

Breeding Programme of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society

Approved by the committee of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society on Date 11/11/2020

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The Irish Dexter Cattle Association Limited, hereafter known as the “Society” shall maintain one or more registers as follows;

- a) A register of the particulars of the pedigree, status and performance of eligible Dexter pedigree cattle hereafter known as the “Animals” (one or more)
- b) Such information as the Council may from time to time decide

1. Name

The name of the breed is the Dexter

2. Aim of the society

The aim of the society is to preserve, with the aid of available technology, the Dexter breed by adhering to a strict breeding programme which maintains the breed characteristics.

3. Geographical territory

The geographical territory within which the Society will conduct its breeding programme is the Republic of Ireland.

4. Breed Characteristics

The Dexter is an ancient Irish breed of cattle. Due to their displacement by 'improved' breeds they have become rare and are categorised as a native Irish rare breed.

It is the smallest breed of cattle in the EU. It is a dual purpose breed that produces very high quality milk and beef. They are hardy doing well on marginal land and are excellent foragers. They finish easily off grass without concentrates. They are easy calving with excellent maternal traits and have very good disease and parasite resistance. The breed standard in Appendix 2 describes the desired phenotype of a Dexter.

5. Divisions of the breeding book.

The breeding book consists of a main section only. The conditions for entry are that the animal to be registered must;

- i. be descended from parents and grandparents entered in the Irish Dexter herdbook or any other breeding book of the same breed
- ii. be identified according to the rules of the breeding programme
- iii. have a pedigree established according to the rules of the breeding programme
- iv. in the case of trade in or entry into the Union of an animal and where the animal is intended to be entered into the breeding book that animal shall be accompanied by a Zootechnical certificate (ZC) for the breed
- v. where an animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which is entered into the Union and where that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book that germinal product must be accompanied by a ZC

The main section of the breeding book shall be divided into two classes:

Class 1 Dexter: This class is for animals that meet all the requirements of entry into the main section.

Class 2 Traditional Dexter: This class is for animals that meet all the requirements of entry into the main section and have been inspected at or after the age of 4 and have been judged at that age to fully meet the Traditional Dexter Breed Standard as set out in Appendix 3.

6. System for Identification of animals:

All animals are uniquely identified by their national identification number which is located by eartag.

In addition;

- i. all breeding animals are named. A name consists of the breeder's unique herd prefix followed by the animal's name which must be unique within that herd. The prefix and name of an animal can only contain letters, numbers and spaces. There must be a space between the herd name and the animal name. The length of the name, including spaces, cannot exceed 30 characters. Names deemed inappropriate by the Society will not be accepted.
- ii. an individual herdbook identifier will be allocated to each animal entered into the herdbook. The first 2 characters of the identifier will identify which herdbook the animal is registered with. For example, an animal registered with the Irish society would begin with 'IE' or an animal registered with the UK Dexter cattle society would begin with the characters 'UK'.

The third character is always alphabetic and identifies the type of registration as follows

F	fully registered female
M	fully registered Male
N	birth notified

Remaining characters will be numeric and will uniquely identify the animal within that herdbook category.

7. Procedure for entering animals, progeny of embryo transfers and imported animals in the breeding book:

Procedure for entry of animals:

The entry of breeding animals into the breeding book is a two stage process as follows:

