Dairy Cattle

What a judge might look for in dairy cattle:

- Cows that are tall and long.
- Cows that are straight and strong down their back, and walk on "correct" or fairly straight legs.
- Udders that are large enough to make a lot of milk but easily adapt to milking machines.
- Udders that are high enough above the ground to prevent them from getting injured easily.
- Udders that have squarely placed and medium-sized teats.
- Cows that show a lot of "dairy character", which means that they are using the food they consume to produce milk, not meat, so they may look somewhat skinny and bony.
- Large bodies (deep, wide and long) to hold the large amounts of feed necessary to produce large quantities of milk.

What a judge might look for in the show ring:

- Showmanship includes general appearance, especially cleanliness of the animal and the exhibitor's ability to lead and pose the animal in the ring.
- The cows are led around the ring for the judge's inspection.
- The judge places the cows in a line-up in the center of the ring.
- The judge may review the cows in a temporary line-up and change the order of the placing.
- A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and the judge at all times.
Test Your Knowledge . . .

1. Which food source has the greatest amount of calcium?
   a. Beef    b. pork    c. veal    d. milk

2. Dairy cows produce more milk in:

3. Dairy cattle are ruminant animals which means they:
   a. have hooves
   b. have four stomachs and chew cud
   c. have a simple stomach
   d. have horns

   q (ε)  'p (2)  'p (1)

PARTS OF A DAIRY COW

You give it a try and see how your placings compare to the judge’s (fill in the exhibitor’s number):

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<tr>
<th>Your Choice:</th>
<th>Judge’s Decision:</th>
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