



Herd Book Rules of the Irish Blonde d'Aquitaine Breed Co-operative Society

1. General conditions

i. The Herd Book of the co-operative shall have:

- Particulars of the pedigree of eligible Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle.
- Such other information as the council of the co-operative may from time to time decide.

ii. Entries for the herd book shall not be accepted from a person who is not a member of the co-operative or from a person acting on behalf of such a member.

iii. While the society will endeavour to keep members informed of changes in these rules, it is the sole responsibility of members to keep themselves informed of the current rules.

iv. A schedule of fees as decided by the council will be available from the society office on request.

2. Breed Characteristics

The Blonde d'Aquitaine is a true beef breed whose cattle have well developed bodies, the principal features of which are the well-proportioned bone structure, thick well-rounded muscle and exceptional length of body. Adult cattle weigh between 1300 and 1500kgs in the case of bulls and from 850 to 1100kgs in the case of cows. Coat: One colour- wheat, varying from light to dark, often mottled, with rings of lighter colour around the eyes and muzzle, inside the thigh, on the belly and over the cannon bones; pale pink mucous membranes with no brown ring; light coloured hooves. Body: Very long and well proportioned; rather fine bone, good stance permitting ease of gait. Back - Broad and level, thick well fleshed loins almost level with the rump. Hind part: Very well fleshed, broad pelvis longer than broad, tail not projecting, well developed udder, outside thick thigh, especially at the top, rounded hindquarters well let down to the hocks. Fore part: Well fleshed, broad withers, deep barrel with well sprung ribs, shoulders well laid in. Head: Expressive and light, with a straight or slightly convex profile, triangular face, broad forehead and muzzle.

3. Breeding Objectives

The Co-operative's objective is to encourage, promote and improve the breeding of Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle in Ireland.

4. Herd Book Procedures Division of Herd Book

The Herd book is composed of a main section only. i. Animals eligible for entry in the Co-Operative's Herd Book of pedigree Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle shall be: ● those whose parents and grandparents are registered in or eligible for entry in any EU approved or other approved Blonde d'Aquitaine herd book ● identified at birth according to the rules of the herd book ● have a pedigree established in accordance with the rules of the herd book The herd book shall be divided into two classes; Premier Class: These animals are free from gentle genetic defects and comply with all characteristics of the breed. Class2: These are animals which meet the minimum criteria for entry into the herd book but are carriers of genetic defects and/or have undesirable breed characteristics. Progeny of a female registered in class 2 (Pe2) can be registered in the premier class (ped of certificate) but only after

inspection by the society appointed field person and DNA parentage verification. Progeny from a male registered in class 2 (Pe2) cannot be registered in the premier class. The Society reserves the right to re-classify animals at the discretion of the Council. The Society will register any female calf born twin to a male in class 2 of the herd book until such time as this female has been proven to be in calf. A female calf born twin to a male should be notified to the society via the animal events system as usual. If the female is subsequently proven to be in calf, the owner may apply to the Society to have her registered in the premier class of the herd book.