- a) The birth of every calf, dead or alive, to a dam registered in the breed book shall be notified to the Society through the Animal Events recording system by the breeder or their representative/s within the prescribed time allowed by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. This birth notification does not require genotyping.
- b) An animal which has been birth notified can be registered provided all registration rules are complied with and all fees are paid. To be accepted for registration additional details, such as name, colour, horns etc., of the animal to be registered must be provided to the society. These details can be provided via an online form on the IDCS website or, at an additional charge, by post on the form provided in the membership pack. The online registration system will not allow a registration to be submitted unless it has been correctly completed. Registration forms submitted in any other way will be validated upon receipt. In the event of errors or omissions the breeder will be notified and the registration will be put on hold until all required data has been submitted.
- c) To be fully registered in the herdbook all animals born after 1st Jan 2021 must be genotyped. The cost of genotyping is included in the registration fee. The genotyping will be by eartag sample. When ordering eartags breeders must specify that a tissue tag is required in addition to any tissue tag used for any other purpose. Details of where to send the sample are included in the new member pack.
- d) All fees must be paid and all samples submitted before parent verification can begin. There will be no refund of fees if parentage is not confirmed but the member will be entitled to submit samples from other fully registered animals to validate parentage. Each additional sample will incur a charge. Appendix 1 itemises the associated costs.
- e) Bulls which have not been registered with the UK DCS prior to 1st Jan 2021 must be parent verified and tested for Chondrodysplasia to be accepted for registration with the IDCS.

Chondrodysplasia testing is done by hair sample. A sample kit will be sent to the breeder by the IDCS when the request to register and payment have been received.

- f) Animals wishing to enter into the 'Traditional Dexter' class (Class 2) of the herdbook can only be considered when they are a minimum of four years old and are required to be inspected in addition to being genotyped, parent verified and tested for Chondrodysplasia. Breeders should contact the breed secretary to notify them of this request.

Procedure for registering embryos:

The transfer of embryos into recipient dams must be completed by embryo collection and production teams approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. No calf born by Fertilised Ovum Transplant (FOT) will be entered in the society breeding book unless all the conditions stated in these rules have been fully satisfied.

Donor females must be entered in the society breeding book and sire and dam verified by DNA and have undergone performance testing or genetic evaluation.

Sires must be entered in the Society's breeding book and his sire and dam verified by DNA. For AI bulls the donor bull must have a valid ICBF issued AI code, his sire and dam must be verified by DNA and he must have undergone genetic evaluation.

The recipient dam must be identified by National Identification Number

Each embryo that is either frozen or implanted is to be registered with the Society by the submission of triplicate embryo registration certificate form, which must be properly and accurately completed and signed by the owner of the donor female and signed and stamped by the representative of a Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine approved embryo collection team.

Part A of the triplicate form must be sent to the Society within 28 days of the completion of the embryo collection procedure be it direct recovery or other appropriate technique and be accompanied by the appropriate fees (Appendix 1)

Part B of the triplicate form is retained by the approved embryo transplant team.

Part C of the triplicate form is retained by the breeder

Reporting of changes of circumstances.

It is mandatory to inform the society on an embryo amendment form if a frozen embryo is thawed and implanted, transferred to a new owner or destroyed or if a recipient dam has been transferred to a new owner or destroyed.

Birth Notification of Calf born by Embryo Transfer

The birth of every calf alive or dead born as the result of embryo transfer shall be notified to the Society through the Animal Events recording system by the breeder or their representative within the prescribed time allowed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Such notification includes provision for details of both the donor dam and recipient dam.

At the time of birth notification the breeder's copy of the Embryo Registration form (Part C) must be submitted to the Society office.

All calves born by Embryo Transfer must be parent verified and genotyped by an approved DNA laboratory.

Importation of Embryos

The society will not enter imported embryos or accept into the breeding book the progeny resulting from any such importation unless the requirements below and statutory regulations have been adhered to.

On importation embryos must be immediately registered with the society on submission of a ZC issued by the breeding society or the embryo production and recovery team as appropriate of the exporting country and the payment of the embryo registration fee.

Changes of circumstances of imported embryos must also be notified to the society as set out above.

Procedure for entry of imported animals

Imported animals will only be allowed into the breeding book on submission to the society of a ZC from the country of origin and will have to be genotyped. Admission into the herdbook is subject to a fee as set out in Appendix 1. The society has the right to inspect imported animals to establish the class of the herdbook whose criteria the animal meets.

