

The Dairy Cow Breeds

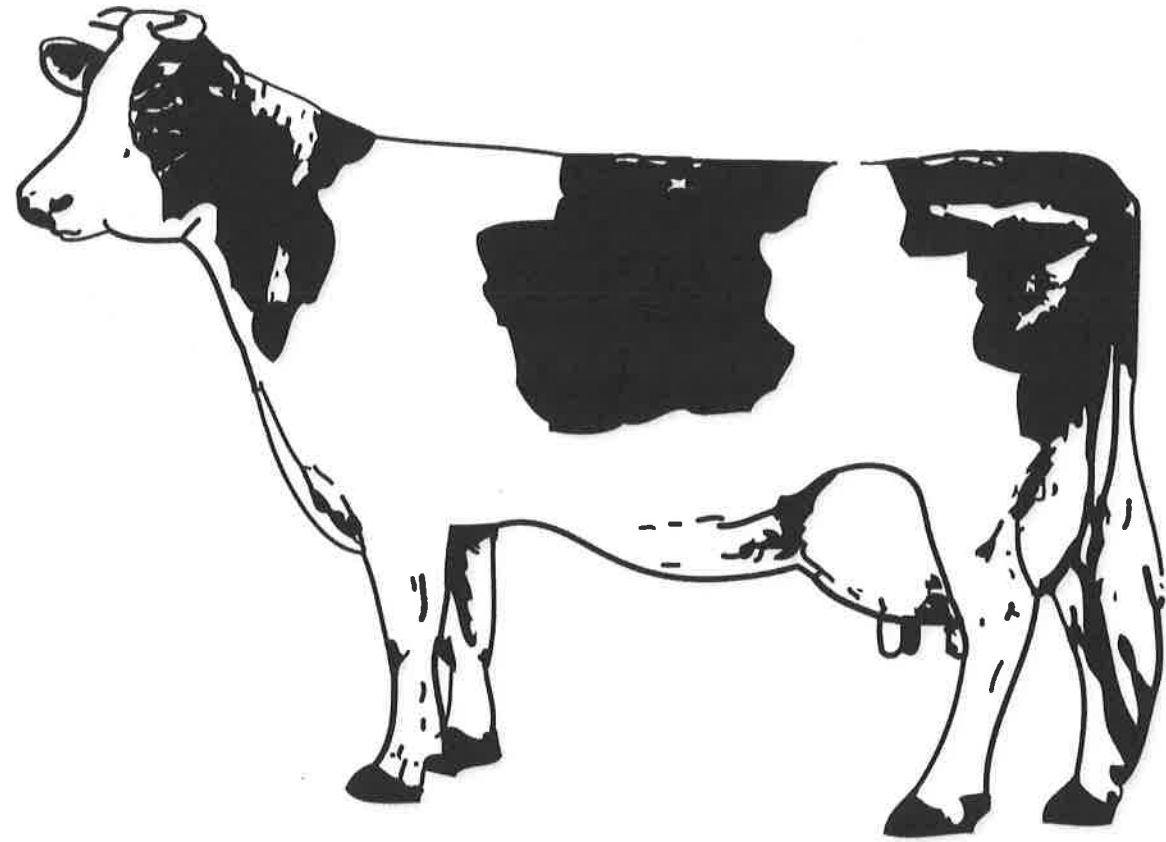


Table of Contents

1. Holstein
2. Jersey
3. Brown Swiss
4. Milking Shorthorn
5. Guernsey
6. Ayrshire

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Les Schmidt

Holsteins

Country of Origin:

Holsteins originated from the Netherlands.

Usage:

Their main use is milk production.

Breed Characteristics:

Holsteins are a larger dairy breed. On average, a mature Holstein cow weighs 1,500 lbs. A 13 month old heifer weighs 800lbs and a newborn calf is 90 lbs. Holsteins have color patterns of black & white or red & white.

Imported to U.S.:

Winthrop Chenery, a breeder, first bought a Holland cow from a Dutch sailing master. The cow had produced milk for the whole crew during the voyage and Chenery was pleased with the milk production. He later imported more Holsteins in 1857, 1859, and 1861. After this many other breeders joined in the race to establish Holsteins in America.

Average Milk Production:

The average yearly milk production for a Holstein as of 2011 was 23,385 lbs of milk, 858 lbs of butterfat, and 719 lbs of protein.

History:

By the late 1800's there was enough interest among Holstein breeders to form associations to record pedigrees and maintain herd books. In 1885 they formed together to found the Holstein-Friesen Association of America. In 1994 they changed the name to Holstein Association USA, Inc.



