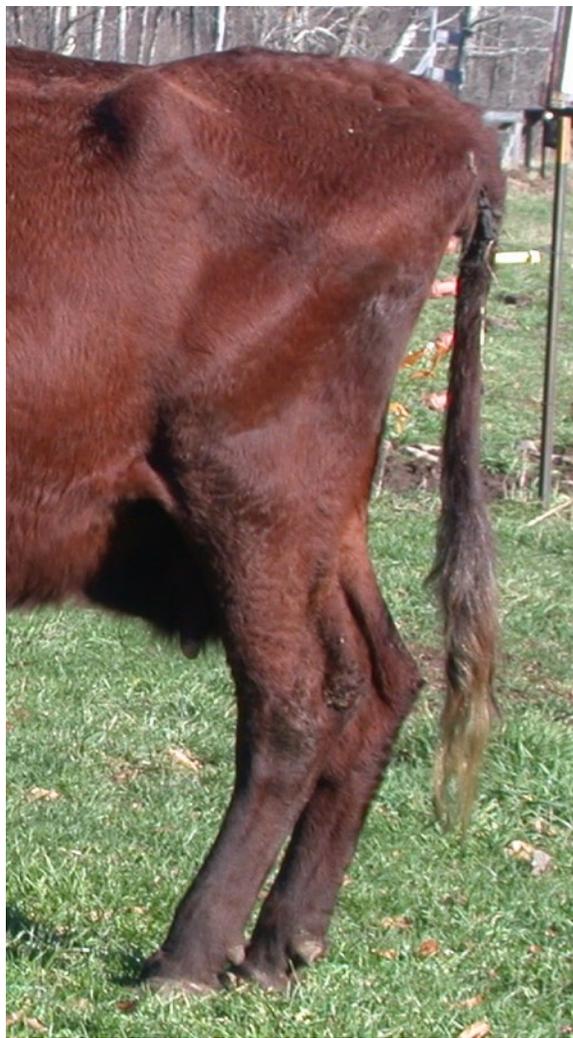
BACK straight and level from the Withers, to the setting on of the Tail, Loins broad and full, Hips of medium width and on a level with the Back. **12 points**

