



Herd Book Rules of the IRISH HEREFORD BREED SOCIETY LTD.

(December 2015)

1. Definition of breeder and breeder herd

The breeder of an animal shall be the person within whose herd the animal is born. The breeder is responsible for identification and notification of the calf. Registration will only be accepted from breeders/owners who are members of the Irish Hereford Breed Society Ltd and cattle of which they are the bonafide owners. A herd for the purpose of these rules is deemed to be a herd recognised and identified with a Herd Number by the Department of Agriculture,

2. Definition of breed characteristics

GENERAL:	Overall appearance of alertness combined with docility: should parade well and appear healthy: smooth frame and fleshing free from coarseness: coat fine and silky.
COLOUR:	Face, crest, underside, socks and brush to tail should be white the body should be a deep rich red.
BODY:	Back should be long and broad with a level topline: ribs should be well sprung: loins should be wide and deep for good expression of eye muscle, firm to touch, flank, brisket and belly should carry no waste.
HINDQUARTERS:	Rump should have good width and be well muscled: tail head should be set flush with the topline: thighs should be wide and well muscled: legs should be set wide apart without being either too crooked or straight: testicles should be of adequate and even size.
LEGS AND LOCOMOTION	Legs should be set squarely: feet should be even and straight: walking action should be free and smooth, not rolling hips, twisting or crossing legs and straddling.
FOREQUARTERS:	Shoulders should be smooth and well covered with flesh, should not be too prominent for the sake of ease of calving: brisket neat and trim with no waste, legs should be straight, even and set well apart.
HEAD AND NECK:	Forehead broad; face in proportion with look of alertness; muzzle broad; neck of good length; throat clean and not too full, jaw must be well set neither over or under shot.

Irish Herefords are hardy adaptable cattle suitable to intensive or extensive farming systems. The breed is very suitable for ease of calving and crossing for the efficient production of beef from the dairy herd and beef suckler dams. The Hereford cross dam is an outstanding beef suckler dam, providing a hardy, thrifty, docile, easy and regular calving dam with excellent mothering abilities. The Hereford sire within the beef herd is an ideal cross on continental type dams providing ease of calving and early maturity together with top class eating quality. The breed's ability to colour mark its offspring with the distinctive white head is much valued.

3. Definition of breeding objectives

To maintain unimpaired the purity of and to improve in Ireland the breed of cattle known as Hereford in its Horned and Poll strains.

To maintain and improve through careful selection and genetic improvement the long time characteristics of the breed i.e. docility, ease of calving, mothering ability, ease of fleshing, efficient growth at moderate feed levels and top class eating quality.

The aim is that the breed should calve easily and regularly, reach maturity quickly at suitable slaughter weight and carcass quality for current market requirements at economic cost in an environmentally favourable manner.

These objectives to be achieved using careful selection through visual appraisal, high levels of stockmanship together with pedigree and performance recording in association with the judicious use of modern technology where appropriate and advantageous.

4. Criteria for entry into the Irish Hereford herd book and division of the herd book

- a. To qualify for entry in the Main section of the Hereford Herd Book an animal shall:
 - Be descended from parents and grand parents entered in the herd book or eligible for entry in any other EU approved Hereford herd book, or a herd book approved by the World Hereford Council;
 - Be identified at birth according to the rules of the herd book;
 - Have a pedigree established according with the rules of the herd book.
- b. The main section of the herd book is divided into four divisions/sections to accommodate registration of the various Strains of the Hereford breed currently eligible for registration in the Republic of Ireland namely, Horned, Poll, British Poll, and Class 4.

Horned Herefords (i) Animals eligible for this section are of the original Horned Strain upon which the breed was founded over 200 years ago, the history of which has been well documented over the years mainly through the “Herd Book of Hereford Cattle” first published in 1846 in the UK.

