



### **Authorization**

The Bylaws of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association establish the authority for a program of Herd Classification. The acceptance of an application for classification is at the discretion of the Association and is not a matter or right accorded a member, but is a privilege to be granted or refused at the discretion of the Association. Matters not covered by these rules shall be administered by the Executive Secretary and that decision shall be final.

The Ayrshire Breeders' Association has adopted the Uniform Type Traits Appraisal of Ayrshire cattle. The primary objective of this program is to evaluate specific type traits of Ayrshire cattle and to obtain and publish records for the type and conformation of Ayrshire cattle for the improvement of the breed.

The Ayrshire Type Traits Appraisal Program is administered by the ABA. Applicants must contact the office at 614-335-0020 to schedule an appraisal during the published 7-month rotation cycle.

### **Eligibility & Responsibility of Applicant**

Animals must be registered in the Herd Registry of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association. Applied for animals may be evaluated with such classification scores becoming official after the certificates of identification for such animals are issued. Canadian animals will be eligible for classification only after they have been issued a U.S. registration number.

The applicant for herd classification shall make available to the classifier the Registration Certificate for all eligible cows upon request.

### **Eligible cows are defined as follows:**

1. All registered unscored females, regardless of age
2. All first lactation females
3. No dry cows shall be eligible
4. A cow with a defective or blind quarter, other defects or blemishes that the appraiser believes to be due to injury or disease, shall not be penalized.

Cows may not be moved into a herd or out of a herd for the purpose of inclusion or elimination from the herd's classification. Any violation of this will be reviewed and is subject to suspension of classification participation.

No animal shall be eligible for reclassification if that animal has been presented for classification within 60 days, (not to include cows marked "Not in Condition"). The evaluator shall designate which animals are not in condition. In cases where animals

are unknowingly re-scored in this time frame, the latest score will not be recorded in the performance file of the ABA.

Cows en route to a consignment sale to which they are consigned are no longer considered regular members of the original herd. They are exempt from classification, with exception being if such animal is temporarily housed at another herd that classifies while the cow is at that farm at the preference of the owner of record.

Cows which have been sold, either publicly or privately, which, while in transit, are temporarily being housed in another herd may be classified at the preference of the new owner of record.

Any cow owned entirely or partially by the applicant housed in a non-classifying herd is subject to classification at the discretion of the Executive Secretary.

### **Permanent Classification Scores**

A cow's score becomes permanent if she has been scored in her third lactation or later, and has been scored previously in an earlier lactation. Both of these must apply.

A cow's permanent score can be raised in later lactations, but not lowered, at the evaluator's discretion.

### **EX Ratings and Multiple E Designations**

No female may be classified 90 points or more (Excellent) until she has calved normally (full-term pregnancy) for the second time and has one completed lactation. The applicant is responsible for providing the accurate lactation for all cows.

### **Maximum Classification Scores**

The maximum scores for each lactation are as follows:

- 1st lactation – 89
- 2nd lactation – 91
- 3rd lactation – 93
- 4th lactation – 94 to 95
- 5th lactation – 96 to 97

*Any cow scored 93 points or higher must have been previously classified. Any cow to be classified 95 points or higher in final score must be evaluated by a committee of three classifiers, one of which will be the classifier assigned to the herd's classification. The evaluation of the committee can be completely unannounced and should be completed within 30 days of the herd's classification. No female may be considered for a final score of 95 points or higher until she has calved normally (full-term pregnancy) for the fourth time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. No female may be considered for a final score of 96 points until she has calved normally (full-term pregnancy) for the fifth time and reached the month of her fifth birthday. No female may be considered for 97 points until she has calved normally (full-term pregnancy) for the fifth time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. The applicant is responsible for providing the accurate lactation number for all cows. Cows freshening less than thirty (30) days prior to their expected calving date will be considered to have a full-term pregnancy.*

### **Excellent Designations**

Animals may receive multiple "E" designations (generated by computer) if classified Excellent in more than one of the following age brackets:

- 1: Up to 5 years

- 2: 5-01 to 7-00
- 3: 7-01 to 9-00
- 4: 9-01 to 11-00
- 5: Any subsequent 2 year period as long as the cow has calved normally within this time period  
To be eligible for an additional "E", the cow must have calved normally within the last three-year period.

**Classification of Bulls**

Males are eligible to be classified. The bull must be two years of age or older at the time of classification. The classification of bulls is optional with the owner.

**Request for Reclassification**

Applicants may apply for a reclassification when they wish to dispute the herd's classification. The request to reclassify must be made to the ABA within seven days of the original classification being disputed. Only those cows offered in the original classification are eligible for reclassification.

**Termination of Classification**

In the event that a classification is terminated before its completion, the evaluations given up to the point of termination will be voided and application for future classifications will not be accepted by the ABA until favorable action by the Executive Committee. No fees will be refunded.

**Report of Herd Classification**

A Classification Report from the ABA will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the classification data from the evaluator. Upon request, the classifier will stamp the final score on the registration paper at the farm.

**Herd Classification Fees**

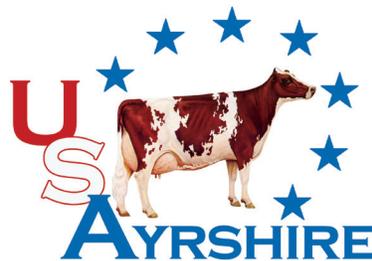
REWARDS herds - no additional per head fees for males or females. REWARDS herds may be subject to additional herd stop fees if animals are housed at multiple locations for classification. See REWARDS program application for further details.

**Basic Program**

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| Per Cow Fee  | \$ 20.00 |
| Minimum herd fee   | \$150.00 |
| * If more than one breed is scored, the minimum herd fee is 50% off. |          |

Males - \$150 minimum charge or \$20 per bull. If scoring females as well, no additional herd fee.  
 Late fee - \$100 may be assigned if the sign-up date has passed and schedules have been determined  
 Cancellation fee - \$100 may be assigned if cancellation occurs after schedules have been determined  
 Special classification - \$520 plus \$35 per cow. Travel time plus expenses may also be incurred.  
 Contract classification is available and should be scheduled directly with Holstein USA

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1224 Alton Darby Creek Rd., Suite B  
 Columbus, OH 43228  
 Phone (614) 335-0020 • Fax (614) 335-0023 • info@usayrshire.com  
 www.usayrshire.com