

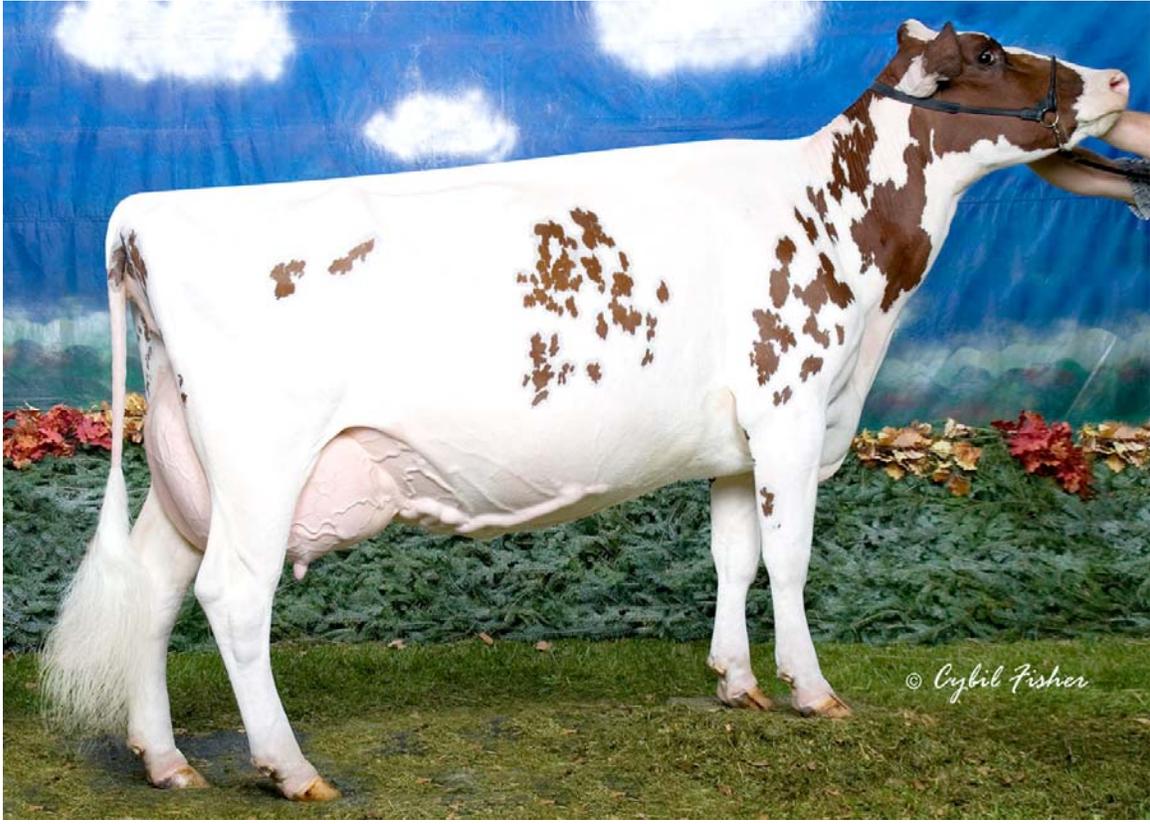
Dairy Breeds
of
North America

AYRSHIRE

Valevue BBK Minerva

Steve & Vicki Searles/Stillmore Cattle Company Pine Island, MN

Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Origin:

The **Ayrshire** (air-shur) originated in the country of Ayr in Scotland prior to 1800. The first importations of Ayrshires to the United States was believed to have been made around 1822 by Henry W. Hills of Windsor, Connecticut.

Color:

Light to deep cheery red, mahogany, brown, or a combination of any of these colors with white, or white alone, distinctive red and white markings preferred

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1200 lbs.

