

NEW ZEALAND HIGHLAND CATTLE SOCIETY - GRADE B ASSESSMENT

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR OWNERS AND ASSESSOR

INTRODUCTION

ASSESSMENT for a non-registered Highland female for Grade B, per registration and Herd Book rules, May 2021.

Eligibility

- Cows/heifers are eligible. The minimum age for assessment is 12 months old.
- They must be clearly Highland in appearance, conforming to the Highland cow breed standard.
- They must be free of crop ear.
- They must be of good temperament.

When

Assessments will be done at a time to suit both the owner and assessor.

Assessment Fees

Fees set by Council. Fees to be borne by the owner.

Assessor

One Society approved assessor.

Registration

After successful assessment the owner may notify the Registrar and register the animal.

The Assessor will mark on the Assessment their recommendation:

- Qualifies for registration as Grade B, or
 - Declined registration
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Owners / Assessors

Prior to assessment day

- Complete a Grade B Assessment Request form (available from the registrar) and return to the Registrar along with the correct fees.
- Make sure you have **suitable facilities** for the Assessment. Suitable facilities, means a cattle yard with a race for confining the animal to check ears/tags etc. Safety of the person working with the animal is of-primary concern. Even the quietest animal may react unpredictably to strangers.
- If you choose to halter an animal and have her tied for inspection, there should be a yard and race available to use if the assessor does not wish to work with an unconfined animal.
- The Assessment will be completed by a NZHCS approved assessor.
- Ensure the animal has been correctly tagged.
- The Assessor will not tag animals.

On assessment day

1. Be punctual.
2. Have the animal/s ready in a small pen or paddock with access to a **secure** race so that ears can be checked, and a DNA Tail Hair sample taken.
3. Have any available information regarding the breeding of the animal on hand.
4. Leave the Assessor to complete the assessment in privacy but remain available if called upon by the assessor.
5. If other people are present at the assessment they should remain at a distance and not get in the way of the assessor as they work
6. Please provide a sheltered area where the assessment can be written.
7. The assessor will now be ready to discuss the assessment with you.

Procedure

Make sure you have **suitable facilities** for the Assessment. Suitable facilities, means a cattle yard with a race for confining the animal to check ears/tags etc. It is up to the assessor to determine if it is safe to check the animal – if it is tied the assessor may ask the owner to move it to a race to complete the checks.

- Check primary and secondary AHB tags (and her tattoo, if present) and record on the assessment form.
- Feel her ears for crop ear.
- Take a DNA sample and put the hairs in a DNA sample collector supplied by the Registrar or in a sealed, labeled paper envelope.
- Temperament is of paramount importance in cattle. Keep this in mind when commenting.

Discussing the Assessment with the Owner

The Assessor will go through the assessment with the owner.