

Herdbook Rules of The Irish Piemontese Cattle Society Ltd. 2016

1. Herdbook of the Society.

The herdbook of the Irish Piemontese Cattle Society (the Society) shall include:

a) Particulars of the pedigree and performance (ICBF grading) of pedigree Piemontese animals, which are eligible to be entered therein.

b) Particulars of herd letters, herd names, breeders and owners, past and present.

c) Such other information as the Board of the Society may from time to time decide.

2. Breed Characteristics: (Taken from the Anaborapi website)

a) The Piemontese cattle breed is a beef breed of medium size that converts forage very well into beef and has a high dressing out percentage. The quantity of commercial cuts is higher than that of bigger sized breeds. It has very fine bones, a fine and elastic skin, a low quantity of external fat and lean and tender, but tasty meat. A broad and muscular chest, wide withers, muscular loins, a long trunk and a good muscular development of the rump and the thighs are characteristics that define the Piemontese bred. The carcass contains only little fat and has a low percentage of bones; the beef is of excellent quality.

b) A distinct characteristic of the Piemontese cattle breed is hypertrophy, better known as the 'double muscle factor' caused by a natural mutation which causes a considerable increase in muscular mass and consequently in dressing out percentage, due to an increase of the muscular fibres. Furthermore, it causes a decrease of the quantity of inter-muscular fat and of connective tissue, giving major tenderness to the meat.

c) The double muscle factor appeared at the beginning of the 18th century and has spread progressively over the breed. Currently, nearly all animals in the herdbook possess this characteristic and a very high percentage of the breed as a whole possesses this characteristic.

d) The bulls have a grey or fawn coat, with black hairs on the head (especially around the eye sockets), on the neck, the shoulders, the distal regions of the limbs and sometimes on the lateral faces of the body and the hind limbs.

e) The cows have a white or pale fawn coat with shades of grey or pale fawn. At birth the coat of the calves is of a deep pale fawn colour. The tongue, the palate and the external mucosa are black.

f) The cows are of medium size (550 - 600 kg). At birth the calves weigh on average from 40 - 45 kg. The male fattening calves are ready for slaughtering at a weight of 550 - 650 kg when they are about 15 - 18 months old. The female calves are ready for slaughtering at a weight of approximately 350 - 450 kg when they are about 14 - 16 months old.

3. Breeding Objective: (Taken from the Anaborapi website)

The breeding objective is to produce an early maturing high quality Piemontese animal that is suitable for the European market. This is achieved through the genetic improvement of traits such as slaughtering age, live weight gain, feed conversion efficiency, dressing-out percentage, carcass characteristics, meat quality, calving ease and fertility. In addition, milk production is considered in the selection. Furthermore, breeding objectives are concerned with eliminating any genetic flaws.

4. Registration of Animals

a) The herdbook shall have a Main Section and a Supplementary Section.

b) Main Section:

To qualify for entry into the Main Section of the herdbook an animal shall:

- (i) Be descended from parents and grandparents entered in a herdbook of the same breed.
- (ii) Be identified at birth according to the rules of the Society's herdbook.
- (iii) Have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of the Society's herdbook.

The Main Section of the herdbook shall be divided into two classes, Class 1 and Class 11 as follows:

To qualify for entry in Class 1 of the Main section of the herdbook an animal shall meet the requirements as outlined in 4 (b) above and be free from genetic defects. Breeders should notify the Society of any genetic defects in their stock in order to increase the knowledge about any breeding line and promote responsible breeding decisions.

To qualify for entry in Class 11 of the Main section of the herdbook an animal must meet the minimum criteria for entry in the Main Section at Rule 4(b). An animal will not meet the criteria for Class I, if he/she has been identified as being a carrier of a genetic defect or have undesirable breed characteristics, and will be entered in Class 11.

a) The classification of an animal may change after registration if the animal is found to be a carrier of a genetic defect or has other undesirable breed characteristics.

b) An animal from another member state shall be entered in the class of the herdbook whose criteria it meets.

5. Procedures for registration of animals.

a) The birth of every calf whose entry is desired to be registered in the Society's herdbook shall be notified through the ICBF Animal Events procedure. Late registrations and registrations from outside the Irish Republic may be notified directly to the Administrator and shall be accepted subject to the animal seeking registration having its parentage verified and to payment of a the appropriate registration fee as decided by the Council.

The procedure(s) for registering calves are:

(i) Notification of the birth on the ICBF Animal Events (AE) form duly completed giving details of the date of birth, sex, ear tag number, dam's ear tag number, sire ID and name of calf to be forwarded to ICBF for entry in the Society's herdbook.

