Carcase classification

Carcase assessment addresses conformation and fat. Fat cover is scored on a 1-5 scale. Conformation is assessed from E to P. Combining scores for conformation and fat determines the markets which cattle suit.

Conformation is determined by a visual appraisal of shape, taking into account top, loin and shoulder. No adjustment is made for influence of fat on overall shape.
Fat is determined by visual assessment of external fat cover. There are five main classes. Class 4 and 5 are subdivided into L (leaner) and H (fatter).

**Market Signals**

- Little or no demand
- Discount prices
- Poorest returns
- Medium demand
- Average prices
- Moderate returns
- High UK demand
- Premium prices
- Best returns
- High demand for specific export markets
- Premium prices

**Increasing Fatness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4L</th>
<th>4H</th>
<th>5L</th>
<th>5H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Fat Level 4L" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Fat Level 4H" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Fat Level 5L" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Fat Level 5H" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fat is determined by visual assessment of external fat cover. There are five main classes. Class 4 and 5 are subdivided into L (leaner) and H (fatter).