For the purpose of identification these animals are recorded with a herd name the animal name and the designation (PDH)

(ii) **Imported “Horned Bloodlines containing Poll ancestry”**: In line with procedure adopted by many overseas countries Horned Hereford Bloodlines imported with “Poll Hereford” ancestry appearing in the sixth or previous generation (the subject being the first generation) is registered as a “Horned Hereford” and for identification purposes the animal and its progeny are recorded with a herd name the animal name and the designation (PDX).

Poll Herefords: Animals eligible for this section are of the hornless strain introduced to the UK during the 1940’s having been founded in the late 1800’s by the American breeder Warren Gammon.

For the purpose of identification animals registered in the Poll Hereford section are recorded with a 1 inserted between the herd name and animal name followed by the designation (PDP).

e.g. Herd Name 1 Animal Name (PDP).

British Poll Class: Animals in this section are of a hornless strain of the breed developed during the late 1940's when a group of breeders in the UK mated a naturally polled Galloway bull with a number of "Horned Hereford" females. A breeding policy was then adopted by upgrading from the progeny/produce of this mating. For purposes of identification this Strain is recorded with the figure 3 appearing between the herd name and the animal name e.g. Herd Name 3 Animal Name (PDBP).

To qualify for this section an animal should be free from known genetic defects.

The "British Polled" strain is currently acceptable for registration in the UK and Ireland. The "British Polled" Strain is not accepted for reciprocal registration by the World Hereford Council.

Class 4: Animals in this section meet the minimum entry criteria for registration in the main section of the herd book. However, these animals are not eligible for entry into one of the other 3 sections within the main section of the herd book as they may have, or be a carrier, of a characteristic, genetic defect, or have ancestry that may preclude them from entry into the other sections.

Animals registered in Class 4 will have a 4 inserted between the herd name and the animal name e.g. Herd Name 4 Animal Name

- c. The Society accepts for registration any calves resulting from a "cross" of the above Strains.

Calves and their progeny born as a result of a mating between a "Horned Hereford" and a "Poll Hereford" will be registered as a "Poll Hereford" even if developing horns.

In the case of a mating between "British Polled" and either a "Horned Hereford" or a "Polled Hereford" the resultant calf and its progeny will be registered as a "British Polled" even if developing horns.

- d. The classification of an animal may change after registration if information becomes available which would indicate the animal would have been classed differently had the information been available at the time of registration.
- e. Animals from another Member State within the European Union shall be entered in the class of the herd book whose criteria it meets.

5. Animal identification and registration procedures

- a. All animals are identified in the Herd Book by their national bovine registration number since the introduction of same. Animals born prior to that are identified by their Herd Book number and or Tattoo. Imported animals will carry the ID or Herd Book number of their country of origin.
- b. A breeder shall register and use a herd name for all his/her calves and no other breeder shall be permitted to use that herd name, except by permission of the registered owner and of the Society. Such Herd name will be surrendered in the event of a Herd Dispersal or may be frozen for a period of five years unless in a case of force majeure.

- c. A breeder shall have a separate herd name for each section in the herd book in which he/she wishes to enter animals.
- d. Animals registered in each section will have a herd name and an animal name.
- e. Members shall keep a register containing a true and accurate record of all cattle eligible for registration by the Society. The name, ID number, sex, date of birth and sire of each calf should be recorded before completion of the Animal Events sheet or on line notification which is forwarded to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF). In addition a notification form is forwarded to the Society with relevant fees and supporting service, ET or DNA documentation where necessary. Twins should be notified separately and clearly identified as such. This register shall be available at all times for inspection by an authorised representative of the Society.
- f. The date of birth of each calf together with particulars of its sex, sire, dam and name of calf and ID shall be notified via Animal Events to the ICBF within the prescribed time and to the Society on a calf notification form with fees, or as unregistered no fee, by the breeder of such a calf or by his representative within 30 days of the date of birth together with supporting information/documentation (Natural service/AI/DNA) where necessary or requested and relevant fees. Where such fees and documentation are not included / provided penalties may apply and increase incrementally for each week of delay incurred.
- g. Late Registrations: Animals registered between 31 days and 24 months of age may be registered by the breeder at the discretion of Council on payment of additional fees and proof of parentage via DNA/Blood typing. The fees charged for a late registration will increase incrementally for every additional week. Late registration fees are charged at the discretion of the Council and will be decided by, and amended by the Council from time to time.
- h. A calf initially notified as unregistered may be registered by the breeder at a later date, subject to meeting the criteria necessary at the time of birth together with DNA/blood typing and late fees at the discretion of council. Animals previously notified as unregistered should in any event be registered within 24 months of birth.
- i. It is compulsory for a breeder to notify the Society of any instance in his/her herd of a polled or scurred calf being born to horned parents.
- j. A scur shall be defined as a horn like growth fastened only to the skin and not attached to the skull.
- k. In the case of animals carrying poll blood and developing horns, such fact should be notified to the Society.
- l. Animals registered in the Irish Hereford herd book sold for export out of the Republic of Ireland that require an Exportation Certificate duly certified at the Society's office can obtain same at the relevant fee payable by the seller.

