Classification of the Herd

Classification, otherwise known as type appraisal, is a service provided by the American Jersey Cattle Association for breeders to have their animals evaluated based on individual traits. This determination of the strengths and weaknesses of their cows helps breeders improve mating decisions and profitability of their herd. By classifying, breeders are better able to market their genetics to other farms who might want to improve their herds.

Cows are assigned scores in two ways. First, the classifier assigns linear scores for describing the biological traits of each cow based on 16 conformational traits and 5 supplemental traits. Next, a classifier will assign a final score which reflects the degree to which the cow's traits approach the most profitable expression.

A cow's final score is not an average of the individual trait scores but instead is measured from a score of 50 to 100 based on the following scale: 50-59 is viewed as poor, 60-69 as acceptable, 70-79 as desirable, 80-89 as very good, and 90 and above being viewed as Excellent. A cow can only score so high based on how many lactations (times she has calved) she has had. If a cow has only calved once, the maximum score she can achieve is 89, second calf is 91, third would be 93, fourth would be 94, and the fifth calving would be 95 and above. No cow of any breed has ever scored above Excellent 97, so when a cow reaches 95 and above, she finds herself in elite company.

On January 15, 2021, the Billings Farm herd was classified. Our girls did exceptionally well, and we're thrilled to share the news!

We had a total of 5 new Excellent cows including Billings Colton Revolution – now EX91 maximum score – and our recent cow of the week, Arethusa Showdown Crystal – now EX90! Four cows that previously scored Excellent received additional points, including our first cow of the week, Billings Grove Brianna – now EX93, and Parkvue Kramer Pandora – now EX95! Additionally, 9 first lactation heifers received their first scores, and all scored Very Good with the highlight being Brianna's daughter, Billings Brianna's Belle – now scored at VG88!

We could not be more thrilled with how well our girls did! The Jersey herd at Billings Farm now includes 31 animals scoring Excellent and 21 scoring Very Good. This places us in the very top tier of Jersey farms nationwide.

BILLINGS SHOWDOWN DELTA EX90

BILLINGS GROVE BRIANNA EX93