

Navigating the Online Pedigree System: A Step-by-Step Guide to Successful Searching

Today's world is the era of technology and information. With sophisticated computers, smart phones and easy access to the internet, information from anywhere in the world is literally at our fingertips. Even the performance information and lineage of our cows are only a keystroke away. In 2006, the Ayrshire Breeders' Association implemented their online pedigree system. The premise of the online system was to give "people access to information 24/7. It was a way to add value from the Association to our members," said Becky Payne, Executive Secretary, Ayrshire Breeders' Association. "The promotion committee spearheaded the project as a fundraiser to get the system completed. State clubs and individual members across the U.S. all contributed to make it happen," she explained. After a lot of intensive work, the Ayrshire Association's herd book is at their member's disposal. "This is one of the best advances to come to our association," said Pamela Jeffrey, Chair of the Promotion Committee. "This online system will allow "better selling, buying and marketing for our animals – a huge marketing tool."

"This is an invaluable tool if you are interested in cow families," said Charles Sayles, an Ayrshire breeder in Michigan. Charles uses the online pedigree system in a variety of ways, such as looking up bulls he might use in his breeding program. "I like to check on his family to ensure they are a good solid family, to see what I can expect from their offspring," said Sayles. He also uses the system to research the pedigree on animals he's interested in purchasing. "This allows you to purchase an animal from a good cow family. It gives you more information and background than what may be usually advertised."

Another breeder who uses the online pedigree system regularly is Richard Caverly of Maine. "I like to follow a tree and get to all the branches - it's not a straight road [and it's] handy to find the different branches. There is a lot of information to be found. I find it very user friendly." Richard finds this to be an easy tool to use. It is much easier for him to look up an animal and obtain her information online than to go to her registration paper. He, like Charles Sayles, can find more information on bulls using the online pedigree system than what may be printed in sire catalogs. When Caverly is interested in a young sire, he uses the online pedigree system to trace the sire lineage and can go back to great, great grandparents and further, information the A.I. organizations may not have included. Caverly feels the system benefits breeders as a way to find longevity, find progeny, review records and see what crosses others are using in their breeding programs.

Online Pedigrees

To achieve successful searching in the system, the best advice is to just sit down, relax and interact with the system to familiarize yourself with its features and capabilities. Searching the database is absolutely free! The purpose of this article is to help guide you through the system with ease. After understanding the online pedigree system, it is guaranteed it will become a must-have tool for you and the management of your own herd book.

Let's Begin

Open your internet browser and go to www.usayrshire.com. Once on the ABA homepage, look to the left side of the screen. Click on the last link labelled "Online Pedigree System." This will open up the pedigree system. On this page you will enter information on the animal or animals you are searching for. There are several different ways you can search: name, registration number, year of birth, dam, sire, breeder, and even by lifetime production. The simplest way is by name or registration number.



To start, simply go to www.usayrshire.com and click on the Online Pedigree System located on the left side of the web page.



Enter your desired animal's information on the animal inquiry page. You can search by name, registration number, birth year, lifetime production, dam, sire and farm name.



Simply enter the criteria you would like to search by. Here is an example of searching by name and registration number. Remember to add an F for female, M for Male or G for Genetic Recovery in front of your registration number.

Searching by name

When searching using an animal's name, the search is letter specific, so you must make sure the name is spelled correctly. If you are not exactly sure of the name, you can type in a part of the name and then search. This will bring up a list of names that match the combination of name or letters you have entered. For example, if you are interested in looking up Palmyra Jerry Bethany-ET, you can either type in the entire name or by typing in Palmyra Jerry B this will bring up a list matching that name combination. Then just click on the correct animal. Your search can be general, you can search by prefix or farm name. Because correct spelling is critical, you can even search by using just a few beginning letters.

Prefix and Farm Names

Because of the variety of prefixes in use in our association, prefix names may be listed differently in the system. The prefix may require a hyphen or a different spelling. For example, you've entered Shamrock Hills Spectacular and received an error message saying "Animal/s not found in database. Adjust selection criteria and try again." You entered: Name: Shamrock Hills Spectacular. Most likely the system simply requires a hyphen between Shamrock and Hills. Even if there isn't a hyphen in your prefix or farm name, the system may require it. By adding the hyphen and entering the name as Shamrock-Hills Spectacular, this will bring you to the "Animal Listing Page" where the animal you are looking for should be listed. You can click onto the animal's name to see pedigree and detailed information. Another example of using hyphens would be the sire Jackson. You've tried Covey and P&A but still can't come up with anything. You will need to hyphenate Covey-P&A. In some cases, if you are having difficulty locating an animal, it may be best to type just the very beginning of the animal's prefix and name in the hopes the animal you are looking for will appear in the list of animals found by using the very beginning of the name. Remember, even one wrong letter or punctuation mistake will prevent the system from finding the animal you are looking for. Don't give up - keep trying.

Searching by registration number

When searching by registration number, you must enter an "F" for female or an "M" for male in front of the registration number. For example, you must type the number in as follows: F100404098 for Shamrock-Hills Spectacular-ET. If the animal was registered through the former Genetic Recovery program, you will need to add a "G" in front of the registration number.

Searching by Dam, Sire or Production.

Entering the dam or sire's name in the appropriate boxes on this screen will list the animals that are progeny to the searched dam, sire or both. If you would like to see all animals born to a specific bull or cow in your herd, enter the dam or sire name and your prefix or farm name and then hit search.