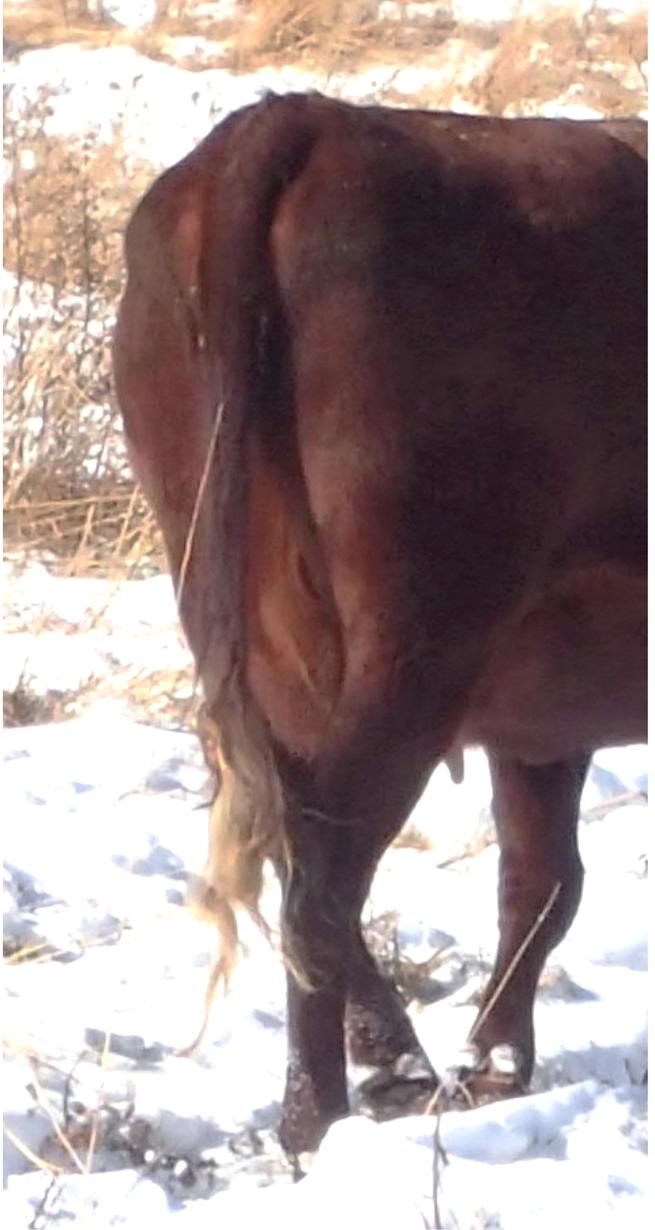


RUMP moderately long and level. **8 points**



HIND-QUARTERS deep, thick and square 10 points



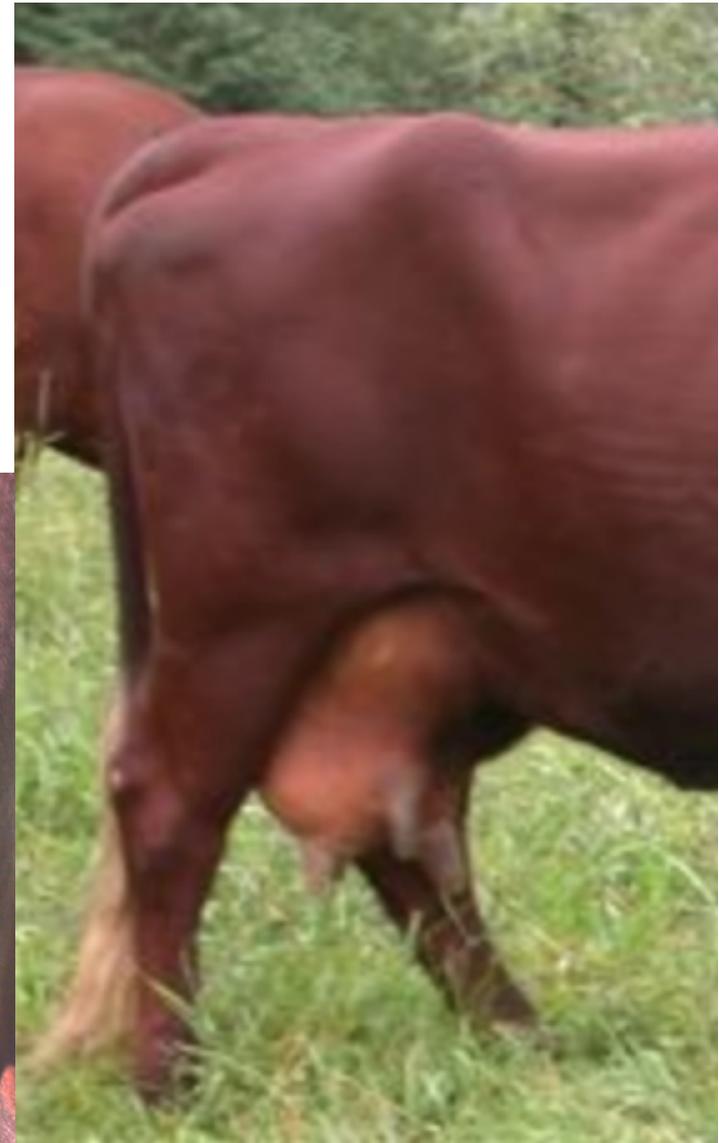
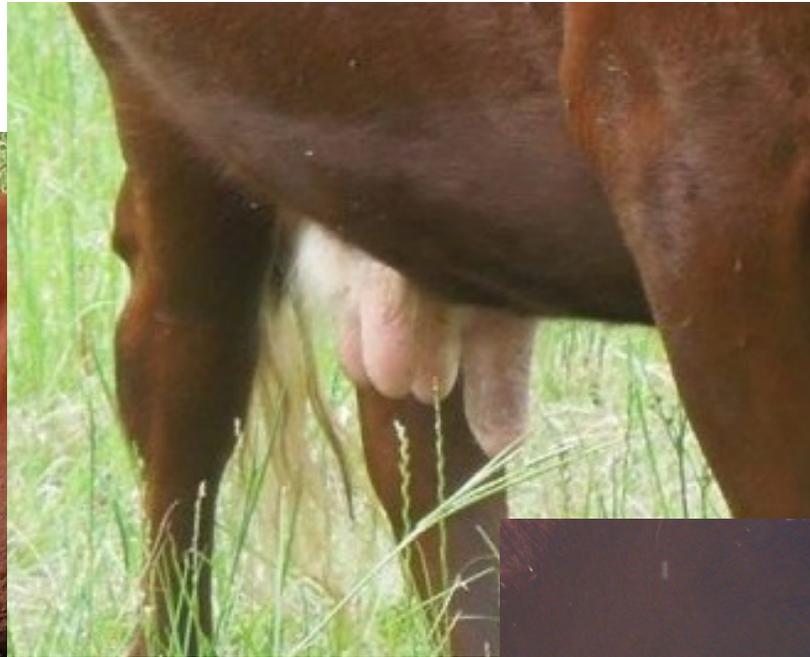


