Highland Cattle Registration and Herd Book Rules
New Zealand Highland Cattle Society
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1 APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

1.1 Eligibility for Application

Applications for the registration of a Fold Name and/or Highland Cattle shall only be accepted from:

a) Financial Full Members of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society
b) Junior Members of the New Zealand highland Cattle Society to a maximum number of five (5) registrations per Junior Member
c) Life Members

1.2 Agreement for Inspection

Each application shall be made on the understanding that:

a) The applicant agrees to inspection, if deemed necessary by the Council
b) The applicant agrees to pay the cost of such inspection
c) The applicant agrees to accept the decision of the Council after receiving its inspector's report.

1.3 Associate Membership Limitation

An Associate member of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society shall not be entitled to apply for registration of Fold Names or Highland Cattle with the Society

1.4 Forms and Fees

Each application for Registration must be made on an official form supplied by the Society and lodged, together with the prescribed fees, with the Registrar. When the entries are in order the Registrar will record the registrations and allot the Herd Book numbers.

1.5 Registration Decisions

If the Registrar should question the eligibility of any animal submitted for registration, the matter shall be referred to the Council. The onus shall rest on the entrant in all cases of satisfying the Council of the eligibility of animals submitted for registration, and as to the correctness of pedigrees and any additional information required. The Council shall have discretionary power to accept or reject any application for registration.

2 FOLD IDENTIFICATION

2.1 Requirement for Separate Fold Name

Every breeder shall be required to register a separate Fold Name to be a prefix or Suffix for use exclusively in connection with the name of animals bred by that fold for a fee set by Council

2.2 Consent for Transfer of Rights to Fold Name

The purchaser of a Fold shall have no right to the previous owner's Fold Name except with the consent of the previous owner and with the approval of the Council.

3 CATTLE IDENTIFICATION

3.1 Herd Identification

Every Fold will be allocated a separate identification made up of two or three letters known as the Herd Identification

3.2 Animal Identification

Each animal bred by the breeder must be marked before being entered in the herd Book with a minimum of two of the following unique identifiers:

a) A National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) RFID tag. This tag to be preferably placed in the animal's right ear.
b) A management (secondary) tag or Tattoo, containing the Breeders Herd Identification Code and the appropriate year letter, and a separate identification number. This tag to be preferably placed in the animal's left ear.

The Year letter to be determined by Council shall identify the breeding year which is 1st June to 31st May the following year.

All numbers to be provided on the Registration form.

Lost tags: NAIT tags must be replaced according to the current national animal identification regulations. The Registrar must be notified of any changes to the unique identifiers of any registered animal once lost tags are replaced. Council may require further confirmation, or proof of identity.

Breeders must also comply with current national New Zealand animal identification regulations and legislation.

4 HERD BOOK

The Herd Book which may be in book or computer form shall be known as the "New Zealand Highland Cattle Herd Book" and when referred to in pedigrees shall be denoted by the letters "NZHCHB".

4.1 Herd Book Integrity

The Society acknowledges that the Herd Book is its major asset. Maintenance of the herd Book's integrity is critical to the Society's ability to use the Herd Book as a working tool and to differentiate from alternate organisation's herd books. The Council of Management shall:

a) Ensure that there is an annual assessment of the risks to the Herd Book's integrity
b) That processes are in place to minimise such risks.
c) Identify and implement improvements to the management and accessibility of the Herd Book. This may include but not be limited to:
    i. Processes of managing the Herd Book
    ii. On-line, real time, access to Herd Book information for members.
d) Report annually to members on the actions to make more accessible and to protect the Herd Book.

5 Grading of Cattle

All Cattle submitted for registration in the NZHCS Herdbook must conform to the following criteria, and subject to these criteria, shall be eligible for registration in one of the following classes:

Specifically noting:

All cattle must be horned, and

All animals born, and domiciled, in New Zealand must be identified in accordance with the rules of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society and be first registered in the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Herdbook before being eligible for Registration in any Overseas Society Herdbook.

5.1 Fullblood (F)

Bulls and Cows:

a) Whose ancestry has no introduction of any other breed of cattle
b) And whose sires and dams are registered as fullblood in the NZHCS Herdbook or are registered as fullblood in the herdbook of the "Highland Cattle Society" UK, Canada, Australia, America, or in any other Herdbook approved by Council.

5.2 Pure Bred (P)

Bulls and Cows:

a) Whose ancestry shows some introduction of another breed of cattle
b) And whose sires and dams are registered as fullblood or Purebred in the NZHCS Herdbook or are registered as fullblood / Purebred (Australia) in the herdbook of the "Highland Cattle Society" UK, Canada, Australia, America or in any other Herdbook approved by Council.
c) The present system of putting a number after Pure to denote the generation not to be extended past a P4. Thereafter grade known as PX and not Purebred.