- m. All imported animals eligible for registration shall be registered on payment of the appropriate “import recording” fee. The animals shall be identified in the herd book with their full name followed by the name of the country of origin, ID or Herd Book, reference number of the country of origin, and extended pedigree to three generations. For example "American Lad" (U.S.A.) (12345). Imported horned animals where the poll ancestry appears in the 6th or previous generations (the subject being the 1st generation) will have their name and the designation (PDX).
- n. Breeders must submit a calf notification form for every calf born whether living or dead and must notify the Society of any instance of a dwarf calf being born or developing dwarf characteristics at a later date.
- o. A registration certificate will be issued for each eligible animal that meets with the criteria for entry into the herd book. No alteration will be permitted on such certificates and duplicate certificates will only issue under exceptional circumstance and on payment of fees at the discretion of Council.
- p. On Change of ownership a new certificate will be provided to the new owner bearing his/her name on surrender of the animals certificate of registration and provision of adequate new owner details together with payment of the relevant fee by the seller.
- q. Where an animal has transferred ownership and no transfer of ownership fee has been paid, a transfer of ownership fee must be paid before any progeny of this animal can be registered.
- r. No animal, which has been notified to the Society for which a certificate of registration has not been issued, should be sold as a registered animal until the issue of such a certificate has confirmed its registration status.
- s. The Society reserves the right to withdraw at any time the Certificate of Registration issued in respect of any animal registered in the Herd Book where DNA profiling fails to authenticate the parentage as notified to it and recorded therein. Their progeny if any will also be deemed unqualified and lose their status.
- t. All entries are subject to the decision of the Council as to their eligibility for registration in accordance with the herd book rules. The Council shall have the right to cancel or suspend the membership of any member who is deemed to have wilfully provided misleading or untrue information when registering an animal.

6. System of recording pedigrees

- a. All animals are registered in the Irish Hereford Herd book through the Animal Events system operated by the ICBF. It is a requirement for members of the Society to join the ICBF Animal Events in order to register cattle with the Society.
- b. All sires used by Natural Service or A.I. must be blood typed or DNA profiled and sire verified with the results lodged with the Society prior to the first notification. The Council shall have the right to request blood type/DNA report on any animal its dam or sire at any time. From 1st July 2014 it is a requirement that prior to its first progeny being recorded in the herd book a female must be sire verified via DNA.