2 Examples of ideal hindquarters

UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed. **20 points**

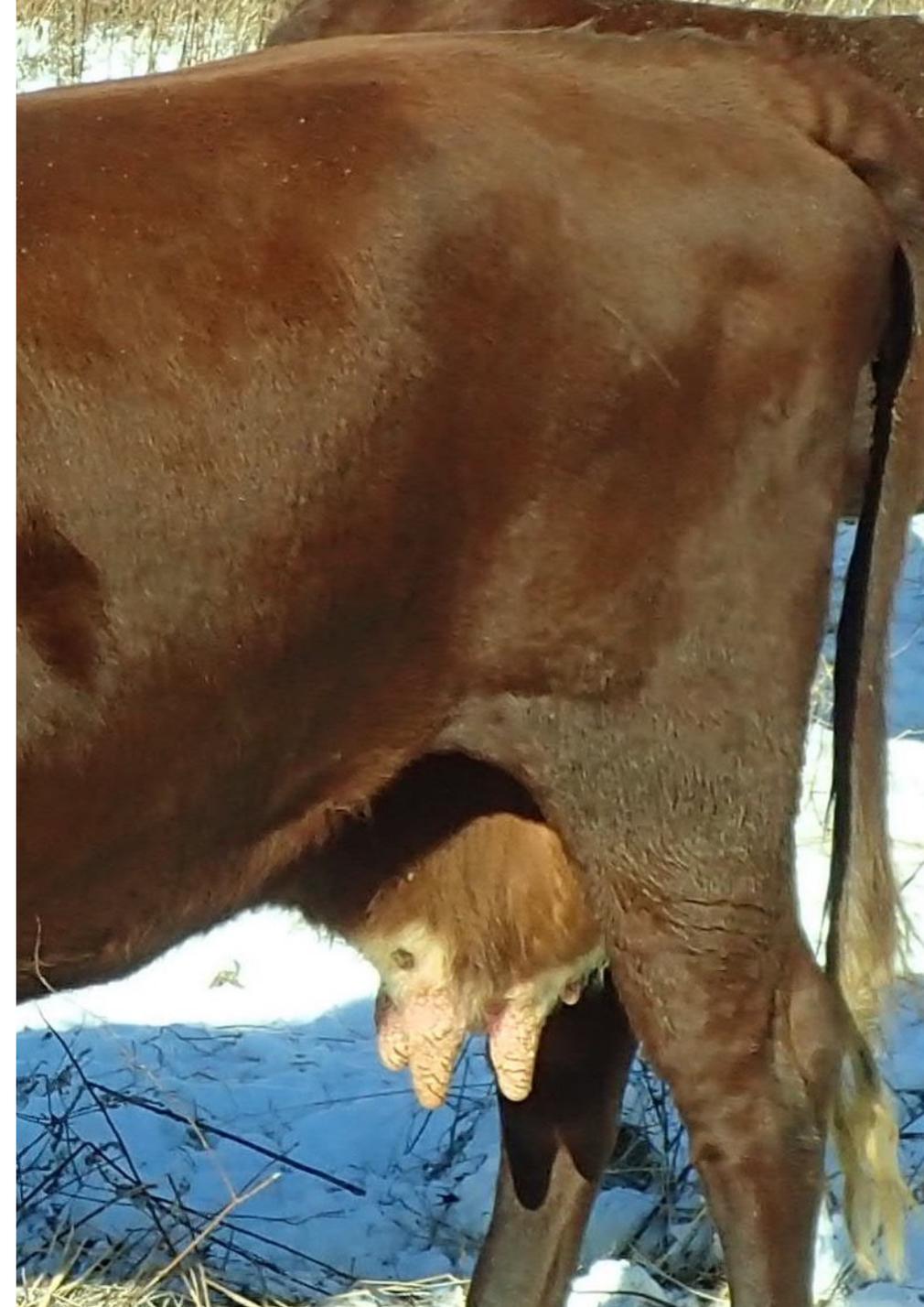


UDDER not fleshy, coming well forward in line with the Belly, and well up behind; Teats large, and squarely placed. **20 points**





