

CHAROLAIS

American-International Charolais Association FOOT SCORING GUIDELINES

CLAW SET



1 Extremely weak, open, divergent claw set. Unsound.

Open, divergent claw set. Marginally unsound.

2



3 Moderately open/divergent claw set.



Slightly open/divergent claw set.

4



5 *Ideal.* Symmetrical claws, with appropriate space between claws



Slight tendency for claws to curl. One claw may be slightly larger than the other.

6



7 Tendency for claws to curl, with one claw larger than the other.



Moderate scissor claw and/or screw claw. Curling of one or both claws. Near crossing of claws. Marginally unsound.

8



9 Extreme scissor claw and/or screw claw. Pronounced curling of one or both claws. Crossing of claws. Unsound.



FOOT ANGLE



1 Extremely straight pasterns. Very short toe. Unsound.

Straight front and rear pasterns. Marginally unsound.

2



3 Moderately straight front and rear pasterns.



Slightly straight front and rear pasterns.

4



5 *Ideal.* Approximately 45-degree angle at pastern joint. Appropriate length of toe and depth of heel.



Slightly shallow heel and long toe.

6



7 Moderately shallow heel and long toe. Somewhat weak pasterns.



Shallow heel and long toe. Marginally unsound.

8



9 Extremely shallow heel and long toe. Extremely weak pasterns. Unsound.



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CLAW SET



FOOT ANGLE



Quality foot and hoof structure in beef cattle favorably contribute to the longevity of beef cows and bulls by reducing voluntary culling due to poor or malformed feet or involuntary culling due to injury or lameness. Scores taken for hoof, foot, and limb attributes are typically taken at yearling age, but can also be evaluated annually on mature cows.

Hoof, foot and leg scores should be gathered using a subjective measurement on a 1-9 scale, with the optimum falling in the middle of the scale. Animals should be evaluated on dry, hard, level ground under good lighting. Observers should have a clear and unobstructed view of the animal's feet and should observe the animal while standing still. Animals should not be evaluated in a chute or other restraint. Phenotypes should be collected on yearling bulls and heifers, evaluating all animals in the contemporary group. Cows and bulls may also be evaluated annually. Other things to consider:

1. Animals must be scored prior to hoof trimming.
2. When there is variation among an animal's feet, score the worst foot.
3. Score yearling bulls and heifers
 - a. bulls must be between 320 and 440 days
 - b. heifers must be between 320 and 460 days
4. Older females can be scored following guidelines used when collecting mature weights.

Note: Foot structure changes as animals age. Scores will be adjusted for age as part of the analysis. Scores should describe the animal as they are at the time of scoring, without consideration of age.

All data can be submitted online through the registry at www.charolaisusa.com