In the event of an error or omission the registration is placed in a holding category in the society's database. Once the problem is rectified the registration will be completed.

Procedure for the correction of errors in the herdbook.

In the event of the issue not being resolved by herdbook staff, the breeder is notified of the position. The breeder must then notify the Society office with the necessary amendment in writing or by email.

If a member identifies an error in the data recorded in the herdbook for a fully registered animal the member should notify the Society by email of the error. Within 28 days the Society should respond to the member by email either with a request for additional information, a confirmation that the entry is in error and either has been or will be corrected within a specified period of time or an explanation as to why the existing entry is correct.

Deregistration of an animal

A member may deregister an animal provided the animal is their property and where the animal has no progeny entered in a herdbook for the breed. The process to deregister is notification of deregistration to the society office and return of the ZC. An animal may be reregistered by the person who requested the deregistration or by a new owner provided the person who instructed the deregistration and the owner at the time of the reregistration request give consent in writing for the reregistration and the fee as set out in Appendix 1 is paid. The animal to be reregistered must be genotyped even if it has previously been genotyped.

8. Control checks for recording pedigree of the breeding animals:

- a) All animals born after 1st Jan 2021 and all bulls entered into the breeding book after 1st Jan 2021 must be genotyped before they can be entered into the breeding book.
- b) All bulls must also be parent verified and Chondrodysplasia tested before entry. The parent verification of purebred bulls entered in the UK Dexter society's breeding book prior to 1st Jan 2021 will be accepted by the Society but genotyping will still be required.
- c) Imported Dexters entered in the breeding book of another recognised breed society must be accompanied by a ZC and must be genotyped before entry into the IDCS herdbook. Registered bulls imported after 1st Jan 2021 will have to prove that they have been parent verified or go through the parent verification process.
- d) A.I. Bulls must have a valid ICBF issued A.I. code and must be genotyped and parent verified by DNA. To prevent the loss of valuable genetics the Society may, at the discretion of the council of the Society, make an exception to the parent verification rule for straws from fully registered bulls born before 1st Jan 2010.
- e) Imported semen may be used subject to compliance with the statutory regulations and the provision of a copy of the ZC which accompanied the semen (where the donor bull is not entered in the Society's herd book). Genotyping and parent verification of imported straws is required before offspring will be registered. To prevent the loss of valuable genetics the Society may, at the discretion of the council of the Society, make an exception to the

- parent verification rule for imported straws from fully registered bulls born before 1st Jan 2010. The Society may, at the discretion of the council of the Society, make an exception to the genotyping rule for imported straws if straws of that bull are extremely rare and the use of a straw for genotyping would be a significant loss to the breed. In this case the Society must be provided with provenance details on the straws.
- f) The Society reserves the right to carry out herd inspections. There will be no charge to the herd being inspected but all costs incurred by the herd owner before, during and after the inspection will be borne by the herd owner. The objective of herd inspections is to maintain the integrity and rules of the herdbook. Such herd inspections will be carried out according to the 'Herd Inspection Protocol' as authorised by the council. Herd inspections will be carried out by officer(s) authorised by council or persons acting on behalf of the Society. The authorised officer will carry out the inspection accompanied by a competent independent person. Inspectors will act in an independent and non-discriminatory manner and will not inspect stock in which they may have a vested interest.
 - g) The society and its servants shall not be responsible for any injury, loss or damage to a person or property occurring during or arising out of such inspections.
 - h) Herd inspections may be initiated randomly or following multiple complaints to the society or due to significant variations from the breed standard based on animals presented for sale or slaughter.
 - i) Herd inspections may, at the cost of the society, include dna testing of animals whether or not previous samples have been submitted for the animal being tested.
 - j) Any animal slaughtered through a beef scheme run by the Society may be dna tested at the cost of the Society.

9. Information on the system for recording pedigrees of purebred animals

Pedigrees will be recorded on an electronic database system run by ICBF.

