

Ayrshire Breeders' Association Linear Type Traits Appraisal Program

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 Select Sires Inc. Applicants may contact Select Sires at 614-873-4683 to schedule an appraisal at their convenience.

Eligibility & Responsibility of Applicant

Animals must be registered in the Herd Registry or Genetic Recovery Program of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association. Applied for animals (Registered and GR) 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 Certificate of Identification for all eligible cows upon completion of the classification.

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

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 enroute 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.

Classification Options

Two options for classification are available: computer generated final score or cow-side final score. Breeders must designate before starting which method will be used to derive the final score. All animals scored that day must be evaluated by the same method.

Linear data will be collected on all animals evaluated, regardless of the manner final score is obtained. Previous cow side scores will be available to evaluators.

In the event of a SET evaluation, additional animals may be classified at the basic individual animal fee with no additional herd fee.

Special Classification

Individual animals can be evaluated at shows, called a "special classification", at the owner's expense regardless of Reward's participation. All other unscored animals in the herd must be evaluated within 30 days of the individual scored at the show. Fees follow the standard schedule.

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 information for all cows.

Maximum Classification Scores

The maximum scores for each lactation are as follows:

- 1st lactation – 89
- 2nd lactation – 92
- 3rd lactation – 94
- 4th lactation – 95

A cow may be raised from 95 during her 4th lactation if already scored 95.

Cows scored 94+

Cows that an appraiser would like to score above 94 points must be considered by a committee of three, appointed by the Executive Secretary, within 30 days. While on the farm, the appraiser should mark a score of 94 points on the appraisal sheet and note that she is nominated for committee. Inform the Executive Secretary of the 94 point score before leaving the farm if possible; if not, as soon as possible following the appraisal.

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, 10 months (5-10) of age
- 2: 5-11 to 8-10
- 3: 8-11 to 11-10
- 4: 11-11 to 14-10
- 5: 14-11 to 17-10
- 6: Any subsequent 3 year 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. This service is provided by the Holstein Association.

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. In addition to the report, labels are issued for application to registration papers that show animal's name, registration number, date of classification and final score.

Herd Classification Fees

(Effective July 1, 2006)

Cow-Side Final Score
\$11 per cow or minimum \$110 herd fee

Computer Generated Final Score
\$7 per cow or minimum \$70 herd fee

REWARDS Herds
Computer generated final scores are included. Special classifications are not included. REWARDS herds do have the option of paying the difference between the computer generated final score method and other programs available if so desired.

Revised January 2007