- c. Genetic Defect Screening: It is mandatory that all bulls used through AI and Donor dams be genetically screened for the following non-lethal genetic defects Hypotrichosis, Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy. Carrier Animals will be denoted thus {HYC} - {DC}-{IEC}. Non Carriers will be denoted thus {HYF}-{DF}-{IEF}.
- d. The Council shall have the right to request that a member's herd or any animal within that herd be made available for inspection by an authorised representative of the Society. Should such a request be refused no registrations or transfers will be affected from that herd until a satisfactory inspection has been conducted. Inspectors are appointed by the Council and will act in an independent and non-discriminatory manner and will not inspect stock in which they may have a vested interest. Herds where issues of noncompliance, suspect data or doubtful data arise may be required to notify births within seven days of birth. Birth weights in excess of 50 kg should be notified to the society's office within 48 hours of birth.
- e. The Society is involved in a programme of animal evaluation which includes recording, calving surveys, birth weights, weaning weights and Linear Scoring in conjunction with the ICBF. Animal evaluations are provided on each registered animal by the ICBF independently of the Society and the Irish Hereford Herd-book. The Society accepts no liability as to the accuracy of evaluations computed by the ICBF.
- f. A 30-day interval of time must be left between two different bulls 'running with' females or resulting calves will not be accepted for registration unless parentage is confirmed by DNA typing.
- g. Where a breeder has a cow or heifer served by a bull not owned by him, he/she is required to furnish a service certificate completed by the owner of the bull. This certificate to be forwarded to the Society together with the notification of the resultant calf.
- h. Service certificates are not required:
 - Where a bull is hired for service in which case the owner of the females is responsible for submitting to the Society a letter from the owner of the bull giving the period of hire same to be received within three calendar months of the first date of hire.
 - Where a syndicate owns a bull provided all the names of the syndicate members are reported to the Society within three calendar months of ownership.

7. Society Shows and Sales

Entries for Shows and Sales are accepted subject to the "Show and Sale Regulations" as approved by the Council from time to time.

All animals offered at official Society shows and sales must be sire verified via DNA.

8. DNA Profiling, Genomic Testing and Genetic Defect Screening

- It is a requirement for registration that all bull calves be sire verified via DNA since 1st March 2013
- It is a requirement that prior to its first progeny being recorded in the herd book a female must be sire verified via DNA since 1st July 2014
- Sire verification via DNA testing is the responsibility of the breeder. Where the notified pedigree is deemed incorrect it is the responsibility of the breeder to identify the correct pedigree. No certificate of registration will issue until such time as the issue arising has been clarified.
- It is mandatory since 7th November 2013 that all Donor Dams and Hereford bulls entering AI or having semen taken for on farm use be parentage verified and in addition have a genomic test to identify any of the following Hypotrichosis, Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy. Carrier Animals will be denoted thus {HYC} - {DC}- {IEC}. Non Carriers will be denoted thus {HYF}-{DF}-{IEF}.
- Breeders are encouraged to have their registered animals genomically tested as a means to genomically enhance their animal evaluations through the ICBF.

9. Artificial Insemination

- a. A breeder shall be responsible for supplying to the Society with each birth notification form, a certificate signed by the Veterinary Surgeon or Inseminator approved by DAF and the name and National Identification number of the bull and female concerned and the date of insemination. This information may be provided electronically via the ICBF by the AI unit carrying out the AI service. The Society may require such AI information to be substantiated through the provision of for example a monthly statement from the AI provider.
- b. The breeder shall ensure that the cow has not had access to a bull for 30 days before and 30 days after insemination and that if the cow is inseminated more than once in a 30-day period all A.I. dockets should be returned with notification or resulting calves may not be accepted for registration.
- c. Evidence of qualification and licence to carry out D.I.Y. A.I. is required by the Society. DIY is only acceptable within the herd of the operator or as approved by DAF. The Society may from time to time request a list of semen purchased by the DIY operator.
- d. Notification of animals served by DIY AI should be submitted to the Society within three months of the insemination.
- e. Genetic Defect Screening: It is mandatory that all bulls used through AI and donor dams be genetically screened for the following non-lethal genetic defects Hypotrichosis, Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy.
- f. Exportation certificates for semen will be issued at a fee decided by and as amended by the Council from time to time.
- g.** The Council may at its discretion give special permission for Artificial Insemination to be used for any project of which it may approve. For example, the Society may provide for the progeny of a deceased bull conceived through AI to be registered without DNA typing of the sire.