Purebred cows only. (No Bulls born since 1/03/1997).

a) or whose sires are registered as fullblood or purebred in the NZHCS Herdbook or are registered as Fullblood or Purebred in the herdbook of the "Highland Cattle Society" UK, Canada, Australia, America, or in some other Herdbook approved by Council, and whose dams are registered in grade A of the NZHCS Herdbook.

Qualifications as from April 1998.

To qualify for Purebred registration females must:

a) Have purebred or A grade dams and be by NZHCS registered Sires
b) Be of a solid colour as stated in the NZHCS breed standard. White on the belly anywhere from behind the front legs to the udder, and a white switch to the tail would be acceptable as they are considered to be consistent with Highland characteristics.

5.3 Grade A

Effective 1 June 2021 females, whose sires are registered and whose dams are registered in grade B of the NZHCS Herdbook.

[For historical reference prior to 31st May 2013, 7/8 pure females only, could be registered

a) Cows:- whose sires are registered (as in Purebred grade) and whose dams are registered in grade B in the "NZHCHB"
b) Or those cows whose ancestry is obviously highland and on the inspection by, and at the discretion of, the society inspector]

5.4 Grade B

Females, aged 12 months or older, whose breeding is visually Highland, and on inspection meet the society breed standard, may be granted B grade status, at the discretion of the council, on advice of council appointed inspector(s).

The advice may be supported by DNA verification and/or records acceptable to the council.

The animals name shall be recorded in the herdbook and its New Zealand Government animal Identification number.

Associated costs to be borne by the member.

For historical reference prior to 31st May 2013, 3/4 pure females only, could be registered

a) Cows:- whose sires are registered and whose dams are registered in grade C in the "NZHCHB", and who may be subject to inspection
b) Or those cows whose ancestry is obviously highland and on the inspection by, and at the discretion of, the society inspector is granted B status, costs to be borne by the member]

5.5 Grade C

[for historical reference previously ½ pure females only

a) Cows whose sires are registered (as in Purebred grade) and whose dams are less than ½ pure or any other breed of cattle (main breed to be specified)]

5.6 Parentage

No new registrations are to be graded C

[for historical reference after 1st June 2002 only animals from progeny already registered in the NZHCHB will be eligible for registration. Then from 1st June 2010 progeny from animals not registered in the NZHCHB but whose ancestry can be proven by records approved by the NZHCS or DNA verification and who have been inspected and approved by society approved inspectors may be registered. This to be reviewed on an annual basis.]

5.7 AF Grade

No new registrations are to be graded AF

[for historical reference in 2007 35 cows whose pedigree was broken but were known to be fullblood were given the grade AF. “A” to signify the grade in the Herdbook and the suffix “X” to signify that any progeny of mating with a Fullblood bull would be registered as a fullblood. The progeny of mating with a purebred bull took one grade higher than the bull. No further AF’s can be added to the Herdbook.]

6 INFORMATION FOR REGISTRATION

6.1 Adherence to Breed Standard

All animals for registration must adhere to the current breed standards.

6.2 Requirement to Name

Subject to clause 5.4 (B Grade) each animal must be named by its breeder, and such name must not exceed three words in addition to the breeders Fold prefix, or suffix, which must be used.

6.3 Unique Name

No name that has already appeared in the Herd Book may be duplicated, and, if this Rule is not observed, the Council has the right of renaming the animals if the applicant refuses to do so.

6.4 Misleading or objectionable Names

Names misleading as to sex, relationship or origin, or objectionable in any respect or pronounced alike but spelt differently cannot be allowed.

6.5 Name and Address of Breeder

The name and address of the breeder of each animal must be given. The breeder of an animal is the owner of its dam at the time of calving.

6.6 Animal Details

Date of birth, sire and dam and name of present owner must be given together with particulars of tattoo mars or ear tags, and AHB/NAIT number and a DNA sample in the form approved by the registrar must be included.

6.7 Animal Colour

At registration the colour of the animal should be recorded as one of: white, dun, yellow, red, brindle, black.

6.8 Bulls to be Assessed

That all bulls go through an Assessment Scheme se by Council, prior to registration

6.9 Minimum Age of Bulls

That bulls be at least 12 months old before being considered for registration.

6.10 Council's Powers

The Council may refuse to register or transfer any animal at any time. The Council's decision shall be final and binding in all instances.

7 REGISTRATION FEES

The fee for all registration processes shall be set by Council.

8 REGISTRATION DATE

All females which the breeder desires to register should be registered within 12 months of age following the date of birth.