BROWN SWISS

Mort Legacy Dutch

Lee Harris Newberry, SC

Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Origin:

The **Brown Swiss** is one of the oldest dairy breeds in the world. They originated in the valleys and mountain slopes of Switzerland before historic records began. The first Brown Swiss cattle were brought to the United States in 1869 by Henry M. Clark of Belmont, Massachusetts. They are found throughout the United States with the largest concentration in Wisconsin, Iowa and Ohio. Brown Swiss possess a very high heat tolerance.

Color:

Solid brown varying from very light to dark. Muzzle is black encircled by a mealy colored ring, and the tongue, switch and hooves are black.

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1500 lbs.

GUERNSEY

Penn Del Vicuvius Glenna
Branstetter Dairy Edmonton, KY



Origin:

The **Guernsey** (gurn-zee) originated on the Isle of Guernsey, a tiny island in the English Channel off the coast of France. The Guernsey was brought to the United States in 1840 by Captain Belair of Schooner Pilot. Later, Captain Prince imported two heifers and a bull. These animals were the original stock of a great majority of the Guernseys that make up the national Guernsey herd today.

Guernsey's are known for the amount of fat and beta-carotene in their milk. They are also very docile and gentle natured.

Color:

A shade of fawn with white markings throughout clearly defined. When other pints are equal, clear (buff) muzzle will be favored over a smoky or black muzzle.

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1150 lbs.

HOLSTEIN

Kinyon Linjet Ideal

Martin Kinyon & Mark Rueth Lone Rock, WI

Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Origin:

Holstein (hole-steen) make up over 90% of the dairy cows in the United States. This is because of their high milk production. They originated in the Netherlands, specifically in the two northern provinces of Holland and Friesland. The original stock were the black animals and white animals of the Batavians and Friesians, migrant European tribes who settled in the Rhine Delta region about 2,000 years ago. Winthrop Chenery, a Massachusetts breeder, purchased a Holland cow from a Dutch sailing master who had landed at Boston in 1852. Chenery was so pleased with her milk production that he imported more Holsteins in 1857, 1859, and 1861. They are the most common dairy animal in the United States.

RED & WHITE HOLSTEIN

Yursden Kite Caramac

Richard Green Middletown, DE

Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Color:

Black and white or red and white markings clearly defined.

In the United States, Holsteins are predominantly black and white. However, in Holland, where they originated they are predominantly red and white.

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1500 lbs.

MILKING SHORTHORN

Innisfail BDC Stella 905

Keith & Donnette Fisher New Enterprise, PA

Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Origin:

The first **Milking Shorthorn** cattle arrived in the United States in 1783. The milking Shorthorn is the only dairy breed that is not considered its own separate and distinct breed. Rather it is a segment of the Shorthorn beef cattle breed. They originated in Northeastern England in the valley of the Tees River. Shorthorn cattle could be found on the Yorkshire estates of the Dukes and Earls of Northumberland as early as the 1500's.

Milking Shorthorn have the widest range of color variation of the North American dairy breeds. They can be mahogany, red and white or roan, which is a mixture of red and white hairs and is exclusive to this breed. They are medium to large in size with a mature cow weighting an average of 1,400 pounds.

Color:

Red or white or any combination. (No black markings allowed)

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 1400 lbs.

JERSEY

Huronia Centurian Veronica 20J
Arethusa Farm, Litchfield, CT
Picture donated by Cybil Fisher Photography



Origin:

The **Jersey** (jer-zee) originated on the Island of Jersey, a small British Island in the English Channel off the coast of France. One of the oldest breeds, the Jersey has been reported by authorities to be purebred for nearly six centuries. These cows came to the United States in 1850. They are known for the unusual amount of fat in their milk.

Jerseys can vary in color from very light gray or mouse color to a very dark brown and are commonly darker around the hips, head, and shoulders. The color can be solid or broken. They have black eyes, hooves, nose, tongue and switch. The Jersey has a dished face and is refined about the head and shoulders.

Color:

Some shade of fawn with or without white markings. Muzzle is black encircled by a light colored ring, and the tongue and switch may be either white or black.

Size:

Mature cow in milk should weigh at least 900 lbs.