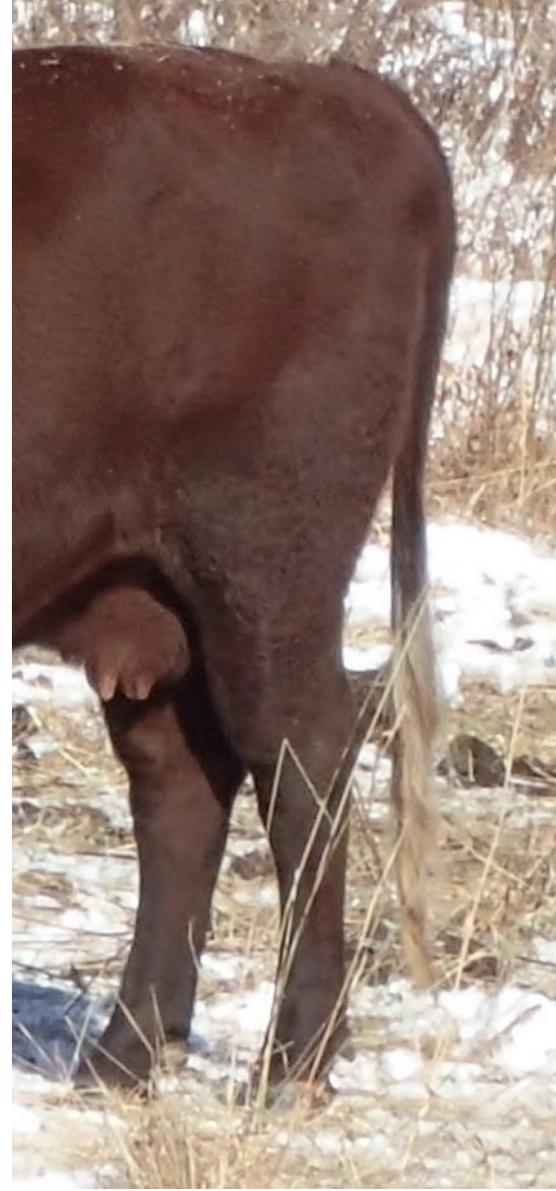
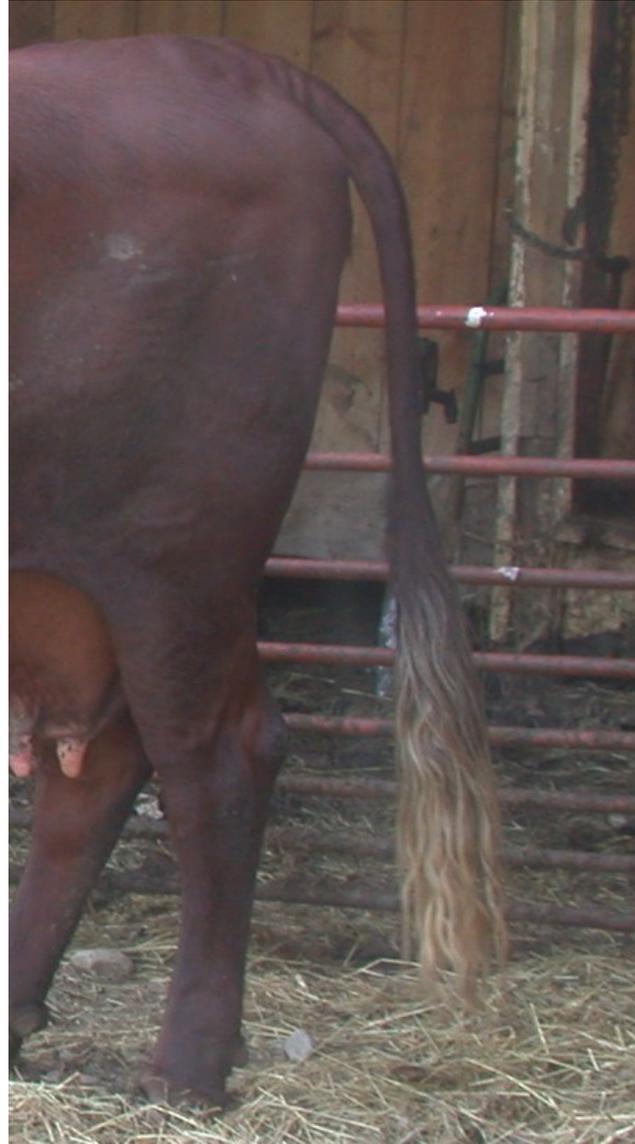
Cow above is a young cow with an udder ideally held up high and is level on the udder floor, tucking in tight under the belly. The cow to the right has weaker attachments and less ideal teats, not being square under the udder







TAIL thick at the root and tapering, with a brush of strong hair, reaching to the Hocks, and hanging at right angles with the back. **5 points**



THE UNDER LINE as nearly as possible parallel with the top 6 points



LEGS straightly and squarely placed when viewed from behind, not to cross or sweep when walking. **5 points**





To view the legs from the side and hoof angle, step away from the animals ?