System of identifying animals

- ii. An animal from Member State shall be entered in the class of the herd book whose criteria it meets.
- iii. A member who seeks registration of an animal in the herd book must first register an approved herd prefix which shall be applicable to all animals bred and registered by that member either alone or jointly with any partner(s) or other persons in any one herd.
- iv. A prefix shall consist of one approved word only and the member shall pay a fee for registration thereof.
- v. A prefix that has been used by a member may not subsequently 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 or herd to another unless special permission of the council of the co-operative is obtained.
- vi. In addition to the herd prefix, each animal must have a name, the first letter of which shall be that of the year letter in which the animal was born.
- vii. The registration number for each animal will correspond to the National Identification Number.
- viii. The entry of every animal in the herd book must be tendered for registration by the owner of such animal.
- ix. The birth of every calf alive or dead to any dam registered in the herd book shall be notified to the Co-operative through the Animal Events System by the owner or his representative within the prescribed time allowed by the Department of Agriculture and food. The Completed Animal Events sheet must include all necessary information to enable the pedigree registration to be completed. The registration fee must be paid within 40 days of the date of birth of the animal in respect of pending registrations. Failure to submit a correctly completed Animal Events Sheet or payment of the correct registration fee within the prescribed time limits will incur a late registration fee. Fees and late fees as per a schedule of fees decided by the council of the Co-operative from time to time apply.
- x. The Council reserves the right to refuse to accept the notification of the birth of a calf where the information provided is deemed to be deficient or inaccurate.
- xi. Where a calf is born as a result of insemination from a bull, the society may request relevant insemination certificate to be forwarded to the Co-Operative at the time of notification of the birth.
- xii. When an animal is presented for registration following any artificial insemination not carried out under the direct control of an approved AI organisation, the breeder will be required to complete and sign the Society's DIY AI form. The society may also request a copy of the DIY licence and expiry date.

xiii. In the case of a calf born by embryo transfer, embryos must be notified to the society on the appropriate 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. 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. The forms can be accepted electronically with prior approval from the society.

xiv. In the case of calves born as a result of embryo transplant, the donor dam, sire and resultant calf must be DNA typed.

xv. The society reserves the right to cancel the registration of an animal within the herd book where registration has been made on the basis of information subsequently found to be inaccurate or misleading.

xvi. All bulls for use in pedigree breeding must be DNA typed by an approved laboratory, before progeny can be accepted for registration in the herd book, the society reserves the right to carry out further DNA typing in the breeder's herd. Breeders must be prepared to allow the herd book free action in this regard. Each year the society will DNA sample every 30th calf submitted for registration to ensure veracity of pedigree records

xvii. In the case of imported animals, semen or embryos the onus shall be on the member seeking to register progeny resulting from animals, semen or embryos to send the required relevant pedigree documentation and DNA typing details to the secretary for entry in register.

xviii. Calves registered over 310 days after date of insemination will be subject to DNA parentage verification at the breeder's expense. An Ai docket will also be requested.

5. Transfers

Members shall inform the Co-Operative of the sale of any of their registered or notified cattle, meaning cattle the births of which have been officially notified to the Co-Operative via the Animal Events System, but which have not been accepted for registration in the Co-Operative's Herd Book. Every member shall complete the transfer form on the Pedigree Certificate and forward this to the Co-operative for noting and onward transmission to the new owner. A transfer fee for female animals shall be payable by the vendor to the Co-Operative.

6. Appeals

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. 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 doing so 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, making it clear, that stage 1 of the appeal 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 a reply is not forthcoming from the council chairman within 30 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 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

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

7. Non discrimination

The society shall operate in a non-discriminatory fashion towards its members.

8. Inspections

The council will appoint two field/breed development officer, who will be responsible for any inspections being carried out on animals to ensure that they are free from genetic defects and comply with all characteristics of the breed. In the event that one of the fieldsmen has a conflict of interest in relation to a specific inspection visit, the council will nominate an alternative fieldsmen in his/her place to carry out the inspection. Inspections will also be targeted to verify birth dates and parentage (DNA sampling) The society also participates in a programme of Linear Scoring Inspections, which is carried out by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.

9. Breed improvement programme

The society promotes to its members to join GROW (linear scoring and weighing) and the maternal bull breeder scheme both run by ICBF to record cattle performance and identify to best bloodlines. The society will select the best Ai sires worldwide to improve the breed and make semen from these sires available to members. The society will organise classes for blonde Pedigree and Commercial cattle and shows and sales throughout Ireland to help promote the breed. The society will avail of the ICBF live herd book and performance data and make this facility available to its members. This link will be available at www.irishblonde.com On the issue of genomic testing the society will rely on ICBF for guidance in this regard.

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HERD BOOK RULES