If you want to do a search by lifetime milk production, simply choose your production level under "Lifetime Awards" and hit search. This will bring up all cows that have produced within the production level selected.

You can narrow your search by selecting the amount of production and the prefix, which will bring those cows making that amount of milk in that particular herd. For example, you want to see how many cows have produced over 200,000 pounds of milk in the Sunny-Acres herd. Choose <200,000 and enter Sunny-Acres in the Name box.

Please note if you are in need of the production and classification score of a cow that is Canadian, you will need to go www.ayrshire-canada.com and access the Ayrshire Canada pedigree system, which is similar to the American system.

You can also search for animals born in a specific year. By putting in a prefix or farm name in the Name box and then the year

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If you are searching by name and receive this error message, go back to the animal inquiry page by using your back arrow and try using a hyphen between the two words in the prefix. In this particular case Shamrock and Hills requires a hyphen.



The animal listing page will list all animals meeting your entered criteria. Simply click on the animal's name to go to her pedigree and information page.



The animal detail page shows a 3 generation pedigree, date of birth, current owner, breeder and gives you the option to view her progeny and additional details.

the Born In Year box, you can access an animal born in that year with a name that begins with that particular farm name or prefix.

Still having a difficult time finding your animal? Look up her Dam and go to the progeny option. Your desired animal should be listed.

Animal Found

Now that you are able to find an animal, let's continue on to obtaining information about her. After entering the animal's information the system should retrieve a window titled "Animal Listing." This page should show the animal's name, tattoo, sex, birth date and her grade.

Clicking on the animal's name will then direct you to the "Animal Details" page. Her name should appear in large bold red letters. Here you will be able to see her registration number, sex, birth date, if she is a result of ET and if she was bred by A.I. Her breeder and current owner is listed here as well as her grade [or blood percentage of Ayrshire] and her ear tag number. On the bottom of the screen will be her 3-generation pedigree. At this screen, you also have the option to view her progeny and additional details and you may also order an official 3-generation pedigree.

Progeny:

The "progeny [view]" option on this page gives you the opportunity to view all of the animal's offspring that have been registered with the ABA. The number of registered offspring will appear in the parenthesis. Click this number and it will take you to the "Animal Progeny Listing" page. Here you can click on the offspring to view their information and pedigree. You can return to your original search by using the browser back arrow key located in your toolbar.

Additional Details:

The "Additional Detail [view]" page is full of the animal's performance information. It is this page where you will find the animal's classification score and linear breakdowns, milk production and her PTA and Net Merit information as well as her show winnings and any All-American status. "Only the top 3 per national show class are listed on pedigrees. In addition, All-American, Reserve All-American, Honorable Mention and Nominees are listed on pedigrees. Show placings and All-American honors have been added to the pedigree system beginning with the 2000 show season," explained Payne.

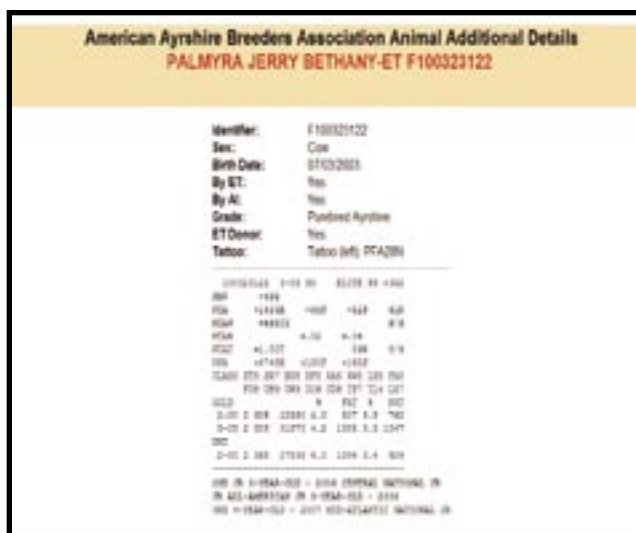
Pedigree

To follow your animal's lineage, simply click on any name on her pedigree. This will then bring up that animal's information. This will not only give you the option to look up information on other family members, both on the maternal and paternal side, it will also allow you to trace her family tree back several generations.

Frequently asked questions

The following are answers to frequently asked questions about the on-line pedigree system. Out of respect to our breeders and the privacy laws enacted in our country, addresses and phone numbers are not included on the online pedigree system. Remember: looking up information and the single animal pedigree on this system is free. If you wish to purchase an official 3 generation pedigree, you may order using the online pedigree system, only after you have set up an account through the Ayrshire Breeders' Association. As mentioned before, all registered animals are on the online system; you do not have to be a member or enrolled in the Gold or Rewards program to have your animals listed. Likewise, you do not have to be enrolled in the Gold or Rewards program for your production records to be listed on the online system. The online system is updated every Thursday, so animals registered during the week will not be included until after the system has updated.

Always remember, if you have any additional questions or need any additional help please feel free to contact the Ayrshire Breeders' Association at 614.335.0020



By clicking on Additional Details [View] on the animal detail page you will be directed to this page where her production, classification score and show winnings may be found.



This error message appears when you attempt to order an official 3 generation pedigree. Prior to ordering an official pedigree please contact the ABA to set up an online account.



By clicking on Progeny [View] on the animal details page you can view all the registered offspring of your searched animal.