Appendix 4 of Section 5 of the ICAR Guidelines - The standard trait definition for Dairy Goats

Appendix 4 of Section 5 – Standard Trait Definition for Dairy Goats
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1 **Approved Standard Traits**

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2 **Standard Trait Definition**

The precise description of each trait is well defined and it is essential that the full range of linear scores to identify the intermediate and extremes of each trait be used. The assessment parameters for the calculations should be based on the expected biological extremes of the same category animals in terms of sex and age scored. The scale must cover the biological extremes of the current population or category. The extremes and the intermediates are ordered according to the degree of expression of the trait. For example thin and thick, long and short etc. A high or a low score has no particular meaning and it is not necessarily desirable or undesirable.
Recommended Scale 1 - 9
Note: The linear scale used, must cover the expected biological extremes of the population in the country of assessment.

1. Stature

*Reference point:* Measured from the top of the spine in between the shoulders to ground. Precise measurement in centimeters or inches, or linear scale.
1 - Short
5 - Intermediate
9 - Tall

2. Chest Width

*Reference point:* Measured from the inside surface between the top of the front legs.
1 - Narrow
5 - Intermediate
9 - Wide
3. **Body Depth**  
*Reference point:* Distance between top of spine and bottom of barrel at last rib - the deepest point.  
1 - Shallow  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - Deep

4. **Thurl Width**  
*Reference point:* Distance between thurls.  
1 - Narrow  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - Wide
5.  **Rump Angle**

**Reference point:** Measured as the angle of the rump structure from hooks (hips) to pins.

1 - Less slope
5 - Intermediate
9 - Extreme slope

6.  **Loin Strength**

**Reference point:** Strength of vertebrae between back and rump.

1 - Weak
5 - Intermediate
9 - Strong
7. **Angularity**

**Reference point:** The spring of the ribs.

- 1 - Small angle
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Large angle

![Angularity Diagram](image)

8. **Rear Legs Set rear view**

**Reference point:** Distance between the hocks.

- 1 - Small (x-legs)
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Large (o-legs)

![Rear Legs Diagram](image)
9. **Rear Legs Set side view**

*Reference point:* Angle measured at the front of the hock.
1 - Straight  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - Sickled

10. **Locomotion**

*Reference point:* The use of legs and feet, length and direction of the step.
1 - Severe abduction - short stride  
5 - Slight abduction - medium stride  
9 - No abduction - long stride
11. **Fore Udder Attachment**  
*Reference point:* The strength of attachment of the fore udder to the abdominal wall.  
Not a true linear trait.  
1 - Weak and loose  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - Extremely strong and tight

![Diagram of Fore Udder Attachment](image1)

12. **Rear Udder Height**  
*Reference point:* The distance between the bottom of the vulva and the milk secreting tissue.  
1 - Low  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - High

![Diagram of Rear Udder Height](image2)
13. **Central Ligament**

*Reference point:* The depth of cleft at the base of the rear udder.
- 1 - Convex to flat floor (flat), broken ligament
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Deep cleft/strong ligament

14. **Rear udder width**

*Reference point:* Width of the udder at the point where the milk secretion tissue is attached to the body.
- 1 - Narrow
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Wide
15. **Udder Depth**

*Reference point:* The distance from the lowest part of the udder floor to the hock.

- 1 - Deep
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Shallow

Potential point of reference is the level with the hock.

16. **Teat Placement rear view**

*Reference point:* The direction of the teats in relation to the udder viewed from rear.

- 1 - Outside
- 5 - Intermediate
- 9 - Downwards
17. **Teat Placement side view**

*Reference point:* The position of teat in udder viewed from the side.

1 - In front  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - At bottom

18. **Teat Length**

*Reference point:* The length of the teat.

1 - Short  
5 - Intermediate  
9 - Long
19. **Teat Form**

*Reference point:* The shape of the teat, from triangle to finger form, viewed from rear or from side.

1 - Triangle shape - Wide
5 - Intermediate
9 - Finger shape - Narrow

![Diagram of Teat Form](image_url)