9. Embryo Transplant

- a. The breeder must notify the Society of their intent to carry out embryo transfer so that the Society can inform the breeder of the requirements in order to register the progeny.
- b. The breeder must return to the Society along with the relevant fees, and within the times fixed by the Society, completed certificates (on forms to be obtained from the Society), the relevant information as to the identity of all animals concerned, the pregnancy testing of the recipient cow and the blood typing/DNA profile of the bull, donor cow. If the Council of the Society is not satisfied with any such certificates the resulting calf may not be eligible for entry in the Herd Book.
- c. Notification indicating the intent to use ET must be made in writing to the Society. Notification must be made prior to artificial insemination or natural service of each female from whom it is intended to remove embryos.
- d. The embryo Transfer Form to be completed and returned to the Society's office within 30 days of collection/implantation giving details of number and identification of embryos recovered, number frozen and or implanted together with ID of recipients where applicable. A separate recording fee per cow per collection is payable.
- e. An Embryo Amendment Form is required to notify changes in circumstances to embryos registered with the Society and should be returned to the Society within 14 days of change of circumstances.
- f. Only Embryo Units approved and registered by the Department of Agriculture may be used for removal, insertion, or storage of embryos.
- g. Only qualified veterinary surgeons or operators approved by the Department of Agriculture may be used to carry out whether by surgical or non-surgical methods the removal of embryos from donor females and/or the insertion into recipient females.
- h. Progeny born as a result of ET will be designated ET in the Herd Book.
- i. Blood Type reports/DNA profile in respect of the donor cow and sire used must be lodged with the Society. Blood samples/DNA samples for typing of donor cows and service sires should be taken no later than at the time of successful embryo recovery. All calves born through ET require parentage analysis via DNA/Blood typing prior to registration.
- j. The Society shall reserve the right to Blood type/DNA any embryo transfer calf if considers necessary.
- k. The breeder of a calf born as a result of ET shall be the owner of the herd of birth. The calves shall be registered bearing the National Identity Tag Number of herd of birth and bearing the herd name of that herd.

- l. A special transfer form obtainable from the Society must be submitted upon the sale or transfer of each recipient female incalf by ET. Normal transfer fee shall be payable.
- m. A special transfer form obtainable from the Society must be completed for the sale, transfer or disposal of embryos. Normal transfer fee shall be payable.
- n. Members wishing to export embryos can apply for an embryo export certificate at the relevant fee.
- o. Members wishing to import embryos should contact the Society in advance to clarify any requirements, which may apply. Import recording fees apply to the sire and donor dam if not already recorded in the Irish herd book.
- p. Calves born as a result of ET are subject at any time to a visual inspection by a person or persons authorised by the Society.
- q. In addition to the normal registration fee an additional registration fee will apply to each animal registered born as a result of ET
- r. It is mandatory since 7th November 2013 that all Donor Dams and Hereford bulls entering AI or having semen taken for on farm use be parentage verified and in addition have a genomic test to identify any of the following Hypotrachosis, Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy. Carrier Animals will be denoted thus {HYC} - {DC}- {IEC}. Non Carriers will be denoted thus {HYF}-{DF}-{IEF}.

10. Semen Royalty Scheme

10 (a) Outline of the Scheme

Pedigree calves got by AI from a Semen Royalty Bull and born after the semen royalty begin date and subsequently registered to the Society, will have an additional royalty fee applied payable by the breeder of the calf.

10 (b) Conditions of Entry

Eligible Bulls: Only bulls with a valid ICBF issued AI code are eligible for entry into the Scheme.

Notification of Entry: Notification of intention to enter a bull in the semen royalty scheme must be made in writing by the completion of a Semen Royalty Entry Form, signed by the owner of the bull AI pedigree semen rights and submitted to the Society office. This entry form also authorises IHBS Ltd to act as an agent for semen rights owner to collect royalty fees due. At the same time the owner is required to agree to abide by the rules of the scheme as stated herein.

10 (c) Semen Royalties: Two semen royalties begin dates apply each year. They are 1st January and 1st June. The appropriate royalty begin date will apply where the notification of entry to the royalty scheme has been previously received no sooner than 14 months. For example: For royalty begin date of 01/01/2006, notification of entry must have been received in the Society office before 01/11/2004. If notification of entry is received after this date then the royalty begins date of 01/06/2006 will apply.

