



Executive Secretary  
David Kendall

# THOUGHTS

## From The Secretary

This month we finish reviewing the application of the new scorecard. Visiting with breeder/members at the convention there was a uniform sense that I have been a bit verbose in the descriptions. For this I apologize. However, I do hope that you have gained a sense that the classifier looks at a number of traits when assigning scores to the five breakdowns; that when looking at these traits they must rank and weigh the traits as drafted by the Type/Genetics Committees, approved by the Board and administrated by staff.

We have been evaluating three very different Brown Swiss cows. The first has been described as a round brown hippo lacking the ability to feed a cat from her tea cup udder. The second cow has been noted as a beanpole lacking the depth of heart, openness of rib and freedom of movement indicative of longevity, which we look for in the Brown Swiss cow. The third has been revealed to be a well-balanced cow that has a couple of traits that may impede her ability to conceive and calve on a regular basis.

The brown hippo is wide through the muzzle and across the chest floor creating an over all image of volume. She carries this width back over her loin and through her rump. However, she is coarse boned and round-shouldered lacking even a trace of femininity. The round brown is, while well sprung, very tight ribbed and round boned. Looking at her one does not get a sense of balance between Strength/Substance and Dairy Quality. She is round over the rump and possess an udder that lacks useable capacity. However, she does possess very decent Mobility. In the end she gets an 86 for Strength & Substance, a 52 for Dairy Quality, 73 for Rump, 89 in mobility and a 70 in Udder System. Her final score works out to be Fair 74.

The beanpole lacks in power, width and dairyness. While some may call her dairy due to her want of body condition, her tight rib, lack of style and balance indicates otherwise. Stiff through the hock while being narrow in the rear udder and wide through the front teats, the one place the beanpole excels is in the rump. She has a two inch slope with adequate width between the thurls, is strong in the loin with a flat vulva so that the beanpole gains a 91 in the Rump. In the other categories the beanpole gained a 69 in Strength/Substance, an 80 for Dairy

Quality, 78 in Mobility and a 79 in Udder System. The beanpole ends up at Good 79.

The last cow we have described as a beautifully balanced dairy cow. With a clean, angular bone, well sprung and open ribbed she scores very high in Dairy Quality and also does well in Strength and Substance. Balance along with her well-attached Udder System quickly captures one's eye. However, cows exuding dairy quality can have problems in parts of the frame, as this cow does in the Rump and to a lesser extent in Mobility. While her clean boned, wide pinned with a stylish tail head rump is at first very appealing, as the classifier examines her more closely, a number of issues are noted. First her pins are actually above her hooks: a reverse slope. Second her vulva is tipped. Third her loin has a tendency to drop. Again, while at first attractive, all of these elements are indicative of a cow that has difficulties getting in calf. As a result this cow was scored 80 in the Rump. For Mobility she was awarded an 83. In the Udder System she came out to 90, for Strength and Substance 89 and in Dairy Quality a 95. Her final score is Very Good 88. It should be noted that if this cow scored 90 in the Rump her final score would be Very Good 89.

Assertive usage within the guidelines and directions of the new score card will provide a more accurate description of our great Brown Swiss cow in addition to contributing greater accuracy to our final scores in relation to Productive Life. While new, the emphasis in the Rump category is based on sound science and practical experience in working towards improved fertility. The Mobility breakdown provides a system that will allow the great Brown Swiss cow to continue her industry lead in mobility. The importance of balance between Strength/Substance and Dairy Quality will assure that we do not create Brown toads nor Brown Number Two Pencils. The Udder System focus is on selecting for those traits that will allow the Brown Cow to produce 300,000 pounds of milk or more without problems.

And now, since Wayne promised that who ever bought the cow "Double Tree" at the Youth Auction that I would linearize her for them, and Brian thought that I should buy her to hang on my wall to remind me of the new score card. Yes, I bought her. I want to fulfill Wayne's promise and will recall the new score card every morning when I come in. Double Tree is on my desk as I type.



While having attractive blue eyes with long, black eyelashes I am afraid that Double Tree lacks just a bit in linears of stature, strength, body depth and dairy form, all get a 1. Actually in rump angle Double Tree gets a 9 with her severe slope but reverts to a 1 in thurl width. In rear legs rear view she is spot on at 8, though from the side she gets a 7; plenty of set. Foot angle is not too bad, just needs her toes trimmed so a 5. On all udder traits except cleft and depth a 1. For both depth and cleft she gets a 2. Milking speed, forget it, a 1 with or without oxytocin and a 1 for udder quality; good heavens is she hard. With her over size head, Double Tree just does not exhibit any balance. In the breaks Double Tree gets a 50 in Strength/Substance, 50 in Dairy Quality, 50 in Rump, an 80 in Mobility (her structure is not all that bad) and a 50 in Udder System. By rule Double Tree ends up a 60, the lowest score BSCBA assigns.

### Board Action

Your Board met on Monday evening, Tuesday, parts of Wednesday and Thursday during convention week.

Due to significant increases in postal rates for business reply mailings and problems with the way that the postal service has changed the handling of business reply mailings, the Board voted that all future mailing from the office no longer have pre-paid return postage. It now costs your BSCBA \$1.11 for business reply versus 41 cents for a first class stamp. Before the change it cost your BSCBA 46 cents.

To reduce costs by simplifying the membership renewal process, the Board approved moving all memberships to the calendar year beginning January 1, 2009. To

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assist in the process all memberships, annual and five year, will be pro-rated throughout 2008 for annual and until renewal time for five year. For example if your renewal is May your membership through the end of 2008 will be \$16.66 rather than \$25. New members signing up after October 1st of any year will have their membership extended through the following year.