Late registration of females after 12 months following the date of birth, including but not limited to registrations made under sections 4.2 b) and 4.3 b) may be permitted. Fees will be imposed for late registration of females.

All bulls which are eligible for registration can be registered at any time after 12 months from date of birth.

9 ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

One of the following 3 methods to record and report the artificial insemination details must be used:

a) Complete the NZHCS Artificial Insemination Certificate. The Technician must sign the bottom half of the certificate. The bottom half bearing the Technician's signature should be submitted to the Registrar with the Annual Herd Return. The top half of the certificate should be retained by the Breeder. Or
b) Have the Technician complete and sign their AI Certification and send it to the Registrar with the Annual Herd Return. Or
c) Possess an Insemination Certificate Book which is in duplicate. The original to be retained by the Centre, Veterinarian or "B" Class technician or equivalent who performed the insemination, the duplicate being retained in the Book and kept in a safe place by the member. The particulars to be recorded on this certificate are: Member's name, date of insemination, name or registered number of the person performing insemination, centre (if applicable), cow name or identification, bull's name and/or identification.

10 EMBRYO TRANSPLANTS

10.1 Requirements for Registration

An animal derived from the transplantation of an embryo, will not be registered by the Society unless:

a) All government regulations are complied with
b) The sire and dam (donor) must both be registered Highland cattle. Only registered Fullblood and Purebred females can be used as embryo donors.
c) The Society must receive prior to birth and embryo transfer certificate supplied by a recognised embryo transfer unit containing the following information:
    a. A blood type or DNA certificate of the donor female and the bull
    b. An insemination/mating declaration naming the service bull
    c. A declaration signed by the Veterinary surgeon stating that they have removed a fertilised egg from the donor cow, giving the cow identification, and placed in a recipient cow, also giving its identification.
    d. Identification of the host cow must be by tattoo, brand, or ANB/NAIT tag numbers.
    e. Calf to be blood typed or DNA tested within 60 days of birth and parentage verified.
d) The application for registration must be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee as set by the Council
e) All eligible progeny born by embryo transplant shall be indicated on the annual registration form and in the herd book by the letter ET.

10.2 Requirements for Embryo Import

a) Where frozen ova is imported into New Zealand and implanted into a recipient cow in this country, a certificate of embryo transfer on a NZ Veterinary Association embryo transfer form must be lodged with the Society prior to birth.

b) Upon application for registration, the owner must supply the Society with a copy of the blood type or DNA certificates of the sire and donor dam together with documentation from the parent society, on an appropriate form, showing the pedigree of the sire and dam and signed by the Secretary of that Society.
c) The application for registration must be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee as set by the Council
d) All eligible progeny born by embryo transplant shall be indicated on the annual registration form and in the herd book by the letters ET.

10.3 Requirements for Embryo Export

Where an embryo is collected and frozen for export, the following information must be supplied to the Society before an export certificate and certificate of pedigree is issued by the Society.

An NZ Veterinary Association Certificate of embryo transfer stating the following:

a) Date the donor cow was mated and name of bull
b) Date the donor cow (giving identification) had a fertilised embryo removed and frozen
c) A blood type or DNA certificate of the donor cow
d) Signature of the veterinarian conducting the operation
e) That the operation was performed by a qualified person at an approved place
f) The application for export of the frozen ova must be accompanied by the appropriate transfer fee as set by the Council
g) The exporter shall arrange for the breed Society inspection of the dam and sire if appropriate.

10.4 Responsibility for Registration

Responsibility for registration rests with the registered owner of the embryo at the birth date of the calf.

10.5 Council's Powers

The Council may refuse to register or transfer any animal born from embryo transplant at any time. The Council's decision shall be final and binding in all instances.

11 DNA OR BLOOD TESTING

Should any doubt arise about the parentage of any animal the Society may demand that the sire, dam and calf be DNA or blood typed in order to qualify the sire and dam as possible parents, at the member's cost.

12 ANNUAL HERD RETURNS

12.1 Requirement to Provide Annual Return

An Annual Herd Return correctly completed on the Society's prescribed printed form must be forwarded to the Registrar of the Society by the 31st of May each year.

12.2 Information to be Provided

This return will show all cows mated naturally or by artificial insemination before the 31st of May each year and the name of the sire, and all unmated females, bulls, culls, deaths and sold.

12.3 Allocation of Registered Herd Number

For the purpose of this return a registered herd number will be allotted by the Council upon application by the breeder before submitting his first progeny return.

12.4 Herd Return Register to be Maintained

The Registrar will maintain a register for this purpose

13 PRIVATE REGISTER

13.1 Breeders to Maintain Records

All breeders shall keep a register containing complete and proper records of their Stud breeding activities.