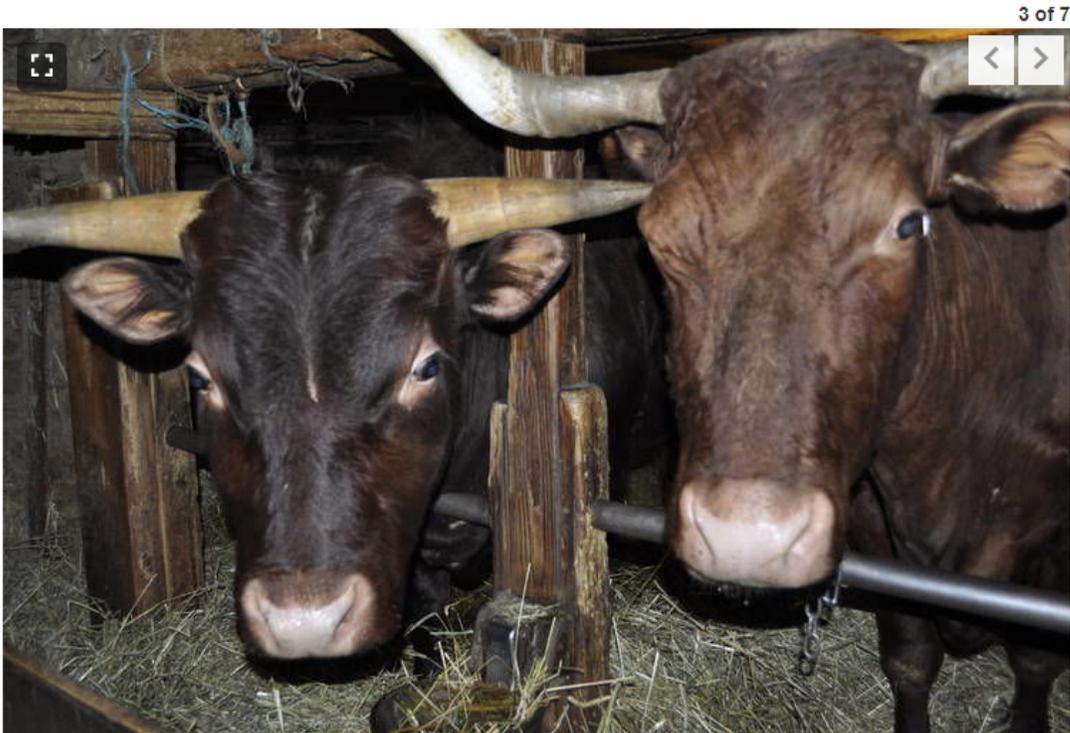


SKIN moderately thick and mellow, covered with an abundant coat of rich mossy hair of a red color; white about the Udder is admissible, but it should not extend beyond the Navel forward, on the outside of the Flanks or any other part of the Limbs or Body. **6 points**

Rare Breed: Lyndon's Ray Clark Is Leading Expert On Milking Devons

Lyndon Farmer Shares Knowledge At Colonial Williamsburg

Amy Ash Nixon Apr 10, 2019 0







**Don't get too close
when judging**



Description

A RECTANGULAR,
RUBY RED COW.



The thick, red-colored hair is slick; it dapples with age. Under the hair, the orange-tinted skin is visible around the eyes and muzzle. The medium-length horns are creamy white and have black tips.

The Devon has a good beef conformation: nicely muscled and stocky. The even rarer Milking Devon (the other Devon line)

shows the greater angularity and refinement of traditional dairy conformation. The Devon is cleaner cut and more handsome than either of the other nearby British breeds, the big-shouldered Sussex and the lighter-colored South Devon.