(ii) The ICBF on line system can also be used to record the same details.

b) The fact of an animal being twin or otherwise one of a multiple birth, shall be notified to the Society on the birth card or on line, stating the sex of the other twin, or other calves. This information shall be noted in the Society's herdbook against the registration entry of such an animal.

c) The Society reserves the right to refuse to accept the notification of birth of a calf where the date provided is deemed to be deficient or inaccurate.

d) Where calves are born as a result of an insemination/service/fertilisation procedure from a bull not owned by the breeder, a certificate stating such shall be forwarded to the Society. If the insemination is automatically recorded on a handheld unit which submits the information directly to the ICBF website this shall be deemed sufficient notice.

e) Where the sire and dam of a calf were not in the same ownership at the time of service or insemination, (except in the case where a handheld unit records the insemination) a properly authorised service or insemination certification verifying this service or insemination must, unless otherwise decided by the Council, be submitted when the calf is tendered for registration.

Where calves are born as a result of a DIY insemination, a copy of the inseminator's DIY licence and expiry date with a list of straws purchased may be requested to be forwarded to the Society.

f) In the case of a sire located outside the state, the member shall supply full pedigree details of the sire and mating records, certified by the herdbook of the state of export to the Society. In the case of official mating records not being available, parentage verification through DNA will have to be carried out and the registration of the calf pending results. The onus is on the breeder to seek out this information.

g) All donors and bulls used for breeding purposes must be DNA typed by an approved laboratory before progeny can be accepted for notification of birth and registration.

6. Procedures for registration of embryo animals.

a) In the case of embryo transplant, embryos must be notified to the Society on the appropriate triplicate embryo registration form, which must be properly and accurately filled out and signed by both the owner of the donor female and the representative of the approved collection team. One copy of this form must be sent to the Society within fourteen days of the completion of the embryo collection procedure, be it direct recovery, or other appropriate technique and be accompanied by

the correct fees currently in force. A second copy should be retained by the approved embryo transplant team and a third copy should be retained by the breeder.

b) When an embryo duly notified as above in any way changes its status by means of thawing, implantation, change of ownership etc., this change of status must be notified to the Society on an approved Embryo Amendment Form, appropriately signed.

c) In the case of calves born as a result of embryo transfer, both donor sire and dam must be DNA typed and the resultant calf must have its parentage verified by an approved laboratory prior to the animal being eligible for registration.

d) The cost of any DNA typing will be paid by the member and the Society reserves the right to request the owner to do additional DNA typing at their expense if thought necessary by the Council.

7. Council controls.

a) The Society reserves the right to withdraw any certificate without refund if at any time the animal fails parentage verification. The onus is on the breeder to ensure that all details on the pedigree Certificate are correct. The society will not be responsible for lost or mislaid forms.

b) Every 25th calf birth notified to the Society will undergo DNA testing to verify parentage (automatically triggered by the ICBF system). In the event of an animal failing this verification, the Society may then decide to have all animals proposed by the breeder DNA verified for a period of two years.

The Society reserves the right to carry out, at their own discretion, random DNA typing, at the breeder's expense on all animals.

c) Only paid up members of the Society shall be allowed to register animals in the Society's herdbook. Membership is due on the 1st January annually.

8. Identification of animals

a) Each animal shall be identified at birth with the National Bovine Identification number.

b) Each member must make application to register an approved Prefix name comprised of not more than sixteen letters. This prefix name shall not have been allocated to another member of the Society, either in the past or at present. This name shall be applicable to all animals bred and notified by that member, either alone or jointly with any partner's or other persons in any one herd.

c) In addition, each animal must be named. The first letter of the name must be that of the current Society year letter, for example each animal born in 2016 shall have a name commencing with the letter 'N'.

d) A handling fee will be charged for all named animals even where it is not desired to complete the registration. Registration will not be completed until the appropriate fee is paid.

9. DNA verification: The following stock require DNA verification

a) All sires used for pedigree breeding must be DNA'd.

- b) By society rules every 25th calf registered must be DNA'd.
- c) Where any change is made (other than a name change) to the details of the animal this will automatically trigger a DNA requirement. (ICBF requirement.)
- d) Calves where the dam or sire are not owned by the breeder will trigger a DNA (except AI).
- e) Embryo transfer calves require parent match DNA's.
- f) Calves born outside the allowed gestation period of 267 - 310 days will automatically trigger a DNA.
- g) Calves not registered with ICBF within 30 days of birth will trigger a DNA.

10. Imports/Exports

- a) Each imported animal must be registered with the Society as soon as possible by submitting the official Herdbook Pedigree Certificate of the country of origin together with the normal registration fee. In the case of bulls, a DNA typing certificate must be submitted together with the normal registration fee.
- b) Where a calf is born as a result of insemination/fertilisation with imported semen, donor bulls of imported semen must be registered with the Irish Society in the normal manner and be DNA typed.
- c) Imported embryos should be registered with the Society, applying the same criteria and fees as home produced embryos. Copies of official documentation must be supplied as appropriate including copies of the official herdbook and DNA typing certificates of both donor animals to allow for parentage verification, together with the appropriate fee. Donor animals not already registered with the Society must be registered with the payment of appropriate fees.
- d) Imports and exports of animals, embryos, semen etc., should comply with the national legislation in place at the time. Where the purchaser requires an Export Certificate, the Society will supply same at the fee specified.