John Erbs

Jersey

Country of Origin:

The Jersey cow originated in the British Islands of Jersey.

Usage:

Their main use is to produce milk with a high butterfat content, which makes higher quality cheeses.

Breed Characteristics:

Jersey's are a small breed of cattle with mature female cows weighing in at 800-1000 pounds. They can range from light brown to very dark brown.

Imported to the U.S.:

The breed was known in England as early as 1771, but wasn't brought to the U.S. until the 1850's.

Average Milk Production:

The average yearly milk production for a Jersey cow as of 2012 is 17,152 pounds of milk per year, with 818 pounds of fat and 624 pounds of protein and 2158 pounds of cheddar cheese yield.

History:

As its name implies, the Jersey cow was bred on the British Isle of Jersey. The Jersey is one of the oldest dairy breeds, having been reported by authorities as being purebred for nearly six centuries.



Brown Swiss

Country of Origin:

Brown Swiss originated from Switzerland.

Usage:

Brown Swiss produce large volumes of milk to produce cheese.

Breed Characteristics:

They are a medium-large breed with mature cows being 1300-1400 lbs. Brown Swiss cattle can be grey, dark brown, tan, or an almost white color. Their hooves, muzzle, and switch are usually black. They are often noted for their floppy ears and docile temperament.

Imported to the U.S.

Henry M. Clark brought the first Brown Swiss, 7 pregnant heifers and 1 bull, to the U.S. by boat in 1869.

Average Milk Production

Brown Swiss's average production is 22,252 lbs of milk, 886 lbs of fat and 731 lbs of protein.

History:

In 1880 a small group of breeders created the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association of the U.S.A. In 1922 the brown Swiss bulletin was first posted.



Milking Shorthorn

Country of Origin:

The Milking Shorthorn originated in Northeastern England.

Usage:

They are a dual purpose breed used for meat and milk.

Breed Characteristics:

They are a large dairy cow with a mature female reaching 1400-1500 lbs. Milking Shorthorns have color patterns of red & white.

Imported to the U.S.

The first importation of this breed to the U.S. was in 1783 when shorthorns came to Virginia. These early importations were often referred to as Durhams but became favorite of the pioneers, furnishing meat, milk, and power.

Average Milk Production

They have an average of 1500 lbs of milk, 500 lbs of fat, and 465 lbs of protein.

History

The American Shorthorn breeders association was created in 1912.



Kathy DeBruin

Guernsey

Country of Origin:

The Guernsey cow originated in the British Islands of Guernsey.

Usage:

Their main use is for A2 type milk production.

Breed Characteristics:

Guernsey's are a small breed of cattle with mature female cows weighing 1000 pounds. They are fawn in color with white markings.

Imported to U.S.:

In September of 1840, Captain Belair of the Schooner Pilot brought three Alderney cows to the port of New York. Later, the captain brought over two more heifers and a bull from the island. These animals were the original stock of the national Guernsey herd today.

Average Milk Production:

The average yearly milk production for a Guernsey as of 2013 is 16,200 pounds of milk per year, with 4.5% fat and 3.2% protein.

History:

A group of Guernsey breeders founded the American Guernsey Cattle Club in 1877. Since then, the American Guernsey association has registered over 3,000,000 Guernseys and has introduced many other programs for the advancement of the breed.



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Ayrshire

Country of Origin:

The Ayrshire breed originated in the country of Ayr in Scotland.

Usage:

Ayrshire's produce milk for the production of butter and cheese.

Breed Characteristics:

Ayrshires are medium sized cattle and mature cows should weigh 1200 pounds at maturity. They have color patterns of red & white and purebred ayrshire cattle only produce red & white offspring. The red is actually a mahogany ranging fro dark to light. Ayrshires calves are also easy to raise.

Imported to the U.S.

H.W. Hillis made the first importation of ayrshires to the U.S. around 1822. Farmers in New England needed a Dairy Cow that would graze the pasture of their rough rocky farm and tolerate the cold, often inhospitable winters.

Average Milk Production:

17,230 lbs of milk with 665lbs of fat and 542lbs of protein.

History:

During the early part of the twentieth century Ayrshires were noted for their hardiness. To demonstrate the Ayrshires Breeders Association staged one of the most spectacular promotional events ever conducted by a dairy breed registry association. In 1929 two cows walked from association headquarters in Brandon, Vermont to the National Dairy Show at St. Louis, Missouri. Both cows not only survived the trip, but also calved normally and went on to produce outstanding milk records for their time.