For each animal entered on the database the following information is recorded where applicable:

- i. name of animal comprising the unique herd name followed by a space followed by the animal's name which must be unique within that herd. The full name cannot exceed 30 characters and can only include letters of the alphabet, numbers and spaces.
- ii. date of birth which must correspond with the date of birth within the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's AIM system
- iii. sex M for male, F for female or C for castrate
- iv. ear tag number which must correspond with the ear tag number within the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's AIM system
- v. horns Horned, Dehorned or Polled
- vi. colour Black, Red or Dun
- vii. herdbook number allocated by the society. The first two characters will be 'IE'. The next character will be F for fully registered females, M for fully registered males or N for birth notified animals. The remaining characters will be numeric and will be unique to that animal. Animals first registered with other breed societies will have the 2 character society code of the society where they are registered prefixing the unique code allocated to that animal by that society
- viii. chondrodysplasia status Carrier Non carrier or Unknown
- ix. breeder Name and IDCS membership number of breeder
 - x. owner Name and IDCS membership number of owner
 - xi. genotyped Yes or No
 - xii. parent verified Yes or No
 - xiii. twinning status Single or Twin
 - xiv. sire ear tag number
 - xv. sire herd book number
 - xvi. dam ear tag number
 - xvii. dam herd book number

10. Selection and Breeding Objectives

The objective is to preserve and improve the Dexter breed by selecting breeding stock that will pass on the desirable heritable traits of the breed. The ideal Dexter animal should display the following traits such as functionally correct dual purpose animals, docility, good confirmation, fertility, longevity and having good milk, withers height, leg length. Traits are identified, measured and the results published in the within breed section of the ICBF Eurostar Indexes to assist breeders in their selection objectives. The Eurostar index allows the Society to monitor the success of the breeding programme in respect of the aforementioned traits. Further detailed information on the evaluation carried out by ICBF for the society can be found at:

<https://www.icbf.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Beef-Evaluation-Document.pdf>

Phenotypic assessment should also be considered such as colour, shape, size and horn appearance.

11. Performance testing and genetic evaluations

The following information is collected as part of performance testing.

Calving survey

Each breed society member records ancestry and calving data on their calves through the 'Animal Events' recording system. The calving Survey options are: 1=Normal Calving, 2=Some assistance, 3=Considerable Difficulty, 4=Vet assistance. Abortion or Calf died at birth may also be recorded.

Whole Herd Performance Recording (WHPR)

WHPR is provided by ICBF and is open to members who sign up for this service with ICBF. It is a process through which breeders can get relevant liveweight and morphological trait data recorded on their pedigree animals.

Measurements and weights are recorded on all pedigree animals in the herd by the scorer on the day of the annual visit. This provides a strong base of accurate phenotypic data. Scoring and Weighing will increase the reliability % of an animal's Euro-Stars. Animals in participating herds will have a 'Stamp' displayed beside their Euro-Stars so as they are clearly identified as having come from a 'Performance Recorded' herd. More information is available on the ICBF website

https://www.icbf.com/wp/?page_id=254

Other data sources

ICBF obtains other performance data from different sources including Animal events data (calving interval, age), AI data (gestation), Carcass Data, Genomic data, Weight data which is used in the process of genetic evaluations.

Genetic Evaluations

The ICBF beef evaluation system uses 'Euro-Stars' as its main method of breeding value output. The Euro-Star Index is a breeding index designed to aid beef farmers in the selection of more profitable breeding animals. Euro-Star Indexes quantify the genetic component of an animal's performance across all traits of importance. The Euro-Star Index has two overall indexes – the Replacement Index and the Terminal Index. Breeders can use the appropriate index for their animals depending on their farming systems i.e. breeding replacements or for beef.