Purpose

Beef, dairy, and draft

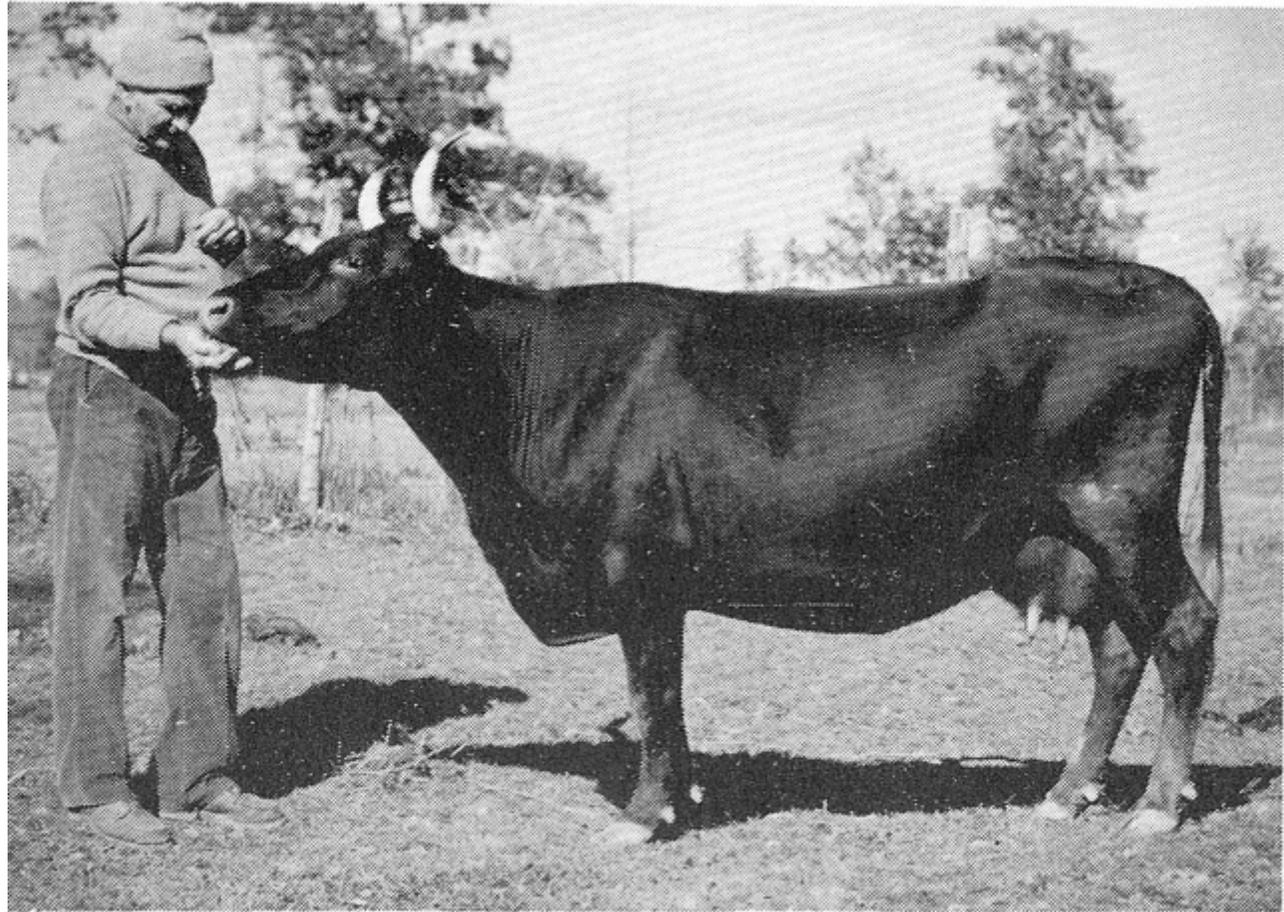
The breed is separated into two lines: the single-purpose beef Devon and the triple-purpose Milking Devon. The beef Devon is known for early maturity, a fine-boned frame, and tender cuts of beef, while the Milking Devon is not exclusively a milker but a do-it-all cow: milk, beef, and draft. Both lines are noted for their adaptability, economic growth, and cold-weather tolerance. Breeders have thought so highly of the breed's hot-weather tolerance that they have used the Devon as a foundation for some new tropical breeds.



