

CBCIA CONFORMATION GRADING SYSTEM

Muscle: Desirable muscle structure is indicated by expression and definition of muscle through the forearm, loin and round. Heavily muscled animals are wider topped and based, are wider, squarer and fuller rumped (from hooks to pins), and are more expressive through the center of the round. Light muscled animals are narrow tracking, taper from hooks to pins, and show little definition or expression of muscle on the move. NOTE: Animal's width may be a function of muscle and/or fat. It is important to evaluate muscle by carefully evaluating areas of the animal that do not typically cover with external fat.

Capacity: High capacity animals have adequate spring and depth of rib, are wide through the chest floor and are long bodied. One must be careful not to confuse excess fat or condition with extra capacity, since this area of the body is highly disposed to fat deposition and additional fat tends to make a bull look deep bodied with a full spring of rib.

Structural Correctness: Bulls must move freely, have substance of bone, and exhibit adequate testicular development. Sloping shoulders, neither too flat or steep, straight tops, and level from hooks to pins are desired. The bull should stand squarely on all legs, with strong pasterns, and correctness of foot and neck set. From the side not post legged (too straight) or sickle-hocked (too much set to hock). From the front or back, not splay-footed (toes out), cow-hocked (too close) or bow-legged.

Lack of Waste: Excess fat deposition may be caused by overfeeding and/or genetic tendency to fatten resulting in less desirable yield grades. Excessive fat in relation to frame size is undesirable. Waste fat deposits may be seen around the tail-head and in the brisket. Tight flanks are indicative of leanness.

Balance: Strong topped animals that are proportional in their appearance are generally balanced and eye appealing. Ill-balanced animals may be weak topped, ill-proportioned, heavy fronted and generally lacking in eye appeal.

CBCIA Consignment Bull Sale
Conformation Score

1. Score Guide

Designation	Numerical Value	Bull Conformation Description
1-	92-94	Excellent: Excellent in all five of the criteria described on the following score card. <i>Herd bull prospects.</i>
2+	89-91	Very Good: Very good to excellent in the majority of the criteria described on the score card. <i>Lower end of herd bulls, upper end of range bulls.</i>
2	86-88	Typical: Typical to very good in the majority of the criteria described on the score card. <i>Average to better range bulls.</i>
2-	83-85	Below Average: Below average in the majority of the criteria described on the score card. <i>Bulls rarely capable of making improvement in herds in terms of the criteria evaluated.</i>

2. Score Card - Evaluate on the following criteria (see detailed description for each criteria):

1. Muscle
2. Capacity
3. Structural Correctness
4. Lack of Waste
5. Balance