Replacement Index:

There are 17 traits included in the Replacement Index. Each trait has its own Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA). An animal's PTA is the amount of a trait that it can pass on to its progeny. The PTA for each trait is then multiplied by the Economic Weight (monetary value for each unit of the trait) to generate a Euro value contribution for the trait. All the values are added up to provide an overall Replacement Index. The 17 traits are divided into two categories. The first 9 are cow traits and the remaining 8 are calf traits;

<u>Trait</u>	<u>trait emphasis</u>
Maternal Calving difficulty	6%
Age 1 st calving	6%
Calving interval	9%
Survival	8%
Milk	18%
Heifer Intake	8%
Cow intake	6%
Cow docility	4%
Cull cow weight	7%
Calving difficulty	7%
Gestation	2%
Mortality	1%
Docility	1%
Feed Intake	4%
Carcass weight	10%
Carcass Conformation	3%
Carcass fat	1%

Terminal Index:

There are 8 traits included in the Terminal Index. Each trait has a PTA and an Economic Weight which are multiplied to give the Euro value contribution of that trait. All the relevant trait contributions are added up to provide an overall Terminal Index. The traits are;

<u>Trait</u>	<u>trait emphasis</u>
Calving difficulty	18%
Gestation	4%
Mortality	3%
Docility	2%
Feed intake	16%
Carcass weight	41%
Carcass conformation	11%
Carcass fat	5%

Evaluations for the breed are also performed across country through Interbeef. Breeders can assess the genetic merit of a bull in the Irish condition via it's Interbeef ranking. These breeding values cannot be compared to the national breeding values. Further information can be found at: https://www.icbf.com/wp/?page_id=13498

Genomics

The Society requires genomic recording of all animals before they acquire purebred status i.e. Entry into the main section of the breeding book. Genomics can increase reliability figures (by about 20%) even before animal performance data becomes available, provides accuracy to gauge potential performance of the animal from the genetic traits and confirms parentage of the animal (assuming parents are genotyped) or can predict a sire. More details on the ICBF Genomics service can be found at: https://www.icbf.com/wp/?page_id=7876

Methodology

ICBF extracts the performance, pedigree and genotype data from the database 6 times per year. The ICBF Animal Evaluation unit uses SAS for pre-processing and post-processing of data before and after the genetic evaluation run itself. 'Mix 99' is used for variance component estimation and for the actual running of the genetic evaluations. The ICBF genetic evaluations are computed 6 times a year. Further information on the genetic evaluation schedules can be found at www.icbf.com/wp/?page_id=11285.

The rules and standards applied for genetic evaluation are those established by Interbull. Further details can be found at:

https://wiki.interbull.org/public/beef_guidelines?action=print&rev=64

Communication and use of Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation Results

The star rating system (1 to 5 stars where 5 is best and 1 worst) is incorporated into the Euro-Star Index to assist breeders in assessing the results for their breeding animals and using this information when considering their selection objectives. However breeders must note;

- i. Stars within and across breed
- ii. Star ratings are assigned to multiple indexes and traits
- iii. The PTA for the specific index or trait first.
- iv. The Trait Emphasis is the average contribution of each trait to the index of the average proven AI bull. Breeders should consider which trait is of importance to their breeding programme and the corresponding percentage assigned to the trait.
- v. The Reliability Figure gives an indication as to how confident that an index or trait figure will not change in the future as more data is recorded.

Further information on the Eurostars can be found on

https://issuu.com/herdplus/docs/euro-star_system_explained

<https://www.icbf.com/wp/?p=12929>

Information to breeders on Genetic Evaluations is available through;

The Irish Dexter Cattle Society On-line Herdbook

ICBF animal search <https://webapp.icbf.com/v2/app/bull-search/>

AI bull listings https://www.icbf.com/wp/?page_id=206

Herdplus Reports

<https://www.icbf.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ICBF-Beef-User-Guide.pdf>

Zootechnical Certificates(ZC)