Origin

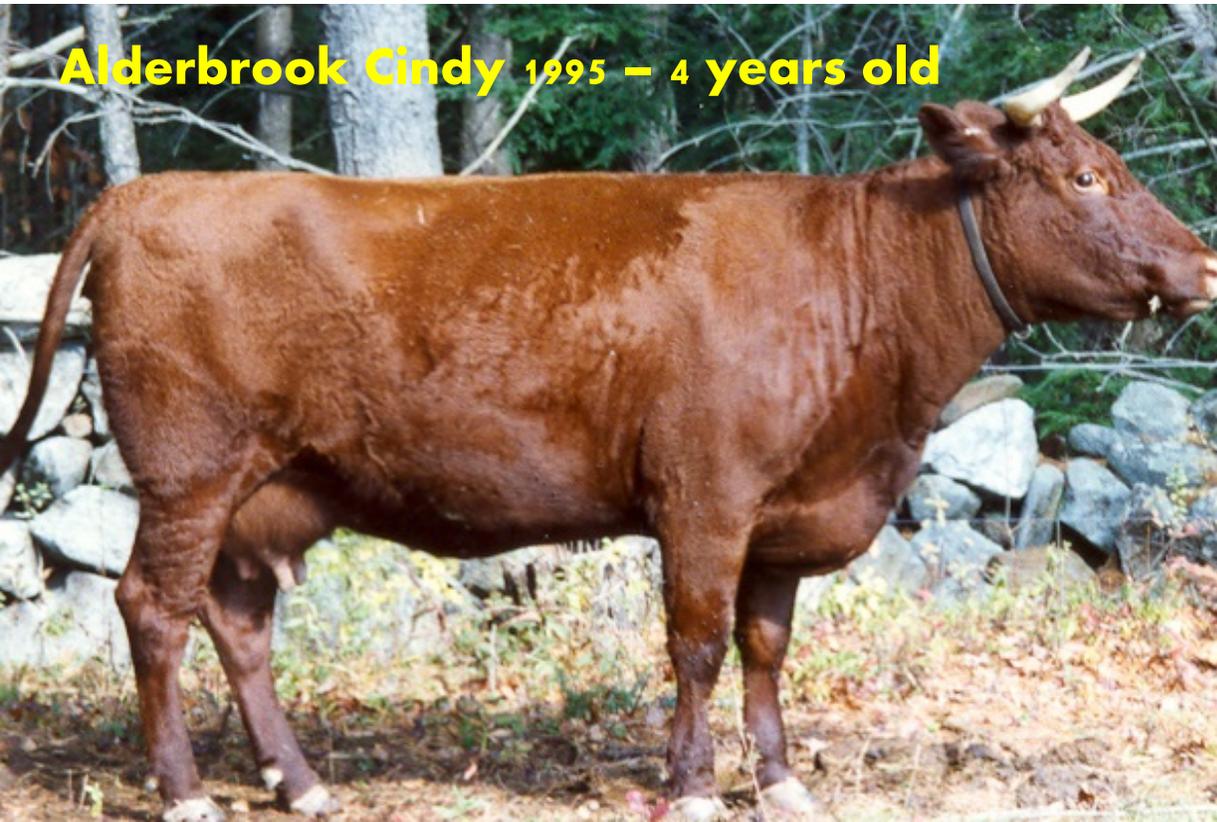
*Somerset and Devon Counties,
England*

The pilgrims first brought the Milking Devon to North America from their farms around Exmoor, north of Devon. Descendants of these cattle continue to be purebred, making the Milking Devon line the oldest continuously bred cattle breed in the U.S. Back in the colonial days, almost all the cows were like the Milking Devon—all-purpose animals supplying not only milk, but also leather, animal traction, cheese, and at the end of their long life, beef. The old line is still raised on a historical Vermont farm, the place of its American sanctuary



Text from the **Field Guide to Cows**, by John Pukite, published in 1996,
photos from Drew Conroy

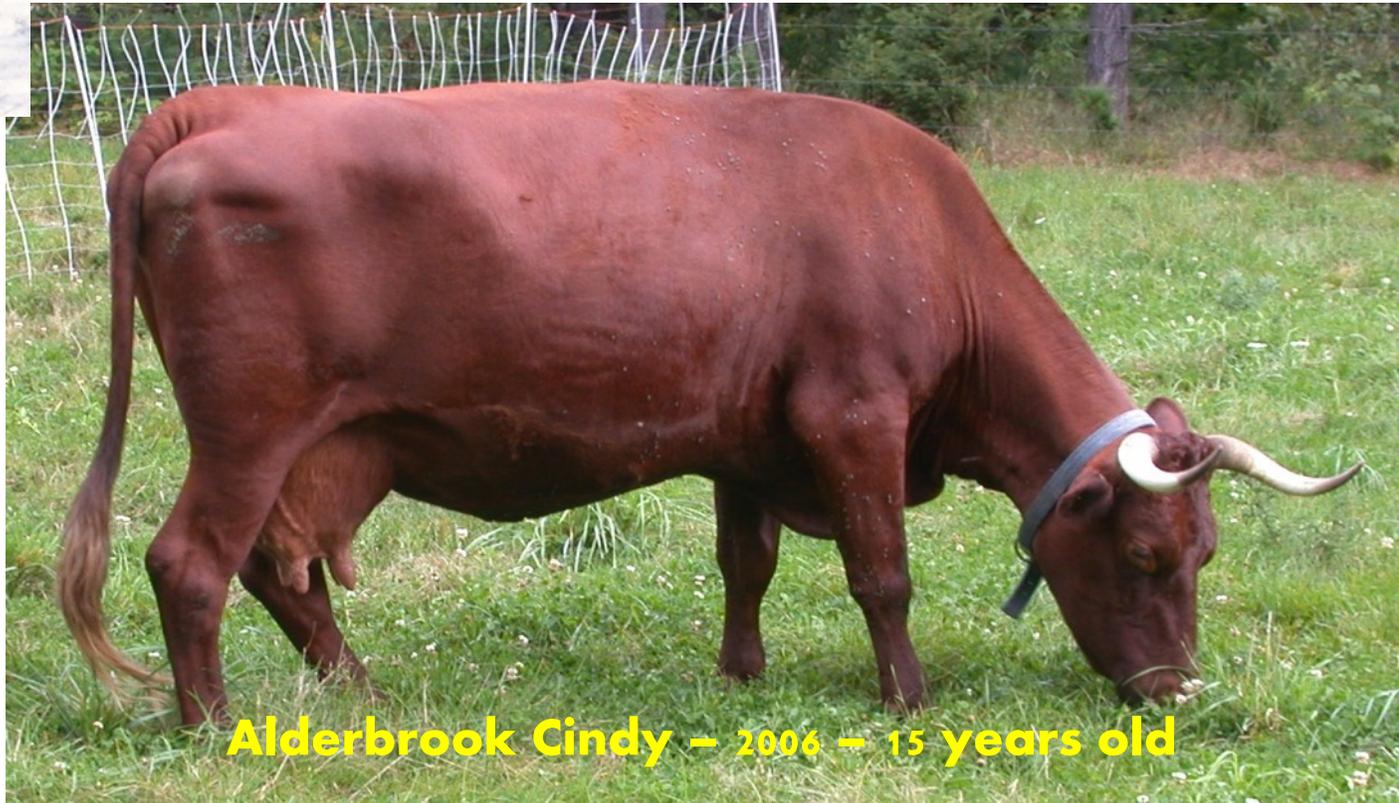
Cattle change with age
The udder drops and
the body becomes
deeper



