

Rib structure is the new name for Angularity

The trait definition of angularity has been changed over the years to better describe the actual trait. Last year it was decided to also change the name of the trait, so that the trait name would also better describe the trait. The new name is Rib structure.

The name change has been made by ICAR and World Holstein-Friesian Federation (WHFF). These two organizations make the guidelines and recommendations of conformation recording of dairy cattle and they are also responsible for harmonization of linear type assessments and trait definitions. When type data is collected within these recommended standards, it qualifies also for genetic evaluations made by Interbull. The NAV countries also follow the recommendations and trait definitions of ICAR and WHFF and therefore we also change the name to Rib structure.

Linear type traits are the basis of all modern type classification systems and are the foundation of all systems for describing the type of the dairy cow. Linear classification is based on measurements of individual type traits instead of opinions and it describes the degree of trait.

The specific trait Rib structure describes the spring and the angle of the ribs. When scoring the arch or the spring of the ribs, the cow is looked from behind. The angle of the ribs is looked from the side of the cow.

Openness is not a part of the definition. The scale is like most other type traits from 1 to 9:

1 – 3: Lacks rib structure (little spring of ribs, and ribs are facing down)

4 - 6: Intermediate rib structure

7 – 9: Very much rib structure (Much spring of ribs, and ribs are pointing rearwards)

From the 5th of September you will see the new name Rib structure in all NAV's dairy search pages and the document [Conformation recording of dairy cattle \(ICAR\)](#) will also be updated.