HOLSTEIN CONFORMATION COMPOSITE (HCC)

New, function-focused type index developed by Holstein Association USA. The index includes 18 conformation traits weighted for functional balance and longevity.

WHAT IS HCC?

- A high HCC score points toward a balanced linear profile — not simply the highest type score.
- Published alongside PTAT, UDC, FLC and BWC.
- HCC and PTAT measure conformation differently. HCC has a low correlation with PTAT (0.15), so the two numbers will not always rank bulls the same way.

WHY DOES HCC MATTER IN TODAY'S DAIRY LANDSCAPE?

- Modern herds need cows that last longer and perform across multiple lactations.
- HCC shifts emphasis from appearance to functional correctness.
- Includes a penalty for extreme stature to discourage oversized cows.

HOW DO YOU USE HCC TO MAKE GENETIC DECISIONS?

- HCC is not a stand-alone breeding plan. It should be considered with production, health, fertility and your herd priorities.
- Ideal for herds prioritizing longevity, structural balance, and lifetime production.

Trait	Component	Weight	Optimum	Direction
Stature	Frame	15.0%	-1.5	Directional Low
Strength	Frame	9.0%	+1.5	Directional High
Body Depth	Frame	3.0%	+0.0	Intermediate
Dairy Form	Frame	4.0%	+1.0	Directional High
Rump Angle	Frame	6.0%	+1.0	Intermediate
Rump Width	Frame	5.0%	+0.5	Intermediate
Rear Legs-Side View	Feet & Legs	5.0%	+1.0	Intermediate
Rear Legs-Rear View	Feet & Legs	2.0%	+2.0	Directional High
Foot Angle	Feet & Legs	8.0%	+1.5	Directional High
Feet & Legs Score	Feet & Legs	7.0%	+2.0	Directional High
Fore Udder	Udder	6.0%	+1.5	Directional High
Rear Udder Height	Udder	3.0%	+2.0	Directional High
Rear Udder Width	Udder	5.0%	+2.0	Directional High
Udder Cleft	Udder	8.0%	+1.0	Directional High
Udder Depth	Udder	5.0%	+0.5	Intermediate
Front Teat Placement	Udder	2.0%	+0.5	Intermediate
Rear Teat Placement	Udder	4.0%	-2.0	Intermediate
Teat Length	Udder	5.0%	+1.5	Intermediate

Frame 42%

Feet & Legs 22%

Udder 38%

Directional high traits favor PTA above breed average; directional low traits favor PTA below it; intermediate traits favor a target near breed average, with values farther from the optimum scoring lower. Linear STAs are read against the breed average, which shifts with each base change, so the ideal STA changes over time. A +3.0 STA, or a fully "right-sided" linear profile, is not necessarily the goal.

Formula chart and caption sourced from Holstein Association USA.