Alderbrook Cindy 1999 – 8 years old



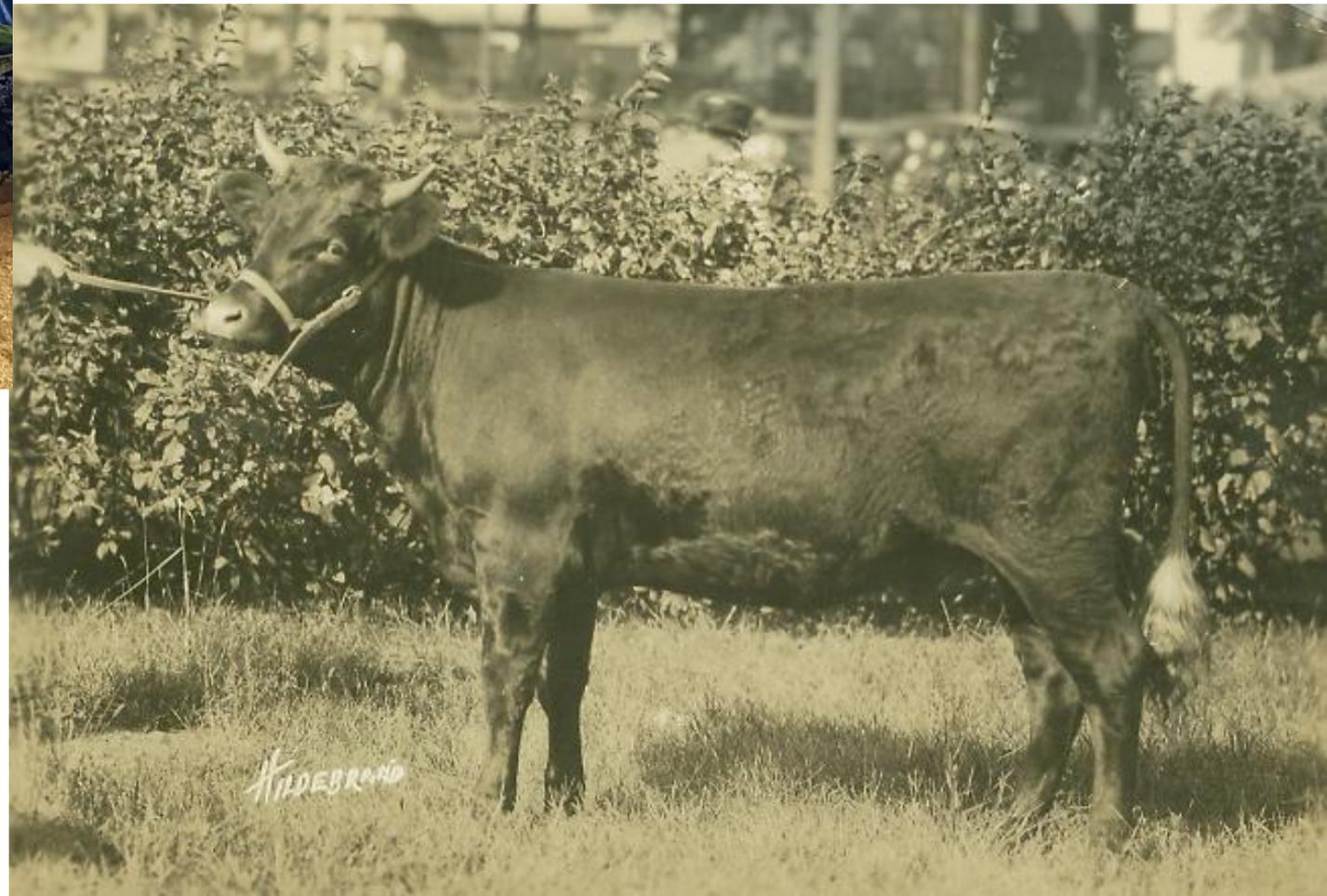
Alderbrook Cindy – 2003 – 12 years old



Alderbrook Cindy – 2006 – 15 years old



Two heifers 100 years apart, both showing great conformation...look for animals like these





**Nice
conformation in
Year old Devon
heifers**



**Nice conformation in
3-5 month old heifers**