A motion that was made and seconded by the Board discussed requiring classifying only first and second lactation cows with animals after second lactation being "Breeders Choice" in all classification programs. 4 yes with 5 no, motion failed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that breeders requesting and paying for a Special Classification will have the choice of animals, or "Breeders Choice" they want to have scored during the special effective immediately. Previously, all animals that had not been scored were required to be scored in addition to selected animals.

A motion was made and seconded that the average mammary score be replaced on pedigrees with udder composite beginning in January 2008. 8 yes, 1 no.

A motion was made and seconded that herds enrolling in BSA are able to register all Recorded Females, IDR and ID heifer calves less than six months of age, for free excluding ETs; same as for other heifer calves. Also that all RF, ID and IDR cows be assessed the same rate as other Brown Swiss cows recorded as IE, CIE or herd book for both BSA and PTPR. All Brown Swiss cows recorded with BSCBA will then be classified and on DHIR. While RF, ID and IDR will contribute to herd averages, they are not eligible for any individual awards. 6 yes, 3 no motion passed. To be effective with the January 1, 2008 enrollment.

Motion made and seconded that effective January 1, 2008 all individual animal fees for both BSA and PTPR be raised a dollar. Part of this funding is to be used to expand classifier training. 8 yes and 1 no, passed.

Motion made and seconded that effective January 1, 2008 BSCBA create a web page for classified ads. These are to stay up 30 days and be limited to business card size for the cost of \$25. Passed.

On recommendation of the Youth Committee, the Board made a motion with a second that National Bell Ringer judges be selected in the following manner beginning with the 2007 show season is to use 3 judges from the national shows. 1 from Eastern, 1 from Southeastern, and the 3rd to rotate from the other national shows. The reason for the Eastern National and Southeastern National being permanently assigned is that these are our two largest junior shows.

Also as part of this motion when enter-

ing the Bell Ringer contest the Junior is to list no more than three placings from Junior Shows on the entry form, no longer allowing any placing from open shows. For the National Bell Ringers only professional, unretouched photos will be allowed. It should be noted that this rule does not apply to State Bell Ringer contests; each state having the right to run their own program as they see fit.

In Junior Shows only the BSCBA junior who owns the animal is to show the animal or another junior member of BSBCA of the same age or younger if the owner cannot attend. Also in a class that a junior owns more than one animal another junior member may show the second animal providing the junior showing the other animal is of an equal age or younger. All three parts of this Motion passed.

The Board approved changes to the Judges list from the Show Committee. The updated list can be found on page ( ). The final vote was 7 yes with 2 no.

A motion was made and seconded that each judge's vote in each class in the All-American contest be printed in the All-American edition of the Bulletin. After extensive discussion the motion passed with 5 yes and 4 no votes. The Show Committee recommended against this motion.

On recommendation of the Show Committee, the Board made and seconded a motion to grant the Georgia State Fair National Show status beginning in 2008 with the following stipulations. Proof of Ultrasound services being secured and that the show averages a minimum of a 100 head for three years. Evidence of commitment must be received in the office by January 1, 2008. Passed with 8 yes and 1 no.

On recommendation of the Show Committee, a motion was made and seconded that beginning in 2008 all bull classes will be eliminated from the All-American Contest. In addition, beginning in 2008 a Senior Yearling in Milk Class will be added to the national shows and the All-American Contest. Passed with 7 yes and 2 no votes.

After discussion from the Genetics/Type Committees a motion was made and seconded to leave the Foot and Leg Composite as it is at 2/3 Foot Angle and 1/3 Rear Legs Side view at this time. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded on recommendation of the Genetics/Type Committees that when linear traits are scored that Width of Rear Udder be measured at the top point of the rear udder where the secretory tissue joins the body wall: the same point that Height of Rear Udder is determined. At the moment Rear Udder Width is measured where the udder first attaches to the body wall. This change will not go into effect until after a Type Conference at which time the Type Committee in collaboration with office staff will develop new

linear values. Motion passed.

On recommendation of an outside accountant and related directly to rapidly escalating costs associated with the Sarbanes-Oxley law, the Board moved and seconded to have two years of outside financial reviews by an accounting firm followed by an outside audit in the third year. Passed.

In the Re-Organization meeting Rich Hill was elected Vice President. The Executive Committee elected was Bob Landgraf, Ron Michalovich and Tom Oberhaus.

The Brown Swiss Enterprise Board elected was Charlie Voelker President, Rich Hill Vice-President with Ron Michalovich, Tom Oberhaus and Matt Klug.

The Brown Swiss Foundation Board was elected with Charlie Voelker President, Ron Passke Vice-President. The rest of the Foundation Board elected was Cathy Coppini, Alan Bassler and Michael Overstreet.

During the Brown Swiss Enterprise meeting the Board moved, seconded and passed donation of the remaining semen and embryos in the office to the National Animal Germ Plasma Program of USDA at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

On the genetic recessive front we will be able to offer the SMA test very shortly through Maxxam. They are now able to do the test. We are waiting for pricing. We also are asking anyone with calves and or cows with missing dew-claws to please call the office. We are simply collecting data on this at this time.

In ending, a very big thank you to all of New York for a great convention. Chair Derek Hill and the very many excellent New Yorkers who helped put on a memorable event that was educational, recreational (in particular if you were on a certain bus!) and highly enjoyable. Also, congratulations to Wayne Sliker and the whole Modern Associates crew for a fantastic sale.

Till next time with the Brown Cow with the low somatic cell...and more! Dave