Breed Society Sale Catalogue

Participating Mart Boards

12. Technical activities outsourced

The technical activities of the Irish Dexter Cattle Society are outsourced to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF). ICBF provide:

- i. the Taurus database which contains all data relevant to the Irish Dexter Cattle Society breeding book.
- ii. all genetic evaluations for the Irish Dexter Cattle Society.
- iii. training for Irish Dexter Cattle Society staff in matters relevant to the Irish Dexter Cattle Society database

ICBF contact details are:

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation
Highfield House,
Shinagh,
Bandon
Co. Cork.
Tel: 00353 23 8820452
Email: query@icbf.com
www.icbf.com

13. Derogation Article 31 (1)

A derogation will be sought by the competent authority to permit a semen collection or storage centre, or an embryo collection or production team to issue a ZC for germinal products based on the information the Society will provide. The following is a list of centres which we intend to approach. This list will be updated as centres are approved.

Dovea AI, Bova AI, NCBC, Coney Island Genetics, Munster AI Farm Services, Eurogene AI, Sligo AI, Dunmasc Genetics, XYZ Genetics, Celtic Sires, Bull Bank, Kevin Genetics, Champion Embryos, Genecel Ireland Ltd, Mr. Laurence Dunne MVB, MRCVS, Bovi Genetics (trading as Cowmaster Ltd), Mr. J.F. Brody, Bova Embryo & Scanning Technologies, Animal Reproductive Technologies Ltd, Gerard Beirne, Thomas Griffin, Glencoyne Genetics, Daire Markham MRCVS.

14. Zootechnical certificate (ZC)

The ZC provides information on the owner and breeder of an animal. In the context of ZCs, the breeder is the member of the Society when entering the animal in the breeding book. The owner is the paid-up member of the Society.

The ZC is issued to a breeder within 45 days of receipt of a complete and valid application and payment of the registration fee and all other outstanding fees for an animal when it fulfils the rules of the breeding programme.

Results of relevant genomic tests, performance testing and/or genetic evaluations are published on the ZC.

A twin animal will have the circumstances of its twinning (twin to male, twin to female) published on its ZC or any other official documents provided by Society.

Breeders must notify the Society office of any genetic defect or peculiarities on an animal, which shall have details of such published on its ZC or any other official documents provided by the Society.

The procedure for change of ownership is that the seller gives the ZC to the buyer. If the new owner is a member of the IDCS and wants a ZC in their name they submit the ZC, with the appropriate transfer fee, to the Society office where if everything is in order the ZC will be reissued to the new owner with their name displayed on the ZC.

Calves will only be registered from parents that have been transferred through the IDCS to the new owner's herd, or in the case of a bull "on loan" where the society has been notified of the dates the animal has been "on loan".

Appendix 1

Schedule of fees

Registration. (All outstanding fees must be paid before a registration will be processed)

Online registration and genotyping of female calf within 45 days of birth	€40
Paper registration and genotyping of female calf within 45 days of birth	€50
Late online registration of female calf and genotyping	€65
Late paper registration of female calf and genotyping	€75
Bull registration with Chondrodysplasia test where both parents have already been genotyped	€100
Bull registration with Chondrodysplasia test where one parent has to be genotyped	€125
Bull registration with Chondrodysplasia test where both parents have to be genotyped	€150

Registration of imported animals

per animal. Fee includes genotyping	€60
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Embryo registration

per embryo. Calf registration & parent verification fees will also apply at birth	€20
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Reregistration of deregistered animal.(An animal may be marked as not for breeding by its owner)

Reregistration of a deregistered animal by the breeder including regenotyping	€50
Reregistration by new owner including regenotyping. Breeders consent required.	€60

Genotyping

each animal to be genotyped. (Note parent verification is via genotyping)	€25
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Transfer of ownership fees

per animal being transferred to be paid by buyer	€12.50
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Duplicate cert

Duplicate cert	€12.50
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Chondrodysplasia test

Chondrodysplasia test	€40
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Appendix 2

Breed standard

Colour:

Wholly black, wholly red and wholly dun are of equal merit. A little white will not disqualify but must be limited to

Bull

A small amount on the organs of generation and in the tassel of the tail. There must be no white forward of the naval or on any other part of the body.