Bulls, from which semen has not been distributed in Ireland, may have an immediate semen royalty begin date following the notice of royalty intent in a Society newsletter.

Upon initial entry to the Scheme a bull's chosen royalty fee may be fixed by the owner of the semen rights but thereafter may only be increased biannually on 1st January and 1st June after previously giving 6 months notice of the intention to do so. Reductions in semen royalty fees may be notified to the Society and introduced at any time.

Semen royalty fees will be published in Society newsletters.

10 (d) Collection of Semen Royalty Fees: Semen Royalty fees will be collected by the IHBS Ltd as an agent of the bona fide owner of the bulls AI pedigree semen rights. Collection of such fees by the Society will be subject to a charge per calf payable by the semen rights owner determined by Council from time to time. Currently set at €7 per straw. Payment of Semen Royalty fees to the semen rights owner will be direct to his/her Hereford account minus collection charges and any other fees due to the Society. Release of monies from the Hereford account to the semen rights owner will be arranged at regular intervals.

The Society will not collect royalty fees for more than one bona fide owner. If ownership of the semen royalty bull is transferred the AI semen rights must either be retained in total by the vendor or transferred in total to the purchaser at an agreed date of the birth of the progeny. Where the semen rights are transferred to the purchaser this must also include the right to claim all royalties on the semen which has been sold prior to the transfer of the bull and resulting births of calves after the agreed date of transfer.

Any member who refuses to pay semen royalty fees within days of a final demand duly conveyed to him/her by registered post may at the discretion of the Council be barred from conducting further herd book business with the Society. Agreement for non-payment of royalty fees may be made between the semen rights owner and the member provided that the details of such an agreement are disclosed to the Society in writing and signed by both parties.

Females sold in-calf to a Semen Royalty Bull: When females are sold in-calf to a Semen Royalty Bull the purchaser shall be responsible for the payment of the semen royalty fee due following the registration of the resulting calf.

Sellers of Semen/AI Operators

Sellers of semen to which a Royalty applies and or AI operators operating on their behalf are obliged to inform the purchaser /user of the semen to which a Royalty applies that payment of a Royalty will be required at time of registration of progeny specifying the relevant payment applicable.

11. Interpretation of regulations

The Council reserves the sole and absolute right to interpret these or any other prescribed conditions and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all or any matters, questions or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or in connection with or incident to these regulations. All members shall be subject to the Rules, Orders and Regulations of the Society.

12. Disciplinary Powers

- a. Any case of doubtful or suspect pedigree or any case of apparent irregularity of registration by any member shall be dealt with by the Council and the following procedure shall be observed
 - In the event of any information being received by the Secretary concerning any member of the Society the Secretary shall inform the Chairman of the appropriate Committee who shall have the power to decide whether prima facie the case requires investigation and to give instructions if necessary to an employee of the Society or a member of his committee to make further investigations. Where a subsequent investigation is necessary due to breeder's own fault the Society would be entitled to claim a fee towards the expenses involved.
 - The Secretary shall inform the member concerned of the nature of any complaint and shall forward a copy of any report thereon. Such member shall also be invited to attend be represented at or submit written evidence to that meeting of the Committee at which the case will be considered.
 - When the case has been investigated the Committee shall make recommendations to the next meeting of the Council who shall take such actions, as they may think fit.

13. Appeals

A breeder who wishes to appeal a decision of Council may do so in writing to the Secretary or Chairman. If the breeder is not satisfied with the outcome of that appeal there is an option to further appeal to a separate appeals committee independent of Council who may co-opt individuals with relevant expertise to deal with the appeal. Writing to the Secretary or Chairman can activate such appeals.

Non Discrimination

The Society shall operate in a non – discriminatory fashion towards its members.

If you wish for clarification on any of the above please contact the Society's office at Harbour St. Mullingar, Co, Westmeath.