11. Sale of stock

Members shall inform the Society of the sale of any of their registered or notified cattle, meaning cattle the births of which have been officially notified to the Society, but which have not been accepted for registration in the Societies' herdbook. Each member shall complete the transfer form on the reverse of the Pedigree Certificate and forward it to the Society for noting and onward transmission to the new owner. An export transfer fee shall be charged for both male and female animals.

12. Certificate of Registration.

- a) A certificate of registration, with the animal's ancestry shall be issued to the owner by the society when all criteria and payment of registration fees are met. The onus is on the owner of the animal to verify that all information on the certificate is correct and if not, to contact the Society's office with corrections.

b) A programme of official weight recording, progeny and performance testing and linear scoring may be operated in conjunction with the appropriate official body. Such data may be entered on the herdbook certificate as decided by the council.

c) Purchasers of animals should return the official pedigree certificate together with the appropriate transfer fee to effect a change of ownership. In addition, purchasers of animals should return the official pedigree certificate to the Society's office for updating.

d) The council may at any time cancel the entry of an animal in the herdbook or any registers supplementary thereto which shall be found to contain any false or inaccurate particulars or statement or to have been made on the faith of any false or inaccurate particulars or statement given or made to the Society. On the cancellation of the entry of any animal in the herdbook or any registers supplementary thereto, the Certificate of Registration issued by the society will be cancelled and any fees paid to the Society shall be retained by the society.

13. Membership

a) To become a full member of the Society, an applicant for membership shall be the owner of a pure-bred breeding female Piemontese animal within 18 months of joining the Society, registered in a herdbook approved by or recognised by the E.U.

b) A herd name that has been used by one member may not contemporaneously be used by another member, except when a herd is taken over by the representative of the family of the previous owner of such herd. Otherwise, no prefix may be transferred from one member to another unless special permission of the Council of the Society is obtained.

c) Members will use the National Identification number supplied by the Department of Agriculture to identify each animal.

d) It is a condition of membership of the Society that all members undertake to partake in those elements of the Society's Breed Improvement Programme and registration inspections that the council from time to time deem compulsory.

e) Each member shall co-operate with any inspections that the Society may call to do as random spot checks etc. from time to time.

f) The Society shall have the right to maintain a computerised record of members transactions with the Society and reserve the right to penalise members found to be in breach of procedures vital to the accurate maintenance and integrity of the herdbook of the Society.

g) The Society shall have the right to use internet banking for the administration of its finances.

h) The Society if they so desire, may provide for Associate, Overseas or Commercial Breeders, but these shall not enjoy the voting rights of full members as under the articles of the Society.

i) The Society shall operate in a non-discriminatory fashion towards its members.

j) The Council may from time to time set or make changes in fees or penalties i.e. for membership, prefix registration (homebred or imported), late notification penalties, embryo registration, export

certification, transfer fees, uncompleted registrations, and any other current fees in force. A current schedule of fees is available from the Administrator on request.

14. Members Registration.

Members are obliged to keep a register containing a true and accurate record of all their cattle eligible for registration by the Society. The details of dates and particulars of inseminations, dates of birth, weights of calves etc shall be recorded.

15. Appeals procedure

a) Where within the procedure of the Society, a member feels that he or she has been unfairly disadvantaged; he/she may make a special appeal to the Council of the Society. Such appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with the appeals procedure below.

b) The objective of this procedure is to provide a member who has a grievance with the Society an opportunity to have the grievance examined and resolved at the earliest practical moment and at the most local level possible.

c) While the matter is being considered under the Appeals Procedure, the operation of the Society cannot be interrupted. The person(s) raising the matter shall continue to comply with the rules of the Society during the course of the examination of the matter in question. By so doing he/she will not create any precedent nor will his/her membership of the Society be prejudiced in any way in relation to the matter being processed.

The procedure to apply shall be as follows:

Stage 1:

A member who feels aggrieved in relation to any matter pertaining to Society business should, in the first instance, write to the Chairman of the Council of the Society, making it clear that Stage 1 of the Appeals Procedure is being invoked. The Chairman will reply as soon as is reasonably practicable, but in any case within thirty days from receipt of the letter from the appellant.

Stage 2:

If the grievance is not resolved at Stage 1, or if a reply is not forthcoming from the Council Chairman within thirty days, the member(s) may request in writing, that at their next Council meeting, the Council allow the member(s) to attend the meeting during the period that the grievance is being considered. The member(s) will be allowed to make an oral submission on the grievance. The Council will then reconsider the issue and must communicate its decision to the appellant within thirty days.

Stage 3:

If the issue remains unresolved after Stage 2, the member(s) may request an independent hearing. The Council shall grant such a hearing. Appeals at Stage 3 will be heard by an individual or group of individuals with appropriate expertise, agreed by both parties to the dispute. From the date of appointment of the person(s) hearing the appeal, the case will be heard and the decision taken will

be communicated to both parties within three months. The person(s) hearing the case will decide on the appointment of costs, as appropriate.

Stage 4:

Any dispute that remains unresolved after Stage 3 may be pursued by invoking provisions under the legal personality of the Society: ICOS Rules or the 1963 Companies Act.

The Society expects all its members to abide by the rules, regulations and standards established by the Society.