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Evaluation of the Udder Linear Traits of Holstein Dairy Cows in Production at Canaã Farm, Municipality of Garanhuns-PE.

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The linear classification system is used to individually assess the morphological traits of the herd's individuals by comparing them to the breed's True Type. The mammary system stands out as it represents 42% of the final score in this analysis, given its paramount importance for the longevity and good productivity of the animals in the herd. In this context, the aim was to analyse the linear traits of the mammary system, focusing on the udders of Holstein dairy cows in production at Canaã Farm. Twenty-two Holstein dairy cows, all of the Friesian variety, were evaluated while in production. These cows were housed in the compost barn at Canaã Farm, located in the Municipality of Garanhuns, Pernambuco, Brazil. Of the total animals evaluated, six were primiparous and the rest were multiparous. The linear traits of the mammary system, including rear udder height, rear udder width, central ligament, udder depth, and fore udder attachment, were evaluated according to the Canadian type classification model. The same system is used by the Brazilian Association of Holstein Cattle Breeders, with the scores of the evaluated animals ranging from one to nine points. The information was tabulated and separated according to the values assigned to each evaluated animal. Generally, the herd exhibits traits ranging from intermediate to high, with scores exceeding five points. Regarding the height of the rear udder, 95% of the herd exhibits udder height ranging from extremely low (36%) to intermediate (59%). For the width of the rear udder, 50% of the herd exhibits extremely narrow udders, while 45% have intermediate width. Regarding the central ligament trait of the udder, 41% of the herd shows intermediate evaluation, which is ideal for herds consisting of a high percentage of multiparous animals. For udder depth, 49% of the herd has the udder floor at the level of the hock, while 36% have it extremely shallow. This fact aids in the management of mastitis control. In terms of fore udder attachment, 50% of the animals exhibit extremely strong and attached udders. The evaluation of the linear traits of the herd aims to assist the producer in understanding which aspects need to be corrected in future crosses, thereby generating a herd with greater aptitude and consequently, more productivity.

Keywords: Linear classification system, lactating cows, udder conformation.