



Authorization

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 Operations Manager 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.

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 certificate.

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 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 Operations Manager.

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.

Excellent Ratings and Multiple E Designations

No female may be classified 90 points or more (Excellent) in the final score until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the second time and has one completed lactation. No female may be classified greater than 92 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the third time.

Any cow classified 95 points or higher in the 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 (fullterm pregnancy) for the fourth time. No female shall be considered for a final score of 96 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the fourth time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. No female shall be considered for a final score of 97 points until she has calved normally (fullterm pregnancy) for the fifth time and has reached the month of her fifth birthday. The application is responsible for providing the accurate lactation number for all cows. Those cows freshening less than thirty (30) days prior to their expected calving date will be considered fullterm pregnancy.

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 of age 3: 7-01 to 9-00

2: 5-01 to 7-00 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.

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