Cow

A small amount on the udder and underline, in the tassel of the tail and on the vulva. There must be no white forward of the naval or on any other part of the body.

Type

Both carriers and non carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene are of equal merit.

Head

Short, broad and tapering towards broad muzzle. Jaws wide enough to accommodate well placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes bright and prominent.

Neck

Deep, thick and of proportionate length, blending well into the shoulder. Head should be carried above the spine.

Horns

Moderately thick, with an inward, upward curve. Removal of horns will not be penalised in the show ring. Polled animals are acceptable but must be notified at registration.

Body

Ample brisket giving plenty of room for the heart and lungs. Well sprung ribs. Wide across the loin. Quarters thick and deep. Broad full hips and well rounded rump. Straight top line with tail set level with spine.

Bull

Well hung testicles of even size. Four well defined, well placed and evenly spaced teats.

Cow

Udder should be well attached with high and wide rear attachment and a strong median suspensory ligament. The four teats should be of medium size, well placed on the udder, hanging plumb and of equal length. All four quarters should be of equal size.

Legs

Good width between both front and back legs. Legs should be of moderate length in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body and perpendicular when viewed from the rear.

Feet

Feet should be short toed, deep heeled and level soled. They should not turn inwards or outwards.

Skin

Loose and pliable. Hair short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter.

Size

Bull

Between 101cm and 121cm at the rump

Cow

Between 96cm and 111cm at the rump

Weight

dead weight of steers up to 36 months old must not exceed 200kg

dead weight of females up to 36 months old must not exceed 150kg

Appendix 3

Traditional Breed Standard

Animals must be genotyped and tested for chondrodysplasia, colour, polling and scur horns to be judged by this standard.

Colour

Wholly black and wholly red are of equal merit. Animals which carry the gene for the colour dun do not qualify. A little white will not disqualify but must be limited to

Bull

A small amount on the organs of generation and in the tassel of the tail. There must be no white forward of the naval or on any other part of the body.

Cow

A small amount on the udder and underline, in the tassel of the tail and on the vulva. There must be no white forward of the naval or on any other part of the body.

Type

Both carriers and non carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene are of equal merit.

Head

Short, broad and tapering towards broad muzzle. Jaws wide enough to accommodate well placed teeth with an even bite. Eyes bright and prominent.

Neck

Deep, thick and of proportionate length, blending well into the shoulder. Head should be carried above the spine.

Horns

Moderately thick, with an inward, upward curve. Removal of horns will not be penalised in the show ring. Polled animals or carriers of the gene for scur horns do not qualify.

Body

Ample brisket giving plenty of room for the heart and lungs. Well sprung ribs. Wide across the loin. Quarters thick and deep. Broad full hips and well rounded rump. Straight top line with tail set level with spine.

Bull

Well hung testicles of even size. Four well defined, well placed and evenly spaced teats.

Cow

Udder should be well attached with high and wide rear attachment and a strong median suspensory ligament. The four teats should be of medium size, well placed on the udder, hanging plumb and of equal length. All four quarters should be of equal size.

Legs

Good width between both front and back legs. Legs should be of moderate length in proportion to body size, squarely placed under the body and perpendicular when viewed from the rear.

Feet

Feet should be short toed, deep heeled and level soled. They should not turn inwards or outwards.

Skin

Loose and pliable. Hair short and sleek in summer, longer and thicker in winter.

Size

Bull

Carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene maximum 107cm at the rump

Non carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene maximum 117cm at the rump

Cow

Carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene maximum 97cm at the rump

Non carriers of the chondrodysplasia gene maximum 107cm at the rump