13.2 Council may Inspect

The Council may appoint a representative to inspect any registered Highland Cattle and private register in connection with same.

14 TRANSFER

14.1 Vendor's Responsibility

The vendor is responsible for the transfer and payment of fees on transfer of any animal.

14.2 Transfer Declaration

Transfer declarations, on the official form of the Society, which must be used, not received within 60 days of such transfer will be specially considered by the Council and if necessary it may impose a fine for such delay.

14.3 Export

Animals being exported prior to sale: All cattle to be exported and then offered for sale in overseas countries, must be inspected for type, and an official certificate (in duplicate) signed by an authorised inspector of the Society, showing that each animal has reached the Society's required standard of type, must accompany all applications for overseas transfer, and applications for export pedigree certificates. If sold prior to export then this clause does not apply.

14.4 Transfers Only to Financial members

Transfers will only be completed to financial members of the NZHCS. To be completed within 12 months of transfer being received by the Registrar.

14.5 Membership Status

Any animal registered by the NZHCS may be purchased by and transferred to any current member of the NZHCS regardless of the Membership status of the present owners.

15 IMPORTS

Imported cattle may be registered at any age on receipt, within three months of landing in New Zealand, of an application accompanied by an authenticated pedigree certificate which shall show all ancestors up to and including the grandparents and an export certificate signed by the vendor and highland Cattle Breed Society of the country from which the animal was shipped. Applications must also be accompanied by an official certificate issued by an authorised

inspector of the NZHCS showing that each animal has been inspected and has reached the Society's required standard of type.

16 OFFENCES

Any member who knowingly exhibits any registered animal in any show or exhibition or who advertises any animal in any paper, periodical or pamphlet, or electronic medium, whether for sale or otherwise under any but its registered name or knowingly allows any false or inaccurate information regarding such animal to be given, shall be guilty of conduct prejudicial to the objects and interest of the Society and shall be dealt with by the Council as it may see fit.

17 RECOGNITION OF HERDBOOKS

The NZHCS recognises:

a) Any animal registered in an overseas Highland cattle Herdbook provided that it is registered in the Herdbook of the country of its birth and the records are identical.
b) The NZHCS Herdbook as being the official record of New Zealand born cattle.
c) New Zealand born cattle that were registered in the AHCS Herdbook or Highland Society Herdbook and were exported or were dead prior to the NZHCS Herdbook being started.
d) The AHCS Herdbook as being the official record of Australian born cattle, and likewise for any other society Herdbook.

18 CROP EAR

As from November 1997:

a) Accept no bulls for registration that have Crop Ear
b) Accept females for registration that have Crop Ear. To be indentified in the Herdbook with the letters CE behind their name.
c) Register no bulls from a dam that has Crop Ear.
d) Register no embryo progeny from a dam that has Crop Ear.

Bulls will be physically checked at the time of Assessment for signs of Crop Ear.

Females to be indicated "Crop Ear Y/N" at time of registration

Council has the right to inspect any cattle registered in the NZHCS Herdbook

19 BULL ASSESSMENT

As from 1st April 2008

Objectives

To improve the Highland Cattle breed in New Zealand by:

- Encouraging Breeders to be selective in which bulls they register;
- Encouraging Buyers to look at the Assessment before they purchase to get a second opinion on what other Society approved assessors thought of the animal against the breed standard

Eligibility

a) Bulls must be from a registered Purebred or Fullblood Dam and Sire, i.e. a P2 or higher;
b) They must be 12 months of age or over;
c) They must be free of crop ear and any other major genetic weakness;
d) They should have reached a daily growth rate of .60kg/day;

e) Bulls must be identified according to the NZHCS rules

When
Assessments will be done twice a year in October and April

Who
Only the Breeder can register a bull.

Assessment Fees
Fees set annually by Council. Fees to be borne by the Breeder.

Assessors
A team of three Society approved assessors

Assessments
Assessed against the Highland Breed Standard. Components include:

a) Conformation and Highland Characteristics
b) Growth rate
c) Temperament
d) Inspection of the dam
e) The pedigree of the bull

Bulls will be checked for identification and crop ear. A DNA sample will be collected unless already DNA profiled.

Registration
After assessment the Breeder must notify the Registrar of their intention to proceed with registration or not.

The Assessors will mark on the Assessment their recommendation:

a) Qualifies for registration, or
b) Not recommended for Stud Use. The Assessors agree that the bull is not up to the standard required to be a good Stud sire, or
c) Declined registration. The Assessors agree that some aspect concerning the bull, his dam or pedigree could be detrimental to the development of the Highland Cattle breed in NZ